GLENKENS GAZETTE

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Carsphairn

New Galloway

St.John's Town of Dalry

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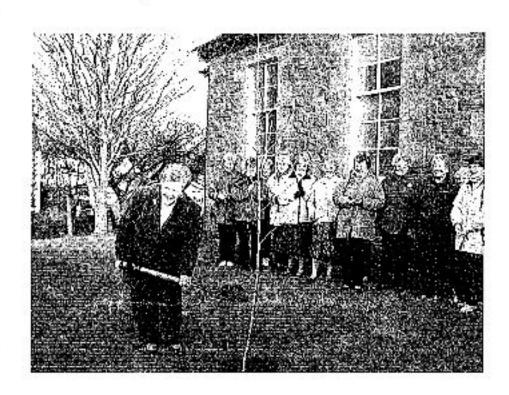
12 - 5

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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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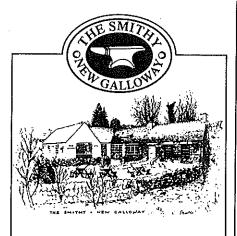
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KENMURE CASTLE - THE EARLY YEARS

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 "bestou 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.

M J STEWART MLIA (dip)

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100 YEARS OF GOLF AT NEW GALLOWAY

New Galloway Golf Club celebrates its hundrealth 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 Clydesdate Bank in New Golloway. John is on avid golfer, a true afficience 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. Maltland of Kenmure chaired the meeting and intimated that he would be willing to give the use of the Town Park and the "whinnle field" adjoining, which would make a good golf course.

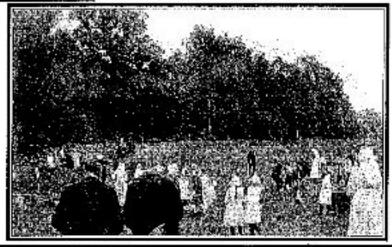
Mr George Baillis, a born 5cot, but who had been responsible for the design of many golf courses in Ireland, was invited to plan a projected layout of a course. He estimated that it would take £50 to start the course and recommended that there should be an annual subscription of 10/6 (52.5p) for gentlemen and 5/- (25p) for ladles. 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 anecdates 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 Dairy Community Council Meeting Dairy Town Hall 7.30 pm

Saturday 12th MND Dalty Town. Hall.

Tuesday 15th Dalry WRI Town Hall Coffee evening & entertainment Friday 18th Carsphaim Heritage Group Buffet Supper, Speaker :Dr. David Devereux 01644 460208 Saturday 19th Ferguson Ensomble Dalry Town Hall — CANCELLED Saturday 19th Clachen hut Folk Night 9 pm 01644 430241 Sunday 20th Dromineen Gardens Gateliouse of Fleet open 2 – 5 Thursday 24th Glenkens Lifeboat Guild Fund Raising, Dalry Town Hall.

Saturday 26th Glenkons Playgroup Dance New Galloway Town Hall. 7,30pm Tickets Kate Maxwell.420328 Sunday 27th Corsock House Gardens open Castle Douglas 2 – 5 Tuesday 29th Ballochanyle Ceilidh Band New Galloway Town Hall £7.50 Glenkens Playgroup, Buffet Meal Bar and Auctions.

IUNE

Saturday 2nd Caraphairn Show I (as now been cancelled due to Foot and Mouth

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

Sunday 3rd Clachan Fair Week
--- CANCELLED

Sunday 3rd Herisol Gardens open Mossdale 2 –5

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

Sunday 17th Cross Michael gardens Castle Douglas 2 – 5

Saturday 23rd Clachan Inn Flolk Night

9 pm 10644 430241

Sunday 24th Cally Gardens Gatchouse of Fleet open 10 – 5.30

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

IIII V

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 Arndaroch Cottage garden 1.30 – 5.30 Plant Stall Parking at Kendoon Youth Hostel Teas in Dalry Town Half Proceeds to McMillan Cancer Research D & G Saturday 25th Glankens Society Horticultural Section, Annual Flower Show, Dalry Town Hall, Photographic subject: "Flower".

EDITORIAL GROUP

Anna Campbell 460208
Brian Edgar 420288
Jean Lindsay 430529
Matthew Newton 430225
(Code 01644)

Deadline for July issue is 14th June.

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

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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.