

GLENKENS GAZETTE

incorporating news from Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

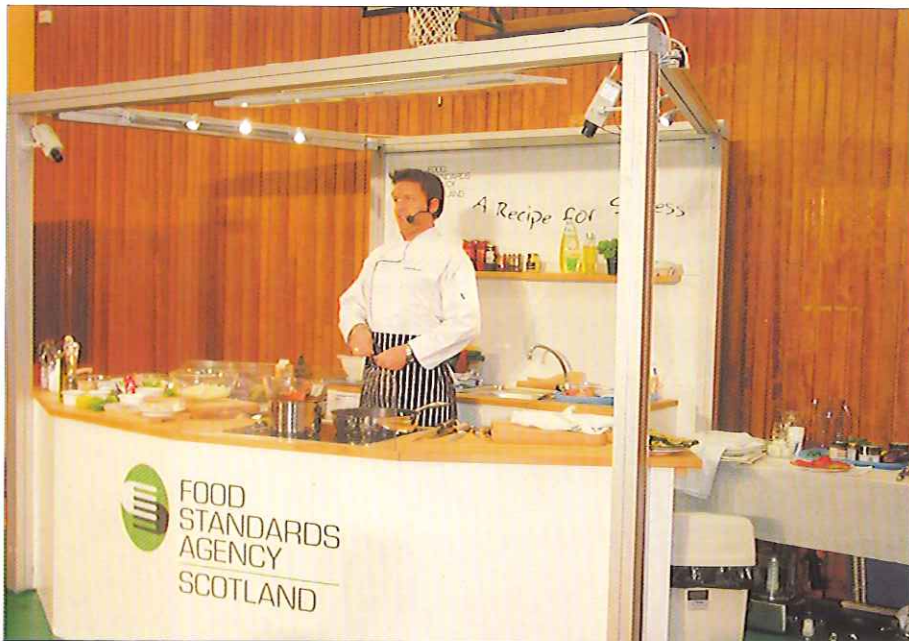
FREE IN : BALMACLELLAN ~ CARSPHAIRN ~ MOSSDALE ~ NEW GALLOWAY ~ ST. JOHN'S TOWN OF DALRY

April/May 2006

ISSUE 33

www.glenkengazette.com

JAMES MARTIN COMES TO DALRY!



Last month we had a big excitement at our school when James Martin came to visit us. He is a TV Chef on 'Ready Steady Cook' and has been on 'Strictly Come Dancing' too. He just did cooking with us not dancing though.

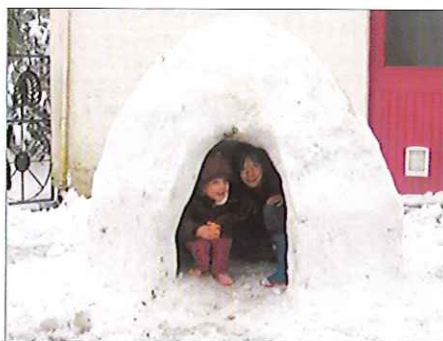
The reason he came was to present Hazel Banner, P4, with her prize from the Food Standards Agency. Hazel's picture saying 'Always wash your hands' has been used in ads all over Scotland, my sister even saw it on a bus shelter in Glasgow. Hazel got £300 for herself and our school got £1,000 which was really cool. James Martin cooked some great food in our Gym Hall, the best was the Smoothie, and he was extremely funny and threw fruit and veg at the P1s and P2s! And it was all on Border TV in the evening.

Edmund Wise, P6



SNOWED UNDER

This March saw the heaviest snowfall since February 1996 - around twelve inches of snow with much deeper drifting in places. The area was brought to a standstill until the snow plough arrived, except for those with four wheel drives who were quick to test their vehicles' prowess. Most schools called the day off on Monday - much to children's delight! For sheep farmers, however, it is not a good time of year for such heavy snow as the ewes are either heavily pregnant or lambing so let's hope it doesn't stick around too long.



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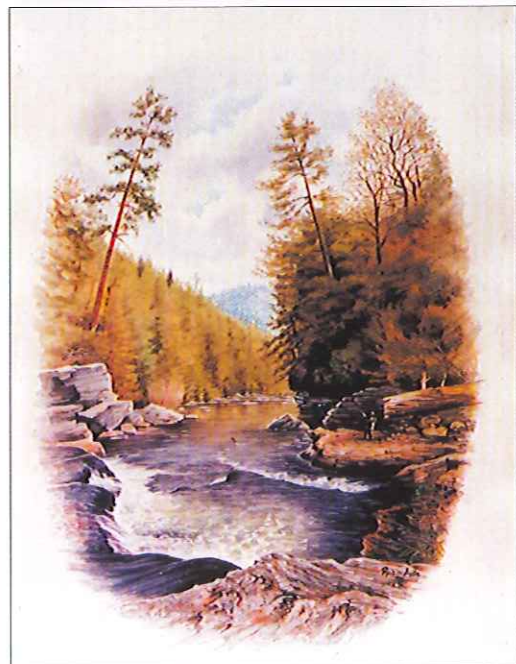
LOCAL ARTISTS

Robin Ade

Robin Ade has lived in Galloway for over 30 years, and has been painting since he arrived. Now an internationally renowned artist, he specialises in water colours of local nature scenes as well as technically accurate line drawings and paintings of fish and other wildlife. He is an expert on trout and salmonids, and produces exceptionally accurate and detailed portraits of these species, examples of which can be seen on his website www.robinaade.co.uk.

Author of two books, 'Fisher in the Hills: A Season in Galloway' which is now a collector's item as it is out of print, and 'The Trout and Salmon Handbook', Robin is working on a third book which will take the form more of a travel diary documenting his many trips to the East, especially Afghanistan. But no doubt this book will also include many fishing expeditions as these are a vital part of any of Robin's travels.

Robin has limited edition prints available to buy, and is also happy to work on commissions. Please call him on 01644 460251 or email robinaade@hotmail.com



BALMACLELLAN & KELLS GUILD PANCAKE LUNCH

Pancake Lunches have developed into an annual event in New Galloway. It is now several years since Balmaclellan and Kells Guild first ran a Pancake Lunch, on Shrove Tuesday, to make funds for a nominated charity. The first two years it was held in the Lower Town Hall until the Guild discovered its popularity and had to move 'upstairs'. Each year the ladies of the Guild are overwhelmed by the support received from everyone, far and near. Now, to our astonishment, there is often a queue stretching back down the stairs!

This year, the nominated charity was Macmillan Cancer Relief. A cheque was presented at the Guild's March meeting, for £300, to Ms Jane Watson, who spoke that afternoon on Macmillan Nurses.

It is no mean feat, as the Guild ladies are few in number. However, it is thanks to co-opted members for the day, that we are able to achieve such a great

success year by year. This year 240 pancakes were consumed in no time at all. Four savoury and four sweet fillings were on offer, ranging from curried turkey to the traditional lemon pancake.

The members even found time to 'man' a sales table and organise a raffle. This year resulted in £270 being earned for Guild funds. A grand total of almost £600 being raised altogether.

Members of the Guild would like to express their thanks to the volunteers who helped out on the day, as well as a special thank you to Jim McPhee who provided live piano music throughout the event and to Primrose Morrison who made over 240 pancakes! The Guild ladies appreciate the amount of support given to this event and hope to see everyone again next Shrove Tuesday (February 20th 2007!).



THE ROYAL BURGH OF NEW GALLOWAY & KELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Since the last news about the Town Hall several officials from Dumfries have been to survey the work to be done on it. The work that has to be seen to is the repairs to the roof or the wall to stop the water coming in. The building has to be repainted and issues regarding disabled access have to be resolved. The Lower Town Hall has been partly refloored with new planking as it was in need of repair. The painting of the lower road, "New Galloway in Autumn" by Anna Hotchkis that used to be displayed in the lower hall has now been returned. It was away at Kirkcudbright Museum being restored and reframed and is now on display in the main hall.

No council meeting was held in March due to the adverse weather conditions. Our next monthly meeting will be held on the 10th April at 7.30pm. Please see the notice board for the agenda.

Years ago we were informed that a bid would be made on our behalf to have the lower road widened and resurfaced. It appears at last that there is a wee bit left in the kitty at the end of the financial year so they have come up to patch the holes and resurface the worst of the damage to tide us over till next year.

The proprietors of the Cross Keys Hotel, Mr and Mrs D Roberts, held and organised another very successful race night in aid of the local fire brigade, where a sum of over £600 was raised. This is the third time that this event has taken place.

Gordon Lindsay

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Day time break-ins - There have been several day time break-ins reported. The thieves seem to be targeting properties, stealing antiques and jewellery. If anyone sees anything suspicious, eg unknown vehicle parked, they should report it to the police immediately.

Rural Housing - It has been suggested that a Community Fund be set up to purchase land for affordable housing in Carsphairn. This will duplicate the work of the Housing Trust, which is still waiting for charitable status to be confirmed. It was decided to delay setting up a Community Fund until the position with the Trust was established. Loreburn is building in New Galloway and Dalry over the next year. Some discussion took place about trying to get them interested in building in Carsphairn. It was decided that it would be preferable for the Glenkens Housing Trust to have ownership of the houses as we would have more influence on who became tenants.

There is a meeting of the Glenkens Affordable Housing Trust in New Galloway Town Hall on Thursday 16 February at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A representative has attended several seminars. He commented on the unhelpful negative attitudes of some Council officials towards attracting more people to live in rural areas.

Community Garden - A quote for dyking has been accepted. It is hoped that the dykes will be built in March. A letter is to be sent to landowners asking for donations of suitable stone. The Community Council will arrange for transport to the site. A working party to cut the banking and clear weed, trees and shrubs will meet on Saturday 18 February at 10am. Volunteers are to bring suitable tools.

Portable Defibrillator - Iain Howie, of the Stewarty Community Safety Forum will approach the Galloway Mountain Rescue Team about demonstrating the portable defibrillator next time they have a meeting in Lagwyne Hall. The demonstration to be widely promoted by means of leaflets and posters.

Boundaries Commission - Objections to the wards proposed have been upheld. A letter in support of the readjusted boundaries has been sent to the Boundaries Commission.

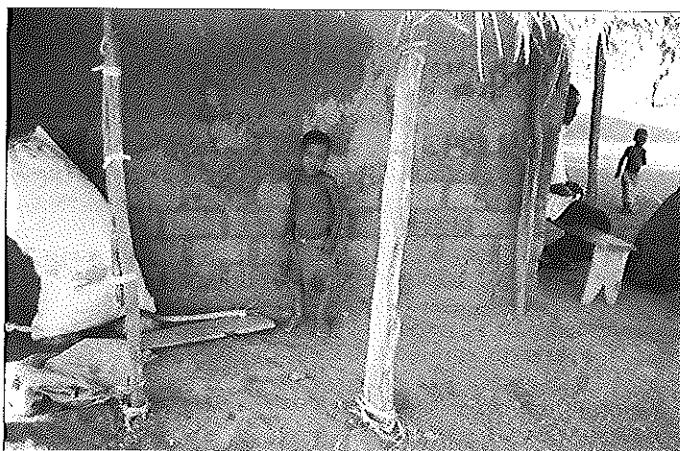
SEARCH FOR LOCAL STAMPS

I have a small request directed to those folk who have lived here in the Glenkens for at least the past half century, or who have had close connections with this area. As a boy growing up in New Galloway I remember seeing an envelope containing large stamps sitting in a bureau in the family home. As I recall the stamps were not legal postage but consisted of simple stylised designs of hills, trees and lochs created to advertise this area. Whether this was just the Glenkens or Galloway as a whole I cannot remember. On the envelope was the instruction to affix the stamps to any correspondence being sent out of the immediate vicinity and especially overseas. I suspect that the stamps dated back to the late 1940s and were an attempt at regeneration after World War II. Sadly, I cannot find any trace of our stamps now and would love to get at least a copy of one.

If anyone can help then please contact me directly at the Ken Bridge Hotel on 01644 420211 or through the GCAT office.

Happy hunting, Dave Patterson

MONEY RAISED FOR ORPHANS IN MALAWI



In September 2004, a successful coffee morning was held in Dalry in aid of medicines for Abbas Rest Orphanages in Malawi. The money raised was a great help in buying treatment for tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS, as well as coughs, earache, etc.

We are holding another coffee morning on Saturday 6th May from 10-12am in Dalry Community Centre. Entry prices are £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. We do hope you will support us once again as so many children depend upon the orphanages for help and treatment, and lives have been saved by your generosity.

We would gratefully accept any donations towards the raffle and sales table. If you need more information, please contact Avril Brown on 01644 430526 or Barbara Colbenon on 01644 430090.

REGULAR USER GROUPS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE DALRY

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

Monday - Friday 9.15 - 11.45am Glenkens Playgroup
Julie Moore - 01644 460687

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

Tuesday 2.00pm - Good Neighbours Club
Mabel Young - 01644 430472

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

Drama Club
Harvey Hamilton 01644 430398

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

(Very reasonable rates for private hire)

YOUR DOG BORDER COLLIE

'Your Dog' is a new feature to the Gazette which will look at the Glenkens' most popular dog breeds, focusing on one breed per issue.

Breed History – a Working Dog

The Border Collie became a classified breed in the early twentieth century, although Collies worked with shepherds in The Borders for hundreds of years previous to this. These dogs were bred for the sole purpose of herding sheep. As shepherds often have to work large areas of land, the dogs have been bred to be quick witted and perceptive, often responding to a whistle or a gesture over long distances and using their initiative to negotiate any obstacles.

Main Uses in the Glenkens

The Glenkens has been a sheep farming area for many years and up until recently nearly every farm had Border Collies to help with the farm duties. But these days sheep farming is in decline and farmers who do have sheep tend to ride quad bikes to round them up rather than rely on the trusty sheepdog.

Border Collies as Pets

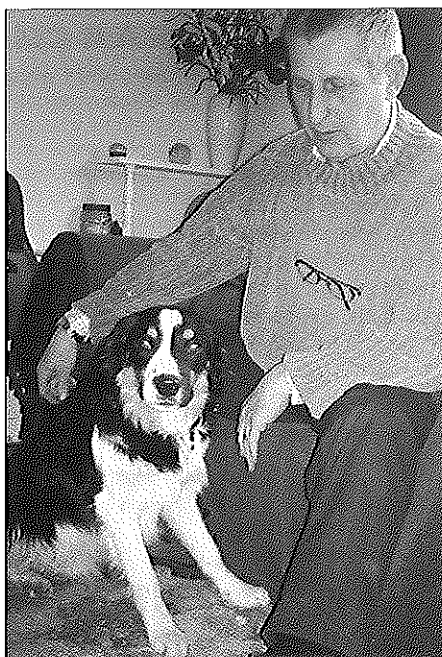
Border Collie Rescue recommends that only non-workers should be taken on as pets. William Wallace, who was Secretary of the Moniaive Sheepdog Trials for 33 years, has a similar view. 'They are not really for pets – although that's not to say they don't make good pets... but generally being kept indoors is not an environment they want to live in – they need the freedom, and satisfaction, that they get as a working dog'.

But Border Collies' intelligence and quick wits are being put to good use in the pet arena – if you watched Crufts this year you'll know that Border Collies and Collie-crosses topped nearly all of the active categories, from Agility to Flyball, Obedience to Heelwork to Music. So as shepherding declines, perhaps this is the new working future for the Border Collie...

Training

Larry Jones, owner of the 'top shop' in Dalry, has a seven month old Border Collie called Ben. He says he likes the breed because it is 'trainable, intelligent and biddable – and needs plenty of exercise which keeps me fit!'

This breed has an active mind and body, so needs a lot mental stimulation and exercise – a working sheepdog averages two to three miles for every mile the sheep are moved, so may cover up to 50 miles a day. A lot of the problems people experience with Border Collies as pets are due to boredom and lack of exercise which leads to frustration in the dog. At Border Collie Rescue, only 10% of the dogs they receive for re-homing



come from working backgrounds – the rest all come from pet homes.

Sheepdog trainers describe training young dogs as teaching children. Davie Mackay, who has worked and trained Border Collies for over 30 years, says 'you have to be patient with a dog and take your time – too many farmers are harsh on their dogs and then wonder why the dog doesn't work well for them. They are sensitive, intelligent animals and will work to please you, but shouting at them just confuses them'. William Wallace also says; 'If you make a friend of the dog as a pup it's the best way – then they'll do anything for you'.

Finding the Right Dog

If you are looking for a working dog, many good working lines are registered with the International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS), and many ISDS registered dogs are handed in to Border Collie Rescue (0870 444 5838), so it is worth checking there. For a pet collie, check out local rescue centres (Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue Centre – 01387 770 210 or SSPCA Dunragit Animal Welfare Centre – 01581 400 253) or contact Border Collie Rescue. It would be advisable to read up about the breed if you are thinking of getting a Border Collie – try the local library, or read a book like 'The Versatile Border Collie' by Janet E Larson.

Please feel free to contact me with any interesting or entertaining dog-related stories, or if you have any comments or suggestions for this feature. Call Sarah on 01644 430138 or email glenkens gazette@hotmail.co.uk

by Sarah Ade

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE EXHIBITION

'The Killing Times'

The Carsphairn Heritage Group is holding an exhibition on 'The Killing Times' in the Glenkens at the Heritage Centre in Carsphairn. It will feature historical information and local tales about Covenanting sites throughout the Glenkens. The exhibition starts on Good Friday (14th April) and will run on weekends and bank holidays until May 29th, thereafter each day except Wednesdays until the end of September.

Dr. Bartholomew has put together a very lucid introduction to the exhibition, explaining the oftentimes confusing history of the Covenanting movement. The stories include intimate details of actual events and provide a fascinating insight into the people and places of the Killing Times in the Glenkens fully illustrated with photographs and artwork.

The drawing below depicts 'The Death of James McMichael', a classic story of the time. In the



late 1600s the area around Carsphairn was very oppressed and there was much persecution – the people of the area were devoted to their Presbyterian principles and loyal to the Covenanting cause. The minister, Peter Pearson, took delight in searching out nonconformists. The inhabitants of Carsphairn decided that enough was enough and sent a group of representatives to the manse to discuss the situation with the minister – they wanted to be left in peace to worship the way they wanted. When the minister understood what they had come to discuss he refused to listen, locked the door to prevent them leaving, and produced a pistol. Some of the people who had come to discuss the issue had waited outside and, upon hearing the commotion, James McMichael assumed his friends were in trouble and, grabbing his own gun, shot the minister. Thereafter McMichael was forced to go into hiding, where he was eventually tracked down and, after challenging Claverhouse to single combat, was killed from behind by one of Claverhouse's troopers.

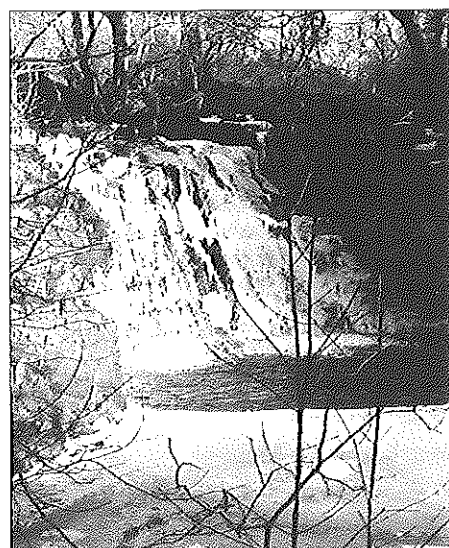


Photo of the Holy Linn, a famous meeting place during the Killing Times.

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NEW GALLOWAY *Our Historic Burgh*

by Helen Bolton - PART XXIX

The Hydro Scheme is Planned

The War was over, and the Glenkens folk were looking forward to a return to peace in every respect. But, not so fast! The Government had realised the value of an electricity supply as an essential commodity throughout the country, and ways to generate these supplies were being considered. A Hydro-electric scheme was discussed, and Galloway, with its many lochs and rivers, seemed an ideal area. Many lengthy discussions and meetings took place in 1923, with Loch Doon named as a possible main catchment area. Among those in favour of the suggestion was Mr Wellwood Maxwell of "Glenlee". Due to the sparse population of Galloway, however, the idea was shelved until May 1929, when the bill was passed by Parliament and received the Royal Assent.

But this was only a beginning. The environment had to have some form of protection, and negotiations with the local authorities began. An agreement was made between the contractors and Kirkcudbright Council regarding a road levy to assist with the cost of repairs to roads, bridges, etc. incurred by the Council as a result of the extraordinary traffic which would be using the roads. It was agreed that 6d (2½p) per ton per mile in winter, and 4½d (2p) per ton per mile in summer would be paid for the Newton Stewart - New Galloway road, Gatehill road, and Garrary road. All other roads would receive payments of 4d (1½p) in winter and 3d (1¼p) in summer. A further agreement was reached regarding weight limits on all roads north of the Dumfries - Newton Stewart road, whereby all loads being transported on these roads would be limited to three tons! Occasional exceptional loads, such as machinery for the power stations, sluice gates, and so on, were unavoidable, but contractors agreed to take very special precautions, and to consult the county road surveyor before moving these items. Unfortunately, the road levy agreement, though sound in theory, failed in practice due to certain contractors failing to honour this aspect of their agreement!

Further agreements, more successful than the road levy idea, came with the forming of a scenery committee. These gentlemen were presented with the unenviable task of assuring councils and general public alike that the more unsightly parts of the scheme, such as the substation at Glenlee, would be screened with trees, shrubs, or walls of local stone. Clatteringshaws dam, however, was considered by all three members of the committee to be "extremely ugly". This unfortunate fact remained a bone of contention with



locals for many years, until the glaring white dam wall had finally weathered to a mellow grey, and the trees planted by the Forestry Commission had grown to a size which screened much of the dam from the otherwise extremely scenic road.

Last, but certainly not least, was the question of the preservation of the salmon fishing in the rivers Dee, Ken, Deugh and Doon. Fish passes were incorporated into the plans for the dams at Tongland, Earlstoun and Carsfad, as well as a pass for the descending salmon smolts at Kendoon. The height of the passes was a constant source of concern for the planners with Carsfad pass at 74 feet high and Earlstoun at 70½ feet high being the highest ever to be constructed.

Glenlee power station did not present the same problems, as the water for this station was to come from the man-made Clatteringshaws. Such major environmental changes always meet with a certain amount of disapproval. One poetic gentleman put into verse his feelings, and probably those of many others, particularly in the early days of the Galloway Hydro-electric Scheme.

"The Modern Raiders" (Galloway Water Power Scheme)

This is our land of Galloway
Where, in a more heroic day,
The Bruce contrived to trap and slay
An army of invaders:
Where Patrick Heron, Silver Sand,
May Maxwell and smuggler band
Adventured, as by Crockett's hand,
Is written in 'The Raiders'.

A raider comes today who kills
The glory of our glens and hills
With unheroic Act and Bills
And "private legislation":
The company promoter's pen
Will dam the Deugh and dam the Ken
And dam the Dee, - oh! damn the men
Who plan such desecration!

by W. G. M. Dobie,
from "Winter and Rough Weather", 1938.

Glenkens Gazette Advertising Rates 2006

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%

Contact

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Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

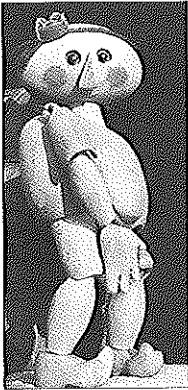
LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

GCAT - FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GCAT has lots of exciting events coming up over the next few months, with visits and co-productions from the Scotland wide Puppet Animation Festival, The Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival, The Scottish International Children's Festival and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD).

There are some fantastic theatre productions, one from the acclaimed Rapture Theatre Company who return to the Glenkens with their new show, *The Collector*, and The Seer by Dogstar Theatre Company, part of the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival. GCAT's popular and successful Comedy Quarterly programme continues with a visit from top TV comedian Frankie Boyle and there are some great shows for younger audiences with the annual Easter puppet show (this year *The Emperor's New Clothes* from Northern Ireland company, Banyan), and a really special visit from Compagnie Lili Désastres from France, which is part of the Scottish International Children's Festival touring programme. Finally the RSAMD return with an evening of traditional music at the Ken Bridge Hotel followed by a day of workshops in local schools.

Easter Monday Puppet Show



Banyan Theatre Company (N.Ireland)
The Emperor's New Clothes
Balmacellan Village Hall
Monday 17 April, 11am-3pm

In the palace laundry the washerwoman tells a very funny and very embarrassing story about two swindlers who once came to her town. Pretending to be master tailors they are summoned to the palace by the vain Emperor who loves clothes more than anything else in the world! The tailors promise to make

him a set of clothes the like of which he has never seen before...with some very surprising results! A charming and humorous retelling of the classic by this leading UK company. Part of the Puppet Animation Festival.

Rapture Theatre Company

The Collector



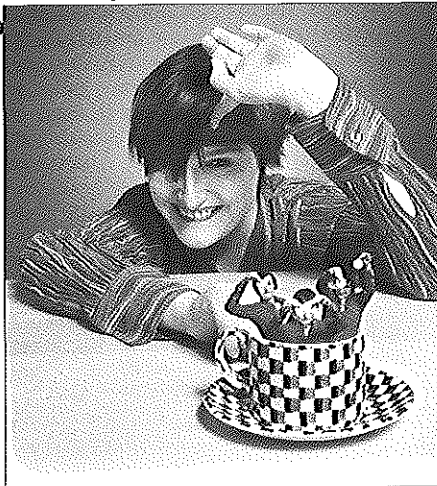
Balmacellan Village Hall
Monday 1 May, 7.30pm

Lawson is the best "collector" in the business, operating in the seedy world of debt collection; he is at the top of his "profession". However when one of his "clients" commits suicide Lawson's life is shattered irrevocably. As the mystery deepens around the suicide and the noose tightens Lawson and his colleagues are pushed into a deadly power game from which there can only be one winner. With a combination of the wit and power of Harold Pinter mixed with the night time atmosphere and gritty detective story milieu of the early "Taggart",

this is bound to be one of the highlights of the theatrical year. Suitable for over 14s only.

Dogstar Theatre Company

The Seer by Ali Smith



Wednesday 31 May, 7.30pm
Dalry School, Kirkland Street, Dalry

And you thought the drawing room farce was a thing of the past? Think again! Dynamic Highland company Dogstar presents this innovative and hilarious new comedy.

Neil and Iona both have well-paid professional jobs in the new Highland metropolis; they dress both themselves and their home immaculately. Into their lives bursts Kirsty, Iona's anarchic sister, who disturbs the equilibrium of the couple, the play and possibly the audience... Only a bit to do with Hielan' second sight, *The Seer* is a contemporary comedy of manners which plays on perception; a lively, funny, satirical roller coaster about domestic perfection, free spirits and the new Scotland. This event is part of the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival Programme.

Glenkens Play it by Ear

Monday 10 April - Monday 8 May, 1.30pm
Balmacellan Village Hall

Storyteller and musician, Tony Bonning and his hugely popular Play it by Ear workshops for pre-school children take place on the second Monday of every month in Balmacellan Village Hall. Come along with your mum, dad or carer and enjoy an afternoon of singing, music and storytelling.

Compagnie Lili Désastres (France)

Scribble, Balmacellan Village Hall



Saturday 27 May, 11am

Scribble is a very small person who wears a big black jacket and a pointy black hat. She's very clever! Using a sheet of white paper, she cuts, glues and folds, and, with a little splotch here and a little scribble there, she's suddenly inside it - in and out she goes, sometimes in front, sometimes behind, maybe on top and even belowamazing! This is a story that adults find too complicated to understand but what do they know? Very young children, even one year olds on the other hand, know what Scribble is all about with her little gestures, movements and melodies. Because, you see, they know what fun and laughter is about. This event is part of the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival Programme.

Age: 1-4 year olds

Scottish Music from the RSAMD

Agus an Cù on Tour



Ken Bridge Hotel
Monday 5 June, 7.30pm

The annual tour of Scotland by Year 2 Scottish music students at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama is a showcase for the wealth and breadth of young talent in the Scottish Music Department and this year's event promises to continue that trend. The students are from the Academy's BA Scottish Music and BA Scottish Music (Piping) courses. This year's group is called Agus an Cù, Gaelic for And a Dog, which has been suggested could mean the appearance of a mascot ... The 15 strong group consists of an impressive lineup of fiddles, pipes, clarsach, accordion, piano, whistle, percussion and Scots and Gaelic song, with a few instrumental surprises along the way. Many of the students have already been busy representing the Academy all over the world and followers of the success stories to have already emerged from this department can be sure of seeing some future high fliers at this concert.

Tickets for the above events can be purchased on the door unless the event is sold out. To guarantee your seat you can book in advance by calling GCAT on 01644 420374.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE GLENKENS

THE GLENKENS ARE KEEPING UP WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Glenkens Community Arts Trust (GCAT) has organised a series of pilot workshops to deliver computer training to local people. The workshops, funded by Help the Aged, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and GCAT, have been open to anyone in the Glenkens who is sixty or over.

Liz Cole, Community Project Worker said: "The first series of workshops proved to be very successful in terms of the enjoyment and the information shared, with maximum numbers attending. A second full class is commencing at the end of March. It's excellent to offer computer courses for older people in the Glenkens and those who attended the first course are keen to attend future courses". Liz added "We are hoping this is just the beginning of such training opportunities in New Galloway and once we have our new venue, we aim to organise many more courses for all ages."

Bernie Wilkin from the IT Centre in Castle Douglas who is delivering the training explained: "It's important that people living in a rural area can access opportunities. Delivering computer training in a local venue increases accessibility and encourages individuals to learn something new. Using technology available to us today can improve access to services and help with everyday living such as shopping or banking online, keeping in touch with family and friends and even distance learning".

'OLD SKILLS - NEW SKILLS'

60+? A day of information and events FOR FREE!

**Monday 8th May 10am-5pm,
DALRY TOWN HALL**

Stretch and Tone Exercise Class: Alice MacKenzie

Community Leisure and Sport, D&G Council

Basic Computer Skills: Pauline Bell, IT Centre

Organic Cookery Demonstrations: Catherine Braid

LUNCH

£11 Million Group, Benefits: Morven Campbell

Older drivers: Paula Cochrane, Age Concern Scotland,

'Message in a Bottle' Community Health Programme, Stroke Awareness

'Forgotten Voices': Recording memoirs with Ian Howie,

Stewartry Local Rural Partnership

INFORMATION STALLS

Come for the whole day or drop in at any time!

For more information: Liz Cole, GCAT: 01644 420374

GLENKENS COMMUNITY & ARTS TRUST OFFICE MANAGER

Part-time Office Manager based in New Galloway required to be part of a small energetic team involved in an exciting community regeneration project.

Admin and book-keeping skills essential

**For further information please contact GCAT on
01644 420374 or info@glenkens-arts.com**

CLOSING DATE 14TH APRIL 2006

GCAT MOVES OFFICES

At the beginning of April, the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) will be moving to new office premises at the former Clydesdale Bank building in New Galloway High Street. This is a temporary move until work on the Old School is completed in the summer of 2007. Members of the public will still be welcome to pop in and visit us at any time at the new office and the telephone number (01644 420374) and email addresses will remain the same (info@glenkens-arts.com). All the staff and directors of GCAT wish to express their gratitude to Gordon and Ros Hill who have very kindly allowed us to operate from the old butcher's shop in the High Street in New Galloway for so long.

TEA DANCE

1st June 3.00 - 5.00pm

Dalry Town Hall

Free Entry (donations accepted)

Live Music and Merriment!

Tea, sandwiches and cakes to be enjoyed

**For more information contact Liz Cole
at GCAT on 01644 420374**

COMMUNITY BUS SCHOOL RUN

You might be pleased to see that the Community Bus is being used every morning to transport pupils from the Mossdale area to Kells Primary School. The bus is still available for hire all day after 9am on weekdays during term time and at all other times on weekends and during school holidays, so please do make use of it! Tel. 01644 420374

GLENKENS TRANSPORT INITIATIVE (GTI)

CHANGES TO REGISTERED ROUTE

Beginning on Wednesday 19th April 2006, a new weekly Bus Service will be operated by the G.T.I. Mini Bus. This will run EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING until further notice.

The timetable for this service is as follows:

2045 hrs Dept DALRY (Underhill bus stop)	2145 hrs Dept CASTLE DOUGLAS
2050 hrs Ken Bridge Hotel	2200 hrs Laurieston
2105 hrs Parton	2210 hrs Mossdale
2110 hrs Crossmichael	2225 hrs New Galloway
2120 hrs Arrive CASTLE DOUGLAS	2230 hrs Ken Bridge Hotel

This service is the start of an improvement to public services on both sides of Loch Ken, as later in the year a new daily 'early evening' service will be launched.

The new service operated by GTI will not only fit in with other Public Services in and out of Castle Douglas including the 'Hospital Bus' from Dumfries, but will also give visitors to the area staying in Dalry and New Galloway, the opportunity of a late evening 'Round the Loch' trip.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK THE MINI-BUS OR IF YOU WANT ANY MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KEITH COOPER, GTI ADMINISTRATOR ON 01644 420374.

EASTER TRIPS

NEWTON STEWART :

THURSDAY 13th APRIL 2006

DEPARTS DALRY 12 NOON :

RETURNS DALRY APPROX 6 PM

This trip will stop at Clatteringshaws en-route (pick up approx 5.30pm giving opportunity for half-day walk) or spend time in Newton Stewart having lunch, shopping & swimming.

£ 3 PER SEAT

GRETNNA GATEWAY :

Saturday 22nd APRIL 2006

DEPARTS DALRY 10.30AM, PICK UP

IN NEW GALLOWAY, MOSSDALE, LAURIESTON, AND CROSSMICHAEL.

Return To Dalry By 5.00pm

The chance to visit this ever enlarging shopping complex - approx 4 hours will be spent there !

£5 PER SEAT

IF ENOUGH BOOKINGS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED THREE DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF THESE TRIPS, THEY WILL BE CANCELLED, SO PLEASE BOOK IN GOOD TIME - THANK YOU.

GLENKENS SCHOOLS REPORT

KELLS SCHOOL CEILIDH - ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS

Held on the evening of Saturday 18th March in New Galloway Town Hall

Last year, because the children had qualified for the Songs of Praise Junior Choir final, the school needed to raise a lot of money in order that the children could make the trip to Birmingham to take part in the final. As parents, we felt it our duty to assist in fundraising and, as a one off, we decided to hold a ceilidh dinner. This took place last February and was such a huge success that it was agreed that another one should be held this year.

Again it was a fantastic night. The hall was beautifully decorated in 'Kells Colours'. We kept the same format of hostesses catering for their table of 10 or 12 guests. Thereafter we had ceilidh dancing with 'The Other Band' which everyone loves. We also held a raffle and auction which was very successful. The grand total of £2,000 was raised for school funds which is going towards the purchase cost of a new stage for the school.

Liz Ramsay

DALRY SECOND IN SCOTLAND!

In the recently published National Exam League Tables, Dalry Secondary School came second in the whole of Scotland (373 schools) with all pupils gaining five or more Standard Grades at General Level. Castle Douglas High School, which takes Dalry pupils going on to do Highers, also did very well in the Higher Grade League Table, being ranked 9th nationally.

Headteacher Fraser Simpson comments, "Statistics are not everything, nevertheless we are delighted to have achieved such a high position in this table. The results are a credit to pupils, parents and staff at Dalry who all work together as a team. It's also pleasing to note the positive impact that Dalry pupils are having on the Castle Douglas Higher results". Ian Proudfoot, Headteacher at Castle Douglas High School, says, "We always look forward to Dalry pupils joining us and these results are testimony to their enthusiasm, the co-operation of parents and the hard work of staff in Dalry School".

Dalry Secondary School takes pupils from all the Glenkens Primary Schools: Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells. Chairman of the Dalry School Board, Nicolette Wise, enthuses, "The Glenkens community can feel justifiably proud that their school has done so brilliantly. Well done everyone!"

DALRY NURSERY



As part of our on going topic of People who help us in our Community, we have had Road Safety visits from the Police. We have also visited New Galloway Fire Station and had a wonderful time trying on the helmets and looking at the fire appliance.

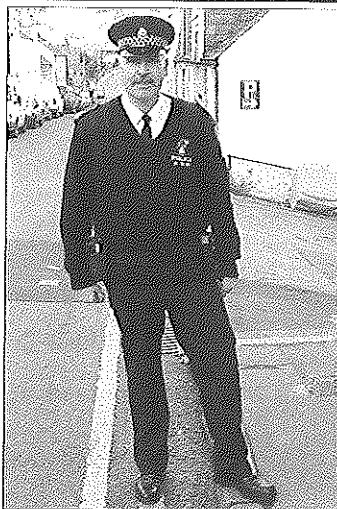
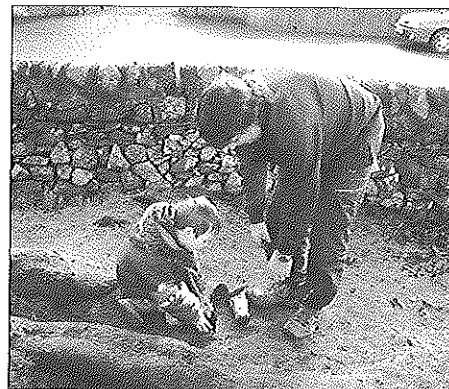
The Nursery were also visited by members of the Thai community who came to share their culture with us and made flowers and bracelets with the children. In addition they also cooked some marvellous food which was shared with the whole school and staff. Finally Mr Davey, the husband of our Nursery Nurse has designed a great garden that the children are helping to develop.

We have already purchased plants and equipment from Heathhall Garden Centre and the children have planted hedging, daffodils, snowdrops and some bulbs. The whole project will take about three years before it is fully established and we hope that the garden will become a big feature in the community.

Community Fire Safety Message FIRES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Our advice to land owners/occupiers is to abide by the Muirburning Code. In particular to ensure neighbours and the Fire & Rescue Service are informed of any controlled burning, that the burning is always supervised and that sufficient people are present to extinguish a fire an hour before sundown. It is an offence to burn at unauthorised times and copies of the Muirburn Code can be obtained from Scottish National Heritage, the Police or the Fire & Rescue Service.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY SECTION : 01387 252222



ON THE BEAT : Community Police News with PC Ian Wilson SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS SUMMER

In the spring and summer months many visitors arrive in the Glenkens. Most are people trying to get away from the bigger towns and cities and find some peace and quiet in our area.

Many road accidents involve the combination of local and visitor. There are a number of reasons for this but often a visitor, lost or looking for a turning, fails to notice the local behind them infuriated at being held up or worse coming towards them at speed when they are dithering as to whether or not they are taking a wrong turn!

To any locals reading this:

Give them some space, pull back off someone you can see is lost!

To any visitors:

Pull over and stop if you are lost. Don't try and read the map on your partner's knee and drive!

On a crime note many holiday makers can't believe how trusting we are with our property and occasionally things which we leave lying around all year go missing! I would urge you to lock your car, tidy away bikes and other equipment! As I have warned before not all visitors are here for the holiday!

I hope all your Gala days and Summer events go well and the sun shines for you... don't forget if you need some help with cones, police slow signs or even a police officer get in touch in plenty of time and I will do my best to help.

PC Ian Wilson, Constable 291, Dalry

BEAVERS & CUB SCOUT NEWS

Cub Scouting is celebrating their 90th birthday this year and the Beaver section is celebrating their 20th birthday, the Queen reaches 80 and is the Scout Patron.

The Glenkens Cub Scout Pack have been looking at the wider picture of our Scouting Family from here in the Glenkens to Worldwide. We also traced our own family tree, many families going back to the early 1800s and some very interesting facts have been found.

We will be joining the congregation of Kells Church for a special Founders Day Thanksgiving Service and the young members will renew their Promise at the end of March.

The Cub Scouts put their name forward to the Daily Record to try and win new football strips. We were delighted to learn that we were in the first 500 who applied so we are now busy collecting 2400 tokens from the newspaper to enable us to claim the strips. The Cubs have never owned a proper strip - we played in our activity tee shirts, so we are very pleased. We would like to thank everyone who is collecting the tokens and will hopefully help to make our dreams come true.

The older Cub Scouts spent a day at Barcaple Christian Outdoor Centre, trying a variety of adventurous activities such as zip wire, soft tree climb, assault course and archery.

APPEAL FOR SEWING MATERIALS

Merryn Fergusson will be visiting Bosnia again this summer to do voluntary work for victims of the war. Bosnia is still suffering from effects of the war with a struggling economy and a very high rate of unemployment. Merryn will be visiting a sewing school which has recently opened. She has been asked to collect items such as needles, cotton, zips, buttons and scissors to take with her. If you would like to donate any items that you no longer use please hand them in to the GCAT shop or put them in the post to Merryn at Grennan, Dalry, DG7 3PL

MOON WALK

Fiona Oliver and Jean Jones, along with 8,000 others, will be participating in the Moon Walk fundraising event in Edinburgh on 28 June in aid of breast cancer charities. The event, a marathon length walk, is being organised by Walk The Walk, the same team who organise similar events in Boston, New York and London. The event takes place during the night, hence its name, Moon Walk. If you would like to support Fiona and Jean with their fundraising there are sponsorship forms in the Post Office in New Galloway.

PASSIONATE ABOUT THE GLENKENS? WIN A DINNER FOR TWO!

Few would wish to contest that Galloway is 'the natural place to be', something which the local communities are very proud of and perhaps none more so than those who reside in the Glenkens.

In recent times, however, we have come to realise that keeping the secrets of the area to ourselves is impinging upon the economic reality of rural survival. Is it not perhaps time that the residents of southwest Scotland do a little more to attract a percentage of the thousands of visitors who bypass the region on their way north towards the Highlands? The routing of last year's Tour of Britain cycle race through Galloway is but an example of what can be done to refocus the attention of tourists and others toward this diverse and inspiring corner of Scotland.

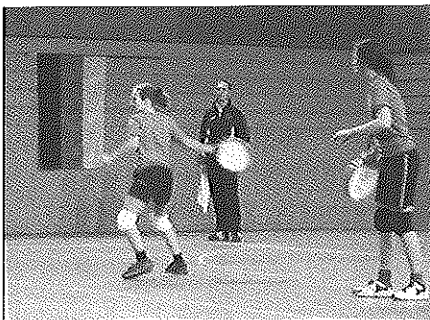
Members of the Glenkens Business Group feel we should do something to ensure that visitors and others are in no doubt when they have entered the Glenkens. We need to make certain people send the message that within Galloway the Glenkens uniquely offers a wide range of choice for all ages. There is perhaps no better way to promote the merits of an area than by word of mouth from those who have visited. Whilst this makes sense there is a problem; visitors are frequently unaware that they are enjoying the 'Glenkens' when they visit this part of Galloway. The walking festival, sporting competitions, the 7 Stanes and Scottish Alternative Games are but examples of what is on offer in the Glenkens but, in terms of publicity, such attractions are only promoted as part of Galloway.

It is felt what is needed is some form of identifying mark - an emblem or badge of recognition. For example, walkers of the Southern Upland Way should never be in doubt of their location since its own unique emblem adequately marks it. We can learn from this by producing our own emblem or badge of recognition that could have many applications: on stationery; in brochures; in shop windows; on road signs designating areas of interest and activities; the list is almost endless. What is clear is that with an identifying mark unique to the Glenkens, visitors would at least know and remember where they have been!

With this in mind, a competition is being held to create an Glenkens Emblem. The competition is open to all residents of the Glenkens regardless of age; **students and school pupils are particularly encouraged to participate.** Entries should be submitted on A4 paper and can be drawn in 2B pencil, ink or black pen which should then be forwarded together with contact details to: The GCAT Office, Main Street, New Galloway. Entries must be in no later than midday 2nd June. A panel drawn from the Glenkens Business Group will judge the competition. The winner, together with his or her entry, will then be announced and published in the 34th edition of the Gazette.

And the winner will not only see their design used in the future, but Mr David Patterson, proprietor of the Ken Bridge Hotel, has kindly offered Sunday Lunch for two at the Carvery in his hotel restaurant for the winning entrant on an evening of his or her choice!

EUROPEAN TAMBURELLO CHAMPIONSHIP



Scottish Teams in European Tamburello Championships - Meze, France 2006 Both the mens and ladies Scottish tamburello teams put in a fine performance at the European Tamburello Championships last weekend. Both teams were drawn in groups against Catalunya and France. The ladies team had a very close match against Catalunya but eventually were beaten 9-7. They lost 9-1 to the French team that went on to win the tournament. Eventually they came through with a win in the play-offs against Germany. This was the teams' first success on foreign soil taking Scotland into fifth place ahead of England and Germany. The men's team also put up a brave fight against Catalunya, England and France. The French men's team also beat Italy in the final to take the championships making it a double for France. Members of the both Scottish teams will travel to Sardinia at the end of February to take an International Coaching and Referee course which will hopefully enable them to take tamburello into Scottish schools. For more information please contact Morag Paterson on 01644 430235 or 07788801842. Thank you.

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STEPPING BACK IN TIME

The Garroch Glen is set to step back in time as Rupert Harvey now rare activity of horse-drawn transport first-hand. The Garroch from Drumbuile Farm

starts running

horse-drawn carriage tours.

Having

kept

horses for

years, and

worked them

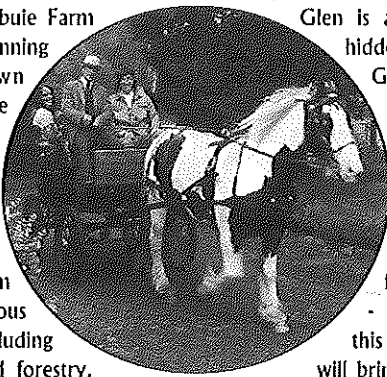
in various

fields including

farming and forestry,

Rupert's new horsey venture

will allow others to experience the



Glen is a beautiful and hidden part of the

Glenkens - it

also has a new

system of

walks running

through it

which are

colour-coded

for ease of use

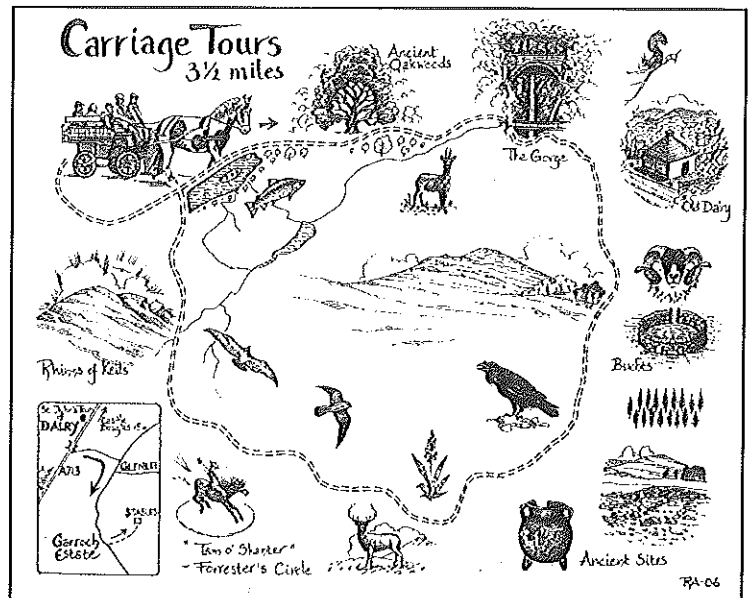
- and hopefully

this new venture

will bring more people

in to experience this area.

For more information call 01644 430601 or email garrochhorse-drawn@hotmail.co.uk



TIMES OF WORSHIP IN THE GLENKENS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sundays

Balmaclellan 12 noon 1st

Carsphairn 10.30 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Dalry (Apr) 12 noon 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Dalry (May) 9.00 am 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Kells 10.30 am 2nd 3rd 4th

The Manse, Dalry 6 pm 1st

Special Services and Events

14th Apr 7.30 pm

Good Friday Service, St Margaret's Church

16th Apr 7 am

Easter Dawn Service in New Galloway Park, followed by breakfast in New Galloway Town Hall

30th Apr 10.30 am

United Service with Glenkens Church Choir in Kells Church.

Communion Services

7th May 12 noon Balmaclellan Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (C of E)

St Margaret's, New Galloway

10.30 am Holy Communion

Every Sunday and Wednesday

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday 9th April 10.30 am Holy Communion

Monday 10th April 10.30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 11th April 10.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 12th April 10.30 am Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday 13th April 6.00 pm Holy Communion

Good Friday 14th April 12 noon Service of Meditation

7.30 pm Ecumenical service

Easter Day 16th April 10.30 am Holy Communion

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

St John's, Castle Douglas

Masses on -

Saturday 6 pm & Thursday 7 pm



GLENKENS WALKING GROUP

PICKUP POINTS

PLEASE NOTE: TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FOR MONDAY WALKS ONLY

DALRY TOWN HALL - 2:30 PM BALMACLELLAN PO - 2:40 PM

NEW GALLOWAY CARSON'S KNOWE CAR PARK - 2:45 PM

ALL WALKS WILL START AT 3 PM

APRIL 2006

MON 3 - MEET NEW GALLOWAY CAR PARK

MON 10 - MEET CLATTERINGSHAW

MON 17 - MEET STROAN LOCH CAR PARK

APRIL 2006

WED 5 - MEET NEW GALLOWAY CAR PARK

WED 12 - MEET CLATTERINGSHAW

WED 19 - MEET STROAN LOCH CAR PARK

**For more information contact :
Peter Corson Tel. 01556 502386 or 0773 6086161**

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KNOCKENGORROCH WORLD CEILIDH

From 19th - 21st May the World Ceilidh will be held at Knockengoroch Farm (along the A713 outside Carsphairn, towards Dalmellington). This festival has grown over the past eight years from a small gathering with a couple of Celtic music bands to a large festival with a dedicated following, who come to listen to the eclectic mix of world music and participate in the many workshops which are run.

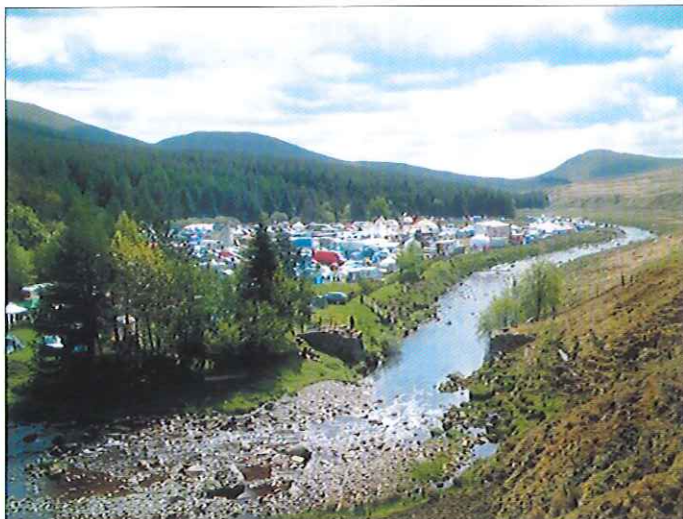
The motto of the festival is 'People to the Land! Music to the Hills!', which encompasses its philosophy - to bring people back to the upland areas of Galloway, which are now so depopulated, and also allow local people the opportunity to experience world class music locally.

The festival is a family-run event, with Simon and Liz Holmes organizing the practical side while their daughter Katriona and son Robert deal with promotion and publicity. Katriona says "The festivals bring people from all over Scotland and beyond to this unique part of Galloway to dance, make merry and experience some of the charms and heritage of the Glenkens. Over the three days some of the most current sounds on the world and traditional music circuit are presented, bringing top quality acts to this secluded and beautiful part of Scotland".

FOR MORE INFO CALL 01644 460662

email : info@knockengoroch.org.uk

Website : www.knockengoroch.org.uk



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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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GCAT - BRINGING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GLENKENS APRIL - MAY 2006 PROGRAMME



GLENKENS PLAY IT BY EAR

Monday 10 April - Monday 8 May, 1.30pm
Balmaclellan Village Hall

Tony Bonning's hugely popular Play it by Ear music, song and storytelling workshops for pre-school children and their carers.

Contact: Alison Caldwell 01644 420272
Tickets - £2 per adult/child combo



EASTER MONDAY PUPPET SHOW: BANYAN THEATRE COMPANY (N.IRELAND) THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES 3pm

Monday 17 April, 11am, Balmaclellan Village Hall
A charming and humorous retelling of the classic by this leading UK company. Part of the Puppet Animation Festival.
£3.00



RAPTURE THEATRE COMPANY THE COLLECTOR

Monday 1 May, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall
With a combination of the wit and power of Harold Pinter mixed with the night time atmosphere and gritty detective story milieu of the early "Taggart", this is bound to be one of the highlights of the theatrical year.
Suitable for over 14s only. £5/£4



COMPAGNIE LILI DÉSASTRES (FRANCE) SCRIBBLE

Saturday 27 May, 11am, Balmaclellan Village Hall
Scribble is a very small person who wears a big black jacket and a pointy black hat...
Age: 1-4 year olds, £2.00/£3.00



DOGSTAR THEATRE COMPANY THE SEER BY ALI SMITH

Wednesday 31 May, 7.30pm, Dalry School
Dynamic Highland company Dogstar presents this innovative and hilarious new comedy. The Seer is a contemporary comedy of manners which plays on perception; a lively, funny, satirical roller coaster about domestic perfection, free spirits and the new Scotland.
£5.00



SCOTTISH MUSIC FROM THE RSAMD AGUS AN CÚ ON TOUR

Monday 5 June, 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel
The 15 strong group consists of an impressive lineup of fiddles, pipes, clarsach, accordion, piano, whistle, percussion and Scots and Gaelic song, with a few instrumental surprises along the way.
£3.00/£5.00

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@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.

GLENKENS DIARY FOR ALL EVENTS

APRIL

Friday 14th - 'The Killing Times' Exhibition opens at the Heritage Centre, Carsphairn

Thursday 20th - Book & Plant Sale, St Margaret's Church, New Galloway, 11am to 4pm

MAY

Monday 8th May 10am-5pm - 'Old Skills - New Skills', Dalry Town Hall

19th to 21st - World Ceilidh, Knockengarroch, Carsphairn

JUNE

Thursday 1st, 3-5pm - Tea Dance, Dalry Town Hall

REGULAR EVENTS

Aerobic Classes

Dalry Community Centre, Every Wednesday, 7.30-8.30pm, £2.50
Contact Sam Hood on 01644 420631

Mother & Toddlers

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

Scouts Mondays, 7.00pm - 8.30pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Beavers Tuesdays, 6.30pm - 7.45pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Cub Scouts Wednesdays, 6.45pm - 8.00pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Kickback Martial Arts - Karate Classes Tuesday & Thursday 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Dalry Community Centre. £3 entry - adults welcome

Yoga - 7 week course starting 2nd May; morning class 11.20-1pm at New Galloway Town Hall or evening class 7.30-9pm at Kells School.
£27.30 full price, £14.70 concession, £19.95 60+

Ballroom & Latin Dance - 6 week course, beginners 7-8.30pm at Dalry Community Centre, or 'improvers' class 8.30-10pm. £23.40 full price, £12.60 concession, £17.10 60+ For more information and enrollment details contact Pat Rigg on 01644 460668



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

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

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE 34:

FRIDAY 12th MAY 2006

e-mail : glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

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)