

GLENKENS GAZETTE

Balmaclellan

Carsphairn

New Galloway

St. John's Town of Dalry

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MILLENIUM RURAL TREE PLANTED



The April evening Spring sun shone on the ladies of Dalry Women's Institute as President, Margaret Hamilton, planted a Rowan tree to celebrate the Millennium. Mrs. Hamilton hoped that the Rowan tree would blossom and flourish like the Rural. The planting was followed by the monthly meeting where Mr. Peter Norman presented an interesting talk with slides on the wildlife and fauna of Dumfries and Galloway.

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In her professional practice Lesley teaches exercises and techniques to support your growth and healing, to resolve old trauma patterns and to help you access your own inner resources so you become increasingly empowered in your life. She is an experienced counsellor and massage therapist and has advanced training in baby work, birth process and the safe and gentle resolution of trauma.

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KENMURE CASTLE - THE EARLY YEARS

By Helen Bolton

Although the Royal Burgh of New Galloway dates from 1633, the most prominent building in the area, Kenmure castle, was built much earlier. The site is a perfect choice for a stronghold, being a 50 foot rocky outcrop amid marshy ground at the head of Loch ken. Many say that a stronghold existed here in the 12th century, owned by the ancient Lords of Galloway, being a favourite residence of King John Balliol (grandson of Alan, last Lord of Galloway) and his mother, Devorgilla.

Certainly the barony of Kell, including Kenmure, belonged to King John Balliol, but doubt surrounds the site of his castle. There are some references to a Balliol fortification on Burned Island two and a half miles south of Loch Ken. However, whether there was a castle at Kenmure in the 12th century or not, we know that when Sir Alexander Gordon fell at Flooded Field in 1513, his daughter inherited the estates including the tower and fortalice of Kenmure, this being the first reference to a stronghold on this site.

In 1563 Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar, (laird for over 50 years) entertained Queen Mary at Kenmure. He was the first baron to sign the Bond subscribed by her followers in 1568. After he defeat at Langside he refused to join the Regent Moray and Kenmure Castle was almost completely destroyed.

Sir John rebuilt the castle but less than 100 years later, in 1650, it was once again besieged, this time by Cromwell's forces. The building was once again seriously damaged. Cannonballs have been found dating from both 1568 and 1650.

Following the restoration, Alexander Gordon of Penninghame became 5th Viscount Kenmure, and despite heavy mortgages, managed to settle his debts and repair the castle. During the Covenanter's uprising, in 1680, Lord Kenmure was ordered to prepare the castle for a garrison , but it was not until 1682 that Claverhouse proposed the use of Kensmuir as his headquarters. Claverhouse reported that the King should "bestow two or three hundred pounds to repair the house", suggesting that Kensmuir had not been fully restored following the 1650 siege.

In 1715 William, 6th Viscount Kenmuir joined the Jacobites and was declared a rebel. He was given an important command in south Scotland and proclaimed the Old Chevalier King James VIII, before marching to Preston where he was captured. He was executed in London High Treason in February 1716 and his estates forfeited.

Lady Kenmure claimed that she held everything in trust for her son Robert and in 1722 all was successfully made over to him. However, there were still many debts and when Robert died in 1741 the Castle of Kenmure was again almost in ruins!

To be continue in the next issue.

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100 YEARS OF GOLF AT NEW GALLOWAY

New Galloway Golf Club celebrates its hundredth birthday in 2002. Apart from various 'golfing events' during the centenary year, a book titled **100 Years of Golf at New Galloway** has been compiled. The author of the book is John Watson, of Castle Douglas, at one time the manager of the Clydesdale Bank in New Galloway. John is an avid golfer, a true aficionado of the game of 'Gowf' and a fervent supporter of New Galloway Golf Club. After a year of careful research he is now adding the final touches. This is an extract from his book describing the very beginnings of the club and course-

'The first entry in the minute book of 1902, records a public meeting held in the Town Hall on the evening of 31st January 1902. At that meeting those present considered the forming of a local golf course. Mr J. C. Maitland of Kenmure chaired the meeting and intimated that he would be willing to give the use of the Town Park and the "whinnie field" adjoining, which would make a good golf course.

Mr George Baillie, a born Scot, but who had been responsible for the design of many golf courses in Ireland, was invited to plan a projected layout of a course. He estimated that it would take £50 to start the course and recommended that there should be an annual subscription of 10/6 (52.5p) for gentlemen and 5/- (25p) for ladies. Visitors should pay 1/- (5p) per day, 3/- (15p) per week and 7/6 (37.5p) per month. Preparations of the course were supervised by Mr. Thomas Duff and despite limited labour and the use of only hand tools the course was ready. Its official opening was on the 17th of May 1902.'

Also, it is hoped to have a display of photographs and memorabilia of the club during the year of celebrations. Already there have been contributions from the late Mr. Jack Paterson, Mr D. Garmory and the family of the late Miss M. Burkinshaw. They take the form of small black and white photographs or post cards. After they have been enlarged and copied by computer, the course, its surroundings and the players become more detailed. Two photographs from Mr. D. Garmory are interesting. They are in postcard format. After they were enlarged, it was obvious they were taken on the same day.



Left : The putting green surrounded by spectators- Soldiers competing in a putting competition, with a group of soldiers and nurses in front of the flagpole.

Right : Children competing in a tug of war. Spectators, once again include nurses and soldiers.



Any information about these photographs would be appreciated. Also, any other photographs, memorabilia, or anecdotes about the players, course or funny episodes, (factual, or apocryphal), would be thankfully received. All contributions would be very well looked after, and returned as quickly as possible..

Contact: Marena McClymont
Phone 420 689.
Address Margleer,
New Galloway.

Do You Remember When?

.....You could post a letter at the Commercial Hotel.

Nora Little, was born in 1926 in the house she still lives in. Quite probably she is the oldest resident of Dalry who can make that claim. Her father was the village smith and one of her earliest memories is seeing the giant Clydesdale horses being shod at the forge. She recalls "hooping the wheels" when the iron rims were heated red hot on open peat fires before being fitted to the wooden cart wheels. Horses came from all over the Glenkens and were sometimes stabled over-night with the owners sleeping in the hay loft. Sadly the smithy closed down in 1938 and Nora's father passed away the following year.

Nora's first job started in 1944 and lead to over 25 years as Sub Post Mistress to Dalry. She worked for Mr.Cumming at the Post Office situated in The Commercial Hotel, now The Clachan Inn. It was hard work, with the days duties lasting from 7 am to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday as well as 9 to 10 on Sundays.

The building was divided into the telephone exchange, hotel, dwelling house, sorting office and Post Office-Stationary Shop. The three Postmen, Jimmy Thompson, Anthony Candlish and Hugh Clark delivered mail by foot and on bikes. No houses were numbered then; everybody just knew where every stayed – unlike now!

In 1948 the Post Office relocated to Main Street and she continued to work for the Cummings. The building had previously been used as a tea Room up to 1941, run by Nora's mother. There was plenty of business for the shop and catering for weddings in the Town Hall was common. "The most expensive wedding we did was for half a crown per head", recalls Nora. Prior to the war years the building was a tailors owned by Mr.Dalgetty Kerr..

In 1961 Nora took over the Post Office, assisted by Mrs.Bell and only retired 25 years later.

Two certificates hang on Nora's wall recording her faithful service; one from the head of the Post Office and the other from grateful residents of Dalry.

Nora has fond memories of her days behind the counter of the Post Office. And to think it all began in the Commercial Hotel, now The Clachan Inn.

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GLENKENS DIARY

MAY

Saturday 5th Moniaive Tea Room
Folk Club 01848 200131

Monday 7th Dalry Community
Council Meeting Dalry Town Hall
7.30 pm

Saturday 12th MND Dalry Town
Hall.

Tuesday 15th Dalry WRI Town Hall
Coffee evening & entertainment

Friday 18th Carsphairn Heritage
Group Buffet Supper. Speaker: Dr.
David Devereux 01644 460208

Saturday 19th Ferguson Ensemble
Dalry Town Hall — CANCELLED

Saturday 19th Clachan Inn Folk
Night 9 pm 01644 430241

Sunday 20th Dromineer Gardens
Gatehouse of Fleet open 2 - 5

Thursday 24th Glenkens Lifeboat
Guild Fund Raising, Dalry Town
Hall.

Saturday 26th Glenkens Playgroup
Dance New Galloway Town Hall.
7.30pm Tickets Kate Maxwell 420328

Sunday 27th Corsock House Gardens
open Castle Douglas 2 - 5

Tuesday 29th Ballochmyle Ceilidh
Band New Galloway Town Hall £7.50
Glenkens Playgroup, Buffet Meal
Bar and Auctions.

JUNE

Saturday 2nd Carsphairn Show
Has now been cancelled due to Foot

and Mouth

Saturday 2nd GABERLUNZIE Ken
Bridge Folk Festival Bar-B-Q 7.30 pm
01644 420211

Sunday 3rd Clachan Fair Week
— CANCELLED

Sunday 3rd Hensol Gardens open
Mosadale 2 - 5

Thursday 14th Glebe House gardens
open Hough of Urr 2 - 4

Sunday 17th Cross Michael gardens
Castle Douglas 2 - 5

Saturday 23rd Clachan Inn Folk
Night

9 pm 01644 430241

Sunday 24th Cally Gardens Gatehouse
of Fleet open 10 - 5.30

Saturday 30th Enigma Brass Quintet
8 pm New Galloway Town Hall 430352

JULY

Sunday 1st Southwick House gardens
open 2 - 5 and also from the 3rd to 7th

Saturday 21st Clachan Inn Folk Night
9 pm 01644 430241

AUGUST

Sunday 5th Ardaroch Cottage garden
1.30 - 5.30 Plant Stall Parking at

Kendoon Youth Hostel Teas in Dalry
Town Hall Proceeds to McMillan

Cancer Research D & G

Saturday 25th Glenkens Society
Horticultural Section, Annual Flower

Show, Dalry Town Hall. Photographic
subject: "Flower".

EDITORIAL GROUP

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(Code 01644)

Deadline for July issue is

14th June.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not
necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial
group. The group reserves the right to encour-
age the expression of a variety of views on
subjects of interest to the local community

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Last year 6.20 in

Wettest day 6th (0.7 in)

Coldest day 2nd - 6C

Warmest day 9th + 11.4C

Sunniest day 8.7 hrs

Thanks to Donnie The Weatherman
From The Glenlee Met. Station

DID WE MISS YOU OUT ?

If you would like your group or organization
to be included in our listings please contact
one of the editorial board. There is no charge
for being featured.