

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2017

ISSUE 102

FREE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CATSTRAND

It'll never work. There aren't enough people. It's an awful lot of money. Who'll come? What will there be to do? And so the stream of constant doubts and questions continued.

Actually, it proved to have an extremely positive effect. It meant that this small group of volunteers, who had come together round each other's kitchen tables, became completely focussed and committed to realising a joint vision. That vision was first and foremost to improve the eyesore that was the old Victorian primary school at the entrance to New Galloway, Scotland's smallest Royal Burgh, and to do something that would benefit the whole of the Glenkens.

That was 16 years ago in 2001, when our rural community was very much in the shadow of the foot-and-mouth disease crisis. If we didn't do anything

to help ourselves, then no-one else would. And just because we live in a beautiful but quiet corner of South West Scotland, why should we be denied access to quality events and services that people in the central belt take for granted?

Those were the first stirrings and the inspiration behind setting up of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT). Fast forward six years with £1 million successfully raised from a variety of public and private sources to the opening, by HRH The Princess Royal, of CatStrand – a brand new, contemporary, state-of-the-art centre in the very heart of the Glenkens. Our aim was always to try to be all things to all people by providing quality arts,



business, community and tourism facilities under the one roof.

And that's exactly what's happened. Indeed, the current CatStrand programme is testimony to the quality and diversity of activities that are now regularly hosted and supported throughout the year.

Continued on p4...



Children from all of the Glenkens primary schools enjoyed a day full of activities to celebrate Roald Dahl Day.

Children and staff from Carsphairn (pictured), Dalry and Kells Primaries dressed up for the occasion and completed activities related to many of the famous author's most memorable stories and characters.

Continued on p15...

Keep CatStrand Dry Campaign Success

CatStrand will get the best 10th birthday present it could have wished for with the installation of the new flood wall to back up existing flood management measures and protect the building from a repeat of the catastrophic flooding experienced in January 2015.

The 'Keep CatStrand Dry' campaign was launched at the end of June and co-ordinated by student intern Joe Taylor. With the fantastic amount of almost £45,000 raised at the time of going to press, the combined

Crowdfunding and local campaign is now very close to the original target meaning that work can commence in October.

GCAT Chairman Alan Smith said, "To raise this amount of money in such a short time is unbelievable, with donations received from as far away as Australia and the USA, plus an



throughout the design process was to avoid any possibility of increasing any flood risk to other properties. It will enhance

The prime consideration throughout the design process was to avoid any possibility of increasing any flood risk to other properties.

outstanding local response". CatStrand General Manager Brian Edgar added, "We are incredibly grateful for all the fantastic support from the local

community and beyond. Installation of the overflow channel will finally bring peace of mind to everyone involved at CatStrand whenever we have heavy rain."

This final piece in the CatStrand flood management plan will see the construction of an overflow channel designed to catch any excess flood water and route it safely around the building. The prime consideration

all the existing measures already put in place and was selected as the best solution after extensive research and consideration involving Flooding Risk Assessments Ltd, Scottish Flood Forum, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service amongst others. The system was designed by Stewart Engineers Ltd., structural engineers based in Dumfries who have an excellent reputation and considerable experience throughout the UK.

When in place, the combination of all the measures will avoid any build-up of water as has happened in the past and allow excess water, unable to pass through the existing culvert to spill gradually into the overflow channel and pass safely around the building and into other existing drainage and watercourses.

Anyone who would like to know more about the flood management system is welcome to call at CatStrand to view the plans on site and further information is also available at our website www.catstrand.com

CatStrand

Christmas Shopping Day

SAT 25th NOV
11am-4pm

Find that perfect gift in our shop or check out the many stalls selling crafts and festive fayre. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

If you wish to have a stall at our Shopping Day please contact Wendy Leach on 01644420374 or info@catstrand.com

REMEMBERING JOYCE HUNTER-BLAIR

Joyce Hunter-Blair was born Joyce Graham on 8 February 1937 on the family fruit farm in Cape Province, South Africa.

When the Second World War broke out, her father was recalled to the Royal Navy and so her mother decided to move the family back to the UK, initially to Hampshire and then to Newlands in Dumfriesshire before moving to Creetown. After the war the family moved back to South Africa, but Joyce was soon to return to the UK spending some time with her married sister in Ireland and then taking a job in London working for the Reader's Digest.

Joyce met Frank Hunter Blair in 1955 and they married in 1957 when she moved into Marbrack, Carsphairn. Moving to Marbrack was the start of Joyce's sixty year relationship with the Glenkens. From the start, she entered wholeheartedly into what it meant to be a farmer's wife in the Glenkens and inevitably she saw many changes to practice on the farm. Marbrack was an idyllic place to bring up her five children giving them the freedom to roam, and play and develop in ways that today one can only envy. Then, after Frank's untimely death in 2000, Joyce moved to Dalry where she happily settled into village life.

Joyce's interests were varied. Gardening was a great love and

she managed to work miracles with Marbrack soils both in the production of vegetables and fruit and flowers. She could draw very well, particularly little line drawings of animals; dogs and horses being favourites. She enjoyed cards, bridge in particular, and was an inveterate and accomplished letter writer.

Joyce, Frank and their son Peter provided the secretariat of the Carsphairn Show for well over twenty years between them. She was a stalwart of the Rural and a member for sixty years. She was appointed President of the Stewartry Federation of Rurals and represented the Rural on the Meat and Livestock Commission. She was a leading light in the Carsphairn Heritage Centre, involved in the detailed research, planning and execution of each year's exhibition. She was also a member of the local branch of the RNLI and a loyal supporter of CatStrand.

Although Joyce was involved in many facets of life in the Glenkens and further afield, she was first and foremost a wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, great-aunt and a wonderful friend to many. While a respecter and lover of tradition, she also embraced, encouraged and promoted change, especially so where she believed there



Top: Joyce with husband Frank at Marbrack in the late 1950s. Above: Joyce surrounded by her grandchildren, and great-grandson, on her 80th birthday.

were benefits likely to come to the area. In the words of her son, Pat: "Mum was a strong, independent, forthright, clever, beautiful and caring woman."

Joyce died on 15 July 2017 and will be sadly missed by many.

Susie Seed and Cathy Agnew

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

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

Minding Feet
**Professional Foot
Health Treatments**
Holistic Foot Therapies
Patricia Lavelle
MAR FHP CNHC
Professional Foot Health Practitioner
07789 246 833
www.mindingfeet.com

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

Deckchair, hardly used. Contact: 460 516, if no answer leave a message.

D&G Life magazines - back issues 2 (Nov 2006) to 109 (Dec 2016). Contact: 07941 126 323

Two boxes of light bulbs. Energy saving and incandescent. Bayonet

and screw. Some coloured. Contact: Sue on 075 637 18011

Computer desk; two **plastic swing bins**, one has a lid. Contact: June on 420 361

WANTED

Twin tub washing machine.

Contact 07707 932755 or 07824 481463

GCC Playgroup is looking for a lockable garden storage container and a small fridge.

Contact 07511 549 413

People to play tennis with and people interested in starting a **book group**. Contact: June on 420 361

Continued from front page...

There are numerous diverse projects for young and old alike: Connecting in Communities, CatStrand Youth Arts, CatStrand Cinema, Creative Skills, Classes and Workshops including the innovative Men's Shed project, Health and Wellbeing activities, the Glenkens Transport Initiative, and of course the eagerly anticipated Glenkens Gazette, now in its 18th year of publication. The vibrant and innovative arts and events programme covers classical music, folk, jazz, dance, contemporary theatre as well as literature and the visual arts and crafts. There really is something for everyone at CatStrand.

So the old school has indeed been improved and given a new lease of life for future generations to enjoy. CatStrand now prides itself on being recognised as a 5-Star tourist attraction. It offers a café, shop, bar and gallery as well

as being a quality meeting space and conference venue. We've provided peer to peer mentoring for many would-be-similar projects across Scotland and welcomed visitors from across the globe. A memorable inscription in our Visitor's Book reads: 'I wish our community had a CatStrand'.

Looking back, it's interesting to realise that phrases like improving quality of life / skills development / youth opportunity / creating employment opportunities / civic pride / making a real difference / combatting rural isolation, are not just buzzwords and jargon to obtain funding. They are genuine objectives that have been achieved and evidenced at CatStrand over the last ten years. The creative programmes and community activities now regularly promoted are way beyond our initial vision all those years ago.

So has it worked? The answer is a resounding Yes. One specific positive factor

to emerge from the recent flooding disaster when CatStrand was closed for 8 months, was just how much people realised they missed the place. As a community I think we are better connected, better networked and certainly better known. New Galloway is now firmly on the regional and national map - for performers, audiences, residents, visitors, businesses and house buyers. There's a thriving welcoming creative community in the Glenkens with a reinvigorated sense of civic pride.

But CatStrand couldn't continue to work without the fantastic combined commitment, energy and enthusiasm of the whole team: staff, directors, volunteers, friends, patrons and above all the community. Ten years is certainly a good moment for reflection but definitely a good moment for celebration too. HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY CATSTRAND and here's to the next decade! *Cathy Agnew*



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

Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



Latest Business Supporters of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

It never fails to amaze me the great businesses that are within our Biosphere, not only working hard to run their business but working hard to support the region economically, environmentally, and supporting the communities in which they live and operate.

Our latest 'Proud Supporters' signing up to the principles of our Biosphere Charter are wide and varied all offering something unique to this special place.

Salad Brew in Borgue is a small company growing fruit and veg using a combination of organic and hydroponic methods.

Scaur Glen Soaps in Thornhill

make handmade soaps, bath goodies and fragranced treats in a huge range of fragrances.

Franca Bruno in Gatehouse of Fleet is not only passionate about the jewellery she sells but is passionate about promoting the outstanding natural beauty of the area to customers who come into the shop.

Another business to sign up supporting tourism in the region is **Discover Scotland Holiday Cottages** in Castle Douglas, who encourage visitors to the cottages to take care of the environment while enjoying the wildlife that the area has to offer.

In the Glenkens, **Scroggie Hall Organic Farm** in Balmaclellan has for the last 17 years tried a variety of ways using organic and biodynamic methods to restore

their hill farm. Helping neighbours as much as they can, they aim to support living as a thriving community - one that welcomes guests and visitors both locally and overseas through their work.

In Whithorn, **The Wee Garden Gallery** believe in the need to promote the area and other business around them so that they can all survive.

We have nearly 90 businesses signed up as 'Supporters of the Biosphere'. The more we shout about this special place and our UNESCO Biosphere accolade, the more we will put this part of South West Scotland on the map. You can sign up as a 'Proud Supporter':

www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/get-involved/charter

Marie McNulty, Business Development Officer, Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

How Do You Prepare for Winter?

Do you look forward to winter, or does it fill you with dread?

In the NHS Stewartry Health and Wellbeing Team, we are interested to hear how individuals and communities prepare for and stay well over winter.

We would also like to hear about the challenges faced and to explore ways that we can work together to overcome these.

Challenges may include keeping active, keeping warm, avoiding isolation, staying positive and being prepared for severe events such as flooding and snow.

We are also talking with our colleagues at Garden Hill Primary Care Centre about how they prepare for winter - thinking about themselves and their patients. One of our podiatrists was telling us about the effects the cold weather can have on foot health... so thermometers and information about home Energy Scotland will be provided to staff to give out during

home visits. They can pass this on and even refer to Home Energy Scotland if they feel it would help you.

We don't just think about winter. In August, we visited New Galloway with a group of disabled experts

workers, the farming communities' young people and children, as well as partner organisations, about what matters to them about their health and wellbeing. This is part of the Health and Wellbeing in the Farming Community project, in partnership with National Farmers Union Scotland and Dumfries & Galloway Council.

We would like to hear from and talk to as many groups and individuals as possible about staying well and how we can work together to support this.

If you would like to join in the conversation and/or for us to visit your group or organisation, please contact Sue Vest, Community Health & Wellbeing Development Worker for the Stewartry, on sue.vest@nhs.net or 01556 505724.

You can ring the same number and ask for Stella Milsom, Health and Wellbeing Project Co-ordinator, to join in the Health and Wellbeing in the Farming Community Big Conversation, or email her at stella.milsom@nhs.net

We would also like to hear about the challenges faced and to explore ways that we can work together to overcome these.

from Capability Scotland. They visited the CatStrand, Community Shop, Post Office and Town Hall, sharing their thoughts on how to improve accessibility. This feedback will contribute to some real changes and to some funding applications.

We have also been out and about meeting members of the farming community as part of the health and wellbeing Big Conversation which runs until the end of November. We are looking to hear from as many members of the farming community as we can; farmers, farmers' spouses and partners, farm



AN INTERVIEW WITH IAN PATRICK

Ian Patrick is a local author who has recently had his first novel published. The Gazette finds out a bit more about him and what inspired *Rubicon*.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

My name is Ian Patrick. I spent many of my younger years travelling, as my father was in the forces. My secondary education was in Nottingham, where I scraped through the education system and left school at sixteen. After a short spell in the Civil Service I moved to London, aged nineteen, for a career in the Metropolitan Police. I spent 27 years as a police officer, the majority as a detective within the Specialist Operations Command.

How did you get into writing? Is it something you've always wanted to do?

I've written for fun for over twenty years. A life in policing is a life of writing! I had never considered turning my hand to novel writing until a few years ago when I was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. *Rubicon* is my debut.

Where do you get your inspiration?

Life. I have seen so many sides to the human psyche that it became

impossible for stories to cease arising in my head. There is always a fear that ideas for a book won't happen. So far, so good.

How would you describe your writing to anyone who hasn't read your book?

Raw. I seem to have found a voice that I enjoy writing in and wish to develop this as far as I can. I don't dwell on unnecessary description. I know readers want concise language, not words for words' sake. As a reader it's something I notice, so figured my writing would reflect that. I also like a book to keep me gripped. It's my hope my writing will achieve this goal. Feedback has been positive so I'm very happy.

Where do you write?

Thankfully I don't need peace and quiet to write. I was writing in the back room at Dalry Community Centre whilst my youngest was at Playgroup. This was fine in the summer but when winter arrived, I was struggling! The editor of this newspaper sent me to see Phil and Laura at The Clachan Inn, to write an article for the *Gazette*. They took pity on me and invited me to write there. I didn't have to think twice! Having an open fire and a coffee was all I needed to keep me going. Thanks to their hospitality I now have a second novel written.

What are your views on libraries being closed?

I strongly oppose the idea of shutting a library. I grew up knowing that the library was the

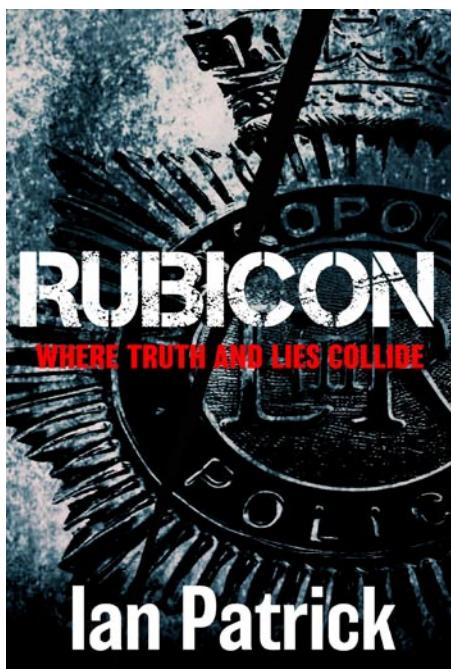


Ian Patrick

place to go if I needed research for school or to get a book to read. It's a hub for a community, especially when you live rurally. The mobile service is paramount too. The library at Dalry has held some wonderful storytime sessions for the younger children. In a time where we are all getting sucked into a phone culture, stopping to read is vital. I would love to see more people reading and talking about books they have read.

I would like to say a huge thanks for having me here and to the wonderful community who has got to know me and supported my writing.

If you wish to read Rubicon it's available on Amazon.co.uk or you can request it through the library.



Pictured: The cover image of Ian's book debut, Rubicon; writing in the back room at GCC Playgroup; a cosier setting at the Clachan Inn.

Scottish Alternative Games

Heavy rain from around midday didn't deter the crowd at the 40th Anniversary of the Scottish Alternative Games, with a decent number of spectators assembled, all prepared for whatever the elements could throw at them!

As it turned out, the first event had to be a 'throwing' one in the hope that the track would dry out a bit to allow the gird 'n' cleek racing to take place later in the day. The event was opened in traditional fashion by Lockerbie & District Pipe Band and as they marched or maybe squelched out of the arena,

the six intrepid entrants for the 'round the ruins' Alternative Run event left on their mystery tour led by ultra-marathon runner Gordon Hill.

The opening event was the Men's Tossin' the Sheaf competition which attracted a good number of participants.

The decision was made when the rain was at its heaviest to keep the snails in their training camp at CatStrand and the races would be run there throughout the afternoon so that the punters could at least dry out a bit. As always, the little racers didn't disappoint the crowds as they slid along the track, bribed by beer and lettuce leaves! The Snail Racing was organised by CatStrand's youth volunteers and the commentator for the day was David Grimwood, impeccably dressed in suitable race-going attire. The CatStrand Ukulele Band also took up camp out of

the rain and entertained the crowd between races.

As the rain eased off slightly, it was possible to hold the Tractor Pull and the Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane events later in the day, but unfortunately the damage had been done and the waterlogged track proved just too dangerous to even attempt any competitive Gird 'n' Cleek racing. It was decided that it would be too dangerous even to attempt any competitive Gird 'n' Cleek racing and Kelsie Marshall would keep her world champion title for another year.

In the end though, despite the weather, the incredible spirit of the Games prevailed once again. Organisers would like to thank everyone who helped and who came along to support and to compete, with each other and with the elements! Roll on 2018 and hopefully a nice sunny day - that really would be 'alternative'.



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*

HORIZONTAL COLLABORATION

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER
7:30PM

**GLENCAIRN
MEMORIAL
INSTITUTE
MONIAIVE**

**FIRE
EXIT
+THEATRE+**

HORIZONTAL COLLABORATION

★★★★ "Intense... dark imaginings" The Herald
★★★★ "Highly honed... superb" The Stage
★★★★ "Thrilling... thought-provoking..." EdFestMag
★★★★ "It's a cracker" The Beasts Pen
"Compelling... rich... provocative" Total Theatre
"Dramatically pure... inventive" Sunday Herald
"Unique... very clever" A Younger Theatre
"Magnificent... amazing theatre" London Grip
Shortlisted Amnesty International
Freedom of Expression Award

TICKETS

£10/£5 U26

01387 253383

www.dgartslive.org.uk



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

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

Dalry to Newton Stewart Return Swimming and Shopping

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 10930,
New Galloway (Fire Station) 1340

Return Pickups:

Newton Stewart (ALDI Car Park) 1130, (Merrick Centre) 1140
Return Fare: £3.00

Information/booking phone Ann on 01644 460518

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 Balmaclellan, 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

October – December 2017 dates

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

October – December 2017 dates

Oct 07, Nov 04, Dec 02

Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940,
Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 1010

EXCURSIONS

October 2017

Other excursions may be organised throughout the period.
Please see the GTI website and posters for details.

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

October 2017

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

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.

Check the GTI website for news
of other excursions in November and December.
Please contact us on gti@catstrand.com with
suggestions for excursions.



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.

DALRY'S DEFIBRILLATOR IS BACK ON TRACK

One of Dalry's defibrillators that was housed in the newly acquired phone box at the corner of Main Street and Underhill was found to be missing in late August.

Unfortunately, it was not taken for its correct purpose – helping someone who is having a heart-attack. It was eventually found on the school playing fields, luckily still working but without its case. Police suspect it was taken by people who did not realise it has no other use than for helping start someone's heart.

Dalry's Community Council have discussed whether there should now be a lock on the phone box but advice from the British Heart Foundation suggests that this will add difficulty in an emergency where every minute can count. Accordingly, the defibrillator is back in the phone box and easily accessible to anyone who needs it,

day or night.

The defibrillator comes with written and spoken instructions, making it simple to use, even by someone who has not had training. And it only operates if it is needed as it can sense whether someone's heart requires help. However, Dalry Community Council are hoping to run a training event in December - please look out for posters for details. As it takes an ambulance at least 20 minutes to get to the Glenkens, they are also looking into starting a First Responder team. If you are interested in becoming a community First Responder you would be trained in a wide range of emergency skills, and would be able to provide an early intervention in situations such as a heart or asthma attack, before the professional ambulance crew arrives. This improves patient survival and recovery.

Dalry Community Councillor Nicolette Wise has anecdotal evidence of the enormous help to rural communities that are provided

by having a First Responder team.

A few years ago, her cousin was staying in a remote cottage in Wigtonshire when her husband had a heart attack. She called 999 and then tried to administer CPR but being distressed and frightened couldn't remember exactly what to do. She was worried about how long it would take for an ambulance to arrive, but within minutes a neighbour appeared with a defibrillator, calmly set to work and saved her husband's life. He was a First Responder and had been contacted by the ambulance service. As well as being nearby and having the training and equipment, because he was local he knew where the cottage was – down a fairly inaccessible farm track that the ambulance could have wasted precious minutes in finding.

If anyone would be interested in helping set up a team and being trained as a First Responder, please contact Nicolette Wise on 01644 430 218 or email stjdalry@gmail.com

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](https://www.facebook.com/FinlayCarsonMSP)
Twitter: [fincarson](https://twitter.com/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

CATSTRAND YOUTH

Emerging artists Luke Fitch & Fraser Irvine are launching their exhibition at CatStrand with a drinks reception and chance to meet the artists on 9 October.

Luke Fitch is a portrait painter from Corsock and you can expect to see some local residents from the Glenkens amongst this exhibition of his latest work. Luke was selected for Upland's 'Emerge' project for young artists, and this exhibition marks the end of his mentorship. Also exhibiting is Fraser Irvine, a young landscape artist from Dumfries, whose complimentary subject matter works perfectly alongside Lukes.

New Youth Music Rehearsal Space at CatStrand

CatStrand Youth Arts are offering a free rehearsal space for bands, singers or musicians under 25 in New Galloway.

Each Wednesday night from

6-7pm a drop in will be open to anyone who wants to come and find out more, play or meet other musicians. Space for acoustic musicians to jam, a drum kit and fully plugged in set-up available in the auditorium for bands.

From 7-9pm half-hour or hour slots are bookable for bands or individuals who want to rehearse in the auditorium by themselves or have tracks recorded using our studio set up with assistance from Ruari Barber-Fleming, member of funk band Gracefell, guitarist and protocols trainer from Castle Douglas.

Voice coaching will also be available at the drop-in sessions once a month.

If you'd like to book a slot for your band or group, get in touch with aidan@catstrand.com or message @catstrandyouth on Facebook. Or come along to a drop-in any time.

The first session will start on Wednesday 18 October, running weekly till Christmas and into the New Year.





CatStrand
Arts & Visitor Centre

Luke Fitch & Fraser Irvine

Opening Night, 9th October, 7pm
Exhibition, Oct - Nov 30th




CatStrand
High Street
New Galloway
Castle Douglas
DG7 3RN

www.catstrand.com
E: info@catstrand.com
T: 01644 420374
www.facebook.com/lukefitchart
www.facebook.com/frirvineart

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 charliecoid@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

CatStrand celebrates its **10th Birthday** in October with the spectacular **Big 10 Festival** – ten events in ten days!

We kick off with the legendary **Dougie MacLean** (5 Oct) – unsurprisingly this event has already sold out, but please contact our Box Office as there is a waiting list for any returns. If you can't see Dougie, there is plenty more to be going on with. **Luke Daniels' Polyphon**

Chronicles (Fri 6 Oct) is an intriguing blend of contemporary folk blended with Victoriana using an old electrophon machine from the late 19th century.

Our new art exhibition by young Upland artists **Luke Fitch and Fraser Irving** launches (Mon 9 Oct) while our youth volunteers have chosen the movie **Pixels [12]** (Tues 10 Oct) for their Animate Club screening.

Prepare for "riotous" comedy and get your tickets quick for Scottish comedian **Craig Hill** (Thu 12 Oct) and also book early for *Scottish Album of the Year Awards 2017* nominee **Adam Holmes and the Embers** in a DOUBLE BILL with the much lauded **Rachel Sermanni** (Fri 13 Oct). Finally, there is the Big 10 Party (Sat 14 Oct) hosted by **Fred MacAulay** and featuring a variety of acts and of course plenty of

Fred's comedy. The party is FREE to attend but, due to anticipated demand, we're running a ballot for tickets. Please let us know if you'd like to attend by sending an email to simon@catstrand.com with your name and contact details. Alternatively, drop into CatStrand (or phone in) and leave your name with our Box Office staff. Good luck!

The fun doesn't end with the Big 10 Festival and after a short rest, we're back with a full programme for October and November. The Glenkens Story presents **Alistair Livingston** discussing the



Dougie MacLean

Galloway Levellers (Sun 22 Oct). Our second **Glenkens Story** event features **Dr Jo Miller** (Dalry Town Hall, Sat 25 Nov) discussing 'Traditions of Music-Making in the Glenkens'.

Our now established Dark Sky Jazz Club series continues with the incredibly gifted **Phillip Clouts Quartet** (Fri 27 Oct).

The first of our new Live Literature events, which include a

reading followed by a workshop, begins with renowned poet **Valerie Gillies** (Sat 28 Oct) before we welcome acclaimed author **Stuart Paterson** (Sat 4 Nov). Both events are FREE, but booking is required.

CatStrand's now legendary **Halloween Party** is back on Tues 31 Oct, and this year sees the return of the much loved (but often dampened...) **Lantern Parade**. Come and make your own lantern at a special workshop in Balmaclellan Village Hall on Sat 21 Oct (10.30am – 12.30pm).

We're delighted to welcome Japanese classical pianist **Reiko Fujisawa** (Fri 3 Nov) whose programme will include pieces by Takemitsu, Ades, Beethoven, and Schubert.

Other CatStrand debuts this month include **Twelfth Day** (Sat 11 Nov) a fiddle, harp and voice duo from Orkney/ Peebles who are creating a big stir in the traditional scene with their highly original compositions and performances. Young up-and-coming band

Gracefell (Fri 17 Nov) will be headlining their first CatStrand show in a gig-type atmosphere while the voice of the recent iPhone adverts **Blick Bassy** (Sun 19 Nov) will be bringing his uniquely thrilling and addictive Cameroonian songs to New Galloway on a rare Scottish foray.

We look forward to seeing you at CatStrand over the coming months!

The CatStrand Team

Youth Players Panto 2017

The CatStrand Youth Players' seventh annual pantomime will be *Robinson Crusoe & The Pirates* by Paul Reakes, to be staged on 8, 9 and 10 December.

The traditional story of Robinson Crusoe is told with a few unexpected twists. The Crusoe family have supposedly been left a fortune by their long-lost Uncle Horatio, but the drawback is they have to get to a remote desert island to dig it up. They recruit the local ship's captain and his motley

crew to take them there and the adventures begin...

The Youth Players have gone from strength to strength since they were formed and the annual panto is always one of the highlights of the CatStrand year. Tickets always sell out quickly so make sure you book your tickets soon...

SCOTLAND TO SAHARA AND HOME AGAIN

Fifteen thousand kilometres and six months later, here we are, back in our homeland of Alba.

The 'Scotland to Sahara' journey has presented so many amazing sights whilst most definitely enriching the soul somewhat. Brought home also is a much refreshed appreciation for the beautiful, albeit slightly damp, Glenkens.

The countries we explored comprised of Spain, Portugal, France, England, Belgium and of course the awesome lands of Morocco. In regards to fundraising for 'Doctors Without Borders', numerous donations were pledged by people we met along the way and also from friends back home, many followers of our internet blog also donated online. Why not read the news updates and inspiring work of this charity for yourself at www.msf.org.uk

It seems the first question many people ask us now is; so did you have many vehicle breakdowns? Not a single one; Kaerus the land-

based vessel of discovery put up with all tasks asked of her with ease and reliability. We used pretty much all of the living equipment packed and the extra gizmos fitted - the only items left unused were the comprehensive stock of emergency spare parts.

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."

I once read a report, from a seasoned overlander of many decades, that the design of Defender seats are the best for long periods of travelling behind the wheel; I can confirm that this is very true.

To anyone planning a long trip with a vehicle, one of the most important things to consider is water. The ability to carry sufficient water, have hot showers (or cold ones in very hot days!), filter drinking water and have a sink

for dish-washing, all make life on the road pleasant rather than galling. We carry around 120 litres in the onboard tanks, a calorifier utilises wasted heat from the engine to keep piping hot water always on tap. The entire system is pressurised with marine diaphragm

pumps which use very little power, yet create similar pressures to those found in a house. A multi-stage charcoal filter keeps all water safe to drink, which saved us a lot of money on bottled water; the

plastic bottled water culture creates far too much unnecessary toxic waste. This said, it is sensible to keep a few litres of bottled water in stock for emergencies.

We do have many exciting ideas for possible future voyages, when circumstances and funds allow. A few stories and photos from this trip can be seen on the blog, and archives of posts from the last six months are available too at www.kaerus-overland.weebly.com

If anyone has any questions or would like help preparing for their own trip, please feel free to get in touch via email - we are happy to help and pass on useful advice. For now it is farewell, but I will leave you with a quote from the American poet, Robert Frost.

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference".

Ben Ade



Exploring the national park in Valencia, Spain.

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

Poetry Success

A member of the Glenkens Writers' Group has won national recognition for her poetry.

Stella Cruickshank's poem, *The Book Festival*, was published as 'Poem of the Day' in the *Herald* newspaper as the 2017 Edinburgh International Book Festival was opening.

Until recently Stella lived in Parton, and has been a member of the CatStrand-based writers since the group formed three years ago under the auspices of the Connecting in Retirement project.

Stella, who only started writing poetry when she joined the Glenkens Writers, says: "I was amazed and delighted to see the poem in the *Herald*. It's inspired me to continue writing poetry." There's no

literary tradition in her family, she explains, but she gets great satisfaction out of writing. And for anyone thinking of joining the Glenkens Writers her advice is simple: "Go for it! Don't be inhibited even if you've never written before. Our tutor, Margaret Elphinstone, has an amazing ability to draw writing out of people."

Lesley Munn, poetry editor of the *Herald*, commented: "Here is a fresh voice, conjuring up both the physical, if imaginary, scene of the old brush-wielder in the park and slyly commenting on the verbosity of much that is said at literary festivals (poets excluded of course!)."

A new Start to Write workshop begins at the CatStrand on 17 October and will meet monthly - see p26.

The Book Festival

by Stella Cruickshank

"What is it you're doing?"
I enquired of the old man
brushing the path.
"I'm sweeping up all the
words they left behind.
So many words.
Each year it's the same.
I find them piled in corners;
In the flower beds;
And the wind catches them:
They get blown up
And tossed about:
Ideas get caught in the
branches."
"But why so many left
behind?"
"O People just throw them
about;
So careless."
He fills the sack in his
barrow.
"But what is this?
Why is this path clear?
No waste here -
Not a spare word."
"This is where the poets met."
He replied.

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

A RE-SHUFFLE FOR GLENKENS SCHOOLS

The Glenkens Cluster has had a re-shuffle, and is now separated into the Glenkens Cluster of Primary Schools under one head teacher, and Dalry Secondary School, which has become a satellite of Castle Douglas High School and is being managed by a Depute Head from Castle Douglas.

Let's meet the new primary Head Teacher, Paul Scrimshaw, and the secondary Depute Head, Alison Cook.

Paul Scrimshaw

Where are you from?

I was born in the village of Bolton upon Dearne, in the heart of the South Yorkshire coalfields. My father was a coal miner along with most other men in the village. My parents had high aspirations for my brothers and me and we all went to university. My parents certainly wanted a different life for us other than working down the mines. This was actually very far-sighted of them as by the mid-1980s the mines were closing down. Fortunately I was already well on my way to becoming a teacher.

What is your previous teaching experience, or other job experience?

I have had a varied career having taught at all stages of the primary and have even had some secondary experience. I started my career working in a Special School in Lambeth, London, before moving back to Yorkshire in 1992. I worked in a multicultural infant school in Huddersfield before gaining further experience in other primary schools. My first Headteacher post was in a large primary school in Malton, North Yorkshire, before I moved back to Huddersfield to take on the role in a school which housed special provision for deaf children and children with developmental delay. In 2011, after years of spending every holiday in Scotland, we moved north and I took up the post as Headteacher of Gordon Primary school in Huntly, Aberdeenshire. Almost seven years on we have landed in the Glenkens.

What inspired you to come to the Glenkens?

Since moving to Scotland we have used Dumfries and Galloway as a meeting point to spend weekends with family and friends. The area

is stunning and we always felt completely relaxed when visiting. We had been considering a move here for a while and, when our house in Yorkshire finally sold in February of this year, we felt the time was right. When the post of headteacher for the Glenkens Cluster was first advertised I was not in a position to apply. However, when it was re-advertised I knew it was meant to be and the rest, as they say, is history.

What do you think of the Glenkens so far?

I always thought my drive to work in Aberdeenshire was pretty beautiful but having spent the last two weeks driving up the side of Loch Ken, I am left speechless by the stunning scenery. My dad came to stay last week and we travelled many miles in the evenings, driving to different beaches, lochs, RSPB reserves and the amazing forest roads. My wife and I are also enjoying lots of new walks with the dogs.

I hear you like Star Wars...

When the original Star Wars film was released in 1977 my dad took us to see it. My younger brother and I were hooked from that moment on. I wouldn't say I was obsessed, but leaving presents from colleagues and children in Aberdeenshire had a familiar theme.

What do you see as the key benefits of a small rural all-through school?

Having worked in small and large schools - rural, town and inner city schools - for me, one of the key benefits of children attending smaller rural schools is the sense of almost being like a large family.

Although the secondary part of Dalry School is now technically a separate school, the close links between the two schools support children moving from the primary to the secondary phase. As Headteacher of the three primary



Paul Scrimshaw, Head Teacher for the Glenkens Cluster of Primary Schools.

schools, I need to ensure that the children from Kells and Carsphairn have all the opportunities for transition which the children at Dalry Primary enjoy.

Do you have any ideas/plans/changes in mind for the school?

I have lots of ideas and plans but in the first instance I am taking a little time to gather the thoughts of staff, parents and children. Once I have had the opportunity to do this we will then look at the way forward. Everyone working together to provide the very best outcomes for the children has to be at the heart of everything we do. At the moment all I can say is watch this space... but not for too long!

Is there anything else you would like to say to parents/students/the local communities?

My first few weeks living and working in the Glenkens have been wonderful. The children in the Glenkens are wonderful and I have spoken to many parents and local people who have all been warm, friendly and helpful. We are so excited to be exploring lots of new places. However, it feels like home already.

Alison Cook

What are your first impressions of Dalry?

I'm really enjoying being in Dalry school – I feel like I've been here for ages already! Everyone has been so friendly and helpful and both staff and pupils have been very welcoming which has helped me settle in to the school. What you notice immediately when you arrive here is the fact that it feels like one big family. All staff – teaching and non-teaching, primary and secondary – all work together to offer amazing and unique opportunities for the pupils in the school. I love the drive to work from Crossmichael; the scenery and views from the school are stunning – the sun always seems to shine here!

What is your vision for the school?

To move the school forward in line with regional and national policies

whilst ensuring the school's own identity and sense of community remains uncompromised. My aim is that every young person leaving Dalry school is happy and ready to face the next stage in their lives with the relevant skills and confidence.

What is your background?

I grew up in Castle Douglas and attended Castle Douglas Primary and Castle Douglas High School. We moved to Castle Douglas from Straiton when my father got a job as livestock auctioneer at Walleys Marts.

I left CDHS to study music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Conservatoire) and was taught piano by Doreen Prentice. I taught Music at Cathkin High School in Cambuslang and very quickly found an interest in Pupil Support. I was PT Pupil Support for 6 years before returning to the Stewartry. I moved back here in 2010 when I took up post as Depute



Alison Cook, Acting Depute Head for Dalry Secondary School.

Headteacher at Castle Douglas High School. We have recently moved from the Haugh of Urr to Crossmichael.

EDINBURGH BOOK FESTIVAL

Dalry Secondary School's S2 class trip to the Edinburgh Book Festival was graced with sunshine and blue skies.

The tented festival village in Charlotte Square was looking every bit as charming as in the programme – perfect for picnicking and ice-creams between author events and signings.

Our choice of authors was spot on – Elizabeth Wein and David Almond were very different in their approach to writing but both were entertaining and inspiring, with stories about all sorts from Scottish freshwater pearls to the messiness inside our heads. The young writers in our group found them both encouraging in their advice: "Write what you care about (not just what you know)" from Elizabeth Wein, and "Write in the words you speak, even if it's different from Standard English" from David Almond.

Jane Banner, School Librarian

Roald Dahl Day

Continued from front page...

The children also raised in excess of £50 which will go towards one of Roald Dahl's favourite charities, dedicated to supporting sick children in hospital. *Pictured are: Bottom - Dalry Primary, Below: Kells Primary.*



KELLS PRIMARY SCHOOL: A HIDDEN GEM

Tucked away at the back of New Galloway, with beautiful views of the hills beyond the playing field, Kells Primary is a vibrant and happy little school.

Founded in 1743, Kells is one of the three Glenkens cluster primary schools, but is often overlooked, possibly because it is named after the Parish and not New Galloway itself – in an estate agent's particulars recently, the nearest school was described as four miles away, when the house in question backed onto the Kells school playground!

However, some families have travelled over 15 miles to attend the school by choice, and the Parent Council are keen to make sure Kells School is more widely recognised by parents as an excellent option for new pupils, especially as schools further south such as Crossmichael and Castle Douglas approach capacity.

"We chose Kells after considering a range of other schools in the Stewartry," says Dr Ian Johnston, Parent Council chair. "We lived near Castle Douglas at the time, but felt the 20-minute journey was well worth making for the friendly, supportive environment and warm family feel we found in Kells. We've never for an instant regretted our decision. Our son loves going to school and is looking forward to moving on to Dalry Secondary with friends he has made at Kells and, thanks to joint activities, across the Glenkens cluster."

Staff, pupils and parents are looking forward to an increased emphasis on inter-school activities in the Glenkens under new cluster head teacher Paul Scrimshaw, but Kells also has a unique character of its own.

The small class sizes (Kells currently has 30 pupils) mean an exceptional teacher to pupil ratio (1:11, P1-P3 and 1:19, P4-P7), as well

as excellent support staff and a clear dedication to parental and community involvement. This results in a learning focus that is flexible and adaptive, led by pupils' needs and ability in any particular subject area rather than purely by age. For example, in the P1-3 class, both the reading and maths groups are mixed across the age range according to what works best for each pupil at that point in their learning. Some children are confidently working beyond their average age level, whereas others appreciate the extra time to really get to grips with a subject.

P1-3 teacher, Mrs Lynda Muir, also

...pupils help each other out, sharing skills and knowledge without being prompted...

uses an Active Learning approach in order to encourage and support pupils to work at tasks on their own initiative and to continue to learn through play. One of the strengths of this approach is the way all pupils help each other out, sharing skills and knowledge without being prompted: "We learn how to get lots of things done and how to be kind to each other," says Jennifer, P3.

The size of the school also means that there is more scope for the curriculum to be approached in fun and original ways, with plenty of opportunity for pupils to experiment and explore – something that Mr Graeme Thompson, who joined the school this year as P4-7 teacher, is making the most of: "Kells is a wonderful school. We are all working together to build interesting, exciting learning activities for the children with a strong dose of enthusiasm and positivity."

After a hugely successful school den-building day involving local tradesmen and volunteers last term, this term P4-7 pupils are



using everything from stop-motion animation to creating a French café to explore their way around Europe.

Meanwhile, the P1-3 pupils are getting stuck in and already selling their school garden produce in the New Galloway Community Shop – which Kells pupils played a part in creating.

"My two boys (P2 and P4) are flourishing at Kells," says Mary Smith, whose eldest son went to a larger school in the area before joining Kells in P2. "His previous school was good, but the environment and people at Kells, and the New Galloway community, are helping him to really shine. Both boys are eager to go to school each day and come home full of ideas and enthusiasm – I can't ask for more than that."

Kells School is always keen to be part of its community, and this year will see many more events staged within the Burgh itself. But the school is also always open to visitors – if you think your children would thrive at Kells, or any of the Glenkens cluster schools, contact Mr Scrimshaw to come and see the children and staff in action at any time.

Or if you'd like to join our fantastic volunteers at the schools and get to know our lovely children, please get in touch as well – people to read with the children, speakers of Scots dialects and people with traditional skills to pass on are particularly welcomed, but all offers are hugely appreciated. The community and the schools working together is always the most powerful way to help our children become the best that they can be!

Kells Primary School Parent Council

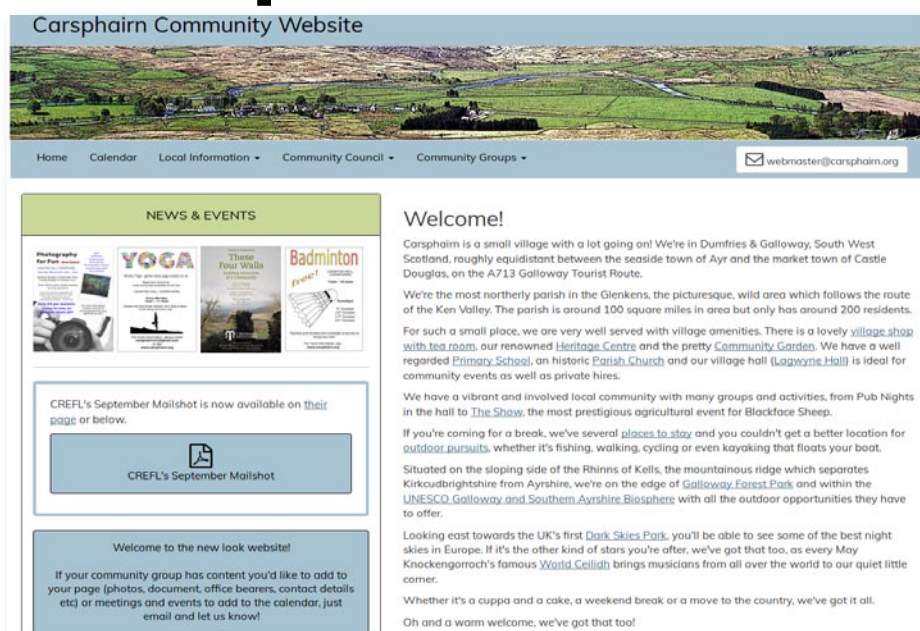
Carsphairn Community Council Launches Revamped Website

Carsphairn Community Council are pleased to announce the launch of their newly revamped website.

www.carsphairn.org has been an invaluable resource to the community for many years and now, having been updated, contains more interesting and useful information than ever before.

Volunteers have used all the best bits of the old site and added some new features. With calendar pages making sure that you never miss a community event or community council meeting, the site also provides information about our active community groups and local attractions, as well as links to other sites of interest, from the local five-day weather forecast to the latest planning applications.

We hope that the new site will



continue to be a fantastic asset for both locals and visitors alike, and that everyone will be able to find something of interest.

We'd love to hear from you if you think we've missed anything, have something you'd like to see, or to

let us know about any mistakes we might have made. If so, please email webmaster@carsphairn.org

With many thanks to our new webmaster who has done/is doing a great job!
*Liz Holmes, Chair,
Carsphairn Community Council*



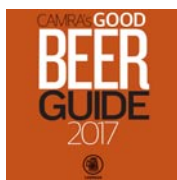
THE CLACHAN INN

- 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 -

**Christmas bookings
now being taken**

01644 430 241

www.theclachaninn.co.uk



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

ANOTHER AWARD FOR BROOKFORD

From the moment they decided to open Brookford as a Bed and Breakfast, Ronnie and Angie Bradford were determined to minimise their impact on the beautiful and unspoilt area that is the Glenkens.

"Whilst we focused on a customer-centred approach, we were always mindful of building a business that would be as environmentally friendly as it is customer friendly," says Ronnie.

In March 2017 Brookford were awarded the Visit Scotland Thistle Award for the Most Hospitable B&B in Scotland. Having achieved their goal of providing the very best in Scottish hospitality, the couple have now set their sights on achieving the highest standards required of Gold status through membership of The Green

Tourism Business Scheme; and they seem to have made a pretty good start by achieving a Silver Award.

"Our aim is simply to continue offering the very best visitor experience whilst minimising the impact of all the environmental and ecological elements it takes to maintain those standards.

"All our kitchen and laundry appliances have been replaced with A or A+ rated machines. Wherever possible we use eco-friendly laundry and cleaning products. A smart meter allows us to constantly monitor our power use and a daily usage target helps keep us focussed on our usage," continues Ronnie.

All the lights in the property have been changed, where possible to LED including the exterior lights which have been chosen also for their low light pollution. In the absence of water metering, all of the flow rates from taps, toilets and showers have been checked and restricted to optimise the use of the water in the property.

In the dining room, the preserves are homemade using our home grown or locally sourced berries and fruit.

All bread is homemade. The breakfast menu meats are sourced from within a 40-mile radius - all helping reduce Brookford's 'food miles'.

"We ask guests to choose their breakfast each evening, which means that we produce very little food waste and what we do produce is either fed to our neighbours' hens (from where we source our eggs), or is composted for use in the garden and greenhouse," says Angie. They have even installed a water butt in the garden to collect rain water for use in the garden and greenhouse...roll on Gold Award!



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

Connecting In Communities Update

The Connecting In Communities project continues to move on at pace: tai chi, exercise to music, digital photography and the writing group all roll on, with more new and exciting events are coming soon.

Did you see the highly acclaimed photo exhibition in CatStrand's Pyramid Gallery? Why not join the group and have a go yourself?

The Glenkens Men's Shed is expanding in numbers and will soon be adding a Monday evening session to its opening times. Fundraising for the new window and mezzanine floor continues and work should commence this autumn. A new

evening yoga class with Amy Fowler begins a six-week trial on Thursday 19 October at 6.30pm - places are limited so book early!

A new beginners' writing group kicks-off on Tuesday 17 October at 3.15pm under the expert tutelage of Margaret Elphinstone - remember there's a book in all of us! Names are being taken for the proposed First Aid courses and if you like your music loud and proud, tickets are going fast for the Rocktober gig on 28 October. A free shuttle bus is available for this event and entry is also free, but booking is essential as spaces are limited so grab yours now. "FM" are a top North-East rock band who



specialise in Led Zeppelin and AC/DC covers along with their trademark hard rock and blues.

The popular 'Keep Taking the Tablets' courses restart on Tuesday 3 October, and look out for the planned Social Media Awareness and Internet Safety presentations.

Connecting In Communities supports CatStrand's volunteer cohort and if you would like to get involved, there a number of opportunities available. Got an idea to help your community? Contact Brian Jones or Chris Jowsey on 01644 420 374 and we'll see if we can help.

Plumbing | Gas | Oil | Renewables
Renewable energy system specialists
Based in Central South West Scotland

Heat Pump & Biomass Installers

Installation costs of renewable energy heating systems can be covered by the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) currently being offered by the UK Government.

Find out more by talking to us at **RJ McCulloch** or visit **GOV.UK**



COMMERCIAL CLIENT

Stagecoach, Ayr

'Ross advised me on the best type of heating source for our needs, which are quite unique – a busy bus station. The installation, a new high efficiency gas boiler, was tailored to suit our needs, and carried out within the given timeframe. It had to be done in stages due to our work needs, and this all went as planned.'



DOMESTIC CLIENT

John Dobson, Newton Stewart

"RJ McCulloch fitted a new air source heat pump in our home, swapping from an LPG boiler and using our existing underfloor heating system. The team were very clean workers, removing all the old bits without being asked, and they had all the right tools to hand. More to the point, when Ross came across problems in blending in the new system with the elements already there he was very helpful in finding economic solutions quickly. My background is engineering so I was pleasantly surprised that he really knew what he was doing"

Maintenance, Repair and Installation of;
PLUMBING, GAS, OIL and RENEWABLE ENERGY heating systems.



PLUMBING



GAS



OIL



RENEWABLES



APPROVED INSTALLER



WWW.RJMCULLOCH.CO.UK

01292 550 954

07766 978 568

rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk

M SCHOFIELD DESIGN

MENS SHED MONDAYS

The Glenkens Mens Shed are planning to open on Monday evenings from 6.30pm until 9pm starting this autumn.

If anyone is interested in attending an evening session and joining the Shed would they please contact either Brian Jones (brian@catstrand.com) or Chris Jowsey (chris@catstrand.com) or phone 01644 420374.

Abbas Rest Coffee Morning

Abbas Rest annual coffee morning will be held in Dalry Town Hall on 21 October from 10am to 12noon.

Any donations towards raffle, tombola, cake stalls would

be gratefully received. Please contact Avril Brown on 430 526.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Barbara Colbenson, who supported me with Abbas Rest for 14 years. She will be sadly missed. *Avril Brown*

Christmas Coffee Morning

St Margaret's Ladies' Guild and Glenkens Churches Guild are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning.

This year it will be held on Wednesday 6 December in

New Galloway Town Hall, from 10.30am to 12noon.

In addition to coffee, shortbread and mince pies there will be stalls, a tombola and a lucky dip.

Please come along and support this joint venture.



Manshed Men

by Barry Bryan-Dixon

Early to bed early to rise,
we are the Manshed guys.

Brian, Tom, Rob, John, Ali and
Drew,

Chris, Stewart, Ned and Tom,
Barry, Ned, Kevin, Tom, Tam and
Mr Mague.

We meet up two days or three
every week,
couple of hours of banter, jokes
and laughter we seek.

Where the time goes we don't
know,

beaver away making things
that we sell and show.

We have all different skills to see
us through,
we learn new skills from each
other, yes we do.

The big green doors open so
wide,
Let's have a really good old look
inside.

Someone is building a model
boat,

six feet long, eighteen inches
wide, we know it will float.

Various bits of machinery for
working with wood,
saws, sanders, drills look so
good.

Bicycle workshop for
maintenance and repairs,
bicycles galore waiting patiently
in pairs.

Motorcycles all in a line,
being restored over time.

Metalwork machinery and tools,
this and that on different spoons.

Enter yet through a smaller door,
big boys toys, wood drills,
sanders, wood lathe, hand tools
galore.

Tables, benches, wine racks, bug
hotels, signs,

bird tables, wood turning, and
carving come to mind.

I mustn't forget our resident
guest Gary the Gorilla,
he's a very big and handsome
fella.

A beehive of activity, working,
laughing, joking, and jawing.

Job Vacancy

GCC Playgroup Manager

Enthusiastic, nurturing, child-centred person needed to take on the management and development of GCC Playgroup.

Closing date for applications Friday 6 October. For a full job description please contact: theglenkenschildrensclub@gmail.com

WATSON BIRDS AND BARONE

Barone, the former home of Donald and Joan Watson, has now been sold.

The new owners, Graham and Jean West, formerly lived at Craighead in the village and are committed to creating a Donald Watson Memorial Garden, with paths, a bird hide, seating and making the garden open for public access.

This is great news as it echoes what we had hoped to do. Many thanks in anticipation to Graham and Jean.

Roger Crofts



Barone garden, soon to be the Donald Watson Memorial Garden.

Galloway Hills Rally

If you wondered why all the cars were parked outside New Galloway on the Laurieston road around mid-September, the answer is the Galloway Hills Rally.

This was the 44th year of the rally, held in the Galloway Forest surrounding Castle Douglas, and including a stage at Cairn Edward.

This year's champion was Jock Armstrong from Castle Douglas, pictured below in the winning car, a Subaru Impreza.



© Lindsay @ Photo Sport

Arndarroch Open Garden

Annikki Lindsay would like to thank everyone who supported the Arndarroch Open

Garden this year.

£517 was raised which will go to Carsphairn Church Fund and Dumfries Canine Rescue Centre.



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

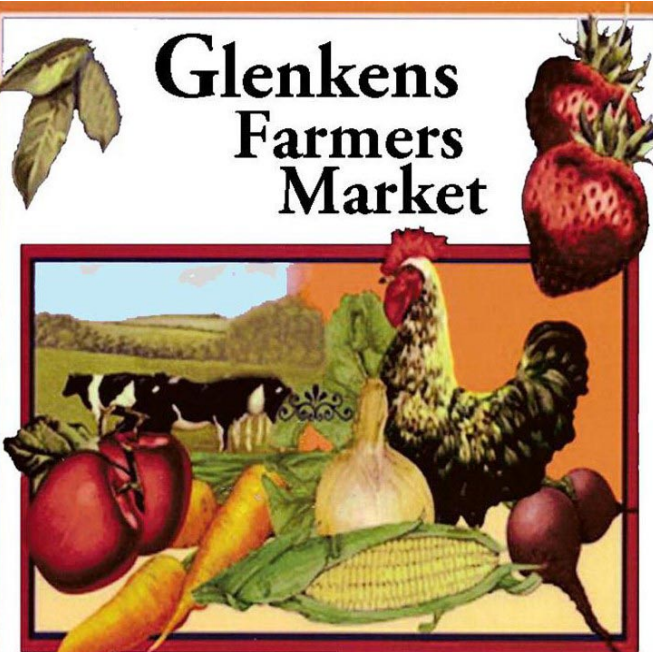
Affordable housing for people living or working in the Glenkens whose circumstances would benefit from the provision of reduced rent.

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
14th October
11th November
10am-12.30pm

*For further information or to book a stall
ring 01644 430 454 or visit*
[**www.dalrytownhall.co.uk**](http://www.dalrytownhall.co.uk)

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

REBELS AND MUSICIANS

Local revolt and the joys of music-making feature in The Glenkens Story's winter programme.

The Galloway Levellers tore down dykes and defied the authorities in 1724 but what were their motives?

Well-known local historian Alistair Livingston draws on his researches to come up with a radical explanation - were they not so much rebels as pioneers of capitalism?

Alistair is speaking at the CatStrand at 2.30pm on Sunday 22 October.

Musician and scholar Dr Jo Miller grew up in Dalry and

during the 1980s conducted field work on music-making and dance in the Glenkens. Her interviewees included an older generation who took the story back many decades.

In this talk she will tell stories from her research illustrated by pictures, music and the words of local people. Expect to be surprised and entertained and catch a glimpse of some well known faces from the past.

This event will be held in Dalry



Jo Miller

Town Hall at 3pm on Saturday 25 November.

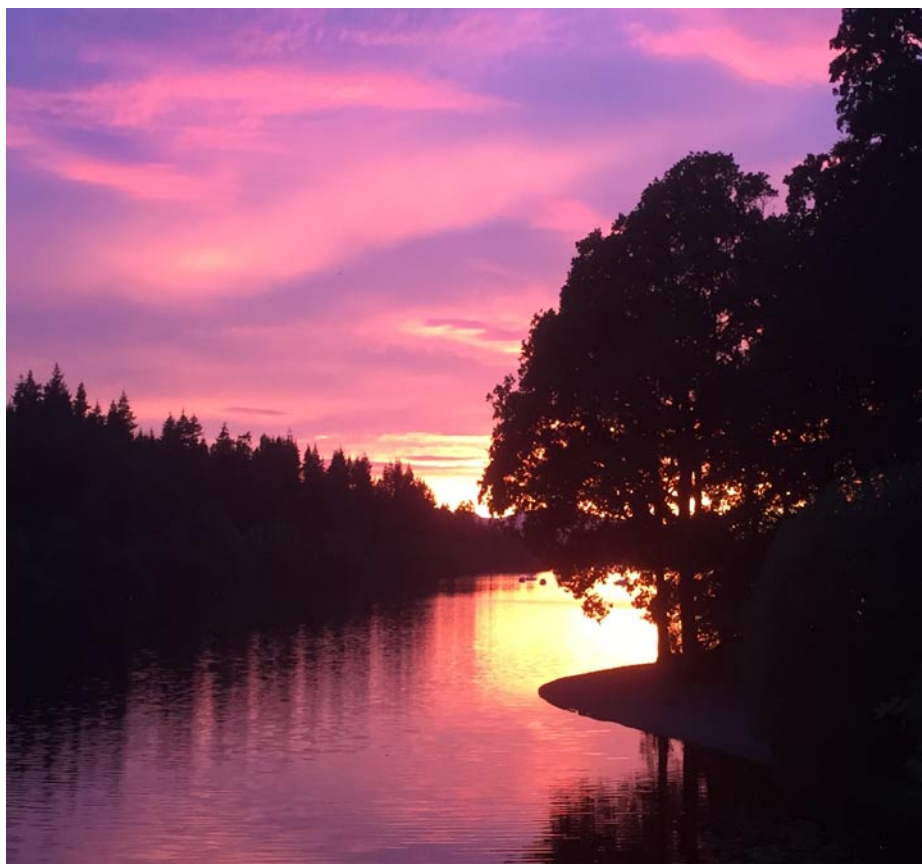
Tickets for both events are available from the CatStrand.

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Carrie Lawrenson with a gorgeous image of sunset over Loch Ken. Carrie wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: *"The lovely rich colours captured in the photograph of the sunset gets our vote this issue."*



War Updates: Early 1917

The last update of deaths in WW1 took us to the death of George Kirk on 9 April 1917, and the losses continued through what was to be the worst month of the war in terms of the deaths of men from the Glenkens.

Joseph Tait Shaw of High Park Farm, Balmaclellan, was assisting his mother in the running of the farm when he enlisted into the London Scottish in December 1915. He was killed on 16 April 1917 at the age of 27, and is buried at Heninel Cemetery near Arras. Joseph is commemorated on the Balmaclellan memorial.

Captain Alexander Clark Kennedy of Knockgray, Carsphairn, was the fourth son of the late Captain and Mrs Clark Kennedy, a family with a notable tradition of military service. He was serving with 1st/5th Kings Own Scottish Borderers when he was in the Palestine campaign on 19 April 1917 and is buried at Gaza. His brother Archibald would be killed later in the war and another brother (William) would win the Victoria Cross and go on to unveil the Carsphairn War Memorial after the war. Alexander was 33 years old and is commemorated on the Carsphairn memorial.

Captain Walter Douglas Kennedy (known as Douglas) was serving in the Palestine campaign with the Royal Scots Fusiliers when he was killed on 19 April 1917 at the age of 31. He was the tenant of Marbrack Farm, Carsphairn. His brother Charles was killed earlier in the war and a third brother, Robert, was killed in the Boer war. All three brothers are listed on a memorial plaque on the outside of the rear of Carsphairn Church.

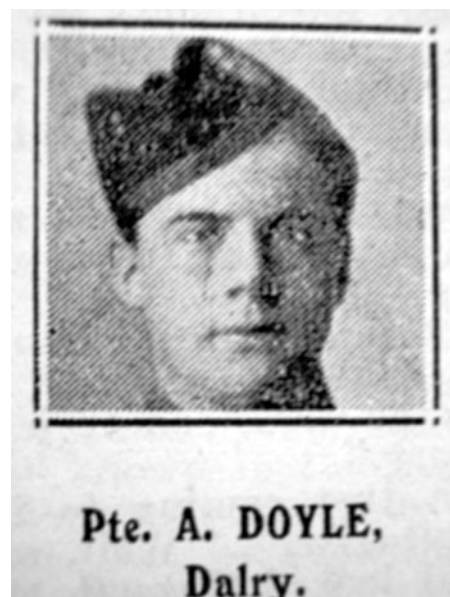
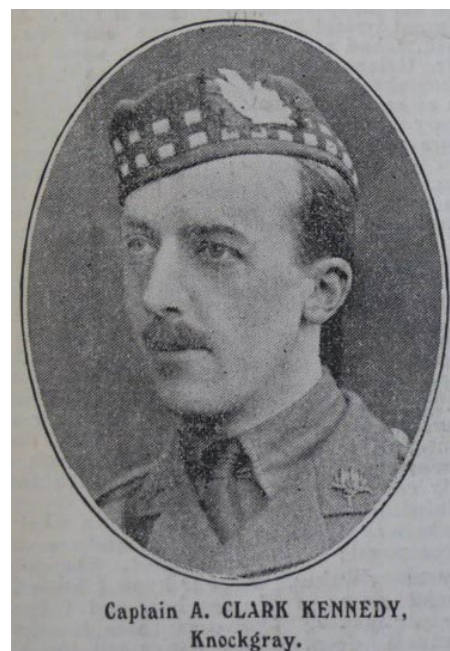
William Dunbar was a gardener at Troquaine House, Balmaclellan, when he enlisted into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in June 1916. He was killed near Vimy

Ridge, where his brother John had been killed two weeks earlier. He was born in 1886 at Glenlair, Corsock, the son of James McPhearson Dunbar and Agnes (Charteris) Dunbar of Glenlair. He was the husband of Margaret (Smith) Dunbar of Troquaine Cottage, Balmaclellan, who he married in 1911 in Kelton, Castle Douglas. He was reported missing in action on 23 April 1917 and is named on the Corsock War Memorial, together with his brother John of the Canadian Infantry who was killed on 9 April 1917. William is also listed on the Balmaclellan memorial. He was 30 years old when he was killed.

George McGaw was a butcher in New Galloway when he enlisted in November 1915 into the King's Own Scottish Borderers. On arrival in France in October 1916, he was transferred to the Royal Scots Fusiliers. Born 1896 in Crossmichael, he was the son of the late Susan (Smith) McGaw and Charles McGaw of High Street, New Galloway. He was killed in action on 23 April 1917 at the age of 21 and is buried in Wancourt British Cemetery, France. He is listed on the Kells Parish memorial.

Andrew Doyle was an apprentice baker before he enlisted into the Highland Light Infantry in September 1914. The son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Doyle of Kirkland Street, Dalry, he was just 21 years old when he died. He was awarded the Military Medal for previous bravery on 5, 10 and 11 April, and is listed on the Dalry memorial.

James Jackson enlisted into the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in September 1915 and before this he was employed on farm work at Viewfield, New Galloway. He joined his battalion in France in January 1916 but was wounded at Hulloch, near Loos, in June. He returned to the front in March 1917 and was killed near Arras. Born in New Galloway, he was the son of Peter and Mary (McQueen) Jackson of 130 Stricklandgate, Kendal, Westmorland and of Parkhouse, Kirkcudbright. He



was killed in action on 28 April 1917 and is buried in the Tank Cemetery, Guemappe, France. He is named on the memorial and roll of honour in Twynholm Parish Church and on the Twynholm Parish War Memorial. The Tank Cemetery is a mass grave in which 64 men of the 7th Camerons are buried. These casualties were the result of an attack on Cavalry Farm during the Battle of Arras. James Jackson is listed on the Kells Parish memorial and was aged just 19 at the time of his death.

To be continued...

Paul Goodwin

Who Do We Think We Were?

This issue features Gordon Hill's experiences of long distance running.

The 'Man v Horse' is an annual race over 22 miles, where runners compete against riders on horseback. Gordon took up long distance events in 2005, and is still in the running.

If Gordon's piece reminds you of your own sport, hobby or past glories, your story could also feature on this page. Please send your reminiscence, of any time or any aspect of your life, wherever you come from, and however long you have lived in the Glenkens, by email to margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk or hand in a copy at CatStrand marked 'Glenkens Gazette - WDWTTWW'.

Apologies for a caption error in the last edition - the farm where Marion Bone grew up was at Barr, not Pinmore.

The next contribution will be a reminiscence from Margaret Lamont who was evacuated from Edinburgh to New Galloway during the war.

Lakeland 50 Run 2013: A Personal View

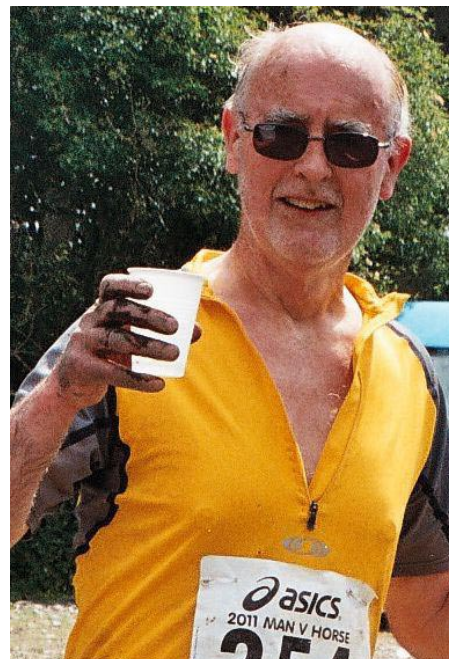
Fifteen miles up and down mountains in pitch darkness, lashing rain, paths and tracks turned into uneven muddy slippery torrents, increasing wind and cold with just a head torch for guidance and to follow the self navigate route. Gradually getting knackered. 45 miles done, 5 miles from the end, must keep going, another age it seems but

can only be 15 mins, and I'm at the next checkpoint. People are dropping out with hypothermia here, 3.7 miles before the end, checkpoint people rushing about with hot tea and large sheets of tinfoil to wrap people in! All accompanied by the sound of the torrential rain hammering on the roof of the open sided shelter. I think I'm still on the right side of marginal - yes, they let me run on. No one allowed out of the last checkpoint in these wild conditions without another runner as companion. Mine's a good navigator, thank goodness! Mountains in the dark, wet and cold at 3 am when you're knackered is not a good place to get lost!

It wasn't like that at 11:30 that morning when we started. A lovely day with the spectacular mountains and lakes ahead. Sunny intervals and varied running on tracks and footpaths. Stiff climb to start with, more walk than run, through the pretty village of Pooley Bridge, up up up, to a ridge, down, down, down. That's the pattern for the run, long ups and long downs, through woods, over fields, little bits of road, bridges and stepping stones. Variations from good footpath to boulder strewn obstacle courses as we go along. At last, the first checkpoint at my predicted time. Friendly helpful people, food and drink to keep us going. Over the top with a two thousand plus foot climb (hot then very hot, dripping hot and roasting!), too steep and hot to run the last bit. Superb panorama at the top. Down to the next (Mardale Head) checkpoint.

The day passes, running, walking, scrambling, up, down. Sunshine and a couple of thunderstorms for company. Ambleside, 35 miles done, raining and dark. Checkpoint, encouragement from spectators and off into the looming black mountains.

Now the fun stops. Stair rods of



Gordon Hill at Man vs. Horse Cross Country Marathon, 2012.

rain, paths are rivulets, must struggle on another fifteen miles. On through the dark, miles coming up ever more slowly. Next checkpoint is a superb marquee all lit up and with chimenea fires, lovely comfy couches and blankets to pull over my sodden body as I eat and drink. So easy to stop but no, must push on, under 10 miles to go. Last checkpoint with all the drama there, up, up, up onto last ridge and down on the worst path ever made, more a rocky channel. It's a struggle to keep going but I know I can finish. It's beginning to get light and we hit a better track and run the last half mile into the wonderful reception at the end. There's wife Ros coming out of the shadows to join us as we run into Coniston and then we're done and through the door with all those people still up at 5 am to cheer us in!

Then a medal, food, glorious food and the best mug of tea in the world!

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 More Things Change The More They Stay The Same



Following the publication of the British Census in 1901 a Glenkens shepherd asked; "How long is the exodus to continue?"

I have for long been puzzled by the fact that the folk of Dumfries and Galloway seem quite unaware that loss of population in the later nineteenth century in some cases exceeded that of Highland counties. Although the situation was particularly bad in Galloway we have no tradition of clearance, of cruel and unusual measures to drive people off the land.

We are still debating rural depopulation while trying to come up with suggestions about how to retain population, especially the young. We have a numerous older population of residents, of whom I am one, but those who demonise the elderly in newspapers and television programmes should be aware that if these people were not here there would be a huge hole in the local economy. What is required is the oft-invoked, but seldom realized, affordable housing. It may surprise some readers that this debate has been ongoing for over a century.

Considerable discussion was generated by the publication of the 1901 Census, which showed that many parishes achieved maximum population in 1861, declining thereafter. The Scottish growth rate between 1851 and 1901 was plus 54.8% while the southwest

rate was minus 21.7%. Kells came in at minus 19.5%. Below the southwest growth rate were our other villages: Balmaclellan minus 46.6%, Carsphairn minus 58.5%; and Dalry minus 33.3%. The perceived problem in Glenkens was that although the Scottish population as a whole was growing, their parishes were severely declining. As the *Scotsman* reported, the empty regions of Scotland were becoming more empty, as the most crowded (the cities) continued to attract. Dumfries and Galloway were being drained like the Highlands. "The

Dumfries and Galloway were being drained like the Highlands.

life and movement, the very soul of Scotland thus settles more and more in towns."

Explanations were as effortlessly advanced then, as now, without offering any solutions. City life was exciting while country life had become duller and village life gloomier. The energetic were departing while the "easy-going and the apathetic remained". Towns provided superior facilities for the whole family such as shops, libraries, cheaper housing and nearness to schools, churches and doctors. It seems that women were often keen to swap the burden of rural isolation, which was often unbearable, for city clamour and companionship. Some critics blamed technology for reducing rural workers by one third. Farmers retained cottages for their

employees rather than retirees. Agriculturalists who changed contracts regularly had little affection for, or loyalty to, the countryside. In addition the working-man was often "the least cared for of any of the commodities on the farm".

To make matters worse it was well-established that there was an overall depression in farming. Costs of transport to markets were rising. A further irritation was the management of landed estates by men who had no knowledge of agricultural matters. Agricultural reports also pointed to

restrictive leases and rising rates of tuberculosis as problems.

Ironically as folk were fleeing the countryside urban dwellers were increasingly sentimentalising it. There had long been an assumption that rurality equated with healthy living, innocence,

nature and love of landscape while the cities were smoky dens of crime, temptation and brutality. One writer who nurtured such notions was our own SR Crockett, an accomplished novelist, but one who shamelessly romanticised Galloway, and the Glenkens in particular, as did some talented poets and shoals of less well-endowed versifiers.

For we are the same things our
fathers have been,
We see the same sights that our
fathers have seen,
We drink the same stream, and we
feel the same sun,
And we run the same course that our
fathers have run.

Willie Knox

Ted Cowan

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

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER

Sat 30, Backroom Vintage Pop-Up Shop, 10am-4pm, Woodbank, High St, New Galloway

Sat 30, Coffee Morning & Craft Fair, 10am-2pm, Castle Douglas Town Hall

OCTOBER

Tue 3, Kells School Fundraising Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, Cross Keys, New Galloway

Thu 5, Dougie MacLean, 7.30pm, CatStrand, SOLD OUT

Thu 5, Fundraising Coffee & Raffle, 2-3.30pm, Hair by Jayne, 26 Main St, Dalry

Fri 6, The Polyphon Chronicles, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 7, The Ivor Novello Story, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 8, Police Drop-In, 9-10.30am, Dalry Police Station

Mon 9, Dalry CC Meeting (CHANGE OF DATE), 7pm, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 11, Blanche & Butch, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 12, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Thu 12, Craig Hill, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 13, Adam Holmes & the Embers AND Rachel Sermanni, 7.30pm,

CatStrand

Sat 14, Glenkens Farmers' Market, 10am-12noon, Dalry Town Hall, see p21

Sat 14, 10th Anniversary Party, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 18, Dalry Film Night, Dalry Town Hall

Wed 18, Horizontal Collaboration, 7.30pm, Glencairn Memorial Institute, Moniaive

Sat 21, Abbas Rest Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 22, Alistair Livingston, 2.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 22, GTI Bus Trip, see p8

Fri 27, 7.1.3 Pop-Up Bistro, Carsphairn Tearooms, to book call 460 568

Fri 27, GTI Bus Trip, see p8

Fri 27, Dark Sky Jazz Club, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 28, Dunaskin Doon Band, 7.30pm, Carsphairn Church

Sat 28, Rocktober, 8pm, CatStrand

Tues 31, CaStrand Halloween Party & Lantern Parade, from 6pm

NOVEMBER

Fri 3, Reiko Fujisawa, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 4, Stuart Paterson, 11am Talk, 1pm Workshop, CatStrand

Sun 5, Police Drop-In, 1-2.30pm, Dalry

Police Station

Thu 9, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Sat 11, Glenkens Farmers' Market, 10am-12noon, Dalry Town Hall, see p21

Sat 11, Twelfth Day, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 17, Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Fri 17, Gracefell, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 15, Dalry Film Night, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 19, Blick Bassy, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 24, 7.1.3 Pop-Up Bistro, Carsphairn Tearooms, to book call 460 568

Fri 24, Way Down Wanderers, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 25, Jo Miller, 3pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 25, Backroom Vintage Pop-Up Shop, 10am-4pm, Woodbank, High St, New Galloway

Sat 25, CatStrand Xmas Shopping Day, 11am-4pm, CatStrand

Thu 30, Dark Sky Jazz Club, 7.30pm, CatStrand

DECEMBER

Sat 2, Xmas Craft Fair, 11am-4pm, Mossdale Village Hall



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

HALLOWEEN AT KIRROUGHTREE

THREE EVENTS:

WALK OF TERROR

Booking essential. Please call 0300 067 6800

Suitable for 14 years and above
(under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)

£10 per person. Ticket includes soup and a roll
in the café afterwards - includes parking charge.

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER
6.45 TO 9.45PM

THE WEE SPOOK

Suitable for 3 to 6 year olds.

No booking required just turn up.

£2 per child
excludes parking charge.



SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER
2 TO 4PM

HORROR TRAIL

Suitable for 7 years and above.

No booking required just turn up.

£4 adult, £3 child/concession,
£12 family ticket (2 adults & 2 children),
includes parking charge.

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER
6.30 TO 8.30PM



Please wear footwear suitable for uneven
and muddy surfaces.
No dogs.

For more information visit our
website or call us on 0300 067 6800
www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark

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

Keep Taking the Tablets computing course, Tues, re-starts 3 Oct

Beginners Writing Group, Tues, starts 17 October, 3.15pm

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am

Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3.30pm

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

Music/Jam Youth Drop-in, Wed, 6-7pm & rehearsal/recording space available for booking from 7-9pm

Sing it Out: Thurs, 11am -12pm

CatStrand Ukes: Thurs, 1pm - 3.30pm
Yoga, Thurs, 6.30pm, starts 19 Oct for a 6-week trial

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

Mens Shed Mondays, 6.30pm, Balmaclellan

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

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council

Meetings: 4th Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall.

Carsphairn Community Council

Meetings: Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn. **CHECK OUT NEW WEBSITE!**

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. Balmaclellan 10.30

am 5th(Oct). Carsphairn 10.30am:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 10.30am:

2nd(Oct). Dalry 12noon: 2nd(Nov)

3rd 4th. Kells 10.30am: 4th. **Special**

Services/Events: 2 Oct, 10.30am:

Harvest Thanksgiving, Carsphairn

Church. 7 Oct, 12-2pm: Guild Soup &

Sweet Lunch, Dalry Town Hall. 9 Oct,

10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry

and B & K Church in Kells Church. 29

Oct, 10.30am: United Service with the

Choir in Balmaclellan Church. 12 Nov,

11am: Ceremonies at New Galloway and

Balmaclellan War Memorials, followed by

Remembrance Service in St Margaret's

Church. 24 Nov, 7.30pm: Scottish Night,

Dalry Town Hall. **Communion Services:**

22 Oct, 12noon, Dalry Church. 5 Nov,

12noon, Balmaclellan Church. 19 Nov,

10.15am, Carsphairn Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy

Communion, 10.30am every

Sun & Wed.

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:

Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am.

Dalbeattie: Sat Mass, 5pm

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

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

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE GLENKENS

Something new and exciting is happening, and it's starting right here in our very own hidden corner of Dumfries & Galloway.

A brand new company, Epic Minds, has arrived on the scene, creating audio visual virtual tour guide apps for your phone.

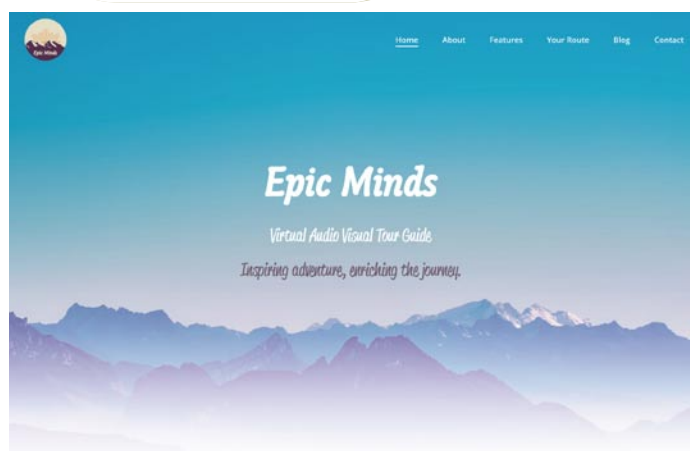
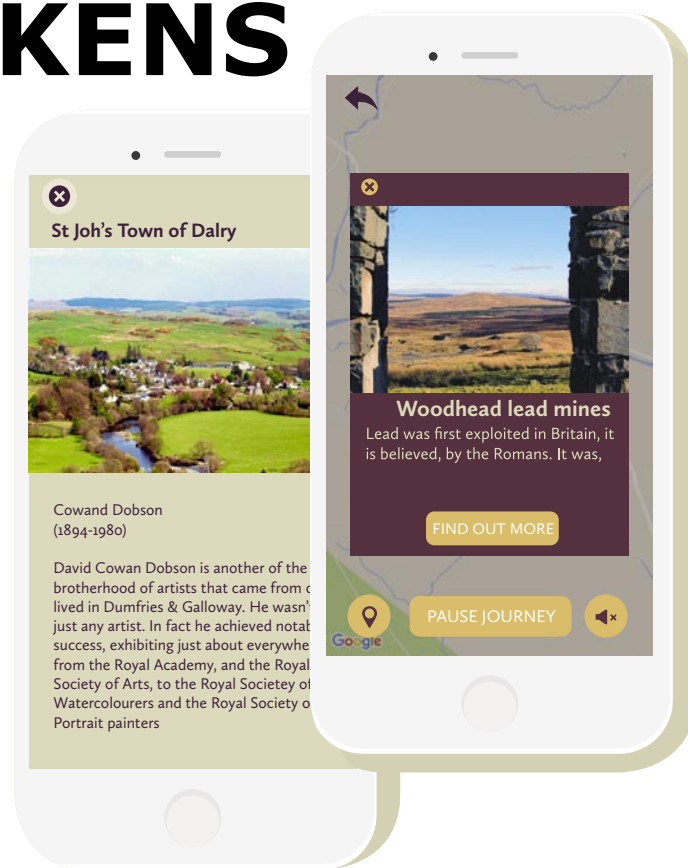
"Epic Minds paints the landscape as you drive through it. Experience past, present and future; discover the art and architecture, the engineering and science, the sport, the industry and the wildlife," say the Epic Minds team. And most exciting of all - they have chosen one of the main routes through the Glenkens on which to base their prototype.

This route is the first of its kind and is in its test phase, so Epic Minds are asking people to try it out. What they really need is for you - and your family, friends, relatives and visitors - to download the app for free and give them some feedback on how it's working; whether it's interesting, what's missing, what's great, what's not - and any key local information you feel has been missed.

To download the app, search

for Epic Minds app in your Google Play Store or iPhone App Store, or click on the link on the website homepage to download the app. When you are ready to 'road trip' just open up the app at the start of your journey and it will kick in when the route begins.

Epic Minds would really appreciate your feedback - you can review it directly through the Apple or Android portal, through the 'Get in Touch' section on their website, or email more detailed comments to epicmindstest@outlook.com. To find out more about Epic Minds and their apps visit www.epicminds.com





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

- New clothing now in stock - New bird feeder range now available -
- 10% OFF all garden products including garden furniture -
- FIXED PRICES for animal feed to APRIL 2018 -
- Buckets, blocks for sheep and cattle -
- ZOLVIX wormer NOW AVAILABLE -

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 glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

DEC/JAN COPY DEADLINE: 5 NOVEMBER



Design & co-ordination:

Sarah Ade
sarah.ade@gmail.com

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