

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

February / March 2003

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www.glenkensgazette.com

New Chapter for The Rory Stories

Fans of The Rory Stories, published by New Galloway-based company Keppel Publishing, will be delighted to know that two new adventures are set to appear this Spring - *Rory and his Flying Friend* and *Rory and his Great Idea*.

The series is written by local designer Andrew Wolfe and illustrated by Tom Cole. With fans ranging from pre-school children to early readers, and even grown ups called Rory, the books feature the magical seaside adventures of Rory and his little dog, Scruff McDuff, as they play on the beach beside their home in 'Sandy Bay'.

There's always a touch of magic in every Rory Story, which means that Rory and his friends can do things and go places that others can only dream about. The combination of lively illustrations, memorable characters, enjoyable stories and imaginative twists are becoming increasingly popular. Since their launch in 1999, over 17,000 copies of The Rory Stories have been sold.

There are currently four, full-colour picture books in the series - *Rory and his Rock Pool Adventure*, *Rory and his Shooting Star*, *Rory and his Magic Castle*, *Rory and his Secret Voyage* - all packed with bright, colourful illustrations and unexpected twists in the tale. And the new titles are just as enjoyable.

In *Rory and his Flying Friend*, Rory and his little dog take to the air in unique style when, by accident, they step on a flying fish who lives up to his name by being an ace pilot. Set against a backdrop of summer time and sunshine, the darling duo enjoy a bird's-eye view of their seaside home, Sandy Bay, and one of its most distinctive landmarks, the lighthouse. Then, soaring high above the water, Rory spots his uncle stranded on the rocks and rushes to the rescue.

In *Rory and his Great Idea*, Rory and Scruff McDuff are both feeling a little too hot under their collars as Sandy Bay basks in a summer heat wave. In an attempt to cool down, the little chums head off to enjoy an ice cream at the village's Pelican Cafe. But disappointment is on the menu when Rory discovers that Mr Toni's fridge has broken down. Fortunately, Rory

comes up with a clever plan to save the day when he spots something unusual on the horizon.



In 2002 The Rory Stories proved to be universally appealing with Rory being signed up by a Korean publisher in Keppel Publishing's first international licensing deal. Korean publishing company Kul Dong San have now published the four Rory Stories books currently in the series and plan to publish new titles, as they become available. Since then Keppel Publishing has been busy following up other licensing opportunities in Europe, North American and China.

"It's terrific to know that Rory is becoming popular elsewhere in the world", states

author Andrew Wolfe. "I have always felt that Rory, his friends and their seaside adventures have universal appeal and this goes some way to proving it. It's nice to think that this could be the first of many international successes over the next few years."

Rory now has his very own website at www.rorystories.com with animation, sound effects and lots of fun things to see and do. A guided tour of Sandy Bay, activity pages to download and an Online Shop featuring selected Rory Stories products are just some of the great things visitors will find.

The theme tune featured on the website is yet another Glenkens production. *Rory's Song* written and arranged by John Neil, sung by the children of Kell's Primary School, New Galloway and local musician Tommy Edgar played the accordion accompaniment.

2003 promises to be another exciting year for The Rory Stories.

In February, Rory and author Andrew Wolfe will be the stars of a programme on Radio Scotland as part of the station's *Telling Tales* series about children's books with a Scottish connection. The new Rory Stories titles will be hitting the bookshelves in shops throughout the UK from the beginning of April and Andrew is scheduled to appear at the world-renowned Edinburgh International Book Festival for the fourth year.



HAREBELL FLOWER REMEDIES

THE VIBRATIONAL POWER OF FLOWERS

'There are few places I know of to match the peace and vibrancy of a summer's day in Galloway'.

Galloway is a place that inspires artists, walkers and nature lovers alike. Ellie Web, who is based in Dalry, extracts its physical and natural properties to create her own flower and plant essences. Stepping into her home/work space is like stepping into a more feminine and modern version of a hobbits lair. A subtle aroma of gentle flower essences lures and welcomes. If, on a cold winters day you could enter the petals of a snowdrop, it would surely have a similar comforting appeal.

Inspired by her wild garden while living in Corsock in the mid 1980s, Ellie began to experiment by creating her own essences with flowers from her garden and the surrounding countryside. She has continued to learn and to practice so that she now runs her own business, Harebell Remedies, from her home in Dalry.

The creation of essences can be a very personal experience as she explains that 'someone else's rose essence may be different from mine'. The quality of the essence is discerned by paying close attention to that particular plant, its

colours, and environment. It is a reconnection with plants and flowers whereby the essence of the plant, which has a vibrational effect within nature, is drawn into the water which can then be taken as an essence.

'Vibrational flower essences have come about as a result of recognising the special relationship between the plant world and ourselves'. The essences subtly stimulate our own vibrations which are used to 'balance emotions and nurture positive thinking'.



As each essence has its own quality for each individual, a personal and unique combination can be created. Ellie offers consultations whereby dowsing with a crystal can help ascertain which essence is suitable for you at a particular time. Ellie also makes seasonal combinations with the essences of flowers suitable for each time of the year. The Spring Renewal Remedy is used to 'lighten, cleanse and renew as winter's dark mantle is shed'. It has a combination of seasonal ingredients such as primrose, lungwort, snowdrop and wild thyme.

The ingredients for these essences are surrounding us. Galloway, in particular is a flower essence haven. The 'mother'



essence must be made on a day when the sun is shining. A small number of petals from the flower are placed in a fine glass bowl of spring water. The bowl is then placed in the sunshine next to the plant it originated from. As Galloway is the favourite hideaway for mists and rains, Ellie admits that the days of sunshine must be potentialised. Even winter sun, however, has its properties which can act as a subtle lighting and warming force on the plants and their vibrations.

The array of small pipette bottles and crystals, along with the dowsing technique of selection inspire notions of alchemy. As the sun splices through those winter clouds onto the broom and heather on the hills it could be seen that Ellie's flower remedies are a translation for nature's own alchemy. Who could possibly resist the heavenly appeal of a bottle filled with the essence of sunshine and vibrating flowers?

AKN

For more information on Harebell Remedies, or for a private consultation please call Ellie Web on 01644 430607.

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GLENKENS COMMUNITY MINIBUS

already registered as users but there's plenty room for more !

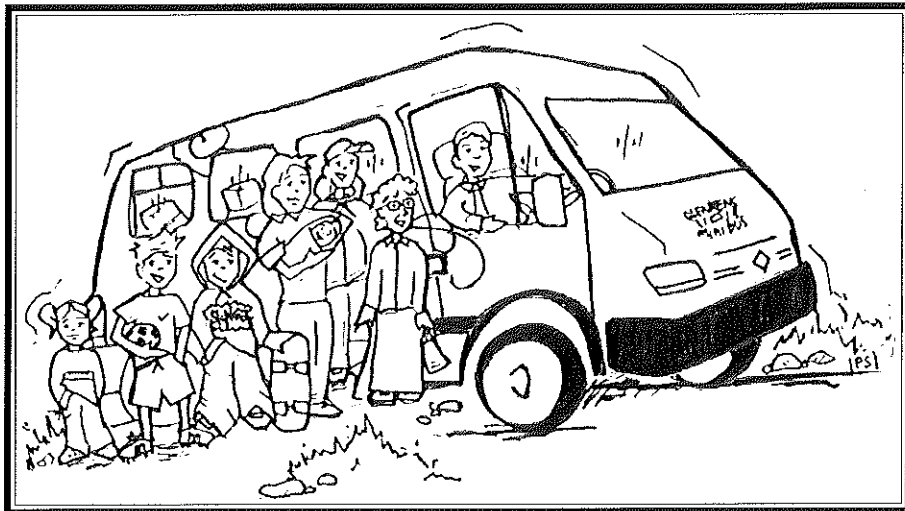
A 'user group' does not need to be an established club but can simply be any non-profit making group e.g. friends who want to get together to run trips to the cinema/ theatre/ football etc. etc. or

Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool or to visit Dumfries Infirmary.

If you are interested in any of these suggestions, have any other ideas or would like to register as a user group please contact Mary at the GCAT Shop, High Street, New Galloway, telephone 420374 (answerphone outwith office hours). Mary or any member of the committee would be happy to discuss any Community Bus issues with you or your group and copies of the Terms and Conditions of Hire are available on request.

Do not miss out on this new opportunity for you, your group and the Glenkens.

Brian Edgar



Anyone interested in a weekly swimming pool trip to Kirkcudbright pool using the Community Bus please contact Wendy Davis on 420 225.

WINDOW DISPLAY

It is intended to change the display in the GCAT shop window at regular intervals throughout 2003. We are hoping to reflect the artistic and community life of the Glenkens. Our present topical exhibition, created by Kells School, features Robert Burns. If you are an artist/craftsman or part of a local community group and would like to use the space, please contact the GCAT office on 01644 420374.

The new Glenkens Community Minibus has now been with us for three months and December was it's busiest month yet. All Glenkens communities have now used the bus and it has travelled as far afield as Livingston, made several trips to Ayr and has attracted envious glances in most parts of the Stewartry.

Everyone who has hired the smart new Renault Minibus has been impressed with it and people are beginning to realise the possibilities that it offers to our community.

Many groups, formal and informal, have

Illustration by Pete Smith

maybe you organise events in one community but would like to offer transport to bring in people from around the Glenkens.

Registering as a 'user group' only costs £10 per year (for Glenkens based groups) and you then pay for the bus as you use it, based on a mileage and hourly rate set at a modest level to cover running costs.

The committee would also like to establish if there would be a demand for running regular trips, for example to

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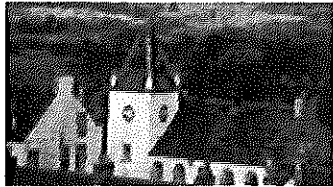
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New Galloway - Our Historic Burgh

By Helen Bolton



Part XIII Further Developments

The late 18th Century and early 19th Century brought more changes and improvements to New Galloway and Kells Parish in general. Robert Heron, writing in 1792, tells of the poor housing in the village, but also comments on the good gardens had by each cottage, where tenants grew vegetables and kept a cow or a pig. There was a Farmer's Club which met weekly in the village.

In 1796 John Rennie designed a bridge across the Water of Ken, to be paid for by public subscription. This bridge replaced the old ferry and the Cubbox Ford, and was built to carry the new Toll Road from Dumfries to Newton Stewart, via Crocketford, Balmaclellan, and New Galloway, across the river. When the Foundation Stone was laid, Hon. John Gordon of Kenmure entertained many people to dinner at the Spalding Arms, and among the guests were the seventeen oldest male inhabitants of New Galloway.

In 1797 a Parliamentary Bill permitted local District Trusts to "make new lines of roads and bridges, and suppress useless roads." On the early OS maps the roads are marked with the

District Trust under whose care they came. The Toll Road through New Galloway was completed in 1809, but only two years later severe floods destroyed the bridge across the Water of Ken. It was ten years before it was rebuilt. Foot passengers were forced to resort once more to the old ferry, while wheeled transport used the ford. One hopes the Ken Bridge Toll Keeper did not charge Tolls during this time.

The old coaching inn, the Spalding Arms (built on land owned by the Spalding family of Balmaclellan), was built circa 1796, where the two Turnpike Roads crossed. However, there had been a hostelry on that site for several centuries, being convenient for both the ferry and the Cubbox Ford, serving travellers on the ancient Pilgrim route to Whithorn. The hostelry today is called the Ken Bridge Hotel.

Improved roads also brought better coach and postal services. Even though there had been a Post Office in Dumfries for many years, a regular mail coach service only began in Galloway in 1789. Mail to New Galloway came via Castle

Douglas and Crossmichael, and both the Spalding Arms and the Kenmure Arms in New Galloway were old coaching inns. According to Pigot's Directory of 1837, mails arrived in the village at 3pm and were collected to return to Dumfries at 7pm.

We know of Sir Alexander Gordon's canal from Carlingwark Loch to the River Dee, but in 1790 a much greater project was planned. A canal from Kirkcudbright, following the east bank of the Dee through ten locks of Glenloch, to link Loch Ken with the sea was discussed. A further canal from the Northern end of the loch would carry vessels up to Dalry. The total length of this wonderful project was twenty six miles. The cost was estimated at £33,000, a vast sum of money in those days. The possibility of a further canal running to Dalmellington was also discussed. Fortunately, before the Glenkens Canal left the drawing board the planners "came back to earth", and the whole crazy idea was shelved for ever.

Helen Bolton

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"Kenmure on and awa"

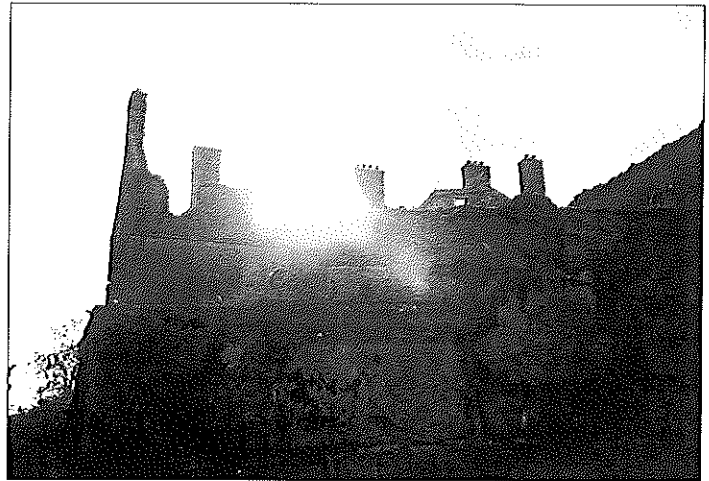
The ruins of Kenmure Castle rise gaunt in the rain as adolescent voices shrill "get off my land" to a group of rather startled looking rabbits. It's a far cry from 1793, when Kenmure prompted Burns' travelling companion Dr Currie to rhapsodise "I can scarcely conceive a scene more Romantic than the Castle of Kenmure". Presumably the removal of the roof in the 1950's to evade roof tax would not have been greeted with the same romantic enthusiasm. So where once stepped such notable figures as Queen Mary, Robert Burns and Gordon Viscounts, now twist weeds, briars and inquisitive children.

Kenmure has been one of the Glenkens' most conspicuous landmarks for over eight hundred years. John Balliol, King of Scotland, tenaciously retained possession of Kenmure, despite making large land concessions to the English King, Edward I. The castle then passed through the hands of the Douglas' and the Maxwells of Caerlaverock before being bought in 1297 by an early cadet of the great house of Gordon. Kenmure remained, precariously, in Gordon hands until the death of Adam Gordon, the last Viscount, in 1872.

Ruin for both family and home, however, was never far away, as the condition of Kenmure's bricks and mortar mirrored the notorious vicissitudes of the lives of the Kenmure and Lochinvar Gordons. Lord Cockburn, in his "Circuit Journey's" of 1839, pertinently commented that although the castle was "by far the most striking thing I've seen of late" it was as full of "scornful spirit". It contained both the germs of romance and ruin. Kenmure has three times choked on the fires of enemies. Queen Mary, after the rout of her army at Langside in 1568, found sanctuary at Kenmure. Yet, after her delicate feet came the heavy stomping of retribution: Kenmure was put to the torch by a vengeful Moray. The castle also suffered under Cromwell in 1650. The tale goes that a visiting clergyman, John Sample, on seeing building works, rolled his eyes and proclaimed "Lads, ye were busy enlarging and repairing the house, but it will be burned like a crow's nest on a misty morning". On a misty morning a few years later Cromwell gladly obliged.

The lurching fortunes of the Gordons rose and fell most spectacularly at the time of William, the Sixth Viscount. He took part in the 1715 Jacobite rebellion and was executed at Tower Hill for High Treason. It was rumoured that his wife Mary Dalyall, whose family, the Dalryells of Carnworth, were deeply dyed with Jacobite sympathy, persuaded him to rebellion. Yet the idea of the hen pecked husband proves an unflattering myth. The domestic annals of Scotland detail the Viscount provocatively drinking to the Pretender's health before his marriage, the strength of his political sympathies very much in evidence. In fact, Smollett, affected by the merits of the Viscount, described him as "a virtuous nobleman, calm, sensible, resolute, and resigned." Yet in 1716 he was dead and his family in chaos.

The situation was desperate and his widow's reaction spectacular. By coach, she careered along twisting roads in failing



light and then darkness, newly widowed, to reach Kenmure. She then roused her relatives and friends to support her in a frantic bid to keep the heavily in debt estate in Gordon hands. She succeeded, and is beautifully identified in Burke's peerage as "a woman of spirit." Her actions to restore her failing house, though, stretched further than desperate courage. Her steady financial grafting ensured that by the time of her son's majority she was able to hand over the castle clear of debt, reserving for herself only a modest annuity.

Her eldest son promptly mortgaged Kenmure for £30,000. Lady Mary lived long enough to see the effect of her good management heartlessly destroyed as the expected comfort of old age wore a clown's mocking face. Her second son then completed the destruction: a bill of sale was hastily drawn up in the wake of unenviable debts. Yet in its hour of need, a Gordon wife, once again saved Kenmure. Lady Frances McKenzie sold her own private property to rescue Kenmure from the impudence of its owner.

Today, though, the nobility of Kenmure is in ruins with little hope of a reprieve. The current owners, Mr and Mrs Gordon, descended from the Lochinvar Gordons, cannot fund its restoration. So beams lock together like broken limbs and official danger signs litter jagged doorways. Yet history, with a spectral finger, still caresses Kenmure. A visitor can almost catch Robert Burns in their eyelashes: hear his voice raised in performance. Hercules at his distaff: reading his epitaph to Mrs Gordon's dead lap dog. Then, in a visitor's next heartbeat, white pockmarks transform themselves into a newly painted facade, gleaming in the sunlight.

The castle has fluttered to the cusp of the Twentieth Century. Which is the Kenmure captured so romantically by the painter James Faed Jnr. The castle, in the centre of the painting, rises like a fairy tale, cushioned by leafy branches and softly sunned hills. The large painting now adorns the New Galloway Town Hall and it is a sad irony that although the hall keeps history alive in the form of traditional music, one of its main historical artefacts has become the camping ground of ghost seeking youngsters. The grandeur of Kenmure is now only a picture on a wall just as its Jacobite cry of 'Kenmure on and awa' has become a popular Scotch air. How times change.

by Hannah Adcock.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GCATNEWSGCATNEWS

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Phil Kay recounts his experience of New Galloway when he performed at the Ken Bridge in December.

"So far this year I have been to the sea and hoovered my car, sauna'd and drunk whisky and cycled and worn the clothes of a dead man."

This is a history and full record, a recounting of every single time I have been to New Galloway. I have been to New Galloway one single time. I have never even been to Old Galloway or any of the Galloways in their mid-thirties.

Is it technically an impressively endowed village or is it a charming wee town? I know there is no way it is large enough to be a town, it is just that it feels like it is almost qualified. It has all one would need: a self contained nature with an amplex of sufficiency. There is the church, the shops, a high street, the people, a memorial, a natural sporting amphitheatre, a ruinous haunted giant old house and an arts centre to be.

I arrived after that drive, you know:

motorway, motorway, dual carriageway, dual carriageway, single carriageway, windy road, windy road, hilly, bendy, windy road, humpbacked bridge, New Galloway. I arrived in the dark and ate and walked to the venue with eyes accustoming to the dark, slowly opening up and making what they can of it. The dark was quite light and our moonshadows tiptoed along with us, skulking a bit, much less confident and proud than their medal winning daylight sun cousins. It definitely feels like we are all walking on the ocean floor and that the thick misty mist is a hanging sea, the weird trees, black like a coralsque still black giant seaweed.

This is the guiding feeling I try to go with as my opening idea onstage: that arriving by foot is a good thing getting a chance to look around; it is really about seeing things and having something to talk about.

I told the story of getting dragged off the train by the transport police after I had held the train to ransom with possibly no wasp, the story of being kicked in by Russians at a Polish nightclub and the story of picking up my stolen laptop from a

forecourt handover riding on a tandem. I sang about falling in love in space for ten minutes in the interval, though no-one really heard it.

Later I threw my guitar into the middle of the river from under the Ken Bridge. We were playing songs and enjoying the structural acoustics. I did some jokey thing that ended with me beginning the move of pretending to throw my guitar in the river. Just as I was launched physically into this manoeuvre I realise that I don't really like to pretend to do things that get a laugh because you would obviously never do this crazy thing. I knew I wished rather to honour the wonder of this moonlight scene by a true act of grandeur. I hurled her into the deep, dark, moving middle and she starts to sink downstream the river engulfing her and getting a grip. I run down the beach a bit and stop to take off my steel toecaps and jacket and wade in to meet the guitar coming slowly to me, like through molasses. She creaks like an old boat under the weight of all the water inside as I raise her out, slicing her through the strings.



above: Phil Kay performing at the Kenmure Arms.

above right: Phil checks out the New Galloway football pitch, with his imaginary team. Nice save Phil !



Phil Kay will be returning in the Summer to perform at the Alternative Games.

New Galloway Throwaway

In New Galloway

I was told
how my old
comedic chum
Phil Kay
had hurled his guitar
into the Ken,
then waded through the midnight old
to retrieve it.
One can easily believe it
of this wild and jolly-jumpered Jock
and when we next met
he explained how he had merely meant
to make the gesture of throwing
but something seemed to say
that he should get his guitar wet
and not stop the throwing yet.
And I imagined him jettisoning
his instrument in the hope that
some musical mer-person
might extend an arm and catch it
by the neck, check
the tension, give him a moonlit tune
then cast down a hat
anticipating further tossing
of appreciative coin.

by John Hegley



John Hegley remembers the Forgotten Carols

GCAT NEWS GCAT NEWS GCAT NEWS

Plans for the development of The Old School in New Galloway are progressing well - maybe a little slowly at times but definitely surely. As a result of the very successful Music Weekend with Jo Miller we are exploring links with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow and hope to become one of their REACH OUT Centres.

Meanwhile we are starting to develop pilot workshops and classes and we still have the enthusiasm and commitment of Beechgrove Garden. Good progress is being made on formalising the Glenkens Jubilee Walk and that should be ready by the summer.

We're delighted that Amy Neil has risen to the challenge of acting as our Guest Editor for this Issue of the Glenkens Gazette. Do please get in touch with us at the GCAT Shop if you'd like to take on a future issue - for which you would get paid!

Forgotten Carols



In the lingering no mans land between Christmas and New Year the singers of the Forgotten Carols brought a memorable warmth and vibrance to the Glenkens. The Carols that were taken from various sources dating back to the early 12th Century and had been learned by the 35 strong choir in the two months prior to Christmas. Interspersed with the magical, fun and poignant songs were a selection of readings from Christine Blyth. The music was gathered and arranged by Alison Burns who has the Midas touch that brings out the golden harmonies of the voices that reverberated the hall.



Dalgarno Singers

When snow looked like it might have made an appearance by dusting our noses in the lead up to a certain young man's birthday, the Dalgarno singers were on stage, in New Galloway, entertaining a Yule hugging, mulled wine sipping audience. Their powerful opening half of choral pieces pervaded the air with an atmosphere of morning meditation, which was lightened in the second half with classic carols and audience participation. The highlight of the evening was the astounding solo from Nick Spence who engaged every single member of the audience with his electric performance of The Carol Singer.

FORTHCOMING GCAT EVENTS

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FRIDAY : 28TH MARCH

John Hegley

NEW GALLOWAY TOWN HALL 8pm

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BALLET BOX SHOW 2002

After a lot of excitement and wondering what on earth our children were up to in the Balmacellan Village Hall every Friday afternoon, we all got a very good insight of the hard work Katie Wiseman (the dance teacher) has put in over the past months.

On Friday 13th at 3.45pm the show was underway and what a great show it was.

Skipping, rhythm, toe tapping stuff all 38 children who participated showed us what they could do and how well they did do it. The hall was packed solid with smiling faces.

Katie is a recognised ISTD dance teacher who comes to the Glenkens every Friday afternoon from Ayr. We must say how lucky we are to have such an experienced, young, energetic and enthusiastic person giving us such a great activity that the Glenkens should be proud of.

We used this show as our first active fund-raiser and we managed to raise £370 from ticket sales, raffle and donations which Katie can now start a box of resources that our children will benefit from.

If there are any budding dancers out there who are interested in joining please phone 420 328 for more information.

Watch this space for the next show!

GLENKENS PRE-SCHOOL MUSICAL GROUP



Children go round the Mulberry Bush



Mums and children enjoy Incy-wincy spider

Throughout 2003, Tony Bonning, who runs the popular Play it by Ear group for pre-school children, will be running monthly musical sessions in the Glenkens. The sessions are great fun for pre-school children and babies love them too! The cost of the session is £2 per parent/carer. Just come along on the day. Bring something to make music with, like a drum, a tambourine, some bells or a homemade instrument.

If you would like more information please contact Alison Caldwell on 01644 420272.

Dates for February and March: Monday 10 February & Monday 10 March

PANTOMIME

For their pantomime the Glenkens '73 Drama Club chose the traditional "Sleeping Beauty", which combined essential elements of good, evil, comedy and a happy ending. In the title role was Marie-Joan Mousset, who charmed all her suitors, the Princes of Iceland, China, Ceylon the flamboyant Prince of Mexico and the hero, Prince Richard. With the help of the fairy Queen he won the Princess and defeated evil.

Relishing in their roles as baddies were Christine Rae and her enthusiastic rats James, Ross Smith and Cagney, Callum Gilligan.

The comedy was provided by Bimbo, the Court Jester, a very assured performance by Emma Thomson, and King Fred and Queen Formica an inspired double act, particularly when changing the babies nappy.

Other memorable moments were the stunning transformation scene after the hundred years sleep and the duel between the Prince of Mexico and Iceland, a confident duo who added greatly to the enjoyment. There were also lovely cameo performances from Lady Pamela Tooth, Dum Dum, the Witches son and the Court Chamberlain.

Congratulations to everyone on an excellent show.

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TODDLER GROUP IN CRISIS NEW YEAR START FOR TODDLERS IN NEW GALLOWAY

Due to the low number of children attending, and the high rent of the Town Hall, the toddler group in the New Galloway Town Hall is in crisis of closing. Over the past years it has been a hive of action and a fun and enjoyable place to bring your children, to meet new people and have a sociable, interactive time. We have excellent equipment including a climbing frame, slides, trikes, tractors, duplo, music and instruments, playdough, and many more fun and exciting things to experience with your toddler. Our toddler group, which is open to 0-5 year olds, costs only £1 and takes place every Tuesday morning from 9.45 to 11.15 in the New Galloway Town Hall.

We are having an open day on the 11th February. If there is anyone out there willing to come along and meet us and ask any questions please do not hesitate to do so. We are open to new ideas and views on how we can improve our situation.

We need you and your toddlers to support us.

REMEMBER - USE US, OR LOSE US!

GLENKENS SOCIETY HORTICULTURAL SECTION

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm, on Wednesday 19th February at 24 Main Street, Dalry. The agenda includes the re-election of officers and the organisation of the 2003 flower show. We urgently need a volunteer for the position of secretary to deal with the clerical work associated with the flower show. Additional members for the committee would be helpful, particularly representation from New Galloway, Balmaclellan, and Carshphairn.

If you can help in any way please contact the chairman,
Alan Wright on 430291, or the treasurer,
Hilda McAdam on 430383.

STEWARTY BRANCH OF SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB

February 13th : Annual Film Show -
Seabird Summer & Birds of a Pennine Forest
introduced by Gordon Yates.

March 13th : Memories of Western Mediterranean
introduced by Norman Elkins.

April 3rd : Members Night
with short talks, slides and discussions.

All meetings held in Kells School on
Thursdays at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Regular Glenkens Events

Heather Hoppers: Thursday's 1.15-1.55 pm and 2-2.40 pm
Please call 420328 to book a place before starting.
Balmaclellan Village Hall, £2

Ballet Box: Friday afternoon's, open to pre-schoolers and school age children. Please call 420328 to book your place and ask any queries
Balmaclellan Village Hall, £2

Aerobics: Fridays from 6.30-7.30pm
Balmaclellan Village Hall £3.10

Toddlers in New Galloway: Tuesdays 9.45am-11.15am

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Church Exchange

During the months of October and November 2002, David, the family and I exchanged Church Parishes with Selwyn and Natalie Yeomen and their youngest daughter Monica. Selwyn is the Minister of Mosgiel - North Taieri Presbyterian Church, just outside of Dunedin, New Zealand. We also exchanged homes, cars and stipend.

David and Selwyn both worked for five weeks and had several weeks holiday. The parishes are different in that here we are in the country with a large area but a small population, and Mosgiel is a town with a population of about 12,000 people. People in the churches were very warm and welcoming and spoilt us with lots of home baking and other goodies. Mosgiel church has a broader and more even range of all ages.

North Taieri Church is more similar to here in having a traditional Presbyterian style service, but the Mosgiel Church has managed to move on and have a 9.30 am service on Sundays which is more all age friendly. They have two youth bands, a choir and a ladies music group. These groups take turns in leading worship on Sunday mornings.

The first Sunday we were in Mosgiel, the Church had their AGM during the service and it was very interesting for us to hear about all the different groups within the church and what they do. It was a new experience for us to live in a manse right next door to the church. We learnt, and enjoyed, to recycle most of our rubbish. Selwyn is keen on recycling and had a very good system in place. It was very satisfying on our second last day in Mosgiel to visit the recycling centre with a car boot full of rubbish for recycling.

Fiona and Jamie were able to attend one of the local primary schools in Mosgiel. They especially liked the school playground.



Most schools in New Zealand seem to have lovely playgrounds and adventure courses for the children. We all enjoyed being able to cycle to and from the school each day. Mosgiel is very flat and the school a bit further away from us than Dalry School is from the manse. It was lovely to be able to use the car sparingly for the five weeks.

Apart from being a work exchange and a learning experience, we were all able to take time for some holiday. We were able to spend time with David's youngest sister who lives on a sheep farm on the Canterbury Plains not too far from Ashburton. It was a very refreshing and relaxing break from work here. The children enjoyed the many exciting parts of farm life, including being able to handle and feed pet lambs.

We hope you all here in the Glenkens enjoyed having the Yeomans with you for a short while.

Heidi Bartholomew

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Forthcoming events

8th February : Night at the Races
Proceeds to go to Carsphairn Primary School

14th February : Valentines Night Special
£27.50 for a 3 course meal for two
Bookings now being taken

15th March : St Patrick's Night Folk Music Night

Tel: 01644 460 235 for reservations and enquiries
We also take bookings for private parties and functions

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(for appointments)

Dalry School Coffee Morning

Dalry Primary School coffee morning on Friday 13th December was a great success. There were different stalls to suit everyone, lots of bric-a-brac, toys, books, baking by kind parents and friends, lovely Christmas decorations made by primaries 1 to 7 and adult helpers. There was a raffle and tombola and primaries 3 to 5 did games. One of the fun games was to pick which baby picture went with which staff member. Primaries 6 to 7 served coffee to lots of people who came to support us.

Thank you all. We made £550 for Primary School funds and had a great day too.

By Kirsteen Currie

Primary 7

A tale of the eclipse, from Australia

Yes we did it! We saw the eclipse! It was great. The sky was as clear as could be and the view was terrific. Nothing to get in the way here at Woomera!

There is not very much here at all. Long views of stony desert with small salt bushes dotted about. We did see an emu, several sheep and some 'roos out there last night. It seems the salt bush is full of protein so the sheep survive well.

We chose to see it here rather than the other places on the eclipse route because we thought that there might be crowd problems at those. Here, because it is a restricted zone, you had to book and be were bussed out to the viewing point. So it was all organised (the organisation here in Woomera village was pretty hopeless - but that is another story). I sat next to a guy who is a folk dancer but working for British Aerospace in Adelaide, so we had a good conversation. Dennis was next to a guy who used to work at Woomera during the heady 60s, so he had even better chat.

Because the eclipse was shortly before sunset, we were able to sit in our deck chairs, we providently took along with us, and just look forward, without having to strain our necks into the sky. It was a wonderful sight. So was sunset which was pretty amazing as the eclipse was still happening. The sun went down looking like a red sail over the horizon, a red hot shark fin. The actual sun set was just a pin prick as the top of the triangle sank below the land.

I now have my "been there, done that" T-shirt.

Rhoda Rugg

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GLENKENS DIARY

FEBRUARY

Friday 7th : Valentines Disco

In aid of Save the Children,
Masonic Hall, Castle Douglas.
8pm-12pm, Tickets £5
Call 420225 for enquiries

Saturday 8th : Night at the Races
Proceeds to Carsphairn Primary School
Greystones

Friday 14th : Valentines Cellidh
Balmaclellan Village Hall

MARCH

Saturday 15th
Glenkens and District Music Club
Edinburgh Barock
Dalry Town Hall

Saturday 15th March :
St Patrick's Night Folk Music Night
Greystones, Carsphairn

Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th
Dalry Primary School -
performance of 'BUGSY'

Friday 28th : John Hegley
New Galloway Town Hall - 8pm

February, date to be confirmed.
Kells Primary School hosts the night of star
gazing with the Dumfries Astronomical
Society. Members of the public welcome.

March week beginning 24th
Kells Primary School Music Festival
performance at New Galloway Town Hall.
details to be confirmed.

The 10th edition of Kells Primary
School's Glenkens Express will be out
on 24th February. The deadline for
articles of interest and adverts is 7th
February. If you would like to submit
anything please get in touch with the
editing team at Kells on 420340

*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.*

Deadline for April / May

Issue 15: Saturday 11th March.

Please contact the Editor on 01644 420374

or by e-mail : editor@glenkensgazette.com

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

* The United Service is at 10.30 am in Dalry Church.

7th March: World Day of Prayer, 7pm, Carsphairn
Church

Evening Praise, 6pm, first Sunday of every month.

Is your event listed here?

Is it hard to find out what else is on?

*It is now possible 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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