

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

August / September 2004

ISSUE 23

www.glenkensgazette.com

DALRY PUPILS WELCOME PRINCESS ROYAL TO GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE

Nineteen pupils from Dalry Primary School were lucky enough to be the only class in Scotland to be invited to the Glasgow Science Centre to meet Princess Anne who was officially opening the centre's new Climate Change Theatre. At the start of the hour-long visit, Her Royal Highness spoke to the Primary Six and Seven pupils, who presented the fruits of their work on an international environmental education initiative. Known as the GLOBE Weather Project, the project involves the children taking regular weather readings for American space agency NASA.

The Princess Royal and the pupils then received a private screening of a weather show in the new Climate Change Theatre. A thrilling new multi-media Climate Change Show, which will be the main focus in the new theatre which seats 90, is scheduled to begin in the Autumn.

(Continued on page 3)



ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY Centenary Celebrations

Why, you may well ask, is there an "English Kirk" in New Galloway? Many would say that it all began in 1882, but the real reason for its existence goes a lot further back than that. One of the main missionaries of the early Christian Church was St Paul. He went to places like Corinth, Ephesus and Philippi and proclaimed the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In those and many other places he established Churches, and then continued on his travels around the Mediterranean (many of you may remember drawing maps of his missionary journeys at school). Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, as soon as St Paul had moved on to another place to continue his evangelical work, the people in the Churches he had established began to fall out. Some relapsed into old ways, others twisted or distorted the Gospel, so Paul wrote letters - Epistles - reproving them, chastising them and encouraging them to hold fast to the "True Faith."

But people still argued, bent and manipulated the faith so that eventually councils were called together to agree on a form of common understanding and belief. They established Creeds as doctrinal statements to which all Christians should subscribe. This worked . . . up to a point. In our own islands, especially in the west, the Christianity which came from Rome gradually merged with some of the local customs and beliefs and developed a distinctively Celtic style. Those in Rome and Canterbury objected and the two "sides" came together at a Synod at Whitby in 664 AD and Rome prevailed.

Later on, in the eleventh century, politics, power and authority caused an even bigger division when the Great Schism split Constantinople from Rome leaving the Roman Church in the west and the Orthodox Church in the east. Then, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries a

complex series of events caused the Reformation of the western Church. Not the least of these was the objection from places like Britain to being told what to do by people in Italy who lived "beyond the mountains." (Bodes well for the European Union, doesn't it?) As a result of doctrinal differences, and perhaps national characteristics, several Protestant Churches broke away from Rome. The Church of England evolved, as did the Church of Scotland.

Although it is not for an English incomer to attempt to catalogue the history of the Church of Scotland, the Free Church, the Wee Frees etc, those in Scotland who followed the English lead wanted the Church to have bishops, while the Church of Scotland wanted to be governed by a presbyteries . . . except that . . . sometimes they wanted bishops . . . and sometimes not. As a result of this the Anglicans in Scotland formed the Scottish Episcopal Church - Episcopal meaning led by bishops.

Once more, human nature and differences of opinion and belief caused a constant state of turbulence in the expression of Christianity in these lands - not to mention its alleged influence on football supporters. It has even been suggested that when two Churches unite in Scotland they form three new ones - the united one and the rumps of the two old ones. (Such arguments and divisions are not the sole preserve of Christians of course, ask anyone on a golf club committee, or, for that matter, a committee of any kind).

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LOCAL ARTISTS

Hannah McAndrew, Corsock

Hannah McAndrew is a local potter from Corsock who works from her studio at the Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries, where she hand makes pots in terracotta clay. Originally from Bolton, Hannah studied three-dimensional design at University before moving to Dumfriesshire to undertake an apprenticeship with Jason Shackleton at Laurieston House Pottery at Wallaceaton. Jason introduced her to tin glaze majolica painting and to the traditional slipware techniques of slip trailing and sgraffito, which feature strongly in her current works. "I really enjoy making pots that are functional," says Hannah, "and love people to use them in their homes." Hannah throws her pots on a kick wheel and then fires them in an electric kiln. The decoration she uses is inspired by traditional English slipware and from the folk art pottery and textiles of Eastern Europe, especially Hungary. You can visit Hannah's studio at Gracefield Arts Centre, 28 Edinburgh Rd, Dumfries or contact her on 01387 249966. She also has an interesting website: www.thebarnpottery.co.uk

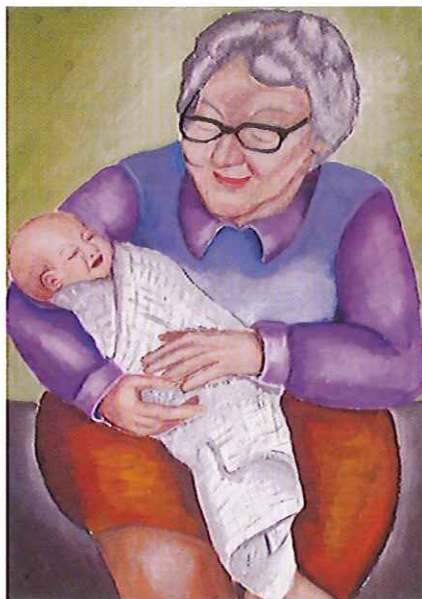


Photos courtesy of Zwonko Krakum

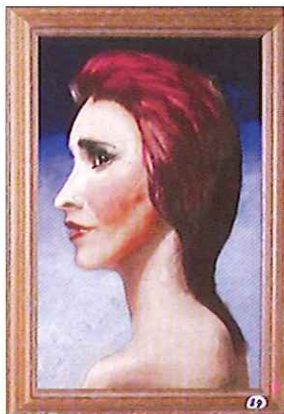
As a regular item, the Glenkens Gazette will be featuring local arts & crafts people in each edition. If you are a local artist and are interested in appearing here, get in touch with Karen on 01644 420374



The Glenkens Art Exhibition



Clare Rolлие



Norman Wolfenden

Again the Glenkens Art Exhibition, which took place in Dalry Town Hall from 22 to the 25 July attracted an excellent turnout of local artists with a wide variety of styles represented. The exhibition opened with an evening viewing organised by Wendy Davis and Christina Cross. Sales on the evening reflected the popularity of Derk Pelly's watercolours of local landscapes, with three of the four on show snapped up immediately. Sales overall were very good, with 25 of the paintings being sold. Over 500 people visited the exhibition during the four days. Subjects ranged from local wildlife and landscapes to still lifes and Mediterranean scenes. Also on show was a wonderful selection of paintings produced by local school pupils which were of an

exceptionally high standard. The exhibition was beautifully hung by Mr Pelly, with assistance from Bill Hines and supported by Anne Rusby, Isobel Ellis and Stan Wormald. The exhibition would not have taken place without the kind support of all the volunteers who helped both set up and man the event. Special thanks to Bill Hines and Bob Peace for all the signage, and to Rhoda Rugg and Margaret Pringle for their help with the children's artwork. We always appreciate the help and support we receive from the local schools. Thanks, also to Matthew Newton for all his assistance with the hall and hanging stands, and finally to all the artists who submitted their work for exhibition - the event can only take place thanks to their talents and commitment. The Organising Committee were delighted that the electricity worked throughout the evening!



BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The community council met in May and June, but for various reasons had a very limited attendance on the latter occasion. The following were among the items discussed.

DP Energy, developers of the proposed Blackcraig windfarm, have given their answers by letter to a number of general queries raised during the information days. Other specific points raised by individuals are being answered directly. It is their intention to organise a visit to an operational windfarm, for those interested. In the meantime, their environmental assessment will be proceeding in preparation for an intended planning application in 2005. The community council's response to any such planning application will necessarily be based on the views of the whole community. Numerous objections have been received or expressed, but it was accepted that a survey would probably be necessary to confirm the general reaction. It was agreed that liaison with the other community councils affected was also important when considering the action to be taken.

Current planning matters include a proposal for one dwelling behind Ken Lea, which the council accepts as being appropriate development within the local plan.

It was reported that the motte is now much improved in appearance, after the clearance of whins by Jim Little. The stumps have been treated to discourage re-growth.

Members had attended the "After Hours Healthcare" drop-in session at Dalry, and the proposed arrangements were discussed. These would appear to provide the necessary emergency cover, but will need to be proven in practice.

Advance information had been received on D & G Council proposals for recycling of more waste materials, but no specific details were yet available.

The June meeting noted the widely expressed concerns about the proposed Tesco supermarket development at Castle Douglas, and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The police promotion of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme has not moved forward, due principally to the lack of a local co-ordinator. The duties and time involvement are light, and an offer to serve the community in this respect would be welcome.

The Village Hall Committee has placed a contract for replacement of the badly deteriorated hall windows by new double-glazed units, as the first stage of a refurbishment programme. It is hoped that it will be possible to proceed also with the retaining wall on the east side, but external painting will be deferred until next spring.

Tickets are now on sale for the raffle in aid of the refurbishment. There are substantial prizes, with £250 for the first winner. The draw will take place at a coffee morning, with Tombola and sales tables, in the hall (date to be announced).

Alan Pallister

THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Out-of-hours healthcare

The main topic of discussion at recent meetings has been the NHS plans to introduce new arrangements for out-of-hours healthcare in Dumfries and Galloway. Under the planned new arrangements local GP surgeries will be responsible for providing services to patients from 8.00am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. Outwith these times (including weekends and public holidays) medical cover will be provided by the new service managed by the NHS Board from their two out-of-hours centres in Stranraer and Dumfries. Two doctors will be based in Stranraer, one of whom will be available for house calls and three doctors will be based at Dumfries with two of them available for house calls. We feel that this cover is totally inadequate for our area with no out-of-hours doctors even based in the Stewartry.

We have invited NHS officials to attend a public meeting in New Galloway Town Hall on Monday 2nd August at 7.30pm to allow Glenkens residents to air their views on the proposals which are expected to be introduced from 1st October 2004. Unfortunately the meeting had to be arranged at fairly short notice due to the availability of the relevant officials but with the strength of feeling locally and increasing publicity in the media we felt that the meeting had to go ahead and would attract a large attendance.

If you have missed the meeting you can still find out more from the website www.show.scot.nhs.uk/dghb or send your comments to Les Callaghan, Board Secretary, Chief Executive's Office, Mid North, Crichton Hall, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4TG (e-mail: les.callaghan@nhs.net).

Secretary

We have a vacancy for the post of Community Council Secretary and invite applications.

Duties include taking minutes at monthly meetings, preparing agendas, handling correspondence etc. An annual honorarium is paid and expenses are reimbursed.

Ideally applicants should have secretarial/administration experience and would have access to a computer and printer.

For further details please contact the Chairman, Brian Edgar, Tannoch, New Galloway DG7 3RT (Tel. 01644 420288).

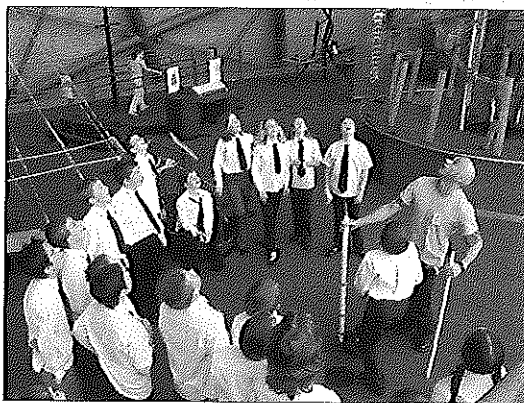
Continued from front page....

Alistair Harvie (11) was one of the Dalry Primary pupils who chatted to The Princess Royal. He said: "I explained to the princess all about the GPS (global positioning satellite) readings which we take as part of the project. She was very interested in the work we've done. 'I enjoyed the show in the Climate Change Theatre too. It was really good fun.' Teacher Catriona McCall said: 'The Princess Royal really put the pupils at their ease. There was a definite buzz afterwards. It was a great recognition for our pupils - especially those who have given up their own time during the holidays to take readings.' Brian Weddell, Chief Executive of Glasgow Science Centre, said: 'It was a great honour for Glasgow Science Centre to show The Princess Royal some of the extraordinary experiences which make up our popular Science Mall, which has entertained over a million visitors since opening.'

"It was also a pleasure to introduce Her Royal Highness to pupils from Dalry Primary School who have done sterling work on the environmental GLOBE Weather project with the help of Glasgow Science Centre. We have entertained and educated over 160,000 schoolchildren to date and Dalry Primary School is a great example of the work with our schools programme, which continues to go from strength to strength."

The princess is pictured above talking to Carina Smith, Angus Hilsley, Rhea Currie, Gemma Fisher, Autumn Wheeler and Alistair Harvie. I am sure that P6/7 would like to join me in my sincere thanks to Mrs Catriona McCall and Mrs Jenny Harvie who kindly volunteered to accompany my class to Glasgow during their holiday otherwise the visit could not have taken place - as both Mr Simpson Head Teacher and myself (the class teacher) were out of the country. Mrs Harvie even cut her holiday short in order to be there for the children. Many thanks to both of them.

Sandra Brown (last paragraph)



Continued from front page....

It was at the end of the nineteenth century, against this historical backdrop and the sorry history of the treatment of the Covenanters, that the railway brought visitors (many of them from south of the border) to the Glenkens. In 1882 Miss Jane Maitland of Kenmure and Miss Copland of Colliston arranged for services to be taken in the lower hall of the Town Hall for Scottish Episcopallans and Church of England visitors during the summer months.

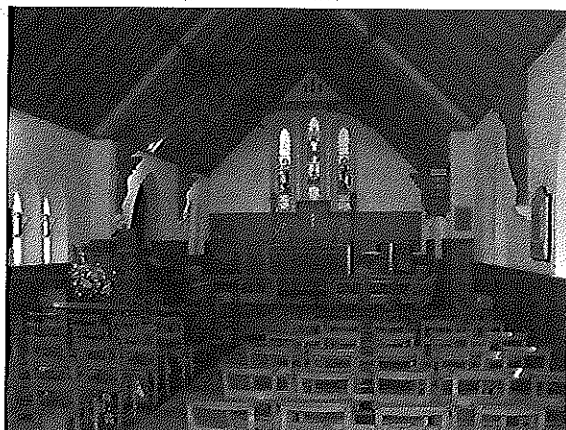
By 1903 the congregation could no longer be accommodated in the hall and a decision was made to build a small church in the village. This was completed on 17th August 1904 at a cost of £512. 2s 9d. As subscriptions had raised £512 12s, it was possible to place the grand sum of 9s 3d in a Maintenance Fund! The dedication of the church took place on 20th August 1904. In 1908 the church was enlarged with the addition of a chancel for £330.8s.3d and the building was consecrated by Bishop Campbell on 10th September of that year. In the early days services were only conducted during the summer and autumn months by a series of chaplains who stayed in lodgings, but by 1914 a priest in charge was appointed with a stipend of £200 p.a. and unfurnished accommodation in the "Grey House." In 1925 the rectory was built on the land adjoining the church and a series of incumbents and priests-in-charge have conducted the services in the church from that time.

Those who think of St Margaret's as being the "English Kirk" which is only attended by the gentry, rich people and incomers, might be surprised to find that not only is this a gross over-generalisation but that the church has repeatedly faced financial difficulties. However, thanks to the generosity of many of the worshippers the Church survived and has now been holding services for one hundred years.

There are those who argue that there is no need for two churches in a place the size of New Galloway. I hope that the first part of this article will go some way towards explaining the history behind this fact. St Margaret's does not operate in opposition to Kells, rather, the two exist side by side offering worship to the same God while allowing for the variety which is part of our human nature. There is no bitter antagonism between the churches, nor is there any pretentious display of ecumenism, instead there is an acceptance of each other's views and opinions with a healthy degree of understanding and Christian tolerance.

The centenary of St Margaret's will be celebrated with a special service at 7.00pm on Friday 20th August. Unfortunately, seating for the service is limited and at the time of writing there are no places left. (In case of cancellations ring 01644 420235.) The celebrations will continue with a Festival Communion service on Sunday 22nd August, and a concert will be given by the Manchester Police Male Voice Choir at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th August. The Church will be open between 11.00am and 5.00pm from 18th - 30th August and everyone is welcome to look in. For those who want to know more about the church, the history booklet written by Miss Rosaleen Murdoch has been updated to cover the whole hundred years.

John Repath



JAMES CLERK MAXWELL

James Clerk Maxwell, one of the greatest scientists the world has ever known, was born in Edinburgh on 13 June 1831. He came to Glenlair when he was little more than two years old. At that time Glenlair was in the parish of Parton. This was so until 1863 when the estate was included among the lands assigned to the newly "erected" parish of Corsock. Glenlair continued to be his home until he died at Cambridge on 5 November 1879 and was buried in the ruins at the old kirk at Parton. To honour the 125th anniversary of his demise, the Committee of Parton Village Hall are sponsoring an exhibition to portray his life and accomplishments, which are considerable.

Of an unassuming nature he had a strong sense of humour and a keen relish for witty or jocular repartee, "all things are full of jokes, but that doesn't hinder them from being full of seriousness." On religious questions his beliefs were strong and deeply rooted. Dr Lorraine of Castle Douglas wrote "I must say he is one of the best men I have ever met, and a greater merit than his scientific achievements is his being, so far as human judgement can discern, a most perfect example of a Christian gentleman."

Campbell and Garnett's Biography – He never sought Fame, but with sacred devotion continued in mature life the labours which had been his spontaneous delight in childhood.

In Professor R V Jones' Commemorative Address entitled "The Complete Physicist," which unfortunately, due to railway failure, he was unable to address the Royal Society of Edinburgh on Monday, 12 November 1979, he mentions another contribution by Clerk Maxwell when he became concerned with establishing the precise values of the basic units of electricity, since he had shown that they were related to the velocity of light. In one of these experiments a coil had to be rotated at a constant speed, so Maxwell thus became interested in the theory of governors, and in 1865 wrote a paper "On Governors" of which relatively little notice was taken until the end of the Second World War when automatic control of aircraft and industrial mechanisms became important and it was realised that the

basic theory was already in Maxwell's papers.

From the "New Scientist" of 1st November 1979 James Grieg writes, "The diversity of Maxwell's interest across the physical sciences is as remarkable as the depth of his insights. Maxwell's contributions to fields other than electromagnetism would, alone, place him in the first rank. His electromagnetic theory itself stands as one of the great generalisations in the description of nature."

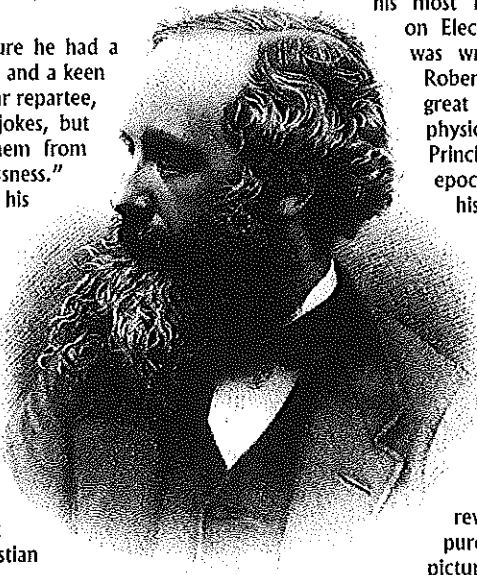
In 1861 he was elected to the Royal Society, but ill health forced him to retire to Glenlair and it was during his six years at home that his most famous work, "Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism," was written, the book which Robert Andrews Millikan, the great American experimental physicist linked with "Newton's Principia" as one of the two epoch-making books in the history of physics: "the one creating our modern mechanical world, the other the modern electrical world." He also said Maxwell was one of the most penetrating intellects of our time."

In Einstein's opinion Maxwell was a revolutionary figure. The purely mechanical world picture was upset by the "the great revolution forever linked with the names Faraday, Maxwell and Hertz. The lion's share in this revolution was Maxwell's... This change in the conception of reality is the most profound and the most fruitful that Physics has experienced since the time of Newton." (from "Subtle is the Lord", life of Albert Einstein, author Abraham Pais). Radiowaves, microwaves, millimetre waves, infra red, visible light, ultra violet, x-rays and gamma rays make up the full spectrum, all of them spawned by Maxwell's electromagnetism.

By his birth James Clerk Maxwell belongs to Edinburgh, Galloway and Scotland; by his works he belongs to the whole world.

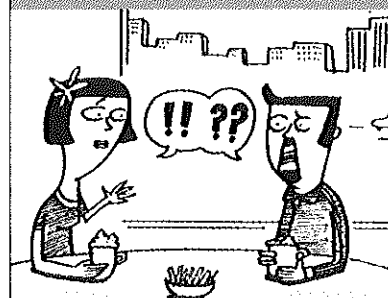
Sam Callendar

The exhibition will be staged in
Parton Village Hall from 22 to 26
September, opening times 2pm-8pm
or by arrangement.
Tel 01644 470210



20 something

the ultimate survival guide



HANNAH ADCOCK

Jamie Cullum Ian Hislop 'Dear' Deirdre
Knife & Packer

Former Glenkens Gazette editor, Hannah Adcock is celebrating the launch of her debut publication, "20something, the ultimate survival guide", an entertaining book which lightheartedly advises those in their twenties on how best to get on in life, and covers topics such as travel, how to get on the job ladder and managing finances. Hannah edited the Glenkens Gazette for three editions in 2003 while she was living in New Galloway with Dr Shelagh Neil. She is currently in Greece filming with the theatre company, Outlook Productions.

For more information or to order a copy -
website : 20something.co.uk
email : info@discoverpress.com

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Mabel Young - 01644 430472
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Jean Maitman - 01644 430497
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NEW GALLOWAY - *Our Historic Burgh*

PART XXI by Helen Bolton

Leisure time in New Galloway

Visitors to New Galloway in the latter part of the 19th Century would find a peaceful place in which to relax and escape from the congested lifestyle of Industrial Britain, not to mention the vile emissions of the factory chimneys! Here they could take a leisurely stroll after dinner and enjoy the pure mountain air of the Glenkens.

The Cross Keys and Kenmure Arms Hotels both had carriages and horses which could be hired by visitors who wished to venture further afield and explore the beauties of the countryside. The more energetic, mostly gentlemen, we imagine, were beginning to discover the delights of rambling. Such well-known authors as John Buchan, S.H. Crockett, Malcolm Harper and Rev. C.H. Dick had their first taste of the wilder places in the Galloway Highlands, and all wrote of the area in glowing terms. Later cycling also became popular, and soon the ladies were joining their menfolk on their expeditions into the remoter parts of the Glenkens.

Both shooting and fishing have long been attractions for locals and visitors alike. The estates in the area would have shooting to let and in the winter the many hundreds of wild geese would be fair game for those who were prepared to brave the inclement weather conditions. In those far off days the moors (now mostly covered with vast plantations of conifers) were home to great numbers of grouse, carefully watched

over by the estate keepers. Feeding for the grouse was assured by well-managed moor burning to ensure plentiful young heather in the spring. Now, sadly, the grouse is comparatively rare in this area.

Fishing on the Water of Ken and the Black Water of Dee was exceptionally good, both being considered first rate salmon rivers. The brown trout fishing in the smaller waters and in the many beautifully situated lochs close to New Galloway was considered to be wonderful sport. Books have been written on the delights of days in the remote hills with fishing rod and a "piece"!

Boating on Loch Ken appears to have been a favourite way of spending a summer afternoon, one or two locals having boats in which they gladly took folk for a "trip down the loch". Of course, fishing from the boats could also be arranged. How lovely the hills would appear to those first-time visitors to New Galloway, seen from the waters of Loch Ken.

The splendid scenery was soon to attract artists to the Burgh, and one famous name which will be for ever linked with Kells parish is James Faed, Junior. Born in Peeblesshire, Faed soon became best known for his wonderfully evocative paintings of Galloway scenery. Hills, lochs, rivers and the coastline were all portrayed by his brush. James Faed spent his declining years at "The Bungalow", on the Newton Stewart road, just outside the village. Failing health did not deter him from painting, and when his hands were no longer able to hold the brush, he continued to paint with his mouth, a courageous man indeed.

James Faed died at "The Bungalow" on 17th February 1920, and his memorial in Kells Churchyard bears, appropriately, an artist's palette and brushes.

RALPH FURLOW

It was fitting that the anniversary of the death of Ralph Furlow was remembered after 50 years but sad that so much of what was written was so far removed from the actual facts.

In attempting to put the record straight it should be noted that what is written is in no way intended to embarrass or hurt anyone, on the contrary. For instance, there must be many folk wondering that if the weather was as described why did Ralph venture out or in fact why did the Pringles with whom he lived permit him to go out.

Herewith details as they were on that day:

The morning dawned fair, about three inches of snow had fallen overnight and a frost had occurred, but by 8.30am it was a brilliant winter's morning. Just the type of morning to encourage anyone to walk.

However, by 10.30am the whole scene had changed. The weather became very dull and by 11.00am a strong, almost gale force wind was blowing from the North East and whilst no snow was falling it was a blizzard of blowing snow. This continued until into the afternoon.

At approx 7pm two forest workers living at Forrest Lodge decided to go from Forrest to the roadfoot (A713) a distance of four miles in a Land Rover and home built snow plough in order to clear the road of snow drifts and in the hope that no more snow fell overnight.

On arriving back at Forrest Lodge at approx 9pm they were met in the driveway by David Pringle who

told them that Ralph had gone out that morning about 8am and had not returned. He, David was made aware of what the outcome might be and he suggested a search party at daybreak the next morning. The forest workers would have none of it and insisted on a search party that night if further assistance could be obtained. Two shepherds volunteered and the party was organized of the two shepherds and the two forest workers.

The party of four left Burnhead house, home of the Pringles, at approx 10pm complete with essentials in a haversack and a tilley lamp. Each agreed that they would go as far as they could or until Ralph was found.

About half a mile from Burnhead House where the footpath crossed Mid Burn by a small wooden bridge, Ralph's piecebag and snow goggles were found hanging on the bridge. Nothing was said and the party continued. At some places where the snow had blown clear Ralph's footprints could be seen. A few minutes after midnight as they approached Alterbrick Stile (a stone sheep pen) a dog could be heard barking. Upon reaching the stile it was all too obvious what had happened and sadly nothing could be done for Ralph at that time.

One of the forest workers insisted on bringing the dog home and this was done despite the fact that the dog slipped the lead and went back to Ralph.

The party arrived back at Burnhead at approx 1.30am. Nothing more could be done until the police could be notified later that morning.

The instructions from the police were that nothing should be done until they arrived. In the meantime, a sledge had been fashioned from a sheet of corrugated iron as it was felt that a sledge was the only possible means of getting Ralph's body home.

The police arrived just after midday and the party, which consisted of three forest workers and two police left to recover the body; a sergeant from Dalry and a constable from New Galloway.

It became obvious pretty soon that the sergeant was going to have difficulties even before they were half way so it was agreed that the constable and the forest worker who had been on the search party would go on ahead with the sledge in the hope that the sergeant and the two forest workers who had been left to assist him would eventually arrive.

After a considerable wait there was no sign of the sergeant and party so the constable and forest worker did the necessary and returned to meet the sergeant.

It was considered that the journey back to Burnhead was too dangerous with the sledge so a detour was made around the head of Loch Minnoch and across the tops of Bennan Hill. The party arrived back at Burnhead just before 4pm.

It is hoped that this explanation will put the record straight. Sadly the two shepherds who went out that night are no longer with us but the two forest workers are and in fact one of them passes within a few yards of the memorial on the first day of every month attending to the nearby rainfall station.

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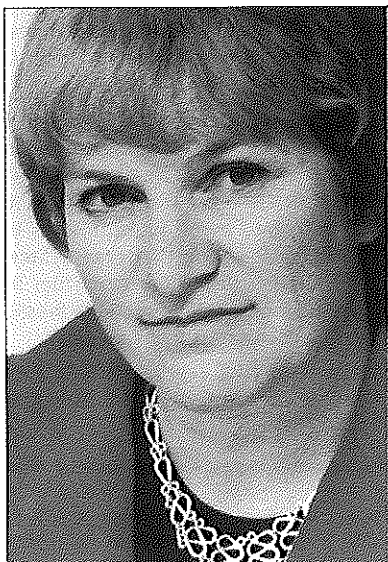
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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

LIBBY PURVES TO VISIT GLENKENS



Libby Purves, who is one of Britain's most popular novelists, broadcasters and columnists will be coming to the Glenkens in September when she visits the Ken Bridge Hotel for a very special literary lunch! Libby will be reading from her new novel, *Acting Up*, for this one-off event on September 23rd. Libby has presented *Midweek* on Radio 4 since 1984 and formerly presented the *Today* programme. She is a main columnist on the *Times* and in 1999 was named the *Granada What the Papers Say* Columnist of the Year, and awarded an OBE for services to journalism.

There will be an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of *Acting Up*. The event will start at 12.30pm. Tickets cost £7.00 each and include a light lunch. Tickets are available from the GCAT Shop in New Galloway or by calling 01644 420374.



FERAL CHOIR COMING TO MOSSDALE

Mossdale Village Hall will be the venue for a performance by The Feral Choir of their latest work, *Timeless*. Some of Dumfries and Galloway's best writers were commissioned by The Feral Choir to write the text for this new work. They were each invited to choose a place in the region that had a special historic significance for them and to write about its past and then its present.

This body of text forms the backbone of this amazing series of aural snapshots of Dumfries and Galloway, past and present which will be supported by newly composed music by The Feral Choir's musical director Alison Burns and London composer, Helen Chadwick, and by a series of subtle electronic sound-scapes devised by Bertie Fritsch, in some cases with pupils from schools across the region. The Feral Choir is also delighted to be working with solo singer Janet Russell, whose dark, rich voice brings a midas quality to the work. *Timeless* promises to be one of the region's most interesting home grown events this year.

The performance will take place in Mossdale Village Hall on a bank holiday on Monday 30 August at 8pm. Tickets are £4 each and are available on the door or in advance from the GCAT Shop. Tickets can also be reserved by calling GCAT on 01644 420374.

TRIP TO NEW LANARK ON 13TH JUNE

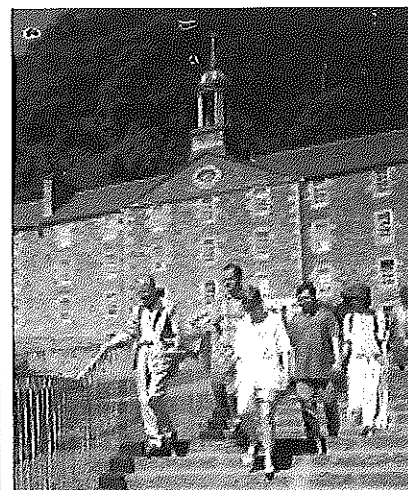
Evelyn Hall

The GCAT bus is a great facility which enabled some of us to visit the New Lanark Mills with their history of working looms and the weaving of cotton.

We were especially fascinated by the 'Ghost Train Ride' which gave you a wonderful insight into the lives of people working in the Mills at that period of time. The progressive thinking of Robert Owen the owner was such that the children attended school and medical facilities were available to all his workers. A grocery store was also available for their use.

The living quarters for employees were the most interesting for me and compared to conditions in the big cities at the time they were really very comfortable.

New Lanark is a place to visit more than once to take in everything there is available for the visitor to see, including the wonderful River Clyde Falls.



GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

REGULAR ROUTE

Please remember that the community bus now runs a regular evening service to Dumfries on the second Monday of every month. The times allow you to visit at the hospital or to go swimming. Full details are available on leaflets in your local shops or from the GCAT Shop.

200 CLUB

The committee apologise that due to the terms of the lottery licence we cannot commence this year's draw until we have the required amount of paid members and unfortunately the renewals came in a bit more slowly than expected. However, the good news is that with renewals and some new members we are now only a few short of the target number and expect to make the first draws shortly. If you haven't joined yet there could still be time, please phone today 01644 420374 or call in to the GCAT Shop. The 200 Club is a huge support to the Community Bus funds and also gives members the chance to win cash prizes every month. As soon as we have the required number of members we will make the draws for May, June and July to bring the prizes up to date. Thank you to everyone for your support and patience.

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

The July trips to Braehead, Portpatrick and New Lanark were a great success and we already have requests for return trips to Portpatrick and New Lanark later in the year. Dates will be announced in due course.

Meantime there are two trips planned for August, to Culzean Castle on Monday 16th August and to the football at Dumfries (Queen of the South v Falkirk) on 21st August. Please book early on 01644 420374.

Please also let us know if there are any specific trips that you would like us to arrange.



THE GLENKENS CENTRE DEVELOPMENT LEAFLET

By now all Glenkens residents should have received the brand new, full colour, development leaflet for the Glenkens Centre, delivered directly to your door. This leaflet outlines GCAT's future plans for the development of the building, the costs and timescales involved and the eventual activities that will take place once the building is open. It is also a means of letting people know how they can contribute towards the costs of developing the building.

Along with the leaflet you will find a questionnaire. These have also been delivered to every household in the Glenkens. It is vital when planning for the future of the Glenkens Centre that the views and opinions of the local community are at the forefront of any decisions that are taken. This questionnaire is our opportunity to consult you and is genuinely your opportunity to have your say and decide what the future of the Glenkens Centre will be! Although this survey is aimed primarily at the adult population, we haven't forgotten the needs and opinions of local children and young people: future research will be undertaken to address their requirements.

If, for some reason, you have not received your leaflet and/or questionnaire, or if there are additional adults in your household who would also like to take part in the survey and require extra questionnaires, please give us a call on 01644 420374 and we will send them out to you.

The printing and distribution of the leaflet has been made possible thanks to very generous sponsorship from Williamson and Henry, Solicitors, Kirkcudbright (pictured right). The questionnaire has been supported by Scottish Enterprise, Dumfries and Galloway.

We will shortly be conducting a further study on the Community Bus to raise awareness, and increase its usage by the local community. This survey will be funded by the Scottish Communities Action Research Fund (SCARF).

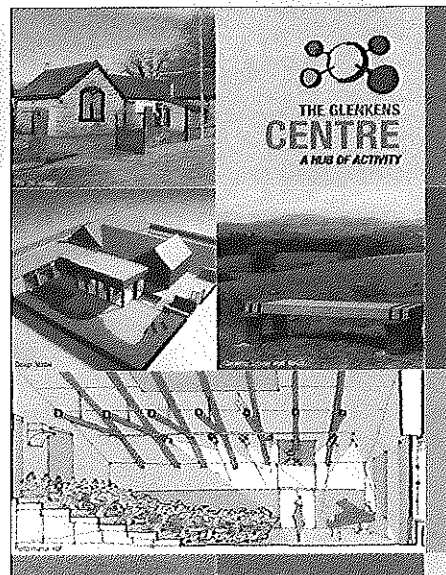


PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE GALLOWAY NEWS

LOCAL BUSINESS GROUP ESTABLISHED

Last month the Glenkens Business Association was formed. This group has been established by local businesses to give businesses in the area a unified voice on a wide range of issues.

Businesses in the Glenkens are no different from any businesses anywhere in the world. We are embracing technology, we need to attract, train and retain our staff, we need to negotiate to improve profitability for our products and services in tough markets, we have time pressures and above all we're in business to make a living.

Internationally, nationally, regionally and locally there are pressures on every business in every sector. Fast balls will be thrown at us such as Foot and Mouth or frightening terrorist acts on the other side of the world. Global economies have massive impacts on local businesses; visitors stop travelling, banks raise interest rates, fuel prices increase. Who knows what the next pressure will be on businesses in the Glenkens?

The Glenkens Business Association will never solve any of these big issues but surely if we speak with one voice, local businesses will be in a stronger position to have our voice heard, whether we lobby parliament, write to the local Enterprise company or debate and share issues amongst ourselves.

The Business Association now has a constitution, office bearers have been elected, membership letters have been circulated and nominations are being sought for committee members. Anyone who is in business in the Glenkens is invited to join; you may be a tradesman, a farmer, a hotelier, an accountant or involved in new technologies – whatever sector you are in, whatever service you provide, if you're in business in the Glenkens you should be a member of the Glenkens Business Association. If you haven't yet received a membership letter or would like to know more about the association please contact the group via the GCAT office on 01644 420 374 or email info@glenkens-arts.com.

A FORTNIGHT SPENT IN BOSNIA BY TWO PHYSIOTHERAPISTS (Excerpts from a letter home)

Sarajevo has been the most wonderful experience. We had pictured a grey city, rather oppressed and subdued; what we found was a city full of well dressed, lively, laughing people; colourful fruit and vegetable stalls and street cafes everywhere; beautiful weather and roses appearing over the walls and filling the graveyards. Every patch of grass of any size is a graveyard. The headstones, a tall thin one at either end of each plot, are shiny white pillars which gleam in the sun. There are so many graves.

The first week there were only three of us at our house/clinic. Bob, the other therapist, had been twice before and was kind and helpful. Normally there is also a manager but we loved getting our own meals, going shopping and eating out. By the end we were being greeted and waved to in the street. There is no evidence of Muslim fundamentalists.

A few women wear scarves, tunics and long skirts – some with great style. Others are slim, brightly coloured, vibrant. Obviously we saw only the ones at night as we were working during the day. The centre of the old town was teeming with people wandering about or sitting in cafes. We don't know what it was like in the poorer areas around the large blocks of flats on the edges of the town, except for the times we went out there to work. Then you can tell by their clothes or their stories that life is still pretty bad. And we couldn't get out into the surrounding hills because there are still mines.

The people we treated were all members of the Association of Concentration Camp Victims, or from the 'Civil Victim' list: people who have

been rated as 80% - 100% disabled from their wounds. The last man of the day on Friday had been Bob's patient. He was secretary of the Association and obviously a bright and intelligent man. He came through to the office after his treatment to thank us for our work and to invite us to his home the next day. He told us then how six of them had been held in a room smaller than our office, with no light, for eight months in the war. He crossed his wrists as they had been tied, then, his hands working all the time, he added that they knew their captors and kept shaking his head in disbelief. Then, just as suddenly, he was back to his charming, smiling self.

On most days Jane and I were working alongside each other, three patients in the morning and three in the afternoon, for an hour each (bliss). In the clinic we had a screen between us, but on 'outreach' we just had a table each. To begin with we did massage but then we got braver and did regular physio as well. It is

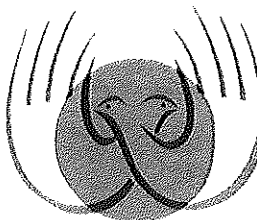
amazing how you can communicate with hardly any language.

Healing Hands is a small charity which sends volunteers to areas of disaster or war. Any manual therapist can volunteer whether using alternative or conventional therapies. Volunteers have to raise £600 and are only allowed to work for two weeks per year. For further information on the Healing Hands organisation, please contact Sandra Griffiths on 01885 410620.

Thanks to Drs Neil and Jones for their kind donation of Couch Rolls.

Merryn Fergusson

Healing Hands Network



Dedicated to the relief of suffering caused by war and disaster

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

RSAMD VISIT TO GLENKENS



On Tuesday 15th June twelve second year students from the RSAMD visited the Glenkens, with workshops in Dalry School, Kells and Carsphairn Primaries. Here is an account of their morning at Carsphairn...

On Tuesday, four students from the RSAMD came to visit our school. The nursery pupils joined us for this visit. First the students told us about themselves and their instruments and then they played us a couple of lively jigs.

One of them asked us to get into four groups and we went round to try out the instruments. We tried some fiddles and some penny whistles. The P4s, 5s and 6s preferred the fiddle because we found the sound was nicer than the penny whistle which sounded too much like the recorder. Lucy also liked the fiddle because she thought the penny whistle was boring. Amber, James and Kieron enjoyed the penny whistle because they liked the sound. The visitors then played us another jig.

After that the students split us into two groups. One group learnt a song called The Herrin's Heid, while the other group learnt some ceilidh dances, then we swapped over. At the end we did the song and one of the dances all together. It was an enjoyable experience and we hope to see them again.

Rebecca Holden P6, Fern Brett P5, Ryan McCall P5, Katie Warburton P5, Hannah Blackett P5 and Beth Bosworth P4, Carsphairn Primary School.



BEFRIENDERS ARE BRILLIANT!!

Want to enjoy new experiences and put something back into your community? Why not consider becoming involved with...

The Dumfries & Galloway Befriending Project?



Who are we?

A preventative service- an independent charity in its seventh year, set up to give vulnerable young people extra support.

Where do we operate?

Currently within a 40-mile radius of Dumfries ... but now we are expanding into your area and need your help.

How do we operate?

We recruit men and women (over 18) and, after training, match them on a one-to-one basis with young people.

Who do we help?

Young folk who would benefit from the additional input of a reliable, caring adult.

How do we help?

By providing someone independent to talk to who is not involved professionally.

By offering the opportunity to undertake new experiences

By giving a break from day-to-day pressures

By helping the young person tackle difficulties before they get too big.

What do Volunteer Befrienders Do?

Befrienders make a commitment to meet their youngster every 7-10 days.

They offer a couple of hours of their time to build up a trusting relationship.

They provide opportunities to share enjoyable activities e.g. swimming, football, cinema, arts & crafts, coffee/meal and a chat.

Their one-to-one support can help relieve day-to-day pressures and channel frustrations into positive activities

What do Befrienders get in Return?

The challenge of getting to know a young person.

The reward of developing a relationship with them.

The opportunity to meet and share experiences with other volunteers.

All travel and out of pocket expenses.

Continuous support from Project staff

Who are the Young People?

Youngsters in the Stewartry aged between 8 and 18 years who may be experiencing isolation and/or problems at school, at home or in the community.

Who are the Befrienders?

Responsible adults from all walks of life with some time on their hands and an interest in young people.

We have heard what a community spirited place the Glenkens area is and would love to meet adults who have a little time to get to know a young person, to listen to them, encourage them, have fun and learn new things with them.

Many of our volunteers started out with more of a view as to what they can give rather than what they might get back. However, in the words of two of our volunteers 'It was much more rewarding than I'd anticipated' and 'becoming a befriender has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had'.

If YOU would like to help a child make new discoveries - and make a few yourself! Contact Annette Richards or Jill McMinn at the Project Office on 01387 247812.

e-mail: befproj@btinternet.com

Web site www.befproj.btinternet.co.uk

ABBAS REST ORPHANS COFFEE MORNING

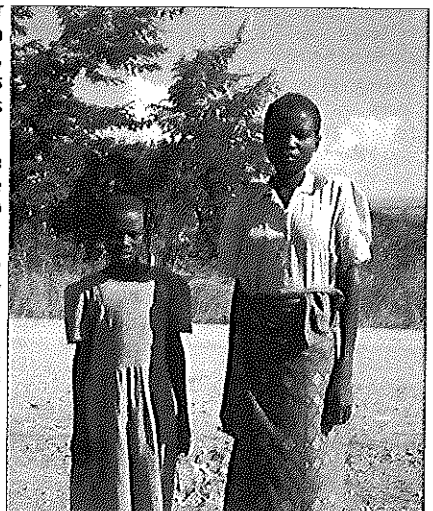
A coffee morning will be held on Saturday 25 September from 10am to 12noon in the Community Centre in Dalry. It is in aid of Abbas Rest orphans in Malawi, to pay for medical treatment and possibly inoculations against Malaria and other diseases, which claim the lives of so many children.

There are now three orphan centres at Chiringa, Muona and Beka, with some children living in, and some who are helped by the feeding programme. There are about 100 orphans in all.

The orphanages were started by Peter and Kirsil Poole of Carsphairn after visiting Malawi in 2000. They saw poverty on a scale which is hard to imagine, with children eating thrown away banana skins and even mice. The clothing for many children were merely rags. In May 2000 in Abbas Rest Orphans, although still a very small organisation, became a registered Scottish Charity supported mainly by the people in Dumfries and Galloway, and also Finland which is where Kirsil comes from. It runs totally on the proceeds of Coffee Mornings, sales, donations and talks given by Peter and Kirsil. There is also a sponsorship scheme where people can sponsor a child for a regular small monthly donation.

All the proceeds go straight to the orphans, and the Poole family are at present in Chiringa overseeing the feeding programmes and the finishing of the orphanages in Muona and Beka and will not return until the end of January 2005. If more information is required about sponsoring an orphan, please get in touch with the Mission Secretary, Alan Sidaway in New Galloway on 01644 420293. If you have any clothes which you are able to donate to the children please contact Avril Brown at 74 Main Street, Dalry, or Barbara Colbenson, 76 Main Street, Dalry, on 01644 430090.

Abbas Rest Orphans would greatly appreciate your support at the coffee Morning which could mean the difference between life and death for a sick child.



Feniya (on left) who is sponsored by Mrs Colbenson, and her sister

JOHN LOWE AND 'MARY'S DREAM'

John Lowe was born at Kenmore in 1750, son of the gardener to Gordon of Kenmore. He was educated at Kells school and, with the help of Mr McKay, schoolmaster at Carsphairn, and the Revd John Gillespie of Kells, entered Edinburgh University in 1771. After college he became tutor to the several beautiful daughters of Mr McGhie of Airds. Here Lowe began to write poems and songs, although, as his biographer the Revd William Gillespie of Kells, writes: "few copies are now to be found, though there are some songs yet sung by the common people (In that district of Galloway called the Glenkens) which still bear his name." Gillespie continues; "He used to invoke his Muse from the top of a picturesque cliff, which rises suddenly over a thick wood on the banks of the Ken...He erected for himself a rural seat on this spot, which is still called "Lowe's Seat", and planted it round with honeysuckles, woodbines, and other wild shrubs and flowers." It is here he was said to have composed his best known poem, 'Mary's Dream', supposedly based on the loss at sea of a surgeon named Miller who was engaged to Mary, one of the young ladies of Airds.

Frustrated by lack of opportunity to better himself, Lowe sailed for America where for a time he was tutor to the family of George Washington's brother. Later he opened an academy for the education of young men in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He took orders in the Church of England (the then fashionable religion in this part of the United States, says Gillespie) and had hopes of becoming a diplomat. Then he fell in love with a Virginian lady, was rejected, married her sister instead, only to find her "an abandoned woman, regardless of his happiness, and unfaithful even to his bed". Shame, disappointment and sorrow led him to drink. Poverty and disease soon followed and he died at the age of 48. Lowe is buried near Fredericksburg. It is said that his wife made no enquiries for over a month; then she sent for his horse, which had already been sold to defray the cost of his funeral.

Ronald Russell

MARY'S DREAM

R.H Cromeck, Editor of Remains of Nithsdale and Galloway Song (1810), prints two versions of 'Mary's Dream': an official or printed copy, long familiar to the public, and a version popular "among the peasantry of Galloway". Did Lowe write both? he asks. If so, which is the original?

THE OFFICIAL VERSION

The moon had climb'd the highest hill
Which rises o'er the source of Dee,
And from the eastern summit shed
Her silver light on tow'r and tree:
When Mary laid her down to sleep,
Her thoughts on Sandy far at sea;
When soft and low a voice was heard,
Saying, Mary, weep no more for me.

She from her pillow gently rais'd
Her head to ask who there might be;
She saw young Sandy shiv'ring stand,
With visage pale and hollow ee;
'O Mary, dear, cold is my clay,
It lies beneath a stormy sea;
Far, far from thee I sleep in death;
So, Mary, weep no more for me.

'Three stormy nights and stormy days,
We toss'd upon the raging main;
And long we strove our bark to save,
But all our striving was in vain.
E'en then, when horror chill'd my blood,
My heart was fill'd with love for thee:
The storm is past, and I at rest;
So, Mary, weep no more for me.

O maiden dear, thyself prepare,
We soon shall meet upon that shore,
Where love is free from doubt and care,
And thou and I shall part no more!
Loud crow'd the cock, the shadows fled,
No more of Sandy could she see;
But soft the passing spirit said,
'Sweet Mary, weep no more for me!'

THE OLD WAY OF 'MARY'S DREAM'

The lovely moon had climbed the hill
Where eagles big aboon the Dee,
And like the looks of a lovely dame,
Brought joy to every bodies ee;
A' but sweet Mary, deep in sleep,
Her thoughts on Sandy far at sea;
A voice drapt softly on her ear,
'Sweet Mary, weep nae mair for me!'

She lifted up her waukening een,
To see from whence the voice might be,
And there she saw her Sandy stand,
Pale, bending on her his hollow eel
'O Mary, dear, lament nae mair,
I'm in death's thralls below the sea;
Thy weeping makes me sad in bliss,
Sae, Mary, weep nae mair for me.

The wind slept when we left the bay,
But soon it waked and raised the main,
And God he bore us down the deep,
Who strave wi' him but strave in vain!
He stretched his arm, and took me up,
Tho' laith I was to gang but thee,
I look fraw heaven aboon the storm,
Sae, Mary, weep nae mair for me!

Take off thae bride sheets frae thy bed,
Which thou hast faulded down for me;
Unrobe thee of thy earthly stole -
I'll meet wi' thee in heaven hie.'
Three times the gray cock flaps his wing,
To mark the morning lift her ee,
And thrice the passing spirit said,

What do readers think? And are there any more versions of this moving poem?

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

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FOOD WITH A DIFFERENCE

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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, Forrest Glen and Upper Glenkens, Balmaclellan, New Galloway and Moniaive.

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

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

**Jim Steel or Chris Macneill
on 0845 056 8655**

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

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASS



Our picture shows members of the Community Learning Scottish Country Dancing class with their tutor Mary Burnie about to perform at the Dalry Good Neighbours Burns Supper last January. The class takes place in Kells School, New Galloway on Tuesday evenings during the autumn and winter months and we would love to see some new faces when we start again after the summer. As well as being great fun, this class provides an opportunity to keep alive part of our cultural heritage, not to mention a chance to keep fit! So why not come along and join us in September. Beginners are welcome. You will find the class advertised in the mail-drop evening-class leaflet or in the brochure available at local shops and the library.

AN INVITATION TO XPEDITION FORCE!

All Primary School age children are invited on an adventurous expedition of discovery during the week Monday August 9th to Friday August 13th. That week the Churches of Scotland in the Glenkens are running a holiday club based on the Scout Hut, New Galloway. It will be held each day from 10.30 am until 12.20 pm and is free of charge. Some of the time will be spent across the road in New Galloway Park, weather-permitting. The week will end with a special celebration service in Kells Church on Sunday August 15th.

**For further information please contact
Rev David Bartholomew on 01644 430380.**

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

Balmaclellan	12.00 noon	1st
Carsphairn	10.30 am	1st 2nd 3rd(Sep) 4th 5th
Dalry	9.00 am	1st(Aug)
	12.00 noon	1st(Sep) 2nd 3rd(Sep) 4th
Kells	10.30 am	2nd 4th
New Galloway	10.30 am	3rd(Sep)
Town Hall	6.00 pm	1st (Sep)

Special Services:

- 15th August 10.30 am
United Family Service, Kells Church
- 29th August 10.30 am
United Service with Choir, Carsphairn Church
- 12th Sept 6.30 pm
Songs of Praise with Organ Recital, Kells Church
- 18th Sept 11 am
Dedication of Covenanters' Sculpture, Dalry Playpark
- 18th Sept 5 pm
Covenanters' Thanksgiving Service, Dalry Church
Kells Church is up Kirk Road above New Galloway

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

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THERE ARE MANY SHOPS IN OLD DALRY
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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



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22 Kirkland Street
St. John's Town of Dalry

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☎ 07834 321789 ☎

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 second part of a two part serialisation, he tells the story of a trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Mount Kilimanjaro

After a night in civilisation we set off at the crack of dawn on a long drive from Nairobi (6 hrs) across the dry plains and acacia tree scrub to the border at Namanga. We glimpsed some game in the bush; zebra, ostrich and saw colourful Masai cattle men tending herds of cows or donkeys. The border was an African chaos of colourful Masai selling trinkets, bustling travellers, heavily overloaded lorries, laid back officials. We then drove into Tanzania with coffee plantations and rich red soil, and onwards to Arusha. Here we overnighed in the luxurious Hotel Impala and were introduced to our Tanzanian guides, the fierce 'Exaud' main guide and the gentler Peter, second guide. Early next morning we headed for the Machame Gate, the start of our climb up Kilimanjaro. At the gate there was a growing crowd of trekkers, all with their attendant guides, porters and cooks. It quickly became evident, to our disappointment, that this was going to be much busier



than Mt Kenya where we were the only group at each site.

This premonition turned out to be true. All the way to the top there was a constant stream of porters and walkers and all the sites were crowded to capacity. This meant there was little wildlife apart from small striped rodents and huge ravens with white markings that scavenged around the grubby campsites and messy toilets. The first day saw us again ascending a good path steeply up to Machame Camp at the edge of the huge rainforest. The camp was amongst many others and the exclusive feeling we had at Mt Kenya replaced by feeling part of a tent city.

The next day started with a misty ascent up through scrub to heath, a relentless climb up to Shira Camp. After a noisy night we set off early on a long traverse around the summit Kibo, across some very rough scrambling, up and down valleys to Barranco at 3950m. The immensity of Kibo rising behind us and steep cliffs to the right and left, sloping down to the rainforests below.

The next morning after the mists cleared, we could see the huge cliff we had to climb and the tough scramble up, illustrated by the ant like figures of other groups ahead of us. It was an exciting climb and then a long upward haul to ever increasing breathlessness and cold, finally reaching our last campsite amongst huge boulders and snow at Barafu Hut 4600m. No vegetation here. Just rocks, snow and ice.

We then gathered ourselves for summit day. Having had an early night shivering in our sleeping bags, we were woken at midnight in -30°C temperatures and a bitterly cold wind. Then started an eerie ascent in the dark with other people from other groups falling by the wayside with altitude sickness. We were fortunate at having acclimatised well on Mt Kenya. I have never been so cold in my life but somehow we struggled on and passed a number of other groups to be on our own. Our headlamps were the only light. On, on, on, up, up, up, following the feet in front. Then the feeling that you're going to make it as the light of dawn begins to appear and the sun rises to hit Stella Point, a site I'll never forget. One of our group gave up at this point: exhausted, cold, she was led down by Peter. The rest of us walked the ridge to Uhuru Point at 5894m, the top. We could see stunning glaciers and Arctic conditions, and Manenzie Summit and the crater sweeping round.

It was too cold to stay on the top for long. We retraced our steps, sliding down the now snow melted scree (like gravel) that we had laboured up a few hours before. After breakfast we had a long, rapid descent to Rome Camp amongst the trees again. Exhausted we collapsed into an early bed.

The next day saw us descend proudly down the Mweka route to base, where we were jubilantly awarded our certificates and had a well deserved beer. We then returned to Arusha and after a much needed shower, partied at a local night club until the early hours. Next day saw us retrace our steps to Nairobi for a final meal. Then we sat by the pool before being whisked off to the airport for our final goodbyes before retuning back home.

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GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS JUNE - JULY PROGRAMME



FERAL CHOIR

When - Monday - 30th August 2004, 8.00pm

Where - Mossdale Village Hall

Mossdale Village Hall will be the venue for a performance by The Feral Choir of their latest work, Timeless. Some of Dumfries and Galloway's best writers were commissioned by The Feral Choir to write the text for this new work. They were each invited to choose a place in the region that had a special historic significance for them and to write about its past and then its present. See Page 6 for more.

Tickets - £4.00



GLENKENS PLAY IT BY EAR

When - from Monday 13th September 2004, 1.30pm

Where - Balmaclean Village Hall

Music, song and percussion workshops for pre-school children and their carers. Contact Alison Caldwell 01644 420272

Tickets - £2.00 per adult/child combo



THE URBAN TURBAN CLUB

When - from 4th September every 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



LIBBY PURVES

When - Thursday 23rd September 2004

Where - Kenbridge Hotel

Libby Purves will be coming to the Glenkens for a very special literary lunch Libby will be reading from her new novel, Acting Up. Libby has presented Midweek on Radio 4 since 1984 and formerly presented the Today programme. She is a main columnist on the Times. See Page 6 for more.

Tickets - £7.00

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 OCTOBER / NOVEMBER ISSUE 24:

FRIDAY 16th September 2004

e-mail : editor@glenkengazette.com

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

AUGUST

MON 9th-FRI 13th, 10.30am-12.20pm, Scout Hut, New Galloway Church of Scotland Holiday Club

MON 16th, 9am, GTI bus Trip to Culzean Castle

WED 18th-Mon 30 Aug, 11am - 5pm

St Margaret's Church open to visitors

FRI 20th, 7pm, St Margaret's Church Centenary Service

SUN 22nd, St Margaret's Church, Vestal Service

THU 26th, 7.30pm, St Margaret's Church,

Manchester Police Male Voice Choir

SAT 28th Aug, Dalry town Hall, Glenkens Horticultural Society Annual Show

SEPTEMBER

SAT 11th, 11am, Dalry, Dedication Ceremony for Covenanter Sculpture

WED 22nd-Sun 26th, 2pm-8pm, Parton village Hall, James Clerk Maxwell Exhibition.

SAT 25th Sept, 10am, Dalry Community Centre, Coffee Morning in aid of Abbas Rest Orphans

REGULAR EVENTS

Heather Hoppers

Fun for pre-schoolers 0-5 years. Jumping, kicking, climbing and throwing. Every Thursday 1.45 - 2.30 Balmaclean 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

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



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