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deadline dates
for
future issues
10 april
22 may
3 july
21 aug
2 oct
13 nov

Aberfoyle Primary School

Determined to Succeed at being Creative & Enterprising

On Saturday 5th March we celebrated our Annual Bulb Show at the school. As always it is a great opportunity for parents and friends to come along to view the children's work and this year it was a wonderful way to end a very busy and exciting Creativity Week. It all started a year ago in one of our assemblies when I was asked if we could have a whole day of Art and Crafts. Based on this request from the children we developed some of their ideas and last May had our first Creativity Week. We invited parents and members of the community who generously gave of their time and talents to ensure that the children's requests for dance, drama, music & arts were met.



ABERFOYLE POST OFFICE

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Copier Paper - 500 sheets - £2.50

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7.00 -5.30, Mon – Sat; 11.00 – 5.30, Sun.



STOP PRESS

Strathard now has a **COMMUNITY TRUST**

**All the work carried out up till now
by Strathard Community Futures
will now be carried out by the Trust**

See Pages 12 & 13 For Details

The Wee Blether Tea Room

Opening April (if not before)

The Wee Blether sits on the banks overlooking Loch Ard in all its splendour. The views are new to the owners as well as the locals as some clearing of the lochside scrub has been undertaken – and what a view it has opened up.

Situated next to the newly refurbished Kinlochard Village Shop and under the new management of Richie and Shona Baston, *The Wee Blether* is the only lochside tearoom around the perimeter of Loch Ard.

Shona says, "With losing so much of our community heritage e.g. *The Teapot and, of course, our school, I feel it's important for the village to have a meeting place for people to catch up, relax and have a wee blether.

I know we're doing that in the shop, and community spirit is very high in the village with all the interaction of dances, ceilidhs and the like in the hall and at people's own homes; but to provide a place that holds enough people to socialise, yet a wee private hideaway too, can only be good for the soul.

I think we're some of the luckiest people in the world to live here: the loch is beautiful, the scenery outstanding and the village such a mix of characters each with his/her own traditions and talents – it's a truly wonderful place to live.

If I can provide a wee haven for locals and tourists alike, then I'm sure no-one could disagree.



Homemade Soup

from local fresh produce

Daily Home Bakes

scones, tablet, good Scottish baking

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10am-4pm weekends

Telephone 01877 382636

Kinlochard Shop

9am-6pm Monday – Saturday, 9am-4pm Sunday

Strathard Community Futures Archaeological Dig

Inversnaid/Stronachlachar

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

(no previous experience necessary)

As part of the project to create a traffic-free route through Strathard for walkers and cyclists, archaeological excavations are to take place near Inversnaid and Stronachlachar on sections of old road that will form the western portion of the route. The work will take place during the week beginning 18th April. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested please contact either:

John Digney – 01877 382636
Louis Stott – 01877 382784

Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Churches



The Easter celebrations are almost here, not the fluffy chicks or chocolate eggs, but as we remember how God through His Son, Jesus Christ, died for our forgiveness.

Sunday 20th March, Palm Sunday: Children's Services 10am at Port of Menteith and 11:15am at Aberfoyle.

On Friday 25th March, Good Friday, there will be a joint service at 10:30am in St Mary's Church, Aberfoyle. In Aberfoyle Church at 3pm there will be a service of bible readings and meditations, also an organ recital by Mr Kenneth Hand.

On Sunday 27th March, Easter Sunday, at 8am there will be a CHURCHES TOGETHER SERVICE with neighbouring churches at David Marshall Lodge followed by breakfast. Then we return to our own churches for morning worship at normal times. If you wish to buy a breakfast at David Marshall Lodge on that day, please contact your own minister or priest.

With every blessing
Rev. Danny Gibb

The Guild

The next meeting of the Guild will be held on Monday 21st March at 2 pm in Church House when we welcome back the Morven Singers, a ladies' choir from Glasgow. This is also a guest afternoon when we will be joined by friends from Kippen, Drymen and Buchlyvie Guilds. Do come along. You will be made very welcome.

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Community Council Report



It was February. We were in Kinlochard. We met. We talked. And if we didn't conquer, then there is no justice! The community turned out to put their

roads complaints in person to Councillor Gillie Thomson, Chair of the Environmental Committee of Stirling Council and also chair of the National Park Authority. We were also joined by Les Goodfellow of the Roads Department, whose job it is to allocate the roads budget he is given, according to priority. Local residents did themselves proud. Arguments were placed forcefully, coherently and logically. Every point hit home and our guests were left in no doubt as to how serious Strathard is about the need to rescue the B829 from years of neglect. Following hard on the heels of the success of Archie Holmes's campaign - the petition and publicity photographs - hopefully this meeting was timed close enough to the Roads department budget meeting, to put the B829 at the forefront of everyone's thoughts whilst deciding priorities. No promises were made of course, but I have since heard

from Les Goodfellow that his department is hoping to draw up a different system of prioritizing maintenance. If this is adopted by the Council it might help roads like ours to move up the schedule. He is also awaiting a report on the area of slippage near to Laraich. This report could give enough information to allow funding of a geologist's survey on the area from this year's budget. For anyone interested, a copy of the minutes, and of the points made at the meeting, are available at Kinlochard P.O.

Also present at the Kinlochard meeting was Alan Ogilvie from Development Control. He was there to ask the community for help in deciding how best to allocate the £47,500 which MacDonald Hotels will contribute to the Roads budget on the back of their planning application to extend Forest Hills Hotel. Unfortunately no decisions were made on the night, mostly because we would prefer to find out what Stirling Council plan to contribute to the B829 first. We would also like to get a better idea of what could be achieved with the amount of money

on offer from MacDonald Hotels. If any of you have any thoughts on how & where this money should be spent please let me know.

The March meeting in Inversnaid Primary School was an entirely different affair - cosy and informal, though we still managed to get through a fair amount of business! The best part of the evening though was having time to look around at the children's work. What impressive displays on the walls. Apparently these pupils have also made a film about Ben Lomond, which is to be premiered soon. Congratulations everyone! Hopefully we will all get a chance to see it.

We haven't forgotten about the skip, or lack of one. John Clow is investigating the possibility of setting up our own site as part of Community Futures. We are also hoping to involve Port of Menteith and Gartmore Futures groups, since the loss of this facility affects all three communities. This won't be a quick process unfortunately, but we will keep you informed on progress.

We're back in Aberfoyle first Thursday in April, so please do join us then.



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Mon 18th April, 1900hrs - PC Chase

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Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!



The Heritage Heart

The David Marshall Lodge- A History

Part One: The Doors Open

On Tuesday 16 August 1960, at 3.00 pm Mr. David Marshall, O.B.E., M.C., M.A., B.L., chairman of Carnegie U.K. Trust, turned a key to officially open a hilltop pavilion situated above the village of Aberfoyle in Perthshire. As he entered the building, he simply could not have imagined that, forty-five years on, over six million people will have followed in his footsteps.

Adjoining the A821 Dukes Pass from Aberfoyle to the heart of The Trossachs, this superb construction was designed and built by The Carnegie Trust on a site provided by The Forestry Commission, and then donated to The Commission for its future maintenance as a facility for the general public visiting the area.

The site chosen was no accident, as it commanded magnificent all-round views, each window presenting a different aspect - south across the flat Flanders Moss of The Upper Forth Valley to The Fintry Hills; west over the village of Aberfoyle and the central part of The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park to the mountainous ridge of hills which form the east bank of Loch Lomond; to the north all 3192 feet of the majestic Ben Lomond. Within each of these panoramic views, the changing seasons offer a wealth of detail of shapes, colours and textures to please the eye.

The initial project involved a secondary construction, consisting of a mountain indicator, which was built on a rocky summit of a ridge commonly known as "Easen Gruach", around three miles north of The Lodge. Although the current day signs are not easily distinguishable from the roadside, the visitor will be well rewarded in seeking this stunning Trossachs treasure out, as it commands wonderful all-round views of mountain, loch, woodland and moor.

The Lodge itself is a long low single storey building crafted beautifully from local stone, the exterior consisting, in the main, of slate from the now sadly demised quarry. Its location, on a rocky bracken and birch covered knoll, faced against the backdrop of higher hills such as the

craggy heather covered slopes of Craigmore, together with the obvious sense of freedom it offered, presented the perfect solution to David Marshall's dream. His vision was finally realised on a clear summers day in 1960. At the opening ceremony, Mr.O.A.Cunningham, M.B.E., chairman of The Carnegie Trust, was in charge of proceedings, welcoming the guests and introducing the speakers, who were seated at the time outside the building. In his opening address,

The title deeds were handed over by The Baroness to Major D. C. Bowser, O.B.E., who was chairman of the Scottish National Committee of The Forestry Commission. Major Bowser paid thanks to The Trust, and to Mr. Marshall in particular, stating "we hope that we shall be able to maintain and preserve this building and we seek the essential co-operation of the general public to that end". Major Bowser is fourth from left.

Although not called upon to make a speech on the day, the architect, Mr.James Shearer, O.B.E., R.S.A., remarked at the time "the shape of the building, and its plan, have been determined by a) fitting the accommodation required to the shape and the contours of the plateau on which it stands; b) by its orientation and its relationship to the wide variety of very beautiful pictures which the site affords; and c) in relation to an easy gradient and convenient line of approach from the Dukes Road".

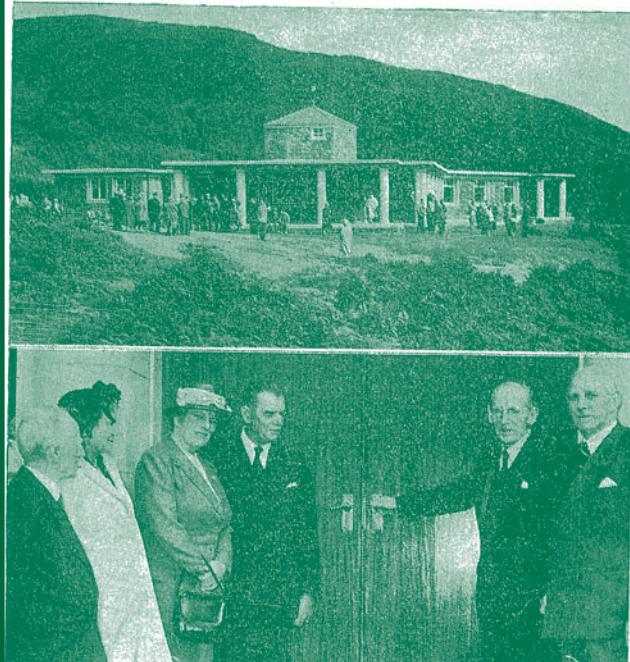
Mr. Shearer and Mr. George Annand, co-architect, handed over a silver key to Mr. Marshall as a memento of the occasion. Mr. Shearer is to the left of the picture. As the guests proceeded into the building, final remarks were made by Sir George T. McGlashan, C.B.E., convenor of the county of Perthshire. A name perhaps not too familiar with most people, but whose contribution to Trossachs history has been a huge

influence. Sir George expressed his deep appreciation in having such a magnificent building in Aberfoyle. "I retain a very personal interest in the project as the only serving member of the sub-committee of the county council which was responsible for the construction of the Dukes Road in 1930-1932, which replaced the track which was accessible only to pedestrians and pedal cyclists".

Sadly, there appears to be no record of comment by Mr. Marshall himself at the ceremony. Nor indeed, by Mrs. Carnegie Miller, at the time the only surviving daughter of Andrew Carnegie, who had made a special journey to attend. Mrs. Miller can be seen second from left.

To be continued.

THE DAVID MARSHALL LODGE ABERFOYLE PROJECT INAUGURATED



Mr. Cunningham stressed "the importance of providing amenities which offered relaxation and a carefree atmosphere, so essential in this country". He also offered the opinion "that children could roam in the beautiful surroundings, which might instil in them a desire to seek higher places and encourage them to respect and look after things of natural beauty". Mr. Cunningham can be seen on the far right of the picture.

The presentation of The Lodge by Baroness Elliot of Harwood, D.B.E., a life trustee of The Carnegie Trust, included in her hopes, that "the Lodge should offer educational interest, such as pictures and data concerned with The Forestry Commission. This was not to suggest a museum, as dry as dust, but a project which would offer fascinating interest and education to young and old". Baroness Elliot can be seen third from left in the picture.

Contributions welcome.

Contact David Wilkie on 01877 382258 or email david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Foresters' Appeal: Leave Your Vehicles At The Woodland Gate

Forestry chiefs are appealing to the public to stop taking motor vehicles into national forests in Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, apart from on the designated "Three Lochs Forest Drive" in the Trossachs.

And they have begun mounting patrols to look for people taking vehicles such as motorbikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), cars and four-by-fours into national forests.

Forestry Commission Scotland's recreation manager for Cowal and The Trossachs, Shirley Leek, said,

"We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of people illegally taking cars, four-by-fours, ATVs and motorbikes into the forests. We want to remind people that this is illegal, dangerous and inconsiderate, and it can cost the taxpayer a lot of money to repair the damage that motor vehicles cause to the forest environment.

"It is possible that some people believe that Scotland's new access legislation gives them the right to enter national forests with motor vehicles, but this is not so. The legislation is for the benefit of people such as walkers, horse riders and cyclists."

Ms Leek said the Commission was concerned for public safety if unauthorised motor vehicles continued to be used in the forests.

"There is a real risk that someone will be hurt when these vehicles are used on trails that are intended for walkers, cyclists and horse riders," she said. "Horse riders are in particular danger if their horses are startled by machines suddenly appearing.

"Equally, unauthorised use of vehicles on forest roads adds greatly to the traffic associated with forest work or joint accesses, and is socially unacceptable as well as unsafe."

The Commission is also concerned about the damage the vehicles do to forest trails, and the disturbance to wildlife, forest neighbours, and people who visit the forests to enjoy the peace and quiet.

"These vehicles do a lot of damage to the paths and trails, which are provided and maintained at taxpayers' expense, and to the fragile wildlife habitats in the forest. The more money we have to spend on repairing the damage, the less we have to spend on other facilities for public enjoyment of the forests.

"Sometimes the offenders genuinely don't know that it's illegal, and nor do they realise that their insurance won't cover them if they have an accident in the forest, and they stop their activities once these are explained to them. Unfortunately, however, many of them are well aware it's illegal, but do it anyway. For this reason we would appreciate the public's help by reporting any incidents, along with registration numbers if possible.

"The majority of the public tell us that they want their forests kept for quiet recreation, because they value the chance to get away from it all in a peaceful, attractive place such as a forest. Noisy motor vehicles are incompatible with this unless they are carefully controlled and zoned, although if motorbike and ATV users want to talk to us about the possibility of providing places for them to ride, we would be happy to discuss this with them."

There is a forest drive in Achray Forest at Aberfoyle that the public may take motor vehicles on, and the Commission sometimes organises special events in the forests for four-by-four enthusiasts.

Further information about the national forests in the national park is available from Cowal & Trossachs Forest District at Aberfoyle, telephone

01877 382383, or from the Forestry Commission's public enquiries line, 0845 FORESTS (0845 367 3787).



St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church
In The Trossachs and Strathendrick

Spring Is With Us Again!

St Mary's Church always looks its best in the spring with the banking coming into bloom and the daffodils of many types blooming in the lawns. The dwarf rhododendrons up the side of the pathway are always very colourful. They were given to the church four years ago by Lady Julie Edmondstone who is well known on the TV gardening programmes these days.

She kindly offered to design a memorial garden by selecting shrubs and trees that would give colour throughout the year and members of the congregation and the residents of Aberfoyle will be invited to provide one in memory of a loved one.

We will keep readers informed of developments and if you would like to be involved please contact Margaret Johnson (01877 382611)

In the last edition of the Strathard News we asked if local residents and members of the congregation would like to suggest ways in which the church could be of more use to the community and thanks to those who have contributed their ideas. It has been suggested that when the organ is repaired that organ recitals can be held and after the renovations are completed the church could be hired for use for receptions and musical parties. Please keep your ideas coming to the Rector, Richard Grosse (01877 382887) and Vestry Chairman David Miller (01877 387249).

The Easter services are as follows:

Maundy Thursday - 24th March at 7.30pm
Service of Remembrance of the Last Supper
at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Callander.

Good Friday - 25th March
10.30am Service of Devotion
Easter Day - Sunday 27th March
11.15am Holy Communion

All are welcome and we hope that our visitors will increase in future as we are about to launch our new internet web site which should be in place by Easter.

<http://webs.workwithus.org/StMaryChurchAberfoyle/>

The latest addition to our collection of spiritual materials is a wonderful welcome prayer that has been donated by Nick Cooke which he discovered in a church in France. The 1914-1918 War Memorial is to be restored and renovated in the next few weeks.

If any reader has memories of the Church from their early days please let us know so that it can be recorded in our historical archives. Remember it is your church as much as anyone's and all are welcome.

2005 TRAMPING THROUGH THE TROSSACHS OUTDOOR FESTIVAL
EASTER SUNDAY
FAMILY CEILIDH DANCE

in The Village Hall, Kinlochard
on Sunday, 27 March, 2005
8 till late

Dancing to The Kinlochard Ceilidh Band
Grand Raffle & EASTER BONNET COMPETITION
Tickets: Adults: £5 Children/Seniors: £3
B.Y.O.B.

TICKETS FROM KINLOCHARD SHOP & TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE, ABERFOYLE

Aberfoyle Burns Night Raises £3500 For Sri Lanka Village

A Burns Night Supper in the Forth Inn earlier this month raised over £3500 for the Sri Lankan village of Dehiwela (Lime Pit) which was devastated by the Tsunami floods. The money will be used to rebuild the shattered homes of 20 families in the village.

Contact with the village, through its priest, the Rev Charles Jansz, was made by Kinlochard farmer, Fergus Wood, who was one of the organisers of the Burns Night, which was run by the Aberfoyle Traders Association. "We were anxious to find an actual community in the disaster area with whom we could interact and see the money spent on a specific project within that community. As it happens, Dehiwela is a Christian community whose priest had visited – and preached - in Scotland up in Elgin.

I contacted Charles, who told me that while they mercifully had not suffered any deaths in the village – most of the

community were away fishing or working the land - the buildings were under seven feet of water and 20 families had their houses destroyed completely. They are now temporarily housed in a refugee camp. Our contribution will help rebuild these shattered homes.

I hope we can build a relationship with the village at all levels, including schools. We will be able to watch and encourage them in the rebuilding of their community."

While most of the money was raised on the night at the Forth Inn – food and drink suppliers, artists and the Kinlochard Ceilidh band gave of their products and services free of charge - £400 from the Kinlochard Village Hall's Ne-erday Dance was also "put into the pot". The auction was conducted by Mr. Robin Tough of United Auctions, Stirling, who also contributed a lamb for the raffle.

Fergus Wood

Aberfoyle Traders Association.
Tramping Through The Trossachs



Are you up to the Splash 'n' Spiling challenge?

Saturday 9th April 2005 from 10 am onwards

The challenge:-

To design, construct and race a craft made out of 'scrap' materials which is able to carry two people across Lochan Spiling and progress along the new forest path to the Milton car park.

The object:-

To have FUN and raise loads of money for charity.

We need:-

- Teams of two or more people.
- Team members to be over 16 years of age.
- Teams to be sponsored in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Safety craft will be on the Lochan and Life Jackets to be worn during the water section of the event.

There will be a family BBQ in the Milton car park after the event.

Full details of the event, rules and entry forms available from WALLACE Home Services on 01877 382098 or click www.VisitAberfoyle.com

Horse Race Night

Kinlochard Village Hall

Sat. 30th April, 2005

This is for a Good Cause
To increase the funds for the upgrading and hoped for extension to the hall

Bring Your Own Booze
And Money?????

6 Horses Per Race
Total Of 6 Races

Under Starter's Orders At 7.30 Pm
(Owing To An Increase In Stud Fees And The Refusal Of The Rocking Horses To Commune With The Shetland Ponies)
Ownership Of A Horse Now £5.00
Prize For Winning Owner

thank you

Aberfoyle Primary School PTA would like to say a big "Thank you" to all in the community who donated the generous gifts for the Christmas Raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated by parents, staff and the children of Aberfoyle Primary School.

A very big thank you to all the people who kindly attended the jewellery party at Braeval Farm before Christmas. The aim of the evening was to raise sponsorship money for our forthcoming Everest Base Camp Challenge which is being undertaken to raise funds for the Scottish Society for Autism in April 2006. The Society provides training in education, care, support and life opportunities for persons of all ages with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. It also strives to influence policy and practice across these areas and aims to raise public awareness of ASD and how it affects the lives of individuals and families across Scotland.



The Society needs to raise funds to build New Struan, a specially designed purpose built school with a wide range of facilities to support children with ASD, who have complex and intensive educational support needs. The New Centre for Autism will also provide an educational outreach support service to help children with ASD be educated at a mainstream school within their local community, a diagnostic and assessment centre and offer the most comprehensive ASD training programme in Scotland, improving understanding amongst parents, carers and professionals.

The jewellery party was the first of several events planned this year, with all proceeds going to the Society. The evening raised the fantastic sum £2348. Our thanks go in particular to Susan and Rob Mullholland for hosting the evening and to the many local businesses and individuals who gave gifts and prizes for the jewellery sale, raffle and silent auction.

If you would like to sponsor our Everest Challenge you can make a donation to the Scottish Society for Autism, c/o Ardley House, Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3UX. Or if you wish to find out more information about the work the charity does, visit www.autism-in-scotland.org.uk

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2nd & 3rd April 2005

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For more information contact Lindsay MacCallum on 01877 382149 or email lindsay.maccallum@anthonynolan.org.uk

STRATHARD COMMUNITY FUTURES

Transport and Access Group

Paths & Trails

Phase 2 of the public consultation process took place during the last weekend of February, with drop-in sessions at Aberfoyle and Kinlochard. The Paths Group had worked with the National Park to produce a display of maps showing a provisional network of routes based on the first consultation sessions in December 2003, together with photographs of some of the paths. There was also a great deal of information on show about the new access legislation, which had come into force earlier that month.

The turn-out was encouraging, particularly in Kinlochard where there was a steady flow of people throughout the afternoon. Members of the Paths Group and the National Park Area Access Officer were present to discuss the presentation with members of the public, and questionnaires were available for those who wished to fill them in.

At the time of writing (immediately after the event) the Paths Group has not had time to meet and discuss the outcome, but we shall be doing so in due course.

Even in the year between the two public consultations, the options for circular routes have increased considerably with the construction of new paths and four footbridges by the Forestry Commission. Furthermore, we have had a commitment from Stirling Council to improve the footway to Milton beside the B829, and work has already begun on repairing the damaged verge and footway beside the A821 to the Rob Roy and Braeval.

Historic Route

In mid-February we heard that the final component in our funding package for a feasibility study had fallen into place, when our grant from Stirling Council Local Community Development Fund was approved. The other funders are Leader +, Awards for All and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park.

We have now appointed consultants for the feasibility study, which will begin in May, to examine the possibility of establishing a traffic-free route from Aberfoyle to Inversnaid and Stronachlachar. The north-western portion of the route will use sections of old road, and the first thing to happen is to be an archaeological dig at each of three chosen sites on these roads.

These digs are to be carried out partly by volunteers under the supervision of an archaeological contractor. They will take place for 5 consecutive days, starting on 18th April. We already have several volunteers but we need more. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to grips first-hand with the history of Strathard on sites dating back to the time of Rob Roy and the Jacobite rebellions. If you are interested, please contact John Digney (01877 382636) or Louis Stott (01877 382784). No previous experience is necessary.

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Letters to the Editor...

.....have your say!

Have your say! Get it off your chest with a letter to the Editor. Send to Editor, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid, FK8 3TU or email editor@strathardnews.com or visit www.strathardnews.com

Copy of the letter sent to Strathard Community Council and forwarded to Strathard News by Sylvia Jackson MSP

B829 Aberfoyle to Inversnaid

I refer to your letter of 11 January concerning the state of the B829 road. As you will be aware, I received a petition from Mr. Holmes along with Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads and Transport on 5 January 2005. The petition has been passed to Councillor Gillie Thomson, the chair of the Environment Committee, who will be attending a meeting of the Community Council to discuss this matter.

Budgets have not yet been set for 2005 or the subsequent 2 years. The Council is considering increasing expenditure on road repairs and this will be decided at the Council meeting on Thursday 10 February 2005.

[The letter goes on to explain in great detail the facts about how the council sets its budget, including how funding is received from the Scottish Executive. It also explains some of the background of roads expenditure and the timetable for future decisions.]

Yours sincerely
Keith Yates
Chief Executive
Stirling Council

Editor's footnote: The full letter is 2½ pages long. If you would like to read the whole of it I am sure if you approach Ros Dingwall in the Post Office she would be happy to let you read it. If you would like more information, the condition of this road is always on the agenda at Community Council meetings to which members of the public are always invited to participate.

Dear Editor,

This letter is written with a heavy heart, however as some of the community are aware, myself and Alison have decided to move onto pastures new into the West Lothian area some time in April. As a result of this move and in fairness to the Community I have requested for a transfer and although no announcement has been made as yet about who my successor will be, I can assure you that interest in the position of Constable at Aberfoyle police office is high and keenly contested. It would be unfair for myself to leave without saying "thank you" to members of the Community who have helped immensely throughout my four years (I can't believe it has been that long) here in Aberfoyle, in particular the Community Councils of both Strathard and Gartmore who do sterling work for both communities. The Forestry Commission for the laughs that I have given them, especially Jim and the countless times that he has lent me his wellys! To the Committee and others attached to the Strathard Futures For Recreation, Paddy, Mel, Marcia, Janet, Steve and the others you will get there with the enthusiasm you all have.

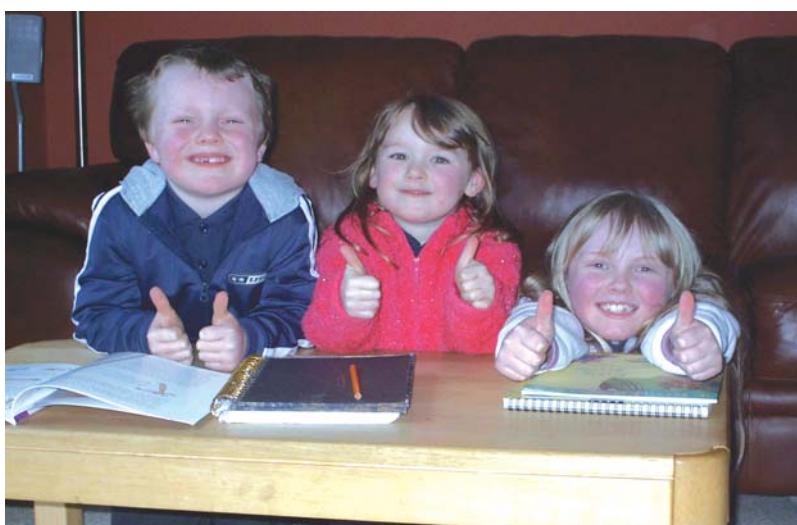
To the two work colleagues that I have had the pleasure of working alongside over the past four years, Andy and Rick - thanks for your help in the challenging role that this brings.

Last but not least to the Community as a whole, Strathard is a wonderful place to live and both myself and Alison have felt extremely lucky to be part of such a vibrant community.

Yours, Kevin Chase

All Quiet in Kinlochard (for a little while!)

Having seen pictures of the tsunami on TV, Leah Bancroft (7) asked her brother, Nathan (6) and friend, Finn Manders (5) to raise money for the people caught in the 'big wave'. They decided on a sponsored silence, an idea fully endorsed by their parents, and all three managed to stay silent for the hour. Yes, sixty whole minutes, which was a huge challenge. Thanks to family, friends and neighbours, the children raised £97, which will be used to buy toys for children in Sri Lankan villages. Well done Leah, Nathan and Finn.



Nathan, Finn and Leah after their successful sponsored silence.

editorial

Doesn't this edition look great! Colour makes such a difference. There are various reasons for this special issue: it's Easter; it's Tramping through the Trossachs; it's the 20th edition produced by this group; and we can just about afford it. This, of course is all due to the generous donations given in our collection boxes and the loyalty of our advertisers. Without them we would be unable to have anything printed.

To further reward this loyalty we intend offering our regular advertisers a free advertisement after seven consecutive contributions.

A copy of the Strathard News is always sent to the Resource Centre at Stirling Council (by subscription) but one of our readers has suggested that, when a particular issue such as refuse/roads triggers a reaction in the community, we should send a copy to the specific department responsible for that service. This we'll try to do.

If any of you have any suggestions, we would love to hear from you. We'd particularly like to hear your thoughts on our special colour issues; we need to know if you think it is worth paying more for; or you could let us know by slipping a little extra into our collection boxes!

I hope the sun continues to shine for all our outdoor activities – or even just to cheer us up. Spring really seems to have arrived.

Unbelievable!

True extracts from insurance claim forms.

"I started to slow down but the traffic was more stationary than I thought."

"I pulled into a lay-by with smoke coming from under the bonnet. I realised the car was on fire so I took my dog and smothered it with a blanket."

A Norwich Union customer collided with a cow. The questions and answers on the claim form were:

Q: What warning was given by you?

A: Horn

Q: What warning was given by the other party?

A: Moo

"I started to turn and it was at this point I noticed a camel and an elephant tethered at the verge. This distraction caused me to lose concentration and hit a bollard."

"On approach to the traffic lights the car in front suddenly broke."

"I was going at about 70 or 80mph when my girlfriend on the pillion reached over and grabbed my testicles so I lost control."

"I didn't think the speed limit applied after midnight."

"I knew the dog was possessive about the car but I would not have asked her to drive it if I thought there was any risk."

Q: Do you engage in motorcycling, hunting or any other pastimes of a hazardous nature?

A: I watch the Lottery Show and listen to Terry Wogan.

.....continued



Alzheimer Scotland – Action on Dementia is a voluntary organisation that aims to help people with dementia and their carers. We work to raise public awareness, to provide training and to press for better services.

What is Dementia?

Dementia is a progressive loss of the powers of the brain that affects almost 62,000 people in Scotland. Alzheimers's disease is the most common cause, but there are others kinds of dementia including Vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia and Pick's disease. What all these diseases have in common is that they damage and progressively kill brain cells, so that the brain cannot work as well as it should.

Who is affected?

Dementia is most common in older people but can affect people in their 40s or 50s or even younger.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms vary from person to person, but the most common symptom is memory loss and the slow loss of ability to do simple, everyday tasks. In addition, a person with dementia may become confused and lose their sense of time and of where they are. Their ability to think, to reason and to calculate can all be damaged and dementia can also cause personality changes.

Unbelievable continued.....

“First car stopped suddenly, second car hit first car and a haggis ran into the rear of second car.”

“Windscreen broken. Cause unknown. Probably Voodoo.”

“The car in front hit the pedestrian but he got up so I hit him again.”

“I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at wheel and had an accident.”

“I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.”

“Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.”

“The other car collided with mine without giving notice of its intention.”

“I thought my window was down, but I found out it wasn't when I put my head through it.”

“I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.”

“A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.”

There may also be emotional and personality changes including anxiety, depression, emotional swings and frustration.

What are the stages of dementia?

Dementia starts with mild forgetfulness, and then gradually complicated tasks at home begin to be abandoned and people with dementia begin to have difficulty in handling complex problems or making judgments. They may also need assistance in dressing, hygiene etc. Eventually, in the later stages of dementia, there will be severe memory loss and they will probably need help with even simple daily activities, such as dressing, eating or going to the toilet.

How can you get help?

The Stirling and Clackmannshire service runs an office in Bridge of Allan. We aim to provide and secure the provision of high quality services for people with dementia and their carers. Throughout Stirling and Clackmannshire we provide day care, home support, carer support groups, individual carer support, carer courses and a library of resources for people with dementia and their carers.

Alzheimer Scotland also has runs a 24 hour telephone line for help and advice. Please call free on 0808 808 3000.

Where can you get help?

If you have any worries about yours or someone else's memory or about dementia in general, please contact us on 01786 831171, drop into the office at 5 New Street, Bridge of Allan, FK9 4NZ or visit our website www.alzscot.org.

How can you help?

We always appreciate any help you can give us and we are currently looking for volunteers to help with activities at our Balfour daycare (we would love one hour to five hours, any time between 10.30am and 3.30pm on a Saturday) and volunteer drivers (between 10.00am and 11.00am and 3.30pm and 4.30pm also on a Saturday). We pay 30p a mile for driving.

Dementia Awareness Week 2005

Dementia Awareness Week this year runs from Sunday 5th - Saturday 11th June 2005. In Stirling and Clackmannshire we are running an activities day at Lecroft Church Hall on Tuesday 7th June and Friday 10th June from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Please drop in to find out more about dementia and get some ideas about what you can do to stimulate and help someone with dementia.

KINLOCHARD VILLAGE HALL SURVEY

The Kinlochard Village Hall Committee recently put out a survey questionnaire in an endeavour to establish what ideas and future aims the local residents might have in relation to the community hall. Any changes would obviously need financial assistance from local government sources. A requirement on most funding applications necessitates an official survey to gauge the opinions of the local people. This was done this winter.

Survey forms were put through every door in the Kinlochard area in mid-December, closing date for submission being 31 January this year. Entitled *Kinlochard Village Hall Usage Survey*, of the 65 sent out, 28 were returned.

The survey covered 7 areas:

Question 1 Suggested Requirements : a new kitchen and Internet access were some of the suggestions.

Question 2, Physical Changes Internal/External: Disabled Access, Showers, etc.,

Question 3, New Activities: Ceilidhs and Concerts were some areas proposed.

Question 4: Individual Use of Hall (Do you use the Hall and How Often?).

Question 5: Long Term Sustainability: Bar, Bingo, Quiz Nights were amongst many of the ideas mooted.

Question 6: Generating Income from Field: such as a slipway for access to the Loch.

Question 7: Extension or New Building: this was another topic which caused much debate.

This is only the briefest of reports. The survey and its replies covered 5 full pages of constructive and imaginative suggestions and ideas as how to go forward with the Village Hall at Kinlochard.

For anyone wishing more detail of the above, please contact Archie Holmes (387756) or any member of the Kinlochard Village Hall Committee.

A copy of the results can also be viewed in the Kinlochard Village Shop.

Tramping Through The Trossachs

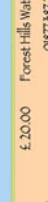
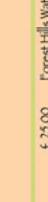
Aberfoyle & Beyond

Friday 25th March - Sunday 10th April 2005

An annual festival celebrating the Great Outdoors on your doorstep

www.visitAberfoyle.com

Friday 25th	10.30am - noon	Topper Sailing	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
11 am - 1pm	Access All Areas	Free	£15.00	Acaster Square, Callander		
1.00 - 2.30pm	Open Canoeing with Instruction		£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
10.30am - noon	Climbing and Abseiling		£2.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
10.30am - 12.30pm	Quad Bike Treks - within Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park		£4.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
Saturday 26th	10.30am - Noon	Introduction to Kayaking	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
10.30am - 12.30pm	Quad Bike Treks - within Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park		£4.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
1pm - 2.30pm	Introduction to Sailing (Waiter)		£2.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
2.30pm	Clay Pigeon shooting	£2.00 for 25 days	£45.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
2.30pm	Rifle Shooting on Indoor Range	£20 for 50 shots	Great Times Scotland, Ledaig Farm, Kilchard	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available		
Sunday 27th	10 am - 1pm	Advanced Sailing Techniques	£3.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available	
10.30am - Noon	Introduction to Canadian Canoeing	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available		
11 am - 12.30pm	Mountain Bike tour - within the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park.	£10.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Booking-Available		
11 am - 4pm	Easter Fun Day! A full day of					

 Key	 Walking Event	 Water base Event	 Charity Event	 Other Events	 Week Long	 Evening	 Suitable for Children
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Monday 4th	All Week 4th - 10th April All Day	Food with Optics Week! The Chefs get creative and add Spirits and liqueurs to the excellent dishes prepared in house!	Various	The Foothills Aberfoyle	0877 582 572	
9.35 - 11.35am	Flying Fox - Come and have a go on the zip wire.	£2 per session	Douglas Centre Aberfoyle	Booking Essential Some age/size restrictions. Warm old clothes & trainers or boots. Waterproof jacket	0877 582 572 (9.30am - 3.00pm)	
10am - 12.30pm	Multi Activity 1/2 Day	£30.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877 587 775	
2 - 3.30pm	Quad Bike Trek - within the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park.	£45.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877 587 775	
1.45 - 4pm	Living Outdoors - Learn the basics of survival in Achray Forest. Build a shelter, forage for food, find water, improvise first aid, signalling	£1	Douglas Centre Aberfoyle	Booking Essential 6 - 16 year olds &/or families. Warm old clothes & trainers or boots. Waterproof jacket	0877 582 572 (9.30am - 3.00pm)	
9.30 - 11.30am	Guided Story Telling Walk with Son Barrington, History, Wildlife, Folk Lore & Legend.	£3.00	Forest Hills Leisure Centre	Suit Teens & Adults Good Footwear. Booking Available	0877 587 277	
All day (1/2 hr sessions)	Introduction to Quad Biking	£20.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877 587 775	
10 am - 4.00pm	RVA Level 1 Sailing Course (Part 1)	£190.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided. Two Day Course. Booking Available	0877 587 775	
10.30 am - 4pm	Spring Walk & Flower Arranging - Enjoy a stroll round the grounds before arranging spring flowers for display.	£10.50	Cartmore House, By Cartmore	Welcome Refreshments & Lunch	0877 582 591	
7 - 9pm	Guided Story Telling Walk with Son Barrington, History, Wildlife, Folk Lore & Legend.	£3.00	Forest Hills Leisure Centre	Suit Teens & Adults Good Footwear. Booking Available	0877 587 277	
5.30am - 11.30am	Guided Story Telling Walk with Son Barrington, History, Wildlife, Folk Lore & Legend.	£3.00	Forest Hills Leisure Centre	Suit Teens & Adults Good Footwear. Booking Available	0877 587 277	
1pm - 2.30pm	Introduction to Sailing (Wayfarer)	£20.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877 587 775	
4pm	Archery	£20.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877 587 775	
10.30am - 12.30pm	Quad Bike Treks - within the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park.	£45.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877 587 775	
1.30 - 3.30pm	Clamping and Abseiling	£25.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877 587 775	

12 noon	Loch Katrine 12K Run	£10	Trossachs Per, Loch Katrine	16 and over Advanced booking Adults £10/£7.50/£7.50 www.h2k.com	£25.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Booking-Available	0877/587777
2.30 - 4.30pm	Heelster Gowdie - Celtic Scots Irish Band	Free	David Marshall Lodge, Foresty Commission Scotland 0877/582259	£10 for 25 days Safety Equipment provided. Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available 0877/28729	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Booking-Available	0877/587777
2.30pm	Clay pigeon shooting Range	£10 for 25 days	Great Times Scotland, Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	£10.30am - 12.30pm Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park.	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
2.30pm	Rifle Shooting on Indoor Range	£20 for 30 short rifle shoot.	Great Times Scotland, Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	10.30am - Noon Introduction to Kayaking	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
3.30pm	Duck Derby	Free	Scottish Wool Centre Padlock	2 - 3.30pm Introduction to Sailing (Wayfarer)	£20.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
4pm	Archery	£2.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	10.30am, 12.30pm Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park.	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
7pm	Wildlife Walk at Dusk with a Ranger	£5, Accompany under 14's go FREE	David Marshall Lodge 0877/582258	2.30pm Clay pigeon shooting	£10 for 25 days Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	Great Times Scotland, Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	Booking-Available	0877/587777
7.00pm	Candlelit Waterfall Trail	Free	David Marshall Lodge 0877/582258	2.30pm Rifle Shooting on Indoor Range	£20 for 30 short rifle shoot.	Great Times Scotland, Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	Booking-Available	0877/587777
8pm to Late	Easter Family Craft and Easter Bonnet Competition Dash & Race to the Kinlochard Colliidh Burnt boat!	£5/£3.50, Tickets £10/£7.50/£7.50	Kinlochard Village Hall BYOB & BYO Food! Essential & Kinlochard Shop 0877/587284.	10am Anthony Nolan Sponsored Walk	£10 entry fee Children's fun activities, Ranger guided walks, Minibus & Forest Tours	Start and Finish at Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	Booking-Available	0877/587777
Monday 25th	Multi Activity 1/2Day	£10.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	10am - 4pm Celebrate the Osprey's Return	£10 entry fee Children's fun activities, Ranger guided walks, Minibus & Forest Tours	Topper Sailing Regatta - come and race in our fun regatta. Boats Available for Hire.	Booking-Available	0877/587777
2-3.30pm	Quad bike Trek - within the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park.	£14.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	10.30am - 12pm Introduction to Canadian Canoeing	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
Tuesday 26th	Guided Story Telling Walk from Sion Barrington. History, Wildlife, Folk Lore & Legend.	£1.00	Forest Hills Leisure Centre Sut Teens & Adults Good (Part 1)*	10.30am - Noon Introduction to Canadian Canoeing	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
10.30 - 11.30am	Introduction to Powerboating	£25.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	10.30am - 1pm Stout & Oochers and Waterproof Clothing Essential. Accompanied Under 14's Free	£10 per team & as much sponsorship as possible. Proceeds to Anthony Nolan BMT	Start at Lochan Spring to Milnacar Park	Pre Registration Essential Contact: Bruce Wallace Wallace House Services 0877/582098	0877/587777
All day (1/2 hr sessions)	Introduction to Quad biking on the Track	£2.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	2.30pm Clay pigeon shooting	£10 for 25 days	Great Times Scotland, Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
2-3.30pm	Introduction to Topper Sailing	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	2.30pm Rifle Shooting on Indoor Range	£20 for 30 short rifle shoot.	Great Times Scotland, Ledaig Farm, Kinlochard, Booking-Available	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
10.30 - 11.30am	RYA Level Sailing Course (Part 1)*	£10.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	10.30 - 11.30am Introduction to Power boating	£25.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
All Day	Topper Sailing Regatta - come and race in our fun regatta. Boats Available for Hire.	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	10.30am - 12.00 Introduction to Kayaking	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	Safety Equipment provided.	0877/587777
10am Start	Topper Sailing Regatta	£10 entry fee	Everyone Welcome	10.30am - Noon Introduction to Kayaking	£15.00	Forest Hills Watersports 0877/587777	Boats Available for Hire	0877/587777
							See You Soon!	

Strathard Community Trust

As you will recall from Issue 7 of Strathard News (July 2003), the Centre Page piece informed the community about the formation of Community Futures with an Action Group Update.

Following extensive consultation with all residents of Strathard over the winter of 2002/2003, a Public Meeting and Workshop was held in the Memorial Hall in Aberfoyle in March 2003 to discuss with the residents of Strathard what they wanted for the Community Futures programme. The meeting was a constructive workshop, with a number of projects being identified as important to the Strathard area. Each then formed an Action Group to work on their projects. These Action Groups are Local Economic Development/Young People/Environmental Improvements/Tourism & Visitor Management/Roads, Transport, Paths/Social & Community Issues.

In order to fund these projects we were advised that it would be beneficial to form a charitable trust in order to maximise any available grants and to minimise any tax liabilities. To progress this objective a Steering Group was formed consisting of members from local organisations.

Since then, enormous progress has been made and this article is to bring you, the community, up to date with what has happened in the past and what will happen in the future.

STRANGE BUT....

They say that men are the better drivers. Who say this? Well, men, we expect! However, the following tale may put paid to that dubious boast! Picture, if you will, some local ramblers who had taken a walk deep into our very own Queen Elizabeth Forest, some 2 or 3 miles from Aberfoyle village. They are down a single-track dirt road when around the corner comes a tourist coach, empty save for the driver. Bemused, they ask him where he is going. "Forest Hills, mate. Is it nearby?" "Eh, no, not really." Our walkers forbade mentioning that he had the

The good news is that this month (March) the new *Strathard Community Trust* will take over the mantle of Community Futures, encompassing all the above groups and more importantly, it has Charitable Status, as approved by the Inland Revenue.

Now that the Trust has been formed, the Steering Group will stand down and be replaced by Temporary Board Members selected from the Steering Group. The signing of the Trust will take place in the Aberfoyle Rangers' office on 8 March at 4.30p.m.

The Board members are as follows:-
Maureen Campbell: Chairman (Community Council) Lesley Quirk: Treasurer (Aberfoyle Traders Assoc) Ros Dingwall: (Community Council) Ian Marshall: (Strathard News) John Clow: (Community Representative) Jimmy Campbell: (Community Representative)

The purpose of the Trust is to help obtain funding and to progress and facilitate the projects. It is NOT to take over the function of the other Committees formed to run the projects but is there to support them. It is important that the WHOLE of the community realises that this is a MEMBERSHIP organisation. All who live or work in Strathard are invited to join the Trust and joining forms will be sent out to everyone in a few weeks. Once the Trust is established, elections to the Board will

take place and ALL Members can put themselves up for Election to the Board if they wish.

Winter 02/03

Community Consultation

March 2003

Public Meeting

Strathard Community Futures set up
Projects Identified
Action Groups Formed

Projects:

Local Economic Development (e.g. Local Crafts) **Young People** (Play Park) **Environmental Improvements** (Aberfoyle Car Park) **Tourism** (STRAP, tourist links with Ireland) **Roads, Paths & Trails** (New Paths) **Social & Community Issues** (Strathard News)

March 05

Trust Formed

Temporary Directors appointed from Steering Group

Membership Open to All: joining form will be sent to everyone in Strathard
Open Meeting: Everyone interested can sign up to become a member of the Trust.

Elections for **Permanent** Directors from Membership.

Projects:

Current projects: will continue.

New projects: ideas welcome from ALL.

ran the film with subtitles! Alright, it was based in Greenock, but have those 'dan saff' ever heard an Aberdonian accent? They don't know they're living! Yet we up here have been subjected to years of English regional accents which we have taken in our stride with little complaint, from Minder to Auf Wiedersehen Pet, from Corrie to Albert Square. Do we demand subtitles? We do not! We can say "E's a real diamond geezer!" and "Awight my son!" with the best of them.

Ah but, its sad....

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Strathard Community Trust Limited - What Will It Do?

Over-riding object

This clause shall be interpreted as if it incorporated an over-riding qualification limiting the powers of the company such that any activity which would otherwise be permitted by the terms of the clause may be carried on only if that activity furthers a purpose which is regarded as charitable for the purposes of section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (including any statutory amendment or re-enactment for the time being in force). Subject to that over-riding qualification, the company's objects are:

Specific Objects	Activities
a) to preserve, restore and improve the environment in and around the Strathard Community Council area – “the Operating Area” – outlined in red on the map attached to this Memorandum of Association through the provision, maintenance and/or improvement of public open space and other public amenities and other environmental and townscape regeneration projects, and in doing so, to seek wherever appropriate (but subject to appropriate safeguards to ensure that the public benefit so arising clearly outweighs any private benefit thereby conferred on private landowners) to carry out works of reclamation, remediation, restoration and other operations to facilitate the use for those purposes of land whose use has been prevented or restricted because of previous use;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Establish a local paths network, working to improve either existing or new paths as determined by the community. Publicise existence and use of the paths.*Develop links to wider paths network and cycle routes.*Develop the “historical ” route Inversnaid/ Stronachlachar / Aberfoyle as cycle route.*Seek improvements to communal spaces and streetscape in particular Aberfoyle Main Street, car park and riverside.
b) to provide within the Operating Area facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation available to the public at large with a view to improving their conditions of life;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Develop Aberfoyle playpark into a play/skate area that is useable by all the community.*Seek improvement to locally owned/ managed community facilities
c) to advance education among the residents of the Operating Area, particularly among young people and the unemployed;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Support a local apprentices scheme*Organise training in the village halls*Work with agencies to develop strategies that would generally improve the local economy, such as enhancing opportunities for local craft production.
d) to promote and/or provide training in skills of all kinds, particularly such skills as will assist residents of the Operating Area in obtaining paid employment;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Work with agencies to develop integrated transport locally, enabling local people to better access job opportunities particularly to Stirling and Glasgow. Enabling better visitor management and improved non car opportunities.
e) to promote, establish and operate other schemes of a charitable nature for the benefit of the community within the Operating Area with clearance from IR Charities or its successor body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Bring forward scheme/s for alleviating the simultaneous use of bridges by pedestrians and motorised traffic, cycles and horses.*To foster community spirit through the promotion of a distinctive Aberfoyle Brand..

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Main Street Aberfoyle FK83UX

The Garden

by Wellie Boot

How lucky we have been with the weather compared to other parts of the country – no snow? As I write this the sun is even shining: I must go out to the garden.

You know how I have always said, “Don’t tidy up too soon or you will disturb the hibernating animals.” Well I did. I could not stand the mess of the *Gunnera manicata* which I protect through the winter with its own huge leaves folded over the crowns.



They had rotted into a slimy mess, so tidy it up I would, and cover the crown with horticultural fleece. There was a poor frog still half asleep with no shelter left, as I had cleared it up – poor frog. I made it a new home. I hope it’s all right. Talking of frogs and the weather, it may be sunny and dry but it’s still too cold for the frogs to wake up and get to the water and spawn. Normally this happens around the middle of February but here we are in March and not a sign of a frog (apart from my unfortunate one). Do any of you have hellebores in your gardens? They really are quite the loveliest flowers, particularly as they bloom in February when nothing else is blossoming: this makes them doubly beautiful. They love a rich, loamy, moist soil in semi shade. Two years ago, I split up a large clump which I had in full sun. They weren’t very happy so I replanted them by a lovely woodland path and do they love it? The sight, in midwinter, of masses of these lovely purplish, brownish, reddish flowers was simply breathtaking. The variety I have is *Helleborus orientalis*,



chestnut shaped, shiny, green leaves. The flowers are not unlike large buttercups in shape, about two inches across, with a wonderful fluffy cluster of creamy stamens in the centre.

There are other varieties, such as Corsica, which has simpler lime green flowers and *Helleborus foetidus*, with masses of small, round, lime green flowers and much more dissected leaves. If you grow them all together, they can cross pollinate and the resulting seedlings are very interesting. My masses of purple ones always make me think of groups of shy, dusky maidens. They have been a joy this year. I think they are the plant of the month. Well its back out to the garden.

Happy gardening, Wellie Boot



Inversnaid Reserve

Spring is on its way, birds are already singing loudly and monitoring of the mammals is one of my most enjoyable tasks during winter. I walk a pre-arranged route through the reserve, taking in all the vantage points to observe deer and goats.

The weather has to be dry and sunny as this brings the mammals out of the woodland and onto the slopes to graze or lie in the sun in sheltered areas. So far this year the goat count has recorded a low of 23 adult goats (which is expected during the kidding period as the nannies go off on their own to have the kids in secluded spots) to a high of 40 adult goats and 5 kids. Five new billies have come in from the north to graze on Garrison Farm. Roe deer, red deer and sheep are also counted so that we are aware of the grazing impact on tree regeneration. Birds are constantly recorded on the reserve and I had a brief glimpse of a female golden eagle close by on the last count. I then disturbed two greyhen (female black grouse) on the ridge above Rob Roy’s cave. Later three Northern bullfinch (subspecies of our common bullfinch) were feeding in Juncas with two pair of reed bunting at the sheep



fank. Woodcock continue to be flushed from bracken patches and kestrels have been hovering close to Garrison farm. I noticed a tree on which a nest box was fitted had come down during the storm and was lying on the ground with the entrance hole covered.

Unfortunately, birds use empty nest boxes to roost at night and a ringed male great tit was dead inside. The details of the ring will be passed to the British Trust for Ornithology, this will tell us where it was ringed, when and how far the great tit had travelled. Short-eared owls are still

around Loch Arklet and the black grouse are lekking with additional gusto as spring approaches. 12, possibly 13, ravens have been feeding on carrion on Beinn a Choin, and the eagle has been back hunting over Stob an Fhainne. On the 14th May we are having an open day on the reserve to which you are all invited – black grouse lek watch (booking for 15 persons only and a 4 am start!), guided walks in woodland and moorland and static displays in which you can learn more about our work on the reserve.

Duncan Cameron
Conservation Assistant

Milton

were a few grass and cucumber ones, too, for George – he is a vegetarian. It is not far from the Comer to the top of Ben Lomond. The snow was very deep and quite firm, perfect for sledging, sliding, skiing.....and snowballing! We were able to stay on the mountain until it was quite late because Maureen Campbell very kindly offered to run us back to Aberfoyle.

I have had a letter, at long last, from my pen-friend in Nigeria. He is an otter called Etim. Etim has lots of friends: one of them is a lion. They play lots of games, just as we do but, do you know, they have never seen snow! It must be strange living in a country where it never, ever snows. I have sent Etim a little Easter egg made out of chocolate. I hope that it does not melt before he gets it.

On Easter morning, I shall be out rolling my egg. This year I am determined to beat Braeval.

Bye for now,
Milton





Why is life never simple! The new Access Code now has full status. Fingers are crossed that responsible use will be the norm but we all know that some problems are inevitable. Yes consultations were held and the many views expressed were tested before the final code was given the go ahead but the knock-on effects will only become apparent when the code is put into practice.

We are all aware that in dealing with Planning Applications cognizance has to be taken of any established Right of Way. But what weight do we give to customary access? This is not something which I anticipate will arise too often but the possibility of that and other access matters means that the Access Officer is added to the list of consultees for Planning Applications. It also highlights the fact that all new legislation takes time to bed in. The Access Forum which has been established will help that process by examining problems and suggestions as they arise.

Although not peculiar to the Park Authority, the Freedom of Information Act is another case in point where problems are occurring because of the interaction of the Data Protection Act. Care has to be taken to ensure that information restricted by the Data Protection Act is not released when replying to requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The problem here is not just the extra cost in screening out the protected information but the fact that blanked out sections (which more likely than not conceal only genuinely restricted names and addresses) give the impression that some relevant information is being withheld.

More change. This time it is primarily in administration. The National Park Community Futures Programme is coming to an end but the aims and functions of the scheme are being taken over by the Community Partnership. To mark the change and to introduce the new regime a conference is being held on 19th March at The Winnock Hotel, Drymen. To ensure that everything starts in the right spirit there will be a ceilidh at The Winnock on Friday 18th at 7.30PM. The importance of community involvement cannot be over stressed as you will see later in this article. If you have been involved in the Community Futures programme and have not yet had your invite to the conference, please get in touch with Lesley Campbell at National Park HQ, The Old Station, Balloch (Phone - 01389 722600)

Yet more change and good news. For some years now, Scottish Water and its predecessors have been operating the tourism complex at Loch Katrine at a substantial loss (no that's not the good news). Recognizing that this was to the detriment of taxpayers, the Minister and the Water Regulator instructed Scottish Water to withdraw from activities outside their remit of supplying wholesome water and treating sewage. Goodbye to SS Sir Walter Scott etc. Now to the build up to the good news. In steps the local community organisations and with the help of the National Park Authority, Stirling Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, VisitScotland, Forestry Commission and our MSP, Sylvia Jackson, negotiations started to ensure that this very important tourism complex and attraction had a secure future. It has been a long haul but all the effort has been worthwhile because

- and this is the good news - the Minister has agreed to fund the deficit for two years until the charitable trust set up to take over the SS Sir Walter Scott and the complex is up and running and a bid has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The government package is limited to £85,000 for immediate repairs and £200,000 for each of the next two years. The sum to be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund will be in the region of £1million. That sum has to be matched funded to bring the total to £2million. Scottish Water will organise that. There are still many hurdles to be overcome but I am more than a little hopeful of the outcome. This for me has been a wonderful example of successful partnership working, full of arguments about how to achieve our aims but backed always with the common aim of securing a sustainable tourism complex at Loch Katrine. It highlights the power of a united community in pursuit of a beneficial common goal. Time and time again, the Scottish Executive has shown that it is most likely to respond favourably to applications for assistance if the application is backed by a united community effort.

OWEN MCKEE

As always I can be contacted at:
Post: Taigh Na Bhuth, Locearnhead,
FK119 8PR
Phone: 01567 830214
email:owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Forest Hills Watersports Centre offers a multitude of activities to groups and individuals. Taster sessions for beginners are available all week, while those with more experience can benefit from further training or simply hire one of our boats. All activities are under the supervision of qualified staff, and all necessary equipment can be provided for a safe and enjoyable day, weekend or week away.

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UDI* FOR WEST STIRLINGSHIRE?

by Dougie MacPherson

Breaking away from Stirling Council was first mentioned in the last issue of the Strathard News, with the suggestion that, perhaps, Strathard residents might get better service from Perth and Kinross Council, which area we (Inversnaid apart) used to be a part of.

Lo and behold, we now have a businessman from Callander suggesting the same! (*Stirling Observer, March 4 2005*). This suggestion was based on a recent published report from the Accounts Commission which gave Stirling Council a fairly glowing report and commended it on its 'ambition and commitment to improvement' *but* did acknowledge that there were problems with **refuse** and **road maintenance!** Now there's a surprise!

Now there is a call for Callander to consider breaking away from Stirling Council, either by forming its own burgh, or become part of Perth and Kinross. And the arguments? It's the same old song, of 'rubbish' refuse collection, of dreadful roads and Stirling Council only interested in the immediate Stirling area.

The Council could deflect these criticisms if it would only address its commitment to its core services and these are the road system within its area and refuse collection. Poor roads are dangerous to all road users, whether car or bicycle. Poor road surfaces cause accidents which, in turn cause damage (and cost) to the road users at the very least. Injury, serious or otherwise, can also result. So we are talking road safety here, something which, to all appearances, the Council is *not* prepared to address.

Then we have refuse collection points (*skips, to youse!*) or the lack of, in the

case of Strathard. This means that Strathard residents have a *minimum* of 12 miles, sometimes a lot more, to dump their bulk rubbish. So, dump it in a layby, or in the forest! I'm not suggesting for a moment that's what we should do, but what I *am* suggesting is that it is a likely scenario - and in the National Park, too! Not that that is likely to bother Stirling Council.

So! What we need is for Stirling Council to prioritise their resources and deal with road safety and public health and hygiene. For example, SEPA states that all skip sites must be manned. Our Council says they cannot afford to do so in the case of Strathard, citing budget restraints.

Yet the same Council has only recently advertised vacancies to be filled which, although admirable, hardly reflect the concerns of the majority of residents in Central Scotland.

For example, there are 2 posts vacant for *Mediation Officers* (£17,853 - £19,590), *'to assist individuals experiencing homelessness as the result of a relationship breakdown.'*

There is also advertised a position as an *Affordable Warmth Officer* (£17,853 - £19,590) *'to implement the Council's Fuel Poverty Strategy'.*

(These positions were advertised in the Glasgow Herald, 18 January 2005.)

Now agreed that these moves to assist, perhaps, the less fortunate in our community are *commendable*, even *desirable*, yet are they *essential*? I'm sorry, but I don't think so, not when the core services which our Council is mandated to provide, are being ignored so blatantly.

*Unilateral Declaration of Independence

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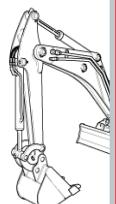
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Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire, FK8 3UX

Media Masterclass Launched For Local Businesses

AN INNOVATIVE new service has been launched to help local businesses gain the skills and know-how to be more effective at tapping into the power of the media.

Fast Start is an intensive media masterclass that focuses on helping smaller businesses to become more confident and skilled at approaching newspapers, radio, television and magazines with news and comment on topical business issues. The masterclass is run over a day and a half or can be organised over three evenings. Follow-up support is available. The cost for up to three members of staff to attend is £350.00.

Sally Shaw, whose Stirlingshire public relations consultancy Sally Shaw PR is behind Fast Start, says: "Many smaller businesses have a great deal of interesting news, expertise and innovation to share but aren't certain how to handle the media and don't have the resources to pay external PR specialists to do it for them. By not interacting with the media, they are missing very valuable opportunities to convey information about their business to large numbers of potential customers. They are also leaving these opportunities open to larger, more media and PR-savvy businesses because journalists must get their news and comment from somewhere. Fast Start will help smaller businesses to reverse this situation."

The Fast Start masterclass will give businesses:

- An understanding of how the media works
- Training in media release writing
- Knowledge on how to stimulate journalists' interest and encourage use of information supplied
- At least one completed and ready to use media release
- Ideas for potential media stories relating to your business
- A tailored database of all relevant media and journalists
- A list of forthcoming media features which can potentially be contributed to
- A prepared media pack (optional extra)
- On-going advice and support by telephone and email for between one month and one year (optional extra)

Local businesses can find out more about Fast Start by calling Sally Shaw PR on 01786 825998.

Forest Theatre Company

Last month, Forest Theatre Company were awarded a Community Dividend Award from the Co-op of £2,000 to buy new sound mixing equipment and two radio microphones which was gratefully received from Eric Calderwood at a Sunday rehearsal. The show is progressing well and tickets are going fast. Please remember there is a slightly shorter matinee performance at 1.30pm especially for people with younger children. The show runs from Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th March in Gartmore Village Hall at 7.30pm (bar opens 6.45pm!). Tickets are on sale in Aberfoyle Post Office and Gartmore Village Shop. Come along and tap your toes to your favourite Sound of Music songs!



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RANGERS CORNER



Waiting for a winter that never came
It appears the seasons will no longer be the same
Global warming is here to stay
The reasons for this are as clear as day
Lack of thought, lack of care
Lack of insight. And a need to be aware
In truth, is it the individual to blame?
Or should governments hang their heads in shame?
Kyoto, Kyoto - to most... a plausible cause
Excepting America whose thoughts are on pause
Lets make a difference, lets make a start
All of us can play our part
Our environment is everything, you know this to be true
It is time for all of us to do what we can do
Be like The Lodge... as cool as The Fonz
Who have just been awarded a Tourism Bronze
SAVE ENERGY. RECYCLE. THINK GREEN!!

committee comments

As a committee we are encouraged by the many positive comments we receive about the Strathard News. It is always satisfying to know that our efforts are not being taken for granted! Of course we are only a vehicle for providing information that is submitted by you. So please remember to tell us your news. Let's not lose sight of the purpose of the newsletter - to convey "social and community issues." We have set the publication dates for the rest of the year (front page), so no excuses now!

The commitment shown by our reporters and regular 'columnists' is exceptional. Every one of them leads a busy working life but we are never let down when the deadline is looming. Now that's dedication! As mentioned in the editorial, without adverts and donations Strathard News would not exist. Your loyalty and support has ensured the future of the newsletter.

Finally, if anyone would like to attend one of our committee meetings please ask any committee member for the date of the next one.

IMPORTANT

Information for Advertisers

When you place an advert with the Strathard News we will continue to run it unless you wish to stop or replace it.

Advertise in 7 issues and get the 8th advert free.

To place/cancel an advert contact Ian Marshall on 01877 382211
To alter an advert contact Marion Back on 01301 702970

Milkman Jokes

Dear milkman; money on the table, wife in bed, please help yourself.

Dear milkman; just had a baby, please leave another one.

Please do not leave milk at no. 14 as he is dead until further notice.

One extra pint. If this note blows away, please knock.

Milkman; please close the gate as birds keep pecking the tops off.

Milkman; leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow because I wrote this note yesterday.

Milkman; sorry I haven't paid your bill before now but my wife has just had a baby, and I've been carrying it about in my pocket for weeks.

Please send me a form for cheap milk as I am stagnant.

Milk needed for baby. Father unable to supply.

Please leave a pint of paralysed milk.

If you wish to take out an annual subscription please complete the information slip and post it to: **The Treasurer, Strathard News, Glencleland House, Lochard Road, Aberfoyle FK8 3TJ.**

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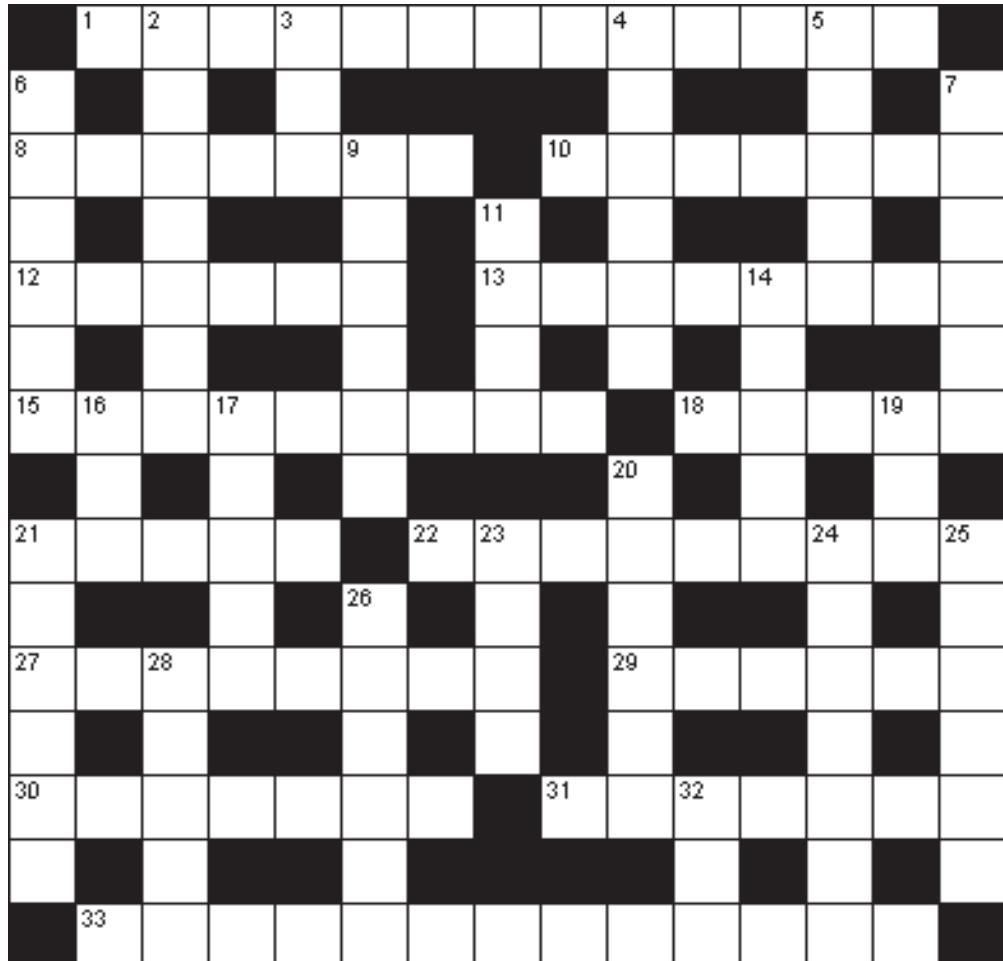
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£5 Prize Crossword



Across

1. Fife village (13)
8. Sad (7)
10. Somewhat hungry (7)
12. Intense fear (6)
13. Physicist (8)
15. Officer (9)
18. Long-billed sandpiper (5)
21. Fiend (5)
22. The right-hand side (9)
27. Magnificent (8)
29. Rule (6)
30. One who aspires (7)
31. Snake (7)
33. Small spaniel (6,7)

Down

2. Capital of Iran (7)
3. Viper (3)
4. Contraction of need not (6)
5. Slip (5)
6. Rural (6)
7. Alter (6)
9. Door (6)
11. In good health (4)
14. Latin-American dance (5)
16. Lyric poem (3)
17. Tend a fire (5)
19. Average (3)
20. Capital of Czechoslovakia (6)
21. Repudiate (6)
23. Commotion (2-2)
24. Anthropoid (3-4)
25. Peril (6)
26. Fit to be eaten (6)
28. Language (5)
32. Slender metal fastener (3)

Please send completed crossword to Editor, Strathard News, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid, FK8 3TU or hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office. Solution and winning entry will be published in Issue 21

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Issue 19 £5 prize winner: Catherine Sherwood, Aberfoyle

Issue 19 Solution:

Across 9. improvisation 10. due 11. manhole 12. user 13. arms 15. enrol 17. sinless 19. odium 21. set 23. digit 24. ailment 25. scamp 27. mitt 28. magi 30. clauses 32. leo 33. weatherperson

Down 1. diguised 2. apple 3. foam 4. giantess 5. labour 6. site 7. undermine 8. heels 14. melts 16. lowly 18. night-gown 20. matrimony 22. tapestry 26. apathy 27. Malta 29. abuse 30. cram 31. sled

church services

Church of Scotland: Sundays 10 am at Port of Menteith and 11.15 am in Aberfoyle Kirk

Scottish Episcopal: 11.15 am every Sunday at St Mary's, Aberfoyle and 10.00 am at St Andrew's, Callander

clubs

Brownies: meet every Wednesday at 6 pm in Church House, Aberfoyle.

Local History Society: meets on 1st Monday of the month at 7.30 pm in Kinlochard Hall or School.

Community Council: meets on 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Next meeting in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall on 7th April, Kinlochard Village Hall on 5th May and Inversnaid Primary School on 2nd June.

Youth Club: meets every Friday at 7.30 pm in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall.

Kinlochard Toddlers: meets every Friday at 10.30 am till 12 noon in Village Hall or School. Bring a parent.

Aberfoyle Toddlers: meets every Wednesday at 10 am till 12 noon in Memorial Hall.

Loch Ard Rowing Club: Contact Douglas Harrison on 01877 382275. Website: www.lochard.net

Loch Ard Sailing Club: Contact Richard Gordon by email r.gordon1@tesco.net. Website: www.lochardsc.org.uk

Aberfoyle WRI: meets on 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in Memorial Hall from September to June.

True insurance form extracts...

"The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole."

"I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car."

"I was on the way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident."

"To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front I struck the pedestrian."

"My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle."

"An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."

"I am sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him."