

strathard news

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Issue 86 October 2014

suggested donation **£1.00**



Sponsored by House Folk Festival

for the community by the community
Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar, Inversnaid

www.scottishmusicfestival.co.uk

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KIDS CINEMA

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THIS FESTIVE SEASON..

BOOKINGS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN



The 2014 House Folk Scottish Music Festival

5th to 7th November

The festival is now in its 7th year and takes place in two highly intimate historical venues over three nights in the wonderful setting of Kinlochard in the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. The concerts offer an expo of top musicians with bagpipe, accordion, strings, fiddle, vocals and flute music fusing traditional and contemporary Scottish styles. Each night differs from the other but include a blend of great music for everyone with a mix of folk, modern and traditional. Late night session in Ledard Farm Bothy after concert on the 7th!!

Eilidh Munro (www.eilidhmunroharpist.webs.com)

Blairhullichan House Wednesday 5th November

Eilidh is a highly talented young multi-instrumentalist from Glasgow. She sings in Gaelic, Scots and Irish, and plays the Highland bagpipes, the cello and the piano. Eilidh won the An Comunn Gaidhealach Gold Medal for Ladies Solo Singing at the Paisley National Mod in October 2013 at the age of 20, as the youngest competitor to reach the final. At this concert Eilidh will be playing Clarsach and singing in Scots & Gaelic.



Les Trois Blondes

(www.les-trois-blondes.co.uk)

Blairhullichan House Wednesday 5th November

Les Trois Blondes are Scotland's only Bal Musette band playing authentic Parisian cafe music. Formed in 2013, the trio feature John Burns (accordion), the current Musette Champion of Scotland; George Burns (accordion); and Fergus Wood (drums). Les Trois Blondes was created to mean either three beautiful blonde ladies or three lagers. They play the music of Edith Piaf, Maurice Chevalier, Django Reinhardt, Paul Trenet and many others as well as their own compositions.



Gary Anderson

(www.reverbnation.com/garyandersonmontrose)

MacGregor's Barn Thursday 6th November

Gary Anderson is a well known singer/songwriter on the Angus music circuit. Having grown up in Montrose he has played with various bands around the area since he was 16. He has gained a wealth of experience covering a wide range of instruments and genres during this time. His solo performances showcase his eclectic style of playing and singing - mixing his own original material which covers a wide range of subjects and inspirations, with a few folk, rock and country covers, all stripped down to great effect using only his voice and a guitar.

Rairen

MacGregor's Barn Thursday 6th November

Rairen are a folk trio new to Scotland's vibrant traditional music scene encompassing Robyn McKay on pipes and whistles, Andrew Herrington on guitar and Craig Baxter on Cajon. The band play an exciting mix of old and new tunes, composed by some of the band, as well as some of the best known names in traditional music.



Findlay Napier and Chris Sherburn

MacGregor's Barn Friday 7th November

Chris Sherburn is one of the best anglo – concertina players in the UK. He is renowned for his great playing and mighty craic! Chris has toured extensively with Denny Bartley and Bella Hardy releasing numerous albums. It is during a worldwide tour with Denny in their band "Last night's fun" that he met and forged a musical relationship with Findlay. Findlay is a Scottish singer, guitarist and songwriter based in Glasgow. After attaining his BA in Scottish Traditional Song he formed the folk band Back of the Moon which has performed all over the world and released three albums. They were awarded 'Best up and coming act' at the Trad music awards 2003 and 'Folk band of the year' in 2005. www.emergingmusic.co.uk

Gordon Walker entertainer & Bagpiping legend

MacGregor's Barn Friday 7th November

Gordon joined The British Army, enlisting into The Royal Highland Fusiliers and passed his Pipe Major's certificate with Distinguished Honours at Edinburgh Castle. Competitive successes have been plentiful for Gordon at fifteen he won his first professional contest and at 16 Gordon became the youngest winner of The Argyllshire Gathering Silver Medal for piobaireachd in 1985. Since then he has won every major solo piping award.



**For tickets and festival details visit
www.scottishmusicfestival.co.uk or phone 07742 621 907**

strathard news

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Deadline Dates 2014
Issue 87 16 November (xmas)
An email reminder is sent out one week prior to the deadline date. If you would like to be added to the list, please send your details to editor@strathardnews.com

Sponsorship
We are glad to report that we have confirmed sponsorship until the end of the year. The cost of sponsoring is £150, if you would like to sponsor us next year please get in touch soon. The Easter issue is always popular so to avoid disappointment book it now ! We publish six issues per year.

Advertising
When you place an advert with the Strathard News, we will continue to run it unless you stop or replace it. To place or cancel an advert, please contact Margaret Hill. To amend existing advert, please contact Clare Messer.

www.strathardnews.com
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local groups etc

abtrad
(traditional music group)
Cindy McLoughlin 07786 511 894
cindymcloughlin@yahoo.co.uk
Clare Messer 01877 382 795
clare@wendyhouse.uk.com

Book Club
James Kennedy 01877 387 201

Brownies
Jane Jackson
jane@jacko.org.uk
Jackie Bell

Community Choir
Jim Lightbody
aultwhur@hotmail.co.uk

Country Dancing
John Epps 01877 382 276

Dance Connection (ballet classes)
Carla Duggan 07815 146 462

Karate for all Ages
Julie Glen 01877 382 296
kiwinjules@hotmail.com

Lochside Yoga
Gillian 07738 225 996

Toddler Group
Cindy McLoughlin 07786 511 894
cindymcloughlin@yahoo.co.uk

useful numbers

NHS 24 111
Aberfoyle Fire Brigade 01877 382 969
Post Office 01877 382 231
Library Service 01786 237553

Health
Dentist (Callander) 01877 330703
Dentist (Drymen) 01360 661097
Doctors (Aberfoyle) 01877 382 421
Doctors (Buchlyvie) 01360 850 237

Schools
Aberfoyle School 01877 382 278
Gartmore School 01877 382 343
Port of Menteith School 01877 385 225
McLaren High School 01877 330 156

Vets
Callander 01877 381213
Doune 01786 841 304
Dunblane 01786 842 400
Killearn 01360 550 131

Travel
National Rail Enquiries 0845 748 4950
Stirling Bus Station 01786 446 474
Scotland Travel Line 0870 608 2608

Stirling Council
Wheelie Bins 08452 777 000
Sandbags & grit 01877 330 492

Floods & Environment
SEPA Emergency 0800 807 060
Floodline 0845 988 1188
Scottish Water Emergency 0845 600 8855
CCFAG 07580 601142

editorial

We would like to welcome Clare Messer and Margaret Hill to the team. Clare is taking on the role of Design and Layout for this issue and Margaret will deal with Invoicing and Adverts. Clare and Margaret have shown great enthusiasm and I'm sure they will add value to the team.

The committee would like to say a big thank you to Ian Marshall for his commitment to the news over the last 10 years. We wish him all the best in his well deserved retirement.

We're still looking for reporters so please get in touch if you would like to join the team.

Mairi

recycling balfron + callander

Monday - Friday 17:00 - 20:00
Saturday 10:00 - 14:00

bin collection

October
Grey: 7th & 21st
Brown: 14th & 28th

mobile bank RBS

stop	arrive	depart
Gartocharn	09:45	10:05
Aberfoyle	10:45	11:05
Buchlyvie	11:30	12:10
Balloch	12:30	12:50

cookroom news....

It's been another busy and rewarding summer for the cookroom as we've catered for weddings and parties, attended farmers markets and food festivals and met some interesting baking authorities including Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood when reaching the final of the "cakes v pies" competition at the Car Fest event for BBC Children in Need in Hampshire. Also we were thrilled to be awarded a further UK Great Taste Award in August, this one for our Shortbread. This is our eleventh Great Taste Award for our gluten free products.

Morag Philips
cookroom

insidehampshire.co.uk



Kinlochard Gala



The weather forecast was changing by the day and right up to the last minute it looked very changeable. We were in luck, however, and it stayed dry with a fair bit of sun and no midges! Just as well as there was a lot to be achieved all in one afternoon!

Before anything kicked off, the bakers had been busy entering the Kinlochard Bake Off, with judging taking place prior to the opening - great display and great tastes - well done Bakers.

The Grand Parade was led by the Pipe Band, Robert The Bruce and Queen Elizabeth De Burgh, the latter two opening the 2014 games and gala day. Thanks to a Community Pride Grant from Stirling Council, we were able to have a number of events and themes to commemorate Bannockburn 700 and celebrate the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Local Primary Schools had spent time making Medieval Battle Shields, all of which made a great backdrop to Bruce's Armoury Tent. Once there, you could not only examine genuine battle artefacts but also make your own medieval battle helmet in readiness for the quintain challenge and some jousting practice under Bruce's watchful eye. Medieval crafts and kids games and toys fascinated adults and kids alike across at Crafty Beggars encampment.

The central part of the arena time was taken up by the Kinlochard Athletics Commonwealth Games. The Grand Opening and Closing Ceremonies were wonderful colourful extravaganzas with flags from the 71 nations being borne round the arena led by the pipe band. The champion of champions in each age group were presented with Gold, Silver and Bronze medals by Vets KCG (Table Tennis) Gold Medalists, Bill McLean and Pat Duffin. There were record entries in most age groups and great thanks must go to the Commonwealth Games organisers who spent

a lot of preparation time making sure everything not only went smoothly on the day but also reflected the flavour of the real Athletics in Glasgow. Competing in heavy events at the far end of the arena was popular with young and old. The Mini Games culminating in an adult and a kids Tug O War. Thanks, as ever, to the very proficient Highland Dancers and to the stirring and melodious Pipe Band. Trossachs Search and Rescue did a great job with the rescue dogs and the kids all enjoyed their arena time. The Fire Brigade had a very busy afternoon and there were many Fireman Sam fans who went to bed very happy that night, having "driven" the engine and sounded the siren, thanks to the crew, you were great.

Thanks too to the inspiring young musicians from Feis Fhoirt. Their music during the afternoon was brilliant and made it a pleasure to be in the hall. Go Country brought canoes along so anybody could "have a go" and try out time on the Loch. They were well warned to avoid Ardie (young cousin to Nessie) who had been seen earlier in the afternoon. There were also steam boats making their way round the loch, along with the sailing club, an already great backdrop became a truely awe inspiring one. Forestry

Commission volunteers delighted the kids by showing them all the unexpected wee beasties to be found in the loch and surrounding areas. Intrepid Scotland also got the kids involved in craftsmanship - there was many a studied expression as wood was fashioned into various things with hand tools.

Burgers and tea tent baking were well up to standard as usual and a record number of ice creams were sold. All in all, a great family day. Thanks to all volunteers and to all who donated home baking, tombola or raffle prizes. Thanks to the weather we also managed to raise funds for the Hall.



Flooding

The session held in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall was very informative and highlighted the various measures that Stirling Council is currently considering. There was useful feedback from attendees, and an update is expected soon.

Road Closures

The following closure has been confirmed.

Manse Road Aberfoyle

Monday to Friday 20 to 24 October 2014

9am to 10.30am, 11am to 1pm, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Seniors' Annual Christmas Dinner

This popular event is expected to be held on Monday 8th December. Anyone in Strathard receiving a state pension can come, and couples are invited once one partner qualifies. It can be difficult to identify everybody eligible, so if you've not been invited before and think you should be on the list, do please contact Ros Dingwall in Aberfoyle PO (382231) as soon as possible. Donations to the evening's raffle are always gratefully received, and can be left at Aberfoyle Post Office or the garage shop.

Driving and parking on pavements

We have had complaints about cars and delivery vehicles both driving along the pavement and parking there, creating a hazard or difficulties for pedestrians, wheelchairs, and prams. Previous advice from the Police was that this is an offence which they view more seriously than parking on a double yellow line. Incidents can be reported to the Police or if appropriate companies whose vans or lorries cause such problems. If you are receiving deliveries please do warn drivers accordingly.

Community Information

- Our website is www.strathard.org.uk, and can be accessed in Aberfoyle Post Office.
- We send out e-mailings on matters of general community interest. You can sign up for these e-mailings by contacting us via the website.
- Information is also placed on our 4 community noticeboards.

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnaid Hotel. The next meetings will be held in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall on 2nd October (AGM) and hopefully in Inversnaid (venue tbc) on 6th November. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councillor (Martin Earl, Alycia Hayes or Fergus Wood) normally will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns. If you are planning to come to one of these surgeries we suggest you check noticeboards or our website in advance, since there are sometimes dates when Councillors cannot attend.

Community Councillors by Ward:

Aberfoyle

John Clow (chair)

Michelle Colquhoun

Ros Dingwall

Jimmy Quinn

Gerraint Short

1 x vacancy

Inversnaid

Andre Goulacourt

Kinlochard

Fiona McEwan (Chair)

Colin Smith (Treasurer)

Stuart Stephen

Stronachlachar

Ralph Wolfe

Contact:

01877 387 200 | cc@strathard.org.uk | www.strathard.org.uk

Ann McGuire MP



As I write this I am hoping that the people of Scotland have made the right decision by voting a resounding NO in the referendum and that voters in the Strathard area and across Stirling will have made a choice that we are indeed Better Together.

However, better and together are not words that the Scottish Government recognises, given the latest developments in Drymen and Killin medical practices; I am all too aware of the disruption to GP services that the removal of a pharmacy dispensing licence brings to surgeries in rural areas and I very much welcome the latest moves by the doctors at the Aberfoyle Medical Centre in making an application to retain a limited dispensing service for those patients living in the more remote rural areas, particularly those who are elderly or ill. Labour's Shadow Business Secretary, Chuka Umunna MP was delighted to hear of the work of the University when he and I took part recently in a lunch time discussion with senior staff and students at the University of Stirling, followed by a tour of the campus.

He also met with Council Leader, Johanna Boyd, prior to the meeting at the MacRobert Arts Centre where amongst other issues, we discussed our concerns with the increasing privatisation of postal services in the UK and the possible threat this poses to the future of the Universal Service Obligation (USO).

As you will be aware, many businesses and households across the UK, especially those in remote and isolated locations value and rely on the USO and I believe it is vital that the Government and industry regulator, Ofcom, safeguard this beyond 2015.

Chuka has written to Ofcom in his shadow ministerial capacity to press them on this matter and I hope Ofcom will respond positively. I also welcome the commitment that a future Labour Government would safeguard the USO beyond 2015, secure the future of the link between the Post Office network and Royal Mail and ensure an appropriate degree of control on the price of a stamp.

Many of you will know of someone who has taken part in what is referred to as the Ice Bucket challenge or like me have submitted yourself to the full force of a bucket of freezing water! Although these challenges are seen as amusing and a cause for great hilarity, I would like to underline the serious message behind the light-heartedness.

These challenges highlight cruel illnesses, like Motor Neurone Disease, which is devastating for both the person diagnosed and their family and friends. One young man that I know, Gordon Aikman, has been diagnosed with this disease and his campaign is highlighting the urgent need to do more to help those diagnosed with MND.

As ever, I can be contacted at the Parliamentary Advice Office, 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling, FK8 1UA. T: 01786 446515, F: 01786 446513, or by email at anne.mcguire.mp@parliament.uk or via my website www.annemcguiremp.org.uk or follow me on Twitter @Anne McGuireMP

Elected Councillors Ward 1 Trossachs & Teith



Councillor Martin Earl, Conservative.
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET,
tel - 01786 443497, mob - 07881 310 922,
e-mail earlm@stirling.gov.uk



Councillor Alycia Hayes, SNP
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET,
tel - 01786 443497, mob - 07881 310 924,
e-mail hayesa@stirling.gov.uk



Councillor Fergus Wood, SNP
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET,
tel - 01786 443497, mob - 07824 496 019,
e-mail woodf@stirling.gov.uk



Trossachs & Teith

Our team covers the communities of Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre, Callander, Gartmore, Killin, Kilmadock, Doune & Deanston, Port of Menteith, Strathard & Aberfoyle, Strathfillan & Crianlarich, Trossachs, Thornhill & Blairdrummond.

Your Priorities
anti-social behavior
road safety
theft
community policing

We are acting on these priorities to influence policing activity in your area.

Policing Team

Sgt Anne-Marie Carter & David Solair work from Callander Police Office. Adrian Robertson manages Community Policing & Events. Adrian is also based at Callander and covers your area as well as Forth & Endrick multi-member Ward.

Your team of Community officers provides 24 hour response and community policing. Whilst all work together as a team covering the whole ward area, the individual officers have a particular focus on particular community areas:

Aberfoyle

Constables Steven MacLean, Neil McLaren, Julie Todd, Alistair Mackay, & Martin Mooney

Callander

Constables Gemma Kane, Neil McLaren, Graham Rattray, Shonagh McKie, & Tracy Diamond

Doune / Deanston

Constables Donald King, Kenny Thompson, Robert Shearer, Alistair Mackay & Martin Mooney

Lochearnhead

Constable Will Diamond

Killin

Constables Iona Frickleton & Andrew Fleming

Crianlarich

Constable Craig Murr

email

TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.police.uk

Police Scotland

**CALL YOUR
LOCAL
POLICE** **101**

IN AN
EMERGENCY
ALWAYS
CALL 999

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

The Registrar

It is many months since I have written anything for the Strathard News and may I please offer my sincere apologies for that. As some will know, I was unable to continue with my duties for a rather extended period of time, following an injury. I was very lucky to be overwhelmed by kindness and practical help from so many people. Thank you all and it's good to be back!

There have been quite a few babies registered at the Aberfoyle Office. April saw, first, Kinlochard parents Helen and James welcomed their new little daughter, Raana Patricia Johnston and, again a baby girl, Isabella Fisher-Wingate for James and Wendy from Aberfoyle. In July, Danny James Owen Mulgrew was born to the delight of parents Jenny and John; while I was back in the office in time to congratulate, all from Aberfoyle, first Ian and Jolanda upon the birth of their baby daughter Isla Theodora Mary McNeil; and then Alan and Rosa who also had a baby girl, Christie Jane More. A huge big 'welcome babies'!

Not all events have been happy in these months. We were a community rocked at the loss of Fiona Campbell, a wonderful, vibrant woman who left her son, family and so many of us bereft. It was of great comfort to me to find that so many people remembered and were saddened by the death of my beloved sister, Lyn Johnston. Our thoughts turned to Jimmy Quinn and his family, following the loss of his dear wife Helen; and also to the Manders family in Kinlochard who lost their father and grandfather, George. Families and a whole village bereft, as first we heard of the loss of Alan Scott, beloved son, brother, grandson and uncle; and then of Jimmy Wallace, who will be missed by his wife Ann, his family and by so many of us. Our thoughts and condolences are with everyone for their loss.

The sunshine has done a lot to bolster spirits. The Parish Churches have been kept busy,

as has St Mary's, and among these celebrations was the wedding of local couple, Anne Stuart and Peter Clayton, who were married in Aberfoyle. Kinlochard Village Hall's beautiful setting was chosen by several couples for their ceremony, and it was here that the wedding of Craig Bunyan and Catherine Cairns from Aberfoyle took place; while Alistair Black and Claire Smith chose to overlook the loch at Forest Hills for their wedding day. It seems that there have been very few weeks where couples were not taking advantage of Altskeith Country House's gorgeous outlook and it wasn't only many, many wedding ceremonies that were hosted there, as couple Ewan and Lyndsey Campbell opted to hold their son's naming ceremony there, too. Further along, in the woods, Duchray Castle have seen couples coming from as far away as Ontario to have their special day within the castle walls; while the Lake Hotel have also seen people come from far and near, including Port of Menteith couple Keith Burnett and Deborah Parker. They weren't the only couple from the Port to marry this summer, as Adam More wed Fiona Ion at his family home on Castle Rednock Farm. The village of Aberfoyle, too, has seen its fair share of weddings, with the Forth Inn hosting many a celebration and the Registry Office also providing a venue. Which brings us all the way up to the present time and place, where I have spent a happy morning officiating at the wedding of local couple Graham Flett and Jillian Stewart, who were married at the Registry Office in the company of their family. Warmest congratulations to all couples who have married in our area this summer.
Sharon Johnston

Aberfoyle Registration Office continues to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon. Appointments can be made by telephone [01877 382 986] or by email [regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk].

Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Monday	YOGA
Gillian	07738 225 366
Tuesday	Aberfoyle Fitness Circuits
Alison Woods	07548 677 540
	Dance Connection
Carla Duggan	07815 146 462
Wednesday	Toddlers
Cindy McLoughlin	07886 511 894
Thursday	Zanshin Kai Karate
Julie Glen	01877 382 296

The Sandy Stewart Memorial Committee for Cancer Research Scotland

The autumn fundraising will be a silent auction taking place on Friday, October 3rd in Port of Menteith village hall at 7.30 p.m. Entry is £3 and includes tea/coffee.

Articles for the sale can be handed in to Isobel McGuire, Dunbiggin, prior to the sale or from 3-4 pm on the day of the sale at the hall. No electrical goods or clothes, please. For more information contact: 01877 385253.



Aberfoyle Medical Centre

The community will have been wondering what has been happening regarding the dispensary. The Practice is still awaiting final confirmation from Forth Valley Health Board regarding the arrangements when the pharmacy opens. We would like to share with you a recent letter that we wrote to Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing. This can be found on our website www.aberfoyle-buchlyviesurgeries.co.uk.

This is to give you a clear idea that we are still fighting for the patient community.

Dear Mr Neil

We have listened with interest to the Scottish Government's stated commitment to support the NHS in Scotland. Much has been written about proposals to support Primary Care and in particular Primary Care in rural areas where maintaining robust medical services is crucial. The skills of a local doctor in managing an emergency can be the difference between life and death for a patient when secondary care services are many miles away. Patients cannot be looked after at home without good backup from their local practice.

The government acknowledges that the crisis in rural GP recruitment currently poses a threat to our vulnerable communities.

Following the granting of a pharmacy licence in Aberfoyle the local medical practice is facing huge challenges in planning how it can provide a sustainable, viable service to patients. In previous correspondence you have alluded to the support we can expect from our local Health Board in dealing with the crisis we face in. The Pharmacy will open on 10th October and as of today we have still had no decision from the Health Board as to the shape of future dispensing services in our area. The fallout from the loss of dispensing at Drymen Surgery speaks volumes as to the stress and disruption which has resulted from the opening of a pharmacy and the consequent loss of a longstanding, much respected GP.

We are seeking your support on two fronts. Our case was heard under previous regulations which are widely acknowledged to be prejudicial to the rights of dispensing practices. However, even with these challenging circumstances we still feel the decision to award the pharmacy contract was wrong and the case not proven. The majority decision reached by the PPC was unsafe and did not follow the regulatory process. Our appeal against the decision to award a pharmacy contract in Aberfoyle was submitted to Mr Michael Graham – interim chair of the NAP on the 2nd July 2014 (copy enclosed). This letter was drafted following a public meeting where patients urged us to seek answers to the questions which were posed. Two months later we have received a reply to our questions (copy enclosed).

We feel this response is totally inadequate and an insult to this community. It is outrageous that the concerns of remote and rural patients have been totally ignored. Mr Graham has failed to answer any of the questions in the letter and does not even afford us the courtesy of a personal reply. Given this response how can the Scottish Government provide reassurance to the people of Scotland that

FLU VACCINES FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS

This year all young children in Scotland aged 2-5 years (date of birth range 2/9/2008 to 01/09/2012) are being offered the flu vaccine. The flu vaccine will help protect your child against flu this winter. This is a painless form of vaccine given by a nasal (nose) spray. Please contact the Aberfoyle Medical Centre on 01877 382421 to find out when the clinics are being held for pre-school children. If you have a child at primary school they will also be offered the nasal spray vaccine and you will receive information about this through the school.

their opinion matters and that their views on decisions which will affect their health are taken seriously ? The public consultation process, in the words of one of the patients, seems like "a total whitewash" We are encouraged to believe that the future of our NHS will be safer in an independent Scotland. How can we in Aberfoyle believe this? The patients in this area have certainly not been heard. Patients in this area are classified demographically as category 8, ie they are considered as among the most remote communities in Scotland. In an attempt to at least retain dispensing services for the most vulnerable communities in the area ie Inversnaid, Stronachlacher and Kinlochard, we have submitted an application to Forth Valley Health Board. They have the regulatory powers to allow dispensing to continue under specific circumstances. With reference to these regulations, the Board is currently debating whether patients in Inversnaid , Kinlochard and Stronachlacher fulfill the criteria of "serious difficulty " in accessing a pharmacy by virtue of distance, communication or other exceptional circumstances.

Let me explain why we think these patients should retain their dispensing services. There is no scheduled bus service to these villages. There is no mobile phone coverage. Travel to a pharmacy would necessitate a round trip of 30 miles ---much of it on single track roads which can be virtually impassable in winter. The Health Board has the regulatory powers to allow the practice to continue to dispense to these patients allowing for a course of medicine to be delivered at the same time as a house call. How can the Health Board possibly decide against this proposal? If the Health Board's decision is no, can any right minded government sit back and allow this travesty to happen? These patients are very few in number. Can you assure us that their needs do matter? What possible reason can be proffered for denying this request. A couple of hundred patients will make no difference to the viability of a Pharmacy. Importantly, when has it been the duty of the NHS to support a commercial pharmacy when doing so will have a negative impact on NHS medical services and good patient care? By introducing new regulations you have attempted to protect rural dispensing practices in the future. However, in Aberfoyle, we are dealing with a crisis now.

This stems from regulations amended by the Scottish Government in 2011 which were not fit for purpose. We can assure you that we are not going away and that we will continue to fight alongside our local community for the support we and they deserve.

Flu Immunisation Dates

If you are over 65

Pregnant

Unpaid carer

On immunosuppression treatment

Or have one of the following:

Chronic respiratory disease

Chronic heart disease

Chronic kidney disease

Diabetes

You are entitled to a free flu vaccination come along to one of the following clinics.

Aberfoyle

Thursday 2nd October 1pm-2.30pm

Thursday 16th October 1pm-2.30pm

Buchlyvie

Tuesday 7th October 2pm-3.30pm

Tuesday 21st October 2pm-3.30pm

Medical Centre Opening Hours

ABERFOYLE - 01877 382421

Monday	8.20am-10.15am 4pm-5.30pm	By Appointment By Appointment
Tuesday	7.30am-8.00am 8.15am-11am 2.00pm-3.00pm	By Appointment (Alt Tuesdays) By Appointment By Appointment
Wed	8.20am-10.15am 3.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment By Appointment
Thursday	7.30am-8.00am 8.15am-11.00am	By Appointment By Appointment
Friday	8.15am-11.00am 2.00pm-3.00pm	By Appointment By Appointment

BUCHLYVIE - 01360 850237

Monday	07.30am-08.00am 8.15am-9.30am 2.00pm-3.00pm	By Appointment (Alt. Mondays) Open Surgery Minor ops
Tuesday	10.30am-11.30am 4.00pm-5.30pm	Open Surgery By Appointment
Wed	8.15am-9.30am 2.30pm-3.30pm	Open Surgery Minor ops/Well Woman
Thursday	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
Friday	10.30am-11.30am 3.00pm-5.00pm	Open Surgery By Appointment

Remember you can book appointments on line.

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Simon says.....

Aloe Vera is a popular houseplant and it also contains a healthy secret to its leaves. It looks like a cactus, but is actually a succulent member of the tree lily family, Aloe barbadensis.

The plants have whorls of thick fleshy stems, usually with a toothed margin. A tall flower spike bearing trumpet-shaped yellow or red flower appears in the summer. There are more than 300 varieties of aloe vera and, although the plant is native to the hot and dry climates of South Africa, some types will grow happily in a pot on a sunny windowsill in the UK. As a houseplant, aloe vera needs regular watering and an occasional feed with an all-purpose organic fertiliser.



It is only relatively recently that aloe vera has been rediscovered for its healing qualities (as it can be traced back to Egyptian times when drawings of the plants have been inscribed on the tombs of the pharaohs), and it is now highly valued for its cool, soothing gel found in its leaves, which is used mostly to treat burns and minor wounds by putting a protective coating on the affected area which speeds up the rate of healing. It has also been used with some success in treating psoriasis and is a popular after sun soother.

The juice is extracted from the base of the leaf & can be taken internally to help inflammatory digestive disorders, including ulcers and indigestion. It is more palatable if it is mixed with apple juice or water. Aloe vera can also be used to soothe burns or minor skin ailments.

Watchpoints

Aloe vera gel is also very safe in gel form, but as with all herbal products, before using, test a small area of skin for allergic reaction. If it stings or you come up in a rash, the gel is best avoided.

The juice is also a strong purgative and should be avoided if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

Simon Robinson is the main qualified working partner at Natures Corner, 2a Cross St, Callander. Open 7 days (Sundays 12noon-4pm) Tel/Fax:- 01877 330200 E-mail:- health@natures-corner.com Shop on-line:- www.natures-corner.com



Walk in the Park offers Health Walks in and around the town which are led by trained volunteer walk leaders and are on flat paths and good walking surfaces. Walks take place on a Monday morning, meeting at 10.20am at the Scottish Wool Centre Car Park. All of our sessions and walks are free of charge although walkers pay for their own refreshments at the Forth Inn or the Lodge Forest Visitor Centre. Walks last from 30 -45 minutes. However not everyone is able to walk this distance.

Have you experienced a fall recently or have you had a time of illness or inactivity? Do you want to feel more confident about walking and build up gradually?

Walk in the Park also provide a simple exercise session on Mondays from 12.30 -1pm in the Forth Inn. The aim of this session is to support people to feel confident with their mobility and reduce the risk of falls.

In these sessions there is the opportunity to participate in an exercise session which involves leg strengthening work and balance training. The exercises are simple and done either seated or standing behind a chair and using the chair for support. They include simple leg lifts and knee bends and are designed with older people in mind but are suitable and benefit all age groups. (It is always good to check with your G.P. if you have a health condition before taking part in these sessions)

Trained walk leaders from Walk in the Park offer short assisted walks 10 -15 minutes called Step in the Right Direction at the end of the exercise sessions if required.

So if you have had a fall or have been inactive for a while and would like to get walking again, Walk in the Park would like to help you to get your confidence back. Please read the story below of one of many walkers who have found the walks and exercises helpful and get in touch if you think we can help you.

Margaret's Story

Last December I had a stroke. One of my friends in Aberfoyle told me about the walking group and determined to get walking better again I decided to try it. My daughter came with me at first to give me a bit of confidence. I found everyone really friendly and always someone to walk with you and a nice friendly cuppa and chat after the walk. There are also exercises for Strength and Balance after the cuppa which have helped me a great deal as my balance and strength was poor. Also I stay outside the village and cannot drive yet so a walk leader has been very kind to give me a lift into Aberfoyle. I appreciate Walk in the Park very much as the walks and exercise session has helped me improve my walking, strength and balance an awful lot. I would recommend it to anyone to give it a try.

If you have any questions regarding joining any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Project Coordinator- Cathy Scott on 01877 330055 or email: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org

■	Walk in the Park
■	Health Walk Schedule
■	October – November 2014
■	Walks take place on Monday morning. Meeting at 10.20am
6/10/14	Wool Centre Car Park NCR7 to Rob Roy
13/10/14	Wool Centre Car Park (car share) The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre Waterfall Trail or Green Trail
20/10/14	Wool Centre Car Park (car share) Gartmore House
27/10/14	Wool Centre Car Park (car share) NCR 7 Rob Roy Motel to Gartmore
3/11/14	Wool Centre Car Park (car share) Milton Car Park to Lochan Spling
10/11/14	Wool Centre Car Park NCR 7 To Rob Roy
17/11/14	Wool Centre Car Park (car share) The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre Waterfall Trail or Green Trail
24/11/14	Wool Centre Car Park (car share) Loch Ruskie



TACT

Following the building upgrading works and a busy summer, we will be getting renovations underway again shortly. Next on the list is the fore-court area, and we are also working on the plans for the shop re-fit.

If you are in the garage do help us by picking up a questionnaire and telling us what else you would like us to stock – we are particularly interested in goods and services that you cannot obtain elsewhere in the local area when you need them.

Pump prices reflect the cost of each weekly fuel delivery, and are at a fair price which continues to equal or beat many other filling stations in the rural Stirling area. Every local customer who buys fuel contributes to keeping our local supply, so our thanks to those who help in this way.

Opening hours remain as:

Weekdays: 7am to 7pm

Saturday: 8am to 7pm

Sunday: 8.30 to 7pm



It was a great start to abtrad.....

thanks Cindy McLoughlin for being the happy hostess for the first meeting and thanks to everyone who attended and played their instruments with such skill and dexterity ! This week was very much about finding out what people do and what they can play, we will move forward and play some more exciting stuff....though twinkle, twinkle does have its merits !!!

Next time we will have to charge £1.00 per family to cover costs of using the hall....please come back and tell your friends to join us - any age, any level.

Please contact:

Cindy McLoughlin: 07786 511 894 or

Clare Messer: 07931 324802



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Scottish Wildlife Trust

The Tayside Beaver Group Project Officer, Helen Dickinson, got our season off to an excellent start. Unrelated to the controlled introduction of Norwegian beavers in the Knapdale trial, these Bavarian beavers escaped/were released from private collections.

Beaver facts: Eurasians, smaller than the N American species, weigh 20kg on average, are up to 1m long, are the world's second largest rodent and semi-aquatic, active at dawn and dusk. Their dense pelt has soft hair for insulation and outer guard hair for waterproofing, enhanced by grooming with castoreum oil. They are herbivorous, eating grasses, roots, aquatic plants and bark/shrubs. They do not hibernate but build underwater food caches for winter. Eurasians build fewer dams, as most watercourses are deep enough, often living in burrows in riverbanks with territories up to 3km. Living for 8-10 years, they give birth in April/May to 2 kits on average that stay in the family group until yearlings.

The Tayside Beaver Project: in 2006 the Scottish Government set up the TSBG consortium, led by SNH, to monitor their health and impact and to resolve conflicts.

(www.taysidebeaverstudygroup.org.uk)

A 2012 survey showed the main populations along the rivers Earn & Isla and their catchments with fewer in the Tay & Tummel. 22 beavers have been trapped (then released) for health and genetic screening showing all are Bavarian and healthy with no non-native parasites or diseases that could be passed to other species. Monitoring of 40 lodges suggests a total population of 150-200.

The conflicts: river dams could be a barrier to salmonid migration and lead to silting of spawning beds but higher water levels offer beneficial over-wintering sites. Dams in agricultural drainage channels can lead to problems if they raise the water table. Where some water level increase can be tolerated, drainage pipes in the dam can control flow and grids can protect road culverts. Trees can be protected by simple chicken wire or a special paint but barriers around some agricultural crops may also be needed. An advisory service is available to landowners, along with a website and demonstration sites for mitigation measures. Decision time: Beavers became extinct in Britain by the 16th century due to hunting for pelts, meat and castoreum oil, used as a medical cure-all and perfume base. Is there a moral obligation to reinstate them or is there no longer room for them in densely populated and agricultural areas?

Results from TSBG and the Knapdale trial will be submitted to the Scottish Minister for the Environment in early 2015. Possible decisions include their removal, retaining the current situation, management plans or further licensed reintroductions for genetic diversity. Or will the beavers have their own ideas?

Lesley Hawkins

Féis Fhoirt

All over Scotland local branches of Féisean nan Gàidheal run weekends of workshops for children from 8 – 18 where they can learn about their musical culture, learn to play traditional instruments and experience the joy of making music with other people.

Féis Fhoirt is holding another weekend of workshops for adults in Callander in October, following the success of the events held in the past two years. The two venues used are Callander Primary School and the Bridgend Youth Hub (just across the road). If you have ever fancied having a go at playing an instrument but didn't have either an instrument or the confidence, this could be your big opportunity. Similarly, if you played many years ago and would like to get back into it, now is your chance.

Accordions, clarsachs and bodhrans will be available for complete beginner classes. All other participants require their own instrument. Tuition is given in an informal, non-judgemental and encouraging atmosphere by experienced tutors.

Classes are offered in a wide variety of instruments and at several levels of competence, from complete beginners to advanced: Accordion, Bodhran, Clarsach, Fiddle, Flute, Gaelic Song, Guitar, Harmonica, Step Dance and Whistle. You will also have an opportunity to be part of a band and help to arrange the music. Everyone is welcome.

Cost is £85 for the weekend and this includes Saturday night activities (Tutor Concert and Led Sessions). Excellent food can be purchased at the Hub Cafe. Hostel accommodation is available on-site at the Hub at £18 pp/pn. For bookings contact the Bridgend Youth Hub, 01877 330141.

Please book your place using the online booking system at www.feisfhoirt.org.uk

National Park News



The season is all but over and considering the generally good weather the reported incidents of anti-social behaviour have been relatively low. However that does not mean that there is not a problem or that we can drop our guard. For some time now the Park Authority has been working with our partner agencies in the Park to see how best to protect our communities and our Park environment when subjected to anti-social activity. The aim is to introduce an East Loch Lomond style visitor management plan to other areas of the Park including Strathard. It is hoped that proposals, which were still being worked on with our partners as I write this, will be ready for consideration by the Park Board at their meeting on 6th October. If all goes to plan the proposals will be launched for consultation on 13th October. There will be a two pronged approach to the consultation in that management plans which will designate areas where camping etc will be restricted will be subject to a statutory three month consultation period. At the same time the Park Authority will be inviting landowners to offer land to provide camping facilities. We will also be asking, individuals, community groups and social enterprises to let us know whether they would be interested in leases or managing any camping facilities that may be provided on publicly owned land.

I know that consultation fatigue is always a danger but please remember that this is your Park and that everything is being done to ensure that the Park continues to be a very special place for residents and visitors. So please make sure you study the proposals and comment on them.

Details of the proposals will be sent to every community council within the Park and will also be online from 13th October at www.thisisyourspark.org.uk.

I am pleased to say that the scenic routes viewpoints at Loch Lubnaig, Glen Falloch and Balquhidder Glen are all proving very popular. Another success has been the Glen Dochart Waders project which over a three year period has seen an increase of 95% of breeding pairs in the area. This achievement has merited a nomination for the RSPB Nature of Scotland Award. Fingers crossed. Although a formal survey is not due until next year the Callander Black Grouse project seems to be heading for success in that landowners are reporting sightings of increased numbers of birds.

Owen McKee

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post : Taigh Na Bhuth, Locearnhead.

Phone: 01567 830214

email: owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Aberfoyle War Memorial Exhibition & Afternoon Tea

On Saturday 30th August we held the War Memorial Exhibition and Afternoon tea to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Arthur Jones piped opened the event and continued to play throughout the afternoon. The Committee and all involved were delighted with the success of the afternoon and the many appreciative comments of those that came along.

We would like to give a special thanks to all who contributed their precious memorabilia and stories to the exhibition, and also to the six local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes of Afternoon Teas. Cat Gow put together a WW1 and WW2 Quiz which participants had fun with, testing their knowledge and finding out more.

The winner of the final prize draw of correct entries is Ann Harvey. She received £40 with an equal amount going to the Hall funds.

We raised a total of £708 on the day, £200 of which was raised by the Aberfoyle Primary School Parent Council for their funds with their traditional games and activities outside. We would like to thank Mo Crawford for researching and putting together a presentation for the exhibition, as much as she could about all those listed on the Memorial Hall plaque.

We would appreciate any further information that anyone might have on any of these men. We are also looking for any information/photos/articles people might have on the opening and early days of the Memorial Hall itself.

Please contact:

Trish Roberts

01877 382705

aberfoylememorialhall@hotmail.co.uk



Green Routes

When we work with our students, we encourage them to care for plants as well as possible. We are completely organic in outlook, so it is a challenge to produce fruit and vegetables of quality, but our efforts have been recognised two times this summer! Firstly, we entered exhibits at the annual Kippen Show at the invitation of one of our tutors, Anne Shore. This show recognises and welcomes outside contributors, setting aside a large table of categories, and we were delighted that several of our entries were Awarded.

We are now delighted to be welcoming back school pupils with additional support needs from almost all the Stirling high schools. Each day they work on gardening, woodwork and social skills and as confidence grows, become able to tackle tasks more independently. Some of the pupils from last year will return to us as students, and this is very satisfying as we can work towards recognised vocational qualifications and personal goals, all towards leading a more independent lifestyle. They join our regular students, and mean that once again, Green Routes is busy each day.

Our volunteers are a very valuable part of Green Routes. Each gives of their time and skills and makes a huge difference to the support and encouragement of our young adults. Do get in touch if you would like to join us...look on our website for lots more news and information about Green Routes!

Then we entered all we could at the annual Gartmore Horticultural Show and to our huge delight we won the cup for the most points in the vegetable section....a prestigious award! This was wonderful for our students and recognition of the value of the daily watering regime!



The Gardenin autumn

Dew on the grass and a chill in the air in the mornings, Chestnut trees turning to reds and yellows and birches dropping their leaves; autumn is with us. But before you forget about the garden for the year and think it's time to put your feet up there is still plenty to do before the winter arrives. For starters enjoy the autumn colours and if you don't already have plants in your own garden that provide them, earmark a few spots where you could plant a Euonymus alatus, Rhus (Sumach), Cercidiphyllum (Katsura) or Acer.

Firstly the lawn.

Autumn is the best time to give your lawn some proper attention while it still has time to recover from what can look like fairly brutal treatment! If moss is a problem use a moss killer such as lawn sand as soon as you can. When the moss has died in a week or two, give the lawn a good raking over, or for larger areas use a scarifier, to remove the dead moss and the thatch that's built up over the year; scarifying in two directions gives the best result. If you haven't done this for a couple of years or more don't be surprised by the mountain of debris you take off. Then give it an Autumn Feed, formulated to toughen it up, not produce lush top growth. Lawns that suffer from poor drainage and/or a lot of moss

will also benefit from aeration. On a small scale inserting the prongs of a garden fork 4" into the lawn at 6" intervals will do the job, on a larger scale you'll need to hire an aerating machine. After aeration brush sharp sand across the lawn so that it fills the aeration holes. Throughout the autumn keep the lawn rake handy to clear the leaves so that lawn diseases don't get the chance to build up. Make leaf compost for a great mulch for the following year. Then raise the cutting height of your mower and give the grass a final trim.

In the borders it's time for a bit of organization; plan for next year and remove any unwanted/over-mature plants and relocate as needed, cut back perennials that have finished their displays – not the Sedums or Schizostylis or other autumn flowerers – split perennials if needed and allocate places for new plants. This is the best time to be planting while there is still some warmth in the soil.

If you've a new hedge you want to put in, or space for more trees, put in your order for bare root plants at the garden centre. With tall growing Buddleias and shrub and floribunda roses, prune the lanky stems to reduce the effect of wind-rock. When the tidying is finished spread a 2-3"layer of bark mulch over the beds.

In the vegetable garden, lift all your root vegetables then dig over the empty beds and apply lime or manure as necessary. Don't waste your energy reducing the soil to a tilth but let the worms and the frost do that for you. Garlic that needs the cold of winter and onions for an early crop should be planted now but make sure they are in well drained soil or add sharp sand or grit.

When the weather is against you there's plenty to keep you occupied in the greenhouse too, such as cleaning it thoroughly before sowing sweet peas for an earlier flower display, and sowing broad beans. For a good display of flowering bulbs in pots, plant up at intervals to have a staggered display.

Other jobs to do:

For a bit of winter colour, replant your hanging baskets and containers with winter pansies, winter-flowering heathers, spring bulbs and trailing ivies.

Finish planting out spring-flowering bulbs. Lift, dry and store Dahlia and Gladioli corms. Dry off tuberous Begonias

Take hardwood cuttings of the appropriate shrubs.

If you have containers planted up with perennials feed now with sulphate of potash to toughen them up ahead of the winter.

The hedgehogs will be looking for a bed for the winter; a box full of straw seems to suit them. Bird feeders; if you haven't been feeding over the summer, get out the feeders now and top up with bird nuts or seed.

Benview Garden Centre,
Ward Toll, Balfour Station G63 0QZ
Tel: 01360 850525
www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk
info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk
Opening hours: Mon – Sat: 9.00-5.00 Sunday: 10.00-5.00



Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Parish Church

Rev. Terry Taylor

I don't watch too much television, but I do like cookery programmes. Watching Jamie Oliver just this week I smiled when he finished the dish he was making, raised his hands in the air and looked up, a real look of gratitude on his face, for the delicious looking dish he had just produced.

It got me thinking about gratitude, how often we hear the phrases 'thank God!', 'thank goodness!' or even that big PHEW! Indicating a sense of relief that something has worked out for the best; a good result from hospital tests; the birth of a new baby; a parking space, fill in the blank.....Who are we thanking when we say 'thank goodness'? Is it fate, and when we say thank God do we really mean it? And are our expressions of gratitude intended for the ears of God or are they just phrases we use to express relief at things going well? As we approach the celebration of Harvest our focus is on the goodness and faithfulness of God for providing such bountiful harvest. It is a good thing to give thanks, as we do we are reminded that God has provided for us as a mark of God's faithfulness.

The difference in directing our gratitude to God is that we can continue to depend on God's faithfulness in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, trusting that his purpose for us is good.

In the midst of thanksgiving there is a question lurking, what of those who have not had a good harvest, who are depending on food banks, who are struggling to clothe their children, take them on holiday or give them the treats that so many take for granted. There is a wonderful illustration of God's principle for provision for the poor found in the Old Testament book of Ruth.

It is God's law concerning the gathering of the harvest, its origin is in the book of Deuteronomy.

"When you harvest your grain and forget a sheaf back in the field, don't go back and get it; leave it for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow so that GOD, your God, will bless you in all your work. When you shake the olives off your trees, don't go back over the branches and strip them bare—what's left is for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. And when you cut the grapes in your vineyard, don't take every last grape—leave a few for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow." (Deuteronomy 24.19-22)

This word from God challenges the attitude that everything that we have is for our own use – we are to be aware of the poor in our midst, and share what we have with them.

Diary Dates

Harvest

Aberfoyle: 5th October 11.15am

Port of Menteith: 26th October 10.00am

Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Guild

The Guild meet on the third Monday of each month in Church House, Aberfoyle at 14:00 from September until March. The Guild is open to both men and women and new members will be made most welcome, so do come along.

The first meeting of the new session was on Monday, 15 September when the speaker was Rev. Terry Taylor. Dedication and Communion was celebrated by a good attendance of members. The next meeting is on Monday, 20 October when the speaker is Brian Graham who will be speaking on Julius Project which we are supporting this year. There will be visitors from other local Guilds at this meeting and new members will be made welcome. On 17 November the speakers will be Kevin and Linda Clarke giving us an account of one of their recent journeys. Contact:

Anne Ralston - President / Secretary

01887 382 847

Isabel Piper - Treasurer

01877 382 667

St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

Richard Grosse, Rector

When Sir Edward Grey stared out of his office window in London on the day before war was declared he recalled 'It was getting dusk, and the lamps were being lit in the space below on which we were looking. I remarked on this with the words: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life-time'. Grey's words proved no exaggeration. In that time, millions of lives would be lost and much of the fabric of society change beyond recognition. On Tuesday 04 August 1914 war was declared. In Britain the news was at first greeted with enthusiasm and expected that the war would be won by Christmas and so a great rush to enlist ensued. As the first winter approached the opposing forces dug into trenches on the Western Front. The remainder of the war was largely to be fought from these trenches at a horrifying cost of life. On the 1st July 1916 the first Battle of the Somme commenced. By the end of the day 21,000 allied soldiers alone had died for the gain of only yards of territory. This war though touched everybody. Enemy submarines menaced merchant shipping carrying goods from abroad and consequently nationwide food rationing was imposed. In December 1914 the east coast towns of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby were shelled with loss of life. Zeppelins and then aircraft rained terror from above. By 1916 however the insatiable demand for men meant that universal conscription of men under 40 was introduced. Women took the place of recruited men in factories, farms and on buses and trains. Later they were permitted to fill non-combatant roles in the Armed Services.

What was the role of the Church? The Church Army was notably effective in providing canteens and hospitals at the Front.

In the early days of the war, Bishops were part of the recruiting process. Clergy followed this lead encouraging members of the parish to volunteer. Some clergy themselves sought commissions as Army Chaplains. Most were to serve on the Western Front. One notable chaplain Philip 'Tubby' Clayton set up a club in Belgium to help soldiers: it was known as Toc H and it survived beyond the war.

The Revd Theodore Bayley Hardy was decorated with the VC by the King for rescuing thirty injured men from no-mans land. Those priests who remained in parishes did not escape hardship; they faced the task of ministering to the families of those killed or wounded. Often the priest would have cause to regret his earlier encouragement of sacrifice.

Some Christians refused to be conscripted in deference to the command 'thou shalt not kill'. Some became medical orderlies. Others with absolute conviction chose to be imprisoned for their conscience a fate probably worse than service at the Front itself. As the war eventually dragged to its end in November 1918, the church made a significant contribution to the process of remembering the dead. It was an Army Chaplain David Railton who proposed the idea of a tomb to the unknown warrior who in 1920 was interred in Westminster Abbey. That though is another story that will merit in four years a further time of Remembrance. 'Blessed are the peacemakers' said Christ 'for they will be called Children of God'. This is a high calling that often ends in failure. May God grant that we, having noted the lessons of the past may in our day do the best we might for the future.

Loch Ard Local History Group



Autumn 2014

Wednesday October 1st

Dave Harvey "War Secrets"

From incontinent seagulls to luminous Sea Lions.

In the aftermath of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania in

1915 by a German U-boat a desperate Admiralty devised some bizarre top secret plans including a dead-of-night collaboration with Hengler's Circus in Glasgow.

Wednesday November 5th

Mark Nixon "The Franchise Reform Movement of 1884"

Perhaps the largest series of demonstrations in British political history, meetings were held all over the UK, even Port of Menteith, Gartmore & Callander.

Wednesday December 3rd

A.G.M. "Members Houses"

Several members each give a short presentation on the house they live in: history, architecture, previous occupants, whatever may be of interest.

Meetings 7.30pm Kinlochard Village Hall

Annual Membership £10 Single Talk £3

Chairman James Kennedy Secretary Alan Cooper
01877 387270 cooper645@btinternet.com

Thank you

The family of the late Jim McGuire would like to thank all those who sent cards, flowers, messages of comfort and to all those who attended his funeral. For the thoughtful organisation of the funeral, Archibald Billet is to be thanked.

Most appreciated was the comforting pastoral care and support given by the Reverend Terry Taylor and for the moving service she conducted and also to Carol Mills, Organist. Throughout Jim's illness the family is most grateful to all his relatives and friends who helped where they could, to all at the Aberfoyle Medical Centre, to Crossroads, Alzheimers Scotland, Town Break, Stirling and Social Services, to the staff of Ashview, Callander and Forthbank, Stirling who all shared in the looking after of Jim with such loving care.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

The St Petersburg Voskresenije Choir



Russian Classic & Folk Music

9 Professionally trained Singers

13th November at 7.30 pm

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concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk

www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk

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The Lodge gets five-star boost!

Almost a year to the day since it reopened following a £2.4 million refurbishment by Forestry Commission Scotland, The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre at Aberfoyle has been awarded five-star status as part of VisitScotland's Quality Assurance scheme. VisitScotland's five star rating is in recognition of the exceptional standard of visitor experience offered at the centre, placing it on a par with some of Scotland's most renowned international attractions including the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and the Glasgow Science Centre.



Mairi Buchanan of Forestry Commission Scotland said:

"This is excellent news and a brilliant accolade to everyone involved in our project to modernise and upgrade the centre and the surrounding grounds. We set out from the start to produce a top class destination that would be able to hold its own in a very competitive market and The Lodge is now the focal point for tourists and visitors looking to explore Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and the wider area. Getting this five star accreditation so quickly since our reopening is a mark of how much we've achieved, and with just over 150 5-star attractions across Scotland it puts us in amongst some very select company. We will wear this badge with pride and we're looking forward to welcoming everyone along to find out for themselves what we've accomplished."

VisitScotland Chairman Mike Cantlay, said:

"Since it originally opened in 1960, The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre has acted as a hub for visitors, but following its fantastic refurbishment it is now a major tourism asset for The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and a thriving, first-class attraction in what is undoubtedly one of the most spectacularly beautiful parts of The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The wide range of outstanding facilities and services which the centre is now offering to visitors to the area, and indeed to people from the local community, is second to none and the team at the centre deserve congratulations on their achievement. Winning our top visitor attraction rating during such an important year for tourism in Scotland is especially important. Our Quality Assurance Scheme is a recognised, trusted indication of the superb standards and warm welcome visitors can expect to receive so the award will help the centre attract even more in the future."



Our new visitor gateway at Woodland Trust's Lendrick Hill car park opened in late September- feel free to pop in. We would love to see you.

We are also really excited about another facility which has just been completed: the new natural play and sculpture trail in Little Druim Wood.

Pick up a play trail leaflet from the visitor gateway to guide you round the sculpture and play features.

Light up your lantern event: Saturday 1st November Woodland Trust Scotland are planning a fantastic Halloween event this year. Join the ranger to make a lantern which will then guide you through dark, spooky woods. On the way you will hear mystical tales about Clach the Troll and see if you dare to dip your hands in the creepy feely boxes.....

The adventure starts from the Visitor Gateway in the Lendrick Hill car park at 6.45pm (finish by 8.30pm). The event is free but booking is essential.

Please contact Euan Hills on 01877 376340 or email euanhills@woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Great Trossachs Forest is one of the most significant woodland regeneration projects to take place in the UK for a generation. It covers 16,650 hectares, an area the size of Glasgow, between Loch Lomond and Callander in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. The Great Trossachs Forest is a partnership project between Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, and The Woodland Trust Scotland.

Sue Morris, Project Manager
01877 376340
suemorris@thegreatrossachsforest.co.uk

Lodge Events Board

Nature Club

Date: 28 September

Time: 10am - 1pm

Location: The Lodge, Aberfoyle

Cost: £3.00, 50% discount if RSPB members. Bring waterproofs and wellies. Discover where water voles and field voles are hiding in the Forest. Search for signs of water voles, help with a survey and play the water vole game to find out what life is like for these Mammals.

Contact to book: 01877 382258

19th October: Join our Bat Expert to check the bat boxes for identification. We'll also be playing our popular Bat and Midge Game.

9th November:

Explore our Nature Trail using all your senses to experience life as a wild creature living in our forest. Learn about natural foods and how animals survive the winter by hibernating.

11th October

Light Up The Forest

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Location: The Lodge, Aberfoyle

Cost £5 per person. Children under 4 go free. Please come dressed for the weather with warm waterproof clothing, sturdy footwear and a torch.

Enjoy the lit up waterfall trail, Forest tales by the bonfire and crafts in the Lodge. BBQ outside and cake and hot drinks on sale at the café from 5pm.

Contact to book: 01877 382258

Deer Rut

12th October 3pm - 7pm

Cost: £10 per person Concession £8

Minibus excursion into Forest with our rangers to experience the the autumn rut. The event requires reasonable level of fitness; walking boots and waterproofs essential. Bring binoculars.

Children must be aged over 10 and accompanied by an adult.

Booking essential : 01877 382258

Trossachs Search and Rescue

This summer has been incredibly busy for our team in terms of providing first responder cover for the Scottish Ambulance Service, providing safety cover at events and in connection with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Firstly, back in May some of our team who had participated in the search and rescue efforts at the Stockline factory collapse in Glasgow in 2004 attended the tenth anniversary memorial service in Maryhill. This was a sad event but also our first chance to meet people who had been rescued and families of those killed. It gave everyone a chance to reflect on the tragedy which is still affecting many people physically and emotionally. The memorial service marked the official retirement of Urban SAR Dog Glen who was our youngest dog that worked at Stockline and identified a man concealed under the rubble. Glen was our oldest dog that worked at the Clutha pub in November last year. Glen's line came from Comer Farm at Kinlochard with his mother Meg and aunt Gigha also being very successful search dogs in their day.

Ambulance calls for our first responders decreased considerably this summer - thankfully, and a trend right across the country. One notable incident occurred at Loch Katrine where one of our responders - Gordon Young lives. Thankfully he was able to assist very quickly a young cyclist who struck a tree and then a wire fence sustaining serious head and very serious leg injuries. On the arrival of the ambulance from Callander Gordon was able to select and prepare a landing site for the air ambulance. On another occasion, our responders attended a woman who fell and sustained back injuries on the West Highland Way about 5 miles north of Inversnaid. They travelled by boat to the scene then worked with a Sea King SAR helicopter from HMS Gannet to have the woman winched to safety.

Our water rescue service has been in much demand - covering the Loch Lomond sections of the Highland Fling and West Highland Way long distance races, escorting the Queen's Baton Relay barge along the Forth & Clyde Canal at Kirkintilloch and into Southbank marina and latterly spending five days providing safety cover on the River Clyde during the Commonwealth Games and rescuing a man from his sinking canoe during that time. We have recently placed more public access defibrillators locally and now enter our autumn run of delivering Heartstart classes locally. On 7 September we celebrated our 16th year since our formation. We've achieved a lot but there's still plenty to do locally to improve safety and medical emergency support for locals and visitors.



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ghoulish than ever!!



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P.O. OPEN: 8.00am, Mon-Sat;
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Sandy's off-beat history

Ever wonder how a very large Highland estate like Craigrostan functioned smoothly while Rob Roy spent many weeks gallivanting about the highlands on business, droving and/or pinching cattle from neighbor's lands, or leading Jacobite raids on the low country?

The answer lies in the job and nature of the bierleymen (also called burghmen, Byrelawmen). Originally, these were men and women who were tough-minded and authoritative (like Mary McGregor); and who would march around the borders of a burgh to ensure there are no encroachers. Hence, we call the estate or burgh boundaries 'marches' which are often delineated by a steel fence or stone walls. Where walls or fences are not practical, well-defined natural features in the landscape, such as the ridge of a mountain, or the course of river or stream serve as markers. By the 17th century it was common for the Bierleymen in Stirlingshire and Perthshire to be sworn in as appraisers for rent and property. A good example of this related to Craigrostan is in a reference to a document in the National Archives of Scotland dated 2nd December 1719; whereby there was a "Declaration by two bierleymen of the barony of Buchanan concerning the value of ground marked out round the barracks at Inversnaid". Incidentally, the modern name and concept of Bylaw, is essentially derived from the bierleyman. But the bierleymen, besides keeping an eye on the marches, played a key role Scots Law insofar as they kept the peace by acting as arbiters who were called in to settle ordinary disputes between landlord and tenant, or between one tenant and another. Legal beagles refer to this as 'short law' which is derived from the Gaelic word *bir*, signifying "short" - the term "short law" or speedy justice.

The following excerpt from "Notes and Sketches illustrative of Rural Life by Jonny Gibbs of Gushetneuk, 1777 describes bierleyman's role: in keeping peace among the run-rigs, such as in clip from a 1718 map of Corriarklet:

"The principle of joint holdings, which found its extreme development in the 'run-rig' system, where two or more tenants cultivated alternate ridges on the same field, was well suited to breed difficulties in the practical business of cultivation; and so the overlords had rules of "good neighbourhood" established, under which the several tenants were bound to perform their respective shares of the arduous labour at the sight of a 'bierleyman' chosen by themselves".

In those days, when one hears of someone who is a "well respected gentleman", you can bet your boots he was a bierleyman the likes of John MacGregor of Corriehichon on the south side of Glen Arklet and who 'farmed' at Corriarklet on the north side was described as well respected. This is not surprising, since he was not only Rob Roy's father-in-law but was once his tenant at Corriechan on the opposite side of Corriarklet Glen Arklet than crops and livestock. In Glen Falloch there was lead smelting furnace. Apparently, in the 18th century Inversnaid Mill (now the Hotel) and Polochro boats were built boats and had processed oak bark for tanning. Besides the great Aberfoyle slate quarry (which dates back to the 16th Century) there were small ones and also lead. In fact, I well remember a small quarry in Milton which had a short and very narrow tunnel and still had the wooden rails. But the tunnel was so low and narrow that we were barely able to crawl in on our knees. One wonders if the tunnel, being so confined, that it was dug out and worked by child labour?

Also, well remember, for the fun of it, hacking out lead from exposed rich veins on the Dukes Pass if memory serves my correctly. There are traces of small bloomeries (small iron works), dating mostly in 17th century. In the oak wood across from the ROB ROY Hotel there small piles of pig iron. Obviously, there was a reasonable amount oak and birch woods for charcoal to sustain the bloomeries. The Coppice-with-standard oak woods provided a steady supply for tannins for the leather industry. At Polochro there was a boat building yard and probably others around Loch Katrine. These and many other rural enterprises were coordinated and run under the watchful eye of the bierleymen. There are no bierleymen or bierleywomen - although still in every village there's always a self-styled Hied yin that acts like one – apart from the policeman/woman that is. Dumaresq and Bastide's map of Corriarklet Town and fine example of the runrigs in 1717 which would be supervised by a bierleyman.



Milton

Hello Children, Everywhere I look there are flitting and fluttering Small Tortoiseshell butterflies. Inside the holt they emerge from Braeval's keep-net, where they can be closely watched, breaking out of their pupae before quickly pumping up and trying out their brand new wings. Out in the garden, more brightly coloured butterflies appear from beneath nettle leaves, where they have been slowly changing from caterpillars, then flying off to find flowers to feed from. Sweet nectar from thistles, dandelions, heather and deli's-bit scabious will soon fatten them up, ready for the long winter to come. Right through autumn, Small Tortoiseshell butterflies everywhere will be very busy.

The gang came across our old friends, Squirrel Nut family, also searching for winter supplies, all busy gathering nuts, haws, hips and berries. We were so pleased to meet up with Chester Nut and his wife, Hazel, not seeing them for quite a while. Connie (short for Conkerella), Acorn, Rowan and baby squirrel, Hawthorn, were hard at work too, their bags positively bulging with provisions. Being a family of red squirrels, they were all keeping a sharp lookout for their thieving grey squirrel cousins, out to pinch their hard won treasure. Grey squirrels also carry a nasty disease, called squirrel pox, which no red squirrel ever wants to catch. As we helped to pick up the wonderful harvest of 2014, Chester was wondering why the Forestry Commission are putting in a grey squirrel playground, right through the heart of the Trossachs.

Falling fruit means darker nights, a chance to look up at the star-filled sky. As the sun sets, Mars, Mercury and Saturn can be observed low in the south-west, soon dropping out of sight. Over in the east, Uranus and Neptune begin their night-long journey, right across the sky. Back in the east, Jupiter and Venus appear as bright morning stars, and will be joined there by Mercury towards the end of October. As poor old Pluto is no longer considered to be a real planet, at the moment we have an opportunity to see all the others in a single night. The glowing moon will grow to be full by 8th October, waning and waxing again in time for Bonfire Night. Please remember to check for hibernating hedgehogs before lighting your bonfire.

Have you noticed, as it gets darker, there are more strange noises and things that go bump in the night? I certainly have! Grandpa Otter tells us that there is one special night, when lost spirits can return home, to the place of their birth. However, they must all be back in the grave where the body was buried before sunrise. That night is Hallowe'en. So, all night long, there are spirits going hither and thither. Most of these

are quite harmless, but some others could be quite wicked. This is why we should all be out guising, the flames in our lanterns frightening off any evil spirits that might be around. Just to make sure none of these spirits can recognise you, and come back to get you later, you should always be well disguised. I'm going to dress up as a Clanger, all in pink.

Bye for now





Sept
2014

WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER

Autumnal Nuts and Berries

Autumn is rapidly approaching and plants are producing their fruits for the next generation. Some of these we can enjoy, others are best left well alone for the birds and small mammals which rely on them to increase their chances of survival through the winter months.



Hazelnuts provide food for birds such as woodpeckers and jays, small mammals and red squirrels, so there is plenty of competition for this bounty. But the nuts are a rich food source, weight for weight they contain 50% more protein, 7 times more fat and 5 times more carbohydrate than hens' eggs. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is often found growing as part of the under storey of oak or ash woodland, and usually has many stems, which is part of its natural growth form. It can be coppiced and the stems used for fence hurdles, pea sticks, furniture and water divining sticks. The wood is pliable but tough. Hazel helps support a range of wildlife, moths like the large emerald and fritillary butterflies, especially if coppiced, and provides shelter for ground nesting birds like the Willow Warbler. Hazel was one of the first trees to appear after the last glacial period and could have survived in small refuges. Pure stands of hazel can be found on the west coast of Scotland as low growing woodland and if undisturbed are rich in rare bryophytes and lichens.



Hawthorn berries are probably one of the most abundant berries to be found in the autumn and can be used to make a moderate jelly but are dry and need to be mixed with crab apples. The result is a good accompaniment to cream cheese. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is slow growing and has a dense tangled crown which is popular with birds for nesting. The fruits, which can stay on a bush until the following spring are an important bird food and are particularly attractive to migrants like redwings, fieldfares as well as resident species such as blackbirds, robins and thrushes. The seeds are left undamaged after they have passed through the gut of most birds, which therefore act as excellent dispersal agents. Hawthorn wood is hard and tough, the Latin name *Crataegus* being derived from *kratos*, the Greek for strength. The wood is yellowish to pink in colour and used for veneer and cabinet work, tool handles, fine boxes and wood engraving. It also makes excellent firewood and charcoal.



Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) is a small tree of woodlands, hedgerows and scrub. It is easily recognised by its broad lobed leaves which at this time of year are turning red and its clusters of red berries. These are a food source for Bullfinches and Mistle Thrushes. The berries are edible but very bitter, but have been fermented and distilled in Siberia to produce a spirit and used in Canada as a substitute for cranberry to make a piquant jelly. In Norway and Sweden the berries were used to flavour a paste of honey and flour. The name Guelder comes from Gueldersland, a Dutch province where the tree was first cultivated. The berries turn black when dried and have been used for making ink whereas the wood, like that of the Spindle Tree and Dogwood, was used for making skewers.

Nix in Nature

What an enchanting and enriching place to live this is. We have been lucky enough to have absorbed the beauty of this area since 2008. It has given us the opportunity to explore our dreams further after leaving the rat race well behind in 2006 after selling up and completing a charity backpacking trip from Land's End to John O'Groats, along with our Jack Russel, Daisy.

Our path then led us to here and where for the last two years we have been freelance rangers. From bat walks and bushcraft to magick wand making and the infamous Wacky Forth Races at Cobleland Campsite, the journey so far has been amazing! We have been able to re-discover our childhood sense of discovery, learning about various uses and folklore of flora, fauna and even faeries, developing too our creative interests in wood craft and painting and I have been introduced to and now practice the wonder that is Reiki.

As we leave for a while though, maintaining a sense of adventure and unsure of what is next, we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all those we have met along the way, particularly to Lesley and Grole at Cobleland Campsite, to David, Mairi, Lucy and Will at The Lodge, to Nikki, Lucy and Neil at Tigh Mor and Gemma, Cheryl and Helen at Forest Hills. They have all been amazing places to be able to work at and thank you for allowing us to share our passion for nature with your guests.

Also thanks to Jane and Arthur Jones for all your support and for the ceilidh fun and to Victoria and all at Lendrick Lodge. It has also been a special experience to feel a sense of community spirit in Aberfoyle and Callander, something that we definitely missed back in the City of Portsmouth – and the fresh air!

Hopefully this isn't a proper goodbye though as we will definitely be back to visit and possibly be able to offer our services at certain times of the year in the future, but we felt that it was important to thank all who make this area and our experience here so special. In the meantime, we'll be off to see family during the winter and I'll be adding all I have learned to our website below so if you would like to see the journey so far or what we are up to next take a look and follow the blog: www.nixinnature.co.uk



Some Hallowe'en/Samhain Traditions

Make a magic wand from Rowan for protection against mischievous spooks. Make only good spells though to avoid them back-firing threefold! To see your future husband eat an apple in front of a mirror by candlelight – 'On Hallowe'en look into the glass and your future husband's face will pass'.

Hazel nuts have lots of protein, plus you can use them to find a romantic suitor. Throw a nut into an open fire after naming your prospective or new partner and say 'if you love me pop 'n' fly, if you hate me burn and die'.

Go Ape Big Banana Relay



Leaving the Teenage Cancer Trust office in Yorkhill, Glasgow, 'Wee' Pete Scullion had 101 miles of tarmac between himself and day 1's objective, Fort William. Pete reached the 55-mile mark at Tyndrum in 4 hours and took on some much needed fuel for the climbs ahead. Reaching the top of Rannoch Moor with the Tyndrum and Black Mount climbs behind him, the rain set in and soon visibility fell to 100m. this was followed by fast, sunny blast through Glencoe, 8 hours and 10 made it to Fort William.

On day 2 both Petes set off up the UK's highest peak, 'Wee' Pete with bike in tow, holding 'Big' Pete up just a bit. After a lot of confused looks from walkers in both directions, and just under 4 hours later, the Big Banana reached the summit with a whip of snow to greet it. After a brief lunch stop in the icy conditions well into the clouds, wee Pete set off made his way towards Aviemore - 65 miles good in 4 hours ! on the button.

Day 3 was 'Big' Pete's time to shine, being more than happy in the middle of nowhere surrounded by mountains. he made his way over the Cairngorm plateau past the UK's second tallest peak, Ben MacDui. Dan and 'Wee' Pete met Pete at the Linn of Dee car park . 'Big' Pete had kept up the pace of the previous two days, coming in well ahead of schedule, a mere 5 hours 45 minutes after setting off.

Day 4 was the shortest and easiest day thankfully. 42 miles from Braemar to Crathes Castle, just east of Banchory. Both Petes reached Crathes Castle in 2 and a half hours, again, well within the time planned for, minds soon turning to massive quantities of food and sleep, and how to better that leg next time around! Both Petes would like to send a big thank you to Go Ape and The Teenage Cancer Trust for giving us a very go reason to ride and run themselves into the ground, Dan Bruce for ferrying us about Highland Scotland providing logistics for the trip, TheCycleJersey.com for helping us look the part and allowing us to represent for the whole trip, The Braemar Lodge Hotel for looking after us, and finally, to everyone who followed our progress on social media, offered us encouragement and to everyone who donated to our challenge and helped us reach our target the day after we finished. Here's to the next challenge!

THISTLE THREADS QUILT SHOW

In aid of CHAS

Children's Hospice Association Scotland



Kirk Hall, Main Street, Callander

SATURDAY October 18th 2014
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Exhibition of Patchwork and Quilting
PLUS!



Raffle for our Group Quilt- Delectable Ducks!

Sale of patchwork items produced by the quilters.

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Admission: Adults £3 Children £1.50 (under 5s free)
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For further information please contact

Clare on 01877 38292

Email: clare@thistle-threads.co.uk
www.thistle-threads.co.uk

Scottish Paranormal Festival

The out of the ordinary in all forms is set to be celebrated in Stirling as the city hosts the first ever Scottish Paranormal Festival.

Launched on Monday at Stirling's historic Cowane's Hospital the festival will take place in venues across the city from 30th October to 2nd November.

Festival founder and director Peter Broughan said: "It's very exciting to be launching the first ever Scottish Paranormal Festival and great to be able to offer up such a diverse and entertaining programme of events."

"The festival will be the biggest, most eclectic and most significant of its kind in the UK and with Stirling being a city so steeped in history I am sure it will be the ideal location for us."

Over the four days of the festival fans of the paranormal can look forward to a series of events based around ghosts, aliens and UFOs.

A range of academics, enthusiasts and declared sceptics will give talks and lectures about paranormal investigation and real-life ghostbusting as well as phenomena such as poltergeists, second sight and *déjà vu*.

The Scottish Paranormal Film Festival is taking place at the Tolbooth and the macrobert, and will feature screenings of scary movies including *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Shining* as well as silent 1920s vampire classic *Nosferatu*, accompanied by a live musical score.

Children are catered for too with big screen outings for *Paranorman* and *Frankenweenie* as well as some Halloween storytelling fun courtesy of the Tapsalteerie theatre company.

Actor, writer and organiser of the popular Stirling Ghost Walk, David Kinnaird, will be at the Stirling Smith Museum and Art Gallery to present *A Conjunction of Spirits*, his play about Callander woman Helen Duncan who, in 1942, became the last British woman tried for witchcraft.

There will also be discussions, workshops and vigils for both new and experienced ghost hunters and a sky watching session at the world famous UFO hotspot of Bonnybridge.

Among the special guests lined up for the festival are The Navajo Rangers from the USA, two real-life national park rangers who claim their work in Native American territories has seen them experience many a strange phenomenon.

Gordon Smith, the man known as the "psychic barber" will be appearing and traditional Scottish singer Christina Stewart will present "Haunting", a set of songs in Gaelic, Scots and English interwoven with traditional spine-tingling stories.

On Halloween night The Caledonian Vampyre Ball at the Albert Halls will be a chance for festivalgoers to don some suitably spooky fancy dress.

Stirling Provost Mike Robbins said: "It's fantastic to be able to welcome yet another major event to Stirling. I wish the organisers all the best for a successful festival that I am sure will enlighten and entertain in equal measure." For full programme information see <http://ow.ly/AJDOI>. Tickets are available at www.paranormalscotland.com, from the Albert Halls on 01786 473544 or from the Tolbooth on 01786 274000.



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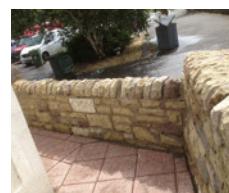
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school news: McLaren High

Fashion Show

On 25 June the McLaren High School Student Council held a Fashion Show at lunchtime as an end of term fun fundraiser. They would like to thank everyone who attended with a special thank you to all our great S6 pupils who took part on and off stage. £60 was raised and the winning House chose to support WaterAid. Ms Honeyford would like to say an extra special thanks to the Student Council for planning, organising and running the show and to Gregor Flynn and Darren Morris for their technical expertise.



Junior Awards

Our annual Junior Award Ceremony took place on Friday 27 June. This event recognises special achievements by pupils in the junior stages of school with certificates such as Merit and Perfect Attendance being awarded. There are also sports and music trophies awarded. Well done to all pupils involved!



McLaren High School Orchestra Tour

After over a year of planning and months of rehearsing a party of seventy pupils and nine staff left for Spain on 27 June to embark on a week long tour playing four concerts on the Costa Brava. The first concert in Lloret de Mar was going well until a thunder storm approached and we had to cut short the performance. Star Wars has never been played so fast, or with lighting (or was it lightning!?) effects. The pupils showed great professionalism in dismantling the orchestra and PA system and loading up all the equipment on the bus in less than ten minutes before the heavy rain came on.

On Monday our trip to Port Aventura was a real highlight of the tour. The next day we visited Girona with its really pretty old town and we were able to enjoy some sightseeing before playing our second concert in Pineda de Mar. On Wednesday we visited Barcelona, taking in the sights and sounds of La Rambla with street performers, shops and cafes. That night we had a hugely successful ceilidh night back at the hotel, where we taught some pupils from a school in Wolverhampton how to do a Strip the Willow.

On Thursday night we played our best concert yet in the Placa Mayor in Platja D'Aro. On our last full day we travelled to Lloret de Mar again to one of the biggest waterparks in Europe. This was a terrific day trip and everyone really enjoyed themselves before our final concert on the sea front in Tossa de Mar. This was our best performance to a really big and enthusiastic audience which included some family members of the tour party. We were clapped and cheered to the echo. We followed it up with Auld Lang Syne which was the best possible way to finish a really successful series of concerts.

For many of us, this was the trip of a lifetime. New friendships were formed, happy memories made, and everyone agreed it had been a wonderful experience all round for pupils and staff. Many people spoke to staff to compliment the pupils on the standard of their playing and behaviour. The McLaren community should be very proud of them: they have been great ambassadors for the school.

Walter Hall, Music Teacher



Gartmore After School Club
15:30 - 17:30
gartmore primary school

Starting with a snack & juice to restore energy after a hard day at school, we offer a whole range of activities for children including arts/crafts, baking & sports in a 'home from home' environment. £6.00 per child per 2 x hour session. Pre-school children over age 4 now eligible to join.

Taxi subsidy available for 2 or more children travelling from surrounding schools

For more info or a registration form, please contact:
gspschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk



school news: Aberfoyle Primary



House and Vice Captains 2014-15

The house captain for Neptune is Beth Dunlop and the vice is Hannah Ferguson. The house captain for Saturn is Lucy More and the vice is Amanda Lothian.

The house captain of Mars is Thomas Woods and the vice is Molly Jennings. The house captain of Earth is Eilidh Jackson and the vice is Fiona Klaes.



Prefects

The new Prefects for this year are: Donna Keir, Eilidh Jackson, Molly Jennings, Robyn Steele, Beth Dunlop, Hannah Ferguson, Thomas Wood, George Tutin, Lucy More, and Katie Bell.



Pupil Council

Eilidh, Austin, Megan, Katie, Rory, Finlay, Mara, Karen, Keira, Johannes, Alicia, Katherine, Spencer and Austin.



Our new Primary 1 pupils started on Tuesday 19th August with Miss Brown.

Nursery news

It has been a busy start to Nursery this term with lots of new boys and girls starting. The children are exploring traditional stories such as 'The 3 Little Pigs'. The boys and girls have been busy making houses using cardboard and sticks. The children have also been learning the rules of nursery when playing inside and outside, learning to share, take turns and help others.

Primary 1 news

Primary 1 have settled into school extremely well! The children have been making a map of Aberfoyle Primary School as they are learning about their school. We are focusing on the school now and then looking at the school in the past and we cannot wait to welcome in visitors who have been past pupils and teachers at Aberfoyle Primary.

We have also been very busy learning our numbers up to 10 and learning our letters and their sounds with Jolly Phonics. Our favourite activities are writing in glitter, in the sand, with chalk and on our partner's back.

Primary 2/3 news

Primary 2/3 are learning about the ancient Egyptians and the children have been busy making Egyptian boats. They made them out of art straws and painted them green, then taped them together to make the shape of boats. They also made front covers for their Topic books and they have learned about Cleopatra and pyramids.

In maths Primary 2/3 are exploring numbers to one hundred, learning to read, write and order numbers from smallest to largest.

Primary 4/5's news

Primary 4/5's topic is Robot's and we made some pictures of Robots with our faces. We made pictures of Robot's faces and coloured them with pastels and smoothed the pastels. The whole class also watched a movie called Adores. The children are also making circuits and they intend on making a real working robot.

Primary 4/5's class novel is The Iron Man and the whole class is enjoying the book. In writing, we made diamante poems about Robots.



Primary 6/7 class news

The class have been working on eye balls, made out of mod rock. They painted the pupil black and the iris green, blue or brown. The pupil was half a ping pong ball.

Their topic is Scottish wars of independence. To make them understand the Battle of Stirling Bridge better, they acted it out in the playground. They were also debating, should children be able to vote in the referendum.



Gartmore After School Club

Requires

Additional Play Assistant

3pm - 5.30pm

For more information call

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National Park unveils conservation action plan

Wild Park 2020 is Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park's new long-term vision and action plan for biodiversity in the National Park. It sets out more than 90 diverse conservation projects that a range of partners will deliver between now and 2020. At the heart of Wild Park 2020 are five key projects agreed as having the most potential to bring nature conservation benefits. These have been named 'Wild Challenges' and include:

Red squirrels

Due to changes in land use and the spread of the American grey squirrel, red squirrels in Scotland have been in steep decline. The National Park Authority is working with a range of partners to safeguard populations by creating good woodland habitat free from grey squirrels.

Invasive non-native species

Invasive non-native species are really good at taking over, leaving no room for native species. Some of the most troublesome in the Park are Rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. Again, partnerships have been forged with landowners, government agencies, fishery trusts and volunteers to reduce the damaging impacts of these species.

Our mountain bogs

The National Park Authority is working with land managers to protect the peat in mountain bogs through a number of measures, including blocking up old drainage ditches and managing grazing pressures. Scotland's peatlands store ten times the carbon of all Britain's forests combined! That is why it is vitally important to look after them.

Black grouse

Black grouse in Scotland are threatened for several reasons including loss of habitat and falling prey to other animals. The National Park Authority is working with farmers, gamekeepers and wildlife managers to get grazing levels right and control predators such as foxes and crows.

Our woodland habitat

Woodland habitats in the National Park are so special that some are recognised as Special Areas of Conservation. This means the woodlands and the species they support have international significance. This 'Wild Challenge' will see the National Park Authority work with land managers to improve links between woodland areas.

You can find out more about Wild Park 2020 and the five 'Wild Challenges' at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org.



Farmers short-listed as bird champions

A farmer-led conservation project in Glen Dochart has been short-listed for the prestigious Nature of Scotland Award. Nominated in the RSPB Species Champion category, the Glen Dochart Waders Project has in three years almost doubled the number of breeding wading birds within the 335 hectare project area west of Killin. The project aims to increase the populations of the five wading bird species iconic of farmland in Scotland – curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank and snipe. Historically, this part of Glen Dochart has been one of the best areas in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park to see these birds. Prior to the project however, numbers had been in steep decline, mirroring the national picture.

Margaret Ashbridge, farmer at Leskine Farm said, "We're pleasantly surprised and very satisfied to be short-listed as Species Champions in the Nature of Scotland Award. It's nice to know that a small group of farmers can achieve such good results for conservation and it's a real bonus that we're now being recognised for our efforts."

Supported by Land Management Advisers from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority and funding from the Scottish

Government's Scotland Rural Development Programme, the four farm businesses participating in the project have been implementing a range of measures designed to address the factors thought to be limiting the breeding success of waders. These have included reducing the amount of dense rush cover in floodplain fields, fitting sluices to ditches and creating shallow muddy pools to increase feeding opportunities, and reducing the threat of predation by species such as foxes, crows and mink.

Scott Nisbet, Head of Conservation & Land Use at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, said, "The Glen Dochart Waders Project is shaping up to be a real success story for conservation in the National Park. It's fantastic to have achieved such good results so quickly, but it's equally pleasing that the farmers we've worked with are now being recognised for their efforts to incorporate really effective management for conservation into their businesses and farming practices."

Countdown begins to Ben A'an improvement works

Work started last month, closing popular hill path & car park. Tree felling and path upgrade among improvement works being carried out.

Forestry Commission Scotland is preparing for the start of a significant improvement programme on Ben A'an in the Trossachs. The works, due to begin in mid-September, include essential tree felling and upgrades to the Ben A'an hill path, which will conserve the landscape for walkers and other users for years to come.

The felling at Ben A'an is being undertaken as part of a wider Forest Design Plan which aims to reshape the forest and reintroduce a greater range of native trees to The Great Trossachs Forest such as oak, birch, aspen, rowan and hazel. Forestry Commission Scotland faces a number of issues throughout the process, with ground conditions on the slopes providing a considerable challenge to the works as the steep slopes include very rocky terrain with considerable amounts of surface water in the autumn and winter months.

A range of machinery will be used to complete the work including forestry harvesting machines as well as specialist machines like purpose built hill-climbing harvesters, to be deployed at steeper parts of the slopes.

A temporary stone route will also be created for the harvesters to access the area to carry out work. This will significantly reduce the amount of mud that reaches the public road.

Ben A'an hill path and car park will be closed from late September 2014 to Autumn 2015 for the duration of the works for safety reasons. A dedicated temporary alternative path that leads to the Ben A'an summit is also being created, using a helicopter to fly in the materials in. It is hoped that

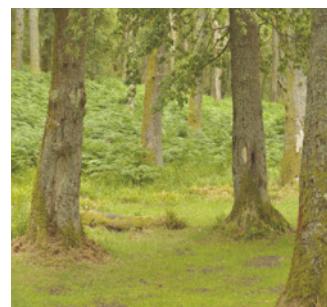
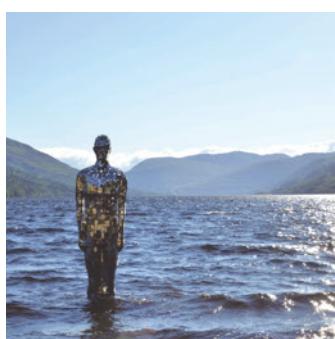
the alternative path will be open from October. It will be signed from the nearby Ben Venue car park and will avoid the Ben A'an car park and worksite completely.

Will Huckerby, Community, Recreation and Tourism manager, Forestry Commission Scotland, said: "We are in the final stages of preparation ahead of the works starting, which are due to begin in a few weeks' time. There are a number of challenges that we will face and we are determined to undertake these essential works with the minimum of disruption and impact on locals and tourists."

This is part of The Great Trossachs Forest Project, launched in 2009 which aims to restore 16,500ha of Scotland's native woodland. There is expected to be some impact on transport routes as a result of the tree felling, with an increase in the haulage traffic along the A821 from Ben A'an car park towards Stirling, via Callander.

The existing car park at Ben A'an will be closed and transformed into timber handling area for the duration of the felling. The timber will be extracted from the site on Ben A'an and taken initially to the car park situated across the main road. When this work is being undertaken there will be temporary traffic lights in place to minimise any traffic disturbance.

Up to date information on the project will be available on <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/forest-parks/queen-elizabeth-forest-park/ben-aan/improvement-programme> throughout the project.



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Callander Photo Club Season 2014 - 2015

We are back for a new season with meetings being held on the second Wednesday of the month from September to December 2014 and February to June 2015. Meetings start at 7:30pm and are held at the Waverley Hotel.

Our October meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th. New members and guests are always welcome. Membership is £25 for the year, £15 for students and children. Guest fee is £3 payable on the night. Please call Susan O'Boyle, Club President on 01877 339 323 or email info@callanderphotoclub.org.uk for more information.

2014 Callander Film Festival

It's an exciting time for Callander Film Society, we have a weekend of Scottish films from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th October and a new season of 17 Contemporary and Classic films that we will show from October to March.

The Film Festival starts at 8:00pm on the Friday evening with a screening of short film The Balance by Ben Thomson who grew up in Callander. Ben will join us to answer questions about film-making. This will be followed by For Those in Peril, the debut feature from acclaimed Scottish film maker Paul Wright. On Saturday afternoon we will show Brave at 1pm. At 4pm on Saturday there will be a selection of short films from the Aesthetica Short Film Festival. Admission to the short film session is free of charge and you'll see films that won't be screened anywhere else!

On Saturday evening at 8:00pm we'll be screening The Angels' Share, the bittersweet comedy about a group of friends who find some meaning to life in the world of whiskey. Parts of this movie were filmed at the Deanston Distillery and they have offered us two free tour tickets to give away as a door prize.

On Sunday afternoon, we're proud to welcome Ian Rintoul, a Scottish film maker who has also worked in television as a film editor and producer. A free screening of two of his short films, Derek Cameron's Dominion, and The Magic Umbrella, will be followed with the chance to ask questions. At 5.30pm and 8pm we'll round off the festival with Sunshine on Leith, based on the sensational stage hit featuring the music of The Proclaimers.

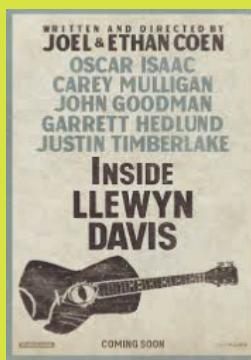
All festival films are at St Kessog's in Ancaster Square. Tickets are £5 for adults, £3 for children or £10 for a rover ticket. Book in advance at St Kessog's or at 07583 634036 or stkessogs@hotmail.com. The Film Festival would not be possible without the support that we have from Stirling Council's Community Pride Fund, Callander Enterprise, Women in the Trossachs, Waverley Hotel, Mhor Fish, Deanston Distillery and Callander Jazz Festival.

It's still not too late to join Callander Film Society we will be screening 12 Contemporary movies and 5 Classics. The Contemporary season screenings are at McLaren Leisure Centre on Saturday evenings at 7:00pm. From October to December we will show Sunshine on Leith, Captain Phillips, Philomena, Like Father Like Son from Japan and The Book Thief. The New Year starts with Woody Allen's Blue Jasmine, we go on to show The Past from Iran, The Lunchbox set in Mumbai, India. The Railway Man, the Coen brothers' Inside Llewyn Davis and Rush, the exciting story of Formula 1 drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda.

Our classic programme is screened at The Waverley Hotel on Friday nights at 7.30pm. We start in November with The Count of Monte Cristo. In December we feature Roman Scandals a 1933 musical comedy. Niagara is our January movie and in February we will show Seven Days in May. Rounding off the season is a hard-hitting crime drama from 1942, The Glass Key.

Membership fees remain at £22 for the contemporary programme, £10 for the classic or you can join both for £25. We are on Facebook and Twitter and membership forms are available at our web site www.incallander.co.uk/cfs

The Callander Film Society programme would not be possible without the support of Stirling & District Arts Forum, The British Federation of Film Societies, The Waverley Hotel and McLaren Community Leisure Centre. See you at the movies. Eammon O'Boyle: poboyle1@btinternet.com



The National Trust for Scotland

has a Stirling Members' Centre (Registered Charity SC 025499) which provides talks for Members and their friends in the region during the winter and outings to places of interest in the summer.

This winter, the talks we have planned are:-

AGM and Illustrated Talk "Work of a Scottish Goldsmith" on 22nd October, Illustrated Talk "Stirling Bridge" on 11th November, Stirling Camera Club AV show on 12th December, Illustrated talk "The Red Kite Reintroduction to Scotland on 14th January, Talk "Highland Myths and Legends" on 11th February, Illustrated Talk "St Kilda - Part 2" on 18th March.

If you are interested in becoming a member (YEAR OF JOINING TILL 1st OCT FREE!), and in any of the above talks please contact either

Neil Pollock – Tel: 01786 841778

Sandy & Margaret Moreland - Tel: 01259 761700, or www.spanglefish.com/ntsstirling for further information.

Callander Ramblers' Diary Sept 2014

October

Wed 8th 9:30am Ramble: Strathyre to Callander (9miles) – contact 01786 850626

We meet in Ancaster Square, unless otherwise indicated. Bring wet weather clothing, appropriate footwear and a packed lunch. Please let the contact know if you plan to join the walk. Visitors / Non-members welcome.

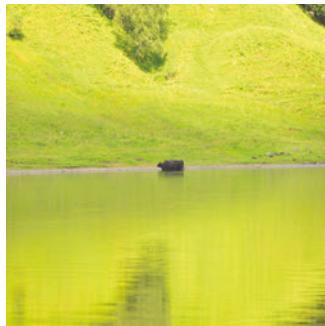
Scottish Wildlife Trust Diary

14 October is Black Grouse in Central Scotland. In 2005 this was one of the UK's fastest declining bird species. However, habitat management in the Trossachs has resulted in an encouraging increase in the number of leks where the males display their iconic white tail feathers.

11 November is Native Plants that Catch Insects, a fascinating insight into Britain's carnivorous plants and undoubtedly entertaining presentation by Roy Sexton.

16 December is Antarctica the Easy Way (aka my holiday photos!). The route may have followed that of Shackleton but in a little more comfort.

The wildlife really is as close and amazing as you would expect. Surely there must be something there to whet your appetite. At £2 for members, £2.50 for non-members and free to full-time students what better value way can there be to spend the cooler evenings! We have a monthly talk from September to April, usually on the second Tuesday, starting at 7:30pm in the Waverley Hotel. Everyone is invited and welcome. Lesley Hawkins



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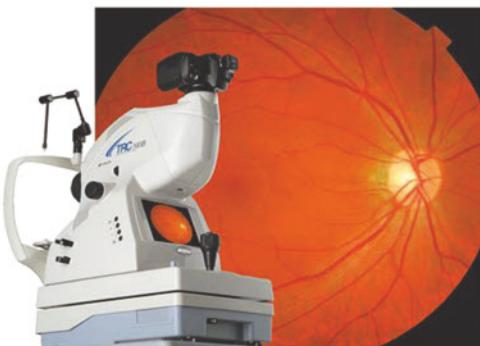
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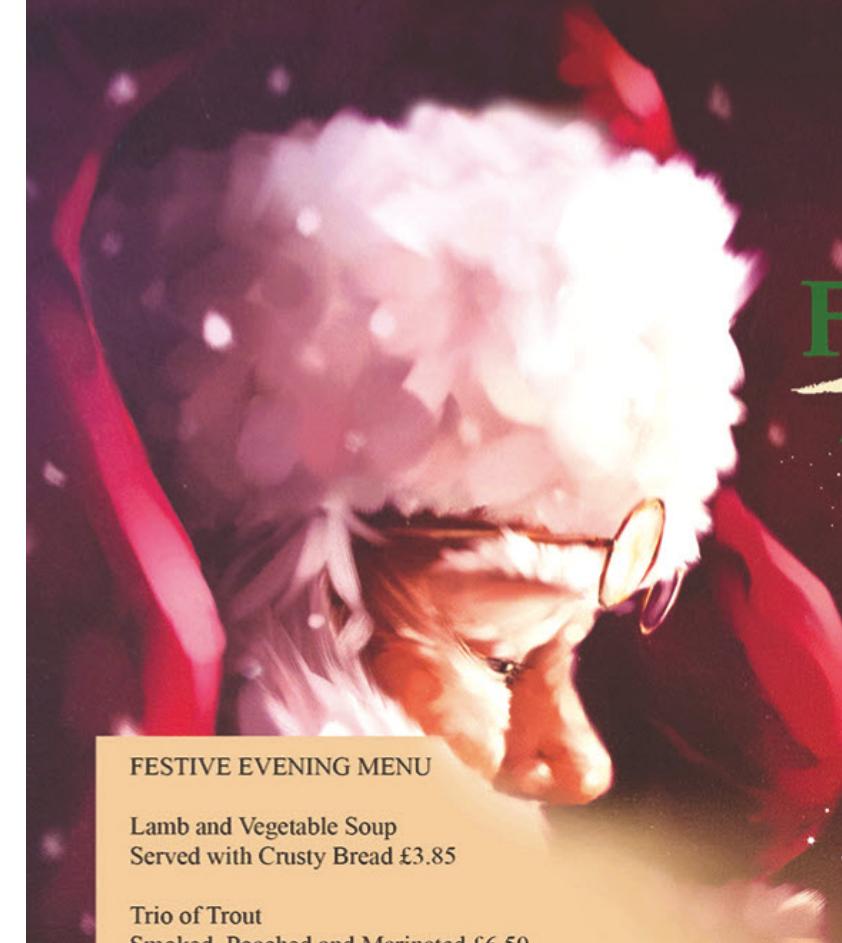
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