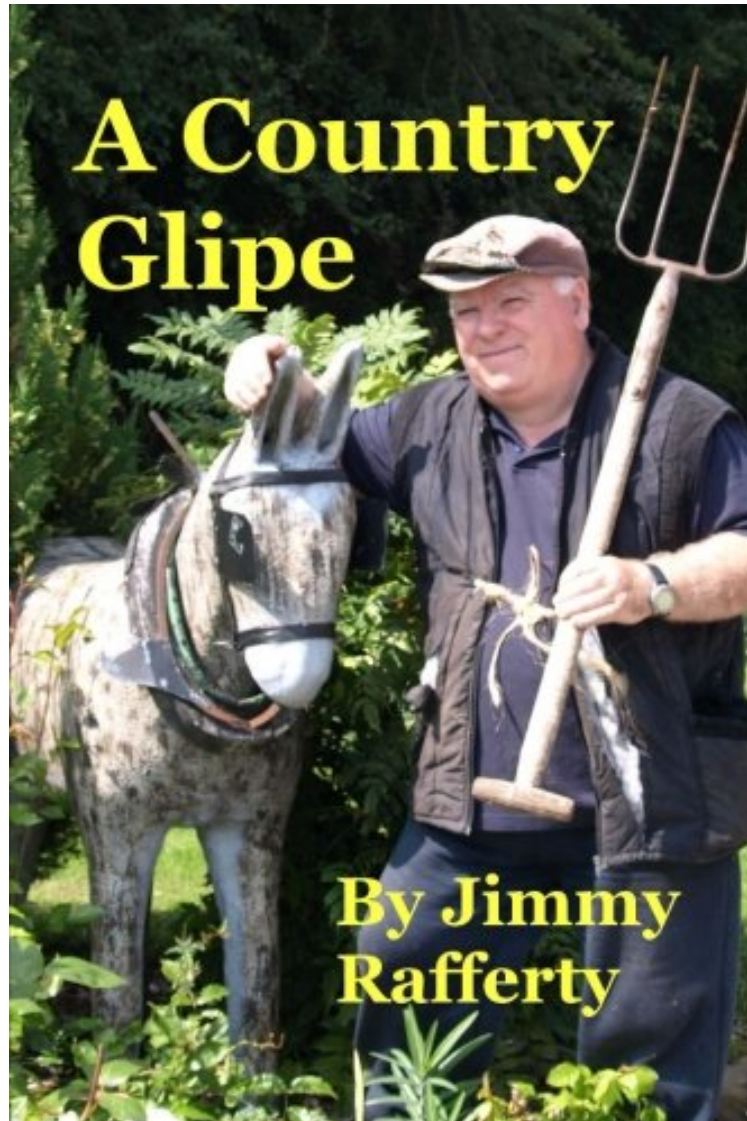


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## A Country Glipe

*Mr Jimmy Rafferty*

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**Mr Jimmy Rafferty : A Country Glipe** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Country Glipe:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I knew the town folks were bad...By Paul HoustonI was recommended this book by a local author by a friend. Jimmy obvioulsy has a poetic and a dry wit, and this book reflects on some of his stories, yarns and incidentals of his life. Just bring yourself to the Irish country life with this idiom of a ramble with the country glipe.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BrilliantBy BrianCGreat

book! Tells a great story of a world before health and safety and wrapping kids in bubble wrap before sending them to school in the back of a massive 4x4.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Country GlikeBy Joel BreslerThe first half of "A Country Glike" is like a postcard of pre-modern, agricultural Ireland with an animated picture. Jimmy Rafferty describes his childhood in a farming community with a fond nostalgia, even the bits that included landing in what was intended to be fertilizer. The writing is almost epistolary, and paints wonderful images of the people, life and community he grew up in.The second half of the book is devoted to the author's amusing poetry, conceived mostly for an annual, regional competition. It's not surprising he emerged the winner on more than one occasion. The poetry, too gives a view of the life in that part of the world, its stresses, preoccupations and, best of all, its humor.An enjoyable memoir from an author who clearly appreciates his roots.

Glike is an old Irish expression, meaning a yokel, hick, etc. This book is a series of hilarious tales of life on a small, and very backward, Irish farm in the 1950s, with no electricity, a leaky thatched roof, and a little shack out back that would freeze your assets quicker than the fraud squad if you sat too long on a winters night. Jimmy Rafferty is the four times winner of the prestigious Bard of Armagh contest for humorous verse, held annually in front of an audience of over a thousand. He is noted for such outrageously funny poems as Foreign Feedin (the effects of vindaloo on a mature Irish agricultural digestive system), HRT (a farmer accidentally getting in touch with his feminine side), The Cullybackey Cowboy (an Irish Country Western singer), and Her Majestys Pleasure, (the Queen explains that Royal life is not just a bowl of cherries). The words of all these, and many more hilarious poems, are also included in this book..

About the AuthorJimmy Rafferty was born in Armagh City in 1947, and brought up on a small farm nearby, exactly as described in this book. He worked as a hoer (hoeing the weeds, of course!) in the Ministry of Agriculture Research Station in Loughgall for several years, (where he met his future wife, Christina Hughes) before going to the West of Scotland Agricultural College in Ayr. He had jobs in Wales and Scotland before moving back to N.Ireland in 1976, to work in the Goodyear factory in Craigavon. When Goodyear closed down in 1983, Jimmy went back to school at Portadown Tech, and the Open University, to re-train as a computer programmer. He worked in Lurgan (Expert Information Systems) for seventeen years, programming car insurance, while teaching part time at the Tech in the evenings. When the firm closed in 2006, he worked as a programmer at Allstate N.I., in central Belfast, for seven years, before retiring, aged sixty-six, in 2013. Jimmy and Tina have three children Anne, born in Wales, Deirdre, born in Scotland, and Michael, born in N.Ireland - and they have ten grandchildren. He has always been a great reader, trying anything from Dennis Wheatley to Catherine Cookson, with a lot of science fiction, (Heinlein, Asimov, Doc Smith) westerns, (Lamour, Tuttle) crime thrillers (Deaver, Connolly, Patterson) and above all, comedy (Wodehouse, Pratchett, Sharpe) He tried his hand at writing funny poems for the Goodyear Union newsletter, and then more comedy while at Expert in Lurgan. He first took part in the Bard of Armagh contest in 2001, and has been there every year since, winning four times. This is a contest for humorous verse, held every year in Armagh City Hotel, in front of a audience of over a thousand people, with a tremendous atmosphere. Tickets are sold out every year, and would still be sold out if the hall was twice the size! It has become a major attraction in the city, drawing aspiring poets from as far afield as England, Australia, the USA, and Keady!