

## *FIRE ENGINE FUN!*



A great big fire engine arriving in Liddesdale Place recently certainly caused a bit of a stir! There was no emergency though, just a fire safety check for one of our older neighbours.

Once fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were fitted for the resident, the super firefighters let some of the younger Glenogle residents see inside the tender and try on the hats. Finally as they left, they flashed the blue lights to say good night!

## *RESIDENTS SUMMER GET TOGETHER*

The wonderful summer weather helped make our summer get-together so enjoyable on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July!

It was not a huge gathering, but we all spent a very relaxing late afternoon getting to know each other better, welcoming new residents and benefiting from the very pleasant surroundings of our picnic area at the end of the Liddesdale car park. Mor and Yakir brought wonderful home-baked cheese puffs and other drinks and nibbles were shared. What made it even better was that we had lovely children playing around us and also had the pleasure of much-loved, well-behaved pets keeping us company.

We all agreed we'd love to do it again soon and the plan is for another one mid/late September and if we all get really organised perhaps a Halloween/Guy Fawkes celebration at the end of October. Watch the Website/Newsletter/Notice Board for further info.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. What did you do in the summer break? Here are some of our younger Glenogle Court residents, Danielle and Tamara, and Gregor telling us what they got up to over the holidays.

Danielle: this summer I went to one of the biggest waterparks in Europe, near Prague.

Tamara: This summer my sister and I went to the Czech Republic and Austria, where we met up with some family members. While we were in the Czech Republic, we visited Prague castle, and a small beautiful town called Cesky Krumlov. In Austria we went to the city of Linz. In Linz we visited the Ars Electronica Museum- a museum all about technology and the use of AI- we then went on a boat in the Danube river.



What I did at my nans house this summer by Gregor (10).

On the road

The car journey takes 3 hours and twenty minutes because she lives in England which is annoying. Once we arrive and come in her house I go in her garden to get fresh air because I feel sick. Eventually I come back inside and chilled for the rest of the day.

Day 2

Wake up after a good nights sleep, and asked my mum if we're doing anything today and we're going swimming. So I had breakfast and got ready to go. Once we left the house and got there a lot of things were new. There are diving boards, slides and pools. After that we went home.

Day 3

Had croissants for breakfast, we went bowling. I came second, and we pottered around.

Day 4

I bought some things like Warhammer and pottered some more. Came home packed up, said goodbye and left to go home.

## ON OUR DOORSTEP

### *ARTICLES EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF OUR LOCAL AREA*

Last issue we explored the history our local play park, King George V park. We saw how it transformed from a small loch, to an area with mills around the loch in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, all the way to 1840s when the loch was drained and filled in and a train station built on the eastern portion of the reclaimed land. The western portion of that land lay empty until 1865, when John Cox, a local businessman man and philanthropist, opened "The Royal Patent Gymnasium", described as "The new and increasing wonder of Edinburgh". Cox had created it to be a place where the local people of Edinburgh could exercise and enjoy themselves, all for the cheap price of 6 pence.

Some of the attractions/exercise machines were truly incredible. There was "Chang-the Giant See Saw", which was a platform, 100 feet long, 7 feet wide and up to 50 feet above the ground, enclosed in wire mesh fences. This platform rocked back and forth, as up to 200 people ran back and forth the platform. Another attraction was "Velocipede Paddle Merry-go-Round", which seated 600 keen participants who would set the machine into motion by sitting on the edge and pushing with their feet against the ground.

The foremost attraction of the gymnasium though, was the Great Sea Serpent. This was essentially a very long rowing boat, bent into an "O" almost 500 feet round, held in place by wires connected to a central pole. It had room for up to 600 people to row, going round and round in a circle, going nowhere but hopefully getting fit.

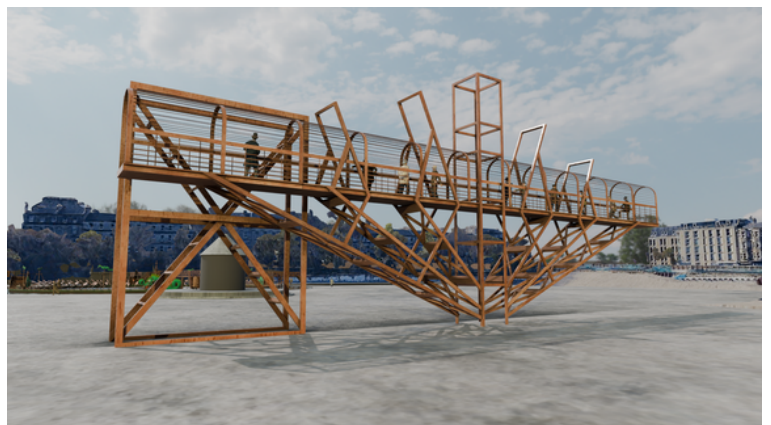
That age old enemy though, Edinburgh's unreliable weather, meant that this open air attraction struggled to attract enough regular custom to remain viable. In 1879 it was unfortunately closed for good.

A year after the closure, the St. Bernards football club took over the site as their home ground, creating a pitch and a small stand. They remained there until the first world war, during which time the Army used the area for army truck storage and maintenance. After the war, St. Bernards Club moved back in. Despite attracting some large attendances to the area, including 27,000 in 1932 to see St. Bernards beat Hibs 1-0, the club struggled financially. And as we recounted last issue, the park was created in 1950 as a memorial play park in honour of king George V, which it remains today.

In 2022 though, some remnants of the Royal Patent Gymnasium came to light again after 160 years, as workers clearing the ground of the old Royal Bank of Scotland building built next to King George V park uncovered some red brick remains of the "Great Sea Serpent" rowing pond. Those remains are now being built over again for the new Dundas St/Fettes Row development, due to open in 2028.



Only known photograph of the gymnasium, looking from Royal Crescent to Eyre Crescent.



Recreation of the Great Chang see saw. It can also be seen in the top right of the old photo above.

## *GLENOGLE COURT UPDATES*

### *THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!*

We'd love to have some contributions from the children and young people on our Estate. Send us your drawings, paintings, stories and articles and we'll try and include them whenever we can.

Also our residents and tenants, any comments or information you think others may find interesting – please let us have them.

### *A REMINDER ABOUT THE GCRA INVOICES AND THE AGM*

GCRA fees invoices will be sent out in October.

We have provisionally booked the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Club for the AGM this year, for the 17<sup>th</sup> of November.

### *COMING SOON!*

The Palm Houses in the Botanic Gardens will re-open in October after a lengthy and remarkable restoration project.

Building is underway on the huge Dundas Street/ Fettes Row development. This will provide residential housing, purpose- built student accommodation and commercial uses along with car and cycle parking.

Across Dundas Street demolition of the Centrum office block is underway and a new 7 storey, 143 bedroom Dakota hotel will be built.



Dundas St/Fettes Row Development



Site for new Dakota hotel

Let us have your comments, opinions and any ideas for future newsletters. Our contact details are below.

GCRA: [www.glenoglecourt.com](http://www.glenoglecourt.com)  
Secretary: [gcra@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gcra@hotmail.co.uk)

Up to date information about events, activities and city attractions can be found on the Edinburgh Council site.

Best of all, the monthly "Resident Rewards" scheme gives money off selected food and drink around the city, cheaper days out and exclusive events from city businesses. All you need to do is register giving your EH postcode.