

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

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IN THIS ISSUE...

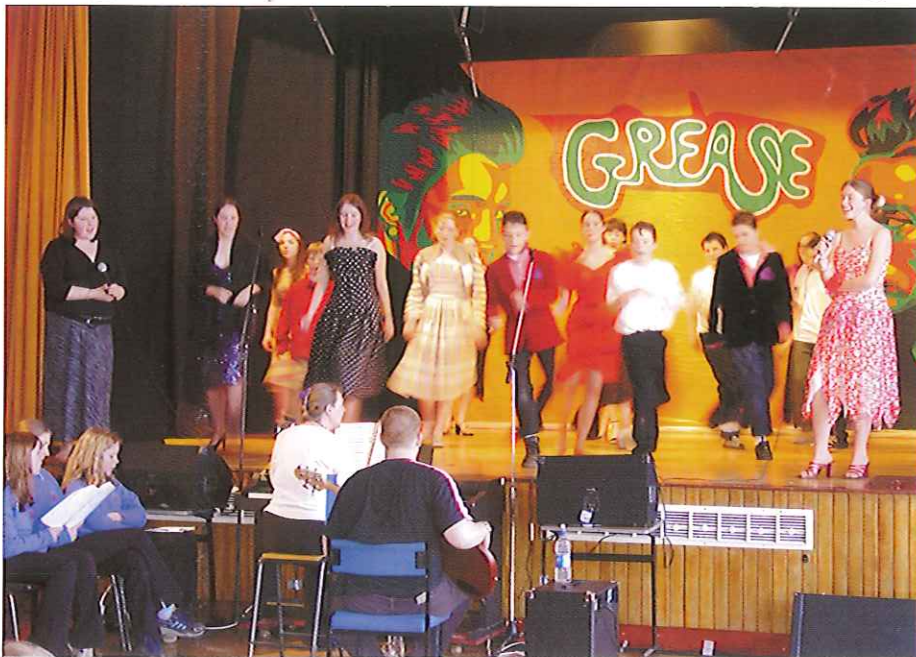
2. A Host of Daffodils
3. Blackcraig Wind Farm,
Balmacellan Community Council
4. A Trek with Altitude,
Journey to Bangladesh
5. Our Historic Burgh,
James Clerk Maxwell Centenary
- 6.&7. GCAT News, Coming Attractions,
Review of Fiona Knowles
- 8.&9. Glenkens Schools Report,
SWRI & Cubs & Scouts
10. Church News, Car Connections
11. Festival of Drama & WRVS
12. Dates for your Diary

The secondary pupils at Dalry put on two sell-out performances of "Grease" to hugely appreciative audiences this week. The show was the end product of Wednesday activity afternoons throughout the session and surpassed all expectations as pupils performed superbly on both evenings.

The lead roles of Sandy and Danny were played by Kirsty McRobert and Aaron Edgar who acted and sang like stage veterans; quite simply they were an outstanding romantic teenage couple, although they won't thank this reviewer for saying so!

Emma Thompson played the part of the brassy Rizzo to perfection and her rendition of "Worse Things I could Do" was one of the show's highlights. Aaron Ross as Kenickie had the audience in stitches throughout as he drooled over "Greased Lightning". Claire Rollie as squeaky clean Patty was another top performer.

Rydell Rocks Dalry



The whole cast indeed deserve praise for providing great entertainment; it was difficult to believe at times just what a young cast this was. Praise also for the production team of Paul Bannister, David Brown and Ros Henry and choreographer Zara Wheeler.

A great team effort saw sets and sound systems in place that were the result of many hours of enjoyable, rewarding hard work. On behalf of all who loved this production, well done Dalry/Rydell.

GLENKENS BUSINESS GROUP = SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS!

The inaugural meeting for the proposed Glenkens Business Group, held in the Ken Bridge Hotel on 18th March and as organised by GCAT, was a great success. The meeting was opened by Brian Edgar, Vice Chairman of GCAT, who gave a warm welcome to all those in attendance. The idea of forming a business group in the area was attempted around 1999, but the Foot and Mouth disaster and threats of school closures put a squash to the idea. However, it appears by the 40-plus turnout that "the time is ripe!" for such a group to be implemented now. "By working together we can create a larger, louder voice that will help us achieve more," said Brian Edgar.



Andrew Ward, GCAT's Project Development Manager, described the need for a business group in the Glenkens. With the aid of a colourful PowerPoint presentation, Andrew pointed out that by joining together, businesses in the Glenkens will gain "strength in numbers", enabling them to overcome the disadvantages of running a business in a rural area with low gross domestic products (GDP's - a measure of market activity or money changing hands), low wages and few job opportunities. Many benefits of a business group were laid out, for example:

- **Networking opportunities.**
- **Marketing the Glenkens as a brand name, e.g. the Lake District, the Highlands etc.**
- **Increasing awareness and access to funding.**
- **Accessing training, reducing costs and by having greater numbers, training providers will bring the training to the area saving precious time.**
- **Accessing new technology and equipment — sharing reduces costs.**
- **Passing on trade and keeping business in the Glenkens.**

Backing Andrew's case for the implementation of a business group was Dr Sue Newberry a Community Regeneration Consultant, who pointed out the bare reality of the business environment in the Glenkens compared to national statistics. Demographic figures show that young job seekers leave the area for employment resulting in a high average age of workers who often find it difficult to start new careers. The high number of retired people populating the area also has detrimental effects on the economic sustainability of the area.

Furthermore, there is a lack of people with the necessary skills needed by potential employers, a lack of large companies for smaller companies to gain knowledge from and few 'modern industries' that would attract the young into careers within the area. Dumfries and Galloway has a 17% lower average wage than the rest of the nation - again deterring the young, and incomers from building their careers here. Sue pointed out that a business group would tackle many of these issues. On a positive note, there is a surprisingly large and wide variety of businesses in the Glenkens which is a great strength to the area.

(continued on page 6)

A HOST OF DAFFODILS



April is often the month daffodils are at their best in the Glenkens. Once again with minimal attention, often none, bulbs have raised colourful and varied displays of blooms. To demonstrate how colourful and varied, some are on show in the window of the GCAT office in New Galloway.

The Royal Horticultural Society is the International Cultivar Registration Authority for daffodils/Narcissus and publishes the International Daffodil Register and Classified

List. The list of 1998, the year of the Centenary of the Daffodil Society, had 26,000 different cultivars world wide. Annual supplements have added more.

Many of us resolve to divide and move clumps or add a few more. The trouble with daffodils is that they die away without trace by June, new bulbs arrive in garden centres in August and September and its easy just not to get organised. Now is the time to think of autumn work. Mark clumps which should be lifted and divided and pick spots for new planting. Think about the types to plant. Traditional small wild looking types for woodland,

early ones for lawn areas or mid and late season types where grass cutting can be delayed until June.

A large mixed bag can be good value, but patches of individually named daffodils are likely to give a more rewarding display.

Daffodil is the common name for plants of the genus *Narcissus*. All are daffodils, but sometimes the more delicate looking, often later ones, white with intensely coloured centres, are called *Narcissi*.

The back of the flower is the perianth, usually of six segments, yellow or white or any shade between. The centre which looks like a trumpet or a cup is called the corona - long, short, narrow, wide, flat or split and coloured yellow, red, orange, white or any combination. Daffodil enthusiasts have about 12 groups for classification, based on shape, size and number of flowers per stem. The norm is one flower per stem, but some have two, three, or more. There are even daffodils with extra perianth mixed up with the corolla, these are doubles. Some are particularly fragrant, very noticeable with a vase of a dozen or so in a room.

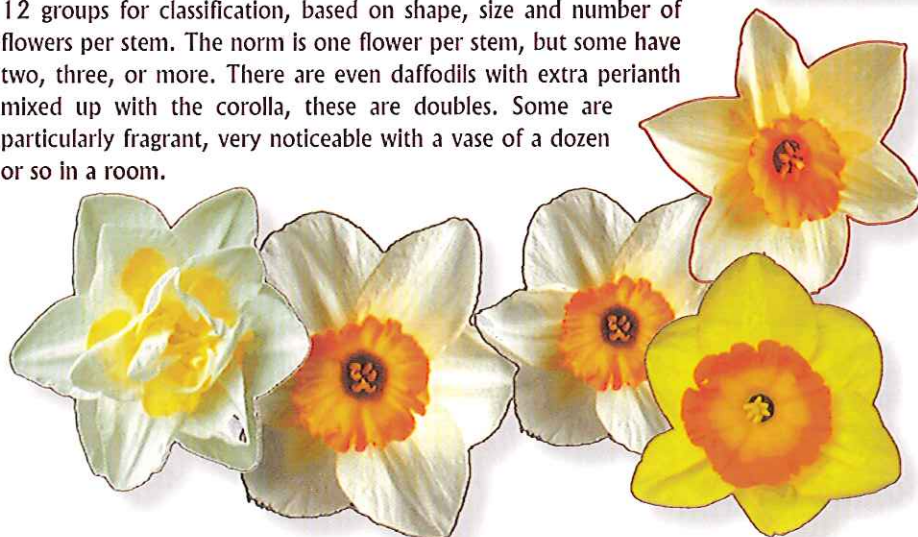
Why so many? Daffodils, in time bulk up - produce extra bulbs which in all but a few freak cases (called sports) will have flowers identical to the original. Thus any daffodil can be faithfully reproduced true to type. Daffodils can also be produced from seed and the genetic variation gives rise to new daffodils. If one has the patience to get seed, grow on for the 5 years it takes to get a sizeable bulb and first flower, one may have a winner. Anyone can register a new daffodil.

Apart from garden centres, bulbs can be ordered from catalogues. General bulb producers offer fairly common cultivars while dedicated growers and breeders provide opportunity to acquire show daffodils. One specialist lists around 900 cultivars. Ten pence a bulb sounds ok, but to pay £10 a bulb needs a bit more thought.

Next time you see some daffs waving in the wind, stop and take a good close look. You may be surprised at the range available.

George Norris

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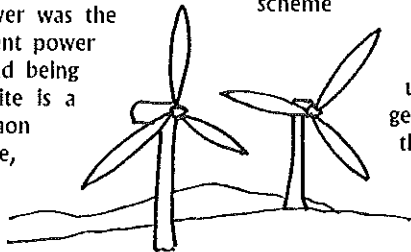
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PROPOSED BLACKCRAIG WIND FARM UP-DATE

The January meeting of the Balmacellan Community Council was devoted almost entirely to consideration of the proposed Blackcraig Wind Farm to the east of the village. The general public were specifically invited for this. The chairman opened the meeting by suggesting that there were two aspects to consider, the first being whether wind power was the best answer to our current power problems, and the second being whether the proposed site is a suitable place for it. Simon Pietro and Blair Marnie, of the developers DP Energy, presented the project and explained the reasons behind the choice of site. A vigorous question and answer session followed.



the countryside for commercial interests. DP energy acknowledged that visual acceptance or rejection was a very subjective thing. They tabled photo-montages to show the simulated effect from various viewpoints.

Transmission lines from the site would be on wooden poles and not pylons, but the scheme could not go ahead until the existing transmission line down the Ken is upgraded. Difficulty in getting out the power was the reason given for the failure of the earlier Moniaive scheme.

There was clearly a great deal of opposition to the scheme, but some support, particularly from some younger people, was reported. A preference for wind power over nuclear power was expressed. This, however, is not the only choice, as other renewable means of power generation are possible and are being actively developed, such as tidal and wave schemes. The problem with these is the fact that the technology is not so far advanced, and the costs could be higher. Hence, wind power is being seen as at least the short term solution.

It was said from the floor that Denmark and Holland had both tried wind farms, but had abandoned them. DP Energy contested this, and undertook to provide evidence.

Little local benefit in way of employment could be expected. The overall cost of the scheme would be in the order of 30 million. About three quarters of this would be for the turbines, which would probably come from outside Scotland, and quite likely from abroad. Most of the remaining cost of construction would go to specialist companies from outside the region.

A substantial annual payment would be received by the landowners of the turbine site. Financial benefit would also accrue to the local community, but the general feeling was that this should not be the decisive factor in coming to a conclusion as to the desirability or otherwise of the scheme.

The wind farm would have an impact on all the surrounding area, and the next step is seen to be a wider meeting of the communities and organisations affected, with a display of proposals, DP Energy will set up an exhibition for this purpose in Balmacellan Village Hall, and the provisional timing for this is from Tuesday 27 April to Thursday 29 April. On the final day their representatives will be there to explain the proposals and for questions and answers. It is intended to move the exhibition on to Corsock for a similar session there on Friday 30 April. The events will be widely advertised in good time, and it is important that as many people as possible attend, both to inform themselves and to express their views.

Alan Pallister

BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting on 23 February dealt with a number of outstanding matters, mainly village works items, carried over from the previous meeting when the proposed wind farm occupied almost all the available time. Further discussion of this was limited to the arrangements for the exhibition and open day to be organised by DP Energy. (See separate notes in this issue.)

The new playground fencing has now been installed, significantly improving safety and also enhancing the appearance. Completion of the fence will also provide protection against stray dog fouling.

The seat from the war memorial area has received extensive coating treatment over the winter, and will be reinstated by May.

The new paint treatment applied to Old Mortality last year has wintered very well, and is a big improvement on the previous coating. However, some deterioration of repaired areas of stonework has appeared. The mason's advice will be sought on this before attempting any repair.

Mounting of the map on the Glenkens Jubilee Walk plinth will be done in the spring.

The plaque in memory of Joe and Dorothy Conic has been mounted on the Kentucky entrance gate, and has been met with general approval.

The offer of Jim Little to clear the motte of whins is being pursued with Historic Scotland, whose permission is necessary before any work can be done.

It was agreed to support the scheme to restore and mark monuments in the churchyard, and suggestions as to other funding sources were made.

The draft Glenkens Walking Guide being produced by D&G Council was tabled. The Community council had written to reiterate their request that the route over the Mulloch be included at the first opportunity when negotiations have been completed.

The outline planning application for three bungalows opposite the Ken Bridge Hotel was considered. It was agreed not to offer any objection, provided the development was in keeping with the adjacent houses and the hotel.

Members were asked to give any views on the Periodic Review of the Community Council Scheme.

Matters relating to the village hall were dealt with separately by the Village Hall Committee.

Alan Pallister

REGULAR USER GROUPS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE DALRY

Monday 1.30 - 4.30pm Paint and Art
Bill Hines - 01644 430224

Mon, Wed, Thurs. 9.15 - 11.45am Glenkens Playgroup
Julie Moore - 01644 460687

Wednesday 1.30 - 3.00pm Glenkens Mother & Toddlers Sarah-Jane Mackenzie 01644 430429

Tuesday 2.00 - Good Neighbours Club
Mabel Young - 01644 430472

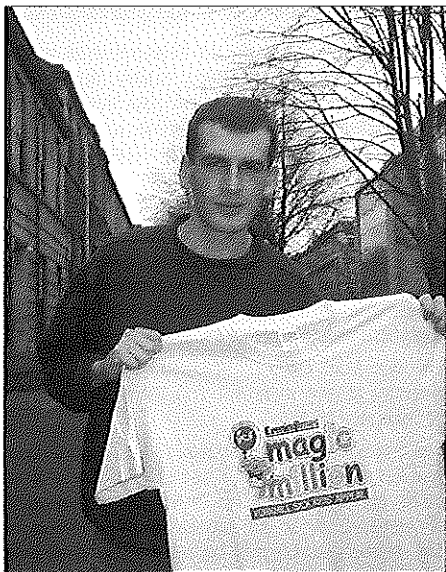
Thursday 2.00 - 4.00pm Craft Class
Jean Maltman - 01644 430497

Drama Club
Harvey Hamilton 01644 430398

For further details on booking the Community Centre or any other information needed please contact Bill Hines 01644 430224

(Very reasonable new 2004 rates for private hire)

A TREK WITH ALTITUDE



The Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, Glasgow desperately needs a new Intensive Care Unit to provide more space, more staff and hi-tech equipment to help save the lives of critically ill children from all over Scotland. The bulk of the cash needed (£3.5m) is coming from the NHS but to make it the best in the country, an extra £1m is needed. To help raise The Magic Million, the Inca Challenge takes place this year.

Dr Colin Davie, a former pupil of Dalry School and Kirkcudbright Academy, and originally from Dalry, is preparing to meet the Challenge. On 26th April, Colin will be one of a group of hikers who will set off to trek for 5 days over three mountain passes to an altitude of 4200m (approximately 14,000ft) from Cusco to the legendary lost city of Machu Picchu in Peru – along the Inca Trail.

If anyone would like to make a donation to support Colin, please contact him on 0141 330 6027 or visit the following web site: [www.justgiving.com/an_sgorr]. Alternatively, any donations can be mailed to him c/o 66 Main Street, Dalry, Castle Douglas, DG7 3UW.

QUIZ

As part of the fund raising activities, there will be a quiz in the Lochinvar Hotel in Dalry on Friday 16th April starting at 7.30 pm approximately. Entry will be £10 per team, and teams can be up to 5 members. There will be NO individual questions! If you would like more information or want to enter a team (or find one that needs someone to make up the numbers), ring Marie Davie on 01644 430293 – or just turn up. You will be very welcome. There will also be a raffle. It's all in a wonderful cause!

JOURNEY TO WORK - BANGLADESH

'Bangladesh is a hell full of Gods' gifts.' They are not my words but the description of a Bangali writer. I am journeying back to working in the South West from the capital Dhaka, city of 12 million that each year is growing by five hundred thousand with the destitute from rural villages. Official statistics put tourist visitors to the country at a few thousand so I assume another westerner will be a Development Worker. An observation I found to be true of Dhaka was made of Bombay 'that man eats man and life gets cheaper day by day'. I am glad to be leaving.

My journey's beginning involves a two-hour rickshaw ride to reach the Sadaghat boat terminal on the Buriganga River for my overnight ferry. I must pass through the old town and experience the racket, chaos, stinks, heat, bewilderment, and thinking 'is this really happening to me?' Often I will see an old white coach and its four starved horses, pulling under the whip while the rickshaws that pass are bearing most beautiful proud women, splendid in red Saris. In July 2003 the Guardian carried a story about how my launch had that month sunk with all 600 passengers on board.

I was rarely alone for my returns. My boss's family most often being in my company, always knowing which out of twenty launches was ours. Lilly Sadar, my boss's wife, ever concerned for the welfare of Mr 'Rojar.' 'You want mango, jackfruit, leeches?' As darkness falls at six there are usually at least 20 big ferries, bows thrust up over and against the Ghat on which we wait listening to their shrieking sirens about their imminent sailing. We wait with many hundreds of people all crowded together, trying to remain on our feet as a surge of six or seven men push and force past, the huge loads on their heads turning them into giants. The Ghat begins heaving with the impact of a boat that on arriving is going full ahead, shouldering other boats apart, intent on carrying its bows to appear above you. When it's ours - knowing your ferry was a matter of listening for the chanting from six young men at a gang plank of a destination. Barisal, Barisal, Barisal. I can relax as I make my way up the narrow gang plank to my prince's first class cabin. One hour later the boat will sail into quietness, forward, a search light moving across the river illuminates the black waters to find the small boats that abound whilst on the shore the factories light the banks and sky with red as they work. I am asleep before the Bay of Bengal.

Journey's end is at 6 a.m. landing in Barisal but I have still 30 miles to cover. This will mean rickshaw and then bus to the ferry, bus again and then rickshaw – in all about two hours should a storm not have blown trees across the road. Once I passed through villages as a stranger but now Mr Rojar is greeted with smiles, even though I was once thought to be a British spy. This journey undertaken many times is more vivid in my memory than any dream I could ever have. In remembrance I am again amongst the paddies, palm trees, ponds, taking refuge in a slowly disintegrating wayside refreshment hut as a tropical storm lashes down reducing vision to feet. Journey to work in the Glenkens is a far cry from that in Bangladesh.

Roger Adams, Corsock

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NEW GALLOWAY - Our Historic Burgh

PART XIX by Helen Bolton

The Working Railway

Following my brief digression, in the last issue of the Gazette, to more recent events, I will now return to our earlier history.

A list of charges from the local Toll houses in the Glenkens area, dated February 1861, is interesting. It may sound remarkably cheap by today's standards, but when we realise that these charges were levied at each Toll along the way, and most people driving stock or carting goods would probably pass through four or more Tolls on their journey, we see how the charges mounted up! These would be added to the basic rates paid to the carters for the transporting of goods.

Cartload or part load of grain, peas, beans, potatoes, fish or pork. 2d

Cartload or part load of malt, wheat flour, meal, game or poultry, wines, spirits, ale, hides, tallow; goods for grocers, mercers, drapers, ironmongers, shoemakers, clogmakers, and hatters; glass and earthenware. 4d

Each pack of merchant's goods 2d

Each Chapman's horse pack 2d

Heavy Coach 4d

Carts and waggons drawn by two horses will pay a double toll, and so on in proportion to the number of horses.

Black cattle, sheep, lambs, swine, horses, mules and asses were all charged at 2d. or a portion of this as the Toll keeper saw fit. (For those of a slightly earlier vintage(!), 6d is equal to 2½p)

It therefore comes as no surprise to find the local farmers and traders starting to use the new railway for transporting goods and stock. Apart from the economical aspect, there was the added consideration of speed and efficiency of delivery, and as time went on and further railways appeared to form a network of communications throughout Britain, it was possible to despatch goods to the four corners of the Kingdom with very little effort. The farmers found the transporting of stock much more simple and easy by rail, with access to all the main markets in the country.

The mail coach, which had operated through Galloway for over fifty years, made its final run on the day the railway opened. But, due to a great deal of haggling between the Post Office and the Portpatrick Railway, the mailbags were brought to and from Castle Douglas by gig, until at last a suitable contract was agreed and signed. In mid October 1861 the mails were eventually brought in by rail!

Our railway came, therefore, as a blessing to everyone in the area. Soon after the opening of the line a small, but useful tourist trade began to develop in the Glenkens and New Galloway Station started to bring visitors to the Burgh. The hotels in New Galloway soon found it advantageous to run horse-drawn carriages to meet the trains and collect prospective visitors.

The Ken Bridge hotel was leased by a Mr. James Ball of the Bedford Hotel in Princes Street, Edinburgh, and was expected to attract many distinguished guests!

On the Portpatrick Railway

An auld wife made a sair lament,
(In poetry her grief did vent)
And wish'd there never had been sent
Into this place a railway.

She said the navvies hard did swear,
And oft did ane anither tear;
There's been but little o' that here
Since they began the railway.

Success until the railway,
The merry, heartsome railway;
Wi' whistle shrill each distant hill
Now echoes wi' the railway.

Nae doubt some navvies are to blame;
But, hark, guidwife! thought to our shame,
Ye'll find as worthless chieftains at home
As ony on the railway.

Likewise, she said, I'm vexed to see
The grun sae wasted lang the Dee;
It wasna sae when I was wee
Grim wasted wi' the railway.

Success until the railway,
The merry, heartsome railway;
Baith hill and dale, and ilka vale
Now echoes wi' the railway.

Some say the waurst thing o't ava,
Rogues frae a' quarters it will draw;
Our police they will catch them a'
Just stepping aff the railway.

Since Dumfries line has been complete,
(And I for ane was glad to see't),
Nae beaten soles or blister'd feet
To Dumfries on the railway.

Success until the railway,
The merry, heartsome railway;
Frae Stranraer town they'll now come down
To Dumfries on the railway.

Sae, now, the Port ane it does rin,
The auld wife visit may her kin,
She'll find an easement till her skin-
A guid ride on the railway.

She at the fire may toast her shins,
And brack the big coals wi' the tings;
Nae heather buns or meikle whine,
It's now coals wi' the railway.

Success until the railway,
The merry, heartsome railway;
me Soon frae the Port they will resort
To Dumfries on the railway.

It never enters auld folks min'
What gude will rise yet frae this line-
The muirland hills wi' corn will shine,
Now when we've got a railway.

It coals and Lime will bandy bring;
A market make for everything;
Come, join gudwife, and let us sing
Success until the railway.

The smashing, dashing railway,
The merry, heartsome railway;
Fill up a glass, and drink success
Till the Portpatrick Railway.

A. Reader, Crossmichael.

This poem was originally published in the Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser in March, 1861, in honour of the opening of the new railway. It is only unfortunate that the poet did not think fit to reveal his, or her, name!

JAMES CLERK MAXWELL CENTENARY

This year of 2004 marks the centenary of the death of James Clerk Maxwell, whose home was Glenlair and whose bones rest in the ruins of the Old Kirk at Parton.

Despite the eulogies of famous scientists, the name of this remarkable man, who provided such fundamental insights, is little known today - even by informed and educated people in his native Scotland, including his local environment. Space travel is still based on his equations and wide ranging developments in the field of electricity, including radio, television, radar and communications, derive from his work. To honour the event Parton Hall Committee is considering holding an exhibition in the Village Hall, but more information will be provided. As a point of interest, Basil Mahon, author of the latest biography called "The Man Who Changed Everything" has been asked to give a talk on Maxwell at the Wigton Literary Festival to be held in September.

At school he was nicknamed "Daftie," but later, according to Max Planck, Nobel Laureate, "He achieved greatness unequalled." Professor Ivan Tolstoy, a local biographer writes, "Maxwell's importance in the history of scientific thought is comparable to Einstein's (whom he inspired), and to Newton's (whose influence he curtailed)." Einstein said "One scientific epoch ended and another began with James Clerk Maxwell." Not bad for a Parton lad!!

Centenary booklets and postcards may be purchased at the Parton Village Shop.

Sam Callander

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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

NEW APPOINTMENT AT GCAT

GCAT welcomes Karen Donald who has taken up the post of Events Development Coordinator on a two year contract. Karen has a varied background in working in the arts, previously as administrator and tour manager for the Celtic/Latin American folk band MacUmba and before that as events programmer for Children's theatre production company, Giant Productions, in Glasgow. Karen will be busy over the course of the next year developing and promoting the events programme in preparation for the opening of the new venue and will be involved in the production of the Glenkens Gazette. She is happy to help out with any queries or if you require any assistance with your own activities please contact her on 01644 420374.



GCAT is delighted to announce a grant award of £80,000 from Fresh Futures, part of the National Lottery New Opportunities Fund. This takes the total raised so far towards the capital development for the Old School building to over a **QUARTER OF A MILLION POUNDS!** Pictured below are members of the local community and the GCAT Steering Group outside the Old School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLWAY PRESS SERVICES

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

The Old School in New Galloway is thinking about changing its name, in preparation for opening as a community, business, conference and arts venue and GCAT wants you to tell us what you think. Suggestions already put forward include The Glenkens Centre and The Cat Strand (named after the burn which runs under the building). It could also remain as The Old School.

If you don't like any of these names we are happy for you to put forward your own suggestions for consideration. The new name can have a geographical or historical relevance or perhaps have something to do with the local wildlife. Let us know what you think on 01644 420374 or pop into the GCAT Shop in person with your suggestions, or e-mail us on info@glenkens-arts.com

(Continued from Front Page) A business group will generate a louder voice that will be heard and lobbying for improvements in the mentioned areas will be more successful.

At this point Brian took over again and the floor was opened for discussion. Margaret Watson, from Forrest Estate, pointed out that a big problem in the area was the lack of affordable housing. Locals and incomers trying to start a business or career are unable to buy housing within a realistic budget. Mike Kaye added that the lack of Broadband is a turn off for future business ventures and is campaigning to make the service available in the area. Brian then requested that anybody wishing to continue the idea of the business group and be active in its organisation should come forward. A list of volunteers was drawn up to meet and continue talk about the formalisation and structure of the business group. Business people wanting to join the board at this time should contact Andrew Ward on 01644 429374.

Emily Peaston

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

NEW BUS ROUTE AVAILABLE TO THE GLENKENS

Due to our continued efforts to improve and meet our community's transport needs we have identified need for a service from the Glenkens to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. We see this as a perfect opportunity to use our community bus, which may indeed lead on to other similar routes if there is a demand. This service will operate on the second Monday of every month excluding Public Holidays. Details as below:

Stop/Location	Outward	Return
Carson's Knowe, N.G.	17.45	21.25
St. Johns Seat, Dalry	18.00	21.10
P.Office Balmaclellan	18.09	21.01
D & G Royal Inf.	19.00	20.10

For a more detailed list on drop off and pick up points please call in at the GCAT Shop or phone 01644 420374

RESEARCH GRANT FOR GTI

As many of you will know our community bus has been a great success. It is regularly on our roads ferrying groups to social events, helping our schools with educational visits and is generally proving to be a fabulous asset to the area.

We have recently been awarded a grant by The Scottish Community Action Research Fund (SCARF) to identify current and future transport needs in the Glenkens. Through this research we may be able to demonstrate that there is significant need for further community transport services – perhaps additional vehicles, People Carriers etc. for our area.

In order to provide more services in the future we need the statistical evidence that this sort of survey can demonstrate – please look out for the questionnaire which will arrive on your doorstep some time after Easter. We really look forward to getting your ideas and suggestions!

February 200 CLUB WINNERS

1st	No. 13	David Turner
2nd	No. 74	Maisie Whittle
3rd	No. 149	Nicolette Wise

March 200 CLUB WINNERS

1st	No. 3	Ian Steele
2nd	No. 83	D J Lane
3rd	No. 27	Mrs Merril

LATEST BROADBAND NEWS

Glenkens Broadband Ltd is now starting to test the wireless equipment which will be used to bring Broadband to both villages and outlying rural areas through the next few months.

All business users (except farms with no other commercial activity) are still eligible for £300 grants. The GCAT Office in New Galloway has a supply of grant application forms. These need to be returned to David Byers at the Enterprise Company in Solway House, Dumfries as soon as possible. A separate registration application form should also be completed and sent to Glenkens Broadband at the same time. It will then be possible for staff from Glenkens Broadband to come out to individual addresses, to use the test equipment to establish the best way to access signals from nearby 'base stations'.

JOB VACANCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT RESEARCHERS

Temporary Part Time (Approx. 15 weeks)
Commencement 20.4.04

Two researchers are required to help carry out research on transport needs in the Glenkens. Applicants should have good communication and organisational skills – IT Skills an advantage.

Flexible working hours - £7 per hour plus expenses.
(approximately 40 hours per person)

Full training will be supplied by a qualified instructor. For further details and an application pack please call in at the GCAT Shop, New Galloway or phone 01644 420374

This project is supported by the Scottish Community Action Research Fund (SCARF)

THE WHERRIES. . . .

Scotland's Favourite 'Fun' Folk Band



The Wherries are one of the most popular and sought after Scottish folk bands in the country. They are also in constant demand in many venues throughout the USA, Europe, and the Far East. Their unique style of high energy performance appeals to all ages and contains fantastic folk music mixed with an abundance of hilarious Clydeside humour and audience participation. From their base in Inverclyde on Scotland's rugged and beautiful west coast the band have put together a collection of six albums and four videos which feature in broadcasts all over the world. The warmth and fun of their concert promises to raise your spirits to a new level and leave you with fond memories for years to come.

Quite simply an evening with The Wherries is something not to be missed! The Wherries are due to make a Festival appearance in Dalry Town Hall on Fri. 28th May. This event is being sponsored by the Post Office and is one of 3 being advertised as The Post Office Rural Round. It is co-promoted by GCAT.



MONOLOGUE COMPETITION 2004 WRITE A RADIO MONOLOGUE AND HAVE IT RECORDED ONTO CD

**DGAA announces the 2004
Monologue Competition, open to all in
the Dumfries and Galloway region**

Dumfries and Galloway's writers are invited to submit a monologue of no more than 2000 words (suitable for the Radio 4 3.30 reading slot)
Closing date is Friday 28th May 2004

WHITHORN STORIES

DGAA, in association with The Whithorn Trust, offers a valuable opportunity for a team of writers to work together over the summer and autumn of 2004 to create a radio drama series (suitable for the Radio 4 Woman's Hour slot)

"Whithorn Stories" will consist of stand-alone episodes each covering a specific period of Whithorn's past, but each episode will link together to form a recognisable series covering 1000 years of history.

**Writers will work as part of a team
Deadline 1st May**

**For further information on
either of the above contact**

Andrew Forster, Literature Development Officer,
Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association
Graceland Arts Centre, 28 Edinburgh Road,
Dumfries, DG1 1JQ
Telephone (01387) 253383 Fax (01387) 253303
e-mail Andrew-dgaa.net or go to www.dgaa.net

SPRING FLING OPEN STUDIOS 2004

Spring Fling gets the green light from funders, artists and tourists alike

Spring Fling is a unique event in Scotland, providing a once-a-year opportunity on 29-31 May 2004 for anybody of any age from anywhere to go and see what professional artists and craftmakers do and perhaps even make a purchase or two.

Spring Fling was launched by 72 artists and makers and the arts team at Gracefield Arts Centre in 2003, linked up with the Arts Festival and was an acclaimed success, attracting visitors from right across the UK and proving to be a real hit with local residents as well. £78,000 was spent in the 72 studios participating, the sun shone, everyone had a great time and unanimously asked for more!



Consequently, Spring Fling 2004 is bigger with lots more studios – just over 100 in fact and an extra day longer with a late night opening until 7.00pm on Saturday 29th May. Also new this year, will be the painted Spring Fling travelling studio caravan which will move across the region during the weekend and is a must see. Spring Fling buses will be on the road again for those who don't want to drive. Also on offer are the Kids workshops, a prize draw and a chance to watch and participate in the making of many craft items.

Enquiries have been coming in through the www.spring-fling.co.uk from as far afield as Finland, Barcelona and Dusseldorf!. Everyone is invited to join the Spring Fling trail and travel one or more of the six coloured routes across the region. Studios are open from Eskdalemuir right through the region to the Isle of Whithorn and Stoneykirk. Artists and makers have also recommended places for lunch, interesting sites of cultural interest – even a good fish and chip shop!

"We want to put Dumfries and Galloway on the map as a beautiful region with quality art and craft, excellent accommodation, good food and superb evening entertainment. We aim to make Spring Fling the 'must visit' art and craft event of the year and Dumfries and Galloway everyone's undiscovered secret. We also want to ensure that people who live here have the opportunity to see what beautiful and interesting items are created behind studio doors", says Jane McArthur, Visual Arts Development Officer who organises Spring Fling. "Lots of people in the region know that there is a painter or a jeweller or a basket maker living nearby, but have never actually seen what they do. Spring Fling offers people that chance. The open studio event created a real feel good factor in the region last year. I want to achieve that again for 2004".

For a free full colour brochure, please contact Gracefield Arts Centre, 28 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries. 01387 262084, visit www.spring-fling.co.uk or look out for the flyers in libraries and Tourist Information Centres across the region.

FIONA KNOWLES Women on the Verge of a T-Junction

New Galloway Town Hall's roof was well and truly raised on Saturday 27 March with the most excellent comedy theatre performance from the award winning Fiona Knowles. Fiona's performance was a jewel. For the last few weeks she had been fully embroiled in her most recent show "Catch a Falling Star" but once she got back into the T-Junction roles she was off. The audience was intimate and exceptionally appreciative. This, of course enhanced Fiona's performance as she played to the laughter, particularly provoked by her policewoman character. She slipped seamlessly from the middle-aged, unhappily married Liz, who thought she'd caused the crash at the eponymous T-junction, to Bessie, aged 82, who thought she'd been blown up in the war. The third casualty was Ellie, a pregnant, power-driven younger woman, and like the rest, her life was transformed by the day's events. The story and characters dovetailed with the expertise one has come to expect from the Rona Munro's script, and was beautifully and movingly executed by Fiona Knowles at her best.



Shelagh Neil

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

The time of year is here again for Kells to head off to Dumfries for both the Speech and Music Festivals. The last couple of weeks we have been working extra hard for all our competitions and, in the end, it was worth it.

Between the two Festivals, we have managed to win 13 trophies and shields, 4 of them were for individual performances. There were 14 Commended Performance Certificates in the Speech and 12 in the Music. Commended Certificates were awarded to Molly Tulloch, Accordion, and Kelly Wilson, Piano. The adjudicator was brilliant!! He made it a lot of fun for us. Mr. Douglas Coombes was our adjudicator for the Music. Before every competition, he had great ways of warming our voices up. He even got Mrs. Plummer out to the front to do one of the games with him. At one point, he was on his back, lying on the Theatre Royal stage with a shield on his stomach! He was showing us breathing exercises to use when we are singing and it helped us to understand that we shouldn't ever sing from the throat, only by using our diaphragms. Mr. Douglas Coombes has travelled all over the world conducting choirs and leading orchestras, and for 20 years, he was with the

KELLS PRIMARY SCHOOL Dumfries & District Speech and Music Festivals, 2004

BBC Education Department making programmes like Time & Tune and Singing Together. Mrs. Plummer used these programmes in her class years ago. She thought they were great and she was really pleased to meet the man who had produced them.

Our adjudicator praised us for our excellent standards and he particularly liked our dynamics. He thought our hymn was very moving and he has told us we have to enter for the National BBC Junior Choir of the Year so we're going to watch for that competition coming up and we'll have a try.

After our Boys' Choir sang, Mr. Coombes told us that singing wasn't a cissy thing for boys to do and to phrase it another way, expanding our lungs for singing will help us in our running on the football field! He said he had made loads of friends through music and he added that he has made a lot of money from music, too. He really made our Festival fun and we learned a lot from him. We all hope he will come back again next year.

MACKAYS FASHION SHOW

Kells Primary School PTA are holding a Mackays Fashion Show in the Town Hall, New Galloway on Thursday 22 April - 7-9pm.
10% off stock bought on the night.

Tickets available from local shops.

HERE ARE OUR RESULTS:

(Distinction equals 'An Excellent performance both technically and artistically')

Infants Singing Game: Beeswing Trophy (Distinction)

Action Song: The Adamson Trophy (Distinction)

Combined Musical Activities (P1-4): The Frank Davis Quailch (Distinction)

Primary School Choirs: Hymn Singing: Challenge Trophy. This was won by the girls' choir who gained an 'Outstanding Performance' (An exceptional performance both technically and artistically)

Hollywood Shield: Choir-pupil conducted (Distinction)

The Laurieknowe Cup: Boys' Choir (Distinction)

Elizabeth Narcot Shield: Choir (1-5 Teachers) (Distinction)

The Annan Public Shield for top Rural Choir at the Festival.

Hannah Sainsbury won the Mrs. P.E. Allan Trophy for Senior Girls' vocal solos and William Glasby won the Association Challenge Shield for Primary 4/5 Boys' vocal solos. (Both Distinction)

In the Speech Festival:

Calside School Association Trophy: Jack Newbold (Senior Boys' Prose Reading) (Distinction)

Calside School Association Trophy: Hannah Sainsbury (Senior Girls' Prose Reading) (Commended)

Loreburn St. John's School Trophy: Senior Class (Choric Verse) (Distinction)

Report by the Senior Pupils,
Kells Primary School

TROPHIES ON DISPLAY IN GCAT SHOP WINDOW

BIOTECHNOLOGY TRIP TO CREAM O' GALLOWAY

On Wednesday 17 March 2004, the third year biology class was given the opportunity to visit Cream O' Galloway as part of Science Week. Mr Birch, the school technician arrived in the new GCAT bus to take us to Gatehouse of Fleet. Once we had arrived at the Cream O' Galloway, we were greeted by Helen Fenby, one of the employees at the farm. Helen first showed us around the newly established Organic Farm. We were shown some of the newly weaned calves. We saw various breeds of calves ranging from those bred for their milk, or for their beef, for example Ayrshire or Aberdeen Angus. We were then taken into the milking parlour and shown where all the milk is stored for the Capitals First milk company to collect and for Cream O' Galloway to use for their ice cream. Helen took us up to the sheds where the mothers were due to give birth and there was one cow showing imminent signs of birthing. We had to carefully clean our feet due to risks of infection and we also had to wash our hands thoroughly. Helen then took us up to the viewing gallery where we could see the employees at work and she explained how the ice cream was made and talked us through the process.

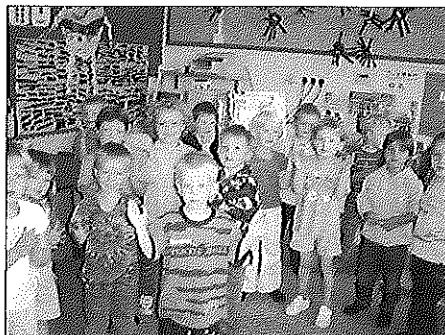
The ice cream being made was honeycomb crunch. We saw about six very large containers being put together and watched as the supervisor made various checks on the equipment to make sure it was working properly.

We were also shown tubs of the different flavourings used in the ice cream, the most popular is Vanilla. "We made a mistake with the Cappuccino once" Helen told us, "It was twice as strong as it should have been and was withdrawn from sale. It was very popular with coffee drinkers in the farm's cafe but not suitable for wide distribution. The organic frozen yoghurt varieties are big sellers in London and the south of England but not in Scotland".

Alasdair bought a large tub of whisky, honey and oatmeal ice cream, his opinion was it was light on whisky and the tub wasn't big enough. We came home over the hill road just in time for lunch. We enjoyed our trip, the farm is developing further, a new indoor play area is nearing completion which will be a real bonus in wet weather.

S3 Biology class

DALRY NURSERY SCHOOL



At Dalry nursery this term we have been having loads of fun with all the fabulous visitors that have been coming into see us. We have had dogs, a puppy, a cat, hens and a lamb all into school to help us with our pets project.

Les, the traffic policeman came on his motorbike and frightened everyone by sounding his siren! It turned out that he was very friendly though and showed us all the flashing lights he has on his bike. We had a great time.

DEREK HENDERSON & PARTNERS

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm
Sat 2-2.30 pm

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

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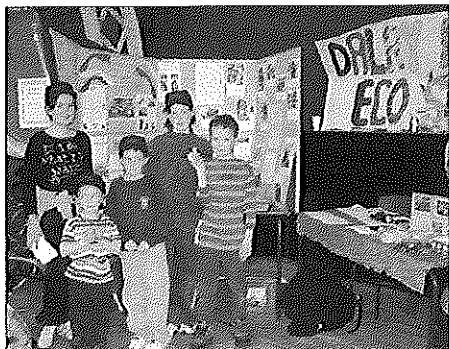
OFFICES IN:

CASTLE DOUGLAS, DALBEATTIE
KIRKCUDBRIGHT & DUMFRIES

DALRY PRIMARY ENVIRONMENT

The School development plan focus for this year was to become an Eco-School. I am happy to report great success in this field. In fact we are quite famous, and have been cited as a template of "good practice" for other schools to follow by the Environmental Agencies GLOBE, SWEAP and ENCAMS. We have held regular Eco Mornings throughout the year all of which feature on our website [www.dalrmyschool.org]. If you look at the Guestbook on the site you will see many of the commendations we have received.

Some of our successes include the following: Mr Simpson's ENERGY group has already saved the school money with their switch-off campaign. The WASTE-MINIMISATION have involved the whole of P6/7 in making booklets from waste printer paper for Mrs Porteous to use in her class, they regularly distribute shredded paper to pupils for pets and we are now a recycling centre for aluminium cans, cardboard and newspapers. The LITTER group has surveyed the school to see if we have adequate bins and has purchased extra bins for the toilets and the playground (funded by Friends of Dalry). The TRANSPORT group invited Tina Lockhart (Planning and Environment Services) to give them advice on their School Travel Plan. The HEALTH group is planning a 'Healthy Living Week'; the 'Hungry Horse' P3/4/5 healthy tuck shop continues to be sold out every Friday when the fruit boxes are on sale and Mrs McCall, Miss Devlin Jane Banner and Morag Paterson are all now qualified in food hygiene. The WATER group has arranged with Mr Simpson to stop buying expensive bottled water, they have provided us with a mains water cooler; Liz Brinkmann recycles plastic bottles to enable the children to have access to a drink of water in class. I think you'll agree we deserved our BRONZE Eco award. We are now aiming for SILVER.



Our Eco Committee and Eco Mornings have been so successful we were invited to display photographs of our activities at the annual Dumfries and Galloway ENVIRONMENT DAY in the Loreburn Hall on Saturday March 6~. We were the only primary school to be invited.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

For the second year running we took part in the annual Dumfries Music Festival; we entered two events (both on the same night) and took Dumfries by storm in a 50 seater coach! Even the adjudicator mentioned what great travelling support we had. The children had an absolute ball - to quote Hazel P2 as she stepped onto the stage, "I am so enjoying this". The staff were extremely proud of all of the children who behaved impeccably and gave accomplished performances; we are delighted to report that we won Commended Certificates in both events. The children will receive a souvenir certificate at assembly.

NEW GALLOWAY SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

"Would you like to join the rural?" is a question sometimes asked of women new to the area. "I'm not into making jam" or "I'm not good at crafts" is sometimes the reply. Well, that doesn't really matter, domestic skills aren't a requirement for membership! What are we about, in that case? Why join?

Firstly, we provide an opportunity to meet other women. The S.W.I. is a non-political and non-religious group, open to women of all ages. We seek to preserve the traditions of rural Scotland and promote its heritage, provide recreation for country women and promote international understanding between women.

Secondly, we aim to encourage domestic skills, and some of our talks are about cooking, craft or flowers, and we "taste and try" or have a go ourselves. A wide variety of other topics are also covered. Scottish canals, Galloway mansion houses, the BBC, sign language for the deaf and the April open meeting about the RAF to name a few.

Thirdly, we have trips, and meals out, and have joined the Glenkens transport scheme. We have

our own Burns Supper in January. Occasionally we spend the evening debating current issues. In fact talks can be arranged to suit member's interests. There is always a good tea and plenty of chat.

Fourthly, There are sporting events within the Stewartry for golfers and bowlers as well as other competitions.

There are Rurals in Carsphairn, Dalry, Mossdale and New Galloway. New Galloway meetings are advertised in the shop window and are usually on the third Wednesday of each month from September to June inclusive. We have some new members but would welcome more. So, would you like to join the Rural?

Jenny Repath Tel. 420235.

CHILDMINDER WANTED

Registered childminder wanted for part-time childcare in the Glenkens area.

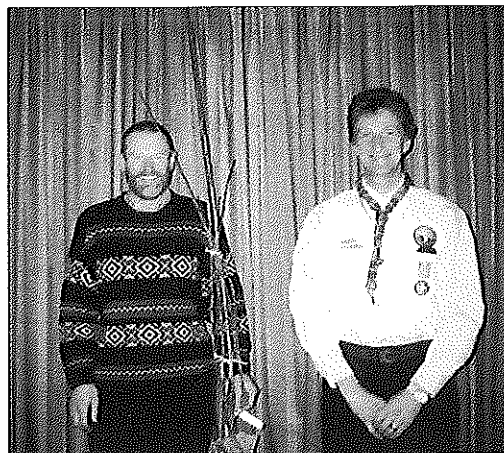
For more information please contact Karen on 07949 325433

Glenkens Cub Scout News

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack and Beaver colony attended a founders day service at Anwoth and Girthon Church, Gatehouse of Fleet on 22 February. Over a hundred young members and leaders from the Galloway area gathered for worship. Greg Lawrie was the flag bearer for the Glenkens and Edmund Wise read a lesson. After lunch the cub scouts went to Cally Woods to take part in an orienteering event. Two courses were set by Mr and Mrs Robertson from the Solway Orienteering Club. Martin Wilson and Henry Sainsbury won silver medals on the white course.

At a recent Annual Leaders Gathering held at the Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart, Bob Peace, a keen gardener was presented with a plum tree to mark his retirement from scouting. Bob has been involved in Scouting over many years, both in Dumfriesshire and Galloway area and he was scout leader in the Glenkens. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication and commitment you have given to the movement.

The Scout Group are holding their Jumble Sale on Saturday 17th April at 2pm in the Scout Hall, New Galloway. All donations of clothing, bric-a-brac, books and cake and candy will be gratefully received.



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Car Connections have been announced as Scottish Enterprise D & G W&W2003 Best E-Business Award Winners. Give Ronnie a call to find out why.

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SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS



Car Connections, the Dalry based Internet Car Company is celebrating a double success, having been awarded two major e-business honours in the last four months.

The business owned and run by local businessman Ronnie Bradford since 1997 has been awarded the Scottish Enterprise Regional Best E-Business Award for 2003 in the recent Winners @ The Web competition for its unique business profile and innovative interactive website carconnections.co.uk.

This has been followed up with the award for Best E-Business in Dumfries & Galloway at last month's Business & Learning Awards 2004 sponsored by Scottish Enterprise, Royal Bank of Scotland and The Dumfries & Galloway Standard. This prestigious prize was awarded to Car Connections for its major contribution in establishing e-commerce within the region and its success in the specific area of Internet Vehicle Sales. Car Connections will now represent Dumfries & Galloway in the forthcoming Enterprising Scotland Awards 2004 to be held at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow in June.

Car Connections is undeniable proof that a thriving, innovative and unique e-business can be run from within the heart of the Glenkens. With over 400 clients throughout the UK and an annual turnover in excess of £500,000, the company is at the forefront of the Internet retail revolution and has an enviable reputation for service and value within the Scottish Motor Trade.

Commenting on his success, Ronnie said "I am naturally delighted to have received these two awards which justify both my faith in the Car Connections concept but also the faith shown by my customers, many of whom return time after time to experience the unique blend of value and service that is Car Connections." Ronnie went on to explain how Car Connections works - "Having direct access to a database of over 4.5 million new & used cars and vans means that Car Connections is completely customer focused, supplying what the client wants often at a price below their expectations, rather than what is currently available on the forecourt. It is a unique win-win-win-win scenario for the customer who gets the car they want at a price less than they expected with a level of service and attention to detail they have never experienced and a good part-exchange offer on top. All this is available to every person who puts Car Connections on their shopping list and because we are Internet based it is fully accessible from the comfort of your own home. However you do not have to be a computer whiz kid to enjoy the benefits of our service. Because Car Connections is run solely by myself, I am always just a phone call away for anyone who prefers to 'have a chat' about their motoring needs. Finally, every person who buys a car from Car Connections has it personally delivered by me, no matter where they live, to cement a relationship that hopefully will last for years"

Ronnie can be contacted at Car Connections offices in Dalry on 01644 430100 or fax 01644 430102 or mobile 07855 501398 or e-mail ronnie@carconnections.co.uk or via the website at www.carconnections.co.uk.

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

Balmacellan	12.00 noon	1st
Carsphairn	10.30 am	1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Dalry	12.00 noon	1st 2nd 3rd 4th (except 1st May at 9am)
Kells	10.30 am	2nd 4th
New Galloway	10.30 am	3rd
Town Hall	6.00 pm	2nd (April), 1st (May)

Special Services:

4th April 6.30pm Stainer's Crucifixion, Balmacellan Church
9th April 7.30 pm Good Friday Service, Dalry Church
11th April 7.00 am Dawn Service at Balmacellan War Memorial, followed by breakfast in Balmacellan Village Hall
7th May 6.30 pm Pot-Luck Supper at the Manse
15th May 7.30 pm Phoenix Welsh Choir, Carsphairn Church
30th May 11.30 am United Celebration for Pentecost, Dalry Church and School Playing Fields

Easter Services

As part of the celebration of Easter this year the Glenkens Church Choir will be performing Stainer's Crucifixion in Balmacellan Church on the evening of Palm Sunday (4th April). This service will include opportunities for the congregation to sing too. The Good Friday Service will be in Dalry Church on 9th April. The Dawn Service on Easter Sunday will be at Balmacellan War Memorial at 7 am and will be followed by breakfast in Balmacellan Village Hall. Main Easter Sunday Services will be in Carsphairn Church and Kells Church at 10.30 am and in Dalry Church at 12 noon.

United Celebration at Pentecost (ChristFest Glenkens)

A special time of celebration is being planned within the local Church of Scotland congregations on the last Sunday of May, which also happens to be a fifth Sunday of the month and to fall on Pentecost (Whitsun), one of the main festivals of the Christian year. It is planned to gather outside Dalry Church at 11.30 am and then have a joyful banner-waving procession up Main Street and along Throughgate led by members of the Dalmellington Silver Band, singing as we go. A service will then be held on the school playing fields, including songs from our local Primary School children and involvement of other groups within the life of the churches. Afterwards, weather-permitting, we will share a picnic on the playing fields followed by a time of games and activities for the children. The whole celebration will end with a festive shout at 3 pm. It is hoped that this will be a joyful festive occasion and it is open to all.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St. Margaret's, New Galloway

10.30am Holy Communion
Every Sunday and Wednesday

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday 4th April
Holy Communion 10.30am
Maundy Thursday 8th April
Holy Communion 6.00pm
Good Friday 9th April
Devotional Service 12noon-1.00pm

Easter Day 11th April
Holy Communion 10.30am

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES
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The Annual Festival of Drama

The annual Festival Of Drama took place in the Lochside Theatre between 25th & 28th February. It was a true feast for theatre lovers with a fare of 11 plays varying from farce to high drama; traditional to ultra modern. The tickets were sold out for every evening so, no doubt, some of the parents and friends of Glenkens performers were unable to get in. It is a shame, therefore that such is the pace of life in the Glenkens, neither team is able to stage its play again.

The Glenkens Youth team took to the boards on Thursday night. They were by far the youngest team taking part, consisting as they did of Primary age pupils from Kells School. The Adjudicator, Jim Wolstencroft, praised them for the professional manner in which they performed "Round the World with Class 6" by Nick Warburton. This is not a play of characters, as could be detected from a glance at the cast list where each child was merely a number or indicated by a task he or she had to perform. The children performed with energy and enthusiasm and dedicated attention to each well rehearsed move. In some ways it was like an opera with individuals taking our full attention from time to time but for the most part the cast worked in unison and the play had been most carefully, and indeed, beautifully choreographed by the director Brian Edgar (with some suggestions by Lillian Thomson which he gratefully acknowledges). The play shows how the dull routine of the classroom can be transformed by inspirational suggestions or ideas which fire the children's imagination. Here Sir Francis Drake's voyage round the world was the inspiration and the audience were with them for every nautical inch of the way, much aided by the impeccable diction of the cast. (No prompts needed by them, as was the case for some of the adult, non-Glenkens, actors.) It was a joy to watch and the round of applause requested by Mr. Wolstencroft, firstly for the accordion player - Molly Tulloch - and secondly the entire production, was unstintingly and loudly granted by those of us lucky enough to be present.

The adult team performed "The Crass Menagerie" by Isabella C. Rae, on Friday night. The play began with one character (Goldie, ably performed by Katherine

Polkinghorne) arriving at some sort of interview room where it seemed she was due to receive therapy for a behavioural disorder of some kind. She was joined by Red (Sheila Little, who was also the Stage Manager). Her character had clearly been traumatised by some event in her past and, extremely timid though she appeared, had been taking revenge on Alsatian dogs in some very unpleasant ways. The audience began to realise that we might be observing an alternative world, when Jack (Callum McIntyre) appeared carrying an axe and Goldie began verbally abusing the race of bears. Adam Chookie, the Social Worker, (Ewan McIntyre) seemed normal enough but when Wicky arrives on stage complete with pointed black hat - we know we are in Panto-land. Wicky was beautifully played by Christine Rae. (No relation to the author, she tells us with regret). From then on the play, which had been fairly slow, really took off. Adam dressed up in a frock and Jack was superb when role playing the part of Red Riding Hood whilst Red was induced to take on the role of the wolf and sustained an immediate character change. The audience got into the spirit of things and roared its approval and encouragement. The Adjudicator, commented on what a difficult play it was to direct. A sentiment we feel sure was shared by Marie Davie who, never-the-less, we hope enjoyed the experience as much as the cast seem to have done. Congratulations all round.

This festival was the first stage of a nation-wide competition run by the Scottish Community Drama Association, so there had to be winners. These were teams from Crossmichael and Lochside Youth Theatre who go on to represent the Stewartry at the Divisional finals at the Ryan Centre from 24th - 26th March. The youth side will also compete again in the Youth Festival Divisional Final in April and, who knows but they may be seen again in Castle Douglas when the Scottish Youth Finals take place here on 19th. June.

The Gazette would like to congratulate Brian Edgar who is presently the Vice Chairman of the Stewartry Drama Association and will take on the responsibilities of Chairman next season.

Rhoda Rugg

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER?

Can you help us out 5 times a year for approximately 2 hours in one week?

On 16th May, 1938, the Women's Voluntary Service for Air Raid Precautions was founded. The Dowager Marchioness Lady Reading was appointed Chairman and the Queen and Queen Mary, the Queen Mother became joint patrons. While the war was on, the WVS was expanding from its original purpose of helping to set up air raid shelters and providing food wagons to many aspects of civil defence, evacuating children sometimes with their mothers, staffing hospitals, providing transport for patients and doing welfare work for the troops.

In 1947 Meals on Wheels was officially launched, and in 1966 the Service was honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and became the W.R.V.S. We are still active in the Glenkens delivering meals to disadvantaged people.

In New Galloway we deliver on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and each volunteer does the whole week, collecting the hot meals from Kells School and serving them in New Galloway and Balmacellan. Not only does it ensure that people receive three balanced meals in a week, but it also means that they receive at least three visits every week and get a cheery word and a bit of a chat.

We are all volunteers, many of us having been on the rota for countless years, but we know the pleasure our visits bring and we too get much satisfaction from them. Sadly some of the old hands have had to give up for various reasons, and we would welcome some new faces. If you want more details ring Barbara Johnson (01644 430271) or Elizabeth Gray (01644 420656).

Today there are 90,000 WRVS volunteers, 14,000 of them men, and members are still on call 24 hours a day to help cope with the aftermath of disasters, including forest fires, floods, train crashes and national emergencies such as the foot and mouth outbreak. We were on the scene at Lockerbie within three hours, setting up a Rest Centre for the emergency service teams and later for the victims' relatives.

Will you join us and see the difference we make? We also have members who are drivers for the Stewartry Good Neighbours scheme, taking people for appointment of various kinds helping them to get out and about. Expenses are available for both these ventures, so no-one need be out of pocket.

Glenkens Playgroup

in partnership with



Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

Education Department

managed by a local committee of Mums
For more information please contact
Mrs Julie Moore 01644 460687



GLENKENS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY : ANNUAL SHOW 2004

HANDICRAFTS SECTION

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

- A Get Well Card (no photos)
- An Article Crafted in Wood
- An Article using Glass Paints
- A Decorated Box
- A Knitted Hat
- A Covered Coat Hanger
- An Article in Cross-stitch
- An Original Painting or Drawing (any medium)
- A Cushion (any craft)
- Any Other Craft Article

The show is on Saturday August 28th, in Dalry Town Hall and entries are open to all residents of The Glenkens. This year's Photography subject is 'Tree Blossom'

If you have any queries or would like any further information on the above, please contact Margaret Sharp on 01644 430326. 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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Tue-Fri: 12-2pm, 6.30-8pm,

Sat: 12-2pm, 6-8pm, Sun: 12-2pm, 5.30-7.30pm

"Charlie's" Restaurant ~ (Bookings Advisable)

Thu-Sat: 6.30-8.30pm, Sun: 5.30-7.30pm

"Charlie's" is non-smoking

Coffee Shop

Tue-Sat: 11-3pm, Sun: 11-2pm

CLOSED ON MONDAYS

HIGH STREET, NEW GALLOWAY 01644 420494

GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS FEBRUARY - MARCH PROGRAMME



THE URBAN TURBAN CLUB

When - Monthly: 1st Saturday in month, 2.15 - 5.00pm
Where - Kells Primary School, New Galloway
What - A new club for primary school aged children. Explore African stories with Stripey Dog. Get noisy and jump about. Learn to play big traditional drums and to dance like a Bambara hunter. Part of the ARTS4US Programme.
Tickets - £3.00 per session



CLYDEBUILT PUPPET THEATRE

When - Easter Monday - 12th April 2004, 2.30pm
Where - Balmacellann Village Hall
What - Jack and the Beanstalk & Billy Goats Gruff
 A delightful puppet show with two favourite fairy tales. Suitable for 3-7 year olds and their families.
Tickets - £3.00 available on door or in advance from GCAT shop

PHOENIX WELSH CHORAL QUARTET

When - 15th May 2004, 7.30pm
Where - Carsphairn Church
 An evening of harmony and humour. Includes light refreshments.
Tickets - £6 (under 16 £2.50) available on door or in advance from GCAT shop

WEE WITCHES BY LICKETYSPIT

When - 25th May 2004, 4pm
Where - Kells Primary School, New Galloway
 An intoxicating treat of story, song, music and laughter to fire children's imagination. A spell binding tale from everyone from age 3 upwards. Co-promotion with GCAT
Tickets - £2/£1 available on door or in advance from GCAT shop

THE WHERRIES

When - 28th May 2004
Where - Dalry Town Hall
 Their unique style of high energy performance, appeals to all ages and contains fantastic folk music mixed with an abundance of hilarious Clydeside humour and audience participation. Sponsored by The Post Office, and co-promoted by GCAT.
Tickets - £6/£5 available on door or in advance from GCAT shop

GLENKENS PLAY IT BY EAR

When - Every 2nd Monday of the Month
Where - Balmacellann Village Hall
 Music, song and percussion workshops for pre-school children and their carers. Contact Alison Caldwell 01644 420272
Tickets - £2 per adult/child combo



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, DG7 3RN.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GAZETTE

Any contributions to the Gazette are always welcome by anyone and everyone, and all articles, cartoons or photos are considered for publication. We are very keen to receive contributions from a wider area. Please remember that we try very hard to remain politically impartial. Although we encourage you to express your views on subjects of interest to the local community, sometimes an editorial decision is taken not to print an article because it might jeopardize that impartiality.

If you are submitting an article the preferred format is by e-mail to Jonnie Dowdswell at [ensys@jdowdswell.freemove.co.uk]. He prefers to receive your article as an attachment in text or rich text format (.txt or .rtf files). If you can't email it the next preferred method is on disc which you can post or drop in to the GCAT Shop. Again ideally it should be .txt or .rtf. If you want to submit a printed document then this is OK. Please keep fonts plain so that your text can be recognized by the scanner software. (Ideal fonts are Arial, Times, New Roman, Courier. No bold or italic please).

For those of you who have no idea of what we are talking about, we are still very happy to receive hand written articles which we will happily type up for you.

Jane Trueman and Karen Donald are our chief co-ordinators so if you have a good story but aren't able to write it yourself please get in touch with either of them. They will be very happy to carry out interviews and undertake research to get your story written. Telephone 01644 420374.

If you would like to volunteer to become involved with GCAT either helping to plan events or co-ordinate items for the Gazette, then please do get in touch. You'd be really welcome to join the GCAT Team.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE / JULY ISSUE 22:

FRIDAY 14th MAY 2004

e-mail: editor@glenkensgazette.com

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

APRIL

MON 12th Clydebuilt Theatre Company
 Balmacellann Village Hall, 2.30pm
SAT 17th Scout Group Jumble Sale,
 Scout Hall, New Galloway 2pm
WED 21st New Galloway SWRI Meeting
 New Galloway Lower Town Hall 7.30 pm
THU 22nd Mackays Fashion Show
 Kells Primary School, 7pm

MAY

SAT 15th Phoenix (Welsh Choral Quartet) returning to
 Carsphairn Church.
FRI 25th Wee Witches by Lickety Spit.
 Kells Primary School, 4pm
FRI 25th The Wherries, Dalry Town Hall
 29th-31st Bus Tour for Spring Fling

REGULAR EVENTS

Heather Hoppers

Fun for pre-schoolers 0-5 years. Jumping, kicking, climbing and throwing.
 Every Thursday 1.45 - 2.30 Balmacellann Village Hall
 £2.00 Phone Kate Maxwell 420328 or Morag Paterson 430601

Mother & Toddlers

New Galloway Town Hall Tuesday 9.30 - 11.00 am £1.00 per session

Glenkens Play it by Ear

Every 2nd Monday of the Month. Balmacellann Community Hall
 Contact: Alison Caldwell 01644 420272

**Thank you to all who have supported and
contributed to the Glenkens Gazette**



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