# GLENKENS GAZETTE

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SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2001 ISSUE 6

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# It's our birthday!

We are one year old having published six issues. Many thanks to all the advertisers, sponsors, contributors, Moniaive's Glencairn Gazette (for the idea) and all of our readers

THANK YOU

# NEW SURGERY OPENED BY SCOTTISH HEALTH MINISTER



Dr. John Neil greets Susan Deacon, Scottish Health Minister, at the official opening of the £210,000 extension to the Glenkens medical practice in New Galloway. The updated surgery will have additional consulting space and improved dispensing facilities, as well as having capacity to support the provision of out-reach clinics. One of the new consulting rooms will be used for a weekly pilot homeopathic clinic that has been running since April 2000.

Full report and more pictures on pages 4 & 5

# Glenkens Education Action Group formed

Following the public meeting held in Dalry Town Hall on 26th June the Glenkens Education Action Group was formed from representatives of the four villages within the Glenkens. Chaired by Anna Campbell from Carsphairn the group has met several times and recently completed a detailed response to the report by Turner and Townsend. The proposals for a radical reduction in the number of schools in Dumfries and Galloway has

been given considerable publicity throughout the region. If the proposals were to be implemented, the three present primary schools would amalgamate to make one at Dalry and Dalry Secondary school would close with pupils being sent to Castle Douglas.

The group's aim is "To maintain and enhance education for all in the Glenkens

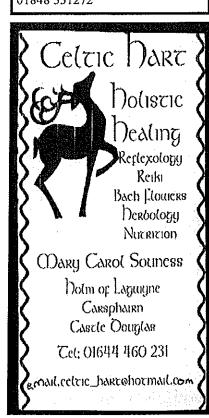
(Continued on page 2)

# Who's been advertising in The Glenkens Gazette?

The Glenkens Gazette is a non profit making organisation which relies upon advertisements from local businesses and groups. We were given a grant from Dumfries & Galloway Council and have received other donations from Scottish Power, Groundbase and The Bank of Scotland. Our aim is to report news and information to the residents of the Glenkens as well as provide a means of advertising for local businesses. Publication is every two months. Listed below are some of the advertisers who have supported us in previous issues. Contact one of the editorial group on the back page if you would like to be included in the next issue: November / December...

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(From Beeswing, take the New Abbey Road. Creamery is signposted after 50m)

(Continued from page 1)

area so that the challenges of the 21st century can be met". Fraser Sanderson, Director of Education for Dumfries and Galloway. agreed to attend the Dalry School Board meeting held on 27th August which was changed to an open meeting. Parents and public were invited to attend. Copies of the report prepared by the GEAG were available to parents from the schools, prior to the meeting. Action groups are sometimes viewed as being negative and reactionary, but it must be stressed at this early stage that the GEAG does not see itself as such. Whilst it acknowledges the excellent education that is presently available in the Glenkens, it would wish to explore in detail the way forward for our rural community in the 21st century. At the time of going to print we are unable to report on the meeting, but offer our full support to the group and community.



Dalry is extremely fortunate to have a very enthusiastic band of volunteers who, for several years now have successfully operated a Volunteer Reading Scheme in the primary. It was always the intention to carry this forward into the secondary section, and the new session 2001-2002, will see this finally being implemented. A new venture requires new resources. To raise the funds necessary, the V.R.S. ladies and supporters undertook a sponsored walk on Wednesday 20th June leaving Sloans shop at 7 pm, fortified by fruit punch, to walk the 3 miles round Milton Park, ending at Miss Jean Maltman's for a resuscitating cup of tea. Pictured left are the six walkers who took part in fancy dress. Over £200 was raised, so thanks to the sponsors.

#### VISIT NEW GALLOWAY

Two New Galloway Tourist Information leaflets have recently been produced. They are being circulated to Tourist Information Offices and are available locally. One leaflet is devoted to New Galloway itself and includes details of local hotels and other accommodation, shops and businesses. The other covers sport and leisure opportunities in New Galloway and Kells.

The leaflets were compiled by local author Ronald Russell and designed by Andrew Wolffe & Co. of New Galloway. They are illustrated by local photographers Allan Wright and Roy Hooker and were funded under the Dumfries & Galloway Community Horizons Initiative.

To help in circulating these leaflets—and thereby the local economy—it would be greatly appreciated if anyone travelling on holiday in the UK or overseas would take a few and distribute them where they might attract attention. Please phone 420357 if you would like to do this. A booklet of old photographs of New Galloway and Kells in the "Through the Lens" series published by Dumfries and Galloway Libraries is in preparation and hopefully will be available by Christmas. There is still time to add a few more photos of people and events. Phone 420357



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Newton's Shop Dalry Sunday papers from Loch Arthur Bread & Cheese Dr. John Neil delivered a short speech at the opening of the new surgery and we are grateful for his permission to quote the following extracts.

After welcoming all those present, Dr. John began by explaining the need for the new extension.

Today sees the completion of a project that has been almost two years in the planning and will result in our being able to improve the Primary Care services we can provide to patients in the Glenkens. There were many deficiencies in the old New Galloway Schoolhouse which was originally built in the 19th century and converted for use as a surgery in 1986.

These deficiencies were: Lack of space, lack of privacy and inadequate access for disabled people. The new extension will provide us with a total of 3 consulting rooms on the ground floor, greatly improved office and dispensary space, a dedicated room for outreach clinics, separate reception and dispensary hatches with improved privacy for patients, improved access for disabled people and a suitable location to develop and expand The Stewartry Homeopathic Clinic, one of 2 pilot clinics in Scotland which was funded last year by the British Homeopathic Association and which will shortly be receiving referrals from GPs all over Dumfries and Galloway.

The total cost of this project is expected to be upwards of £210,000 and this has been jointly financed in what amounts to a public/private partnership, with an improvement grant of £141,000 from Dumfries and Galloway Primary Care Trust and a loan from the Bank of Scotland taken on by the three partners in the Practice. This has allowed the partners to retain control of the project and one of the advantages in this has been we have been able to choose our own architect, Simon Winstanley of Crallan & Winstanley, Architects. We wanted a building that was sympathetic with its surroundings, was pleasant to work in and had an aura that was conducive to healing. The essence of Simon's design is in providing an abundance of natural light throughout the day, no matter which position the sun is in, and no matter where you are standing or sitting there is always a view of the garden outside.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to make one significant point. Two of the major problems facing General Practice in Britain today are those of recruitment and retention of doctors in general practice, particularly in rural areas such as ours. The creation of the Dumfries and Galloway After Hours Service four years ago greatly helped in recruiting a third doctor into the practice and gave us the confidence as partners to proceed with plans to improve the New Galloway Surgery, in the expectation that we would be working here for many years to come.

We are grateful to you Minister, for taking time in a busy schedule to visit us.

I am now going to step down from my soap box and ask you if you would kindly honour us by cutting the tape and declaring our new extension open

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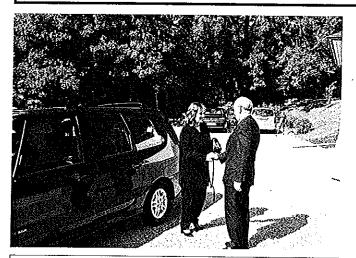
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# PICTURES FROM THE OPENING OF THE NEW SURGERY EXTENSION IN NEW GALLOWAY ON 31st JULY



Health Minister Susan Deacon is greeted by Mr.John Ross on her arrival at the Glenkens Surgery.



Architect Simon Winstanley and builder Michael Riddick relax after receiving praise for their personal commitment to the project.



Proud father, Dr. Bernard Jones looks on as daughter Eleanor presents the Minister with a bouquet.

Before cutting the ribbon (above) Susan Deacon said, "Foot and mouth has placed a great strain on both communities and individuals alike. For the farming families caught up in the middle, those working to contain the outbreak and the communities living around the affected areas, it has been a time of hardship; physical, financial and psychological.

The NHS and other care services have worked hard to ensure that throughout this period, individuals and communities have had access to the support and services they needed".

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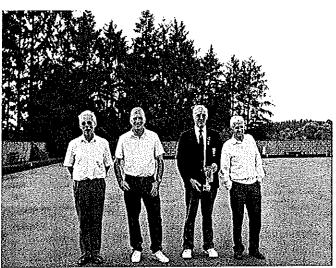
We are always increasing the number of issues we print but are still asked for more copies. Why not pass on this issue to a friend?



Miss Marena McClymont bids a sad farewell to her pupils at Dalry Primary School at the end of last term. She was presented with a bouquet by Nancy Hunter-Blair from the School Board and reminded her pupils that, "they can't climb the ladder of success in life with their hands in their pockets!"



Mrs Sandra Case from The Clachan Hotel presenting prizes at Spalding Bowling Club Open Triples on 23rd June.



Mr. Hamish Sinclair. and Mr. Ian Kerr presenting the runners up prize for the Open Pairs to Mr. Steve Davie and Mr. Arthur McFegan on 28th July at Spalding Bowling Club.

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150 ml olive oil

2 cloves crushed garlic

1 tblespn fresh rosemary

1 tblespn chopped fesh parsley

1/2 tblspn feresh oregano

Seasoning

6 lamb ctlets or gigot chops (if cutlets are small you will need 3 per person)

## Method:

Put all the marinade ingredients into a blender and whiz until well mixed. Put the chops into a large dish and pour over the

marinade. Cling film the dish and chill for 2 to 3 hours or overnight. Grill as required.

Catherine Braid demonstrated this dish at Wigtown Show in 1998. Fresh herbs and the best Scottish lamb make this a dish to remember.

## Donnie the Weatherman

Since issue one Donnie McMillan has kept us up to date with our weather records for the area and this issue is no exception; see back page. As well as providing the usual totals for each month he gives us interesting facts such as: Rainfall records at Glenlee go back to 1937 so for anyone interested the wettest June we've had since then was in 1938 when 161.7 mm of rain fell. That's 6.47 inches in old money! As for the wettest July, we have to go back to 1953 when 168 mm rain fell—6.7 inches.

Just as a matter of interest, for the wettest YEAR we have on record, we only have to go back to 1982 when 1628.4 mm of rain fell, that's a massive 65 inches over 12

That's quite enough rain news, Donnie! How about some sunshine and heat wave records for our next issue?

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# **Dalry Playpark News**

Things are still happening—honest, folks! There may not be much to see at the moment but behind the scenes there has been great news. BBC Children in Need have awarded £15,000 for the purchase and installation of play equipment.

The committee are also through the first round of the Lottery Charity Board, for a bid of £70,000 towards the carpark and landscaping work. In preparation is an application to the Dumfries and Galloway Community Fund. *Fingers crossed!* 

## **DalryYouth Club**

Volunteers required for the new Youth Club planned for Dalry. Chris Woodness Assistant Community Worker would like to hear from anyone interested in developing youth programmes activities and clubs.

Call 01556 502521

#### Advertising Feature

# **Aromatherapy**

With her upbeat personality and optimistic outlook, a visit to Carol Howat at Whitedyke, Dunscore is always a pleas-

Carol specialises in Aromatherapy Massage. She is fully qualified in Anatomy, Physiology & Body Massage, Aromatherapy Specialist Treatments, and most recently a course specialising in Pregnancy, Labour and Post -Natal Care, having successfully used massage and essential oils during her own pregnancy and birth of her son. Carol whole heartedley believes in the healing power of touch and the beneficial effects of essential oils.

Aromatherapy massage is not just about de-stressing although it is one of the best ways to do so. It can be used to stimulate, give pain relief and in some instances help medical conditions such as ezcema. Even the medical establishment is recognising the benefits of aromatherapy, and is training nurses, especially those who work in hospices and maternity units, as



aromatherapists. Essential oils are now generally available but Carol advises anyone to consult a fully qualified aromatherapist,

Before carrying out a massage she discusses with her clients their medical history, including any recent operation or medical treatments—they are receiving. Each oil has a different property and she brings those together with her client's personal needs to create a blend of oils which will give optimum benefit. Carol is teaching a 10 week course beginning in September called Relax and Unwind. This will include massage techniques, meditation and a basic introduction to the use of essential oils.

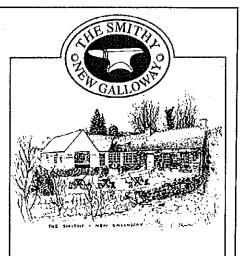
Anyone interested in this course or any other treatment should contact Carol on 01387 820330

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\* Relaxation\* Well-being \*

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# **GLENKENS COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS**

There are four Community Councils in the Glenkens and they meet regularly to discuss issues of importance to their residents. Minutes are published and available to view in Post Offices and local shops. Did you know that they are public meetings? You are welcome to attend and free to contribute your views on the agenda items. Your community councillors are there to represent you and help with problems you have and pursue issues you feel are of importance.

## **BALMACLELLAN**

Items discussed at the meeting on 30th July included:

Final arrangements were made for the time capsule, the unveiling of the viewfinder and the inauguration of the new seat in memory of the late Mrs. Campbell (see report on page 13) It was agreed to go ahead with renewal of the Village Hall floor, on the basis of grants already received and subject to reasonable assurance as to funding of the balance.

Suggestions were tabled for celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Negotiations are proceeding with Historic Scotland for preservation and maintenance work on the Motte.

It was agreed to re-paint Old Mortality using lime based material.

## **DALRY**

Ideas for increasing membership were discussed. It was felt important to attract more young people and parents onto the Council. New members co-opted on: Tom and Frances Scott.

Some road side verges were noted as difficult to cut following the installation of underground cables.

Halloween Party planned for October in Dalry Town Hall.

## **CARSPHAIRN**

Meeting postponed.

## **NEW GALLOWAY**

Minutes unavailable at time of going to print

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# S.M.N.D.A.

We are holding our 8th annual coffee morning on Saturday 15th September in Dalry Town Hall.

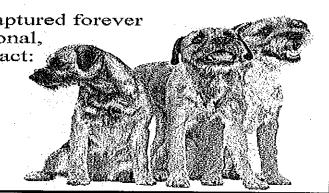
The event has always been very well supported and we hope to see a good turn out again this year.

There will be teas, a raffle, bakery stall, bottle stall, guess the weight of the cake, etc. Please come along and join

SCOTTISH MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

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samples and more information.



# GLENKENS HQ FOR REGIONAL CAMPAIGN

Glenkens has been HQ to a region-wide campaign this summer, as the New Galloway office of Wolffe & Co has been doubling as the campaign office for Shop Local.

Designer Andrew Wolffe was awarded the contract to manage the campaign to persuade everyone in the region to support their local shops and services. The campaign slogan "I found it in Dumfries and Galloway—support local business" sums up the aims—to highlight the quality of local goods and services and to persuade people to buy within Dumfries and Galloway.

The campaign has been giving a boost to businesses throughout the summer and there are plans to extend it to the end of the year. The initiative is helping counteract the downturn in the local economy due to the foot and mouth outbreak. With communities taking the "Shop Local" message into their own areas, the campaign office has been kept busy, supplying publicity flyers, stickers and banners.

West Sound FM have been running a prize draw as part of the campaign, and design assistant Nicola Stewart, who lives in New Galloway, has become the "voice of Shop Local", making the draw live on air. The prizes? Mouth watering hampers full of goodies from Dumfries and Galloway.

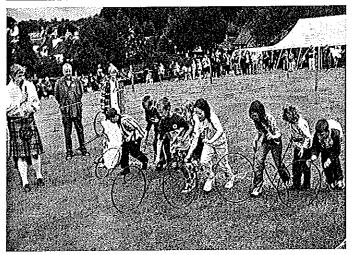
Shop Local is a Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway initiative, supported by local retail, trade and business associations.

Gemma Gordon joined Wolffe & Co. on August 5th and now completes the active design team.



## PARTON GAMES MOVE TO NEW GALLOWAY

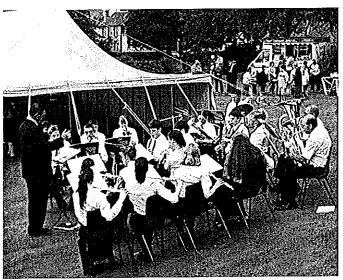
You don't have to travel to Edmonton, Canada to see top athletes perform. On August 5th New Galloway held its own

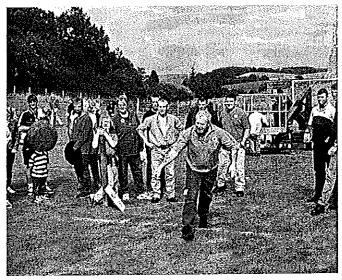


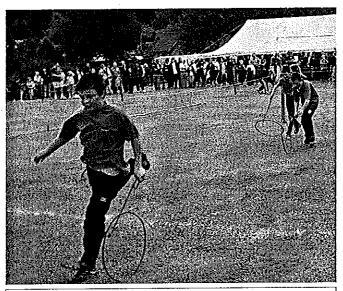
World Championships in the form of the Alternative Games.

Over 400 spectators and competitors enjoyed an afternoon of spectacle and old fashioned fun. The events included Tossin' the Sheaf, Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane, Balmaclellan Skittles, Snail racing, Tug of War and Gird and Cleek racing.

The Kenmure Arms provided the BBQ, Glenkens Lions the teas with home baking and the Thistle Inn of Crossmichael the bar. All proceeds went to charity. New Galloway Community Council wish to thank everyone who gave their time and energy to make it such a successful day. Make sure you don't miss this annual event held on the first Sunday in August.







ALL PHOTOS AT GAMES TAKEN BY MR.ROWE OF DALRY

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VETERINARY SURGERY, OAKWELL ROAD CASTLE DOUGLAS

# NEW GALLOWAY, OUR HISTORIC BURGH PART V DROVING DAYS

By Helen Bolton

Having traced the history of Kenmure Castle, we now return to the Burgh and move towards the end of the 17th century. We find the cattle droving increasing and the drovers still causing mayhem and confusion as their huge herds of cattle travel across the Galloway countryside. One of the major problems was the lack of properly defined roads and one can imagine the damage caused by several thousand beasts with their accompanying drovers and dogs.

In 1697 a demand was made to the Government for the marking and fencing of a road from Newtown of Galloway to Dumfries whereby stock could be driven to the English markets. It was recorded that local people had endeavoured to stop the droves by "imposing illegal exactions of money upon the cattle, to the great damage of the trade".

Among those signing the petition was Alexander, Viscount Kenmure and a commission was appointed to mark a highway for the droves, keeping to the high and accustomed route of the ancient Drift Road. "There is a way by Trowhein (Troquhain), Knockdroket, to the north of Lochenkit to Galagate, then to follow it southwards till within half a mile of Easter Marwhirn, and so to Larg and Dumfries". The way was complete and fenced by 1698.

Cattle occasionally became lame during their long journey and were then shod with little iron shoes or "cues". Shaped like a comma much widened at the head, cues were either nailed to the hoof or fixed by hooks over the toes. Examples can be seen in the Stewartry Museum.

Sometimes beasts strayed from their droves and would join on to another. Adverts such as this would then appear in the local newspaper. "Bullock found. A bullock joined a drove returning from the last Dumfries Fair 10 miles from the market. If not claimed will be sold"

In the Belfast Almanack of 1778 New Galloway Fair was entered as being one of the principal sales in South Scotland. Robert Heron, that famous son of the Burgh, told in 1792 of a Farmers Club in New Galloway, which held a weekly meeting.

Droving continued into the late 1830's, by which time most cattle were being transported by ship from Ireland to Holyhead and from Galloway ports to Liverpool and Whitehaven, thus arriving at the English markets much more speedily. In 1837 Robert Stroyan of Newton Stewart was one of the last men in the district to consign a drove by road.

And so New Galloway ceased to be an important centre and the market was confined to the sale of cattle from the local area.

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# HANDMADE STRONG REPAIRABLE SHOES, BOOTS, CLOGS and SANDALS



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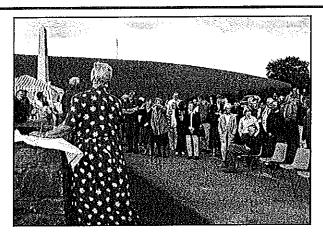
Opening Times

Mon - Fri Юат - 5pm Easter to Oct 31

At other times phone before travelling

12 miles north of Castle Douglas Follow the "thistle signs" from the A713 Glenkens Gazette page 13

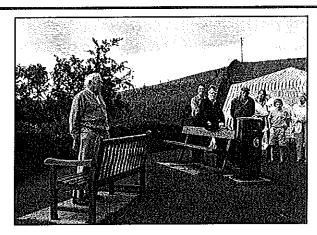
The evening sun shone on Balmaclellan community as three millennium projects were celebrated recently. A viewfinder, time capsule and wooden seat were unveiled at the war memorial on Friday 3rd August.



Doreen Wood unveils the viewfinder / time capsule



Alan Pallister opens the proceedings with a few words



Doug Carson dedicates the seat to Monica Campbell



Alan and Doug at the viewfinder after the opening





Stuart Craik from the Haugh of Urr was given a sticky send off before his wedding to Gillian Edmiston of New Galloway.

# **GLENKENS DIARY**

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Saturday 15th SMNDA Coffee morning Dalry Town Hall 430494

Friday 21st-23rd

Knockengorroch will take place, if not in previous location then Forest of Ae 01644 460662 Saturday 22nd Clachan Folk night 01644 430241

#### **OCTOBER**

Thursday 4th—7th Glenkens Annual Art Exhibition Dalry Town Hall. Mr.Newton 01644 430225 or Hilda McAdam 01644 430383

Saturday 20th Glenkens & District Music Club Gladstone and Clemmow Four hands at one piano 8 pm Dalry Town Hall Isobel Jackson 01644 430352

Saturday 20th Clachan Folk Night 01644 430241

NOVEMBER 2nd,3rd

Clachan Fair & 4th Reminiscences

A cheese and wine evening followed by an exhibition. Call Hilda McAdam 430383 for details.

#### NOVEMBER

Friday 16th Carsphairn Heritage Group A.G.M. Buffet Supper A.Campbell 460208 Saturday 17th Glenkens & District Music Club The Bridge Quartet String Quartet 8 pm New Galloway Town Hall Isobel Jackson 01644 430352

## DID WE MISS YOU OUT? DIARY LISTINGS ARE FREE

## **GLENKENS CHURCH** CHOIR

Choir practice starts again after the summer break on August 22nd. Members are looking forward to taking part in the Harvest Thanksgiving service in Dalry Church on September 16th and also in the joint service of the Glenkens Churches in Kells church on September 30th. Thereafter, preparing Christmas music will take priority. Practices take place on Thursday evenings in the Session House at Dalry Church from 7.30 pm to 9 pm. Do come along if you would like to join us. A warm welcome is assured.

#### **EDITORIAL GROUP**

Anna Campbell 460208 Brian Edgar 420288 Jean Lindsay 430529 Matthew Newton 430225

(Code 01644)

## Deadline for November/ December issue is 14th October.

The views expressed in this newsletter 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.

# THE GLENKENS GAZETTE SAYS WELCOME

TO STAN WORMALD / ARTIST **OUTBRAE BALMACLELLAN VILLAGE** 

&

**ISOBEL & BERT CUTHBERTSON DALRY** 

&

**ERIN HARRIET McGAW** 

**BORN TO PROUD PARENTS** 

**JAKE & MELINDA** 

7lb 12 oz

On 8th August

STUART CRAIK AND

**GILLIAN EDMISTON** ON THEIR MARRIAGE

You name it - we frame it!

# **GLENKENS FRAMING**

Hill of Balmaclellan Castle Douglas

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## GLENKENS WEATHER REPORT

JUNE Total rainfall 63.5mm 2.5inches Tuesday 26th (18.6mm) Wettest day Sunniest day Thursday 7th 12.2 hours Hottest day Monday 25th 22oC 72F JULY Total rainfall 86.6mm 3.4inches Wettest day Tuesday 10th (19.1mm)

Sunniest day Tuesday 31st 12.1 hours Friday 6th Hottest day 27oC 81F

> Thanks to Donnie the weatherman from Glenlee Power Station