

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

June / July 2003

ISSUE 16

www.glenkensgazette.com

John Hegley's British Tour First Stop New Galloway !

Is it a Poem?

Fish, dogs and poetry were the order of the day for local children at the Ken Bridge Hotel on May 3.

Children aged 7-11 year old took part in a writing workshop with John Hegley, organised by Glenkens Community and Arts Trust.

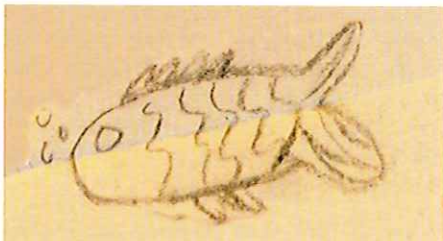
The previous night Hegley had performed at New Galloway Town Hall as a benefit evening to promote the continuing activities of GCAT. Chairman, Cathy Agnew, said "it's been a terrific gesture of John Hegley to support us in this way".

Hegley is author of nine poetry books including the children's collection *My Dog is a Carrot*, which mixes laughter and learning. He was also recently featured on Radio 4s top children's programme 'Go For It'.

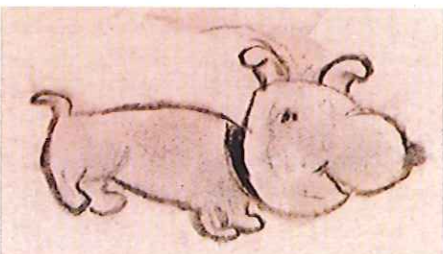
About twenty children from all corners of Dumfries and Galloway attended the writing workshop. One mother from Lockerbie, Tina Shenton, commented that "It's great to have things like this in wee places."

Hegley performed some of his children's poems to the unusual accompaniment of Andrew Bailey's percussion. One instrument had the appearance of a lollipop.

The children's favourite performance by the pair, however, was their 'Me' poem. It went 'Me, me, ME, me, me, Me...!'



Drawings from the Workshop



Hegley listening to the children

Participation was very much encouraged. Children buzzed like bees, drew dogs and fishes and made up LEAF poems. Hegley's example of a LEAF poem, 'Luton Excels At Football' was more than matched in humour by a child's 'Lets All Eat Frogs'.

Props featured significantly in the workshop. Hegley introduced a dishevelled dog puppet as a 'Sack Russell' while 'The King' was, in fact, a blow up Ape. The emphasis was on learning through fun.

At the end of the workshop a tree made up of all the children's drawings and LEAF poems was constructed. Hegley asked the assembled children, "Is it a poem or is it just an elm?" He then sang a final song about a flatulent dog.

Book signing and the stamping of LEAF poems rounded up the hour-long workshop.

The Sound of Paint Drying

A full crowd saw John Hegley, one of the country's finest comic poets, perform at New Galloway Town Hall on May 2.

Hegley had made New Galloway the first stop of his British Tour promoting his latest poetry collection, 'The Sound of Paint Drying'.

The show mixed local talent with Hegley's consummate professionalism. The newly formed Glenkens-based band 'Wet Paint', led by Donald Gisbey, began the evening with light country and quirky classics. They later formed a backing group for Hegley and his comedic co-partner Andrew Bailey.

Hegley's performance was remarkable for its energy. Plunging through 'rock' mandolin, trademark spectacle songs and "weapons and the capacity to hurt" Hegley scarcely seemed to draw breath.

(Continued P.5)

Text by H Adcock

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Hegley, Bailey and 'Wet Paint'



Hegley and Bailey with THAT Glove

Scottish Parliament Elections 2003

- Alex Fergusson (Conservative) won the Galloway and Upper Nithsdale constituency by less than 100 votes from previous constituency MSP Alasdair Morgan (SNP). Mr Fergusson received 11,332 votes whilst Mr Morgan received 11,233 votes.
- Alex Fergusson therefore moves from being a List MSP to being the constituency MSP.
- Alasdair Morgan will be back in Edinburgh as a List MSP, elected by proportional representation.
- The turnout was 57.38%

Council Elections 2003

- Stewartry North again went to George Prentice (Independent) who received a majority of 490 against his opponent Graham Watson (Conservative).
- All eight Stewartry Councillors were re-elected.
- Turnout was 61.63%

(Continued P.8)

Glenkens' Jewellers: Polished to Perfection

Natalie Vardey

For Balmaclellan's prestigious jeweller, Natalie Vardey, crochet involves meticulous skill, silver thread and the interweaving of pearls. From brooches to berets, Natalie's trademark pearls in woven silver are technically accomplished and beautifully original. Yet to appreciate only Natalie's crochet work is to find but one pearl on a rich sea-bed.

To locate three more pearls: from 1979-83 Natalie made three 18ct yellow and white gold dandelion clocks pieces, for the late sculptor Ann Garland. In 1998 Natalie won a commission from Dumfries and Galloway Council to design and build 38 revolving railing heads for the banks of the Nith in Dumfries to be in place for 2000. The project was to celebrate the historic trades of the town as well as to encourage locals and visitors to interact with their environment.

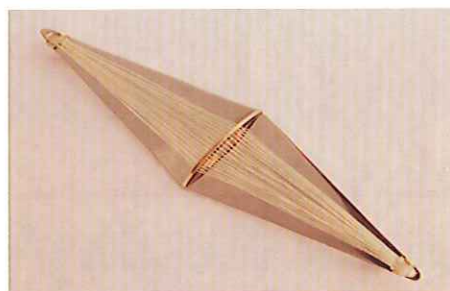
In January, Natalie exhibited her "Continuum Brooch" at Top Draw in London and at "Scottish Select" at Scotland's International Trade Fair in Glasgow. The brooch resonates with architectural concerns, stretching whole strings through a bridge that may be rising

over a watercourse or over the smooth body of a violin. Unsurprisingly, Natalie admits that she finds "buildings" and "the spaces between buildings" inspiring. Concerns present in the oeuvre of many modern artists, including Antony Gormley's, whose work Natalie strongly admires.

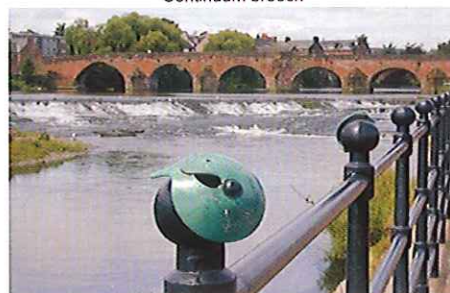
Natalie also makes all types of jewellery in all manner of conditions. Moving from Putney, London to the Isle of Eigg in 1979, she left behind the workshop of E.Wolf and Co for a caravan at the edge of a beach. She "made jewellery in spite of conditions" and changed her work practices to "embrace the lack of power rather than be frustrated by it". Natalie lived and worked on Eigg for eleven years with a population who became "like an extended family" before coming to the Glenkens thirteen years ago.

Natalie has taken part in a plethora of exhibitions during her career and is currently preparing for a seventh show at top Edinburgh Gallery The Open Eye at the end of June. She also has forthcoming exhibitions at The Broughton Gallery near Biggar and at We Three Kings in Oxfordshire, both at the end of August.

Natalie can be contacted on 01644 420634 or by e-mail ask@natalievardey.com



Continuum brooch



Finials



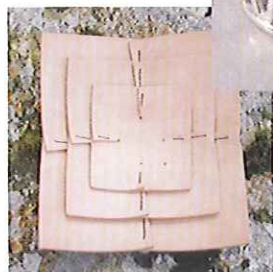
18ct dome and silver cord



Titanium Earrings



"Double Wave"
Silver Ring



Leather
Bowls

Robert Wallis

Robert Wallis, aspiring sculptor, silversmith, and self-taught web page designer, remains something of a mystery figure in the Glenkens. His business is largely constituted around the internet, a way of buying and selling that he believes is becoming gradually "more acceptable". His web page, with a worldly smile, is www.soldering-on.co.uk. The web page's introduction swims bite size sentences in and out of vision before the page settles to quality photos and a plea for feedback on a necklace and earrings that mix titanium and silver.

The web site also seeps sincerity: "I am a 'one man band', so to speak...which makes every sale very important to me and every customer important". Goods can be returned within twenty days if undamaged and a refund will be issued. A recent customer ordering a bridal ring commented that out of all the (real) people she'd dealt with via the internet and postal service, Robert had been "by far the best".

One of Robert's mantras is that jewellery should be a personal thing: "I enjoy working with people to create something unique to them". Imagination on their part, however, is appreciated.

Robert likes to be different. He also likes to be "bigger and bolder". Recent work with titanium allows pieces to be extremely light even when large. Two earrings are several diving centimeters long but as light as a feather. They also offer a mechanical aesthetic that substantiates Robert's interest in engineering.

Another pendant is a sealed and empty titanium box resonant with meaning. Robert laughs when I suggest this but he does think of himself as an artist. He has a flair for careering off in different directions and produces not only jewellery but leather bowls and twiddles, amazing articles that might just be art. Then again Robert admits to feeling like a typical person fiddling in their shed, so twiddled articles may just be the creative equivalent to elderberry wine and doddering bird-houses.

After studying silver smithing and jewellery at college, Robert moved to the Midlands. There followed an eight-year stint working for a small, busy firm that made upmarket jewellery for the London market. By year four Robert had become head designer but by 2000 he was heading for The Glenkens.

Robert can be contacted on: 01644 420638 or by e-mail enquiries@soldering-on.co.uk

Text by H Adcock

A Wintry Welcome!

The 26th of April saw the Grand Opening of Spalding Bowling Club for the season. The event was good humoured if soggy. The president's wife, Ann McNally, performed the customary bowling of the silver jack. She was also presented with the complementary trophy to dent or polish as fate intended.

John McNally, in a speech of welcome, spoke

of recent improvements to the fabric of the clubhouse. A new kitchen has been built and the interior of the club house painted.

The opening ceremony included the welcome warmth of liquid refreshments. There was also still talk that play might be possible that evening.

The club, with 32 members at the moment, was established in 1912 and boasts

customised blazers, ties and badges. Mr McNally, however, wearing a white mac at the opening, proved that the club catered for more modern tastes as well.

He also invited controversy when remarking in conversation that "there's not many good players here". Cries of "speak for yourself" were amiably offered and accepted. As one member said, "Spalding is a friendly and supportive club".

MacMillan Fund Charity Competition

New Galloway Golf Club hosted the fifth MacMillan charity golf competition on April 27. Ian McQueen, Captain of the Club, presented the results:

Men:

1st J.E.Yates and A Campbell with net scores of 60.

2nd D.P.Shipley and I.Greig with net scores of 61.

3rd B.Porteous with a net score of 63.

Ladies:

1st A McQueen and S.Findlay with a net score of 70.

The Cancer MacMillan Fund made £198.40 and the ladies of the committee are to be thanked for their hard work in making and selling refreshments and attending to the raffle.

Marie Curie's Delightful Daffodils

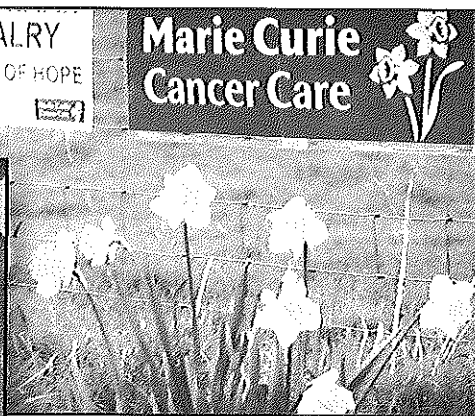
The last few months have seen the emergence of a host of beautiful daffodils outside Dalry School. The daffodils were planted by the Dalry based Marie Curie Cancer Care Committee, to act as a "Field of Hope".

Three years ago Hilda McAdam came up with the idea and set up a committee last year. Last December MSPs Alasdair Morgan and Alex Fergusson planted the first daffodil bulbs with the invaluable help of Hilda's

granddaughter, Kimberly McAdam.

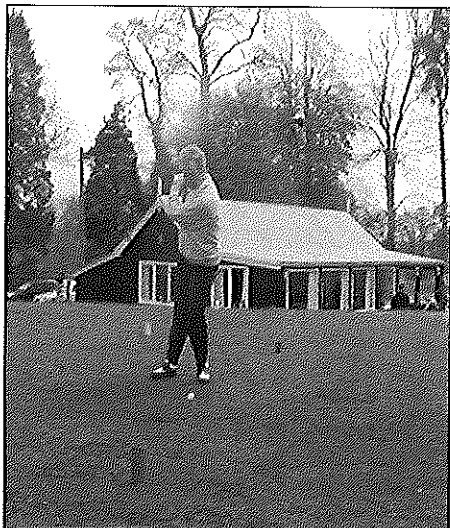
The Marie Curie committee receives funding from local people who donate money. This financial support, along with a substantial anonymous donation, allowed the daffodil project to go ahead. Local generosity is much appreciated.

Hilda also commented that the daffodils have "been absolutely great for the first year".



Ladies of the Committee helping at the Tournament

Elizabeth McFegan - Chairperson
Irene McFadzean
Betty McQueen
Isabel McBeth
Elspeth Vincent
Margaret McGaw
Jane McQueen



Jean Lindsay's Cartoon



RED KITES

Dumfries and Galloway Red Kite Reintroduction

Red Kites are being restored to Dumfries and Galloway through an exciting reintroduction project, begun in 2001. The project is a partnership between RSPB, SNH, Forest Enterprise, the D&G Raptor Study Group and private landowners, and aims to release 90 birds over three years. Fifty-seven birds have been released so far, 32 from North Scotland, 18 from Chilterns and seven from Germany. It is aimed to release another 30 kites in 2003.

The birds are very popular with visitors and locals alike. Sadly, five of the released birds have been recovered poisoned in the region (three in March 2003), and this has caused widespread public outcry.

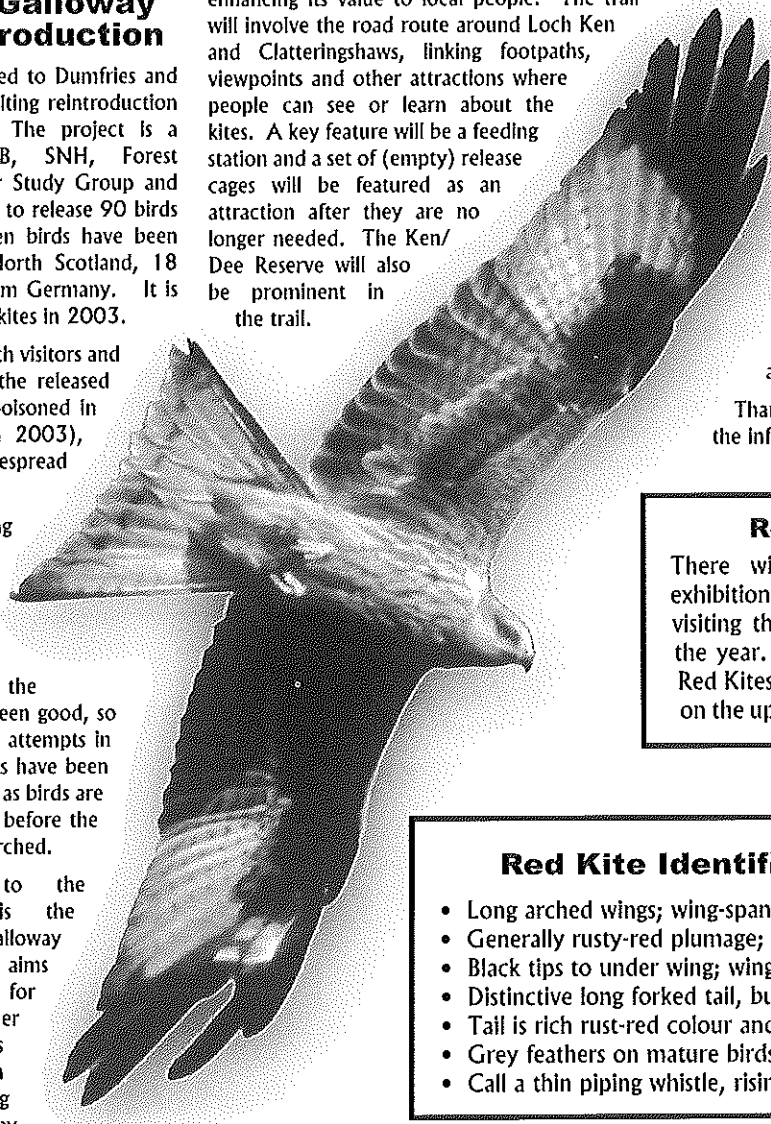
The exciting news of this spring is the discovery of three territorial pairs. Kites normally begin breeding at two years and it was hoped that breeding would begin in 2003. Survival of the birds released in 2001 has been good, so there may be several nesting attempts in Galloway this year. No nests have been located at the time of writing as birds are allowed to settle on clutches before the identified nest woods are searched.

An exciting spin-off to the reintroduction project is the establishment of the 'Galloway Kite Trail'. This project aims to use kites as a resource for nature-based tourism in order to benefit local businesses and communities in the Loch Ken area, as well as aiding the species' conservation by

enhancing its value to local people. The trail will involve the road route around Loch Ken and Clatteringshaws, linking footpaths, viewpoints and other attractions where people can see or learn about the kites. A key feature will be a feeding station and a set of (empty) release cages will be featured as an attraction after they are no longer needed. The Ken/Dee Reserve will also be prominent in the trail.

Interpretation will be situated at all of the key locations. Funding has already been received from the 'Making Tracks' scheme (50%) and also from SNH (25%). Most of the remainder is already pledged from local businesses that will be participating in the project. It is aimed to have this project fully up and running by the end of the year. Other than RSPB, partners in this project are Forest Enterprise, a local farmer and several local hotels and pubs.

Thank you to Kevin Duffy for providing all the information in this article.



Red Kites Exhibition

There will be a travelling Red Kites exhibition from the Stewartry museum visiting the Glenkens towards the end of the year. In addition, information on the Red Kites Trail in the area will be available on the updated GCAT website from June.

Red Kite Identification Check List

- Long arched wings; wing-span up to 2 metres (around 6 feet)
- Generally rusty-red plumage; white patches under wings
- Black tips to under wing; wing-tips spread like fingers
- Distinctive long forked tail, but can sometimes be hard to see
- Tail is rich rust-red colour and is often twisted in flight
- Grey feathers on mature birds can make the head look pale
- Call a thin piping whistle, rising and falling

LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER : Games and Recipes !

GLENKENS ALTERNATIVE GAMES WEEKEND

WHAT Alternative Burns Supper & Ceilidh
WHERE New Galloway Town Hall
WHEN Friday 1st August

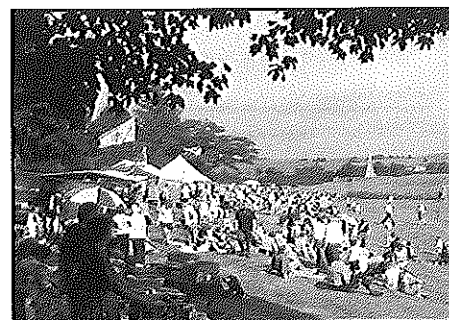
Kicking off a weekend of "alternative" events in New Galloway, this promises to be a Burns Night to remember - not least because it is being held in August rather than January!

WHAT Glenkens Childrens Festival
WHERE New Galloway Town Park
WHEN from 12.00 noon Saturday, 2nd August.

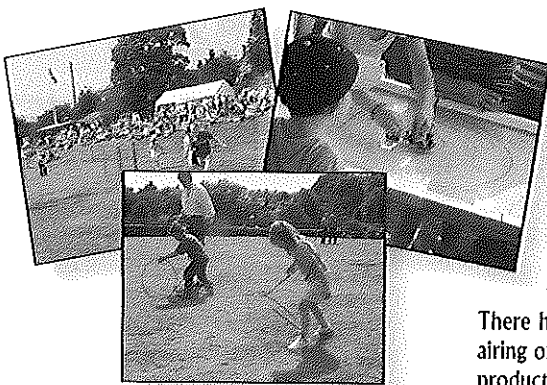
An afternoon packed with fun and games for children. Lots of things to do from activities to story telling and stalls. A great family afternoon.

WHAT The Alternative Games
WHERE New Galloway Town Park
WHEN from 2.00pm Sunday, 3rd August

An established part of the summer calendar, events include the Scottish Championship of Tossin' the Sheaf and official World Championship for Gird 'n Cleek racing. Alternative comedian Phil Kay will be on hand to give his slant on the games and help with the commentary. Proceeds support Cancer MacMillan Fund and International Water Aid.



Looking forward to the Summer : The Alternative Games Weekend



years has been largely down to the enthusiasm and inspiration of its founder Mungo Bryson. Thousands of spectators and participants have enjoyed the unique Alternative Games atmosphere since 1977, many of them coming back year after year. People have visited and competed from all over the world: the record achieved one year was apparently 21 different nationalities!

There have been many different games given an airing on the day, some traditional and some the product of Mungo's fertile imagination, but the main event has always been the World Gird 'n Cleek Championship. Where else could you go on a Sunday afternoon and return home a few hours later as a World Champion!

The 'supporting acts' of Tossin' the Sheaf, Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane, Flingin' the Herd's Bunnet and Tug o' War are popular too, together with the side show events like the famous Balmaclellan Skittles and the super-slick Snail Racing.

This year we are delighted to welcome back to New Galloway, as a special guest at the games, the popular Scottish comedian Phil Kay. Phil will be helping out with the commentary in his own 'alternative' style, presenting the prizes and

generally adding to the entertainment throughout the afternoon.

The lasting magic of the Games is in the family participation, with all ages being able to compete in most events and the rules not being adhered to too rigidly: the emphasis is on a fun day out. The prizes too, are true to the Scottish theme, 'Gold' being a haggis, 'Silver' a clootie dumpling and Scotch pies serving as the 'Bronze' medals. However, no matter the prizes, nothing comes close to the honour and status attached to being crowned as the 'World Gird 'n Cleek Champion'!

This year the 'Alternative Games Weekend' kicks off on Friday 1st August with the 'Alternative Burns Supper and Cellidh' in New Galloway Town Hall at 7.30pm. On Saturday afternoon there will be a 'Children's Festival' in the park. Then after all that, once everyone is well and truly warmed up, the Games themselves are on Sunday 3rd August in the Park from 2pm.

Full details of all the events will be advertised in due course and we look forward to a weekend with a difference in Scotland's smallest Royal Burgh.

Brian Edgar

The Scottish Alternative Games

Sifting through a pile of rusty old farm implements for scrap metal some 26 years ago, Mungo Bryson discovered an old rusted gird 'n cleek: the idea was born for what was eventually to become the Scottish Alternative Games!

The Games were first held in Parton in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and have been held almost every year since, celebrating their own Silver Jubilee last year when they were held for the second time at their new home in New Galloway.

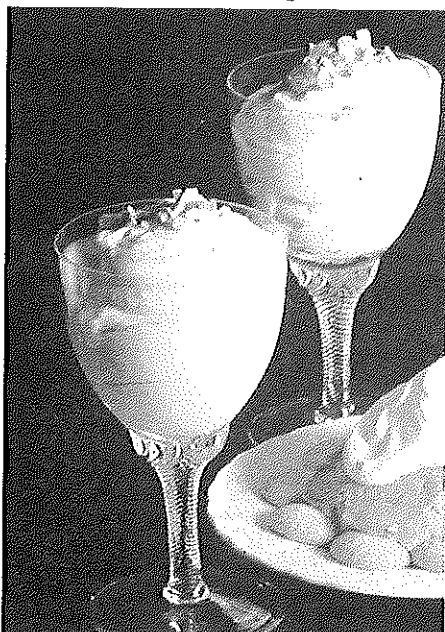
The undoubted success of the event over the

The Taste of Summer

For this issue I asked two local pubs, The Ken Bridge Hotel and The Cross Keys, to divulge some of their summery recipes.

Next issue I'll be asking other Glenkens establishments for their secrets to a lovely late Summer.

From The Ken Bridge Hotel



Syllabub

This is a recipe for a light, refreshing dessert that is quick and easy to prepare. Serves 4.

Ingredients:

- 1 lemon
- 4 fl oz medium white wine
- 3-4 tablespoons caster sugar
- ½ pint double cream

Grate the rind of the lemon, making sure there is no pith, into a bowl. Add the strained lemon juice, wine and 3 tablespoons of sugar. Leave to infuse, (I normally leave overnight in the fridge). Strain out the lemon rind. Gradually add the cream, whisking the mixture steadily until it stands in peaks. Taste and add more sugar if required.

Pour into individual serving dishes and chill. Just before serving decorate with chopped nuts.



Gazpacho

This is a recipe for a Spanish cold soup. Serves 4.

Ingredients:

- ¾ oz stale bread with crusts removed
- 2lb ripe tomatoes peeled
- 1 green pepper
- 2 cloves garlic
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- ⅓ cup olive oil
- 2 teaspoons salt

Place all the ingredients into a food processor and blend to a fine purée, check seasoning and chill. This is nice garnished with finely chopped onion, tomato, pepper, hard-boiled egg, cucumber and diced bread

Pea and Fennel Soup

Serves 4 - Cooking Time : 35mins

Ingredients:

- 2tbs Olive oil
- 1 large onion peeled and chopped
- 3 bulbs of fennel, outer layer removed, sliced.
- 1½ pints of vegetable stock
- 150g (5 oz) frozen peas, defrosted
- 300ml (½ pint) of milk

- 1) Heat oil in a large pan, cook onions over medium heat until soft, add fennel, cook for five minutes.
- 2) Add stock, bring to boil, then cover and simmer for 15mins, add peas and cook for further 3-4 mins.
- 3) Allow to cool slightly, whiz in blender until smooth and return to pan. Add milk, heat until piping hot and serve.

Courtesy of Ronnie Wallace
Head Chef of the Cross Keys Hotel

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

RECENT EVENTS : John Hegley & Mr Boom

Continued from Front Page

Hegley's performance also entangled performative cool with geeky language craft. A cocktail inspired perhaps, by a career spanning both university lecturing and shopping centre busking.

Tongue in cheek with chin jutting forward Hegley slowly annunciated "must we remain as strangers/ Like the Pope and Glasgow Rangers?" to an appreciative audience.

Visually memorable was Bailey's self-styled 'Glove of Love'. It was big, black and sticking up from his head like a cockerel's crest.

Bailey then rhythmically thumped the 'love glove' to accompany Hegley's marvellous performance of "I need You".

In all it was an evening both amusingly ridiculous and ridiculously amusing. It also contained nuggets of truth that mark Hegley as the kind of poet offered odds of 14-1 by William Hill to become Poet Laureate after Ted Hughes' death. Yet if Andrew Motion claimed that prize Hegley can at least revel in his latest accolade: unofficial Poet Laureate of the Glenkens!

The Poet's Five Senses

I asked Hegley and his co-performer Bailey, to name their favourite sounds, tastes, touches, smells and sights....!

SOUND:

Hegley: Comb and paper playing 'Night in Tunisia' by Dizzy Gillespie.

Bailey: Tibetan Growl

TASTE:

Hegley: Vegetable Madras served in India

Bailey: The Indonesian sauce Gadogado or Greek cheese - I'm very confused about food!

TOUCH:

Hegley: Holding my daughter's hand.

Bailey: Head scratching.

SMELL:

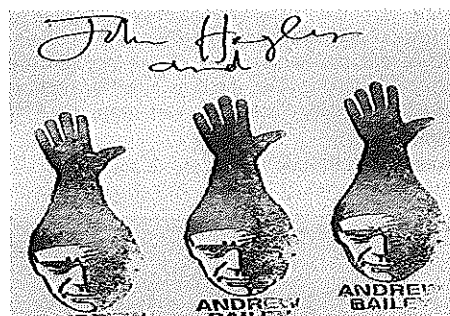
Hegley: New Galloway wood smoke.

Bailey: Cedar-wood oil and Catholic Church incense.

SIGHT:

Hegley: The streets in Nice that my father saw and painted 70 years ago. Seeing them gave me an incredible sense of peace.

Bailey: The New Galloway Hills.



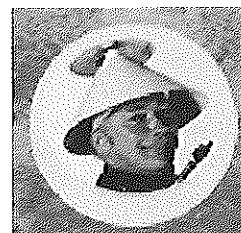
Mr Boom the Space Invader!

The visit to Balmaclellan on Easter Monday by one-man band and moon resident Mr Boom provided a couple of hours of escapist fun for children under 6 and grown-ups of all ages. With the exception of the landing by Mr Boom's spaceship on the roof of the village hall the show was "low tech" singing and dancing.

The children - primed by Andrew Wolffe's Rory Stories complete with audience wriggling, splashing and sighing like whales - were quick to get on their feet and join in. Special mention goes to the boy's aeroplane. Captained by a Pilot, Co-Pilot and "Cocoa-pilot" it flew wildly round the girls' more sedate train.

This is the second year that a children's show has proved a success on Easter Monday and it now looks set to become a popular annual event.

Flora McDowall



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Success for Local Artist

Local artist Ian Gascoigne has recently had a successful exhibition in the Tolbooth Arts Centre, Kirkcudbright. Reviewer John Hudson of the Galloway News commented that the works were "of varied register and influence" having "a consistent style with regard to brushwork and palette and all achieve his intention of capturing mystery".

FRESH

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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GLENKENS COMMUNITY MINIBUS

Our new minibus has now been on 43 trips so far this year including several journeys to Glasgow and Kilmarnock and an outing to Greta Gateway Village. The Transport Initiative Committee is keen to encourage even more use of the bus and now that we have our own registered Midas trainer in Tom Plummer we will be able to arrange further driver training locally. Anyone who has already expressed an interest in becoming a driver but has not yet completed their training will be contacted shortly to arrange suitable dates. If you would like to become a driver either as a member of a user group or as a 'freelance', available to help out groups who may not have a driver available, please contact Amanda at the GCAT shop (tel. 420374). A list of the existing drivers who are willing to drive for any group is available from the GCAT shop.

There are plans to introduce a programme of organised trips through the summer period when any individual can book seats at a fixed price. These trips will run provided a viable number of seats are booked in advance. Some suggested destinations include New Lanark World Heritage Site, Braehead Shopping Centre and the Lake District amongst others: please let us know if you have any ideas you would like us to consider.

The bus will be out and about around the Glenkens during June to allow everybody to have a good look over it, find out how to use it and to have the opportunity to discuss any issues with a member of the committee. Please look out for the posters to see when the bus will be visiting your community.

In the meantime, for any bookings or queries please contact Amanda at the GCAT Shop, High Street, New Galloway, telephone 420374.

LOOK OUT FOR 200 CLUB WINNERS



ARCHITECTS APPOINTED

The Directors of GCAT are pleased to announce the appointment of the firm ARP Lorimer of Ayr as Architects and Lead Consultants on the redevelopment of The Old School in New Galloway. They have had a wealth of relevant experience in South West Scotland, especially in the conversion of village halls, schools and churches. We much look forward to working with them in the months to come.

GLENKENS CARDS

We're delighted that post-cards and Greetings Cards of the Glenkens are now available for sale in local shops. They have been printed from original water

colours that Dalry artist Derk Pelly kindly gifted to GCAT last year. There are individual post-cards of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Dalry and New Galloway and a larger Greetings Card of a compilation of Glenkens scenes.

GLENKENS JUBILEE WALK

The Official Opening of the Glenkens Jubilee Walk will be on Wednesday 25th June. The plan is to start with a Community Picnic at 12.30 p.m. by the new Dalry Jubilee Seat and for walkers to set off towards Dalry at 1.30 p.m. The new Seat is sited on a stretch of the Southern Upland Way between Earlstoun Power Station and the Footbridge over the River Ken below Dalry. Everyone is welcome including dogs on leads!

DALRY SCHOOL FEEDBACK

Many thanks to all the students and staff at Dalry Secondary for help with the GCAT event questionnaire, undertaken in May.

The aim of the survey was to find out what people in the 11-14 and 15-17 age groups would like to do if GCAT could arrange it for them. Six ideas were put forward by GCAT, along with the invitation to make further suggestions.

The results of the survey were as follows:

11 - 14 year olds

- 1st Choice Make a c.d. or video
- 2nd equal Drum Workshop
- 3rd Choice Guitar Road Show
- 4th Choice Bike Day
- 5th Choice Photographic project

15 - 18 year olds

- 1st Choice Drum Workshop
- 2nd equal Make a c.d. or video
- 3rd equal Bike Day
- 4th equal Photographic project
- 5th equal Guitar Road Show

There was also a request for professionally led drama or music workshops. We believe that this request will be filled through a growing association between the Glenkens and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. More on this in due course.

We can send information about forthcoming events - comedy, theatre, music, workshops and children's shows - direct to your door or computer. Just complete the form below and return it to GCAT: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

☐ Add my name to the mailing list for future arts events in the Glenkens (tick box)

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss) _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Email address _____

Please help keep costs down by supplying an email address if possible.
Return to GCAT, The Old School, New Galloway, DG7 3RN.

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Continued from front page

A few words from Alex Fergusson, constituency MSP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale:

"When the outgoing Presiding Officer, Sir David Steel introduced me to the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament prior to taking my oath of allegiance, as 'Alex Fergusson, the member for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale', it was the proudest moment of my life. There can be no greater honour than being elected by majority (even one of 99!) to serve and represent the constituency in which I was born (near Portpatrick) and in which I now live very happily in the Glenkens.

"I will be holding regular surgeries in the area, but hope that Glenkens Gazette readers will not hesitate to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance to them. Until then, I will simply sign off this contribution by saying 'thank you' to everyone in the Glenkens for making my family and I feel so welcome since moving here over 4 years ago."

A few words from George Prentice, Councillor for the Stewartry North.

"I'm delighted to be back in to serve as your councillor and hope to continue with the good work that I hope I've done in the last four years."

Police matters courtesy of Dalry Community Council:

P.C. Cannon was pleased to see the report on Dalry's status as one of the safest areas in which to live but added that there was no room for complacency.

He is currently doing cycling proficiency training at Dalry school and is hoping that the results will be as good as they were last year.

He is to tackle the problems of straying dogs and unlit bikes.

Twinning ?

There has been a proposal that The Glenkens should twin with an area in the Czech republic called Miletin. Current research is establishing whether the two areas are compatible.

If you have an opinion that you would like to voice or are interested in participating in the project at this nascent stage, please ring GCAT on 01644 420374 or drop by at the GCAT shop, Main Street, New Galloway.

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE CENTRE



Exhibition for 2003:
Ten Years On: A Celebration
A look at some past exhibitions

2003 dates of Opening

18th April-1st June, weekends and bank holidays only.

2nd June - 28th September, open daily except Wednesdays.

Times of Opening

Weekdays and Saturdays,

10.30am until 5pm

Sundays 2pm until 5pm

The Heritage Centre is in the village of Carsphairn on the A713 between Castle Douglas and Ayr.

Tel 01644 460653 or

e-mail carsphairnhg@hcentre.fsnet.co.uk
www.carsphairnheritage.co.uk

GLENKENS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL SHOW 2003
Handicrafts Section

So that you can get started on your entries here are the items for this year's show :-

- A greeting card (no photos) ~ A decorated egg
- A knitted animal ~ An article in cross-stitch
- A dressed doll (any craft)
- A baby garment (knitted, sewn or crocheted)
- A gift-wrapped parcel ~ A decorated straw hat
- An original painting or drawing (any medium)
- Any other craft article

The show is on Saturday, August 23rd in Dalry Town Hall and entries are open to all residents of the Glenkens. If you have any queries or would like more information

PLEASE CONTACT
HILDA MCADAM ON 01644 430383.

The full schedule for the show will be available later in the year from local Post Offices and Dalry Garden Centre.

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FAIRPLAY TROPHY FOR DALRY !

Congratulations to Dalry Team for coming second at the Tournament at Maxwelltown High School in Dumfries and also for winning the Fairplay Trophy. What a combination of skill and sportsmanship.

Dalry Secondary School Water Sports Club

The New Opportunities Fund provided the cash, the Glenkens Sailing Centre provided the venue and the training, and Dalry pupils provided the enthusiasm!

This is the second year that we have run this club, which means that some pupils are building on the expertise that they acquired last session. For 10 weeks this term a group of up to 25 pupils are learning the skills in sailing, kayaking and windsurfing after school on Thursday evenings. Some of them are trying all three activities while others are concentrating on one, putting together the skills and experience necessary to gain a qualification. These sessions run for approximately two hours on Thursdays after school and have been attended enthusiastically by pupils in S1, S2 & S3.

It is wonderful to see our pupils making the most of our local facilities and scenery, perhaps putting to bed the myth that there is nothing for young people to do around here.

Dalry Fun Day

Friends of Dalry School raised over £1300 at the Fun Day held on Saturday 10 May in the school grounds. Young and old alike enjoyed a range of attractions such as the bouncy castle, beat the goalie, soak the teacher and Reiki massage. The local fire brigade were a real favourite with the younger children - let's hope that siren is not worn out!

Many thanks are due to our very supportive parents on the FoDS committee and to all locals who so generously dipped into their pockets. A huge amount of work went into this event and to Marilyn McMath and her wonderful team - Well done and thanks from all at the school.

Bugsy

The primary pupils are putting on this very popular musical comedy on the 10th and 11th June in the school hall. Ticket details will be posted in the community in the near future - don't miss this one!

KELLS WIN AGAIN ! DUMFRIES & DISTRICT FIDDLE & ACCORDION, SPEECH AND MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS

Kells School swept the board at the Festival in March with successes so numerous that the report had to be carried over for lack of space.

SPEECH FESTIVAL:

All pupils from P3-7 took part either in Poetry, Scots Verse and/or Prose readings.

Seniors do all the classes. The results were :

Loreburn St. John's School Trophy - Choric Verse (schools up to 5 teachers) Senior pupils

Calside School Association Trophy - Prose Reading Boys P6-7 Gary Thomson From both festivals:

Distinction Certificates: 9 (Excellent performance both technically and artistically)

Highly Commended Certificates :38(A convincing performance both technically & artistically) 2nd, 3rd & 4th places

FIDDLE and ACCORDION FESTIVAL:

Gallowvidian Cup - Fiddle (12 Years and under) Peter Birch

Ian Kirkpatrick Quaich - Fiddle (14 years and under) Peter Birch

Islesteps Accordion & Fiddle Club Shield - Accordion Traditional (12 years and under) Molly Tulloch

Highly commended gained by the senior pupils in the piano solos section

MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Beeswing Rosebowl - Singing Game Primaries 1-4

Burns Club Challenge Shield - Scots Vocal Solos Primaries 5-7, boys and girls - Kirstin Clendinning

Dr. O.D.C.Stokes Cup - Brass Solo - Xander Gisbey

The Dumfries Orchestra Trophy - Hymn Singing Kells Choir (with Distinction)

Dr. T.R. Burnett Shield - Primary School Choirs (Unison Singing) Kells Choir (with Distinction)

THE ANNAN PUBLIC SCHOOL SHIELD for top choir in all the choral comps. Kells Choir

The Frank Davis Quaich - Combined Musical Activities (Primaries 1-4) Kells Choir

Highly commended gained by Kells Seniors in their section of the Combined Musical Activities and in Choral Unaccompanied Scots.

Dalry Secondary Pupils

• Emma Thomson Ainslie Irvine Jnr. Trophy for Vocal Solos (Secondary 1-3)

Loreburn United Free Church Trophy for Scots Verse (Girls and Boys Secondary 1-3)

• Grace Tulloch : Julia Jardine Memorial Shield for Poetry (Girls and Boys Secondary 1-3)

Masque Players Trophy for Prose Readings (Girls and Boys Secondary 1-3)

Outstanding and Distinction certificates gained in the above by both girls. Outstanding denotes an exceptional performance both technically and artistically.

• Victoria Birch gained second place in the Secondary Poetry with Distinction and Highly Commended in Prose Reading. Amber Halliday entered the Prose Section and gained a Highly Commended Certificate.

The Cubs Jumble Sale

The Cubs, Heather and Hannah would like to thank the Group Committee, Friends of Scouting and all who helped in any way to make our recent Jumble sale such a success. We raised an amazing £1,138! The money will go towards the decoration of The Scout Hall and Hall Insurance.

Thank you again for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

Lottery Tree

The cubs took a pitch at Dalry School Fun Day on Saturday 10th May. The winning number drawn on our Lottery Tree was 33 by Duncan McKenzie. The £25 prize went to Leigh Rollie. Well Done!

Heather MacIntosh

Look out for new garden at Kells School !

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New Galloway ~ Our Historic Burgh

Part XV by Helen Bolton

The Kirk and the Bridge Rebuilt

1822 seems to have been a special year in Kells Parish, because in that year Rev.

William Gillespie, with the capable assistance of local builder and architect William McCandlish, designed a new parish church to be built on the site of the older church, across the road from the Manse. A lot of the actual design was the work of Rev. Gillespie, and much of his church still exists today.

Another event of great importance was the opening of John Rennie's second Ken Bridge, to replace that which was washed away in 1811. Work commenced in May 1821, and John Rennie came to inspect the project on several occasions, ensuring no doubt, that his second bridge did not meet the same fate as his first! A very strong structure was designed, groups of piles being driven into the river bed at the rate of 12 a day. Water was pumped out from the chambers thus formed, then poles with iron points were inserted into the chambers with stones stacked in on the top. Around these solid foundations were then constructed the four strong, stone piers which support the bridge. Some stone from the earlier bridge was used, but most of the lovely, grey granite was quarried locally from Lowran hill.

Stonemasons came from Aberdeen (the Granite City) to help the local craftsmen in this mammoth task, no doubt experts at working with this very hard stone. The foreman, James Gauld, settled in the area and his son became a local shoe maker.

The provost of New Galloway at the time was the highly respected John Murray of "Meadowbank House". On the day the bridge was officially opened, John Murray was formally invited to be the first to cross. This he achieved despite determined efforts by Hon. John Gordon to overtake him!

In 1831 a meeting was held to inaugurate a new institution that still exists, in a small way, today. The Glenkens Society was started by a group of "landowners and other gentry", to encourage the local people, by means

of competitions, to improve themselves. Annual subscriptions were, for landowners £1 0s 0d and for other gentry 10/- (50p). Mr Wm. Grierson of "Garroch" appears to have been the Hon. Secretary, the minutes of that meeting being written by him in what was later described as "shocking writing".

Prizes were given in each of the four parishes for the best-kept cottages, the best gardens, green crops, bees and dunghills! The last named had to be at a respectable distance from the house! Schools ran competitions

for such things as handwriting, usually judged by the local ministers who took a keen interest in the schools. Prizes were usually books. Ploughing matches were also organized, together with competitions for horse-shoeing and woodwork, probably to help towards choosing suitable lads to be apprenticed to local joiners and blacksmiths. Later, shows were started to enable the people to exhibit

poultry, stock, rabbits and garden produce. This all sounds very familiar and was obviously the fore-runner of The Glenkens Show and the The Glenkens Flower Show as we know them today!

If the first bridge was washed away in a flood the second bridge faced similar problems...

Extracts from the diary of Ken Bridge foreman, James Gauld

1821
28th May: This day laying the foundations of the Bridge of Kenmore.

12th July: Sir John Rennie paid a surprise visit and inspected the works and found all to his satisfaction.

3rd October: A heavy flood held things up but did no serious damage.

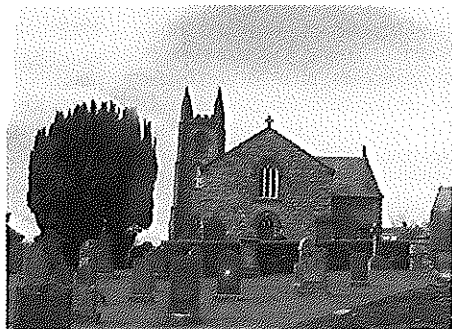
1822

2nd February: Another big flood passed the 8' level.

2nd November: The bridge stood up to another big flood

21 December: Completed the mason work on Kenmore Bridge.

Sir John Rennie the famous bridge builder and civil engineer who, between 1799 and 1803, built the stone bridge at Kelso which was his model for his masterpiece - Waterloo Bridge. Information from the work of William A. Gauld, New Galloway, 1957.



Kells Church

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Margaret's New Galloway

10.30am Holy Communion every Sunday and Wednesday.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

Balmacellan	12.00	1 st
Carsphairn	10.30am	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th
Dalry	12.00pm	1 st (0930) 2 nd 3 rd 4 th
Kells	10.30am	2 nd 4 th
New Galloway	10.30am	3 rd
Town Hall		

Communion around the central table

3rd Sunday in July at 10.15am.

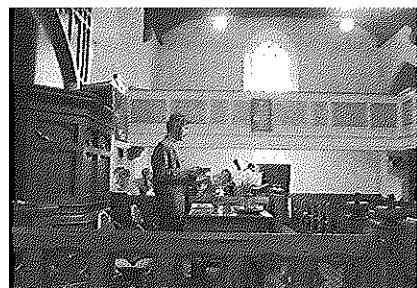
Everyone welcome.

Carsphairn Church has one of the very few central communion tables in Scotland.

United Service 5th

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Please phone 01556 610358



Good Friday Service at Kells Church with the Glenkens Church Choir

First call for Glenkens Artists

Entry forms are now available for artists wishing to put forward paintings for the 4th Annual Glenkens Art Exhibition.

The exhibition, which will be held in Dalry Town Hall from the 24th - 27th July this year, follows a very successful show in 2002.

Exhibitors are invited to submit up to a maximum of five paintings. All work must be original and painted by a resident of the Glenkens (defined as being within the 01644 telephone code). Entry forms, which should be returned by the 13th June, are available from Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) on receipt of a s.a.e. sent to GCAT, The Old School, New Galloway, DG7 3RN.

For further information please contact:

Flora McDowall Tel. 01644 420374

A CELEBRATION OF LAMBING 2003: PHOTOGRAPHS BY H. ADCOCK



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Glenkens History - Can You help?

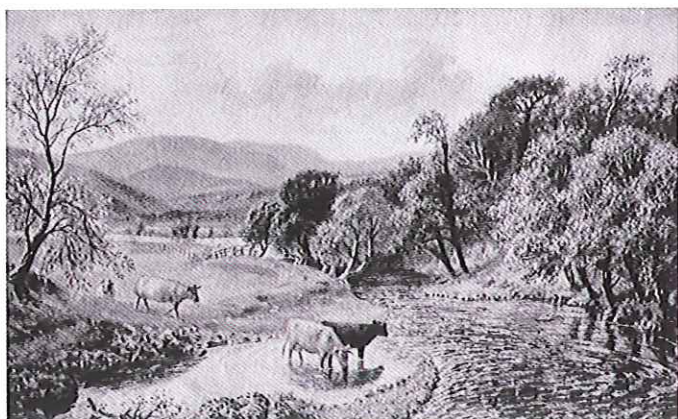
J H PARKYN ~ DALRY ARTIST

Following the feature on the Dalry artist Henry John Dobson in the last issue, The Stewartry Museum is looking for more information on another artist associated with Dalry. John Herbert Parkyn, RWA, ARCA was born in 1864 in Cumbria. He trained at Clifton School of Art, the Royal College of Art and the Academie Julien in Paris. For 11 years he was headmaster of Kingston-upon-Hull School of Art, before becoming Headmaster of Ayr Academy. He painted portraits, animal studies and landscapes, often using unusual canvas sizes.

He returned to Dalry, where he continued to paint. As yet, the Stewartry Museum holds no examples of his work in its collection, but only a postcard reproduction of his painting 'Millyea, Glenken' shown here.

Any information on Mr Parkyn's time in Dalry or his work would be much appreciated by museum staff.

Please contact David Devereux on 01557 331643.



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GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS APRIL-MAY PROGRAMME



WHO : Jo Miller & Friends
WHAT : Music Workshops in Schools
WHERE : Dalry Nursery, Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn Primary, Dalry Secondary.
WHEN : Friday 13th June (Children's Workshop)
Saturday 14th June (Open Workshop)

Jo Miller and students from the Royal Scottish Academy return to the Glenkens schools for music making. This is a repeat of one of the most successful events of last year and the first of two visits to the area in 2003. A chance to get involved and play traditional Scottish instruments and tunes.



WHAT : Launch of the Jubilee Walk
WHERE : Dalry
WHEN : Wednesday 25th June, picnic 12.30,
Walkers leave 1.30 - All Welcome

This circular road walk, initially undertaken for the Queens Golden Jubilee, has now been formalised with a walk map, signs and benches. Bring a picnic and join pupils from the local primary schools before setting off. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome.



WHAT : Dalry School Activities Day
WHERE : Dalry Secondary School
WHEN : Friday 27th June

Lizzie Farey brings her skills with willow to the Dalry School Activities Day giving school pupils the chance to make something practical from willow. A range of projects can be undertaken using different techniques. Photograph : Mike Bolam



WHAT : Glenkens Annual Art Exhibition
WHERE : Dalry Town Hall
WHEN : Thursday 24th - Sunday 27th July

The 4th exhibition by home-grown Glenkens talent. Now a summer event to allow more people to see the show, there will be a wide range of work on view and for sale. The exhibition is open daily from 10.00am - 6.00p.m., entry is free of charge.



WHAT : Glenkens Alternative Games Weekend
WHERE : New Galloway
WHEN : Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd August

Look out for details about the Childrens' Festival on Saturday 2nd August and turn to pages 4 and 5 for information about the Alternative Games Weekend.

The Glenkens Gazette aims to represent the whole of the Glenkens area

Any dates for the diary or submissions about clubs, societies or features are more than welcome. If you feel under-represented please get in contact so we CAN represent you.

There is an events diary in the GCAT shop to note events. Also, and for other enquiries, please either e-mail Hannah at editor@gazette.com or ring 01644 420 374.

I have very much enjoyed guest-editing this issue and will be guest-editing the next. I apologise for mistakes or omissions. I make no pretence to infallibility but do try my best.

Hannah Adcock

BOX OFFICE: GCAT Shop, Monday-Friday, 9.30-4.00 or, if available, on the door.

TICKETS BY POST: Send full payment by cheque made out to GCAT with s.a.e. and contact telephone number to GCAT, The Old School, New Galloway, OGY 3RN.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Tel. 01644 420374. (Answerphone outside office hours)

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

JUNE

FRIDAY 6th: Glenkens and District Music Society host a fiddle, Harp and Voice evening. 8pm Dalry Town Hall.

SATURDAY 7th: Carsphairn Show.

TUES 10th and WED 11th: Buggy Malone, performed by Dalry Primary School pupils. Dalry School 7pm.

FRIDAY 13th: Jo Miller and Friends at Dalry Nursery, Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn.

WED 25th: Launch of the Jubilee Walk at Dalry. Picnic 12.30, walkers leave 1.30.

FRIDAY 27th: Lizzie Farey at Dalry Secondary School.

JULY

THU 24th to SUN 27th: Glenkens Annual Art Exhibition. Dalry Town Hall.

AUGUST

FRIDAY 1st to SUN 3rd: Alternative Games Weekend
SAT 23rd: Glenkens Horticultural Society Annual Show. Dalry Town Hall.

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

Deadline for August / September

Issue 17: Tuesday 10th July

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or by e-mail : editor@glenkensgazette.com

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