

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

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

December 2004/ January 2005

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A SURPRISE VISIT : Large spotted cat in Carsphairn!

On Thursday 28th October, 2004 when we came in from lunch we did our corrections and started our RE. Mrs Tamkin (our teacher) started acting all strange. She would not allow us to go to the other classroom to get some shiny paper that we needed to stick on the Mosque we were making. A little while later Miss Rutherford came into the classroom and asked us to line up at the door in size order. When we were in order we went along to the other classroom. Someone had already put seats out so we sat down. In front of us was a wooden crate with holes in it. Through the holes you could see two ears. It looked like some kind of dog or a big cat. It turned out to be a jaguar cub called Aries!

The handler, who was called Robert, told us that they had travelled 12 hours in the van from Dartmoor Wildlife Park. Before he took Aries out of the crate Robert told us a little bit about jaguars. Jaguars come from South America. They eat quite a few things like terrapins, armadillos, small deer and other small animals. A jaguar's jaws are so strong, they can bite right through the shell of an armadillo. Once at Dartmoor they had put some terrapins in the moat round the jaguars' enclosure and the jaguars fished them out and ate them all! They tried goldfish as well, but the jaguars ate them, too.

Robert took Aries out on a lead and we were all allowed to stroke him. He was so soft and cuddly. When we had all stroked him Robert put Aries back in the crate and told us more about jaguars.

As Aries had been in the crate for a long time Robert took him for a walk in the playground. He chased our feet and had great fun playing on the tyres. It was lucky that he was on a lead, or we might have gone home with no feet! He also got his photo taken by a photographer from the Sunday Mail.

When we went back inside Miss Rutherford found some old cardboard tubes for Aries to play with so that he would stop chewing Robert's arm. Aries loved the tubes and attacked them just like a domestic kitten, pouncing on them and tearing them to bits.

Then Robert asked us if we had any questions.

It was time to go home and some of the mums came in and took photos of Aries. We all loved the visit from Aries as it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to be so close to a wild animal.

Rebecca Holden, P7;
Hannah Blackett, P6;
Fern Brett, P6;
Ryan McCall, P6;
Katie Warburton, P6;
Beth Bosworth, P5
Carsphairn Primary School



Aries opening his mail!



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KELLS SCHOOL CHOIR SELECTED AS FINALISTS in Songs of Praise Junior Choir of the Year !

No doubt the village knows already but just in case you don't, Kells' Choir is one of the final six choirs chosen for the Songs of Praise Junior Choir of the Year. This has been no mean feat. There were more than one hundred and fifty entries and it is a just reward for the commitment shown by the pupils.

The next round involved a workshop on Monday, 15th of November with Mr Douglas Coombes, BBC Director of Music, composer and conductor, after which the children were videoed. The videos will now be judged by a panel of professionals who include Pete Waterman from Pop Idol and Carrie Grant of Fame Academy. All the six finalist choirs will also be recorded on video and the final three choirs chosen from these. If they are fortunate enough to be selected, the pupils will then go to sing in the Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Even if they get no further, this is, indeed, a wonderful experience for the children. Wish them luck!

The Choir recently performed with the Lindsay Singers from Newton Stewart in a very successful concert at the New Galloway Town Hall helping to raise over £100 for the Glenkens Lions Christmas Parcel Fund.

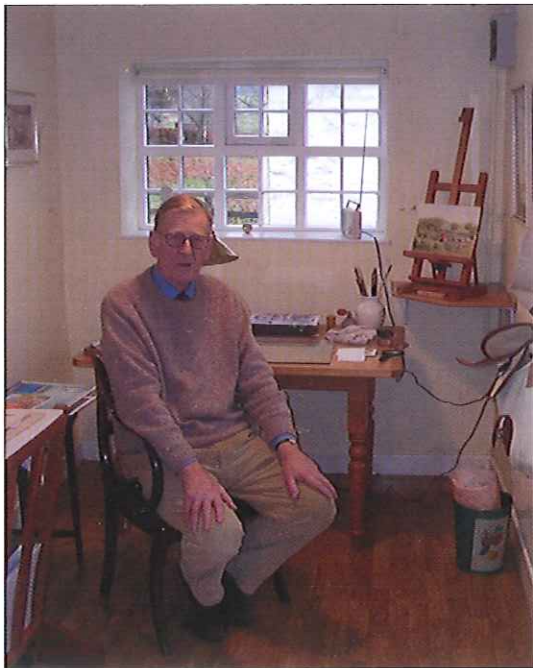


MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



LOCAL ARTISTS

Derk Pelly, Dalry



After a lifetime in banking Derk Pelly retired to Dalry with his wife, and now paints beautiful, delicate watercolours from his studio, a converted coal shed at the back of his house. He paints mostly local scenes although he doesn't consider himself a landscape painter. "I'm more interested in composition and detail" he says, "every picture should tell a story".

Derk has painted since he was a small boy. One of his most treasured works is an impressive 3ft long drawing he made when he was 7 after his granny took him to see the Coronation parade of King George VI in London.

Derk has painted a series of watercolours of the local Glenkens villages which are available as postcards from local post offices or the GCAT shop. He is always happy to accept new commissions.

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



LOCAL AUTHOR LAUNCHES A PECULIAR FIRST BOOK

A BUNCH OF PECILIARS



ANNA NEIL & GERMANO OVANI

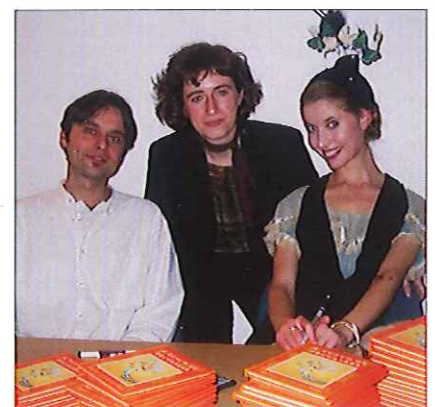
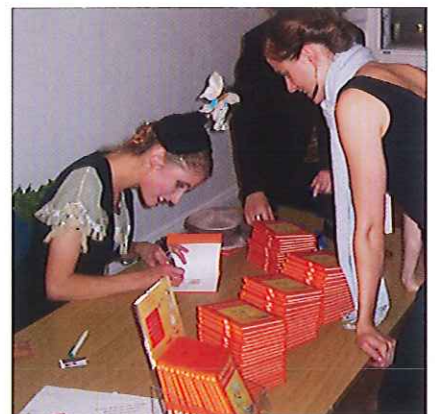
Anna Neil, originally from New Galloway, has just published her first book, *A Bunch of Peciliars*, ISBN: 1 904827 20 9, RRP £3.99. A rainbow nose, butterfly ears, a teacup mouth...anything is possible in Anna's whimsical world of *A Bunch of Peciliars*. Delightfully weird and wonderfully wacky, the hardback book combines offbeat humour and stunning illustrations by Germano Ovani, to create a compact treasury of fantastical facial characteristics.

The whimsical volume of extraordinary features was recently launched in Edinburgh. The book's connection with the Glenkens, and specially with GCAT, was much in evidence at the launch. The guests included the GCAT Chairman Cathy Agnew, members of Anna's family and representatives from the publisher of the book, Keppel Publishing. An eyecatching bunch of peculiar flowers, inspired by the cover of the book, was commissioned for the event and made by Edinburgh College of Art student, Petra Pennington, whose parents also live in New Galloway.

Anna is the eldest daughter of well known local doctors, Shelagh and John Neil. She is a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art and recently completed post-graduate studies in text and performance at King's College and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. Anna is currently based in London.

Anna originally wrote and produced the book as a birthday present for a friend who happens to be very fond of noses. She sums up the book as "frivolous nonsense – in the best possible way" and thinks it will appeal "because people love a bit of good old fashioned silliness".

Anna, Germano and the book have just been featured in BBC Radio Scotland, The Arts Show (28 October 2004). Anna will be signing copies of her new book at GCAT Shop in the High Street, New Galloway on Tuesday 21st December at 4.30pm, cheese and wine will be served.



BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the October meeting, P.C. Wilson was introduced as the new community police officer for the Glenkens. He plans to spend more time in the area than has previously been the case, and this was welcomed. He explained the reason for delay in implementing the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. This is being re-vamped, and full information will be coming out to coordinators early in the New Year.

The Jubilee Walk plinth, by the war memorial, has now been completed with its information display board, and forms a matching pair with the adjacent viewfinder. Thanks are due to Mr John Hilsley for providing the building stone.

The first stage of the refurbishment work on the village hall is now finished, except for external painting, which will be carried out in the spring. The planning for the second stage, involving mostly the interior arrangements, will need to take account of the disability provisions now required by law.

The annual bonfire party on Guy Fawkes Night was again a great success. A good turn-out, on a threatening evening which however remained dry, enjoyed a splendid fireworks display and refreshments. The help of all who contributed to the event is much appreciated.

On Remembrance Sunday, the wreath was laid at the war memorial by Corporal Johrline Devlin, who is pursuing a nursing career in the army. She is already a "veteran" of the Iraq conflict, having served two tours of duty there.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

This is arranged for Friday 10 December at the Ken Bridge Hotel. Invitations have been issued to all on the current list, but it is not always easy to keep this up-to-date. If you qualify as a Balmaclellan senior citizen, but have not received an invitation, or know anyone else who has been omitted, please let Alan Pallister (01644-420423) or any member of the community council know.

Alan Pallister

THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the October meeting we welcomed our new Community Constable, P.C. Ian Wilson as he outlined his intended approach to policing our area. The councillors were pleased to note that he is very keen to spend as much of his duty time as possible in the Glenkens and will aim for a high visibility presence, on foot around the streets. He urged people to report incidents at the time so that appropriate action can be taken.

The meeting was also attended at our invitation by council official Ann Sweetin, Area Business Manager for the Stewartry Area. We particularly wanted to raise issues relating to New Galloway Town Hall, which is obviously requiring considerable work in order to make it meet the new Disabled Access requirements. The present shortcomings had already resulted in some public meetings having to change venue – the October Area Committee meeting which would normally have been in the Hall was changed to Balmaclellan Village Hall. The Council's Disabled Access Officer, Paul McCulloch would visit the Town Hall as soon as possible to carry out a full inspection and evaluation.

Other issues regarding the Hall were also brought to Ann's attention namely the lack of exterior maintenance, poor catering facilities, condition of lower hall floor, paintwork in rear stairwell, dampness at front entrance and the cost and conditions of hire. All of the points would be passed to the appropriate department for action.

The Public Toilets in the Stewartry are currently undergoing a review process with considerable improvements apparently planned for the other towns but as yet no mention of New Galloway! The 'portaloos' sited in the lower car park as a 'temporary measure' some twenty years ago are totally inadequate and the permanent toilet block on the High Street was also outdated with no disabled facility. An urgent review was therefore required and the relevant council official has arranged to make a site visit with Community Council representatives as soon as possible.

Continuing queries regarding the conservation area and the resultant planning restrictions involved would be addressed by a

future visit from a planning official but in the meantime a street plan would be provided showing the exact boundaries of the area within the town.

Ann Sweetin also drew our attention to the council's 'Quality of Life' fund, which is administered by the Area Committees and is available on application for environmental improvement projects within communities. We would consider this for possible future projects such as improving car parking, enhancing flower beds etc.

At the November meeting we welcomed Lindy Renwick and Julia Brown from the recently formed Glenkens Affordable Housing Group. We were interested to hear of the Group's encouraging progress to date and their plans for the future. We fully appreciate the need for more affordable housing in the area, an issue we have discussed many times in the past and look forward to supporting the Group in their aims. They are currently undertaking a survey and anyone who has experienced any difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation to rent or buy is encouraged to take part.

The Festive Season is fast approaching again and Christmas Trees have been ordered, decorations organised and this year's Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch has been arranged for Sunday 12th December at 1.00pm in the Kenmure Arms Hotel. As always, all Senior Citizens of the parish are cordially invited to attend – please add your name to one of the booking lists in Hopkins Shop, The Glenkens Hair Studio, New Galloway Post Office or Mossdale Shop. Alternatively you can telephone 420288. Please come along and enjoy the Christmas Fare, good company, friendly atmosphere and musical entertainment. The Community Minibus will be available again, please let us know when you book if you would like transport.

Brian Edgar

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Loose dogs - PC Wilson reported action was being taken to contain the dogs. This would be continued if there were further problems.

The Youth shelter will go ahead - the Community Council supports the play park site.

The Bus Shelter is now up - it has been suggested that timetables should be displayed on site.

Andrew Case reported that the undergrowth on the Motte is dying back. Volunteers will be named for clearing. This is now in hand.

Police Matters: Complaints have been made about phone calls asking for bank details, and internet phone connections being diverted to premium lines. This scam seems to be increasing, two press releases have been issued with phone contact numbers. These are:- (Bank details) Ofcom Contact Centre 0845 456 3000 and (internet) ICSTIS 0800 500 212. It was suggested that A4 posters with this information should be displayed in local shops. These will be provided by PC Wilson. The new firework regulations are now in force as to times when fireworks can be used. Complaints of inconsiderate behaviour by log lorries travelling too fast, in convoy, using mobile phones - PC Wilson explained the 'Well Driven' scheme where the number 0800 225533 is displayed on the rear of the lorry. If this number is phoned then corrective action will be taken.

GLENKENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP

RESEARCH INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE

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Balmaclellan, Dundee and Mossdale

Do you know of anyone who has difficulty finding a home to buy or rent that they can afford or that meets their requirements?

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**Lilian or Beth on
Freephone 0800 027 3011**

The research is being carried out by Craigforth –
an independent research company.

FAREWELL and NEW BEGINNINGS



Drs Cameron and Findlay are sadly dead, and perhaps have a lot to answer for in romanticising rural General Practice. Any job worth doing is generally hard work at all levels, and it is with a mixture of regret and relief that I leave General Practice in the Glenkens. I do not like the way modern medicine has evolved and the provision thereof. I am dismayed by the culture of blame and litigation, and I am even more dismayed by the way the rural voices were not heard re the new out of hours cover.

What goes on at the coal face in practice is what really counts, and the people of the Glenkens are very fortunate to have their present team – and in fine premises.

It has been a privilege to share the lives of so many of you in the last twenty years. I was in fact the first, and perhaps the last, of the old school of 'women's doctors' in the Glenkens for that period. (Pardon the Pun!) Some of 'my babies' are nearly twenty and some are still wee tots.

I have been deeply touched by the well wishes and gifts from patients and staff. I shall use my reconditioned laptop to download my digital photos, and what is left will go towards the first seat for The Glenkens Centre (GCAT) to promote 'Bums on Seats' for the Arts and Drama in this area in all its forms. The Glenkens is a 'Jewel in the Crown' of Galloway and needs its many facets to twinkle and be seen.

It has been a wonderful place to raise a family. I shall cherish many memories, not least of all the musicals we wrote which were a definitive experience for those of us involved. My farewell is beautifully summed up by our very own Poet Laureate, Tommy Edgar. Thank you Tommy for the honour, and a big thank you to all of you who have helped me on my way to new beginnings.

'Dr Shelagh'

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR IN CORSOCK

If you are still on the look out for some unique or extra special Christmas presents then the Craft Fair at Corsock might just have what you are after. A number of local artists and crafts people will be there with an exciting variety of locally produced goods.

"Joanna Gisbey and Lizzie Farey will be there with their new range of hand made Christmas decorations, all crafted from natural materials", says Jools Cox, the event organiser. "The local willow artist Doug Sanders will have his beautifully crafted basket ware for sale and Jem Cox will be selling his original hats made from Scottish Tweed. The ceramic artists, Hannah McAndrew and David Alexander will also be there with a range of pottery items."

The fair will also offer a selection of textile goods such as scarves and leather work as well as a stall selling jams and chutneys.

The Craft Fair takes place in Corsock Village Hall on Sunday 5 December from 11am to 4pm. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

Ma brains thae dinna seem tae work

And ma hert is awfa sair,

For it seems that Doctor Shelagh

We'll no hae her ony mair,

We'll miss her lovely "sexy" smile

And her new "sexy" car,

Amicht just gaun tak off the wheels,

And she'll no gaun sae far.

We'll miss her diagnosis o the measles and the mumps,

The rashes and the bashes and the accidental bumps,

The joys o maist o pregnancies and the sadness when yer deid,

The hummers o different kind o pills that maist o us whiles need.

For aw the guid gaun parties for birthdays noo and then,

For burns nichts roon the country tae the lassies and the men.

We're gaun tae miss ye sairly,

Am stuck for words tae say,

But may a wish ye aw the best and yer super FAMILY!

Tommy Edgar

Glenkens Gazette Advertising Rates 2005

Advert	Format	Size	Price per issue	Discount for Block of 3 ads
Basic Small	Black & white	6cm x 6cm	£15.00	10%
Basic Small	Colour	6cm x 6cm	£30.00	10%
Quarter page	Black & white	9cm x 13.5cm	£35.00	10%
Quarter page	Colour	9cm x 13.5cm	£65.00	25%
Half page	Colour	13cm x 18cm	£120.00	25%
Full page	Colour	18cm x 27cm	£200.00	25%

Classified Ads

We are thinking of having a classified section where you can place small ads for either free or a small charge, eg. "washing machine for sale" kind of thing. These will only be available for one-off, non business purposes.

Contact

To place an advert please contact the Glenkens Gazette on 01644 420374

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Please note that Festive Period Barber Shops will be on Thursday 23rd Dec. and Thursday 30th Dec. 5pm-7pm

The Salon will be CLOSED on

25th, 26th, 27th & 28th Dec.

And 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Jan.

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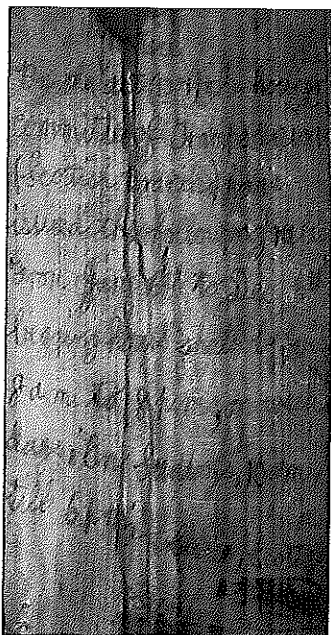
☎ 01387 269045 ☎
(references required)

POOR HOUSE PLANK

Pictured here is an inscription written in pencil on a wooden plank which formed part of a door in the old store adjoining the New Galloway Town Hall. The notice was found recently by Gordon "Manny" Lindsay when he purchased the store from the Dumfries and Galloway Council. The inscription was most likely written in the mid 1920s when the store was used as a poorhouse.

Notice

By the act (1301) the hounered committee of Tramps Union (Scottish Branch) have issued the following rules. From June 6th to Dec 6th begging hours shall be 8am to 8pm on week days. On Sundays 10am till 6pm.
Signed
Scotty



Why Do We Rush?

By twists and turns past pebble burns
through silver birches russet ferns
where upland dyks cling onto curves
and drowsy ewes slump on the verge -

Where bovines ogle undisturbed
and pheasants wander as we swerve
it's only we who speed our way
and startle birds and don't delay -

We're so intent on time of day
we miss the crowning shadow play
of clouds and light on crag and brae
the gradual drifts of earth's display -

Rosemary Keith

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE AGM

Carsphairn Heritage Group recently held its Annual General Meeting. The chairman, Mrs Campbell commented on the events of the year. The exhibition (A Carsphairn family - 300 years at Knockgray) was a great success - so much so that for the first time an exhibition has been extended for another season. Knockgray was bought in December 1704 so whilst the planning of the purchase took place that year it really did not belong to the family until the very end of the year! A successful afternoon trip was made to Craigengillan at Dalmellington and the buffet supper with the talk by Margaret Roberts of Shambellie was another highlight.

The success of an association such as Carsphairn Heritage Group depends on people. Over 1500 visitors came to the exhibition this year and their comments in the visitors book reflect their pleasure not only of an outstanding exhibition but of the welcome given by the volunteer stewards. Over 30 stewards have given their time and they have shared their local expertise and love for the area. Mrs Campbell emphasised that the group could not function without the stewards' input.

The group has 80 individual and family memberships from all over Britain and several from overseas all of whom receive a quarterly newsletter. Each one features articles about local history pertaining to Carsphairn and often the Glenkens. Number 68 has just been published - there has never been a shortage of material for the newsletter!

Mrs Campbell reflected on the amount of work done by the committee who research, prepare, mount the material and organise the very successful annual buffet supper. Few of the current committee members live in the parish and this reflects the wider interests of the Glenkens.

Mrs Agnes Holden, treasurer, presented a full statement of the accounts and highlighted the amount of donations given by visitors. Sales were up and it was also noted that local arts and crafts sold well in the Centre.

In summary this has been a good year for the Group, supported by a diverse and talented committee, backed by a team of welcoming stewards and visited in person and by Internet (www.carsphairnheritage.co.uk) by people from all over the world.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR DALRY WOMEN'S GUILD

Dalry Women's Guild celebrated its hundredth birthday on Tuesday the 9th November with an extra special meeting in Dalry Town Hall. The meeting, convened by Mrs Marion Bone, welcomed many guests, speakers and guild members from around the Glenkens and included Mrs Elspeth Dale, the National Convenor and Mrs Sylvia Livingstone, the Presbyterial Guild Council Convenor.

Reverend David Bartholomew led readings and a prayer which were followed with readings by members of the Guild outlining its history from its beginnings in 1904 until the present day.

Miss Jean Maltman had made a celebration cake which was cut by Mrs Bella Wood, one of the Guild's oldest members. Guests then enjoyed a buffet supper and music provided by members of the Gallovidians.

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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GALLOWAY GOES TO LONDON

At the beginning of November members of GCAT's staff and Board, together with their architects and professional advisers, set foot for London to host a Reception and give a Presentation about The Glenkens Centre.

Attended by over 130 people – with strong Galloway/London links and connections – the evening was held at the Fine Art Society in New Bond Street where they were treated to wine and canapés. For the more formal part of the event, Vice-Chairman Brian Edgar set the scene by explaining where the Glenkens is, together with its geographical, environmental, and economic status, before outlining the overall context of The Glenkens Centre project. This was followed by a brief power-point presentation by architects Patrick Lorimer and Gordon Fleming of ARP Lorimer in which they were able to show greater detail of their plans for this multi-purpose building.

Cathy Agnew, GCAT's Chairman, rounded things off by explaining the main purpose of the evening. People had been invited specifically because of their links and ties with Galloway and GCAT was asking them for their help and advice in achieving their aim – that of creating an exciting and vibrant centre that would make a very real difference to the lives of those living in and visiting the Glenkens. She went on to say that the evening wasn't just about fund-raising but was looking to develop the Three 'P's – Profile, Programme and Patronage – not just for now but for the years to come and for the benefit of future generations.

As people left the Gallery, they were given a special GCAT folder containing supporting information about the project and about the Glenkens, together with a GCATologue – a sort of shopping list giving them ideas of how they might like to contribute.

Reaction to the presentation so far has been extremely positive but it's too soon to say how much money has been raised. Heartened by such encouragement, GCAT is planning similar events in both Edinburgh and Glasgow in the New Year.



LIZ NIVEN LITERARY LUNCH

The Ken Bridge Hotel
Monday 13 December 12.30pm

The poet and writer Liz Niven will be appearing at the Ken Bridge Hotel on 13th December for another of GCAT's increasingly popular literary lunches.

Liz is a well known Galloway author, poet, academic and broadcaster who was also the writer-in-residence for Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association. She has had many works published and has more recently been seen on the Scottish Television documentary "Poet on a Plane" about her poetry commission for Inverness Airport.

This event will be part of Liz's current tour to promote her new book, *Burning Whins* which has just been published. *Burning Whins* explores a wide range of

subjects and, as with all Liz's poetry, explores a variety of carefully chosen voices and captivating scenarios. The book considers issues of ownership of various forms – ownership of land and beast, people and emotions. Liz will be reading from the book and will be happy to answer questions from the audience.

There will be an opportunity for some Christmas shopping too, as Liz will be signing copies of *Burning Whins* which will be available to purchase!

To book your ticket, which costs £7 please call GCAT on 01644 420374. The ticket price includes a light lunch with a glass of wine.

THE GLENKENS CENTRE UPDATE

GCAT received funding last month towards the development of the centre as well as for setting up a new community project.

The Development Trust Association (DTA) awarded a grant of nearly £5000 towards the capital costs of the project. GCAT also received a grant from The Partnership Fund which is an initiative set up by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to assist elderly and retired people access the support and financial assistance they are entitled to and to help them to maintain their independence. This funding will allow GCAT to employ someone on a part time basis for two years to carry out this support. The post will begin in April 2005.

Progress has also been made in providing the centre with a sustainable energy system. The aim is to incorporate a heating source fuelled by wood pellets. Although this sounds like quite a low-tech system, it is actually a highly evolved, technically advanced process which is environmentally friendly and cost-effective, and many times more efficient than wood-chip systems. In addition, the wood pellets are a renewable resource and will have a further advantage in that they will protect the centre from the unpredictability of future oil prices. There are also a number of grants currently available to encourage this type of scheme which are not available for traditional oil or electricity systems.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GLENKENS BUSINESS GROUP

A meeting of the Business Group took place on Monday 22 November in the Cross Keys Hotel. The group now has 33 members with several other parties indicating that they would like to join. A number of issues were discussed, including a business questionnaire which GCAT is planning on carrying out as well as the possible effects on local business by future windfarm developments.

The Glenkens Business Directory was discussed at length and it was agreed that a cheap paper version would be produced as a trial. It would be made available to all paid-up members of the group. In time an electronic version will be produced.

The group then discussed becoming affiliated with two other important bodies in the area which are the South West Chamber of Commerce and the Loch Ken Management Group, though for the latter the business group would have to be invited.

Finally the group discussed the need for a Glenkens Tourism Brochure to be produced which would help develop the Glenkens brand. The chairman said he would look at prices and format and bring them to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Glenkens Business Group will take place at The Ken Bridge Hotel on January 10th 2005 at 7.30pm. For more information on the group please contact the Chairman, Andrew Wolfe on 01556 505124.

GCAT SHOP WINDOW DISPLAYS

The Glenkens Music Group, New Galloway Golf Course, The Clog and Shoe Workshop in Balmaclellan, Corsock potter Hannah McAndrew and the Parton exhibition of James Clerk Maxwell are just some of the 12 displays which took place in the GCAT shop window throughout 2004. The window displays have proven to be very popular with locals and visitors alike and are a great way to increase the profile of local groups. GCAT would like to thank Wendy Davis and Carol Salsbury for all their hard work and creative talent in putting the displays together.

Wendy and Carol are now compiling a calendar of displays for 2005 and are inviting any interested party to get in touch.

We welcome contributions from any Glenkens individual, group or organisation, although we are only able to accept displays which are of a non-political nature. Each display lasts for a calendar month. Anyone who would like to have a display in the window please contact Wendy Davis on 01644 420225.

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

BUS SERVICE FROM THE GLENKENS TO DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY ROYAL INFIRMARY

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 the hospital or go swimming. Full details are available on leaflets in your local shops or from the GCAT Shop.

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

200 CLUB WINNERS

October Draw

1st Prize £50 105 – Allan Pallister
2nd Prize £20 172 – Emily Peaston
3rd Prize £12 143 Beatrice Marshall

November Draw

1st 104 – Michael Richmond
2nd 80 – Edith Paterson
3rd 5 – Margaret Sainsbury

Review

THE EMILY SMITH BAND Dalry School



It was a full house at Dalry School on Saturday 16th October for an outstanding traditional Scottish music performance by Emily Smith and her band.

They displayed breathtaking skill especially from Emily on keyboards and accordion and from the rest of the band on the fiddle, guitar and bazouki. Most impressive though was the sheer beauty of Emily's voice which brought a natural freshness and vitality to the more familiar material.

For many of the songs Emily stayed true to her Dumfriesshire born roots, performing a range of familiar traditional local songs and ballads which were delivered with zest and imagination. These songs were interspersed with a selection of contemporary material, most of which was written by Emily herself. One of Emily's own, very moving songs about her Granny was made all the more poignant by the fact that she was present in the audience.

The Emily Smith Band deserves the accolades and recognition that it is currently receiving: there is no doubt that they will one day be one of the biggest names on the Traditional Scottish Music scene and beyond.

APPEAL FOR STONE

GCAT is appealing for a donation for some stone which, ideally, should be granite or whinstone. The stone should be suitable for building a cairn to display an information sign in New Galloway as part of the Jubilee Walk. If you have any stone or know someone else who might, please contact Andrew Ward at GCAT on 01644 420374.

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

GALLOWAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

8th -12th November

Kells' pupils have had a most successful festival. All pupils from Primary 3-7 have been involved in the Speech section-either Standard Verse or Scots Verse. The standard was extremely high and all gave the most creditable performances. This was the Primary 3's first visit to a festival and they certainly did us all proud - and they would have been quite happy to go back the next day for more! William Glasby gained first place in Standard Verse for P4-5 and the following certificates were awarded:- Merit: 21 pupils; Commended: 11 pupils; Distinction: 1 pupil.

Kelly Wilson gained 2nd place and Adam Ramsay and Hannah McKenna had 3rd equal in the Scots Verse. All the seniors gained Distinction marks in this section.

In Music, the choir won the Galloway Music Festival Trophy (with an Outstanding performance - 91 marks), The Galloway Music Festival Trophy (Distinction - 88 marks), The Saltire Society Trophy (Distinction - 89 marks) and the Lochryan Trophy for the highest marks at the Festival. The choir was invited to sing at the Prizewinners' Concert which was held at the Ryan Centre, Stranraer on Saturday, 13th.

In the Vocal Solo Section, the following certificates were awarded: -

Distinction 87 - 89: 1

Commended 84 - 86: 9

Merit 83+: 7

The primary 7 girls, also, entered the Unaccompanied Scots Song and all gained Distinction / Commended with first class performances:

Kirsten Ansell: Commended

Kirstin Clendinning: Commended

Hannah McKenna: Distinction

Kelly Wilson: Distinction

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The S1 pupils at Dalry Secondary have been putting together Christmas shoe boxes in their PSE class. These boxes will be sent to underprivileged children whose lives have been affected by war, poverty, famine, disease or natural disaster.

The first year have been filling their shoe boxes with sweets, pens and pencils, teddy bears, note books toys and bathroom kits.

We would like to say "thank you" to the generous people of the Glenkens community who gave us donations. The whole class had great fun working on the project and we hope that the children of eastern Europe like their Christmas shoe boxes.

Matthew Smee S1

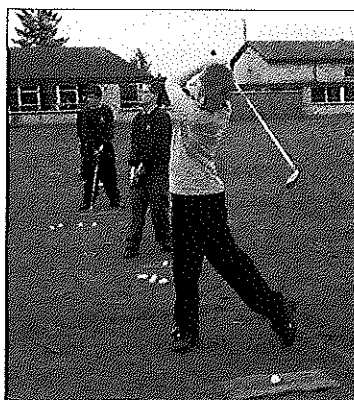
VIKING RAIDERS IN DALRY !

P3/4/5 at Dalry Primary School have been studying Vikings. The class found out that they were not just fierce warriors but were great farmers and traders. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Andrew Nicholson who is an expert on the Vikings. He told the class about the trade routes the Vikings used throughout Europe and how you could tell how well off a Viking was by his clothes and armour. He brought with him chain mail, swords, helmets, axes and spears to show the class and let them hold.

Everyone in the class really enjoyed his visit and were desperate to try the weapons and feel what it would have been like to be a Viking. As you can see they would have made pretty scary Vikings. You really have to feel sorry for the teachers!



Visit of Dumfries and County Golf Professional Stuart Syme to Dalry School funded by The Kirkcudbrightshire Golfers Association on the 12th and 14th October 2004



A scheme set up by Brian Duguid of Dumfries and County Golf Club and Kirkcudbrightshire Golfers Association provided funds for professional golf coaching at Dalry School.

This process started with a meeting with Brian at The County Golf Club, where Brian, on behalf of the K.G.A. expressed a desire to support schools' golf. Brian agreed to fund 8 hours of lessons by Stuart on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th October 2004. Brian also agreed to purchase third distance golf balls for use in the school grounds.

My job as Sole Teacher of P.E. and Active School Co-ordinator at Dalry School was to get as many interested pupils as possible through the golf coaching process. At Dalry School we already have a tradition of golf development. Golf is taught as part of the curriculum starting with Tri-Golf in the primary school and we also have golf as one of our standard grade P.E. components in 3rd and 4th year in our secondary school. Golf is also offered to pupils on Wednesday afternoons as part of our Wednesday afternoon

activities outdoor section. New Galloway Golf Club very kindly granted the school free membership in July 2000 and we have used the golf course on a fairly regular basis since then. We also make use of The Golf Foundation coaching scheme, which helps with the cost of coaching given by a PGA Professional. In the days of The National Golf Academy our school enjoyed several free School Sport Coordinator golf coaching packages funded by The Scottish Junior Golf Partnership.

As a small rural school we were delighted to accept this opportunity to further develop our golf skills and knowledge of the game through the expert tuition of Stuart Syme the Dumfries and County Golf Club Professional. A total of 40 primary and secondary pupils benefitted from this opportunity. The pupils' ages ranged from 7 to 16 years of age. The pupils each received two hours of coaching over the two days of Stuart's visit. The progression beyond this tuition is for our pupils to join New Galloway golf club as a junior member and to continue to develop their golfing skills and knowledge of the game. My role as sole teacher of P.E. and active schools coordinator at Dalry School is to provide as many golfing experiences as I can to aid the progression of our youngsters.

On behalf of Dalry School I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Duguid and the Kirkcudbrightshire Golfers Association for funding this project and to Stuart Syme for his expert and patient development of our pupils over two days. I also look forward to the next opportunity of this kind for the continued golf development and progression of our pupils at Dalry School.

Tom Carmichael, Sole Teacher of P.E./Active School Co-ordinator Dalry School

Every Tuesday Dalry Primary are holding an Engineer's Club for the primary 6/7 boys

We build K'nex models and now we are working on a big model of a ripping roller coaster which will be over a metre high when it is finished. We are also building a huge ferris wheel. It is great fun working as a team and solving problems together. We find it very challenging and great fun.

Alasdair McKinnon and Ali Harvie

GALLOWAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Over the last few weeks, the children of Dalry Primary have all been practising different songs for the Galloway Music Festival.

On Monday 8th November, the pupils travelled to the cinema in Newton Stewart to take part.

P1/2 sang in the Action Songs section, while P3/4/5 and P6/7 competed in different sections of the Group Music Making competition.

Caitlin Gilligan and Lara Currie said:

"We were all quite nervous going on stage but when we started to play we weren't nervous and really enjoyed ourselves."

We, P6/7 sang a song called 'Conservation Round' which encourages people to look after the world and recycle things and the P3/4/5 and P1/2 sang the same song which is called 'Calypso'.

P3/4/5 came second in their class but we won our class and will collect the cup on Saturday.

We had great fun practising at school and we really enjoyed performing on the day.

PARLIAMENT, PORTRAITS AND PLATFORM HEELS!

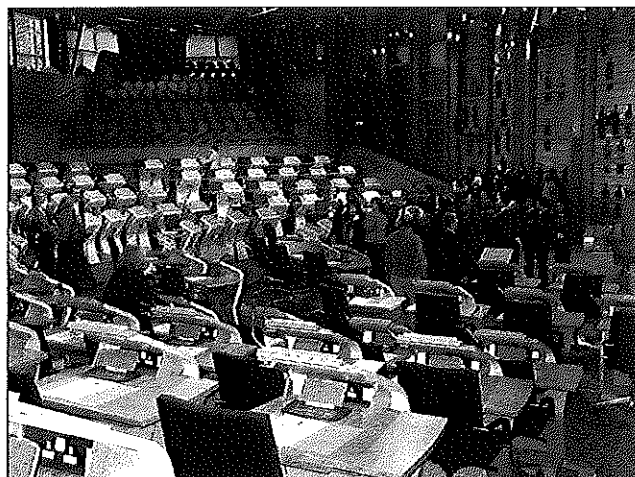
The pupils of Dalry Secondary School set out at nine am on Wednesday 17th of November for a school trip. This trip involved a great opportunity for the pupils to see the sights of the capital, to visit the Scottish Parliament and the National Portrait Gallery, and to enjoy the blockbuster musical "Mamma Mia!" at the Playhouse Theatre.

The day started as everyone clambered onto a bus, the S1s and 2s on the first and the S3s and 4s on the second. Everyone was full of excitement, and apprehensiveness, as the bus turned and started for Edinburgh. After a long bus journey with only one toilet stop we had reached our first destination, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. As we entered the Gallery we found that the interior was even more amazing than the exterior. We were led into a large room that had different statues around it, and an amazing painting that bordered the whole balcony above us. After meeting our guide Claudia, she led us into a more modern looking room, with cream walls. This exhibit which was called "Finding Faith", featured many different people from many different faiths in a photograph standing the same way, with their place of worship behind them. It was explained to us that the artist used the same technique in each photo to make us realise that all religions are alike in some way. After seeing some more photographs in this exhibit we were taken through to the "Famous Women" exhibit. Here we saw different types of portrait, including sculpture, collage, painting and photography. One interesting photograph was of J.K Rowling, which made her seem dark and almost witch-like. We also saw paintings of celebrities like Elaine C Smith, and other famous women. We only had time to see one other painting before we had to leave the gallery because we were running late and had to reach the Parliament building by one o'clock.

After another short bus journey through Edinburgh we had reached The Scottish Parliament building,

our second destination. From the outside it looked like something completely out of place from the old grey stone houses of the Royal Mile, but completely at home with the white dome beside it, the exterior, with metal and wood all intertwined creating the outer shell of a futuristic building. As all the pupils raced to get inside we were greeted by Mr Alex Fergusson, MSP. After calming down, we were told to form a line in single file, and put all metal objects into the tub the security guard was holding. After everybody had passed through a metal detector, and in some cases had set it off, we were shown to a conference room through the hustle and bustle of the parliament entrance lobby. The only way we could enter these areas of Parliament was because we were honoured enough to be given special passes. The conference room was filled with high tech plasma screens and black leather chairs. After walking around and seeing the amazing futuristic interior of pine and more metal, we were shown to the "Debating Chamber", again filled with big TVs and mini computers that sat on the desks of the MPs where they inserted their ID cards to register. The final part of the Parliament visit was a photo shoot and an exclusive look in Alex Fergusson's office and a seat in his "Thinking Pod", which is basically just a very comfy window seat with shelves in front of it. After thanking Mr Fergusson we went through a revolving door and clambered back onto the bus, and headed for "MAMMA MIA!"

As we entered the Playhouse Theatre we almost got lost in a flurry of blue jumpers, after five minutes



of slow walking we reached our seats, and the show started. The pre show announcement which made everybody laugh summed up the show: "We warn any viewers of a nervous disposition that platform heels and white Lycra are used in this performance!" After the first song everyone got into the mood. "Mamma Mia" was great fun and very lively: great sing-a-longs were "Dancing Queen" and the finale (where everyone got up and swayed their arms, including the teachers) of many other songs. "Mamma Mia!" was excellent just like the Parliament and the Portrait Gallery.

The pupils in Dalry would like to say a big thank you to every one in the school who organised the great trip, to Alex Fergusson for a great guided-tour of Parliament and to the National Portrait Gallery for another great guided-tour of the Gallery.

Gary Thomson

ON THE BEAT : Community Police News with PC Ian Wilson

Since the 21 October, the Glenkens has had a new Community Police Officer on patrol. He is PC Ian Wilson who has 26 years police service with Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. He has previously served at Kirkcudbright, Port William, Dumfries and Castle Douglas and will now be based in Dalry. Constable Wilson will be keeping Gazette readers up to date with a new, regular Community Police column:



The most satisfying part of my career in the police has been beat policing or community policing as it is now called. I feel strongly about the need to maintain links with small communities such as in the Glenkens. The older residents need reassurance and the younger ones need to be able to trust and develop a relationship with the police.

I would like to be as approachable as possible, and anyone with any concerns should feel free to contact me in confidence.

The bottom line with me is I want to be here and I want to make a difference by my presence in the whole of the community.

Christmas is approaching and I see this as a time often spoiled by alcohol related incidents. Living in the area myself I know the difficulties of travelling and attending parties and functions which often leads to drink driving offences hitting the headlines. At this time of year I urge everyone to consider this before getting behind the wheel of a vehicle under the influence. Consider the impact on your family by being banned or worse, injuring someone you know in an accident because you have been drinking! If that doesn't affect you consider the cost to your pocket in fines and insurance premiums! Underage drinking also can lead to complaints as youngsters try to join in the 'Celebrations'. Parents and neighbours can and should help by identifying the culprits and phoning the police before things get out of hand. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful new year.

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 Maitman - 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 rates for private hire)

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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.

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GLENKENS '73 CLUB

The Drama Club is going 'on tour' again with its Christmas production this year. After the success of the Silver Anniversary Tour in 1998, the latest Christmas Variety Show will take to the stage in The Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn on Friday 3rd December and in Dalry Town Hall on Saturday 4th December. Both evenings commence at 7.30pm and admission is £5 for adults (including a glass of wine), £2.50 for children (including soft drink).

Plans for the Stewartry One Act Play Festival to be held in Lochside Theatre, Castle Douglas at the end of February are already being made. We are always keen to welcome new members and anyone interested in taking part - adult or youth, male or female, either on stage or off is asked to contact any club member as soon as possible (or telephone Brian Edgar on 01644 420288).

THE PHANTOM ORGANIST OF ST MARGARET'S

It would appear that while the Rector, John Repath and his wife Jenny were on holiday strange things happened at St Margaret's. We have it on good authority that during the service on Sunday 24th October, the organ played all by itself, thus startling the presiding Bishop, John Taylor. When he discovered that this was caused neither by phantom nor poltergeist he was most impressed by the "cutting edge technology" that has come to this one hundred year old church.

The new electronic organ, which was installed recently (kindly funded by an anonymous donor) to celebrate the centenary of the church, is capable of recording and storing the music played by the organist. This means that if the regular organist Hilary Craig is unavailable, the music for hymns can be played back for a service. Over a period of time, a library of music can be built up which will be very useful for the future. This is all happening at a most appropriate time of year as the 22nd of November was the feast of St Cecilia - the Patron Saint of musicians!

TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sundays

Balmaclellan	12.00 noon	1st
Carsphairn	10.30 am	1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th
Dalry	12.00 noon	1st 2nd 3rd (4th Jan)
Kells	10.30 am	2nd (3rd Dec) (4th Jan)
New Galloway	10.30 am	3rd (Jan)
Town Hall		

In addition there are the following special services over the Christmas Period:

Sunday 12th Dec 6.30 pm Dalry Church
An Evening of Carols with Glenkens Church Choir

22nd Dec 5.00 pm Carsphairn Church
Christmas Service and Party

23rd Dec 4.00 pm St Margaret's Church, New Galloway
Crib and Christingle Service

24th Dec 11.30 pm Carsphairn Church
Watchnight Service,

25th Dec 10.30 am Kells Church
Christmas Day Family Service,

26th Dec 10.30 am Dalry Church
United Service with Choir,

30th Jan 10.30 am Carsphairn Church
United Service with Choir,

In the run-up to Christmas the children of the churches will be involved in child-friendly Christmas services in Carsphairn Church on Sunday 12th December at 10.30 am and at Kells Church at 10.30 am and Dalry Church at 12 noon on Sunday 19th December.

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

Thursday 23rd Dec 4pm Crib & Christingle

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th Dec 10.30am Carol Service

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Please phone 01556 610358

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A GREAT PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN NEW GALLOWAY

Maria Pujol-Valls from Catalonia (pictured right with Alison Caldwell) has spent the last five months working with Alison at Keppel Publishing in New Galloway. She returns home at Christmas. Here, a "local sheep" bids her a fond farewell!

I have lived in the Glenkens all my life but I have never had the courage to write in this gazette. At this moment, I would like to share with you some thoughts about a person who has lived among us during the last five months. You might have seen her on several afternoons going from The Grey House to the Post Office in New Galloway, carrying letters and parcels full of stories, characters and imagination. Or you might have come across her when she walked from The Cottage to the shop to buy the newspaper or some rolls for a perfect week-end breakfast. You could also have seen her having a walk up the road by Kitty's Tearoom; or riding her bike down to the Loch or up to Dalry (oh, yes, she loved to rest there to get a Cream O'Galloway ice-cream).

I know she has enjoyed these little, insignificant things nearly as much as her job, her house and the company of the people she met and lived with. She is deeply grateful to everybody who has helped her to feel at home in this wee corner of Scotland. She will miss two wonderful women who trusted her and made this experience a success.

Phew, writing these words hasn't been easy at all, but I think the effort has been worth it! Have in mind that computer keyboards aren't designed to be used by sheep! See you, young woman, baaaahhh.



FUNDS RAISED BY KOSB FOR MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

Earlier this month Mrs Elizabeth McFegan, President of the Glenkens Branch of the Macmillan Cancer Relief was delighted to receive a cheque for £258.58 from the Corporals' Mess, Kings Own Scottish Borderers. The Borderers are currently stationed in Omagh, Northern Ireland and have been fund-raising over the last few months despite being extremely busy with operations and exercises, including a recent visit to Kirkcudbright.

The picture shows Mrs McFegan receiving the cheque from Corporal Alan Thorburn, her son-in-law on a recent visit to Omagh.

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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GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS DECEMBER - JANUARY PROGRAMME



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Where - Balmacellan 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

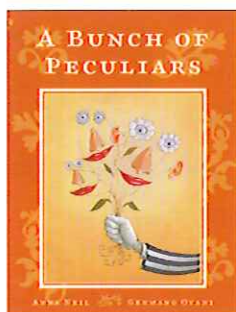


LITERARY LUNCH WITH LIZ NIVEN

When - Monday 13th December 2004, 12.30 pm
Where - Ken Bridge Hotel
£7 - includes a light lunch and glass of wine

BOOK SIGNING OF A BUNCH OF PECILIARS BY ANNA NEIL

When - Tuesday 21st December 2004, 4.30pm
Where - GCAT Shop, High Street, New Galloway



**Best wishes
to all for
2005 !**

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

**BOX OFFICE: GCAT Shop, Monday-Friday,
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**FURTHER INFORMATION: Tel. 01644 420374.
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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 Dowdsell at [ensys@glenkensbb.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.

Karen Donald is our chief co-ordinator so if you have a good story but aren't able to write it yourself please get in touch with her. She 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 FEBRUARY / MARCH ISSUE 26:

FRIDAY 14th January 2005

e-mail : editor@glenkensgazette.com

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

DECEMBER

FRI 3rd, 1.30pm Kells School - Christmas Fair
FRI 3rd Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn & SAT 4th Dalry Town Hall
Glenkens Drama Club Christmas Variety Show (see page 10)
SUN 5th, 11.00am-4.00pm Corsock Village Hall - Christmas Craft Fair
FRI 10th Ken Bridge Hotel Balmacellan Senior Citizens'
Christmas Lunch - Call Alan Pallister (420423) for more details
FRI 10th, 8.00pm New Galloway Town Hall -
The Dick Black Scottish Dance Band - Tickets £6 (incl. supper)
available from Marion (01557 331746) or Gavin (01556 611615)
SUN 12th, 1.00pm - Kenmure Arms Hotel -
New Galloway Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch
MON 13th 12.30pm - Ken Bridge Hotel - Literary Lunch with Liz Niven
MON 20th, 7.00pm - Kells School Christmas Pantomime - Snow White
TUE 21st, 4.30pm GCAT Shop - Book signing with Anna Neil

JANUARY 2005

MON 10th, 7.30pm - Ken Bridge Hotel -
Glenkens Business Group meeting
FRI 21st - Kells School Burns Supper

REGULAR EVENTS

Heather Hoppers

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



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