

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

August/September 2017

ISSUE 101

FREE

KEEP CATSTRAND DRY Campaign Launches

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust have launched their new Keep CatStrand Dry campaign and, with celebrity supporters like *Outlander's* Sam Heughan and *Billy Elliot* star Gary Lewis, they're hoping to reach their target of £44,000 before the winter sets in.

Project Coordinator and CatStrand youth intern Joe Taylor said: "We need the money because our existing defences aren't enough to guarantee CatStrand will not suffer another flood like the one that devastated it in 2015. This campaign will help GCAT raise enough money to construct a new flood management system to the rear of the building which will

channel excess water away should the CatStrand burn overflow again."

Creative Director Simon Davidson warned: "After two centuries without a single recorded flood event at the site, CatStrand has been hit three times in four years so, of course, insurance companies are very nervous about securing our future even with the defences we currently have in place. In essence, if we got hit again this winter then CatStrand is finished, the place would have to close down. What this wall will give us is the protection

"...if we got hit again this winter then CatStrand is finished, the place would have to close down."

we need to plan into the future and continue delivering activities and events for the people of the Glenkens."

General Manager Brian Edgar said: "We are delighted with the recent confirmation of funding from Big Lottery and Leader (see p9) and



also appreciate the ongoing support of our other funders. However, it is important to understand that all of this funding is strictly project specific and therefore cannot be used for any other purpose, hence the need to raise additional funds to meet the cost of the flood wall. Without this additional protection everything that we do is in jeopardy but by contributing to the campaign people can help to ensure that this vital community resource is secured for the future."

You can help by logging into www.crowdfunder.co.uk/keep-catstrand-dry or visit www.catstrand.com to find out more.

Playgroup Offers Funded Places for Two-Year-Olds

Glenkens Children's Club (GCC) Playgroup is thrilled to offer funded places for two-year-olds from August.

This is a landmark victory for the group as, since the Council cut funded places in 2011, local parents have fought hard to maintain a playgroup in the area as there is no other facility offering pre-school education for this age group.

Gaining this recognition from the

Council hopefully heralds a more stable future for GCC and, with the new Scottish Government initiatives in early learning and childcare moving towards the 2020 target of 1140 hours per year, the Glenkens will hopefully see funded options for pre-school education continue to broaden.

To find out more about funded places for two-year-olds, or to enrol your child for Playgroup, please get in touch with Playgroup Manager, Amy, on 07511 549 413 or playgroupmanager@gcc.co.uk

GCC Playgroup offers a staffed session in a Care Inspectorate registered facility where you can leave your child to play and learn. It runs from 9.15am to 11.45am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during term-time at the Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry.

CHARITABLE STATUS FOR LING

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) are pleased to announce that they have now been registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Being registered with a charity number gives us greater recognition, especially when applying for extra funding - for example, to make the town hall more user-friendly in terms of access and toilets.

Summer weekends at New Galloway Town Hall

The New Galloway Story has popped up again for the summer weekends with some new information, pictures, photos and DVDs about our historical Royal Burgh. We would love to hear from anyone who has information to share or who can tell us a story about old New Galloway or who would like to be a curator when *The Story* is on display.

On Saturdays *The Story* in the main

hall will be accompanied in the lesser hall by local crafters with a variety of wares to tempt you with. If you would like to book a table just give us a ring.

On Sundays in the lesser hall there will be Table Top Sales. I'm sure there will be a variety of pre-loved items on offer. Again, ring us to book a table.

LING Community Lunches continue through the summer months so, if it's too wet or too hot to be in the garden, or just to enjoy the good company, come along for coffee or lunch between 11am and 2pm. These times suit the bus timetable.

After a good winter and spring season Town Hall Sports will restart Carpet Bowls in September. Also, with the two good tables donated by local schools, Kells & Crossmichael, *Table Tennis* will continue through the summer on Tuesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. No need to join a club, this is open to all.

LING and The Galloway Glens Project

LING are working with the team



Bowling cup handover from Tom Carlyle to David Grieve.

on various projects developing or improving footpaths around New Galloway, as well as a long distance path from Carsphairn. Another project relates to the management of a walled garden.

If you would like to be involved in any of these projects please let us know.

LING at The Alternative Games

We will be at the Alternative Games again with various fun activities including *The Round the Ruins Run*, a seven-mile off-road run; a Children's Lucky Dip; a Tombola stall and a Car Boot Sale.

There will be information about *The New Galloway Story* and an opportunity to become a Friend of New Galloway Town Hall.

To find out more or book tables, etc, please call Ros on 01644 420 632.

Ros Hill

MANY HAPPY RETURNS FOR BRASS BAND

The rafters of Carsphairn Church will be ringing once again to the sound of brass when Dunaskin Doon Band returns on Saturday 28 October to stage an autumn concert in aid of church funds.

The band is back in the village after a much-acclaimed performance last year. It will be the band's fourth appearance at

the church in eight years.

Newly promoted to the First Section, Dunaskin Doon competed against bands from across the UK in the Second Section at the National Brass Band Championships in Cheltenham last September and finished in a creditable 8th position - the highest-placed Scottish band in all four contesting sections.

The concert will start at 7.30pm and light refreshments will be served during the interval. As last year, there will be no admission charge, but donations at the door are requested.



Dunaskin Doon Band take the applause at last year's concert in Carsphairn Church.

40 Years of the Scottish Alternative Games

This year sees the 40th anniversary of the famous Scottish Alternative Games.

The Lowland alternative to the more traditional Highland Games was the brainchild of the late Mungo Bryson from Parton. When he was trying to think of a suitable event to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, he found an old rusty gird and cleek on his farm one day and, together with Mungo's fertile imagination, the idea was born.

Initially called The Parton Games, they were soon rebranded to The Scottish Alternative Games and moved from Parton to their current venue in New Galloway, Scotland's smallest Royal Burgh, in 2001.

As well as attracting thousands of happy spectators and participants over the years the quirky event has featured in the national media, most recently on Channel 5's *Champion's of the World* with Rory McGrath in 2013 and on BBC *Countryfile* with Ben Fogle in 2008.

The friendly, homespun nature of the event has certainly stood the test of time and is the secret of its success, with people returning year after year. Another unique feature of the Games is that all the 'medals' are edible - a gold medal is a haggis,

silver is a cloutie dumpling and bronze a scotch pie!

Some events have come and gone over the years like **Spinnin' the Peerie** and **Flingin' the Herd's Bunnet**, but the main Alternative Games event has always been **The Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship**. The 'gird' is an iron hoop and it is guided by the 'cleek', or handle, as the competitors race around an oval track. People from all over the globe have competed

'race' to the finish line. **The Tractor Pull** was introduced when the Games moved to New Galloway and is another strength test to see who can pull a 1960 Massey Fergusson tractor in the fastest time over 20 yards.

The Alternative Run, introduced last year, is not a race but a social run at your own pace, starting and finishing in the arena and taking in some of the fantastic scenery of the Glenkens. You can even try your hand at **Archery**. This was a popular

...the fun lasts all afternoon but the memories will last forever!

but the world title has never left the UK before and, in fact, has only been taken out of Scotland on one occasion in 1987 - this is one sport at which Scotland can truly claim world dominance!

Other events which have been there from the start include **Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane** - much like the shot putt but using a curling stone instead; **Tossin' the Sheaf** - a real test of skill and technique, throwing a sheaf of corn over a high bar using a pitch fork; and the hugely popular **Snail Racing** - a surprisingly competitive side-show which generates great excitement throughout the day as the snails

attraction when it was first introduced at New Galloway and we were delighted that the ancient skill was back as an activity last year again after a few years' absence.

All events can be entered on the day and all necessary equipment is provided - just bring yourself, your family and friends, some competitive spirit and, most importantly, your sense of humour.

If you prefer just to watch, that's fine too. As well as all the events in the main arena, the annual **Classic Vehicle Show** will take pride of place beside the main entrance and there will be lots of other entertainment including the **Lockerbie Pipe Band**, **CatStrand Ukulele Band** and **Craft Stalls**, with a **Barbecue, Beer and Teas** available all afternoon too.

No doubt Mungo never thought that his spur-of-the-moment idea in 1977 would still be going strong 40 years later! We hope that the event has stayed true to his original ethos of a family day out with a difference. Come and join us as we celebrate those 40 years of smiles - the fun lasts all afternoon but the memories will last forever!

Come along on Sunday 6 August, 2pm, The Park, New Galloway.



2016 Mens' Gird 'n' Cleek final gets underway.

Gazette Archives

The planned celebratory 100th issue exhibition of *Gazette* past issues is postponed until we

manage to unearth the past issues.

We had all the past issues, right back to the start, nicely stored in the CatStrand prior to the flood. We thought they had survived the flood but,

unfortunately, it is looking more and more likely that perhaps they didn't as various potential storage places are searched without any luck.

We'll keep you posted on progress, and hopefully will upload as many past issues as we do have online so people can view them.

Sarah Ade

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 glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

VARIOUS

Late 70s' vintage 4/5 persons frame tent; wicker picnic hamper; 30 fire bricks; 2 wooden opening windows 66cm X 55cm; 4 large pond baskets 40cm square;

camping gaz 2.72kg (6lbs).
Contact: Cynthia on 420 605

Carton of 100 unused yellow Jiffy envelopes, size 00 (will take A6 card, maximum depth 25mm); old Tower Compact slow cooker

(electric) ceramic pot and lid, 3 litre capacity. Contact: 460 526

WANTED

Rabbit hutch. Contact: 07920 066 167

PERMACULTURE GATHERING AT THE HIDDEN MILL

The Hidden Mill on the Hidden Road, outside Balmaclellan, hosted this year's Scottish Permaculture Gathering.

In the region of 200 attendees gathered from Galloway, Scotland and as far away as Australia. People enjoyed a large range of activities related to sustainability - there were useful workshops on **problem solving in community groups**, **low carbon trade** and **green building**. People were able to try their hand at some old-world skills such as **blacksmithing**, **scything** and **lacto-fermentation**.

The aim of the event was to showcase a range of skills and issues close to permaculture's heart. It was also a chance to bring together some of Galloway's great green talent; local **herbalist** Alex Ross hosted a very popular tour of the hedgerow, enlightening her listeners on the



The central area provided food and an opportunity for people to gather and chat throughout the weekend.

wonders of weeds. Throughout the weekend, Auchencairn's master **willow weaver**, Trevor Leat, created a spectacular living willow sculpture - a nest-like structure built for climbing up into for a different perspective on the landscape.

The **Forest School** children's area was particularly vibrant - there were about 50 children present, with skilled Forest School leaders and enthusiastic helpers offering activities such as creating bug hotels, den building and cooking over an open fire. Local Forest School Leader, Sissy Stavridi, said: "We had a wonderful time. The children loved creating dens from forest materials - especially getting messy with natural clay, and decorating them. They didn't want to stop building - wonderful to see the children's truly happy faces!"

The event also marked the completion of the Tesco funded **children's permaculture forest**

garden at the Mill, where they hope to host lots more exciting educational activities for children and young people in and around the Glenkens.

Lorraine Ishak, one of the event organisers, said: "The gathering went to off like a charm, it was really humbling how many people contributed before, during and after to make the event so successful. This is the spirit of a co-created event and, in my opinion, where the magic happens. It's exactly this kind of collaboration of skills and intent that we need to meet our current social political and environmental challenges. It was especially pleasing to see the mix of local Galloway folk and the permaculture enthusiasts equally enjoying the offering and getting involved."

Anyone interested in knowing more about the site or using it for something please get in touch with Lorraine on lorraine.ishak@gmail.com



The Forest School children's area was a hive of activity.

Eco Feature

sponsored by *natural power*



Five Years On...

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere was officially five years old on 23 July 2017.

The application for designation had to be approved by both Scottish and UK Government, and then an international committee based in Paris made up of representatives from around the world who debated the application and recognised that SW Scotland had something unique and special.

As a region we should be immensely proud of this achievement and should be quoting it at every opportunity because, in its simplest form, the Biosphere brings us an opportunity to brand and market the businesses and communities of SW Scotland under an international banner; it lets us stand out from the rest of the crowd.

The easiest way to tie your business in with the Biosphere is to sign up as a 'Proud Supporter', joining over 220 businesses, organisations and individuals who have shown their support already. This association to the positive ethos of the Biosphere can only help in attracting new customers and opportunities.

As we look back over the first five years we can record some really positive achievements that help lay the foundations for the Biosphere to continue to grow.

Back in 2012 we were one of the first participants in the Giants in the Forest project which brought in artists to work with children in the Glenkens to create a 'giant' from twigs, moss and bracken. The giant, twinned with similar giants created in the North Devon and Dyfi Biospheres, was hung from the trees along Raiders Road (then relocated to Threave). Since then the Biosphere has worked with a range of environmental artists who seek to promote the special qualities of the region including



GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

Sanctuary, Rosnes benches and the Environmental Arts festival.

More recently we have worked with some of our 'Proud Supporter' sign-ups to promote an opportunity to Explore the Biosphere with the production of three itineraries

Discussion has been stimulated with local farmers and land managers about how land use will need to adapt as a result of BREXIT.

including one based on Loch Ken and the River Dee. The downloadable leaflet has a detailed route that takes visitors from Castle Douglas on a circuit of Loch Ken, promoting some of the key opportunities to experience natural, cultural and recreational experiences along the way.

The Biosphere has been involved since the beginning in working with partners to support and explore the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded £5m Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) project. One of the reasons given by HLF for supporting the bid was the UNESCO Biosphere association. As the GGLP moves into the implementation phase in 2018, it will be a shining example of the

Biosphere in action.

Over the last five years, we are beginning to see other bodies pick up on elements the Biosphere focuses on in their own land management plans. Discussion has been stimulated with local farmers and land managers

about how land use will need to adapt as a result of BREXIT. The Biosphere provided the impetus for a water vole survey which involved training local people in understanding the life-cycle of

water voles, what the field signs were of their presence and their value in indicating good wetland management.

As we move forward into the next five-year period there are many new and exciting opportunities. We are working on a certification mark that will enable products and services to be branded with the Biosphere logo. We are working with partners from Norway, Finland and Iceland to explore how we can support businesses in the promotion of ecotourism opportunities that celebrate our natural and cultural heritage. And we continue to work with communities to use the Biosphere 'Sense of Place' approach to identify the unique attributes of our rural communities.

The role of the Biosphere is not to deliver everything itself but to share and nurture the Biosphere ethos through providing an overarching framework that will bring about new actions in our local area and, where necessary, challenge current practices – in short, to live up to the accolade of UNESCO Biosphere status and encourage its use in promoting the region.

For further information visit
www.gsabiosphere.org.uk

Ed Forrest,
GSA Biosphere Coordinator



New Zealand Flatworm Study

There have been expressions of interest in the Glenkens about the New Zealand flatworm and how to stop the spread of this non-native invasive species.

The flatworm was brought in in the 1960s to the UK with imported plants, but it is not known how far it has travelled since. It is certain, however, that it is rife in parts of the Glenkens.

Scientists at the University of Aberdeen need members of the public to help them better understand how far the New Zealand flatworm has spread and what effect this species is having on the local environment. The flatworm eats our native earthworms, which are essential for good soil quality and the food chain. Dr Annie Robinson from the University explains: "The New Zealand Flatworm Survey has allowed us to create a good picture of many areas. However, we are still lacking enough data to help us determine their existence in other parts of the country. Carrying out the survey is really straightforward; search your garden, allotment, school grounds or public spaces for 10 minutes, focussing on dark damp places like under pieces of wood, stones or plastic."

New Zealand flatworms are between 5-15cm long, flat with a dark brown topside and a creamy pale underside and edge, and often found curled up like a Swiss roll. They are pointed at both ends and covered in sticky mucus, trails of which are left wherever they have been.

Below is an adult flatworm, a flatworm egg in comparison to a one pence piece, and flatworm hatchlings.



If you think you have found a New Zealand flatworm, please take a photo and submit it along with its location at www.opalexplornature.org/nzflatworm - you can also find further information on this site.

Reporting where you don't find any flatworms is also very useful as knowing where the New Zealand flatworm is absent is just as important in managing their spread as knowing where they are.

The species is very difficult to control once established. They are able to survive without food for over a year by shrinking their body mass to 10% of their original weight.

New Zealand flatworms are spread by moving topsoil or rooted plants between places, which allows this species to move from garden to garden. Current understanding of where in the UK they exist is very limited, but knowing their distribution could help target

initiatives to prevent further introductions.

The SNH website states that under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1992 it is an offence to release a New Zealand flatworm into the wild, illustrating the seriousness of the spread of these pests and the need to control them when found. The site also states that the most important action at the present time is to reduce the spread of flatworms in plant containers. This requires strict hygiene in plant nurseries and gardens, especially for soil which is known to be infected. If possible, plants should be planted with bare roots or from seed into clean soil. Some treatment is possible for infected plant pots; immersing pots in water overnight may make most of the flatworms leave the pots allowing them to be captured. However, any egg capsules will remain in the soil.

FHB Fencing
Dalry
Domestic and
Agricultural
Fencing
01644 430 495 (Peter)
or 07767 795 498
(Jonathan)



HIGHLAND BEEF
from
THE GLENKENS

STEAK	Blackmark
ROASTS	Dalry
MINCE	Castle Douglas
CASSEROLE	DG7 3UG
LORNE	01644 460532

pre-pack frozen

www.highland.scot

T: 01644 460 670  Real Dog Training
Scotland



Dog Training & Dog
Training Courses

at Dalry Town Hall

- 🐾 Eric Broadhurst (NDOA Advanced Instructor)
- 🐾 One of the country's leading dog trainers
- 🐾 Trainer to the TV & film industry

For more information visit our web site
www.realdogtrainingscotland.co.uk

NEW GALLOWAY IN BLOOM

Some readers may have noticed that New Galloway has been transformed with tubs of flowers and hanging baskets.



The ground at the junction of Kirk Road and Newton Stewart Road has had a make over, for the benefit of visitors and residents alike.

We would like to thank Derek Thomson (WH McWilliams Ltd), CatStrand, the Alternative Games, The Smithy, Williamson & Henry, The Cross Keys, the Post Office and New Galloway & Kells Community Council for their donations, all of which helped buy plants and containers.

We would also like to thank Dumfries & Galloway Council and Jenny Walker for their donation of plants. We hope you all enjoy our efforts to brighten the town!

Linda & Marion



Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP



Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP
Solicitors and Estate Agents

Dumfries & Galloway

01556 503744

www.ggblaw.co.uk

All legal advice

*Offices in Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie
Kirkcudbright and Dumfries*

A&B Sinclair Welding & Fabrication

***Decorative Ironwork Design,
Manufacture & Installation Service***

- Garden/Driveway Gates
- Handrails & Balustrades
- Garden Features, etc

Mobile Welding Service

- Agricultural & Forestry
- Fabrication & Repairs

Contact Andy Sinclair:
Mobile - 07896 168 724
Home - 01644 430 332

Glenkens Transport Initiative

www.glenkenstransport.org

email gti@catstrand.com phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449



Regular Services

Seats on GTI regular services (except the Wednesday evening registered route) must be booked in advance.

WEEKLY

Tuesdays

Dalry to Newton Stewart Return Swimming and Shopping

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1330,
New Galloway (Town Hall) 1340

Return Pickups:

Newton Stewart (ALDI Car Park) 1530, (Merrick Centre) 1540

Return Fare: £3.00

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)

Thursdays

Glenkens to Castle Douglas Day Centre Return

Passengers not attending the day centre may also use this service.

Outbound pickups:

Dalry (Underhill) 1015; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1030

Pickups can also be arranged from Balmacellan, Parton and
Crossmichael bus stops or from passengers' homes.

Return service will leave Castle Douglas Community Centre at 1430.

Fare 3.00 return.

MONTHLY

Glenkens to Ayr Return - Saturdays

August – December 2017 dates

Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 30

Pickups

New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940

Carsphairn (1000)

Leaves Ayr 1500

Fare £3.50/ Concessions £3.00 each way

Glenkens to Dumfries Return - Saturdays

Cuckoo Bridge and Peel Centre Shopping

August – December 2017 dates

Aug 05, Sep 02, Oct 07, Nov 04, Dec 02

Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940,

Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1010

Leaves Dumfries 1500

Fare £3.50/ Concessions £3.00 each way

EXCURSIONS

August to October 2017

Other excursions may be organised throughout the period.

Please see the GTI website and posters for details.

August 19th

Galloway Country Fair, Drumlanrig Castle

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £6/ £5.

Admission: £13.00/ £10.00 – to be paid on entry.

September 13th

The Devil's Porridge, Easttriggs

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £6/ £5.

Admission: £5.50/ £4.50 – to be paid on entry.

October 27th

Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts Exhibition (plus Crafts at Christmas), SECC Glasgow

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

Fare: £7/£6.

Admission: £9/ £8 – to be paid on entry.

GARDENS OF EXCELLENCE EXCURSIONS

August to October 2017

Pickups can also be arranged at Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie and
Kirkcudbright: please enquire when booking.

August 20th

The Gulf Stream Gardens

Ardwell House Garden, Ardwell and Glenwhan Garden, Dunragit

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940.

Fare: £7 Concessions £6.

Admissions: Ardwell £3, Glenwhan £6 – to be paid on entry.

September 24th

The Restoration Garden

Craigengillan Estate, Dalmellington

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1400; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1410.

Fare: £5 Concessions £4.

Admission: £8 – to be paid on entry.

October 22nd

The Autumn Garden

Dawyck Botanical Garden, Stobo, Peebles

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910.

Fare: £9 Concessions £8. Admission: £6.50.



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.

Connecting in Communities

Connecting in Communities (CiC) is an exciting new participation and community involvement project running for the next three years under the auspices of the Glenkens Communities & Arts Trust (GCAT).

As a follow-up to the highly successful Connecting in Retirement (CiR) project, CiC will focus on creating partnerships with local groups and clubs as well as critical organisations like the NHS, Social Services, Age Scotland and third sector D&G for example. This in return will offer a wider scope of activities and events 'open to all', but will extend to remove barriers for those who find it harder to participate - older folks, those who are disabled, housebound or are unpaid carers. The project will provide many more

opportunities for volunteering in the Glenkens.

GCAT has secured funding from both The Big Lottery and LEADER and appointed two staff to run the project. Brian Jones, who ran the CiR project, will lead and Chris Jowsey starts a new role as Volunteering and Participation Officer. Both can be contacted at the CatStrand on 01644 420374 or at brian@catstrand.com or chris@catstrand.com

Connecting in Communities is aimed at a wider audience in terms of age, ability and location and offers something for everyone across the Glenkens; the current favourites such as **Men's Shed, Ukulele Band, Writing Workshop** and **Digital Photography** will all continue plus we plan to try new evening **Yoga Sessions**, a **Young Persons' Motorcycle Maintenance**



Brian Jones, Lindsey Smith and Chris Jowsey with Connecting in Retirement cheque.

Workshop, Ukulele for Beginners, Ale Tasting (over 18s only) and a Rock Music Night!

A key aim of the project is to get more volunteers running more things for themselves, with back-up and support from the project team, so if you want to get involved, get in touch. We don't have all the ideas either, so if you have a bright idea for the Community we'll see if we can help you bring it to life.

Chris Jowsey

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment, please get in touch

Write to:
107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

Facebook: FinlayCarsonMSP
Twitter: fincarson

SOLWAY PLANT HIRE LTD

Competitive Prices, Efficient Services

We have a wide range of plant available self drive or operated 1-45 Tonne Excavators, 16 & 19 Tonne Rubber Ducks, JCB 3CX 4x4s, Dozers, Dump Trucks, Tractors & Trailers, Crushers and Screeners, Bog Mats, Crane Mats, Rollers and Tipper Hire, long-reach excavators.

We also have a large selection of attachments, Rock Breakers 1-50 Tonne, Piling Hammers, 13-50 Tonne, Rock Grabs, Clam Shell Grabs and Concrete Pulverisers 20-35 Tonne.

Small Plant, Mini Diggers, Whackers & Scaffolding etc.

Aggregate for sale: Top Soil, Sub Base, Crusher Run, Rock Armour, gravel etc delivered.



Horsecrook Port Road, Dalbeattie, DG5 4AG

Email: jason@solway-plant-hire.co.uk

Web: www.solway-plant-hire.co.uk

Tel: 01556 611083 Fax: 01556 611800

Jason: 07885 291436 / 07734 247535

INNOVATION IN EXCAVATION

DALRY FILM NIGHTS

Dalry Town Hall will be starting its winter season of films in September supported by the British Film Institute (BFI) through Driftwood Cinema.

Showings of films in the Town Hall were very popular between January

and April and we hope that the winter programme will be just as appealing.

The films were chosen by visitors to the Glenkens Farmer's Market in July. The programme after Christmas will be announced over the next few months.

Some dates for your diary are: **The Commitments** on 6 September, **Trainspotting2** on 20 September, **Hairspray** on 18 October and **Jackie** on 15

November.

In addition, in partnership with the CatStrand, we will be expanding the programme to offer films aimed at and selected by young people from the Glenkens aged 15-25 as part of a BFI-funded Movies After Dark project, screening between October and December. Anyone interested in finding out more about this project should turn to the article on p16, or contact Aidan at the CatStrand on aidan@catstrand.com

MARIE CURIE THANKS

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Marie Curie Blooming Great Tea Party and Swishing Evening.

We have been able to contribute £400 to Marie Curie as well as passing on clothes to the Dalry Community Shop and the Dumfries Marie Curie Shop.

Thank you all, Ros and Julia

WIGTOWN BOOK FESTIVAL

Wigtown Book Festival takes place in Scotland's National Book Town from Friday 23 September to Sunday 2 October.

With over 280 events for adults, young people and children there's something for everyone.

Join us for a 10-day literary celebration in which this year we take inspiration from island

life, Shakespeare and the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

Rebecca Giblin



Wigtown.

Patsy Gilroy



I am delighted to have been elected as one of the Local Councillors for the new Dee and Glenkens Ward.

If you would like to get in touch, my contact details are:

patsy.gilroy@dumgal.gov.uk

07825 633153

FLEET FISH



FRESH FISH, FRUIT & VEG

GLENKENS ROUTE

Thursdays:

12noon-1pm – Crossmichael
1-2pm – Parton/Loch Ken Holiday Park
2-4pm – Balmaclellan area
4-5.30pm – The Hidden Road

Fridays:

8-10.30am – Dalry
10.30-11am – Glenlea Area
11am – New Galloway
12noon – New Galloway Shop
2pm – Mossdale area
3-4pm – Laurieston to Gatehouse

Please note that all times are approximate.

07966 103 912

fleetfish@hotmail.com

Fleet Fish aims to provide top quality produce which is sourced as locally as possible. We take pride in offering friendly door-to-door service tailored to our customers' needs.

CatStrand Highlights

Contemporary music dominates our summer schedule with some famous faces and also a few familiar names appearing at the CatStrand in August and September.

As a prelude to the Scottish Alternative Games we are throwing a *NEON PARTY* featuring young Kirkcudbright rock band **Black Mango** (Fri 4 Aug). The 5-piece have been getting rave reviews for their performance at Gatehouse Music Festival and are tipped for big things. The night also features **Shade** and a **DJ**.

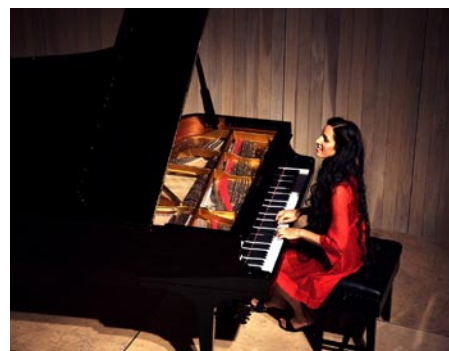
Classical/world guitarist **Simon Thacker**'s reputation as one of the world's leading exponents of the instrument (*The Herald*) precedes his *Karmana* show (Fri 11 Aug). The concert itself will be an extraordinary musical experience of guitar and cello where the audience is transported through a "kaleidoscopic world of tradition-expanding sounds incorporating Scottish, Roma, and Indian cultures." Meanwhile, **Dark Sky Jazz Club** returns after a truly extraordinary opening night with two concerts from world-renowned artists. **Trio Red** (Fri 25 Aug) are a piano, bass & drums trio described by the *Guardian* as a "world class trio...riveting and complex". Meanwhile **Zoe Rahman** (Sat 23 Sept) needs no introduction after

her storming trio here last year. The piano maestro described by *Metro* as having "breathtaking musical imagination" returns with Scottish saxophonist **Laura MacDonald** to mesmerise and delight with a new set.

August closes with a concert by US singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **AJ Croce** (Thu 31 Aug). Described by *Rolling Stone* as "one of the greatest young songwriters" and a personal favourite of the legendary Willie Nelson, Croce has adoring audiences all over the globe who may also know his father, the acclaimed Jim Croce.

September sees a debut at CatStrand for **Boo Hewerdine** (Sat 9 Sept). Best known as a member of The Bible and key collaborator of Eddi Reader, Hewerdine also has famous fans such as Andrew Marr! His new album *Swimming in Mercury* has been a regular on the CatStrand turntable. The end of September will see one of the biggest stars of the 1970s and 80s play CatStrand. Elton John favourite and former Glastonbury headliner **Judie Tzuke** (Thu 28 Sept) brings her intimate and hugely popular *Songs & Stories* tour to New Galloway with a set that will include both old favourites such as "Stay With Me Til Dawn" as well as new songs reworked for an acoustic performance.

A late booking in our programme is **Fox & Hounds Theatre Co** who will be performing three plays at CatStrand (Sat 16 Sept) after a run at the Edinburgh



Zoe Rahman

Festival. The blossoming Galloway-based company are performing a double bill of Tennessee Williams entitled *Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen* and *Ivan's Window* followed by their own piece *1 in 2 Chance*.

Some other highlights to watch out for are our first **Movie in the Park** (Sat 19 Aug) which will feature Sundance Festival double winner **Me, Earl & The Dying Girl** [12A]. We also have our annual **CatStrand Ukes Summer Party** (Tues 19 Sep) and our revamped **OPEN STAGE** (Wed 9 Aug & Wed 13 Sept). All of these events are FREE ENTRY.

Tickets for our 10th Anniversary Showcase in October are ON SALE NOW so if you want tickets for Dougie MacLean, Craig Hill, Rachel Sermanni, and much more, get in quick! For more details and to keep updated with event announcements visit www.catstrand.com or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The CatStrand Team

See our latest brochure or visit our website for programme details.
Book online at www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.

JENNY'S DESIGN Mobile Hairdresser

- Home Visits
- Nursing Homes & Residential
- The Elderly & Disabled
- Blow Drying
- Setting
- Perms
- Cuts
- Toupees
- Wig Styling

NVQ Level 3 Hairdressing, NVQ Level 4 Social Care

Call Jenny on 07554 009 624

Scotland to Sahara: Update from the Overlanders

I write this update on a cool evening at the end of another hot day, within the giant cedar forests of the Middle Atlas mountains.

We have trekked some fantastic hikes over the past few days here, discovering all manner of natural sights.

The sprawling city lights of Azrou glimmer in the distant valley, far below our mountain-side base camp. There are even a few troops of Barbary apes who pass by our place some days, with tiny new babies clinging on, I'm unsure of the term for a monkey or ape baby? Perhaps an 'apelet', maybe 'monkling', or a 'chimpette'? Suggestions welcome please...

Brief interludes of France and Spain preluded a lengthy tour of sunny Portugal which was thoroughly enjoyable. It was then time to change continent once more, Africa welcomed us for the journey South. Tarfaya in the Western Sahara was the aim: we are happy to report a status of 'mission complete'.

This town was originally founded, under British colonial rule, by Scottish trader and adventurer Donald Mackenzie. The castle he had built there is quite impressive, reminiscent

of many such stone forts back home. The Tarfaya strip was, until recent times, the Southern border of Morocco. This line still remains on many maps. We then headed inland to the desert proper. This was a really amazing experience. After a couple of weeks there the heat was becoming quite tiresome though, so the direction became North to the mighty High Atlas mountain range. Morocco has such a wide array of terrains and climates. The mountains may have their feet in the scorching desert, but the heights still remain covered in snow!

Living outside every day, whilst 'sleeping in the sky' of our roof top tent every night for the past three months, has been an eye opening adventure. The common belief of wild camping being dangerous, or not possible within Europe, has proved quite incorrect. The majority of the time has been spent in this type of self-created camp. We have only used official campsites when the area is too heavily populated, or to top up our Wifi contact in the absence of cyber cafes.

The outdoors lifestyle seems exceedingly good for health and spirit, suggesting that maybe our modern climate controlled, centrally heated lifestyles do nothing to aid

wellbeing. Of course the plentiful sunshine helps too! Kaerus the Defender has been outstanding, putting up with all conditions asked of her without so much as a grumble. A nod of respect to hard wearing, hand built British engineering.

The hospitality and general friendly responses throughout this trip have

Tarfaya...was originally founded, under British colonial rule, by Scottish trader and adventurer Donald Mackenzie.

been quite heart warming - whether it be tea with nomads, shooting the breeze with camel herders, meals with mountain Berber families or shared evenings with the many like-minded individuals out exploring the world.

The only exception has been when we pass 'must see tourist sights'. These areas, which to most people are the only locations to see when visiting a country, are not genuine and attract quite unpleasant, greedy individuals. They become only interested in milking money from the seemingly rich tourists, who arrive in sun-burnt flocks by way of tour buses, before taking countless selfies and piling back onto the bus.

Could it be suggested that surely the local economy benefits from these influxes of sightseers? Not really, the areas and people that sorely need economic help are far from these sites, genuine local residents who would really benefit from an extra customer or two at their cafe, guest house or farm produce stall. Look a wee bit beyond the realms of guidebooks or package tour destinations - you won't be disappointed.

If you would like a further glimpse into our adventures, visit www.kaerus-overland.weebly.com There is also a 'donate' link to our chosen charity of Medecins Sans Frontieres.

Much awareness has been raised for MSF throughout this trip, they really make a difference to so many lives globally - check out their website for current stories. Ben Ade



Kaerus parked up on the 'Cami Ral' trail, overlooking the city of Barcelona.

GETTING INTO GOLF

New Galloway Golf Club is in the middle of an excellent season.

The club's membership has increased this year and the junior section coaching continues to be well attended.

In May the club hosted the Dumfries & Galloway Primary Schools Championship. The entry for this was the biggest since the start of the annual competition and all those who played had a fantastic day.

In June the club held it's Captains Day with the Jack McQueen Trophy for the members, the new Les Burton Trophy for the juniors and a putting competition for juniors and their parents.

The winners were: in the Jack McQueen Trophy, Ronnie Ritchie; The Les Burton juniors, Fiona McQueen; and the putting competition, Sophie & Chrissy Roberts.

Following the fun, members and guests were treated to some excellent curries.

Ian Brown



Sophie and Chrissy Roberts, winners of the putting competition.

SUMMER AT SPALDING

Spalding Bowling Club held its open triples which were won by John Crawford, Stewart Gilmore and Jackson Pringle from Castle Douglas.

Beaten finalists were John McGarrie, Stewart Crossan and Joe Caldow from Auchencairn. Also pictured are President Mat Taylor and Valerie Russell, who presented the prizes on behalf of The Sponsors - GTR Contractors, Dumfries and The Clachan Inn, Dalry.

Valerie Russell



DO YOU NEED YOUR
SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING?

Give us a call on

01557 428 091 or 0800 0933735

Fast, Local and Efficient Service

25 years' experience



WC in Fields

Educating Individuals in a Unique Environment

The academic year 2016/2017 opened with celebrations of 85th and 50th anniversaries of the Dalry School buildings.

What made the celebrations special was the enthusiastic drive of the parents as they launched FodsFest 2016. Rarely can a community be seen to come together in this way, setting an amazing example for our young people.

Inside our three unique school settings, the staff

work on a daily basis to provide young people with stimulating learning within a beautiful landscape: so many activities in the space of a year.

Highlights of joint activity were the night-time visits to the **Dark Skies Observatory** on our doorstep at Loch Doon and the daytime activities at the **Galloway Activity Centre** at the end of the year. Such activities broaden individual horizons, encouraging children to break their own ground and to have their own unique response to stimulus acknowledged and developed.

The schools are a focus for communities at key times of Harvest, Christmas and Easter with associated events and celebration. Christmas fairs, school plays, charity coffee mornings - all offer young people opportunities to take their own active role in their community. The sense of taking responsibility starts early on and the P1/2/3 French café morning was evidence of this, as was Kells musical café.

Visits out of school include local public information events and, further afield, Carsphairn primary spent a day in a huge primary in **Maryhill** (Glasgow), demonstrating their confidence, good manners and enthusiasm for learning

in a very different setting. Cluster primaries stayed in **Edinburgh** and **Carlisle**, growing in competence and independence each time.

The secondary made it down to the **Eden Project** taking in a production in Stratford upon Avon, the **Black Country Living Museum** and the **Centre for Alternative Technology** in mid-Wales. Four days, three countries and nearly 1000 miles - small schools can do big stuff!

Historians visited the **Devils Porridge**, artists visited Edinburgh galleries, geographers took every opportunity to be out and about and outdoor activities of every sort were

...Glenkens pupils are encouraged to take on opportunity and to be more than they thought they could be.

explored through the secondary **Activities Afternoon**.

Secondary pupils have just returned from **Barcelona** where they spent four days being inspired by this beautiful city.

Visitors to our schools have included **hair-raising scientists** and **furry spiders, peace advocates** and **wildlife photographers**. Each brings new faces, new ideas and stimulation.

Sport has figured highly in all sectors throughout the year with many young people participating. **Table tennis, netball, badminton** and **cross country** have all been competitive sports with some pupils performing at national level.

Primary football has been given a great boost by David Steward, who has tirelessly coached and supported the Glenkens team to success in the **Small Schools Tournament** and stunning displays from both boys' and girls' teams in the Paul Jones tournament. The support offered to David by secondary pupil Cameron Wilke (with Andrew Ramsay now picking up that

baton) has been a good opportunity for them and good role modelling for younger pupils. What makes us most proud is the great commitment and outstanding sportsmanship exhibited by our young people. This is what led to Amy Peacock being awarded Player of the Day at the Paul Jones finals in Kirkcudbright.

All Glenkens' schools this year have changed the focus of parents' evenings to a collaborative learning conversation where pupil, parent and staff can examine strengths and key areas for development. We have all learnt much through the process and look forward to refining it next year.

The great work done in primaries is what leads to the overall success of young people in secondary, as the schools add value to each and every pupil. Having

the same staff who know them well is one of the key factors in that success. Having no limits to their learning is a second. With no setting in the secondary, every pupil has equal access to the highest levels and all can achieve more than they thought they could.

So from entering nursery to the point where they are moving on from the secondary, Glenkens pupils are encouraged to take on opportunity and to be more than they thought they could be. From playing with spiders in the school garden with nursery pupils to sharing the dawn with the outgoing S4 from the roundhouse at **Malthrawn of Mabie**, my time in the Glenkens has been very special. A sense of wonder, reflection, expectation, gratitude and excitement for the future. Isn't that what our school days should give us all?

It has been a real pleasure to have had the privilege of working with this very special group of children, parents and staff.

Jenny Smith,
Acting Headteacher

Check out the Glenkens schools'



OUR SMALL SCHOOLS

In Scotland, our rural areas are lucky to have so many wonderful small schools.

The isolated nature of the communities, set among wild glens and windswept islands, means that what has historically been eclipsed by larger-scale offerings in other parts of the country have remained, for no other reason than that they are the only viable option, as small mixed-age learning environments.

Children can't be expected to travel for hours to and from school, so schools must stay small and within their communities in order

give their small children space to grow up in and they began looking for jobs in Scotland. Jenny was given a post at Douglas Ewart High School in Newton Stewart, first as a biology teacher and then as Depute Head. She then transferred to Dalbeattie High School in 2005 as Depute, encouraging Bruce to join her as they were short of teaching staff. For a short while she was Acting Head in Dalbeattie before joining the Glenkens Cluster.

We have been very lucky to have Jenny here, even for just a short time – we would have liked longer. Incredibly articulate, humorous and empathetic, Jenny

possesses the ability to communicate clearly with both parents and children. With a keen interest in the psychology, learning and development of young

people, Jenny has a hunger to learn and a genuine interest in the environment in which she works. This means that nothing becomes stagnant, and her enthusiasm draws out the best from teachers and pupils alike – an openness to new concepts and ideas keeps things fresh.

Jenny is also keenly aware, with over 30 years as a teacher, of what works and what doesn't. In the constant tide of educational flux, holding on to elements which work is sometimes hard - not letting the tide of current policy sweep away key concepts which have taken years to get right.

Jenny has also been a staunch supporter of the unique benefits of what rural schools have to offer – things that other larger and more urban schools just can't provide. Features such as real community engagement,



Acting Head of the Glenkens Cluster from 2014-2017, Jenny Smith.

through being set in the heart of the students' own communities; all-through school benefits of teacher-pupil relationships that grow from pre-school right up until school-leaving age, giving teachers an in-depth understanding of what works for each child. And building communities – when children grow up and learn in their home community, forging alliances with those around them, they are much more likely to return and settle there.

For areas such as the Glenkens, their remote situation offers a unique educational setting where children benefit from some of the best learning on offer whilst developing an empathy towards and understanding of the community in which they live.

Sarah Ade

These little microcosms offer a type of high quality education the overarching system is now trying to re-construct in its larger schools...

to cater to the children who live there. These little microcosms offer a type of high quality education the overarching system is now trying to re-construct in its larger schools; 'vertical' systems are being created, where each large school is basically formed into a number of small all-through schools.

In the Glenkens, a rural part of Dumfries and Galloway, Acting Head of the Glenkens Cluster, Jenny Smith, is retiring. In the three years she has been in place, Jenny has been an amazing asset to our wee group of schools, winning the hearts of students, teachers and parents alike.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Jenny left university in 1980 and joined Surrey County Council as an engineer. Her teaching career began in 1983 as a biology teacher in Gravesend, Kent, following which she joined a boys' school in Maidstone and then became Head of Sixth Form at Rochester Grammar School for Girls.

Having started a family with her husband, Bruce, they decided to

On behalf of parents in the Glenkens I would like to thank Jenny for working so hard on our, and our young people's, behalf. We wish her well in her retirement which I'm sure she will fill with adventures for many years to come - please keep us posted!

Launch of Youth Consultation

Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) and a number of other local organisations, including Sleeping Giants, have come together to run **Glenkens Youth Voice** – an important and first-of-its-kind consultation with young people aged 12–25 from the Glenkens.

Over the summer and autumn of 2017 young people will be able to have their voices heard in a range of fun and interactive ways. The consultation is the result of chatting to young people who come along to CatStrand, young people at Dalry school, as well as a number of local organisations. From these informal discussions GCAT know that young people's needs are not being met - this includes on issues surrounding health, social opportunities, safety, employment and transport.

Young people need and deserve local services designed with them in mind which can support them if they have a problem, or which can provide them with fun, young-person-friendly activities, and opportunities that they can access in their local area.

The consultation is being designed to find out what and how best local organisations and bodies can support young people in the area to meet these needs, and will take place through opportunities carried out by trained and Disclosure Scotland cleared staff, as well as an online and in-school survey.

More information about the consultation and how the information gathered will be used can be seen on the CatStrand Youth website www.catstrandyouth.co.uk

Aged 12-25? CatStrand Youth Arts team will be out and about, talking to you and listening to your views at events like the Alternative Games in New Galloway, Neon Night at CatStrand and in schools in September. Look out for pop up wishing trees, graffiti walls, tweet boxes and Big Brother Diary rooms where you can tell us what you think about the Glenkens around your village.

An Instagram competition will also be launched and a whole range of other ways you can tell us how you feel, what's important to you and what you need to help thrive here in the Glenkens. Follow us @catstrandyouth to find out about the Instagram competition.

Look out for the youth voice activity in your area, and fill in the online survey available through www.catstrandyouth.co.uk for your chance to enter a prize draw and have your say.

***CatStrand Youth
now taking bookings for
events and workshops
Summer – more a full programme coming
www.catstrandyouth.co.uk
[facebook.com/catstrandyouth](https://www.facebook.com/catstrandyouth)
call Aidan on 01794 551111***

Movies After Dark Project

CatStrand has received funding from the British Film Institute and Film Hub Scotland for a project launching this August in Dalry, New Galloway, Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas that will see more of the films you want to see up on the big screens around your local area.

We're seeking young people 15-25 who are into watching movies to create the programme of films on tour which will be targeted at this age group. Programming groups will be recruited across the towns and villages

involved in the project to come up with, watch and search out the best films to grace screens in the Tollbooth Arts Centre, CatStrand, The Fullerton and Dalry Film Club this winter. The programming groups will meet in September with industry experts to make their selections for screenings throughout October – December.

Interested in getting involved in film programming? Looks great on the CV, gives you insight into the film industry (perfect for wannabe film makers) and it's a good excuse to watch films for free for cinema fans or up and coming film critics. Email aidan@catstrand.com



30 Days of Summer in the Glenkens

CatStrand's summer programme for young people 12-25 has launched and offers an amazing and diverse mix of opportunities over a 30-day period for young people throughout the Glenkens.

Highlights include some firsts for CatStrand – the first ever **Game Jam** event. A game jam is a gathering of people for the purpose of planning, designing and creating one or more games within a short span of time, usually ranging between 24 and 72 hours. On 2 and 3 August CatStrand will be host to professional game animators and programmers who will help young people create their own 2.5D game over two days of afternoon workshops! Gamers will be lucky enough to meet Zoe Sams, tools programmer for AA Games Companies and a member of the Board of Directors for the International Game Developers Association. She'll be speaking about routes into the games industry on Thursday 3 August. If that wasn't enough for gaming fans, CatStrand will be opening up the cinema for **big screen gaming** both nights after the workshops PLUS we'll have an **Oculus virtual reality station** to try out and a FIFA championship the following week for the pros out there. These workshops see the launch of CatStrand new monthly gaming sessions – Game Tech – for over-12s to come and try out the latest XBOX 1 games using the big screen and opportunities to work on game development projects and coding with support from University West of Scotland's game department for free on the last Wednesday of the month.

More firsts this Summer include an **outdoor movie screening** in New Galloway park with the help of local company Driftwood Cinema's portable screening facility and CatStrand's new inflatable sofas providing comfy seats. The one night only outdoor cinema will be showing *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* – winner of both the US Dramatic Audience Award and the Grand Jury Prize at the 2015 Sundance Festival. The 12a rated film will be screened at 9.30pm in the park on the 19 August and is FREE. **Ice cream, a barbecue and hot drinks** will be on sale from 8.30pm – cinema goers are encouraged to bring a picnic, snacks and a blanket to keep cosy whatever the weather. An umbrella might not go amiss either...

An under-18s gig on Friday 4 August will see Kirkcudbright rock band **Black Mango** and singer **Shade** take to the stage in CatStrand, in a first for New Galloway. The **gig and DJ set** is open to anyone over 13 (and under 18) and will run from 8-11pm. CatStrand Youth Arts are looking forward to welcoming members of the Creetown Youth Initiative youth clubs in Newton Stewart, Creetown and Kirkcudbright to the gig. There will be **free minibus transport** between Castle Douglas and New Galloway, as well as from the other Glenkens villages, before and after the gig for young people in need of a lift (seats need to be booked in advance, with parental consent, so get in touch). A great chance to see this up and coming local band and get your glow on – let's make this event a hit and hopefully CatStrand UV neon party nights will become a regular thing, supporting fantastic local talent.



DETECTIVE FICTION: *The Foreign Sleuths*

There are many fictional foreign detectives available for our pleasure.

Many are written by British authors (often having lived or worked abroad for many years) and others have been translated into English. Perhaps the two most famous are Inspector Montalbano and Commissario Brunetti, the creation of **Donna Leon**. Some of the detectives appear in a long series of books and others only in one or two. I should also point out that if the book is rather too gruesome I tend not to be terribly interested.

Boris Akunin has created two detectives, Sister Pelagia, a Russian nun who is often dragged against her will into solving crimes and Erast Fandorin, the C.19th Moscow detective. Dave Robicheaux from Louisiana by **James Lee Burke** is popular. **Colin Cotterill** has created the delightful Dr Siri Paiboun in Laos. **Lindsey Davis** has dipped into classical Rome to create two detectives, Flavia Albia, the female detective and Marcus Didius. **Michael Dibdin** has given us Inspector Aurelio

Zen from modern day Italy and **Sam Eastland** Inspector Pekkala who tries to solve crime through the chaos of Tsarist and Stalinist Russia. Inspector Van der Valk by **Nicholas Freeling** will recall the TV series and the soundtrack for many readers.

Kerry Greenwood produced the delightful, if rather frothy and frisky, Phryne Fisher in early C.20th Australia and **Michele Giuttari**, once Head of the Florence Police Force, has given us Chief Superintendent Ferrara. **Jason Goodwin** introduced Yahim the eunuch from C.19th Istanbul. **Vaseem Khan's** Inspector Chopra of India is worth reading. **Harry Kemelman** has created the popular American Rabbi David Small and **Philp Kerr** the 1930s' German Bernie Gunther. Camilla Lackberg's **Falck and Hedstrom** are examples of the very popular Nordic detectives. Gloomy Nordic thrillers are not to everyone's taste. **Precious Ramotswe** from Botswana is the creation of Alexander McCall Smith and she is a joy to read. Arkady Renko by **Martin Cruz Smith** is always well written, *Gorky Park* is almost a classic by now.

One of my personal favourites is **Ivy Litvinov's** District Procurator Nikulin.

It was published in 1930 when she was married to Maxim Litvinov, one of the leading Bolshevik figures. **Henning Mankell's** Kurt Wallander should be reasonably familiar to many. **Ben Pastor's** Martin Bora tries to fight crime on behalf of the German Wehrmacht in World War Two. The irony of investigating killings in the middle of war is nicely handled. **Louise Penny** has created the best-selling Chief Inspector Gamache from modern Quebec. **Sara Paretsky** has given us the famous Chicago private investigator, V. I. Warshawski and **Robert Parker** has given us the American Sheriff, Jesse Stone. **Michael Pearce** has the Egyptian Mamur Zapt keeping the British Empire in this part of the world safe.

Stalinist Russia again provides the background for Captain Korolov by **William Ryan**. **Maj Sjowall and Per Wahloo** have given us the Swedish detective Martin Beck and **Anne Zouroudi** the quite delightful Greek Hermes Diaktoros. **Qui Xiaolong's** Inspector Chen battles corrupt Chinese officials and the changing face of modern Chinese society.

If readers have their favourites, please contact us, don't keep them a big secret.

HAIR BY JAYNE

26 Main Street, Dalry

Hair by Jayne is pleased to announce the addition of a New Hairstylist.

Emma Perrott will be joining the Salon from September, specialising in weddings/occasion hair and colour correction.

Open Tues-Sat by appointment:

**01644 430 525 or
07876 397 725**

Hair by Jayne



Richard Arkless MP Dumfries & Galloway Constituency



Richard operates an open-door policy - please just pop in to either office at any time during opening hours.

Constituency Office Dumfries

Unit 7, High Street, Loreburne Shopping Centre, Dumfries, DG1 2BD

Tel: 01387 265698

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

Constituency Office Stranraer

36-38 Charlotte Street, Stranraer, DG9 7EF

Tel: 01776 705800

Mon/Tue/Thurs/Fri 10am-2pm

Email: richard.arkless.mp@parliament.uk

www.richardarkless.scot

Sun Shines on Gardens of Excellence

The Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) has been busy during the first half of the year running a variety of interesting excursions.

The trips to the Gardens of Excellence benefited from good weather. In April, Logan Botanic Garden was visited when everyone enjoyed a talk from the head gardener and the beautiful display of spring flowers. The trip to Burnside Garden disclosed the newly planted arboretum containing trees from around the world.

May saw a trip to Woodfall Garden with its amazing walled garden, which totally captivated everyone. Corsock House garden was visited for the National Garden Scheme and in June, Broughton House, Anwoth Old Schoolhouse Garden and Cally Gardens all provided inspiration for people to try ideas in their own gardens.

Excursions for the second half of the gardening year are now planned

with a keen eye on timing visits to appreciate the maximum beauty of each individual garden.

In August, Ardwell House Garden and Glenwhan Garden are to be visited, the former offering landscaped gardening, the latter displaying a beautiful mixed garden with wild flower woodlands. Opportunities to restock one's plant collection will also be available.

In September, Craigengillan Estate is the venue with its famous rock and water garden, kitchen garden, hot beds and palm house. The season is rounded off with the spectacular autumn colours of



Happy travellers on the Gardens of Excellence GTI Trip.

Dawyck Botanical Garden.

GTI runs these excursions for the benefit of our community. Pick-up points for each trip are available around the area so if you want an enjoyable informative day out with like-minded individuals, contact the CatStrand to book your seat.

The GTI Team

WIGTOWN BOOK FESTIVAL
22 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 2017

MORE THAN 200 EVENTS FOR ADULTS, YOUNG PEOPLE & CHILDREN

01988 403222
www.wigtownbookfestival.com
SOUTHWEST SCOTLAND

Charity No. SC03984

GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

Follow us on facebook and twitter and make sure to sign up for our newsletter - see website for details...

www.gallowayglens.org

RNLI Success

The annual Glenkens Coffee Evening fundraiser for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) took place in Dalry Town Hall.

This year the event got off to a terrific start as guests were entertained by pupils from Dalry Primary School who sang a selection of sea shanties to great applause. Stalls selling home baking, plants, books, tombola and RNLI souvenirs were all busy and the raffle proved very popular as well. The Committee are very grateful for all who helped and are delighted to report that just over £1,000 was raised for RNLI funds. Often known as the fourth emergency service, the Lifeboats do not receive any government funding and are reliant on the generosity of the public so many thanks to all our supporters here in the Glenkens.

FARMERS' MARKET SEEKS NEW STALLHOLDERS

The long-established Glenkens Farmers' Market is held on the second Saturday of each month in Dalry Town Hall, and is a regular date for both stallholders and the general public alike.

People come from all over the Glenkens to buy and to sit down for a coffee, chat and some home-made cake.

It's not unusual to see customers filling their bags with a month's supply of corn bread from The Little Bakery or to be drawn to Carson's stall by the smell of a sizzling burger. The Balmacellan Smokehouse offers smoked cheeses, fish and meats.

There is home baking to be bought as well as jams, marmalade, honey

and plants, as well as a beautiful selection of hand-made cards.

A recent addition has been the offering of fine chocolates from In House Chocolates in Castle Douglas, for that special treat.

Right now the market has room for one or two more stalls and would be happy to hear from anyone interested.

To find out more or book a table call Jean Lockerbie on 01644 430 454.



Chocolates at the Farmer's Market.



ULTRASOUND PREGNANCY SCANNING

Cows: Dairy & Suckler's;
Routine visit or whole herd. Ageing,
Twin and Barren detection.

Sheep: Trailer system includes triplets,
marking and shedding

Bitch: Pregnancy and No. of pups

Bookings and info to:

Duncan Kennedy

07860 474001

dk@passcan.co.uk

www.passcan.co.uk



Free Press commercial print brings high quality, low cost colour printing within the reach of businesses large and small.

From start to finish we are fully equipped to carry out any of your colour printing requirements.



About FP Commercial Print

FP commercial print is a service offered by one of south west Scotland's most prestigious and oldest media publishers, Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press established in 1843.

We understand the need for a modern business to promote itself and its products accurately, imaginatively and above all successfully. We offer a bespoke service catering to the individual needs of each client and we believe each client to be an individual, not a number in a process. Our methods and technologies may have changed over the years, but we do have a few 'old fashioned' values, which we believe make the difference...

Honesty • Reliability • Service • Value for Money

For competitive quotes and a quality professional service, give us a call on:

01776 702551

www.commercial-print .com

Arndarroch Open Garden

The garden at Arndarroch will be opened to the public on Sunday 20 and Saturday 26 August by the Dumfries and Galloway Canine Rescue.

40% of the proceeds will go to the Carsphairn Church Fabric Account which funds the repairs and maintenance at the church.

The garden at Arndarroch has been developed from the hillside over the last 26 years. The whole garden is wildlife friendly including the numerous rabbits! Many birds find nesting places in the trees and shrubs whilst others are helped by unusual nest boxes. Garden waste material is used in the woodlands to provide homes for many mammals and countless smaller creatures.

There is a good collection of herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs – some rare- and seats are available so that one can sit and savour the magnificent views.

Entrance to the gardens is £3.50, school children – and younger – are free. Children enjoy the space and the intriguing corners of the garden and there will be a treasure hunt, with prizes, for them. Teas (all home baking) are £2.50 and there will be the usual excellent plant

stall and small craft exhibition. The garden is open from 2-5pm and dogs on leads are welcome. Teas will not be available on Saturday 26.

Arndarroch is on the B7000 five miles from Carsphairn and Dalry.



View over Kendoon loch and the hills beyond with, in the foreground, Rocky the Kendoon monster, who often visits the garden.



t: 01292 550954
m: 07766 978568
e: rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk
www.rjmcculloch.co.uk

RJ McCulloch is a family run plumbing, heating and renewables company that is a trusted provider of affordable heating solutions.

At RJ McCulloch we embody the concepts of quality, technical skills and customer satisfaction. Our aim is to provide our customers with a no-nonsense and reliable service for many years to come.

From a rural cottage to a country estate, we can design and install a heating system to suit your needs. Our highly experienced installation and service engineers are fully qualified in all areas of Gas, Oil, LPG, Biomass, Heat pumps and Solar Thermal.

RJ McCulloch recently installed a Mitsubishi Ecodan heat pump for Gary and Liz at St John's Town Of Dalry to replace their electric storage heaters and hot water immersion system.

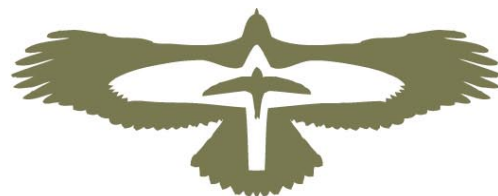
They are now experiencing reduced fuel costs, more efficient central heating and hot water and also benefiting from the renewable heat incentive available to home owners and businesses alike installing renewable technology.



Happy owners of a new Eco Dan boiler, Gary and Liz, with Ross McCulloch.

Please feel free to contact Ross for advice relating to any plumbing or heating queries you may have.

WATSON BIRDS



A key element of Watson Birds is to ensure that the best scientific work on raptors (eagles, harriers, buzzards, kites etc) is made available to the public.

Hence our day of presentations in Dalry Town Hall on 23 September. Also, there will be lots of information from local experts about where to watch birds in Dumfries & Galloway, the results of recent surveys, and the proposed additions to the local golden eagle population. It will be preceded on 22 September by a similar series of presentations in Edinburgh.

There is so much hearsay and speculation about birds of prey, all too often based on prejudice. So we are bringing first rate scientists to talk to anyone interested in an informative and non-technical way about their work.

We are particularly fortunate in having one of the world's leading raptor scientists, Professor Ian Newton FRS, to lead us off on the

day. Modern techniques of radio tracking the paths of golden eagles will be another highlight revealing the places in Scotland where these magnificent birds just vanish, a point which the Scottish Government has registered strong concern.

And in the afternoon, our local experts, including Chris Rollic and Andrew Bielinski who both live in Dalry, and representatives from the NTS and WWT Caerlaverock, will be talking about special local bird places.

Paintings, prints and books by Donald Watson will be available for sale.

It is a pleasure to be hosting this event in the Dalry Town Hall with its excellent facilities. We will provide light refreshments and ask for an entrance charge of £10. In addition, we plan that The Clachan will provide a light lunch for payment.

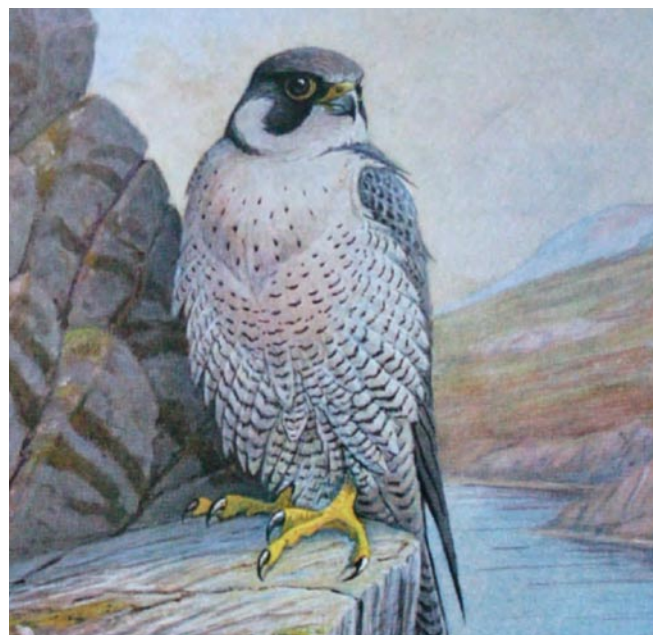
I hope to see many local people as well as bird interests there on 23 September.

To book, please either phone the CatStrand on 01644 420 374 or email

roger.dodin@btinternet.com

Please see ad on p29 for full programme.

Roger Crofts



Frank

a poem by Kevin Ade

He was late
coming gently from the Irish side
stirring the dusk just a little
but really nothing much
before the wind picked up
and sucked the fire
into the chimney stem

We'd been waiting all day

Watched the afternoon clouds
lowering dark upon the glen
the gloom slithering
down the brae

When came that wind
casually as the night
the whistle
rattling the leafless roses against
the window pane

and of course
the rain
surreptitiously
and we were in it
Frank howling
outside the door

through the oaks

uncertain
what he should pursue
he thrashed at everything
throughout the dark, wet night

He was here, alright!
And we
like Porphyria's lover
hid
by the stoves and fireplaces
from his roaring wings
waiting
not for Porphyria – No!
But for the dawn

Dreading what Frank
may leave behind
scattered and broken in the mud
torn apart
across the ground

*

The morning came
dour as the evening had been
before
tho' the wind was soft

Not so the water

Dykes were down
every burn and river
had burst their banks
the flow sweeping now
streaming
where there never had been
such streams before

rising up to the Dalry graves
the valley now a loch

tearing at the bridges
the tarmacadamed roads

filling kitchens and carpets
with cold, cold mud,
an unanchored car floating by
among children's toys
the only colour in the brown wet
sludge

Frank laughed
Whistled again among the
chimney pots
a victory dance

and left us
stunned,
to this black, silent night.

MOSSDALE ART GROUP

Every Wednesday morning, a lively group of folk arrive at Mossdale Village Hall, get themselves a mug of coffee, and chat amiably as they sort out the various materials they will be using over the next couple of hours.

They are folk from all over the Glenkens, with different backgrounds, and a fair range of ages.

The one thing they all have in common is a love of producing art, in its many and various forms. There's some who love watercolour, some who prefer pastels, or inks, textures as well as colours. Every person is encouraged, regardless of

experience, and there's always someone around the table willing to offer tips, if asked. The emphasis is not necessarily on producing perfect 'works of art', but rather on enjoying the opportunity to experiment, to play, to have fun. And we do.

We welcome additions to the group, whether they have been painting for years, or have never picked up a paintbrush – the ability to draw is not necessary, as the wealth of ideas, materials and techniques will give everyone the opportunity to express themselves.

If you're intrigued, or even just



mildly curious, please feel free to drop in for a coffee and chat, and see what kind of things we do.

Our new 'term' begins on Wednesday 13 September and runs until mid-December. You'll be very welcome. *Carol Salisbury*



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

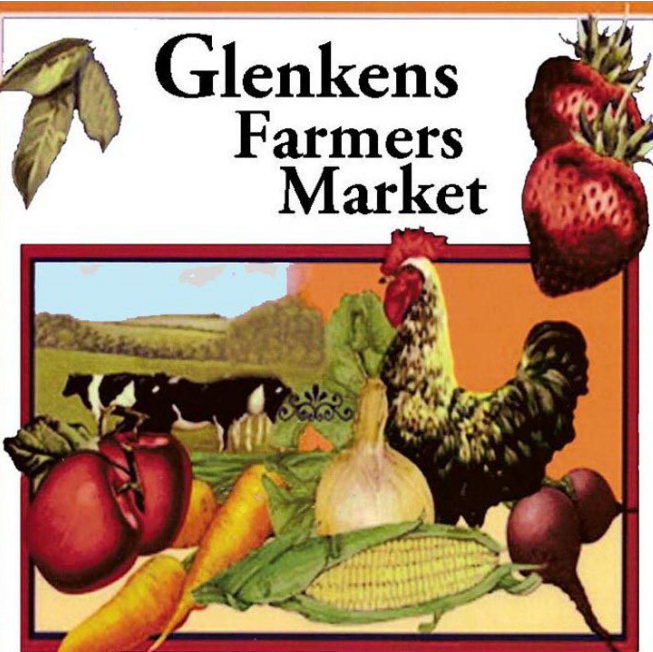
Affordable housing for people living or working in the Glenkens whose circumstances would benefit from the provision of reduced rent.

Tenancy applications welcome from anyone, young or old, single or with a family, who qualifies under the terms of the Trust.



For more information or to download an application form, please go to www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk, or telephone Peter Matthews of A B & A Matthews on 01671 404100.

© Copyright 2016 – The Pamela Young Trust. Registered Scottish Charity (SC019903)



Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly
12th August
9th September
10am-12.30pm

*For further information or to book a stall
 ring 01644 430 454 or visit*
www.dalrytownhall.co.uk

Entrance by donation - proceeds towards Dalry Town Hall Refurbishment Fund
 North of Castle Douglas, A713 Ayr Road

LOCAL HISTORIANS ON MEMORIAL TRAIL

The *Glenkens Story* history group staged two field trips this summer, developing themes which proved popular last year.

The Rev Dr David Bartholomew returned to the trail of the Covenanters starting at the imposing monument at Auchencloy, long out of sight in the forest but now revealed by the clear felling. He told the story of the martyrs who died there or were subsequently killed.

The party then headed north to the remarkable tombstones in Kells kirkyard and on to Carsphairn where the farmer at Garryhorn kindly showed the visitors round the building where the dragoons led by the notorious Grierson of Lag stabled their horses. David's vivid description of the manhunt conducted by Lag from the farm and leading to the

death of Covenanter John Dempster on Meaul Hill was typical of the memorable tales he shared. The visit concluded with a visit to Barscobe Castle, returning to Earlston Castle and its historic oak, famed in the Covenanting story of Alexander Gordon.

Paul Goodwin, completing his tour of the war memorials of the Glenkens, started by picking up the Covenanter theme as the party met at the Covenanter Memorial in Dalry. The Covenanting monuments are now recognised as war memorials by the Imperial War Museum thanks to the efforts of Paul. The tour continued to Dalry war memorial and kirkyard and on to the Town Hall with its impressive memorial to all who served in the two World Wars, simple crosses distinguishing those who died.

Paul explained the many different ways communities chose to record service and death with varying criteria deciding who should be



The field trip visits the remote Covenanters' memorial at Auchencloy.

recorded and how they should be described. Carsphairn with its beautifully located war memorial and further graves in the distinctive church underlined the many moving ways the victims of war are remembered. Paul has compiled a record of all in the Glenkens who fell in the wars and is researching the biographical details. These deaths are being published in chronological order in the Glenkens Gazette.



Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Bob Peace whose atmospheric early morning photograph of Loch Ken, taken from the Marina lay-by, wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: *"Very interesting and varied set of photographs this issue. Lovely view of Clatteringshaws and great to see the tawny owl chicks and hear that they successfully fledged, but we think the winner this time is the lovely view of loch Ken through the mist."*

War Updates for Start of 1917

There were no war deaths reported in the Glenkens in January or February 1917.

In fact, the gap from the death of William Maitland on 18 November 1916 to that of David McCheyne on 13 March 1917 mirrored the respite of the previous two winters.

David McCheyne of High Street, New Galloway joined the Army in September 1915 and had seen nearly two years' service in France. He was one of six brothers who served in the war, one (Alex) having died in 1916 and two more would follow before the war was out. Although there are four McCheyne names on the Kells parish war memorial, there were actually five siblings lost as a result of the war - a sister who had been living in France died during the German occupation.

David was the son of roadman James McCheyne and had worked for Mr Mitchell, sub-postmaster in New Galloway, firstly as a telegraph messenger and later in Mr Mitchell's business as a cycle agent; he was also a part-time postman. David was serving in France as a Lance Corporal when he was severely injured by a gunshot to the thigh on 12 March and died of his wounds a day later. The flag on New Galloway Town Hall was flown at half-mast as a sign of respect. He is commemorated on the Kells War Memorial.

John Martin had been born at Allangibbon Bridge, Dalry, but when he enlisted into the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, on 31 March 1916, he was living with his family in Bridgnorth. He was the eldest son of the late Mr Joseph Martin and Mrs Martin. He was killed

instantaneously by a piece of shell on 18 March. John was just 23 years old and is named on the Dalry War Memorial. A few years ago, I was fortunate enough to be allowed to photograph a family framed memorial, including a memorial plaque ('death penny') and that photograph accompanies this article.

David Cuthbertson, the son of roadman David Cuthbertson, joined the Cameron Highlanders on 1 March 1916 and went to the front in June of that year. David had previously lived at Barlae, Dalry. He was wounded in the leg on the Somme and, after a spell in hospital in Birmingham, returned to the Front in January 1917. He was killed on 7 April at Arras at the age of 34 years and is commemorated on the Dalry War Memorial.

George Kirk was the son of a shepherd from Burnhead, New Galloway. A shepherd like his father, he enlisted in September 1914 and arrived at the Front on Christmas day of that year. He was invalided home in 1915 with Enteric fever but returned to the Front in 1916.

He was 23 years of age when he was killed almost instantly by a bullet whilst attacking the second line of German trenches on 9 April. George is named on the Kells and Sorbie war memorials.

April 1917 would prove to be the

worst month of the war for losses from the Glenkens. With the last two men above, there would be a further seven deaths before the month was out but these will be the subject of a further article.

Paul Goodwin



Top: Photograph of Cuthbertson from the Dumfries & Galloway Standard, 28 April 1917; Above: John Martin, Dalry.

ARBONNE
Pure, safe, beneficial swiss skincare

Would you like the opportunity to have your own online business, with support from a team?

Do you like healthy living and high quality skin care?

Yes?

Then please contact Katy Caie, Arbonne Independent Consultant, on 07756 506 496 or visit <http://catrionacaie.arbonne.com>

Wright's Shop & Post Office Dalry

Licensed convenience store and newsagent stocking a range of local suppliers including Corsons and Irvings Bakers, Ballards and Dalmellington Country Butchers and Mitchells Fruit and Veg.

Opening Times (both shop & PO):
Monday to Friday: 7am – 6pm
Saturday: 8am – 6pm
Sunday: 8.30am – 4pm
Tel: 01644 430 225

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

Who Do We Think We Were?

This reminiscence, by Marion Bone of Dalry, takes us back to the New Galloway Show in all its former glory, during the 1940s.

Her family came over to the Show every year from Ayrshire, with their horses. Later on, of course, Marion came to Dalry, and has stayed in the Glenkens ever since.

Wherever you started out, and however long you have lived in the Glenkens, your story could feature here in the months to come.

Please send your contribution - of no more than 500 words - by email to margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk or hand in a copy at Catstrand marked 'Glenkens Gazette - WDWTTWW'.

Next issue's contribution will be from Gordon Hill, featuring the literal ups and downs, if not the loneliness, of a long distance runner.

HAPPY MEMORIES: New Galloway Show

Avril Bridgeman's reminiscences of the New Galloway Show days brought back happy memories of visiting the show with my father and brother when I was a child in the 1940s.

My father and mother farmed in Ayrshire for all of their lives, first at Barr and then at Pinwherry, both very small Ayrshire villages in the Stinchar Valley.

My father's father had been a

blacksmith at Lendalfoot where Dad grew up. There they were familiar with horses, sea-life and the comings and goings of the fishing fleet as well as farming. My granpa had four sons and three daughters. Sadly one son drowned in the River Stinchar and one daughter died of appendicitis. This was not uncommon in those times.

My mother's family had relocated from the Ballantrae area to Little Pinmore in 1904. This was to be nearer the railway station at Pinwherry. There they were able to send their lamb, known as mutton then, to the meat market in Glasgow. By being near a railway station the meat arrived at the market on the same day it left the farm, thus ensuring it was fresh.

Back to the Glenkens Show, as it is now known. The ponies we had were a Shetland known as Dainty and a coloured standing at 14-plus hands known as Charm. Both ponies were greatly loved by us all but especially by Robert, my brother. He and my cousin Jack would ride Charm at the New Galloway Show.

It was a great day of excitement. We at Pinmore were up early to get the chores done before the long drive (in those days) over to New Galloway. We would arrive in good time to find everything prepared the night before - stalls set up, sheep, cattle, horses, not to mention people, milling about in anticipation for the day's events.

Just like most memories of happy days in childhood, the sun was always shining. My Aunt Kate had arranged for me to be taken around by Mary Smith, I think she was, from Barnhillies



Robert, Morag and Marion Jamieson, in the field at Cairnwhin Farm, Pinmore.

- she was about my age and so I had a companion for the day. One of the things I do remember was the tannoy and music; at one point a voice called out over the tannoy "Would Miss Lillias McWilliam please come to the Show Ring". Well to me this was living... Miss McWilliam appeared on this large horse all dressed for the occasion, as was the horse. What excitement!

The day was finished off at The Hill Farm at Balmaclellan, where my Aunt had prepared a delicious tea for us all. They had a windmill in the fields at The Hill in those days and we always went over the fields to see it before starting the drive home. My Father would point out all the interesting places along the way, name the hills and where the best sheep came off and who farmed where as we drove along through the New Galloway Hills, after a wonderful day in the Glenkens.

Quite unaware was I that one day I would come to live and work in the bonnie Glenkens with my husband. Here we have reared a family and are now great grandparents to three boys and one girl in the Glenkens.

Marion Baird Bone (nee Jamieson)

**Gordon
McAdam**
**Plumbing
&
Heating
Engineer**

22 Kirkland Street

St. John's Town of Dalry

☎ 01644 430393 ☎

☎ 07834 321789 ☎

**GLENKENS
MEDICAL PRACTICE**
General Medical &
Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234



**New Galloway
Golf Club**

Founded 1902

www.nggc.co.uk

- 01644 420737 -

Buggies now available for hire

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Smallest Royal Burgh in Scotland



Think of a British king anxious to buy Scottish support in a civil war that became a revolution.

Add an aristocrat willing to be bought, part of whose price was the right to establish a royal burgh. Consult a humourist journalist named Anthony Troon who was very popular in his day for his contributions to the Scotsman newspaper. He wrote an article dated 8 March 1975 about New Galloway, founded in 1630 by Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar, courtesy of Charles I. The community was never prosperous. It numbered 452 in the

mid nineteenth-century at which time it enjoyed an annual revenue of £3 8s 2d and an expenditure of £1 13s 1d. Eat your heart out Dumgal!

The original charter envisaged a council of 19 men (women were not an option) consisting of a provost, four bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer and 13 councillors, later reduced to a provost, two bailies and six councillors. In 1832 there were only 14 electors, thus rendering the place a 'rotten burgh', subject to political chicanery. The provost lived in London and the Town Clerk in Kirkcudbright. As Troon ironically noted, 'it is to the burgh's credit and fond memory that it never allowed the bright flame of paradox to wane down three and a half centuries of anomalous history'.

John J Paterson, late father of Dave of the Kenbridge Hotel, resisted invitations to join the council while his own father was provost, as he had been for 15 years following service as a councillor for 35. Also his grandfather had been town clerk; 'we've been linked with the council for 100 years'. The last council election was in 1962. As Mr Paterson put it, 'you could say that apathy' led to rare elections, thus saving money. 'As in many small places the ratepayers have been quite happy to let the councillors go ahead with things'.

Troon had another view – democracy by invitation. The provost believed that animosity had been avoided because New Galloway never used political labels, a practice that should be revived as soon as possible to avoid wrecking council elections with irrelevant propaganda and vitriol.

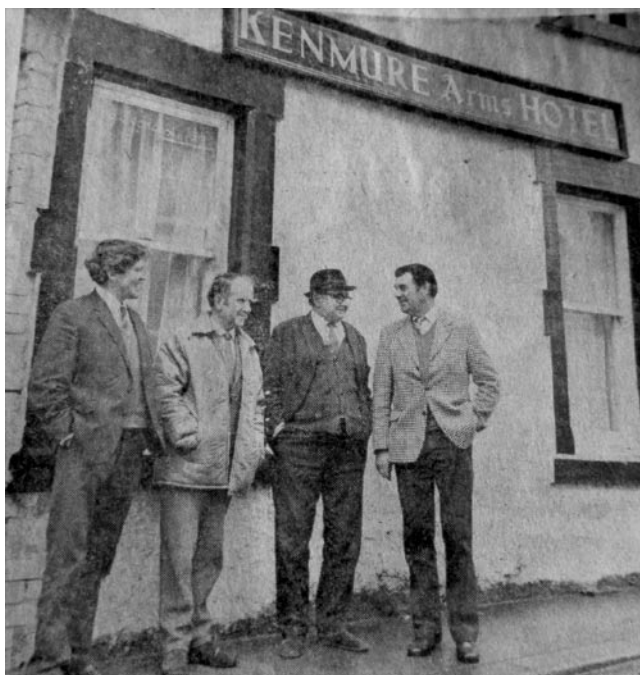
Functionaries were regularly informed on the street about problems or things that needed mending, usually sorted by a prompt phone call. The local plumber was a one-man water department, since replaced at much greater cost by a water board.

One controversial issue was parking on only one side of the main street, necessitated because of increased tourist traffic. 'It was getting so that you couldn't turn the bus'. Troon could not resist mentioning that 'the provost operates the local bus service'; he was wrong – he ran taxis.

Treasurer Robert Wood was also Convener of the Town Hall, managed from his flat across the road. Bailie Jack McQueen, the local postman was the unpaid winder-up of the burgh clock.

Troon clearly had great affection for the burgh, the status of which would be abolished by regionalisation in 1975. New Galloway, like the other Glenkens villages, operated on the basis of trust and pride in the community, though of course there always folk who were critical of the 'Toon Coonsil'. We will return to this theme in a future column. Meanwhile I leave the last word to Troon. 'People can laugh about small-town ways and never know the security of positive identity and the warmth of its rituals. The incomprehensible exchange of civilities in this place (i.e. to outsiders) is a tendril of a root of a venerable community'.

Ted Cowan



Some of the last Town Coucillors (reft to right) Jack McQueen, Ewart Muir, Robert Wood and Provost John Paterson.

marr financial services

61 VICTORIA STREET, NEWTON STEWART DG8 6NL.

Telephone: 01671 40 30 80 Fax: 01671 40 25 49

E-mail: advice@marrfinancial.co.uk Web: www.marrfinancial.co.uk

GLENKENS MEN'S SHED UPDATE

The Glenkens Men's Shed, based in the Old Smiddy at Balmacellan, continues to go from strength to strength.

The 'Shed' held a highly successful sale of work during the Spring Fling, many thanks to all those who supported us on a very blustery weekend in May. The sale of bug-hotels was particularly brisk and the box of unwanted tools also proved surprisingly popular. The selection of bikes for sale was rather less popular and aided by further donations we ended up with three more than we started with! The funds raised have helped with the upgrade of our somewhat meagre facilities; why not pop in and see for yourself on any Monday or Wednesday morning between 10 and 12.

Our next sale of work will be on the weekend of the New Galloway Alternative Games, with a stall at the CatStrand on Saturday 5 August

and another during the games themselves on Sunday 6. We should have a good selection of bikes this time, including some children's, so come and grab a bargain for some cycling family fun. Funds raised will help towards beefing up security at the shed after the unfortunate spate of crime in our area.

Motorcycle refurbishment projects are still running apace and it's planned to run a series of workshops later in the year, aimed at introducing young people to the art of motorbike maintenance. Under the watchful eye of mechanical guru John Fagan and in conjunction with CatStrand Youth Co-ordinator Aidan Nicol, this will be a chance for 16-25 year olds to get their hands dirty. Look out for further announcements to come and learn useful new skills, have fun and catch the biking bug!

Donations of tools, bikes and wood especially are always welcome, and a tremendous help to our cause; so before you visit the recycling centre



Tom Plummer's boat - seven years and counting so far...

or build a bonfire, get in touch. We'll see if we can make use of your unwanted or unloved items. Contact Brian Jones or Chris Jowsey at the CatStrand on 01644 420374 or by email at brian@catstrand.com or chris@catstrand.com

And finally a big thank you goes to Dr Ian Johnston, who has generously provided us with a cache of timber to enable our on-going projects to continue. Cheers Ian!

The Men's Shed Team

Dalry's Defibrillator Box

When British Telecom decided to close Dalry's remaining phone box due to lack of use, the Community Council negotiated the take-over of the kiosk at the junction of Main Street and Underhill to house a defibrillator.

Masterminded by Dalry Community Councillors Andi Holmes and Graham West, the defibrillator is now in its new position and ready for use if required. Full instructions accompany it and it is simple to use.

"There are very few emergency medical situations where lay person intervention can mean the difference between life and death. Cardiac arrest is one but without quick access to a defibrillator there is little hope of a successful intervention," said Ian Howie, who supports communities with defibrillator training. "By making

this defibrillator available on a 24hr basis the chances of surviving a Cardiac Arrest in Dalry have significantly improved".

Dalry Community Council are grateful to BT who are providing the electricity required to keep the defibrillator's battery at a regular temperature in the winter.



FLOWER & VEG SHOW

Saturday 26 August once again sees the The Glenkens Society Annual Flower and Vegetable Show - reckoned to be the oldest flower show still existing in Scotland and probably all of Britain having been established in 1831.

So come on all you budding gardeners, bakers, knitters, etc - get thinking about what you can enter (entry forms are now in local shops) this year to help us keep our wee show going. The closing date for entries is Monday 21 August.

This year's theme for the adult photograph is 'A Water Scene' and for juniors is 'A Vehicle'

There is also a class for hanging basket, tubs, etc, which will be judged on site during week running up to the show. There are so many of these scattered throughout our villages so please enter yours.

If you have visitors with you that week with children, they can enter too. The hall will be open to the public for viewing from 2pm and the presentation of trophies will be at 3pm. Please support your local show!

Hilda McAdam

RAPTOR SCIENCE SUPPORTS CONSERVATION

Sunday 23 September, Dalry Town Hall

1000-1015 Arrival, registration and refreshments

1015-1020 Welcome and introduction Roger Crofts Director Watson Birds

1020-1300 Session 1. New findings from raptor research

Chair: Roddy Fairley Scottish Natural Heritage

1025-1110 Keynote. Ian Newton, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology - Fifty years of raptor research: what have we learnt?

Presentations from recent Watson Raptor Science Winners and Runners-Up:

1110-1140 Xavier Lambin, University of Aberdeen - Intraguild predation

1140-1210 Miguel Ferrer, Doñana Biological Station, Spain - Raptors and wind farms

1210-1240 Phil Whitfield & Alan Fielding, Natural Research - The fate and movements of satellite tagged golden eagles

1240-1300 Audience participation and panel discussion

1300-1345 Lunch

1400-1700 Session 2. Our local birds - beyond raptors: where to watch them
Chair Chris Miles

1400-1430 Cat Barlow, South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project - Reinforcing South Scotland's golden eagle population

1430-1500 Chris Rollie, RSPB - Some favourite places to see birds in Dumfries & Galloway

1500-1530 Karl Munday, NTS - The Trust and birds in Dumfries & Galloway

1530-1600 Larry Griffin, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Caerlaverock - The Greenland white-fronted geese of Dumfries & Galloway - the enigma of their decline

1600-1630 Andrew Bielinski, RSPB - Bird reserves in south-west Scotland

1630-1700 General discussion on bird watching and bird conservation in south west Scotland

Art exhibition, picture and book sale

Exhibition of the Watson Bird project owned and loaned pictures with possibility of purchase of paintings and prints, and bird books illustrated or written by Donald Watson.

Attendance fee £10 (no concessions) includes refreshments. Sandwich lunch to be paid separately. Payments by BACS to Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, Sort Code 80-06-11 Account number 00123211 Or by post or email to Roger Crofts at 6 Eskdale West, Musselburgh, EH21 6HZ roger.dodlin@btinternet.com

Supporting Organisations

WATSON BIRDS



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dùrlachas Nàdair na h-Alba



CATSTRAND SUMMER CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST
11am – 4pm

Range of local craft stalls
CatStrand Gift Shop
Licensed Café/Bar

Stalls still available, if you would like a stall please contact Wendy on 01644 420 374 or email wendy@catstrand.com

Backroom Vintage
Invites you to a

POP UP SHOP

DATES FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & NOVEMBER

AUGUST - Saturday 5th & Saturday 26th
SEPTEMBER - Saturday 30th
NOVEMBER - Saturday 25th

Open 10am to 4pm

Home to handpainted, upcycled furniture and design led vintage homeware

COLLECTIBLES RETRO-KITCHENALIA & OTHER CURIOS

Find us at Woodbank, High Street, New Galloway.

THE CLACHAN INN

- three changing cask ales & cider -
- fresh, seasonal & local food -
- en suite accommodation -
- open all day every day -
- award-winning food, beer & atmosphere -
- en-suite accommodation -
- 20% off takeaway discount -
- country sport & walkers facilities -

01644 430 241
www.theclachaninn.co.uk

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Connecting in Communities



Your Community Needs
YOU!

Can **you** help in your community? Volunteers needed, all ages, all abilities:
Contact chris@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374 for further details.



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development



AUGUST

Wed 2 & Thurs 3, Game Jam, CatStrand, New Galloway, see p17

Fri 4, Neon Night, CatStrand, New Galloway, see p17

Sat 5, Backroom Vintage Pop-up Shop, 10am-4pm, New Galloway, see p29

Sat 5, CatStrand Summer Craft Fair, 11am-4pm, CatStrand, New Galloway, see p29

Sun 6, Alternative Games, New Galloway, see p3

Mon 7-Sun 12, World Gold Panning Championships, Moffat, see p6

Sat 12, Farmers' Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p20 & 23

Sat 19, Movie in the Park, 8.30pm, New Galloway, see p17

Sat 19, GTI Bus Trip: Galloway Country Fair, see p8

Sun 20, Arndarroch Open Garden, 2-5pm, see p21

Sun 20, GTI Bus Trip: Gulf Stream Gardens, Ardwell House Garden, see p8

Sat 26, Backroom Vintage

Pop-up Shop, 10am-4pm, New Galloway, see p29

Sun 26, Arndarroch Open Garden, 2-5pm, see p21

Sun 26, Flower & Veg Show, Dalry Town Hall, 2pm, see p28

SEPTEMBER

Wed 6, Film: Trainspotting2, Dalry Town Hall, see p10

Sat 9, Farmers' Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p20 & 23

Wed 13, GTI Bus Trip: Devil's Porridge, Eastriggs, see p8

Sat 16, Craft Fair, Dalry Town Hall, 07759 494 952

Wed 20, Film: Hairspray, Dalry Town Hall, see p10

Fri 22-Sun 2 Oct, Wigtown Book Festival, see p19

Sat 23, Watson Birds Talks, Dalry Town Hall, see p22 & 29

Sun 24, GTI Bus Trip: Restoration Garden, Craigengillan Estate, see p8

Sat 30, Backroom Vintage Pop-up Shop, 10am-4pm, New Galloway, see p29

OCTOBER

Sat 7, Carsphairn's Got Talent, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, 460 545

Glenkens Children's Club's
Wild SUMMER Fundraising BBQ
August 19th
1-3pm
Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry
- BBQ, Cakes, Tea, Coffee -
Children's performance with elements created over the summer.
All welcome!

BIRDS OF PREY VISIT
August 11th, 10am-12noon
Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry
Visit from Cumberland Birds of Prey Centre
Come along and see some of their extraordinary birds!
Ages 0-12 welcome with an accompanying adult, £5 for first child and £1 for subsequent children (adults without accompanying children are welcome too - £5 each).
A healthy snack for the kids and tea/coffee for the grown-ups is included.

CatStrand
10th ANNIVERSARY
SHOWCASE

DOUGIE MACLEAN

MR CRAIG HILL

BLANCHE & BUTCH

Polyphon Chronicles | Blanche & Butch
Adam Holmes & Rachel Sermanni |
The Ivor Novello Story...and MUCH MORE!

Box Office, 01644420374
Book Online www.catstrand.com

5th - 14th October 2017

CatStrand 10
CREATIVE LAND
ALBA! CHRUTHACHAIL

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Exercise to Music: Mon, 10-11am

Margaret Morris dance 1: 3-7yrs, Mon (term-time), 3.45-4.30pm

Margaret Morris dance 2: 8-16yrs, Mon (term-time), 4.30-5.15pm

Youth Volunteer Meet-up, Tues, 6-8pm, FREE PIZZA

Choreographic Skills Lab: Mon (term-time), 7 - 8.30pm
ages 12-18

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am, 60+

Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3.30pm

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

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11am -12pm

CatStrand Ukes: Thurs, 1pm - 3.30pm 60+

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

Saturday Art Club: 2nd & 4th Sat of the month, 10am-12noon, to book call 420 374

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):

Paint & Art: Mon, 2-4pm

GCC Playgroup: Tues, Wed & Thurs, 9.15-11.45am, contact Miriam 07514 320 101

Guides: Tues during term-time, 6-8pm, contact: Kath 430 281

Good Neighbours' Club: Tues, 2pm

Brownies: Thurs 6-7.30pm

Kickback Martial Arts: Thurs, 7-9pm

Thursday Craft Group: Thurs, 2-4pm

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

New Galloway Town Hall:

LING Lunches: Tues, 11am-2pm

Indoor Sports: Tues, 7-9pm

Zumba: Wed, 7.30-8.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, 11+

Footcare by Stewartry Care: Thurs by appointment (Tel: 01556 504699), New Galloway Town Hall

Various Locations:

Hatha Yoga, Mon, 10-11.15am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, more info at www.carsphairn.org

Carsphairn Post Office: Tues, 1-3pm, Lagwyne Hall

Beavers: Tues, 6-7.15pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Dog Training: Tues & Thurs, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall. Contact: Eric 460 670

Mossdale Painters: Wed, 9.30am, Mossdale Village Hall

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

Carsphairn Heritage Centre, 1 June to 25 September, Thurs to Mon, 10am-4pm

Glenhaven Gallery, Thurs-Sun, 12noon-4pm, Main St, Dalry

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

Coffee & Craft Group: Fri, 9am-12noon, Lagwyne Hall

Folk Music Session, 4th Fri each month, 7.30/8pm till closing, Ken Bridge Hotel

713 Pop-up Bistro, Carsphairn Shop & Tearoom, last Friday each month, contact 460 568

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

Gentle Tai Chi: Fri 10-11am, Dalry Town Hall

Family and friends coming to stay?
Short of space?
Cosy country cottage available (sleeps 4)
Call Fiona on 01644 420 227
www.covenanters-holidaycottagescotland.co.uk

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

Tuesdays 12noon-3.30pm
Fridays 10am-12noon & 1-4.30pm
For further library van stops and information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

SMALL: 6cm x 6cm, £37.80 (+ 10% off with series discount)

1/4 PAGE: 9cm w x 13cm h, £81.90 (+ 25% off with series discount)

1/2 PAGE: 18cm w x 13cm h, £151.20 (+ 25% off with series discount)

FULL PAGE: 18cm w x 27cm h, £252 (+ 25% off with series discount)

Call 07727 127 997

VAT Reg. No. 882 8361 87

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council

Meetings: 4th Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall. **CHECK OUT NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!**

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

Kells 10.30am: 2nd(Aug), 3rd, 4th.

Special Services/Events: 10 Sept, 10.30am: United Family Service & bbq, Carsphairn Church then Community Garden. 24 September, 10.30am:

Harvest Thanksgiving & Lunch, Kells Church. 24 Sept, 12noon: Harvest Thanksgiving & Lunch, Dalry Church then Dalry Town Hall.

Communion Services: 27 Aug, 10.30am, Kells 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

USEFUL NUMBERS:

- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Police, non-emergency: 101
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

COMMUNITY SHOP OPENS

New Galloway's Community Shop is now officially open for business after almost three years of effort by local people to save the Royal Burgh's last general store from closure.

Lynsey Hogg, pictured at the door of the shop, has been appointed general retail manager. Lynsey grew up in Castle Douglas and has extensive experience in food retailing.

Three part-time assistants - Andrea Smith, Jacqui Morton and Tamsin Geddes - have been appointed and will support Lynsey in maintaining the new opening hours of 8am-6pm Monday to Saturday and 8am-4pm on Sunday, closing for lunch everyday from 1-1.30pm.

Lynsey says: "I'm delighted to be involved in this community project and am focused on ensuring the shop is able to provide good value, quality food to all." As well as managing the shop Lynsey will be in charge of other planned businesses including holiday flat rentals as they come on stream.

The shop will look much the same for several months while preparations are made for the refurbishment. Later in the year the shop will move to temporary premises until renovation is finished. Work will then start on converting the house into self-catering holiday flats, due for completion next year.

The shop and attached house have been bought by New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE) Ltd, a community benefit society owned by

some 250 members and friends of the local community who raised almost £25,000 in share capital. Two thirds of the shareholders live in the New Galloway area. Purchase was made possible thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery's 'Growing Community Assets' fund.

Mike Brown, Chair of NGCE, says: "The Board would like to thank all of our funders and the many local people who have been so encouraging and supportive throughout this long process, not

least Jim and Margaret Hopkins. We wish them all the best in their retirement."



Farewell to Jim & Margaret



The New Galloway community came out in force to say farewell to Jim and Margaret Hopkins who have retired as owners of the village store.

More than 100 people packed into the Cross Keys to say "thank you" for 26 years' service from Jim and Margaret and shop assistant Marie McClurg. An excellent buffet was laid on by the hotel and the Smithy, and music included the CatStrand Ukelele Band and pianist Jim McPhee. Margaret is well known for writing poems to commemorate important events and this occasion was no exception. Irene Dawson is pictured reading Margaret's poem to the well-wishers watched by Margaret (second left), Marie (second right) and Jim (far right).

Harbro
QUALITY LIVESTOCK NUTRITION

Penpont,
Thornhill, DG3 4JS
Tel: 01848 330 419
Mob: 07900 246 100
jim.campbell@harbro.co.uk
www.harbro.co.uk



YOUR HOTLINE TO HARBRO PRODUCTS

JIM on 07900 246 100

FROZEN DOG FOOD

- Free Flow Chicken, 2kg...£5.05 - Free Flow Beef, 2kg...£5.95 -
- Tripe Mince, 400g...£1.20 - Chicken & Rabbit Mince, 400g...£1.13 -
- Beef Chunks, 1kg...£3.50 - Tripe Chunks, 1kg...£3.25 -
- Paddywack...£2.49 - Duck Wings...£2.49 - Marrowbone...£2.49 -

THINK...HARBRO

All products at very competitive prices and delivery if required

Harbro Limited is registered in Scotland | Company Registration No SC230773 | VAT Registration No. 552 9839 03

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 glenkenzgazette@hotmail.co.uk

OCT/NOV COPY DEADLINE: 5 SEPT



Design & co-ordination:

Sarah Ade
sarah.ade@gmail.com

Printing: Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press
www.stranraer-freepress.co.uk