

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

FREE IN: BALMACLELLAN CARSPHAIRN MOSSDALE NEW GALLOWAY ST. JOHN'S TOWN OF DALRY

December 2002 / January 2003

ISSUE 13

www.glenkensgazette.com

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE GROUP PUBLISHES NEW BOOK



Anna Campbell and Carol Cathcart, author and editor, at the Book launch in the Lagwyne Hall.

'The wildness of the district and the great distances which some of the children have to walk to school render regular attendance hardly possible in bad weather. Owing to the exceptional severity of last winter and the illness of some of the pupils school work was seriously interrupted.'

So runs an entry, written 100 years ago, in the Dee School Log Book. It is one of many such fascinating snippets of information to be found in a new book by Anna Campbell entitled 'Glenkens Schools over the Centuries'. Another entry records that *'...in view of the fact that some of the scholars come five miles to school and one or two even greater distances the attendance this year has been wonderfully good.'*

Of this Glenkens school there is now no trace.

These and dozens of similarly sensitively chosen extracts from the schools' log books have been put together with a collection of photographs of pupils and school buildings to create a moving portrait of one aspect of life in this area 'over the centuries'. Comments are also included from former pupils of some of the schools.

The Carsphairn Heritage Group has funded the production of the book, which has been based on an exhibition which ran in the Carsphairn Heritage Centre this summer. These annual exhibitions have previously been on Carsphairn topics only but it was thought a good time to have something on all the Glenkens schools. It was especially appropriate following the debate last year about the future of the three remaining schools in the area. Though a coincidence, it all linked together.

Anna Campbell's research has spared the reader much time and effort, as many of the entries in the log books were routine and of limited interest. She has garnered some of the more interesting entries, and some, in just a few words, conjure up a whole

world, now long gone. A few examples give a flavour of what may be found in the book...26/6/1879 *Children were taken out to single turnips. (Ironmacannie)...19/8/1914 Two Boy Scouts away to Carsphairn on duty. (Balmaclellan) ... 21/11/1921 Got a gramophone to brighten things a bit. Four records to be played every Friday afternoon to let the children learn something new. (Craigmuirie)...and so on.*

Copies of the book are available from Carsphairn Village shop; J&M Sloan's, the Post Office and Newton's Shop in Dalry; Hopkin's Shop and the GCAT Shop in New Galloway; Balmaclellan Post Office and Stores and Low's Newsagents and Barry Smart's in Castle Douglas.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

LOCAL BIRD CLUB REACHES

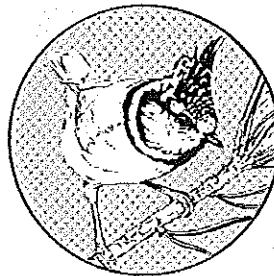
The Stewartry Branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club - THE Bird Club in Scotland - was 25 years old in September 2001. The Club itself was 65 years old that year, having been founded in 1936.

Branch membership today stands at about seventy-five and the well known local wildlife artist and founder member of the S.O.C. Donald Watson is the Honorary Chairman. As it is a CLUB, in addition to attending talks, interested members can join together in other activities such as local excursions, birdwatching holidays elsewhere in Scotland, survey work, birdwatching trips abroad and two annual conferences.

Members seem prepared to travel amazing distances on our country roads in winter to attend the talks in the traditional venue at Kells Primary School. The Branch is deliberately based in the Glenkens area of Kirkcudbrightshire, roughly midway between Ayr and Dumfries branches and members come from towns and villages far and near all over the county as well as from Newton Stewart. There is also the West Galloway branch which meets in Stranraer. Eight indoor meetings are held from September to April and, although talks are mainly about birds, other topics such as wildflowers, dragonflies, birds in art, and foreign birdwatching holidays are also included as most members have an interest in all aspects of natural history and the countryside. Perhaps the most popular evening each year is the annual February

film show presented by the ebullient Gordon Yates. The sociable coffee break in the middle of each evening is very popular! As well as giving the speaker a breather and allowing folks to meet him, it is a chance for old members to get to know each other and, most important of all, to allow new ones to be introduced.

Excursions are held throughout the year to destinations in our three southwest counties. In the months from October to March these usually concentrate on seeing the magnificent spectacle of the thousands and thousands of waders, ducks and geese from the Arctic and Northern Europe which use the Solway as their winter feeding station. Migrants which arrive to nest in Britain, such as warblers, flycatchers, wheatears and martins, are looked for on spring and summer excursions, as well as butterflies and wildflowers. Over the years longer excursions have been made by bus, jointly with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to such places as Aberlady Bay, St. Abb's Head, North Berwick to pick up the boat for the Bass Rock and three times to the most popular destination of all, Leighton Moss in North Lancashire.



Since its beginning the branch has had a long weekend or a week's holiday each year in some other area of Scotland. The most popular area over the years has been Strathspey, at least half a dozen visits having been made to villages along the length of the valley. Thus many members have seen a great deal of Scotland through their association with their club. And once members actually ventured south of the border to Alnmouth in Northumberland!

The three April visits abroad were to islands with an impressive passage of spring migrants en route from their winter quarters in Africa to their European breeding grounds, thus allowing members to see the wonder of migration at first hand. Twice these trips have been to Majorca and to celebrate the quarter centenary in 2001, the destination was the Greek island of Lesbos tucked up close to the Turkish coast where a total of 175 species of birds were seen by the group. Amongst the highlights were close views of many Bee-eaters, Glossy Ibises, Flamingoes, Hoopoes and Avocets with that once common Galloway bird, the Corn Bunting, "singing" all over the island. In addition to enjoying new and exotic birds in such large numbers and the beautiful profusion of Mediterranean wildflowers on these holidays the warm sunny weather after a Scottish winter is a bonus.

The Stewartry Branch of the S.O.C. firmly based in the Glenkens enters its next quarter century on a high note. This is a club where those interested in birds, birdwatching and natural history in general can gather in various activities to share their mutual interests. CONTACT NUMBERS - 01644 430226 and 01556 670466. Non-members are always welcome.

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GLENKENS WALKING INITIATIVE

Dumfries and Galloway Community Resources Department has recently announced that the Glenkens Walking Initiative has been successful in its application for funding. A grant from the Community Capital Fund means that this exciting project can now get underway. Set amongst some of the finest peaks and glens in Southern Scotland, The Glenkens, represented by the four communities of Dalry, Balmaclellan, New Galloway & Kells and Carsphairn, is the perfect walking destination. With miles of already established walking routes the area should be amongst the top ten choices for UK and foreign visitors – the task is, however, to attract a greater share of the ever-expanding hill-walking market. The grant monies will be put towards the development of the Glenkens as a major walking destination for southern Scotland, to provide and promote an infrastructure of walks within the Glenkens, utilizing and expanding existing facilities and identifying and exploring new opportunities for visitors, the local communities and the organizations which have a common interest in promoting the Glenkens as 'The Natural Place to Walk.'

Andrew Case of The Clachan Inn and member of Dalry Community Council sub Committee for Tourism said, "I am sure you will agree that this is a great step towards creating a first class walking destination and excellent news for the businesses in and around the Glenkens." The funding package paves the way for an exciting future and presents the possibility of acquiring further match funding to ensure that the momentum of developing The Glenkens as a prime walking destination continues.

The Glenkens Walking Initiative, a voluntary body, comprising Community representatives, Council Access personnel, local business representatives and walking experts has been set up to adopt positive strategies, capitalize on existing resources and make the best use of any further funding available to achieve this exciting objective.

Initial meetings of the Initiative have resulted in the construction of a solid brief and planning for the early actions of the working group. Foremost in these initial stages is the consultation process with the local landowners which to date has proven extremely beneficial, not only in seeking agreement with the project's aims but also in obtaining valuable feedback and insight. Despite the project being in its infancy the reactions of those aware of it have been positive. Pam Taylor, Access Officer for Dumfries and Galloway Council said, 'There is no question of the potential and enthusiasm here. And by adding the experiences of the Parton and Loch Ken

Community Consultation exercise and other case studies to this, the project is off to a solid start."

It is anticipated that a full public meeting will be held in the New Year to showcase the aims and ambitions of the project and invite the wider community to offer their opinion.

For further information concerning the project please contact Andrew Case on 01644 430682 or see www.glenkens.com

Clachan Fair Jubilee Memorial Project

The Clachan Fair has £500 for a project with which to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Gerald Bell, Secretary of the Dalry Clachan Fair Committee, says that they would be grateful to receive any suggestions and ideas from residents of Dalry. These may be forwarded to him at 3 Wayside, Dalry, Castle Douglas DG7 3UY (01644 430273). Discussion will then take place at the next meeting of the Committee in the New Year.

WINDOW DISPLAY

There is a large shop window at the GCAT shop on New Galloway High Street. If you (and/or your organisation) would be interested in creating a display in the GCAT shop window, please contact the office. This is open daily between 9am and 4pm or you can phone:
01644 420374.

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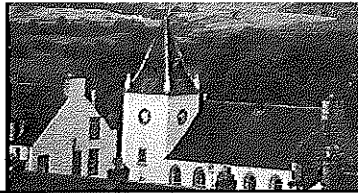
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(special offers change every 3 weeks!)

New Galloway -- Our Historic Burgh.

By Helen Bolton



Part XI The New Church and School.

The second half of the 18th century saw not only the construction of roads but some buildings of note appeared in New Galloway during that era. Up to that time we believe the Church of Kells was near the ancient burial ground close to the present farm of "Achie". We know in the early 16th century Kells Church was attached to the Chapel Royal at Stirling. Mr. Donald Mure was the Exhorter and Vicar of Kells from 1567, and Reader until 1580. Parish records for these early years are very scant, however, and much detail has been lost.

"Achie", or "Upper Aichie" to give it the old name, was probably built around 1800, not being listed in the 1799 Valuation Roll, and it is therefore reasonable to assume the old Church of Kells would be situated on the site, being the only area of level ground in the vicinity. Old buildings were little respected in those days, and stone from the old Church would be used in the building of the farm. Certainly some of the old gravestones from the ancient burial ground were built into the wall of the

nearby dam. Some traces of the burial ground are still to be found, however, if one knows where to look for them.

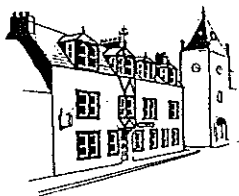
There is no record of any Manse at Kells before the mid 18th century, but some form of habitation must have existed for the Minister near to the old Church. However, in 1742 a Manse was built on the site of the later Kells Manse, and a very primitive house it was, to all accounts. Writing in 1776 Dr. Robert Trotter, the famous "Muir Doctor", described it as "Kells Manse - a low, one storied, thatched house, but with one of the first proper hearths in New Galloway." In 1765 and again in 1788 extensive repairs were carried out at the Manse, but ten years later Rev. John Gillespie still referred to it as "a very bad house!"

In 1745 the new Kells Church was completed, where the present, building stands today, and a number of gravestones and memorials were moved from the old burial ground to be placed near the new Church. A railing fence was put around the churchyard, and some very old slabs

were placed along the east wall. The first Minister of the new Church was Rev. Peter Yorstoun.

The Parish School was built in New Galloway in 1743, to be in the capable hands of Mr. Alexander Buchanan during its formative years. Other successful teachers who steered their pupils through their education included Mr. John McCubbin and Mr. William Gordon. And if the famous names who attended Kells School are a guide, the teachers were successful indeed. John Lowe the poet, son of a gardener at Kenmure Castle; Robert Heron, author of the interesting "Journey Through the Western Counties of Scotland in the Autumn of 1792" (whew!); the wonderful Alexander Murray of "Dunkitterick", later Professor of Oriental Languages at Edinburgh; and William Gillespie, son of Rev. John Gillespie, who became an even more respected and famous preacher than his well-loved father. A galaxy of talent from a tiny parish such as Kells, and sons to be proud of, indeed.

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Abba's Rest Orphans, now a registered Scottish charity, started as a result of Peter and Kirsi Poole's trip to Malawi in 2000.

They saw poverty on a scale which is hard to imagine: children eating thrown away banana skins from the dust, mice being eaten as food, and clothing for many children merely rags.

At their return to Carsphairn many friends and acquaintances wanted to know more, and if possible to do something for the orphaned children. The plight of these children got people fired up all over our

abbas rest Orphans

These, in Muona, the southernmost part of Malawi, badly needed some feeding aid. 22 new orphans were added to the programme.

An Orphan Centre was bought in Chiringa, south east of Malawi, in October 2001, again using money raised here with coffee mornings, car boot sales and private donations. Some people wanted to support a particular orphan they had seen in the photos, and that's how the sponsorship scheme was started. By a sponsor giving a regular donation, however small a sum

In May 2002 Abba's Rest Orphans, though still a very small organization, became a registered Scottish charity. Peter and Kirsi feel that keeping their project small gives them an advantage over bigger charities: they can guarantee that every penny given to the children gets there, as they have local managers distributing the food and clothes, and as they travel to Malawi regularly to check the situation.

In the future hopefully more orphaned children can be added to the Abba's Rest Orphans project. Kirsi visualises the total number rising to 90 children, this being possible by having more sponsors.

Being Christians Peter and Kirsi believe there is a bigger hand than theirs running this programme. During their September trip to Malawi they saw the changed children: the happy faces, colourful clothes and hope instead of hopelessness.

For more information contact Peter and Kirsi: tel.: 01644 460604

e-mail: abbasrest@fish.co.uk

They will be happy to answer your questions. They will also be at the ARO stall at the Charity Fayre in the Town Hall, Castle Douglas on Saturday, 7th December.



area. Knitted jumpers and teddies started coming in. Peter returned to Malawi in March 2001, suitcases full of clothes and toys for the children.

A feeding programme for 23 orphans in Chiringa was the first step, funded solely by donations from individuals in the Glenkens area. This meant guaranteeing one simple meal a day for each of these 'Abba's Rest Orphans'. And now they had, perhaps for the first time, some toys to take their mind off the sorrow of losing their mother and father.

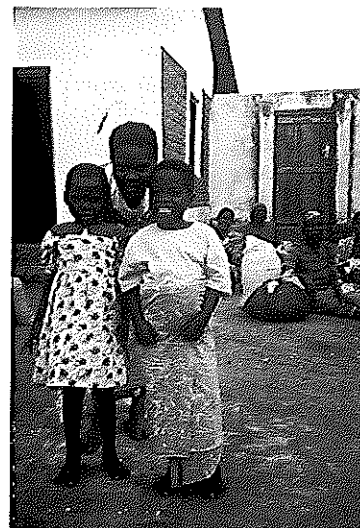
But further south Peter saw children even worse off than the original 23 orphans.

per month, it is possible to add to the quality of life of an orphan.

At this time awareness of the failed crops and the lack of food in Malawi was raised by the media. Peter and Kirsi also started talking about the orphans of Malawi in public meetings such as with the Guilds.

The ladies in Balmaclellan and Kells Guild raised money by their pancake lunch in March for a second Orphan Centre. The Scottish people, who are known for their generosity towards their suffering fellowmen, again rose to the challenge.

The second Orphan Centre, this one in Muona, is at roof height at the moment.



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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GCATNEWSGCATNEWS

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Fiona Knowles erupted onto the stage of New Galloway Town Hall at eight o'clock on Saturday 16th November and for the next hour and a half kept her audience laughing as she recounted the experience of Marie and her family on a "holiday of a lifetime". With unrelenting energy and minimal change of costume she presented the viewpoints of Marie, of her mother-in-law and of Katie, her fifteen year old daughter. With a different stance and a deeper timbre to her voice, her husband, Graham, and the local chief of police soon joined the cast of "Stick Granny on the Roof-Rack".

As we laughed we began to recognise ourselves in the family: the mother who

thinks herself indispensable and is so busy organising life for her family that she is deaf to their real needs, the mother-in-law who is so anxious that the younger generation does not make her mistakes that she is continually offering helpful but unwelcome suggestions and the daughter who is so irritated by her parents that she locks herself in her bedroom and runs up a bill on her mobile phone that has to be delivered by parcel post. It is only when Granny is indeed stuck on the roof-rack of the hired car as it is taken for a joy-ride and Marie is arrested on suspicion of murder that Graham and Katie come into their own to track down Granny, bring her safely back and release Marie. All the tension is released in the joy of the rescue. Granny

becomes a media personality as a result of her ordeal, Graham and Katie go into partnership as computer financiers – all those hours locked in the bedroom had in fact been put to good use – and it is Marie who now finds herself redundant until she negotiates with the local police chief a return to the peace of her prison cell where she plans to stay until she has found out who she really is.

It is a tribute to the acting of Fiona Knowles and to the writing of Rona Munro that the audience adjusted to the changing moods of the play and still went home smiling. We had had an evening of laughter but laughter that had reminded us of some of the issues of daily life and which had seen those issues for once happily resolved. *S.M.*

Between Friday 1st and Sunday 3rd November a group of visitors and the Sunday morning others enjoyed their music making in to the Glenkens, bringing with them a varied selection of musical instruments, touched the lives of hundreds of local inhabitants. They came to us from Glasgow. Fiddle, harp, concertina, accordion, big and small pipes, whistles, banjo and a whole

JO MILLER RETURNS TO HER ROOTS

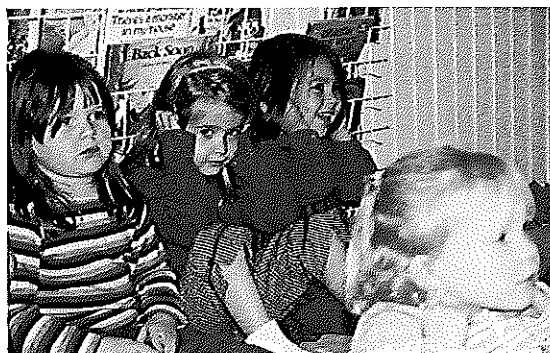
have them here, sharing their talents with us. It is to be hoped

that they may return and that in the meantime the music they brought will echo and re-echo in many minds and hearts. Our thanks are due to Jo

Miller and Wendy Stewart, tutors, and Emily Smith, Lori Watson, Celine Donoghue, Callum McCrimmon and Andrew McPherson, their students, and all who helped in so many ways to make the weekend happen.



range of percussion instruments, not to mention voices, they brought. Their purpose was to bring to us Scottish traditional music, and this they did through workshops, concerts, ceilidh and sessions. The workshops brought them into contact with all the schoolchildren of the area on the Friday and a good number of all ages on the Saturday afternoon. On the Saturday evening



above left: Wendy Stewart and the students entertain at Kells School
above: Jo Miller plays with Davy Jardine and Tommy Edgar at the concert/ceilidh

left: mixed reactions to a musical demonstration !

GCATNEWSGCATNEWS

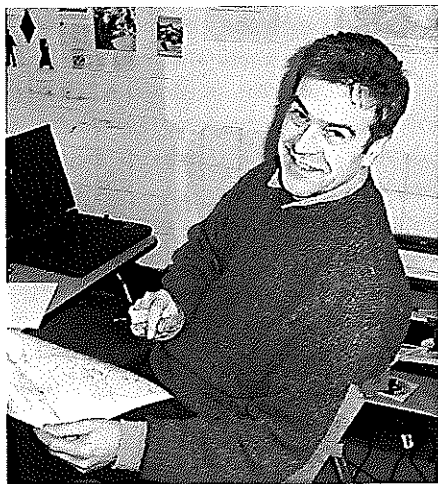
GCATNEWSGCATNEWS

PROJECT MANAGER APPOINTED

GCAT is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Ward to the post of Project Manager. Andrew's remit is to oversee the development of the Old School but he will also be involved with the general activities of GCAT.

Born in Leeds Andrew moved with his family to Galloway 14 years ago. Andrew's mother was a Jardine from Lockerbie, so, prior to moving to the area he had spent much of his early life here.

Andrew was the founder of Creetown



Exhibition Centre which is a museum and tourist information point and serves as a showcase for local Arts & Crafts. It took 18 months and cost £100,000, but now Creetown Exhibition Centre has been open

for six years and is part of the tourist enterprise, multifunctional and the source of much local pride.

Andrew is also involved in the now famous Creetown Country Weekend. "We were looking for an event to boost the tourist trade," he says, "and someone suggested country music as it is family based and very popular - so we went for it. I have chaired the festival since it started, and the 20 strong committee who run the event seem happy to put up with me." In six years this has grown to become the biggest country music festival in Scotland. In three days there are over 10,000 visitors and a giant street fair raises thousands of pounds for charity. People have been attracted from all over the UK, many coming to Galloway for the first time. Costing over £50,000 to stage, the festival is estimated to generate £1million for the economy of Galloway. Now attracting interest from America, it has put a tiny Scottish village on the map."

Andrew also works for the local initiative group, is chairman of the local business association and, for good measure, is secretary of the local football team.

"The theme throughout is 'community... community...community'", says Andrew. "We live in a wonderful place, but it is changing. There are dangers. Farming and forestry have lost jobs. Apart from tourism, which has stood still, most other areas of employment have gone backwards. The population has aged as young people have left. The economics of

the area have been subjected to some heavy blows, not least Foot and Mouth. But there is a common thread which runs the length and breadth of Galloway: community spirit - from Galas to Booktowns, from Country Fairs to Country Weekends, from Arts Centres to Children's Playgroups. The people of Galloway are doers, they get involved, they care. So I hope that I will be able to help the people of the Glenkens achieve their goals. They are ambitious and exciting, but from what I have seen so far, well within reach."

FORTHCOMING GCAT EVENTS

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MONDAY

16TH DECEMBER

The Dalgarno
Singers

NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL

8pm

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FRIDAY

20TH DECEMBER

Phil Kaye

NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL

tbc

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SUNDAY

29TH DECEMBER

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conducted by Alison Burns

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NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL

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In 1999 Bill
Hines, an artist
living in Dalry,

Glenkens Annual Art Exhibition

sold.

The exhibition
was opened by

realised a vision - an exhibition of the work of local artists. Each year since then, in the space available in Dalry Town Hall, the general public has been able to see what a wealth of artistic talent there exists in what is really a small geographic area.

This year's exhibition has continued the tradition. 30 Glenkens artists produced between them 110 works which were viewed by some 300 visitors over four days. 30% of the works on show were

Valerie Sadler, who also presented Jack Priddy with the prize for winner of the Primary section of the Schools' Competition. Other prizes went to Martin Templeton, runner-up in the Primary section, and Callum MacArthur, winner in the Secondary section.

The organization this year was done for the first time by the GCAT which is delighted to be able to help to develop that vision of three years ago.

Stan Wormald has lived in Dumfries & Galloway for almost 15 years. Over this period he has tutored classes in painting and drawing in his various studios. Trained initially at the College of Art in Malta he continued training in Leeds, where he obtained a teaching diploma via Yorkshire Council and then taught for that authority for almost 12 years, entering his work in many 'open' exhibitions over the border.

In Dumfries & Galloway he has served on most art club committees and has exhibited in club exhibitions. He has also held many one man exhibitions, renting the Harbour Cottage Gallery in Castle Douglas gallery showing a wide variety of work created by 34 artists who There are generally 90 of Stan's pictures on show and he will be there again for the

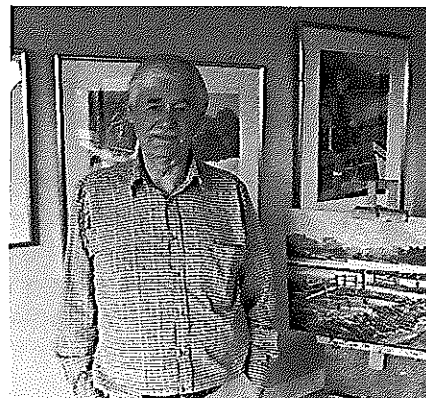
ART CLASSES IN BALMACLELLAN

last two weeks of September in 2003.

Stan's work is to be found in private collections in many countries. One of his watercolours once gained a top award in the USA. In Yorkshire Stan is known as a watercolourist but for the past few years he has painted in all other media.

Stan's name is known for giving tutorials and demonstrations throughout the area and for two years he staged exhibitions in the Harbour Cottage Gallery in Castle Douglas gallery showing a wide variety of work created by 34 artists who had attended his classes. Some 50 of his paintings now adorn the

Outgate, Balmaclellan, Stan's present home and studio. Here he now gives classes and interested parties would be very welcome to call to have a general chat or specifically

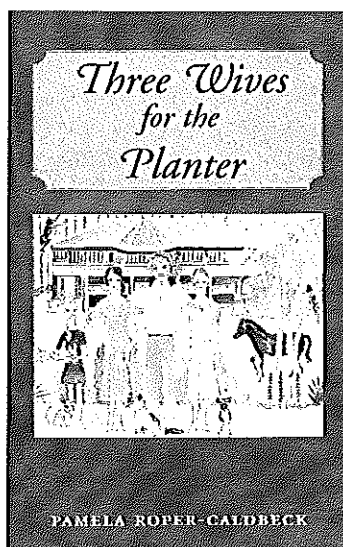


to talk about art classes. The coffee is always on!

NEW BOOK

Pamela Roper-Caldbeck was taken at the age of ten from the densely populated life of suburban London to the Malayan jungle where she stayed for three years. The move from a bustling urban environment to a sparse rural one would have upset some children but Pamela found it all very exciting and soon adjusted herself to this completely new way of life.

The rubber estate that Charles, her step-father, managed with his three white assistants and around one hundred Tamil labourers was isolated with no road in or out, just a connecting railway line for the shipping of produce. The only other westerners were the three men who



worked on another estate further down the tracks.

Pamela thrived in this environment with daily rations of horse riding, cycling, tennis and her pets. At eighteen she met and fell in love with Roper, whom she married. From there the story takes us through her early married life in Singapore, evacuation to South Africa and the trauma of separation during World War Two.

Pamela Roper-Caldbeck's story is a heartfelt journal from the aspirations of childhood to the romantic learning of young adulthood.

This brand new book is published by Serendipity and copies, priced £5.95, are available from The GCAT Shop, High Street, New Galloway and Barry Smart's, Castle Douglas.

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The teenage participants of the newly formed Glenkens Group continue to work towards their Bronze Awards. Ten visits to the Galloway Sailing Centre during the Summer completed their Physical Recreation Section. Certificates were obtained in Sailing, Windsurfing and Kayaking and these were presented at a September School Assembly.

Throughout the Summer training was carried out in campcraft, map reading, first aid and expedition planning. This culminated in a 14 mile practice walk from Dalry and back, carrying tents, sleeping bags, cooking stoves and food and included an overnight camp at Ironmacannie Mill, where certain intrepid members cooled their blistered feet in the Shirmers Burn. The actual assessed Expedition will take place early next Summer in somewhat wilder country than Balmaclellan and the 'Hidden Road'.

During the Autumn the Service Section of the Award is being provided at the New Galloway Fire Station. The programme covers Safety in the Community and at

Home, Road Accident Exercises, Pump and Ladder Drills and Knots and Lines. We are most grateful to the Full Time and local Retained Fire Officers for giving of their time so freely and expertly.

The final of the four Sections of the Award is Skills. Here the participant selects from an almost endless list of possibilities and sets out to prove to their assessor that their expertise has improved, from whatever initial

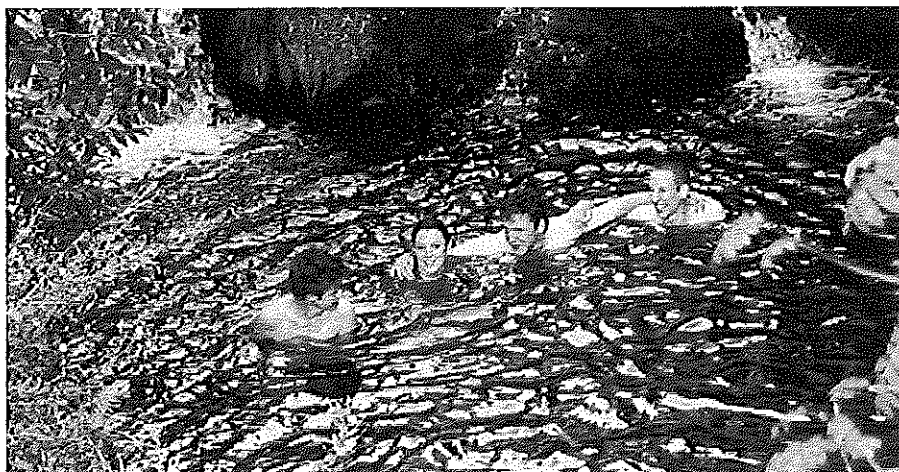
THE DUKE of EDINBURGH AWARD

proficiency they possessed, during their six months of involvement. Skills as diverse as bagpipe playing and sign language are being attempted.

It is hoped in the Spring to start another Group from this year's S3 on the road to Bronze, Silver and with a lot of determination and stamina, to Gold.

The Award received a welcome boost at the end of October when Prince Edward and his wife spent a day with Award Participants at Dumfries and Drumlanrig, hearing about their various activities and in particular the Gold Expedition to The Gambia. During the lunch for supporters and volunteers, the Prince presented 10-year volunteer certificates to a number helpers, including Christine Rankin from New Galloway.

Chris Mason.



GLENKENS FRAMING

Hill of Balmaclellan
Castle Douglas

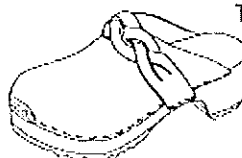
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SCOTTISH MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

Our ninth annual coffee morning held in Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 5th October raised the gratifying sum of £505.

I would like to express my great thanks to all the supporters, friends and helpers who turned up on the day and achieved such a good response. I appreciate the help given by so many folks here in 'Bonnie Galloway'.

A heartfelt thank you to you all.

Sheila Merrill



It was a happy afternoon and a big thank you to all the people who came and gave and bought, and not least to Santa.

Macmillan Cancer Relief Christmas Fair

The Glenkens committee of Macmillan Cancer Relief held a Christmas Fair on Saturday, 16th November.

Mrs Elizabeth McFegan welcomed Mrs Marion Bone who spoke of the worthy cause with great humour before opening the fair. Emma Thomson presented Mrs Bone with a pot plant. The hall was crowded as were the tables and over £1100 was made in a short time.

This could not have been done without our hardworking committee and helpers.

Elizabeth McFegan



CLIC - Cancer & Leukaemia in Children

On 26th October 2002 a sponsored walk was held at Mossdale. It was one of the few days we had bright sunshine and ten people set off to do five miles walking in Bennan forest on the Raiders' Road. As a result of this walk £770 has been sent off to the fund raising manager for Glasgow and West Scotland. This money will go directly towards the services CLIC is providing to families in the West of Scotland whose children are being treated for cancer in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, Glasgow.

Fay Halliday

The Glenkens Volunteer Reading Scheme

The idea for this scheme originated in our community four years ago. Mrs Margaret Pringle had heard of a scheme in England and approached the school to see if we thought our pupils would benefit from such input. It was agreed that such a scheme would indeed be a valuable asset and we set about advertising for and training volunteers and applying for funding to cover costs, such as for police checks, books and games.

The VRS originally was only available to primary pupils at Dalry but is now well established in the secondary school. Volunteers come in once or twice a week from the end of October until Easter to read with pupils, play games such as Scrabble and give them one-to-one attention. The success over the last few years has led to a greater demand for more volunteers. At present we have a shortage and several of the pupils in the school who would benefit from this scheme are presently missing out. So, if you think you have some spare time you could donate to the VRS, you like being with children and could make such a commitment, then please phone the school (01644 430259) and request an application form. We will be very happy to include you in our dedicated team of volunteers.

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Reflections on Two Months in the Glenkens - and further afield

FUN! We've had a wonderful time being so warmly welcomed in the life and activities of this community. There is a rich community life here and we would urge people to cultivate and care for it. We have enjoyed visiting places rich with history and spirituality, enjoying people who in all their different circumstances have reminded us again that there are no 'ordinary people'. Nobody should ever dismiss themselves saying, "Oh, I'm just...". Everybody is unique and, if we pay attention, has an interesting story.

Our explorations have convinced us that this must be the (2nd) most beautiful place in the world.

FRUSTRATION... that one of the most formative and adventurous experiences of our lives is drawing to an end when it has barely begun. At least this means that we have not had time to become bored, complacent with each other.

We also sense that this has been God's way of giving us a glimpse of the wider world and of future possibilities.

FELLOWSHIP in Christ as we have shared this life together, despite coming from as far away as it's possible to be. This life in Christ is a source of community in a world that is too often fragmented and at enmity.

Our worship, praying, conversation together and your open hearts and homes have been a blessing that we will remember with gratitude and look forward to learning from in the future. **THANKS EVERYBODY.**

Selwyn, Natalie and Monica Yeoman

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GLENKENS GAZETTE - INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

'Dear Sir/Madam,

I have just discovered your online Glenkens Gazette and have been reading with considerable interest the articles by Helen Bolton, because my wife's Burgess, Spaulding and McDougal ancestors originated in Parton, Kells and Balmaclellan...

Thanks for an interesting and informative magazine.'

(from Terry Gregory in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

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GLENKENS DIARY

DECEMBER

Tuesday 24th *Watchnight*
 Sunday 8th *Carols by Service* Dalry Church 11.30pm
Candlelight Carsphairn Church Wednesday 25th *Christmas Day*
 6.30pm *Family Service* Carsphairn Church

Thursday 12th *Reintroduction* 11am

of the Red Kite to Galloway—SOC Sunday 29th *United Service with*
talk by Kevin Duffy Kells School, *Glenkens Church Choir*
 New Galloway 7.30pm Balmaclellan Church 11am

Monday 16th *Dalgarno Singers* *Forgotten Carols conducted*
 New Galloway Town Hall 8pm *by Alison Burns*

Tuesday 17th *Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch* New Galloway Town Hall 3pm

Ken Bridge Hotel 12.30pm

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st *Sleeping Beauty*

Dalry Town Hall 7.30pm

Friday 20th *Phil Kaye*

New Galloway Town Hall

JANUARY 2003

Friday 24th *Burns Supper*
 Lagwyne Hall Carsphairn

FEBRUARY

Friday 14th *Valentines Ceilidh*
 Balmaclellan Village Hall

Deadline for February / March

issue: Saturday 11th January.

Please contact the Editor on 01644 420374

or by e-mail : editor@glenkensgazette.com

The Editor will be in the GCAT shop between 10am and 12 noon on Wednesdays and Fridays

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors, who reserve the right to encourage the expression of a variety of views on subjects of interest to the local community.

*If you can spare an hour or two and would like to be more involved with GCAT as a volunteer, please contact the office on 01644 420374 ****

Regular Times of Christian Worship in the Glenkens

Church of Scotland Sundays

	Balmaclellan	12.00	1 st
Carsphairn	10.30am	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th	
Dalry	12.00	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th	
Kells	10.30am	2 nd , & 4 th	
New Galloway	10.30am	3 rd	
Town Hall	(Family Service)		
United Service		5 th	

Episcopal Church in Scotland

St Margaret's,	10.30am	Every Sunday
New Galloway		& Wednesday
		(Eucharist)

Roman Catholic

Mass is celebrated at the following times:

Castle Douglas	6.00pm	(Sat)
Gatehouse of Fleet	10.45am	(Sun)
Kirkcudbright	9.00am	(Sun)

*Is your event listed here?
 Is it hard to find out what else is on?*

From 1st January 2003 you will be able to register your event at the GCAT shop by writing it into a Desk Diary to be put there for just that purpose. This will also allow you to see what other events have already been entered, allowing easier planning for all.

GCAT gratefully acknowledges support from SCVO Direct Grants for the publication of this issue of the Glenkens Gazette.

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