

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

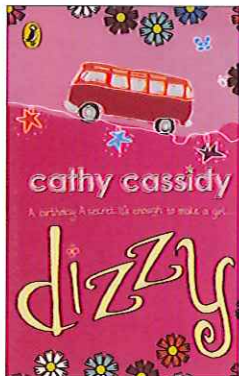
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www.glenkensgazette.com

THE WRITE STUFF!

Local art teacher Cathy Gilligan has just written her first children's book, Dizzy. She tells us how it all happened...



I've wanted to write a children's book for as long as I can remember. When I was small, I wrote and illustrated a book for my little brother all about a very tall sunflower, and at school I used to make comics to sell to my friends. It was before the days of photocopyers, and I used to grab the comic back once they'd read it and sell it on to someone else!

As a teenager, I sent dozens of stories to the legendary teenage magazine Jackie, and collected dozens of very polite rejections in reply. I didn't give up, and by the time I was 16 I was getting a few stories and articles printed here and there. I also loved art, and studied for a degree in illustration at Liverpool College of Art, which is

where I met my husband, Liam (now a well-known Glenkens postie!).

On graduating, I bought an old typewriter and settled down to write a book. Six months later, I'd done masses of research but failed to write a single word. Instead, I started applying for jobs, and couldn't believe my luck when I was offered a job on Jackie mag, which I'd plagued with stories as a teenager. The job was based in Dundee, and soon I became Fiction Editor, buying stories from other young hopefuls. I also got the chance to style fashion and beauty shoots and interview people - pretty cool! I learnt lots about writing for teens, and even after leaving Jackie to work as an art teacher I went on writing as a freelance, selling stories, features and illustrations.

About 14 years ago, Liam and I moved to the Glenkens and I settled down to have a family (Calum is 11 now and Caitlin's 10!) and continue freelancing. A few years ago, I went back to teaching, too, as a visiting art specialist for six local primary schools. It's good fun and always puts a smile on my face, but then Galloway schools are the best in the land!!!

I still dreamed of writing a children's book, but never made it past a couple of chapters - until a straight-talking friend made me realise that it's better to

try and fail (or maybe even succeed) than never to try at all. Inspired, I sat down to write 1000 words every day that I wasn't teaching - pretty soon, to my amazement, I had a finished book. A bit more pushing from the same pal and I sent the book to an agent picked at random from the Writer's Handbook. Before long, I not only had an agent, but an amazing two-book deal from Puffin! The book has also sold in America, and I'm just back from a trip to New York to meet the publishers there - the whole thing is like a dream come true!

The book, Dizzy, written under the pen name Cathy Cassidy (my Gran's name), will be published on June 3rd.

Dizzy's mum left when she was small. Every year, on her birthday, something arrives in the post - a present or a card with her mum's loopy writing on it. Dizzy has kept everything. This year is different. Nothing comes in the post, but something amazing is about to arrive on Dizzy's doorstep. Something that will whisk her away - and put Dizzy's whole world in a spin!

Aimed at ages 9 and upwards, Dizzy by Cathy Cassidy will be available in all major bookshops, as well as Barry Smart and Designs in Castle Douglas. There are more books in the pipeline, but I still can't quite believe my luck and I have to keep pinching myself to believe all this is happening. All I can say is, if you have a dream, like I did, go for it - you never know what you can achieve if you really, really try.

Find out more about Dizzy by checking out www.cathycassidy.com



Cathy Cassidy

BIG LAUNCH FOR KEPPEL PUBLISHING



Molly Muddle

Local Publisher, Alison Caldwell, of Keppel Publishing, has recently had a highly successful launch of the first two books in a new children's series, "Our Wonderful World". The event was on 6 May at The Scottish Book Trust in Edinburgh.

Fresh, fun and original, "Our Wonderful World" combines entertainment and education, encouraging under sevens to understand and explore the world around them. At the heart of the stories is a group of appealing characters - a jolly grown up called Molly Muddle, Polly the Parrot, Skip the Dog and their four friends, Ruby, Tom Tom, Bubble and Pip. Molly Muddle, alias co-author Anne Butler, put in a personal appearance thrilling an invited group of nursery children. We hope before long she will visit the Glenkens.

Alison, who runs her business from the Grey House in New Galloway, already publishes the increasingly popular and successful Rory stories. Find out more on the website, www.keppelpublishing.com and look out for this creative new series in the local shops. It is sure to be a hit with the under sevens.

DIZZY COMPETITION

We have two signed copies of Dizzy to give away to the first two randomly selected correct answers to the following question:

What is Cathy Cassidy's real name ?

Entries on a postcard to GCAT Shop, High Street, New Galloway by Monday 14th June 2004. Participants must be under 14.

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LOCAL ARTISTS

Frances Godfrey, Balmaclellan



Frances Godfrey is an artist based in Balmaclellan, who specialises in images of birds and who works mainly in pen and ink and watercolours.

Frances was born in Aberdeen but moved to Nottinghamshire as a child. She trained in oil painting and figure drawing under Ronald Thursby at

Nottingham School of Art as a part-time student in the 1970s and was made a fellow of the Nottingham Society of Artists in 1985.

Frances' earlier work had a strong element of design but recent watercolours have evolved into a more realistic style.

Her interest in birds was intensified by many years as a Trent Valley Birdwatcher. Since she and her husband settled in the Glenkens she now does WeBS bird counts for Milton and Auchinreoch Lochs in the Stewartry. Her work has been included in the SOC magazine and in exhibitions here and in the Midlands, the latest being at Otterburn Gallery in Dumfries which she shared with David Kelly and Keith Brown.

Frances has a range of cards and notelets featuring birds available for sale. If you are interested in purchasing any of these, or if you want to speak to her about her work you can contact her on 01644 420736.



As a new, regular item, the Glenkens Gazette will be featuring local arts & crafts people in each edition. If you are a local artist and are interested in appearing here, get in touch with Karen on 01644 420374

FALCONRY RETIREMENT HOME

The retirement home was set up by accident when we moved to the Glenkens. At the time I had 3 birds, (2 Harris hawks and a Gyr falcon). I had been flying birds as a hobby for approximately 14 years and had travelled the country doing so.

In 2002 I was contacted by a friend to tell me that he needed a home to retire an old Saker falcon to. As I had much more space where I was staying, I took pity on the old bird and took him in. Four months later another person phoned and said he had heard from a good friend that I was willing to accept raptors that were too old for flying or breeding, and so I acquired my second O.A.P. It has just continued to grow ever since. About this time good friends of mine Dave & Sue Paterson, owners of the Ken Bridge Hotel had started taking an interest in my hawks. Dave being a strong supporter of the Red Kite Trail suggested fencing off an area of the gardens at the Ken Bridge Hotel for the birds to be shown to the public. The falconry retirement home was started and is still growing. Just this week we received Angel, a 4 year old female Peregrine falcon who broke a wing last year while flying wild and was given to me by a bird lover from Newcastle.

Interest has grown in the local area, and as well as the birds being on display every day at the hotel, I have been invited by local schools, cubs and scouts etc to "show and tell." My birds will be on display at the Glenkens show. Rae Heard



MOUNT KENYA AND MOUNT KILIMANJARO TRIP

Ian Knox

It has been a dream of Ian's to return to Africa, especially Kenya, where he spent his childhood. He got the chance to go this year in February after much hard saving and training. Here, in the first part of a two part serialisation, he tells the story of a trek to the summit of Mount Kenya.

Mount Kenya

I arrived in Nairobi on the seventh of February 2004 where I was met by David our English tour company guide. Throughout the day the rest of our party arrived: Andrew, a hotelier from St Filans, Sarah, a Cornish Pastie maker from Falmouth, Gillian, an environmental officer from Milton Keynes and Lynsey, a corporate lawyer from London.

We met Eddie, our African guide and largely responsible for organising the logistics of travel and porters as well as looking after us.

We set off at 6am driving along very rough roads through Thika, Embu, Chuka and numerous other small towns. The roadsides were busy with people walking, broken down trucks, and the towns full of colourful markets, noise, garbage and dust. We arrived at the transit hotel where we transferred to land rovers and met up with other porters and a cook. We then bumped and jostled up a very rain-rutted road for 20km through rainforest and jungle. Five kilometres from our destination Eddie asked us to walk to start our acclimatisation. We arrived at the Mt Meru Kenya Lodge or Bandas comfortable huts with beds and hot water for our first night on Mount Kenya. The evening was spent watching buffalo herds and spotting gazelle and other deer. We watched an augur's buzzard circle above our huts. At night the buffalo came right outside our huts and we could hear them snuffling as they grazed.

The next morning was another early start which saw us set off in a light drizzle for the nearby Chogoria Gate where Eddie registered our group for the trek. We then set off up a track, the rainforest rapidly disappearing and tall heath

plants taking over. After a steady climb we arrived at Lake Ellis, our campsite at 3390m. The first signs of altitude were affecting some of our group. The rest of us walked to Muigi Hill to see two craters with flat tops, one called aptly Billiard Top Mountain. In the evening we sat around our cook tent playing games and exchanging stories. Throughout the journey our cook provided great meals with minimum equipment.

After a restless night we set off early, climbing more steeply now along a high, rocky ridge, the heath giving way to giant groundsel and lobelia. We could see the twin tops of Batian and Nelion and our peak, Mount Lenana looming in the distance. From here we looked down a deep corrie with Lake Michaelson. Eddie described this as the most beautiful spot in the whole reserve. With large cliffs on three sides and the lake tumbling into a waterfall on the fourth side. Surrounded by giant lobelia with little fluorescent green malachite sunbirds feeding off them, and giant groundsel scattered all around like small palm trees, it was a very special place.

The next day we climbed very slowly up the cliffs by Lake Michaelson's feeder stream to a high plateau. We then climbed a very long, steep ridge to our final campsite amongst rocks and scree at 4620m, next to Simba Tarn. The effects of altitude made us light-headed but as the top was clear and the final ascent to point Lenana (4985m) just 2-3 hours walk, we decided to go for it while there was a clear view. We slowly trudged up through snow and ice to reach the top. The view was astounding. Looking around we could see the multiple jagged peaks that make up Mount Kenya and the four main valleys that lead into it. We could see the last glacier on Mount Kenya which is rapidly receding and may be gone in 15 years time. The true top of Batian (5199m) rose in front of us but was only accessible with rock climbing gear.

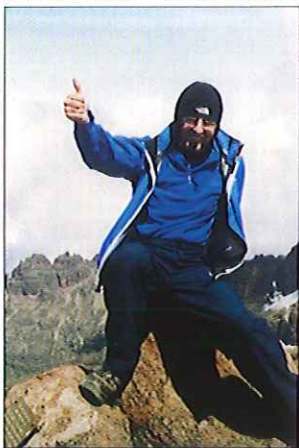
We were exhausted, but happy, all of us were suffering some of the effects of altitude, either headaches or light-headedness, and all were very tired. We descended to our

campsite and all had an uncomfortable night with hard frost and altitude breathlessness.

The descent was very rapid down the Sirimon Valley, down a long steep slope and then traversing two small valleys to the Old Moses Huts and tropical heat again. Amidst heath and grasslands and the odd tree, with the comfort of being able to breathe normally, we had a cheery night with lots of jokes and tales.

The next day we descended through rainforest, passing elephant droppings and an elephant skull but though the tracks were fresh we didn't see any. We arrived in good time at the Sirimon Gate; our ascent had taken five days but the descent only two. We tipped our cooks and porters and said goodbye to Eddie. Then after a long drive we arrived back at the hotel in Nairobi for a much needed shower.

Next issue: Ian completes a trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.



COMMUNITY COUNCILS REPORTS

BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The March and April meetings of the Community Council and the Village Hall Committee included the following items of general interest.

After considerable efforts over the past two years, some success has been achieved in procuring funding for village hall refurbishment. Grants of £9515 from Dumfries & Galloway Council and £5000 from Awards for All (Lottery) have been confirmed, against an estimated cost for full refurbishment and improvements of £45000 approx. However, the amount now available will enable the most urgent work to be put in hand. This will include a revetment wall between the hall and Murrayfield, drainage, roof repairs, new windows and painting.

To support the grants, a fund-raising raffle with substantial prizes is being organised. It is hoped to arrange a suitable event as the occasion for the draw at the end of August.

Parking at the front of the hall is sometimes a problem in relation to residents' cars parked on the road opposite. This aspect will be dealt with when the development plans for the hall forecourt are finalised. In the meantime, hall users should exercise special care.

Traffic entering the village at excessive speed down The Brae is also a cause for concern. It was suggested that re-positioning of the speed restriction signs might alleviate the problem.

Jim Little has offered to clear the whins from the motte, and Historic Scotland have given their approval.

It was disappointing that the AGM on 27 April attracted only one member of the general public. The annual report and accounts were adopted. Alan Pallister was re-elected chairman.

The Village Hall Committee had their AGM on the same evening. The committee membership was confirmed, in line with the new constitution adopted earlier in the year. Although eligible for the committee, no outside members of the community or members of participating groups were nominated. Jane Douglas will continue to deal with hire of the hall, and Sandra Dempster has undertaken to be responsible for health and safety aspects.

Alan Pallister

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

On Monday 10 May Dalry Community Council held its AGM which was notable for the retirement of Chairperson, Marion Bone. Though she had intimated her intentions well in advance, there was still a sense of shock among the members present when they realised that her decision was irrevocable and that her time as a very valued part of our community was coming to an end.

Marion's involvement goes back to 1975 when, after local authority reorganisation, it was decided to set up community councils as a link between residents and the local council. An interim community council was set up in May 1975 and Marion served on it until its dissolution in February 1977, prior to the formation of Dalry Community Council. In 1980 she was elected to the Community Council, serving as a representative for the Glenkens on the working party entrusted with drawing up the local plan. In 1986 she became vice-chairman, a post she held until 1989.

In 1998, under Dumfries and Galloway Council's scheme for the establishment of Community Councils, the present Dalry Community Council was formed and Marion was appointed chairperson. Her tenure has seen the establishment of a new playpark in Dalry, the presentation of a Scroll Award to Miss Gibson and reinstatement of some of the banking hours in Dalry, as well as occasions as varied as the unveiling of the Earlston Banner, a placement of a seat on the Glenkens Jubilee Walk and visits to various exhibitions, where she represented the Community Council.

We will all miss her, but we wish her well and thank her gratefully for all her hard work over the years.

Christine AC Rae

THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The May meeting and A.G.M. had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the power cut caused by the sudden thunderstorm which hit the Glenkens. The A.G.M. will now be held at 7.00pm on June 14th before the normal monthly meeting in New Galloway Town Hall.

Some of the matters which the Community Council are currently pursuing are noted below.

The Town Hall was becoming a bit unsightly due to leaking guttering and flaking paintwork. We have asked for repairs to be carried out urgently and the exterior to be repainted. Concern was also expressed as to how the Hall could possibly be adapted to meet the new disabled access requirements due to become law in October. We await feedback from the Council on their proposals to address this.

The Community Council have written to Forest Enterprise, Scottish Power, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary and D & G Council about providing much improved parking facilities for anglers on the west bank of Loch Ken. It is a serious problem on busy weekends with people having no choice but to park on the road and as visiting anglers are a major part of our tourist trade they should have much better facilities. It is hoped that a site visit can be arranged with the above interested parties and the Angling Association to agree on the best way forward.

Members attended the Blackcraig Wind Farm Information Day held in Balmaclellan on 29th April and a decision will be made at our next meeting about whether to invite the developers to a meeting in New Galloway.

We continue to keep pressure on D & G Council to carry out improvements/widening to the Low Road and its junction with the main road.

Brian Edgar

PROPOSED BLACKCRAIG WINDFARM INFORMATION DAYS

Information days organised by DP Energy were held in Balmaclellan Village Hall on 29 April and in Corsock Village Hall on 30 April. About 120 people attended at Balmaclellan, and probably approaching 100 at Corsock. There was a good representation from the area as a whole, including Moniaive, where wind power is very much a current issue, with schemes to the north and south at different stages of development.

Representatives of DP Energy and Scottish & Southern Energy were kept busy with questions, critical and otherwise, and they have undertaken to respond on those points which could not be answered at the time. A visit to an operational windfarm is being arranged for those interested.

A recurring feature was the concern expressed on the visual impact of the turbines and transmission lines. DP Energy have said that they will consider whether power lines could be run underground in the most sensitive areas.

The combination of the number and size of turbines is not yet decided. If the full 44/45 turbines are included in the scheme, then they would probably be of 1.3 MW capacity each. With 2 MW turbines, the number could be reduced to 28.

Balmaclellan Community Council continues to receive letters and views, and would welcome further input. While their brief is to reflect the overall feeling of the Balmaclellan Community Area, the windfarm would have wider impact, and views from the other community areas would also be appreciated and taken into consideration.

Alan Pallister Tel: 01644-420423

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE CENTRE EXHIBITION 2004



Once upon a time, Carsphairn was somewhere you drove through on the way to and from Ayr or points further north. To support the village, one used to stop and use the Post Office or have a drink (sometimes a meal) when coming home, but mostly one just slowed down and drove through. For me, all that stopped in the summer once the Heritage Centre began putting on its annual exhibitions. The first time I went, I was amazed at the amount of interesting items that were crammed into such a small place. "Crammed" is decidedly the wrong word as it never seems over-full and yet the building seems tiny from outside. This sense of wonder has not paled over time. The same team of wizards must spend long hours planning how to use every space to full effect and yet still leave room for the visitor to stand back and admire.

The exhibitions never fail to delight and this year's is no exception. The subject is "A Carsphairn Family – 300 years at Knockgray. Lt. Col. Alexander John Clark Kennedy is the present owner of Knockgray, which has been the family home since it was bought in 1704 by Alexander Kennedy, the minister of Stralton. The property itself had been there for some time already. The first mention of it dates from 1582. The Kennedy family also has its roots well embedded in the mists of time. They are known to have lived in the South West of Scotland since the 13th century and a lot further back than that but reliable records sadly do not. The "Clark" element was added when the heiress, Anne Kennedy, married John Clarke in 1781.

On entering the Heritage Centre one's eye immediately goes to the 5 beautiful dresses that are on display. These are Victorian and in a perfect condition, for which we have Alice Clark Kennedy to thank.

Alice was the youngest daughter of Lettice Lucy and Captain Alexander Clark Kennedy who was known as "Spats". He died in 1894 leaving Lettice a widow for 45 years. Maybe she kept her wedding dress to remind herself of her short marriage. In any event Alice was a hoarder and kept this dress and many other items for our pleasure now. (Don't miss the unique Chatelaine Belt). Hoarding must have been a family trait as there are many artefacts, papers, letters, pictures and photographs going back to earlier days. Much of the information is of a military bent as nearly all the male Kennedys have been soldiers and they all seem to have distinguished themselves in wars and battles across the globe. Of particular note is one who captured a French Flag at the Battle of Waterloo (there is a dramatic picture recording this - see below) and another who was given the Victoria Cross for his actions in World War One.

The visitor will be fascinated with the details available about the running of Knockgray Estate, the lives of the various Kennedy family members and also how they interacted with the surrounding community. For example, I was interested to note that Lettice Lucy involved herself with the Glenkens Nursing Association. I wonder what happened to that? Although the male Kennedys were often abroad, they showed a lively interest in local and national affairs. "Spats" had particularly wide ranging interests and accomplishments. The current Colonel has done much for the community including having rescued the damaged Church bell when it was in danger of being carried away as a souvenir, by people who had found it in a midden. It is now given the respect it deserves inside the church.

This is a well presented exhibition which reflects all the hard work that has gone into making it so interesting. Do go. The exhibition is open at weekends at present but from 1st June it will be open during weekdays also. Leave yourself plenty of time to browse as well as to chat to the volunteer manning the desk.

Rhoda Rugg



RE-OPENING OF THE STORE AND POST OFFICE IN CARSPHAIRN

There is new life in the village of Carsphairn as the Convenience Store and Post Office re-opened on Monday 29th March.

Chris and Linda have visited the area many times over the last few years. On holiday in June last year they discovered that the local shop had closed a couple of months earlier. By the time they got home to Hull they had decided to make a 'life-change' and set about the lengthy process of taking over the tenancy of the Community owned premises and Linda successfully applied for the position of Sub-Post Mistress.

They moved to Carsphairn in January and began work on the shop itself, which has undergone a complete transformation, including the installation of a 'state-of-the-art' Post Office Counter. At the moment, the shop sells most basic provisions, but new lines are being added all the time and local produce is being used wherever possible.

Initial efforts have been concentrated on re-opening the shop and Post Office. Work will now start on re-decorating the Tea Room which Chris and Linda hope to re-open in early Summer. An Off-Sales Licence is also being applied for.

Keen to promote the Glenkens community, Chris and Linda are considering a number of additional services to the local area. They are also happy to provide window and wall space for local events, charities and local small business promotions.

Chris and Linda are grateful for the tremendous support they have received from all their new neighbours.

For further information, please contact them on 01644 460211 or e-mail carricks_store@btinternet.com

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 2.00pm - 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)

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NEW GALLOWAY - Our Historic Burgh

PART XX by Helen Bolton

The Burgh "Modernised"

When New Galloway began to attract tourists, albeit on a fairly small scale, many of the old, single storey cottages were enlarged, an upper storey being added in many cases, to accommodate holiday makers. A few new, larger houses were also built at this time, no doubt to the advantage of local builder and architect William McCandlish, who undertook much of this work.

Among the fine granite houses built during the 1860's, although not with tourists in mind, was "Alexandra House", opposite to the Kenmure Arms Hotel, a splendid three-storey residence built for a retired sea Captain. His last ship was being broken up at Palnackie at the time, and the Captain brought some lovely timber and panelling from the ship to be used for lining the walls and ceilings. Much of this superb panelling is still in place today. The house is now "Kitty's Tearoom".

"Rathan House" on the corner of Morningside Street (now Wylie's Brae), is another fine house dating from 1666. Kells School was also rebuilt, the Reading Room and the schoolmaster's house (known to us as the Doctor's Surgery), were built, and the Mill House was enlarged. The Town Hall was also extensively re-furnished in 1875, possibly to provide a better setting for the superb new town clock! The timbers of the original, much narrower spire are encased within the new tower, and the two bells which hang therein were cast in Edinburgh in 1711. The four-faced clock, obviously the pride and joy of the Burgh, was made by Messrs. Gillet and Brand of Croydon, famous clockmakers of their day, for the sum of £120. This money was collected by public subscription, organised by Provost Milman, and the special clock was set in motion by Mrs. Elisabeth Maxwell of "Glenlee", the widow of Wellwood Maxwell, in 1872. Mrs. Maxwell had been a very generous contributor to the project.

Another imposing residence in the Burgh,

although built rather earlier than those mentioned so far, was "Meadowbank House". Initially the home of the worthy Provost John Murray, this large house on the south side of the town had several interesting owners, including the widow of the 8th Viscount Kenmure. Adam Gordon died in 1847, and after certain complicated legal battles the Estate was inherited by his sister Louisa Bellamy, who had lived for much of the time at Kenmure Castle during the life of the 8th Viscount. Adam Gordon and his wife had no children so after his death the title became dormant, as it has remained to this day. "Meadowbank House" was purchased and became the Dower House for Kenmure, and in 1847 "the Dowager Viscountess", Marianne Gordon took up residence there. One unusual feature of the house is the two bow-ended gatehouses which stand guard over the entrance driveway. They are of an interesting design, and were originally the homes for the gardener, and possibly the coachman.

In later years "Meadowbank House" became a very good hotel, their speciality being superb cream teas! No doubt the interesting history of the house would be helpful in attracting visitors!

IT COULD BE YOU!!

Are you looking for a new career?

Do you want to work from home or locally?

Are you good with people and are interested in the care and development of children?

Then perhaps becoming a registered childminder or nanny is something to consider.

The Glenkens is desperately in need of people to come forward and become registered. This is one of the recommendations which came from the recent feasibility study into childcare within the Glenkens. It is hoped that a local network can be set up to help with the registration process and to provide support to childminders and nannies following registration. This is only one of the recommendations from the comprehensive study. If you wish to find out more or receive a summary of the final report please call :

Melinda McGaw on 01644 420377

Glenkens Rail Way

Come gein wae me, ilk Galloway Scot
Wha hasna his auld hame forgot
Lets gae three cheers - throw up oor hat
Oor toon's tae hae a railway
Winna thae be unca rood
An guid reason why they should
Whan we think o' a' the guid
Tae come out o' a railway
It will gae wark wi spades an barrows
Oppen up their granite quarries
Keep them busy - ease their sorrows
The building o' their railway
It will be a grand affair
Tae gie them wark twa years an mair
Tho they should wark lang hours an mair
At the makin o' their rail way
Twill mak the Vale O' Ken tae bloom
Cause happiness tae a' aroon
An pit new life in oor auld toon
Tae hae a' line a' railway
Then will prosperity prevail
In every hame on hill or vale
Then young an auld will bid farewell
Tae times without a railway
It will be a sight saa grann
Tae see the cars run up there ken
An cross braw brigs that burns span
On line o' Glenens rail way
Winna a' thae folk be proud
Tae hear the whistle blawin lood
Tae warn the happy wonnerin crood
Tae stan back frae the rail way
Noo robban lad lets be a pair
Tae see New Galloway ance mair
An ride up tae her April Fair
Upon the Glenkens Railway
Than weel ride up tae Auld Clachan
Whar-mid cheers an roars o'loughin
Weel meet auld freens an hae talking
About their Glenkens Railway
Noo let us hope that very soon
They'll stretch their line frae toon-tae toon
An gin they like, mak the moon
The terminus O' their railway
Mrs Marjorie Fraser, Dumfries

Sheba

My old dog is nearly seventeen,
she once knew every hill in Galloway
but now she lies and dreams most of the day
of forests, beaches, waves emerald green,
foxes and hares, the wildlife she has seen,
snow in December, primroses in May,
in any weather sure to find the way
down any hill where she has ever been.
She shares her mountain memories with me,
the paths, the mists, the showers, the sun,
perhaps I dream more wistfully than she -
who knows? She has not lost her sense of fun,
she is still game for swimming in the sea
as if her life had only just begun.
Alistair Warren

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LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

THE SCOTTISH ALTERNATIVE GAMES WEEKEND 2004

Friday 30th July

The weekend once again kicks off with the "Alternative Burns Supper and Ceilidh". The evening has all the ingredients of a traditional Burns Supper – haggis, toasts, songs, and music and of course a dram or two, but with a twist because it's July and not January!

The first Alternative Burns Supper held last year was much talked about – "a wonderful friendly atmosphere", "I've never laughed so much", "the tickets were far too cheap!", "a first class evening", "I hope there will be another one next year".

Once again the performers will be top local speakers, musicians and singers. Everyone is welcome to come along but numbers are limited so please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment, £7.50 from GCAT 01644 420374.

Saturday 31st July

The Glenkens Children's Festival will be held in New Galloway Park. Last year's event attracted the young and the young at heart from all over the region and beyond for a great afternoon of entertainment and participation.

Sunday 1st August

The famous Scottish Alternative Games are now in their 27th year, originally held in Parton, they relocated to New Galloway in 2001 and somehow they now seem very much at home in Scotland's smallest royal burgh.

The World Gird n' Cleek Championship will of course be the main event backed up by all the usual alternative events including the hugely popular snail racing. Everyone is welcome to come along whether as a spectator or as a competitor. Thousands of people from all over the world have enjoyed the unique Alternative Games atmosphere in the past and although one year there were 21 different nationalities taking part, the World Gird n' Cleek Championship has proudly been retained in Scotland every year except one – 1987. Gird n' cleek racing must be the only sport that Scotland has dominated for almost 30 years!

The events start at 2pm and thereafter take their own, sometimes alternative, course to a conclusion

around 6pm. Admission is £3 for adults, £1 for children and as usual profits will support various charities. The main charity last year was Macmillan Cancer Relief who received £1000.

Any local organisations or businesses who would like to have a stand at the Games should book now on 420374 or 420288.

GLENKENS ART EXHIBITION

The Glenkens Art Exhibition will be taking place in Dalry Town Hall from Thursday 22 July until Sunday 25 July. Last year's exhibition was a phenomenal success with 22 local artists, both professional and amateur, displaying over 80 pieces of work. The quality and range of the works on display was very impressive, and of a consistently high standard. The exhibition, which offers original works for sale, is open to the public from Thursday to Sunday. It is hoped that there will be a late opening this year until 8pm on some or all of the evenings (not Sunday).

CALL FOR ENTRIES

All artists living in the Glenkens 01644 telephone code area are eligible to enter, although there are restrictions on the number and type of exhibits which you may submit. If you would like an entry form with rules of entry, you can pick them up from shops and post offices around the Glenkens, as well as the GCAT shop, or you can call GCAT on 01644 420374 if you would like one posted out to you.



GLENKENS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The steering group of the Glenkens Business Association met on the 19 April to form a draft constitution which will be adopted by the Association at the next meeting.

The Steering Group also decided to pursue a Glenkens Business Directory which will be used to promote businesses in the Glenkens area. There are over 50 local businesses interested in participating in the association, all of which could benefit from the formation of a directory. This directory could also lead to the development of a Glenkens Business Web Page. The Steering Group also decided to progress with the idea of promoting The Glenkens as a brand-name and this would include pursuing road signs at entry points to the Glenkens. If you want to get in touch with regard to any of these matters or if you are interested in joining the business group, please contact the GCAT shop on 01644 420374. The next meeting of The Glenkens Business Group will be held in The Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry on Wednesday 2 June at 7.30pm.

BROADBAND UPDATE

As many of you are already aware, Broadband is here at last and Glenkens Broadband Ltd are busy installing equipment at business and domestic premises around Dalry, Balmacellan and New Galloway, and it is only a matter of weeks until they are able to broadcast to other, remoter areas. If you are still interested in signing up for the service, which costs £27.00 per month (domestic) and £37 (business) then contact Mike Kaye from Glenkens Broadband Ltd on 01644 430162 or Jim Steel on 01644 420320. You can email them for further information or advice at: broadband@glenkensbb.co.uk

April 200 CLUB WINNERS

1st	No. 2	Sophie Agnew
2nd	No. 169	Eileen Edgar
3rd	No. 149	Elizabeth Ramsay

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

NEW BUS ROUTE

We now have the necessary licence to operate scheduled routes with our community bus and the first regular service publicised in the last issue will be launched on Monday 14th June. The service will operate on the second Monday of every month (except public holidays) from the Glenkens to Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary. The bus will leave from New Galloway at 5.45pm picking up in Dalry, Balmacellan, Corsock etc. arriving at the Infirmary at 7.00pm and leaving again at 8.10pm. There will also be a stop on the Whitesands. Full details of all pick up points and times are available from the GCAT Shop (Tel. 01644 420374) and timetable leaflets will be available shortly from local shops. Seats can be booked in advance to avoid disappointment.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club Monthly Draw has now completed its first year and all current members have been invited to renew their entries for a further year. If you haven't already sent in your renewal please do so as soon as possible. New members would also be very welcome, each number in the draw costs £12 per annum and entitles you to one entry in each monthly draw throughout the year. First prize is £50 per month, 2nd £20 and 3rd £12. Entry forms and further information are available from the GCAT Shop. Your support is greatly appreciated and the profit from the draw helps towards the running costs of our community bus.

May Draw is being held over due to new subscriptions being collected for 2004/05

Bus service from the Glenkens to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. This service will continue to operate on the second Monday of every month excluding Public Holidays. Adults £4 return, children £2 return NO OTHER CONCESSIONS.

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 INFIRMARY	19.00	20.10

Summer Day Trips

A spin-off of our new operator's licence is that we can now organise day trips and several have already been planned –

Sun 20th Jun	PT LOGAN & PORTPATRICK	10.30am	£4.50
Sat 10th July	BRAEHEAD CENTRE	9.00am	£6.00
Tue 13th Jun	NEW LANARK*	9.00am	£6.00
Wed 21st July	EDINBURGH	8.00am	£8.00

* does not include entrance fee

To book your seats on any of the above or to suggest other trips please contact the GCAT Shop (Tel. 420374)

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

PLAY IT BY EAR SUMMER HOLIDAY



Tony Bonning's hugely enjoyable Play it by Ear workshops which have been taking place every month in Balmacellan Village Hall will take a break for a few months over the summer. The next of these fun music and storytelling workshops for pre-school children will take place on Monday 14 June, after which there will be a break until Monday 13 September when they will start up again for the next season. Thereafter they will take place on the second Monday of every month until further notice. Each session lasts an hour, from 1.30pm - 2.30pm and Costs £2.00 per carer / child and £2.00 for each child thereafter. For more information please call Alison Caldwell on 01644 420272.

RSAMD BACK TO THE GLENKENS

The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama will be returning to the Glenkens in June with a series of traditional Scottish music events run by 12 second year students from the Academy's music department. The visit will include an evening public performance by the student's band Ferley (which in Gaelic means 'mysterious and wondrous thing') which will take place in the Ken Bridge Hotel, followed the next day by a number of workshops in local schools. The public event, which it is hoped will involve lots of audience participation, will take place in the Ken Bridge Hotel on Monday 14 June and will begin at 7.30pm. It costs £3 for adults and £1 for school pupils. The schools workshops will take place on Tuesday 15 June at Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells Schools.

GLENKENS CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The first Glenkens Children's Festival which took place in the park in New Galloway last summer was such an overwhelming success that it would be impossible for it not to happen again this year! This year's event, which promises to be jam-packed with fun, will take place on Saturday 31 July from 12noon until 5pm and will share accommodation in the park with The Alternative Games Festival which will be on the following day, Sunday 1 August. A number of top performers and attractions are already booked to appear, including Scotland's favourite magician, Magic Bob and a whole range of puppet shows, story-telling, stalls and participatory events. We have also made a booking for good weather! Look out for posters and leaflets nearer the time.

THE URBAN TURBAN CLUB

This has been a great series of African percussion, song and storytelling workshops run by African music expert, Stripey Dog. The workshops, for children of primary school age, took place on a regular basis, each month in Kells school. There are two more workshops left to go this season, on 5 June and 3 July. The workshop in July will end with a mini performance to which parents of children participating in the workshops are welcome to attend. There are plans for this event to return later on in the year - watch out for posters and a listing in the Glenkens Gazette. This event was funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council, as part of GCAT's ARTS4US programme.

PHOENIX CHOIR AT CARSPHAIRN

It was a lovely spring evening on Saturday 15th May when nearly 100 people made their way to Carsphairn Church to hear a concert given by Phoenix, a mixed voice quartet from Bangor. They were rewarded with a varied and entertaining programme of words and music, delivered with skill



and enthusiasm. Formed some 12 years ago as a fund raising initiative for Church charities in North Wales, the group was making a welcome return visit, having performed in Carsphairn in July 2002.

Their programme covered a wide range of styles and periods from folk songs, Gilbert and Sullivan and Ivor Novello to songs from the shows and used all combinations of voices, though the group was probably at its best when singing in 4 part harmony. Among the highlights were the opening item, a polished performance of Bourée for Bach and two Welsh songs, Ar Lan y Mor and Myfanwy. Also noteworthy were moving performances of All in the April Evening and Sunset Poem, the words taken from Under Milk Wood. The audience enjoyed the many lighter items, not least The Teddy Bears' Picnic, a dramatic interpretation of Rossini's Cats' Duet and the chance to join in the chorus of Mud, Glorious Mud. The musical items were interspersed with poems, three in all and each one well read and well chosen for its humour and entertainment value.

Anna Campbell introduced the singers and gave a vote of thanks at the end, expressing the hope that the group would make another return visit. Could we possibly have one or two more Welsh songs next time?
Jean Mason

ARTS AT THE OLD SCHOOL

Plans for the redevelopment of the Old School building in New Galloway will include a wealth of public art, as befits its new role as an arts and community centre. Linda Mallett, artist from Kirkcudbright, has been appointed as Lead Artist to devise a programme of artworks integral to the new building, in collaboration with the architects, ARP Lorimer of Ayr.

The outward appearance of the building from the front will remain traditional, but new facilities will be integrated to the rear, and all the developments offer potential for the inclusion of art and crafts elements designed and made by professional artists and designers from the region. We hope that the whole building will be a unique and beautiful showcase for the arts in the Glenkens.

Any artists, designers or craftsmakers who would like to be considered for inclusion in the plans, please leave your details, with any proposals, with the GCAT Shop: tel 01644 420374 or email info@glenkens-arts.com

CLACHAN FAIR

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS from Saturday 5th June until Saturday 12th June

SATURDAY 5TH CONCERT

in Dalry Town Hall with the
Edlith Ferguson Ensemble at 6.30pm.
The Clachan Lad & Lass will be installed.

SUNDAY 6TH SONGS OF PRAISE

at Newfield Green with
Sanquhar & District Silver Band and
the Glenkens Church Choir at 6.30pm.

MONDAY 7TH WHIST DRIVE

at 7.30pm in The Lochinvar Hotel

TUESDAY 8TH CAR CONNECTIONS CAR TREASURE HUNT

Leaving Lochinvar Car park at
7.00pm entry fee £2.00 per person.

WEDNESDAY 9TH THE PET SHOW

at Newfield at 6.30pm Judge Alasdair
Morgan MSP followed by a quiz at the
Lochinvar Hotel at 8.30pm.

THURSDAY 10TH SCOTTISH CONCERT

with John Caskie, John Douglas and Friends
at 7.30pm in Dalry Town Hall admission
£4.00 at the door.

FRIDAY 11TH DISCO, DANCE & PUB GAMES

Starts with a Junior Disco at 6.30pm until
8.30pm admission £1.00.

This is to be followed by a
Teenagers Dance to Plan B
9.00pm until 12.00am Admission £4.00
Pubs Games Night starts in the
Lochinvar Hotel at 8.30pm.

SATURDAY 12TH JUNE PARADE

Parade assembles outside School &
Judging starts at 12.45pm.
At 1.30pm Parade leaves School led by
Loch Ryan Pipe Band.
Street Stalls and Car Boot Sale
open at Approx 2.00pm
Line Dancing, South West Samba Band
and Vintage Vehicles
Teas from 2.30pm in Community Centre
Bouncy Castle & Sports etc in
School playing Fields at 3.00pm
Final Event is the Raffle and
Cheese & Wine Evening with
Local Entertainment at 7.30pm
in The Town Hall.

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.
PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOW

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

Dads' Digging Day

It was 2nd May and it was digging time for the dads. The dads who were able to be there on that day were Mr Murray Walker, Cameron Walker's Dad, Mr Stephen Pears, Jordan and Zachary's Dad, Mr Donald Gisbey, Ian's Dad, Mr Robin Grimwood, Daisy's Dad, Mr Andrew Wolffe, Flonngal's Dad, Mr Ian Oliver, Josie's Dad and last but not least Mr Jimmy McKenna, Hannah and Alexander's Dad. They all kept busy assembling the garden steps, the trellis, the walkways, and the patio area. Mrs Plummer was the first person to use the digger, a bit shaky but she turned the first bit of turf. All of the children who were present helped make the Dads their lunch. After all the hard work since 9 o'clock in the morning, everybody was ready for a drink and something to eat. Within a matter of hours we could see everything was starting to come to shape. Mrs Plummer had her finger on the button nearly all day taking photos of the men at work for the school photo albums. After that she went and got her hands wet by washing the dishes. We helped as well, before we went off to write our newspaper stories.

I am glad to report that our dads had been well behaved and they got a certificate for all their work. I think they would have had a good night's sleep that night because they worked so hard. There was no way they could have not been tired. Thanks, Dads! You have been great!!!

By Hannah Sainsbury, the reporter on the spot.

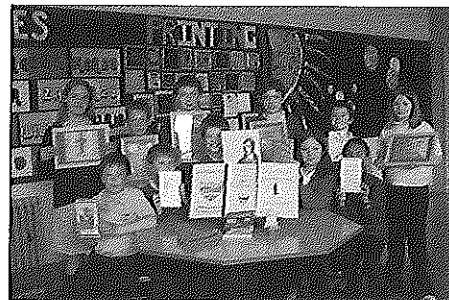
KELLS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Watch out for the 12th Glenkens Express due to be published in the Galloway News on 27th May 2004. (Picture is of the Primary 7s Editing Team).



After 2 days of Intensive Training, the Primary 5s of Kells Primary School, have passed their cycling test this week this week.



GOING FOR GOLD!

Kells did it with ENTERPRISE

On the 18th May, four of our Primary Sevens are going to Easterbrook Hall in Dumfries. They are going to a special lunch and afterwards are going to be presented with the GOLD AWARD for ENTERPRISE! Kells has been asked to display what we get up to during the year that has made us earn a Gold Award. We have to be a sort of showcase school. So far this year we have done fifteen activities. They are sponsored walk for Winmarleigh Hall coach, Link with the Gambians, Harvest Festival, Golden Tapestry, The Year Book, Crafts Fayre (we sold all our cross stitch and knitting as well as serving up coffee and cakes), Christmas and Festival concerts, sale of their videos, development of school garden, making of our choir C.D, entertainment of the senior citizens, Star Party, Residential Week at Winmarleigh, and of course our Glenkens Express.

We would all like to be going to the Awards Ceremony but, maybe, our P7s will bring us back a 'doggy bag'!

DALRY PRIMARY

A Pupil's Eye View Of Hadrian's Wall



As we have been studying the Romans in History, we were going to the Roman Army Museum and Vindolanda. Hadrian's wall is situated in between Carlisle and Newcastle. It was built around 120 - 128 AD to keep out the wild Scots.

When we got to the army museum we were sorted into groups to do booklets. First we watched a video about the Roman Army's weapons, armour and what training they did. This was quite interesting, as I didn't know much about the army.

For about 1 hour the whole class was patrolling

about the museum searching for the answers to the questions in our booklets. Later we got a talk on the Roman army and most things about them. Then, everyone in the class was allowed to hold something from the army. I held a Roman sword.

We thanked everyone and left the museum and went 7 miles down the road to Vindolanda, one of the Roman forts that is being uncovered. An archaeologist called Justin gave us quite a long talk about most of the things that had been uncovered. Then, in the same groups, we were given another booklet and we had to walk around an area of 3-4 acres discovering lots about what the Romans lived like inside the forts. We didn't get as long here as we had to get the bus back home. It was really fun and most of the class had a really good time!

Eco Fun Week

This week we had lots of activities including Karate and yoga as part of our special eco week. Yoga isn't as easy as it looks, as we found out when Elaine Mulholland came to teach us. She took each of the classes in turn and some people found it very hard to balance! Mrs Banner was in our classroom before the Yoga and did a relaxation time.

We also had a gardening club at lunchtime "It was extremely hard work but fun" said Rhea Currie. All



the work done by the school in the garden has really made a difference and it is now looking even better than ever now. To tie in with the eco week and the garden we made plant boxes with a selection of plants in them to sell as part of a school enterprise. They sold really well at our coffee morning and we made lots of money for the school.

The class made poems by cutting words out of magazines and papers showing where they feel safe or happy. Rosalind Wise said she really liked cutting things up and sticking them onto pieces of paper. P3,4 and 5 were visited by Su Hart who taught them songs she learned while living with the Baka people in Cameroon. Everyone had a great time and joined in all the singing and dancing, they especially enjoyed pretending to be a millipede.

Our karate teachers were called Nancy and Brian and they showed us how to defend ourselves. When the nursery class were learning karate their daughter Amber joined in too, and she is only two! So karate is a sport we've learned is for everyone.

This morning we had a garden bring and buy sale and coffee morning. It was extremely successful raising over £300 for the garden and our eco activities. While everyone enjoyed their coffees and cakes we had photos up on the smartboard in the class of all our eco activities and it was great to see everyone's reaction to the pictures.

We've all had a fantastic time and look forward to doing it again!

By Autumn Wheeler, Ross Smith and Calum Gilligan.

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DALRY SECONDARY



FOOD AND DRINKS - ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

On Friday 14th May, second year pupils at Dalry School took part in an ambitious enterprise challenge arranged in conjunction with Cream o' Galloway.

The Food and Drinks challenge brings education and local businesses together introducing pupils to the real life demands of the food and drinks industry.

The year group were split up into three teams and set the challenge of manufacturing an Ice Cream Smoothie. Each team had to make the smoothie, design an informative card and devise a marketing campaign for the new product. The day concluded with a Trade Fair in the School Hall at which pupils displayed the work they had completed that day and made a presentation to the rest of the year group and our two judges for the day: Kathy Holmes (Enterprise Education Support Officer) and Sally Orr (Head Cook, Cream o' Galloway)

'Pupils learn a lot about themselves and the world of business and work during a challenge such as this and as well as giving them an insight into the food manufacturing industry, a variety of different skills are tested such as team work, problem solving, communication and numeracy'.

'We are grateful to Cream o' Galloway for their support of education for work and enterprise activities in the school. We were also lucky to have



the support of our 'facilitators' from the school and local community who worked with and guided the groups throughout the day. Special mention should be given to Careers Scotland and The Galloway Fudge Company who along with Cream o' Galloway provided most of the prizes.'

Winners

Overall team winners- 'Cream o' Delight' Aaron Edgar, Klm Wheeler, William Bone, Grace Tulloch, Estrid Saunders, Amber Halliday

Design Award- 'Scrummie Smoothie'- James Chalmers Ross Fergusson Bill Ramisay, Emma Blare, Vickie Simmer, Christina McKenna

Marketing Award- 'Troozilla'- Callum Shaw

Robbie Struthers Andrew Fallows, Vicky McSkimming, Madeleine Holden, Lorraine Hamilton

Individual Awards

Allround Enthusiasm and Involvement- Andrew Fallows
Leadership — Aaron Edgar



DALRY TEACHERS V PUPILS

On the 14th of May the pupils were split into two teams. In the first team there were 11 players and three reserves and the same on the second team. It was going to be a biggest, most fun match of the year. Team one was on first against the teachers and would tire the teachers out for the second team to play them! We went on to our own halves and played with the ball until kick off. The referee was Blair Templeton. The primary were going to kick off first. It was a really hard match because they were fair. Mr Banister scored the first goal but the pupils were coming back hard, but unfortunately didn't score. Liz Brinkman got sent off, for the teachers, but it was really funny. Soon the whistle went and the second team came on. The first team just came on with the second team for fun, so all the pupils played against the staff at the same time. It was great fun and the game ended 1-0. No one got hurt except for Terry who ran into Mr Jackson, but he got back up and kept on playing. We all enjoyed the match.

by Gillian, Angus and Rosie.

GLENKENS CUB SCOUT NEWS

The Scout Troop invited us to join them recently to hear Ray Heard and his son Andrew, who is a Scout, tell us about their hobby of keeping Birds of Prey, many of which are rescue birds. They brought along a Peregrine Falcon, Harris Hawk, Saker Falcon, an American Red-tailed Hawk and a European Eagle Owl. Our favourite was the Eagle Owl. Andrew also had his ferret.

Jumble Sale

The young members and the leaders from the three sections of the group would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee, parents and friends of Scouting who worked so hard to make our recent jumble sale such a success. To everyone who donated and came along to purchase goods, we thank you. Your continued support is much appreciated. We raised an amazing £1,145.

Summer Camp

The Cub Scouts are travelling to a National Camp at Scottish headquarters, Fordell Firs, Dunfermline in June. There will be 1000 attending. We are looking forward to the adventure and will give a report in the next edition.

Pottering Around

Last Wednesday we had a joint meeting with Minnigaff Cub Scouts. Hannah, our leader, is a potter to trade and she brought along three large slabs of clay. We had lots of fun modelling. She has taken the models away to be fired in her work kiln.

From Beavers to Cub Scouts

Darren Wilson and Zachary Pears are the first ever Beavers to come up to Cub Scouts. We are delighted to have you with us and hope you will be as happy as you have been with the Beaver Colony.

GLENKENS BEAVERS

Since January we have been working towards, and have now completed, the Friendship Challenge Badge and have had visits from the Fire Safety Officer, Environmental Health and others.

We are now looking at the compass points, laying trails and following them.

In June we are joining other beavers from Galloway area for a 'Fun Day' at Kirkdale Port, Gatehouse.

Sue Lindsay, Beaver Leader

THE GREEN TEA HOUSE

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GLENKENS BROADBAND

Glenkens Broadband Ltd has been set up as a private business specifically to install and administer rural (community) networks in SW Scotland as a WISP (Wireless Internet Service Provider) using satellite systems.

Broadband offers significant benefits to businesses through cost-effective, fast and immediate access to Internet resources. One of the great benefits of broadband is the permanent always-on Internet connection it provides.

We are currently installing equipment at business and domestic premises around Dalry, Forest Glen and Upper Glenkens, Balmacellan and New Galloway, and will soon be ready to commence installation in Mossdale, Parton and Crossmichael.

**£27 per month (domestic)
£37+VAT (business)**

**TO SIGN UP FOR THE SERVICE OR
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

**Mike Kaye on 01644 430162
or Jim Steel on 01644 420320**

**Email: broadband@glenkensbb.co.uk
Website: www.glenkensbb.co.uk**

OPEN ON SUNDAY

Some seven years ago a friend suggested that I should open my garden to the public under the Scotland's Gardens Scheme. I had never heard of the scheme. Not giving the matter any thought I agreed.

After six openings I no longer worry about weeds nor anything else. The open day marks the end of my gardening year. When the tea cups have been put back into their boxes and spare chairs put away for another year, I take a break from gardening. As summer is turning into autumn I spend a little time actually sitting in the garden. I now have time to watch the birds and other wild life, listen to the wind in the trees I have planted. Some of them have already grown almost to full maturity, others are still babies.

I can spend the best part of August and September enjoying the colours and sounds of a garden created not only for humans but also a haven for wildlife.

Autumn marks the beginning of my gardening year. I may be inspired by a comment made by a visitor to make a change or some plant is obviously not happy and has to be moved. Last year my son complained that the garden was becoming very overgrown. "I like it that way!" was my simple answer. When I told a friend about my son's comment, after a moment's thought he agreed that it was "getting a bit claustrophobic" I got the message and planned a programme of pruning which has unproved several parts of the garden. I even found a tree I had forgotten existed.

Having a large number of visitors to our garden encourages me to look at it through other people's eyes and develop new ideas.

As autumn turns into winter, time is spent reading tempting catalogues and many plans are made while waiting for spring. I am writing this on the 20th March. Twelve Bamboos arrived yesterday and I should be in the garden planting them but storm force winds and heavy rain made it necessary to leave the plants in the garage.

I am developing a collection of plants used in medicine and the Oriental collection needs some finishing touches. The pruning was not finished last autumn and many plants must be moved. Cold frames are full of plants to be planted. Plants for the plant stall must be potted! All this and more has to be done before open day on August 1st. Spring has not arrived, it's snowing, raining, it's cold! It might even be raining on the open day! But I don't worry any more.

Hope you will come on Sunday August 1st. Even if it rains you could come and enjoy the excellent teas provided by the supporters of our charities. You might even find a tempting bargain on the plant stall.

Annikki Lindsay, Arndarroch Cottage, Dalry

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

Balmacellan	12.00 noon	1st
Carsphairn	10.30 am	1st 2nd 3rd 4th (July)
Dalry	9.00 am	1st
	12.00 noon	2nd 3rd 4th (July)
Kells	10.30 am	2nd 4th (July)
New Galloway	10.30 am	3rd
Town Hall	6.00 pm	2nd (June)

Special Services:

4th June 7.30 pm Mercy Ships meeting,
New Galloway Town Hall

6th June 6.30 pm Clachan Fair Songs of Praise
with Sanguhar and District Silver Band, Dalry Church
(outside if fine)

7th June 7.30 pm Guild Presbyterial Rally,
Balmacellan Church

26th-27th June ChristFest 2004 at Dumfries
Showgrounds. Two full days of services and events
for adults and children. There will be no Church of
Scotland services in the Glenkens on Sunday 27th
June.

18th July 10.15 am Holy Communion
using central table, Carsphairn Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St. Margaret's, New Galloway
10.30am Holy Communion
Every Sunday and Wednesday

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES
Please phone 01556 610358

MACMILLAN SUMMER FAYRE

The Glenkens Macmillan Cancer Relief is hosting a charity Summer Fayre at Newfield Farm, Dalry on Sunday 27 June 2004 at 2pm. (by kind permission of the Edgar family).

Activities include an auction run by David Finlay of Waterside as well as a Line Dancing demonstration run by Charles Tyson and his class, which will take place in the shed. Stalls will include plants, home baking and bric-a-brac, and teas will be served in the byre. Other activities include face-painting, pancake ladies and a grand raffle.

Please come along and support a very worthy cause - last year's Summer Fayre raised well over £1300!

For further information please contact Elizabeth McFegan on 01644 430232

Glenkens Playgroup

in partnership with



Education Department

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



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HENSOL MUSEUM

Lady Henderson of Hensol has recently opened a new museum in the old stables at Hensol which will raise funds for a number of good causes. The museum displays domestic items which would have been used in households around 100 years ago. Exhibits include a selection of kitchenware such as a butter churn and butter boards, a knife cleaning machine and old glass bottles from the ginger beer factory in Dumfries. There is an old mangle supplied by the now closed but legendary ironmongers in Castle Douglas, McGuffock & Macdonald. Other items include an old two-handled saw, old fishing rods and paraffin lamps. The star exhibit is a vintage fire engine complete with canvas hoses, which dates from 1919 with Hensol Fire Brigade on a brass plate. The items have mostly been donated to the museum by Lady Henderson who has been clearing out her attics, although other items have since been gifted by other individuals.

Hensol was built in 1813 and is a fine granite house in a lovely situation on the river Dee, just south of Mossdale. Small groups are welcome at any time of the day during the summer months, and visits may be booked by telephoning 01644 450207 (mornings only). Admission to the museum is an arranged donation to a charity, and the tour may include a walk round the gardens and tea in the house.





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DRAMATIC SCULPTURE PLANNED FOR DALRY



The Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association has been offered the gift of a major steel sculpture by one of their members and feel that Dalry would be a very appropriate place to site this sculpture. Events in Dalry were the catalyst for the Pentland rising in 1666, which ended with the rout of the Covenanters' army by government troops at the Battle of Rullion Green at the foot of the Pentland Hills; yet there is no memorial to these events in Dalry. Plans are well advanced for the erection of a 5 metre high metal sculpture representing 'The Burning Bush' on the piece of wasteland below the new playpark in Dalry. The Sheffield-based metal fabrication company of Bill Dunigan has designed and manufactured many metal artworks for the public and private sectors, but this is their first major project in Scotland. The Burning Bush will comprise a central stem and three flames representing the fire. These will be made of Corten which has limited rusting properties. Cradled within the flames will be a stainless steel bush with some 20 leaves. SCMA are working in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council on the development of this site and have also been in discussion with Dalry Community Council concerning the plans. SCMA will provide an information panel on the Covenanters and plans are also afoot for a more general information panel on Dalry and the Glenkens to encourage visitors to explore further our beautiful area. It is likely that this dramatic sculpture will become a significant tourist attraction in its own right and will draw people to the Glenkens.

The Dedication Ceremony will take place at Dalry on Saturday 18th September at 11 am. This is the same weekend as Dalry Heritage Group are planning their annual exhibition so that weekend should focus much interest on Dalry.

David Bartholomew




Cross Keys Hotel
Bar Meals

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 JUNE - JULY PROGRAMME



GLENKENS PLAY IT BY EAR

When - Monday 14th June 2004, 1.30pm
Where - Balmacellan 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

FERLEY - RSAMD CONCERT

When - Monday - 14th June 2004, 7.30pm
Where - Ken Bridge Hotel
What - Band of traditional musicians from RSAMD
The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama return to the Glenkens for an evening of traditional music with their band Ferley, which in Gaelic, means 'mysterious and wondrous thing'
Tickets - £3/£1 (School Pupils)

RSAMD SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

When - Tuesday 15th June 2004, Day-time
Where - Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn Schools
Traditional music workshops in schools around the Glenkens.

GLENKENS ART EXHIBITION 2004

When - Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th July
Where - Dalry Town Hall
An opportunity for local artists to exhibit their work to the public, and an opportunity for the public to view and purchase the work of local artists.

Exhibitors: Entry forms are available from local post offices, shops, community venues or from the GCAT shop in New Galloway.

Visitors: Entry to the exhibition is by donation.

GLENKENS CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

When - Saturday 31st July 2004, 12 noon-5pm
Where - The Park, New Galloway
A day of fun and hilarity with tons of entertainment and audience participation - magic and puppet shows, workshops, storytelling and stalls.
Tickets - Free Entry

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 Stripesy 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

BOX OFFICE: GCAT Shop, Monday-Friday, 9.30am-4.00pm 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 Dowswell at [ensys@dowswell.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 AUGUST / SEPTEMBER ISSUE 23:
FRIDAY 16th JULY 2004
e-mail : editor@glenkengazette.com

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

JUNE

FRI 4th Dizzy Book Launch, Designs, Castle Douglas, 6pm
Mercy Ships Meeting, NG Town Hall, 7.30pm
SAT 5th Carsphairn Show
Barwhillarty Garden Open Day, 2-5pm
SAT 5th - SAT 12th Clachan Fair
SUN 6th Hensol Garden Open Day, 2-5pm
MON 14th Ferley - RSAMD Concert, Ken Bridge Hotel, 7.30pm
TUE 15th RSAMD Schools Workshops Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn
SUN 20th GTI Bus Tour to Pt. Logan and Portpatrick, 10.30am
FRI 25th Dalry School Activity Day
SUN 27th Macmillan Summer Fayre, Newfield Farm, 2pm

JULY

SAT 10th GTI Bus Tour to Braehead Centre, 9.00am
TUE 13th GTI Bus Tour to New Lanark, 9.00am
WED 21st GTI Bus Tour to Edinburgh, 8.00am
THU 22nd - SUN 25th Glenkens Art Exhibition, Dalry Town Hall
FRI 30th Alternative Burns Supper, NG Town Hall, 7.30pm
SAT 31st Children's Festival, NG Park, 12-5pm

REGULAR EVENTS

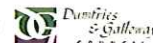
Heather Hoppers

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£2.00 Phone Kate Maxwell 420328 or Morag Paterson 430601

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



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