

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2018

ISSUE 104

FREE

GALLOWAY FOREST PARK FEATURES ON NATIONAL TV

A new prime-time TV series is being screened featuring our very own Galloway Forest Park.

The Forest, a six-part series, shows snippets of the lives of people who live and work in the park.

The Galloway Forest Park has all kinds of wildlife and conservation initiatives and is a major player in the region's tourist economy, attracting over 800,000 visitors a year. It is also the largest afforested area in the UK and a major contributor to Scotland's commercial timber industry.

"It's not often we get programmes made about our local area, so this is a welcome appearance especially on prime-time Scottish TV," said Andi Holmes of Dalry Community Council.

The Forest is produced and directed by Jack Warrender, who was brought up on the



John Miller timber haulage lorries in Galloway Forest Park © Tern TV

northern edge of the Galloway Forest Park and returns to the UK after a career in Hollywood. It is narrated by Scottish BAFTA-winning actor Mark Bonnar.

Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Dr Elaine Murray, said: "The Galloway Forest is a huge asset to the economy and environment of our region, but is probably not all that well known outside of Dumfries and Galloway.

The programme is a great opportunity to showcase the forest and to inform viewers about activities and businesses which operate in the forest and the issues they face as well as its fantastic scenery, leisure opportunities and natural environment."

The Forest screens on Mondays at 7.30pm on BBC1, and missed episodes can be watched on BBC iPlayer.

GLENKENS WINTER WONDERLAND



This January we had the longest spell of snow the Glenkens has seen for years.

And as well as snow, we also got ice... Pictured are Laya and Finn sledding, and an ice sculpture created by a burst pipe at Kells school.



BEWARE 'PHISHING' SCAMS

I recently received a telephone call on my landline purporting to be from Microsoft alerting me to the fact that they have "detected pornographic material

and drug dealing" on my computer.

Needless to say, I have done neither. The caller did give me their phone number and having ended the call, I immediately dialed 1471 to get their actual number.

Whilst, as far as I know, at the moment no actual fraud or cyber attack has been committed against

me, the caller had some of my personal details. Having contacted the police, it seems there's currently a large number of such 'phishing' calls being made in Scotland at the moment.

I wanted to warn people to be aware of these types of phone calls - I'm fairly sure I've escaped but others might not be so lucky.

Richard Kiernan

New Galloway Community Shop

New Galloway Community Shop really entered into the festive spirit this Christmas, with the help of all our supporters.

A tasting evening of gin, wine, puddings and goodies was much appreciated by all who braved the weather, and the shop looked beautiful throughout the season. That trend continues with a fantastic healthy-eating window display by the P4-P7 class of Kells School, New Galloway - if you haven't seen it yet, it's worth popping over for.

In other news, our Community Engagement Worker Samantha Rushton has now started her new part-time role, and New Galloway residents should expect to see plenty of her in the coming months as she really gets to know our community and how best to support it.

She will be joined in February and March by a sponsored student placement, Janosh Schnee, who has

a number of community projects to work on and will also become a familiar face around New Galloway no doubt.

The tender documents for the renovation work were received just before Christmas and are now being assessed for the best offer, with the actual work still expected to start in the spring.

The NGCE AGM is on 1 March in New Galloway Town Hall at 7:30pm - everyone is welcome, and membership can be gained at any time by buying one or more £10 shares. Enquire

at the shop for more details.

Thanks as ever to all our friends and helpers - your support is always very welcome!

NGCE Ltd Committee



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Local Development Plan

The Regional Council has compiled its Local Development Plan for 2018-29.

The full plan can be viewed in Dalry Library, and should also be available to view online on the Council website at www.dumgal.gov.uk

A couple of points of interest are that there is provision for 25 new properties in Dalry and 35 in New Galloway - take a look to find out more about what is planned for the Glenkens over the next decade.

Articles contributed to the *Glenkens Gazette* do not reflect the opinions of the paper. The *Gazette* stays neutral on local, political, religious and any other issues, providing a platform for members of the Glenkens communities to share their thoughts, views and opinions.

John Maxwell 1931-2017

John Maxwell, who died in December, was well respected throughout Galloway, having been a farmer, county councillor, charity director and church warden of St Margaret's Episcopal Church.

He was born in rural South Wales and attended school in Perth where he was a keen and successful rugby player. After National Service in the Royal Horse Artillery (where he served in the Suez garrison) he studied agriculture at Cambridge University before joining the Colonial Service where he was posted to Trinidad and then Nyasaland (now Malawi). In 1963, after several years in Africa, he and his wife Ann and their family moved to the Glenkens to take up farming, swapping the tobacco and groundnuts of East Africa for sheep and beef cattle.

Up until the 1960s the Glenkens Agricultural Show had been held in the Park at New Galloway but when this no longer provided enough space John offered the Mains of Kenmure and the Show has been held on Maxwell fields ever since. This quiet generosity to the community was typical of John and he was proud to be made an Honorary President for Life of the Glenkens Agricultural Society.

In the 1980s he served as councillor for the Glenkens in the then Stewartry District Council, and latterly in the amalgamated Dumfries and Galloway Council. He was not interested in 'party politics' and stood as an independent, allowing his decisions to be guided by his strong Christian faith. His particular interest was housing and he was chairman of the housing committee for over ten years. A former colleague wrote "He was known for his insight and ability to cut to the chase, whatever the issue, and Dumfries and Galloway housing owes him a huge debt, more than they will ever realise."

After retiring from the Council, he

was asked by Pam Young to join her newly-formed charitable trust which provides affordable housing to those in need. She found John's knowledge on all things to do with housing invaluable and after she died in 2008 he was elected chairman, a role he continued with diligence until stepping down a few months ago. At a recent interview about the 25th anniversary of the Pamela Young Trust, he typically said that it was "humbling to have been able to help so many people". Helping others less fortunate than himself was a theme that permeated all the way through his life.

He was also an active member of St Margaret's Episcopal Church in New Galloway having served for many years as vestry secretary and latterly as honorary church warden. The Rector of St Margaret's, John Repath, commented: "In his life and in the church John was the epitome of the many men and women in the world who simply do what they think is right without any fanfares or drum beating. We remember with much thanksgiving all that he has done for St Margaret's."

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

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Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

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Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



EVERYTHING listed in the Glenkens Freecycle section is FREE - you just need to contact the owner and go and pick it up! If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch with Sarah on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

VARIOUS

Traditional toboggan for toddlers, metal with wooden slats, can be pulled. **Hutch** (28cm x 38cm x 24cm) for hamster or mouse, good condition, with wheel, wee house, ball, water bottle and separate travel pod. **Unused white worktop**, 138cm x 60cm. **Beech effect worktop**, good condition, 154cm x 60cm. Contact: 430218

Beith dining room display/storage unit, measures, 5' in length by 1' 6" width by 5' 6" height. Lovely piece of furniture. Free to a good home! Contact: Angie on 07766 476 125

Colour Television set - Toshiba (not flat screen) with television table. In excellent order - can be seen working. Contact: 450 265

2 red armchairs (very good condition), **3 shaggy green rugs**. Contact: Noreen on 420 730

5/6 x 20 litre tubs of lime wash in Brilliant white. Cost around £200 but surplus to requirements. **White table and four chairs**. The table is a little chipped in places but the chairs are in good condition. Donations to GCAT welcome. Contact: Fiona on 07789 903127

Parker Knoll chair for renovation. Contact: Sheila on 420 666

WANTED

OS Pathfinder maps for the Glenkens. Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

Small chest of drawers. Contact: Simon on 07426 124 982

Gloss paint, wood preservative, compost, herbs & pond plants. Kells School, New Galloway, 420 340

Old oil drum for burning rubbish/garden waste. Contact: 07769 682 811

Lab puppy. We're looking for a puppy for a family dog and would love to find one locally. Contact: 07769 682 811

MAGICAL HAIR ICE

Here is a snap of some beautiful hair ice found on a crisp Sunday afternoon walk around one of our favourite places, Milton Park, just outside Dalry.

Apparently hair ice (also known as ice wool or frost beard) is a fairly uncommon type of ice that forms on the rotten wood of broad leaf trees. In 2015 German and Swiss scientists identified the fungus *exidiopsis effusa* as being key to its formation. The enchanting display certainly captured our imaginations - we couldn't quite believe its magical quality, and it got us wondering...with Christmas being such a recent memory, did Santa's elves leave it as one final surprise?

Jenna Devlin



ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL FOR CATSTRAND YOUTH PLAYERS

The CatStrand Youth Players will be entering the 2018 One Act Play Festival with three plays for the first time.

Tell Me Another Story, Sing Me A Song by Jean Lenox Toddie was a huge success in the Youth Festival in 2016, winning Stewartry District and reaching the Western Finals. It is being staged again, but this time in the Open Festival. The Youth Festival entries are *Rabbit* by David Foxton and *Exit Stage Left* by Geoff Bamber - a synopsis of each of the plays follows.

Rabbit - This perceptive play, set ten years after 'the bomb', portrays

with frightening clarity the destruction of human character as social standards are lost in a struggle for power and survival. In the ruins of an abandoned building fifteen teenage survivors struggle to make sense of the desolation. Ironically, they begin to repeat their parents' mistakes. The play ends with a thought provoking clash of personalities.

Exit Stage Left - Comedy all the way as a high school drama group arrive to rehearse their latest play to discover that their teacher Mrs. Finnegan is indisposed and she has nominated one of the group to take over the session. His efforts to conduct things sensibly are constantly undermined by his cast and the revelation that Mrs. Finnegan might

be a serial killer!

Tell Me Another Story, Sing Me A Song - This witty look at mother-daughter relationships is a light

hearted exploration of irritations and misunderstandings that build walls between a woman and her female offspring - and the love and compassion that breaks down these walls. The crisis and humour of childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age are evoked in a celebration of dissonance and the harmony between mothers and daughters. With the light touch of fantasy, it touches some of our deepest emotions.

The plays will be performed at the Fullarton in Castle Douglas on 23 and 24 Feb and at CatStrand on Thurs 15 March.

Eco Feature

BRINGING MORE GOLDEN EAGLES TO GALLOWAY

sponsored by natural power



Golden eagles had been persecuted to extinction in southern Scotland by the 1870s.

This didn't last long, however, and there are records of them returning to breed in Galloway in the early 1900s, and indeed they have bred or attempted to breed in the southwest in every decade since.

War service reduced game-keeping and by the mid-1940s golden eagles were breeding successfully in two of their traditional haunts. Sheep removal for afforestation allowed habitat and prey levels to increase and by 1980 there were four breeding pairs. However, canopy closure and further afforestation has since reduced this to a precarious two pairs, with an additional one to two pairs in the Borders.

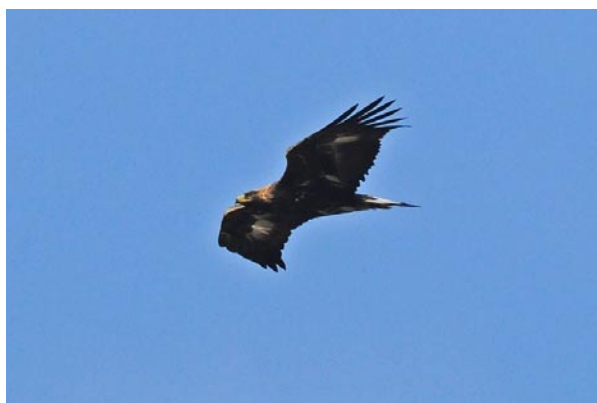
A detailed SNH report in 2014 suggested that southern Scotland could potentially support between 10 and 16 pairs, and this gave fresh impetus to create a project to increase the population of golden eagles in the area. The project involves a partnership of RSPB Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Buccleuch Estates, who have been working together for more

than ten years to bring the project to fruition. Support funding has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER.

Recent satellite tagging of golden eagles in Scotland has shown that the southern Scottish golden eagle population is greatly isolated from larger populations in the Highlands.

In summer 2018, and for the next four years, it is planned to bring between five and ten young eagles per annum south to a location in the Moffat Hills. The young birds will be reared and released using established methods derived from previous eagle and red kite re-introduction projects, with the support and co-operation of raptor experts and estates. Single chicks will be collected from broods of two young in the Highlands, with Scottish Raptor Study Groups being heavily involved in this and in the local provision of advice. Indeed, the project team will work with a variety of expert advisers, including specialists from the Edinburgh University Dick Vet School, and experts from Ireland and Spain.

Following release, each golden eagle will be satellite-tracked to ensure the project builds up information on the ranging



Golden Eagle © Angus Hogg

behaviour, survival and health of the birds. This will also provide fascinating information to the public.

Work is planned to ensure former and potential nesting sites are re-occupied and to identify any additional habitat management measures that will bring further improvements in food supplies in these areas. There will also be work with local communities, schools, and enterprises to bring much wider benefits.

Meanwhile, it is hoped that our own forests in Galloway can be restructured in a way to enhance existing golden eagle habitat, and of course we need to ensure that any new afforestation doesn't make things worse for eagles and other key biodiversity.

*Chris Rollie,
RSPB Area Manager, Dumfries
& Galloway and Chairman,*



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www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries
& Galloway



Glenkens Transport Initiative

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Regular Services

Wednesday Evenings Dalry to Castle Douglas (Tesco)

Return

(Registered Route)

Outward Journey

1900 Depart Dalry (Underhill)
1905 New Galloway (CatStrand)
1915 Mossdale
1925 Laurieston
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 Laurieston
2100 Mossdale
2110 New Galloway (CatStrand)
2115 Dalry (Underhill)

Booking not required.

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.

Return Fare £3.00

Booking required.

Fridays

Dalry to Newton Stewart (Swimming and Shopping)

Outward Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (Fire Station) 0940

Return Pickups

Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1130; (Merrick Centre) 1140

Return Fare £3.00

Booking required.

MONTHLY

Glenkens to Ayr Return - Saturdays

Usually the last Saturday of each month

February 24, March 31

Pickups

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

Carsphairn (1000)

Leaves Ayr 1500

Fare (each way) £3.50/ Concessions £3.00

Booking required.

Glenkens to Dumfries Return - Saturdays

This service has been discontinued
due to lack of demand.

EXCURSIONS

Please see the GTI website
for details of excursions in
summer 2018



Look out particularly for the 2018 Gardens of Excellence

Following the tremendous success of the
Gardens of Excellence
excursions in 2017
a new series is being planned for 2018



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END OF AN ERA FOR NEW GALLOWAY RURAL

There have been lots of happy times over the past few years to end 96 years of the New Galloway Rural on a high note.

To name but a few...

November 2016 - AGM month. Joan Berkeley handed the president's job to Louise, and nine members enjoyed the meeting. There had been final goodbyes to Betty McQueen and Anne Martin during the previous summer. Helen Keron gave her talk on proposals for the community shop, which have now happened. Cath Monk won the annual competition and was presented with the Morrison Plate.

February 2017 - The Burns Lunch took place and was enjoyed by all who came. Plans were put in place by SWI HQ to create a large wall hanging to celebrate the Centenary in the summer, and a piece of canvas was received to create our masterpiece, which was done and returned to them in February.

April 2017 - It was the cream tea

in New Galloway town hall, which was quite popular. Lots of ladies came, and stayed, and chatted to their friends and more tables were needed for newcomers.

May 2017 - Joan Berkeley was in hospital by this time, and we had updates on her condition and whereabouts at meetings. Also Joan McCosh was now poorly and missing. We had a lovely speaker, Jenny Smith, along with her dog Troy, and we learned about how Jenny worked with the mountain and helicopter rescue services to help people in distress. Sadly this was to be Troy's last outing before his death a week later.

June 2017 outing - We had a lovely trip to the museum in Dalbeattie, where the volunteers showed us around. Lots of "my mum had one of those!"

August 2017 - A small group of us struggled with tea urns and cakes at the 40th Alternative Games. Last year we had to cope with hundreds of wasps, high winds and well-meaning experts. This year it was heavy rain all day long. We were inside the beer tent so we were serving dripping wet customers

coming in out of the rain. We sold more hot drinks than the beer tent sold beer.

October 2017 - The amazing CatStrand Ukulele Band came to entertain us in the big hall upstairs and other Rural groups were invited to join us. Members supplied cake and organised teas and a raffle. It did not entice many other members but we enjoyed it anyway.

Sadly Joan Berkeley died at the end of August. Many of us attended her funeral in Dumfries. Joan McCosh is still in hospital. Avril, one of our long time members, decided to leave the Rural due to too many other commitments, so a discussion took place on our long-term survival.

Due to the loss of members for a variety of reasons, it has been decided to close the New Galloway Rural. We would like to give a very big thank you to all who have helped in so many different ways over the years, especially during the last twelve months. We nearly made it to the 100 years!

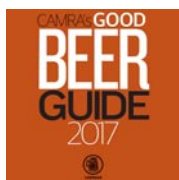
*Helen Bullock,
Secretary,
New Galloway Rural*



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KEN WORDS FESTIVAL 2018

When I was approached by a group of literature lovers back in the autumn of 2015 about the possibility of running a 'writing festival', I admit I had to feign enthusiasm.

The group (which included Ted Cowan, Jane McBeth, Andrew Mellor and Margaret Elphinstone) were adamant that the Glenkens needed a platform for writers and a "festival" to celebrate both local writers and historic writers who had used the Glenkens as an inspiration in the past. "Something like Wigtown Book Festival?" I asked, naively. "Not really..." came the response. "OK, performances of spoken word then?" I asked. "Not as such..." "So what then...?" I always think that if I can't understand the vision, nobody else will!

In the end, the answer came less by design than by serendipity as the group and I hastily put together the programme for Ken Words 2016 (then called Words from the Glenkens). The first "festival" featured talks by members of the group (Ted Cowan & Margaret Elphinstone) along with Birds and Burns expert Chris Rollie. There was a workshop, an open poetry stage, a film with Rab Wilson, a dinner and it closed with a concert by folk star

Robyn Stapleton. All bases covered I thought. It was reasonably well attended and received but what was "it"? Had it worked as a festival and more importantly would people come back next year? I really didn't know.

In autumn 2016 I was looking ahead to Ken Words 2017 and trying to decide whether to go ahead with it or not. I was literally minutes from consigning it to the realms of "tried and failed" when fate intervened and I got a call from Andrew Mellor. "So, what are we doing for Ken Words next year Simon?" Funny he should ask. The group met again the following week and once again I asked "what is Ken Words? How do I sell it to people?" I still didn't know. Nevertheless, we set about putting together a programme. We'd used all our "local" star resources in 2016 so I thought we needed a celebrity, a name, somebody to give the impression that whatever we were doing, it was getting more prestigious. We bandied about names and themes and what went wrong in 2016 and we finally honed the "festival" down to a concert launch (Siobhan Miller) and a day of events. BBC presenter Cameron McNeish and lauded author Tom Pow were drafted in to add heft but the key speaker for me was Dr Jo Miller, an ethnographer and musicologist who grew up in Dalry. Her closing talk at the Ken Bridge hotel was wonderful and finally enabled me to grasp what Ken Words should be about: inspiring people to write.

So when the call from Andrew Mellor came in autumn 2017 about what to do this coming spring, I had a more coherent concept in mind. The steering group had shrunk a bit from the early days (myself, Andrew and Jane remain with observational input from the others) but this didn't matter. Ken Words 2018 would inspire writers – and in order to inspire writers, we needed input from inspiring writers! Jane, Andrew and myself drew up a bucketlist of dream names and I set about inviting them. We didn't expect to get any – but we got them all: Liz Lochhead, James Robertson, Findlay Napier, Karen Campbell, Mary Smith, Stuart Paterson and Tom Pow. The reason they were happy to come was that we had an "established" event that was "growing in popularity" – it would go beyond the mere promotion of a book or the performance of prose and poetry. Ken Words is as much about the process of writing as it is about enjoying literature and for this reason it attracts not only those who love literature, but also the region's many aspiring writers.

Going forward we're very fortunate to have the support of the Galloway Glens project and Creative Scotland and I really hope the people of the Glenkens will continue to support Ken Words. I do feel it has the potential to become a national treasure of sorts. Fitting really as the theme of this year's festival is "Treasures"...

*Simon Davidson,
Creative Director, CatStrand*

DALRY'S CHRISTMAS TWINKLE

A great night was had by all who attended Dalry's Christmas Twinkle event.

I'd like to thank those who came along and braved a cold and frosty night to listen to and enjoy the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides singing Christmas songs. We really hope you enjoyed this free community event by joining in with the singing, drinking hot chocolate, eating mince pies and sausage rolls and meeting Santa and his three elves when they arrived at the community centre on his fabulous sleigh.

I'd like to thank all my volunteers who helped to provide Dalry's Christmas Twinkle event – without your commitment we couldn't

have provided and celebrated this free community event.

A huge thank you to Glenkens Community Shop for the generous grant and to 'Scottish Christmas trees' for providing a wonderful tree which brightened up our Community Centre throughout the Christmas period with the wonderful twinkling lights.

Thank you to those who donated on the night to the refurbishment of the Community Centre: a total of £25.71 was raised. *Angie Bradford*



CatStrand Highlights

The CatStrand spring brochure is now available, and is packed with a variety of top quality shows and events.

We start with our ever-popular **CatStrand Burns Supper** (Sat 3 Feb) with a host of top-notch speakers and musicians. **Dark Sky Jazz Club** resumes with Glasgow-based **Strata** (Fri 9 Feb) bringing their unique brand of contemporary jazz to the Glenkens. If contemporary classical is more your thing, don't miss **Hebrides Ensemble** (Sun 11 Feb) doing a special afternoon recital.

For **Valentine's Day** we're continuing our focus on visual art and film with a special screening of the acclaimed **Loving Vincent** (Wed 14 Feb) which is animated entirely in the style of van Gogh's most celebrated works. The following week we're delighted to be hosting a new family version of HG

Wells' classic **The Time Machine** (Fri 23 Feb) a spectacular puppet show for all ages.

Contemporary Scottish music is always a key feature of the CatStrand programme and we're very excited to have **Mike McGoldrick, John McCusker and Mike Doyle** (Sat 24 Feb) performing together after their sold-out Celtic Connections shows.

February also sees a first for CatStrand as we launch a new season of the much lauded Exhibition on Screen films with **Canaletto and the Art of Venice** (Tue 27 Feb). Screening monthly, these films take you up close and personal to some of the world's finest exhibitions - CatStrand is the only place in D&G that is currently showing these films.

March begins with **Ken Words 2018** (2-3 Mar) and this little festival's ambitions get bigger each year. Now in its third outing it has managed to attract top Scottish talent such as **Liz Lochhead, James Robertson, Findlay Napier, Karen Campbell**, and



McCusker et al

Tom Pow (see article on page opposite). Other March highlights include the long-awaited return of legendary guitarist **Gordon Giltrap** (Thu 22 Mar). Don't miss Dumfries-born comedian **Mark Nelson** (Sat 10 Mar) on his CatStrand debut. We close March with the hotly-tipped folk combo **Young'uns** (Sat 31 Mar) who bring their sell-out multimedia show *The Ballad of Johnny Longstaff*, a musical journey from the NE of England to the Spanish Civil War.

We hope to see you at CatStrand over the coming months!

The CatStrand Team

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WC in Fields

Robinson Crusoe and The Pirates

"The best one yet" and "brilliant show" were just two of the many positive comments as the audiences left the seventh annual pantomime staged by CatStrand Youth Players.

Three full houses underlined the enduring popularity of the annual pantomime which has definitely become established as one of the most anticipated regular events in the CatStrand programme.

The script was from tried and tested author Paul Reakes, who has also penned four of the previous pantos.

All the principal actors gave very assured performances in the lead roles backed up by very busy chorus members who played multiple roles of villagers, sailors, pirates and islanders as the story unfolded. Whilst some of the cast were appearing in their first panto, it is easy to forget with a young cast that some of the actors are now virtually panto veterans having appeared in up to five of the previous shows.

Annabelle McAdam played an excellent principal boy in the title role of Robinson Crusoe ably supported by Anna Hodson in a more challenging principal girl role than usual playing Polly Perkins and her dashing alter ego, The Crimson Hawk. Zoe Kirkpatrick was the head of the Crusoe family as Ma Crusoe and played the traditional panto dame in fine style with the brilliant comedic support of her hapless son Willy Crusoe played by panto debutant Ben Durham. The Crusoe family persuaded a reluctant Captain Bowsprit, assuredly played by Arthur Harfield, to help them in their chaotic quest to find the treasure, assisted by the Captain's daughter

Bessie Bowsprit, charmingly portrayed by Laura Edington.

The baddies were brilliantly led by Fergus McClure as Blackbeard.

His two sidekicks, Patch and Peg, played in fine double-act style by James Jones and Florrie Newbery,

didn't really want to be bad and spent most of their time trying to get the audience to like them. The islanders were led by a Medicine Man, very enthusiastically played by Anna Irving, and of course the famous story wouldn't be complete without the friendly and charming Man Friday, played by Henry Harfield. The hilarious Gorilla must be mentioned too, played very assuredly by another panto debutant Dante Newbery.

The ever changing chorus members deserve special credit too for quick changes between scenes to take on their different roles as the story progressed with Max Wright and Charlotte Spornagel also assuming the parts of King and Queen Neptune when the six youngest dancers from the Margaret Morris Dance Group performed their delightful undersea dance.

A great team behind the scenes worked hard too to bring the show to the stage - Directors were Brian Edgar and Zoe Kirkpatrick, with music and sound effects by Simon Davidson and



The cast of Robinson Crusoe and The Pirates.

lighting by Jim Ranyard. Costumes, props and make up by Helen Kirkpatrick assisted by Alison Newbery and scenery and staging by Rory Newbery, Sandy Johnston, Andrew Frew, Jimmy McKenna and The Men's Shed with Rory and Sandy joining Kyle Kirkpatrick as the stage crew.

After a few weeks break over Christmas the members have now moved on to this year's One Act Play Festival which sees another first as CatStrand enter three plays for the first time. *Tell Me Another Story*, *Sing Me A Song* by Jean Lenox Toddie was a huge success in the Youth Festival in 2016, winning Stewartry District and reaching the Western Finals it is being staged again but this time in the Open Festival and once again starring Zoe Kirkpatrick and Eilidh Thomson. The Youth Festival entries are *Rabbit* by David Foxton and *Exit Stage Left* by Geoff Bamber. They will be performed at the Fullarton in Castle Douglas on 23 and 24 February and then at CatStrand on Thursday 15 March.



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In December 2017, plans for the 12 turbine Windy Rig Wind Farm were approved by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Element Power has worked on the proposal for four years, engaging with local communities, acting on feedback from consultees and refining plans to make sure that they are acceptable.

We recently signed an agreement on a Community Benefit Fund with nine local community councils, which will **provide around £200,000 a year over the lifetime of the wind farm to support communities neighbouring the project.**

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We look forward to continuing to work with the local community as the project moves forward. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

www.elpower.com

Element Power: Generating a better future



Dalry Secondary Christmas Outreach

Dalry Secondary School pupils entertained the residents of Carlingwark House and The Golden Day Centre, Castle Douglas.

This year Dalry pupils wanted to go out into the community with their music and after a successful

concert in November, returned to Carlingwark House with a new Christmas programme. Ten pupils from S3 and S4 played and sang Christmas songs and led a Christmas singalong, accompanied by the ladies and gentlemen of Carlingwark House on sleigh bells and shakers. Instruments they played included bass guitar, electric guitar, trombone, piano and ukulele. The songs featured Christmas favourites and some modern versions of carols including *In Dulce Jubilo* and *Away in a Manger*. Rory and James from S4 sang two duets - *Do you hear what I hear?* and *One Candle*. All the pupils did very well despite having arrived 40 minutes late as a lorry was being pulled out of a ditch on the main road from Dalry. All in a day's work for a performer!

The following day, four pupils headed down to The Golden Day Centre in Castle

Douglas to perform. Three of the four students are learning piano and were able to play a mixture of jazz, classical and Christmas music. In addition, they played violin and glockenspiel as well as singing solos and duets. James also sang some Scots songs - prompting an invitation to return around Burn's Night to perform a mainly Scots selection.

All the students from Dalry School were delighted to be able to connect with these two wonderful community groups and give their best to entertain others.



Patsy Gilroy



*As one of your local councillors,
my contact details are:*

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KELLS PRIMARY WINTER FUN

Kells' children have returned to classes with an encouraging level of excitement, happiness and motivation.

There is clear intent to enjoy, learn, think and discover. It is going to be a great 2018! Resolutions have been discussed, improvements – for both adults and children – honestly identified, openly talked over... and our ethos of lifelong learning for the greater good continues.

There is a strong sense that we are all in this community of learning together.

We achieved a lot last year and feel that making connections has had a massive impact on our learning. The older class were fortunate to have new and energetic influences from local musicians: Kayleigh, Dale and Ian who contributed to the Christmas Show. The result was a creative and original approach to our songs. The younger class performed a beautiful Nativity and all the older children were thrilled to be able to work with their school friends. Jayne and Alison gave up their time to help make costumes and decorate the school, bringing plenty of Christmas cheer. We even got to perform in the Town Hall which was great. Go happy, shared community spirit!

Following our tremendously successful fundraising for MacMillan Cancer Research, the children have continued their interest in making links with charities. Motivated by the enterprising and thoughtful Megan, the whole class have been able to make a connection with The Vatsalya Foundation in India. Mr Thompson was given a letter to

take on his honeymoon in search of a suitable pen pal. Everything fell into place for the children to forge a warm and generous correspondence with Swathi and the children at the school. This is a charity that proudly provides a home for street children in Mumbai. We will be able to use different media to communicate experiences and learn about each other; sharing traditions, cultures hopes and dreams. Watch this space!

Rosie set us up this year announcing "school is this place where, like, all your dreams can come true." Long may this wonderful attitude last.

The following is a short account of something unexpected that occurred at school - by Sandy Johnston, P7:

On the morning of the 12th December 2017, pupils of Kells Primary School were treated to a wonderfully beautiful spectacle at the back of the school. A water pipe supplying an outdoor tap had frozen, and the water, having expanded in the pipe, caused the pipe to be ruptured. However, the ice had not sealed the pipe, and therefore the water poured out of the pipe at a high-pressure for some time until the water had frozen sufficiently to plug the pipe/it was given attention in daylight.

While this was a beautiful thing to look at, it is not something that you would generally want to happen, so it is advisable to inspect and insulate all outdoor pipes every winter.

Pupils were greatly excited to see this spectacle, going outside to the pipe and singing the song *Let It Go* from the successful film *Frozen*, as it was deemed appropriate to the situation. Also, they took the opportunity to take many stunning photographs, one of which is included on the front page of this issue of the Gazette.

Graeme Thompson



Above: Graeme Thompson with children from the Vatsalya Foundation.

Below: Kells Primary Christmas Show

CLASS CONSTRUCTS 3D SHAPES

Dalry Primary P6/7 pupils have been investigating 3D shapes.

This has meant a lot of time spent doing practical activities such as planning, drawing and constructing nets and skeletons for a variety of purposes such as packaging (nets) and 'wire frames' for a variety of structures (skeletons).

For the wire frames, children needed to plan how much 'steel' they required to build their frame.

Their aim was not only to construct the frame correctly, but spend as little as possible, by making accurate estimates of quantities and prices.

Pictured are pupils with some of their shape creations.

Sarah Turner



PYLONS ARE AN IMPOSITION

A Personal View by Phil McMenemy, Laurieston

Why care about our landscape, our flora and fauna, our archaeology and heritage, our views and aspects, our homes, our amenity and the lands where we live, work and play?

Change is inevitable is it not? But is change always for the better?

These and more are some of the questions that I (and, thankfully, many others) have been asking ourselves over the last two years – since plans for the new Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement (KTR) pylon line were announced.

Are we being over-protective in wishing to avoid further compromise to our region or are we being responsible citizens rightly alarmed at this imposition? There is a distinction - absolutely.

I am, of course, referring to the plans SPEN have on behalf of giant Spanish company Iberdrola to reroute the transmission power lines from where they have stood for many, many generations to a new route – a new route through some very special areas of outstanding beauty, areas of peace and havens for wildlife. This feels very much like an imposition.

Now, I readily admit to a bias. A bias which means I love this land.

These lands are where we, as a family, take our leisure, where we live and where I (as a photographic artist) work – as I strive to capture this special, lilting, harmonious, natural Dumfries and Galloway beauty.

I readily admit to a bias about wishing to protect what we have, as whether we have noticed it or not it is disappearing piece by piece – a slow erosion of what attracts folk to this region and an erosion of what it means to live here.

When might we say no, when might

likewise here?

- a survey by the John Muir Trust found that 55% of respondents were 'less likely' to visit areas of "countryside industrialised by giant turbines, electricity pylons and super quarries"

- Dumfries and Galloway council recognises that 'tourism holds possibly the greatest economic potential of all industries in our beautiful but rural region'

- despite giving assurances in previously produced literature about the height of these pylons (26m)

many of these will in fact be 38m in height. With an average height being 29m.

In these very politically sensitive and changeable times does the 'needs case' really stack-up?

This isn't nimbyism ('not-in-my-back-yard-ism'), this is protecting what we have – this is

protecting these lands for the future and for our children's children.

Add your voice to the growing number of voices challenging this imposition - protect, care, sustain and nurture what we are blessed to possess and enjoy. We have the power – onwards!

Have your say: contact SPEN for a feedback form and return to FREEPOST SPEN DGSR, call 0800 157 7353 or visit them online at www.spendgsr.co.uk

...55% of respondents were 'less likely' to visit areas of "countryside industrialised by giant turbines [and] electricity pylons..."

we stand up for ourselves – when might enough be enough?

Some further thoughts to consider:

- in other areas where tourism is a priority, pylons are being removed and lines undergrounded
- SPEN and Iberdrola in their literature promise 'innovation' 'protection for the environment' and 'sustainably creating value....for the communities in which we carry out our activities'
- how is it possible to completely bury the gas pipeline, with minimal fuss, across the whole region and not do

Comment from Stephen Jack, KTR line project manager at SP Energy Networks:

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) takes its responsibilities to communities and the environment very seriously.

For transmission voltages at 132 000 volts (132kV) and above, overhead lines remain the reliable and economic choice for the bulk transmission of electricity over long distances.

Planning the routes for these overhead lines is a complex process, balancing statutory obligations, engineering requirements, economic viability, land use and the environment. When developing the KTR project SPEN has taken a proactive

approach to evaluating these considerations. A fundamental part of this process is engaging and seeking the views of key stakeholder organisations, communities and landowners both in the Glenkens and in the other areas where the project will pass through. SPEN has consulted at each step of the process to allow everyone to have a say in the development of the project.

SPEN has listened carefully to the issues raised by the communities in the Glenkens, in particular the decision not to proceed with a route parallel to the existing one east of Loch Ken, and has considered these fully in the decision making process. The feedback received from the consultations has allowed SPEN to review and test the

assumptions made at each stage of the routeing and environmental assessment process. To ensure that the decisions remain transparent, following each round of consultation SPEN has published a report detailing its response to the issues raised and, where possible, how these have changed the route and design for the project. In addition, members of the SPEN project team have attended numerous meetings with community groups, landowners and interested parties to get direct feedback on proposals and explain the decisions made.

SPEN will continue to engage with stakeholders, communities and landowners as the Project progresses through 2018 and beyond.

IT'S TIME TO LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE

A Personal View by Sarah Ade

If you've driven along the A713 towards Ayr any time in the last few months, you may have noticed the huge amount of construction going on.

Suddenly the new pylons spoken of back in 2015 are materialising, and the sheer visual impact is becoming apparent.

As well as the large pylon superhighway from Glenlee to Tongland that has been so well discussed in local and national media (the KTR line – Kendoon Tongland Reinforcement), there are many smaller lines proposed to network all the new windfarms to the grid. But these applications only get shown to those residents close to where the windfarms or pylons will be situated, so the full extent of all the lines in a given area is not well publicised.

Perhaps it's time we take a step back and look at the bigger picture for our region, starting with the Glenkens. Everyone is occupied fighting their corner – sending letters to Scottish Power and to MPs regarding the particular section of line which they have been notified about and which impacts their homes and lives directly. But has anyone actually said "hang on a minute...what is our countryside going to look like with ALL these new power lines criss-crossing it?"

Our area's unspoilt natural beauty is one of its key assets and we are losing it as, day by day, our wild Galloway landscapes are slowly being eroded, pylon by pylon, turbine by turbine, as the industrialisation of our landscapes sneaks in unnoticed.

Along with being the region with one of the highest proportions of commercial blanket forestry in Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway is also one of the areas set to have the most windfarms. All these farms need to have the power they produce carried into the grid

– which means more pylons, power lines and substations.

What do we, the people whose lives are actually being directly affected by the changes to the land around us, gain from this? Do we actually stand to gain anything? Or do we only lose.

There are some incentives offered by the companies building the windfarms, carrots on sticks to ensure compliance. Land owners receive payments for having turbines built on their ground. And communities are offered community benefit funds.

But is a financial incentive that benefits a few today of value to future generations when our landscape has been irreparably transformed? Perhaps it could be seen that having the privilege of owning large areas of land should bring with it a responsibility to protect that land.

The unspoilt beauty of our area is its main asset; its protection should be the priority, and perhaps incentives should exist to protect it and not just allow a few to benefit in the short term.

Dumfries and Galloway is rarely recognised as the area of natural beauty that it is, and its unique status as one of the country's few remaining wildernesses is



so often glossed over. Tourism is a huge part of our existing and potential economy. Protecting our area is something which we should all be trying to achieve.

There are many groups who recognise this and are working towards it, both existing and proposed projects; the Galloway National Park, Biosphere, Dark Skies Park, Galloway Forest Park and the newly funded Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and all the projects which fall under it - how will these be impacted by the web of cables and presence of so many turbines across our region?

What about our quality of life? The joy we receive through living in such a beautiful, unspoilt place, and the reason so many of us choose to live in this area, is going to be severely impacted. Can we take pleasure in walking the hills in quiet contemplation, take scenic photographs of the sweeping vistas rolling out before us - enjoy our spaces as we have from time immemorial, when the landscape is covered with pylons and turbines and bisected by power lines?

Isn't it time we took a look at the bigger picture – before it's too late?



Photo of the Issue

**Sponsored by the
Ken Bridge Hotel**

This issue's winner is Eric Marshall with this stunning sunrise snap.

Eric wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said:
"We had some excellent entries this issue, but the winner is definitely the photograph of the sunrise."

SWANC TALKS

The South West Association of Nature Conservationists (SWANC) hold talks each month, followed by lively discussion and debate.

On **22 February** the topic is 'The Search for Scotland's Native Forest Apple'. Following a call-out this autumn, a surprisingly large number of crab-apple leaf samples were submitted for DNA analysis by people across the south west. Is south west Scotland truly the centre of the crab apple universe... or did our ancestors import some orchard apples?

On **22 March** the topic is 'Galloway Glens: Latest News on Galloway's £5m Heritage Lottery Project'. Galloway Glens Development Officer, McNabb Laurie, will highlight some of the exciting projects to be supported over the next five years.

Come along for an informal lively evening with friends, discussing rural/environmental issues. Talks are held at the Ken Bridge Hotel on a Thursday at 7.30pm, and all are welcome. Everyone is welcome and the cost is £2. Why not come at 6pm for a pub supper beforehand?



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CHARITY SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Glenkens Charity Shop (formerly Glenkens Community Shop) is looking for volunteers.

If you can spare a couple of hours a week to benefit your community, get in touch with Shirley on shirleymcnaught1@btinternet.com or pop into the shop to find out more.

The shop has changed its name to the Glenkens Charity Shop to avoid confusion with other community shops in the Glenkens.

Opening times are 10am to 3pm from Monday to Saturday, with a late opening on Wednesday until 4pm.

Application forms for the next round of grants are available from 23 June, and these need to be returned to the Shop by 14 July.

We would like to thank the Glenkens Charity Shop for its contribution to the Forest School at the Hidden Mill, Balmaclellan.

We hope a new series of sessions will commence in early spring - keep your eyes peeled for further information.

The Charity Shop has contributed to 52 organisations since 2012 - thank you!

Lorraine Ishak, The Hidden Mill

GLENKENS COMMUNITY CENTRE SEEKS SUPPORT

Dalry Community Properties Trust (DCPT) which took over the ownership of the Glenkens Community Centre in April 2017 is seeking additional volunteers/trustees to help support this charitable organisation.

DIY skills or fundraising experience are especially welcome to keep this old building going for the benefit of the Glenkens communities.

For further information, or an informal chat, please contact the chair, Andi Holmes, on 01644 430 255 or andiholmes@hotmail.com

Christmas Coffee Morning Thanks

St Margaret's Ladies' Guild and Glenkens Churches Guild would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas Coffee Morning.

They are most grateful to the many people who took time out to support these events where there was a happy community atmosphere enjoyed by all.



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Forest School at the Hidden Mill

- begins early spring -

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accompanied
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*Get in touch to
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[www.watsonbirds.org/
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Any unwanted children's clothes would be much appreciated for donation to children in Papua New Guinea. Contact: deugh2@gmail.com

LOCAL INITIATIVES IN NEW GALLOWAY

The Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) AGM will take place on Thursday 15 February at 7pm in New Galloway Town Hall.

It is over a year since LING took over the management of New Galloway Town Hall, preventing its closure. With a lot of goodwill, support and encouragement it is already becoming a recognised valued, well-used and financially viable community facility.

LING Lunches continue to be great success providing a sociable weekly opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones over coffee and biscuits (£1), a choice of two homemade soups (£2.50) and

puddings (£2). There is still room at the table for more visitors not just from New Galloway but from elsewhere in the Glenkens.

Tuesday evening sports, again a choice of two of carpet bowling and table tennis (£3 for the evening) with a regular bowling league.

We will again be opening *The New Galloway Story* Exhibition during holiday periods, updating information as people bring in old photos and other items.

A number of people have signed up as Friends of the Town Hall providing a regular income stream. (£5 per head or £8 per couple). Friends are entered into a twice yearly draw for a £50 prize.

LING will be holding a Family Bingo Night in the New Galloway Town Hall on Friday 16 February at 7pm - all welcome.



Alister Jack MP

Member of Parliament
for Dumfries and Galloway

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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.

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Glenkens Men's Shed Update

Movement is afoot to improve the facilities at the Glenkens Men's Shed in the Old Smiddy at Balmaclellan.

Members are busily installing a mezzanine level to increase storage and working space - come and lend a hand if you can, you're very welcome! There are also plans to construct a disabled toilet and move the meeting room downstairs, making all our facilities accessible to all.

This has involved a great deal of expense but we feel it is essential for our further development. Look

out for our fund-raising events in the coming months, starting with a 70s fancy dress disco on Saturday 24 March at the CatStrand - dancing, drinking (optional), raffle and quiz all for only a fiver.

Anyone who has any building skills* (or just enthusiasm) who wishes to become a member in 2018 and be part of this growing community should get in touch with Chris Jowsey at

the CatStrand on 420 374 or Tom Leach on 420 895.

* Building skills not required! if you can drink tea or coffee and just like to 'chew the fat' then you are welcome too - it's only £10 a year for membership.



Ali Stewart and Stuart Rhodes working on the mezzanine floor at the Men's Shed.



The Connecting in Communities band wagon rolls on.

December saw another round of successful concerts by the CatStrand Ukes, raising over £250 for the 'Maggies' Cancer Support Charity. Look out for more gigs in the New Year, or even better get

your name down for our beginners' sessions and learn yourself!

All our old favourites are still running plus Thursday evening Yoga which is now firmly

established in a 6.30pm time slot and proving very popular. On the volunteers front, the bar training went well (cheers Brian), hygiene courses are up and running, and dates for first aid courses should be out soon.

Amongst the new things we are planning watch out for the Day-Time Disco, scheduled for Friday

9 March at 11am - sounds, lights, music, dancing, bar, café, fun and frolics for all. The day-time disco concept has proved a big hit elsewhere and I'm sure it'll go down a storm at CatStrand too: aimed at those who can't get out in the evenings it's an ideal opportunity for singles, couples or groups to get together and party-on down and still get home before it's dark.

Anybody interested in any of the Connecting In Communities events or simply volunteering at CatStrand should contact chris@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374 for more information.

Chris Jowsey

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Dalry Film Club is Surrounded

Dalry Film Club has brought a new experience to their local film experience and now provides surround sound at all of its screenings.

Created at the start of 2017, Dalry Film Club has had a year of successfully presenting films with the support of local social enterprise Driftwood Cinema and the British Film Institute's Audience Development fund.

Now ready to step out on its own, the group succeeded in obtaining a £2,000 Innovation Fund grant from community film distributor Filmbankmedia Ltd which has enabled the purchase of its own large 3.5m wide screen, projection equipment and surround sound system to bring the true cinema experience to audiences.

The film club was set up after the Dalry Town Hall management committee conducted a poll in the village to find what further activities the residents would like to see in the hall, and film shows came top of the list.

The Management Committee Chair,

Jim Reid, reports:

"Like many small communities in the area, Dalry suffers from poor public transport links, especially in the evening. So people without cars are particularly disadvantaged. We wanted to increase the use of the town hall for social gatherings where as many residents as were interested could come together and enjoy a relaxing evening. Film shows seemed to fit the bill.

"We were very lucky to have the support of Driftwood Cinema who helped us to tap into financial support from the British Film Institute. However, we also felt that we needed the flexibility that owning our own equipment would provide. So we put in a proposal to the Filmbankmedia Innovation Fund and were amazed and delighted to be successful.

"We are currently putting together a spring film programme comprising *Dunkirk*, *Churchill*, *Victoria and Abdul* and *The Mountain Between Us*. These were the films chosen through polling at our monthly Farmer's Market. We are confident we can add to these to provide something for everyone."

Films in Dalry Town Hall run monthly. Screenings start at 7.30pm with doors opening at 7pm for



Dalry Film Club committee members Jim Reid and Nikki Finch.

hot drinks and home baking. The next screenings are *Dunkirk* on Wednesday 14 February and *Victoria and Abdul* on Wednesday 7 March.

About Community Cinema in Dumfries and Galloway:

Community Cinema in Dumfries and Galloway is growing with 10 groups currently running regular screenings in their community (six of which have been established in the past two years). A further five groups run ad-hoc screenings. Independent and community-run permanent cinemas in the region are located at: Dumfries (Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre), Newton Stewart (The Cinema), Annan (Lonsdale Cinema), Castle Douglas (The Fullerton), New Galloway (CatStrand). Dumfries and Galloway's only commercial cinema is the Odeon in Dumfries.

About Driftwood Cinema:

Driftwood Cinema Limited is a Social Enterprise established in 2013 by Bladnoch resident Matt Kitson. Its aim is to support the development of Community Cinema in rural communities.

Since 2014 Driftwood Cinema has supported eight groups to establish a cinema for their communities, with grant support from the British Film Institute, the Bank of Scotland and the School of Social Entrepreneurs. Driftwood Cinema is a not-for-profit organisation and to support their social aims. They also provide commercial screening support for organisations including outdoor film screenings.

Contacts: Dalry Film Club, Jim Reid, 01644 430231 or jamescreid@hotmail.co.uk
Driftwood Cinema, Matt Kitson, 07981 925629 or www.driftwoodcinema.org

Glenkens Writers' Second Edition

Gleanings from the Glenkens, the anthology of work by 12 members of the Glenkens Writers' Group which was launched at the CatStrand Winter Fair, sold out its first edition by Christmas.

A second edition has now been published and copies are available, priced £5.50 at CatStrand.

Pictured are some of the members of the Glenkens Writers' Group with tutor Margaret Elphinstone (2nd left back row) after the launch of *Gleanings from the Glenkens*.



LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

THE WISDOM OF THE FOLK



On this, the History Page, I have sung the achievements of Robert Heron of New Galloway more than once.

While recently revisiting the subject of Galloway proverbs as a way of finding something about the world-view of the province's past inhabitants I was reminded of Heron's sympathetic remarks on such matters, remarkable because enlightenment writers tended to look down upon their country cousins as part of a solid, unthinking mass.

For Heron and many others abstraction, or the development of ideas, was a major indicator of human advancement. He wrote that "Man can at no time, contemplate nature, or mingle in the scenes of life, without feeling his mind, even insensibly impelled to compare, to abstract, and to generalise. The elements of what is called philosophy, are discernible in the reasonings and practices even of savages, in those prudential maxims which are proverbially repeated among the vulgar of all nations, in the rules and methods of the most illiterate mechanic. Whenever we attempt to trace an unseen connection between any two known facts, we then philosophise."

The knowledge of the most profound philosopher and that of the ignorant peasant differ only in degree, as do "the literature and science of the most enlightened of polished nations from the proverbs, tales and customs of the rudest barbarian tribe". This is truly a remarkably sympathetic and generous claim from an Enlightenment writer of this period who might normally be expected to focus his discussion upon a privileged elite and who, despite his refined thoughts, would have paid little attention to the majority population of social inferiors well beneath the notice of such as himself.

There are published collections of Scottish proverbs dating from as far back as the sixteenth century. In 1895 and 1896 the Rev Walter Gregor was commissioned by the British Society to carry out an ethnological survey of Galloway. He was famed for his folkloristic studies of north-east Scotland but he used a network of friends and ministers to receive advice and hospitality for the Galloway project. The results were published in 1897, the year of his death.

Whisky toddy was then dispensed to the pupils.

Like many investigators of his ilk he assumed that the best folklore would be preserved in the most remote parts of Galloway, which inevitably, and luckily for us, included the Glenkens. In Laurieston he acquired the rhyme: "If February blow fresh and fair, The meal will be dear for a year and mair". In Balmaghie the custom of washing the face in the May dew was observed. Dalry folk, believing that kittens born in May were unlucky, killed them. The three foregoing items appear in the first paragraph of Gregor's report.

At New Year it was important to cherish fires. Dalryans would never give fire to light a neighbour's which had failed. There was a similar practice in Kells. There were many customs, too numerous to mention, which had to be observed on New Year's Day. Another big day was Candlemas (2 February) also known as the Purification of the Virgin, though the latter aspect would have been outlawed in protestant and especially covenanting Scotland. It is surprising though that so many Ladywells which are found all over Galloway survived, since the 'Lady' in question is Mary.

At Candlemas, the schoolchildren of Laurieston, Glenlochar, Balmaclellan and Corsock brought money to school which they placed on the teacher's desk when entering

the classroom. The boy and girl who gave the most were appointed king and queen. Whisky toddy was then dispensed to the pupils. One participant reassured investigators that 'there might be 120 scholars at Balmaclellan school and the quantity of whisky used was a bottle, so the toddy was weak. It was made very sweet'. One toast was: 'here's health, wealth, wit t' guide it/Ower my throat I mean t' guide it'. The proceedings might end with a bake, music and dancing.

Gregor was able to describe in detail an entire mummings play performed at Halloween in Balmaghie. What of the proverbs? A few examples follow:

They never thrive that meddle wi kirk or mill.

Ministers are black craws t' sheet at.

It is unlucky t' meddle wi craws and ministers.

If the cock goes crowing to bed, he'll rise wi a watery head.

Peewee, peewee, I built my nest in a coo's fit, An I rue it, I rue it.

Soop (sweep) the hoose till the bride comes in.

Three examples from Dalry:

It is unlucky to put a pair of shoes on a table.

It is unlucky to stumble when going up stairs.

In going a journey on horseback, if the horse stumbles in starting, there will be no luck in the journey. This one is common from the Icelandic sagas to the Hebrides.

Another fun category is place-rhymes, for example, 'The mealpoks of Girthon, The bannocks of Borgue, The puir boddies of Balmaghie'. From Kells: 'When Loran's broo gets on its cap, the river Dee lauchs at that'. Corsock: 'When Skiddaw pits on her hat, Criffel soon hears word o that'

And finally, wishing you all a very Happy 2018 one more from Kells:

Hoot awa, North win',

Mack the windows shiver,

Hoot awa, enjoy your play,

I shall be warm as ever.

THE FORGOTTEN SCHOOLS: PARTON KIRK SCHOOL

The first installment of two on the Parton Schools.

Our first reference to a school in Parton comes from 1719.

In this year the minister in Parton reported to the presbytery that he was struggling to raise the funds required to meet the salary of a schoolmaster. However, the exact year when the school was finally opened in Parton is not quite clear. It is likely that, for many years, the children had been educated inside the church building itself, rather than in a separate school building.

In 1795 the Parish informed the presbytery that they were to build a new schoolhouse to replace the existing one which was "in a ruinous state". However, the financial problems that had faced the parish in the early part of the century still caused problems. Economies in the construction of the 24 feet by 14 feet building were to be practised. These included the salvage and reuse of slates from existing buildings.

This building did not last long as the parsimony and short-sightedness came home to roost. By 1809 it was no longer in a suitable condition for the education of children. A new school was built and was described by the Kirkcudbright presbytery minutes in August 1809 as, "23 feet by 16 clear, 9 feet high, four windows in the sides, two in the ends."

In 1834 the two parochial schools had a combined total of 117 scholars and the private school had 20 children. In official returns the two schools are often referred to as the Parton Kirk School and Parton Merkland School.

The Official Returns of Schoolmasters in Scotland to the House of Commons Report on Education in Scotland in 1838 provide some useful detail for the Parton Schools. In 1836 there were 32 boys and 28 girls aged between 5 and 15 at the kirk school. This had risen to 34 boys and 31 girls in 1837 and Mr James Johnston, at the Kirk School, appointed in 1820, received his education at Balmaghie, Dumfries

Academy and Edinburgh University. Mr Johnston used three methods of punishment for under-performing or unruly children; additional or extra tasks, disgrace and, finally, "punishment on the hand".

In 1838 Mr Johnston successfully petitioned the presbytery and the Parish to build a schoolhouse to accommodate the master. It still exists today near the church.

In 1851 we have the following

Mr Johnston used three methods of punishment for under-performing or unruly children; additional or extra tasks, disgrace and, finally, "punishment on the hand".

description of "A small parish school house situated immediately inside Parton Church. About 40 boys and 40 girls attending. Salary £27 annually." The children would also pay around three shillings per quarter in fees. Two years later, in 1853, a Mr John Johnston succeeded his father as Master of the school. It seems likely that the young John was a pupil, for at least some of his years, at the school run by his father. Sadly John Johnston died aged 33 and is buried in Twyholm Churchyard. The Johnston grave, with details of deaths in the schoolhouse, is in that churchyard.

Mr William Browne replaced John Johnstone as the schoolmaster at Parton in 1858 and that he stayed until 1890. Browne knew the area well, having previously been the master at Corseglass School. Browne's tenure lasted nearly twenty years after the end of the parish schools and the introduction of the state schools. The family grave in the church provides some further details on one of the more important masters in Parton's history.

By 1859 Browne was informing the parish that the school was in a bad condition. The ratepayers were reluctant to raise the money and it was only a verdict of 'uninhabitable' in an 1861 visitation that

finally convinced them of the need for a new school.

Mr Kennedy of Boreland offered some land in the village for the new school. It was built in 1868, in front of the slate quarry, to replace the one near the church, by John McCulloch of New Galloway at the cost of £331. The site is still visible today.

Mr William Browne was replaced in 1890 by Mr James Bell, who served until his death in 1910. Mr

Thomas Glover was headmaster until 1914, when he moved to a school in Peebleshire. He was replaced by Mr George Reid from Kilmarnock. Mr Reid transferred in 1918 to the school at Minnigaff and he was replaced by Mr John

S Paterson, previously an assistant master at Hawick. In 1928 Mr WA Barnettson became the master and was still there well into the 1950s. Parton School finally closed in 1964 and the majority of the children were transferred to Kells school in New Galloway.

The stationmaster at Parton during some time in the 1920s or 30s was a Mr McSkimming. It looks like he had two of his boys at the school. One was killed in World War Two and the other went on to the University of Edinburgh. We also have a brief mention of a pupil from the 1950s. Dorothy Margaret Paulin, a leading literary figure in the region, sent her daughter to Parton school around 1956 and she appears to have stayed there for maybe three years before being sent to boarding school in England. Yvonne Neil was one of the children who were transferred to Kells when Parton closed.

Bruce Smith



Parton Kirk School - the front gate is clearly visible of the school that closed in the 1960s.

Crockett's Glimpses Of The Glenkens

The Glenkens are Crockett's heartland in every respect.

He wrote: "*I have been most successful when I have 'lee'd at lairge...truth to tell, many of my 'lees' were grounded in this parish.*"

Given his talent for popular fiction, one should not underestimate the sophistication of his writing.

His particular strengths lie in the keen observation of the places and people he fictionalises.

In the next few issues of the Glenkens Gazette, a series of glimpses offers the modern reader an insight into the history, adventure and romance of Crockett's Glenkens.

BALMAGHIE

"The sweetest and the sunniest God's Acre in Scotland, and since such things must needs be, doubtless a right desirable place for any tired wanderer's resting-grave."

Crockett knew that history and its narrative was written by the victors. His fiction offers an alternative perspective, foregrounding the 'ordinary' rural folk and keeping the traditional 'big' heroes in the background.

Of the Balmaghie living he wrote: "The folk here like a tairgin' maisterfu' man. Hark ye to that! They canna bide chieles that only peep and mutter. The lads atween the waters o' Dee and Ken tak' a man maistly at his ain valuation, and if a minister thinks na muckle o' himself...haith, they will e'en jaloose that he kens best, and

no think muckle o' him either!"

And of the dead: "Dear dust lies in that kirkyaird, and as the years pass by, for many of us, more and more of it gathers under the kirk on the hill. The tides of the world, its compulsions, its needs, and its must be's, lead me up the loaning but seldom. Indeed I am not often there, save when the beat of the passing bell calls another to the long and quiet rest."

In 1914 Crockett was buried in Balmaghie along with many of his forebears. "When the years are over, many or few, and our Galloway requiem, 'Sae he's won awa,' is said of me, that is the bell I should like rung. And there in the high corner I should like to lie, if so the fates allot it, among the dear and simple folk I knew and loved in youth."

Balmaghie is also the setting for Crockett's fictionalised version of the turbulent life of John Macmillan. *The Standard Bearer* turns what might otherwise be dry religious history into an historical adventure romance: "Suddenly a gun went off, as it seemed in

deil tak' your courting-jaunts this nicht! For had ye bidden at hame I would have gotten baith o' the red foxes that have been killing our weakly lambs. As it is, I gat but this.

"And she held up a great dog fox by the brush before throwing the body into a convenient moss-hole.

"It was Alexander-Jonita, the lass whom our college-bred Quintin had once called the Diana of Balmaghie. I care not what he called her. Without question she was the finest lass in the countryside. And that I will maintain to this day."

Evocative natural description, humour, and use of local dialect all wrap round and enhance the bare history. With Crockett there are no small characters and no small stories. His flexible approach to 'fact' may not always appeal to historians, but to lovers of the Glenkens he should be seen as a hero in fact and fiction.

Balmaghie also features in the Covenanting novels *The Men of the Moss Hags* and its sequel *Lochinvar*.

Cally Phillips

His fiction offers an alternative perspective, foregrounding the 'ordinary' rural folk and keeping the traditional 'big' heroes in the background.

my very ear. I sprang a foot into the air, for who on honourable business would discharge a musket in that wild place at such a time.

"But ere I had time to think, above me on the ridge a figure stood black against the sky...a girl's shape it was, slim, tall, erect. She carried something in one hand which trailed on the heather, and a musket was under her arm, muzzle down.

"I had not yet recovered my breath when a voice came to me.

"Ah, Hob MacClellan, the ill

For further information and insight into Crockett's Galloway writing visit

www.gallowayraiders.co.uk

Crockett's Galloway fiction was republished in a centenary edition *The Galloway Collection* by Ayton Publishing in 2014, and are available in paperback from the online bookseller www.unco.scot, Amazon and other retailers.

The Glenkens also features in Cally Phillips 2016 work *Discovering Crockett's Galloway, Volume 2*

The Turnpike Roads of the Glenkens

There were hardly any roads in the Glenkens before 1780, just tracks that were often very hilly as they avoided boggy ground.

The roads were maintained badly under the statute labour system which required tenants to do six days' work each year. In 1780 the Commissioners of Supply obtained a local Act of Parliament whereby the liability was converted to a money payment so that repairs could be carried out by contract.

While an improvement on the statute labour system, the money raised soon proved insufficient to finance the great increase in road construction. So it was decided to introduce the turnpike (or toll road) system on the more important roads, and this was enabled by the Stewartry Turnpike Act of 1796. The responsibility for roads was transferred to road trustees and a number of toll roads were authorised.

Four trusts had responsibility for the roads in our area – the Kells and Carsphairn Trust, the New Galloway Trust, the Parton Trust and the Minnyhive Trust. The six inch OS map of 1849 marks a number of toll points, where toll houses had been built for toll keepers to live in. Unsurprisingly toll keepers were not particularly popular and people would sometimes cut across country to avoid paying the toll.

But nor did the toll keepers have a particularly easy life, being required to turn out at any hour to open the gates. One useful supplement to their income was a licence to

supply wine and spirits, no doubt a welcome relief to travellers. Pedestrians were exempt and there were different tariffs for other modes of transport and for droves of animals.

The first toll points were set up around 1800 in the Glenkens. There were toll houses just west of Corsock and at Clatteringshaws under the New Galloway Trust, at the Bogue and Craigmue under the Minnyhive Trust, and at Ken Bridge and Parton under the Parton Trust.

The Kells and Carsphairn Trust had toll points at Brockloch (at first at Brockloch and then moved to Lamford), at the High Bridge of Ken and at Carroch, at Strangassell (located at the south end of the present Dundelugh); and finally in 1841 created Bennan toll point, just south of Mossdale.

At one time there were also toll points near Carnavel, near the Old Bridge of Deugh and at Burnfoot of Marbrack and at Liggat, and there may have been others also. In an early illustration of the Glenkens Free Church at the Bogue one can see the Bogue toll house to its left (see picture), though of these three buildings only the old manse still remains.

It would be interesting to know of any other early pictures of local toll houses. Only the Corsock, Bennan and Brockloch (Lamford) toll houses still survive, though the current houses probably bear little resemblance to the original houses.

The toll system continued until its final abolition by a local act of 1864. In 1890 the roads became the responsibility of the newly-formed county council. *David Bartholomew*



Line drawing of the Bogue toll house showing the old Glenkens Free Church and its manse - only the old manse is still there today.

HORDES OF VIKINGS

The next meeting of the Glenkens Story history group will be held on Sunday 18 March when Professor Ted Cowan will deliver the Bill Blyth lecture in memory of the local history enthusiast and researcher who died last year.

The lecture, Hordes of Vikings, will reflect the revived debate on the Vikings and Galloway following the discovery of the 'Viking Hoard'. Ted Cowan will consider whether the hoard should indeed be described as 'Viking' and will look at the possible influence of the Vikings in Galloway.

The lecture will be held at 2.30pm in the CatStrand from where tickets, priced £5, may be obtained. Other forthcoming history events include a talk on Sunday 22 April by Dr Graeme Cavers on crannogs, the ancient artificial island settlement

sites found widely in Galloway.

Dr Cavers will give an account of recent investigations using modern scientific techniques and what they tell us about the role of crannogs in prehistory and later.

*** And advance notice of a one-day conference 'Galloway, Gaelic's Lost Province', on the history of Gaelic in Galloway at the CatStrand on Saturday 8 September. Information will soon be appearing on the CatStrand website.**

Who Do We Think We Were?

Stella Cruickshank recounts an early memory of her father, from days fishing from Appledore, North Devon. Stella is a member of the Glenkens Writers' Group, and until recently lived in Parton.

Several readers have indicated that they too have a story they would like to tell. If the reminiscences on this page have sparked off any memories for you, please send in your 500 words of memoir, from any part of your life, whenever it was, wherever you were.

Please send your contribution by email to margaret.elphinstone@dircon.co.uk or hand in a copy at Catstrand marked 'Glenkens Gazette - WDWTWW'.

Next issue's contribution will be from Andrew Mellor, writing about his first arrival in Dalry, nearly forty years ago.

The current runs unpredictable and swift.

I screw up my eyes against the early evening sun, watching the small black mark on the horizon gradually become larger and larger.

Now I can make out the figure of my father in the prow of the little boat, with Johnny at the helm.

The water laps over my canvas shoes, and ribbons of seaweed wash against my legs, as I wait on the slip-way for them to come ashore. Johnny, in his navy oiled-wool jersey knitted by his sister, guides the small clinker-built craft between the submerged rocks, his hand on the tiller, his gentle face tanned deep chestnut by the wind.

"A good day's catch?" enquire the old fishermen on the quayside.

My father holds up several large sea-bass, tied together with string threaded through their delicate pink gills, the silver and grey of their scales glowing in the last rays of the evening sun.

My father holds up several large sea-bass, tied together with string threaded through their delicate pink gills, the silver and grey of their scales glowing in the last rays of the evening sun.

Johnny hauls the boat up the slip-way and secures her to one of the iron rings in the sea-wall, then we pile into my father's old Austin; I squeeze in the back amid the rods, landing nets and the day's catch. Everything in the car smells of fish. We drive the short distance to Johnny's home, where he lives with his sister Mary and Dido, his brother. They used to live in an old terraced cottage in one of the dark cobbled streets that ran down to the harbour, but they had moved to a new bungalow on the outskirts of the village, so Mary no longer had to climb the steep, narrow staircase. But I never liked the bungalow; it always smelt of boiled vegetables and formica chairs.

As we draw up to the house I can see Mary standing on the threshold, hastily wiping her hands on her floral apron; as always she is wearing her tartan bedroom slippers and her thick Lyle stockings over swollen ankles.

"So how are you today, Mary?" my father greets her cheerfully.

"Oh, it's terrible, Doctor."

We never learned what was so terrible, but her reply was always the same; my father would cajole her, until a smile gradually spread across her face.

"How are things?" calls my father from the kitchen.

"Not so bad, Doctor," calls a voice

from the front room. Dido never came into the kitchen. Should the door be left ajar, I would glimpse a passage beyond, the walls hung with photographs of the ship Dido served on during his service in the Merchant Navy. After a few years he returned home, and has never walked again.

As we drive home I look back at the front window of the bungalow, and there beyond the china horses and the plastic flowers I can see a shadowy figure, half-hidden by the curtains.

Johnny died suddenly, when still quite young. My father never said anything. Looking back, I know, without Johnny, his life was diminished.

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

FEBRUARY & MARCH

JANUARY

Mon 29, GCAT AGM, 7pm, CatStrand

FEBRUARY

Fri 2, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 3-4.30pm

Sat 3, CatStrand Burns Supper, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 9, Strata, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 11, Hebrides Ensemble, 3pm, CatStrand

Wed 14, Film: Loving Vincent & Valentine's Supper, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 14, Film: Dunkirk, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p20

Thu 15, LING AGM, 7pm, New Galloway Town Hall, see p18

Fri 16, Valentine's Bistro, 6-8.30pm, Carsphairn Shop & Tearooms, see p28

Fri 16, Family Bingo Night, 7pm, New Galloway Town Hall, see p18

Sat 17, Winter Stars, 6.30-8.30pm, Clatteringshaws, see p28

Thu 22, SWANC Talk, 7.30pm, Ken

Bridge Hotel, see p16

Fri 23, HG Wells' 'The Time Machine', 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 23, Pop-up Bistro, 5-8pm, Carsphairn Shop & Tearooms, see p28

Sat 24, McCusker et al, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 24, Half Moon, 6.30-8.30pm, Clatteringshaws, see p28

Tue 27, Canaletto & the Art of Venice, 7.30pm, CatStrand

MARCH

Thurs 1, NGCE Ltd AGM, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Fri 2-Sat 3, Ken Words Festival, CatStrand, see p8

Fri 2, Findlay Napier, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Mon 5, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 6-7.30pm

Wed 7, Film: Victoria and Abdulpm, Dalry Town Hall, see p20

Fri 9, Day-Time Disco, 11am, CatStrand, see p19

Fri 9, Square One, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 9, Day-Time Disco, 11am, see p19

Sat 10, Mark Nelson, 2pm, CatStrand

Sun 11, Mother's Day Afternoon Tea, 12-4pm, Carsphairn Shop & Tearooms, see p28

Thu 15, CatStrand Youth Players, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 16, Pop-Up Paddy's Bistro, 5-8pm, Carsphairn Shop & Tearooms, see p28

Sun 18, Hordes of Vikings, 2.30pm, CatStrand, see p24

Thu 22, SWANC Talk, 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel, see p16

Thu 22, Gordon Giltrap, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 24, 1970's Disco, CatStrand, see p19

Tue 27, Cézanne - Portraits of Life, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 31, The Young'uns, 7.30pm, CatStrand

APRIL

Sun 1, Easter Sunday Bistro, 12-6pm, Carsphairn Shop & Tearooms, see p28

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Calling All Crafters

Dalry Town Hall Management Committee plan to hold a Craft Fair in Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 7 April. Last year's craft fair was a great success with such a variety of stalls. Anyone wishing further information or to book a stall please contact Noreen on 07759 494 952 (text or phone) or email noreenbell46@gmail.com



Above is a photograph of the damage to Dalry school roof caused by storm Eleanor on the night of 2-3 January, submitted by Paul Goodwin.

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Film Makers' Club, Mon, 7-8.30pm

Exercise to Music: Mon, 9.30-10am

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, Mon, 6-8pm, FREE PIZZA

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

Start to Write, 1st Tues each month, 3-5pm (*no Feb meeting*)

Animation Club, Tues, 4.30-6.30pm

Gentle Tai Chi: Wed, 10am

Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3.30pm

Continue to Write, 1st Wed each month, 3.15-5.15pm, (*no Feb meeting*)

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

Writers' Cafe, 2nd Thurs each month, 7-9pm

Sing it Out, Thurs, 11am-12pm

CatStrand Ukes, Thurs, 1-3.30pm

Yoga, Thurs, 6.30pm

Zumba Gold, Fri (term-time), 9.30-10.30am, CatStrand, 16+

Saturday Art Club, 2nd & 4th Sat of the month, 10am-12noon

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

Guides, Tues, 6-8pm

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

Mens Shed Mondays, 6.30pm, Balmaclellan

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

Dalry WI, 3rd Tues each month, 2pm, Dalry Town Hall (except Jun, Jul & Aug)

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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.

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

Dalry 12noon: 3rd 4th. Dalry 10.30am:

2nd(Feb) 4th. Kells 10.30am: 2nd, 4th.

Special Services/Events: 11 Feb, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B&K Churches, Kells Church. 2 Mar, 7pm: World Day of Prayer Service, Dalry Church. 11 Mar, 10.30am: United Family Service for Dalry and B&K Churches, Dalry Church. 12 Mar, 3pm: Conventicle,

Kells Church. 12 Mar, 7.30pm:

Fellowship Dinner with Moderator of the

General Assembly, Kenbridge Hotel. 30

Mar, 7.30pm: Good Friday Service, Dalry

Church. **Communion Services**: 25th

Feb, 10.30am, Kells Church. 18 Mar,

10.15am, Carsphairn Church. 25 Mar,

12noon, Dalry Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion, 10.30am every Sun & Wed.

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:

Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am.

Dalbeattie: Sat Mass, 5pm

New Galloway Celebratory Concert

The people of New Galloway came together at Christmas to celebrate a year of good news.

Local resident Joan Walker said: "We've had such an amazing year, with the opening of our own Community Shop, the CatStrand's 10th birthday, community management of the Town Hall and the flower bombing of the High Street, we felt that we would like to mark the year in some special way." Representatives from most of the local organisations and groups including Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) and the New Galloway and Kells Community Council got together and planned an afternoon of entertainment for the village.

The Sunday afternoon Celebratory Concert was packed to capacity

and featured the children of Kells School New Galloway, the CatStrand singers, the Glenkens Cubs and Beavers, the Glenkens Church Choir, piano playing by Geoff Davidson and Jim McPhee, the CatStrand Youth Players and Community Carol singing. Brian Edgar was the excellent compere.

The free concert was made possible by support from local businesses and a lot of volunteer effort and was a truly joyous community event. The concert culminated in the audience being piped down the High Street by Danny Clarke to watch the new Christmas lights being switched on, also made possible by local sponsorship and volunteer effort.

Avril Bridgeman said: "It was a fantastic event and well worth all the hard work by everyone involved. It was great to see all the groups of the community working together for the benefit of New Galloway."



Happy New Year from the Galloway Lodge Team @ Clatteringshaws

We are open from the 9th to the 25th of February (10am-4pm), and then from the 24th of March to the 4th of November (10am-5pm)

Please see our Facebook page for all the events that we have planned for 2018 - there will be **bug hunts** with the **RSPB**, **Moth Days** and more...

Stargazing Events In February:

17 Feb - Winter Stars, 6.30-8.30pm

24 Feb - Half Moon, 6.30-8.30pm

Tickets: Child £8, Adult £15, Family £38 (price includes food and beverages)

Please call or email for further information or book - 01644 420 221 (voicemail) or alan@gallowaylodge.co.uk



Upcoming Events at Carsphairn Tearooms & Bistro

February:

Friday 16th - **Valentines Bistro**, Set Menu, 6-8.30pm. 2 courses - £15.95, 3 Courses - £17.95
Friday 23rd - **Pop-up Bistro**, Chinese Theme, 5-8pm

March:

Sunday 11th - **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**, 12-4pm, £8.95pp, free glass of prosecco for your Mum (terms & conditions apply)

Friday 16th - **Pop-Up Paddy's Bistro**, Irish Theme, 5-8pm

April:

Sunday 1st - **Easter Sunday Bistro**, 12-6pm. Set Menu - 2 Courses, £15.95, 3 Courses - £17.95

Booking recommended
01644 460 568

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

APRIL/MAY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MARCH



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