

STRATHARD NEWS

The Voice Of Your Community

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June 2005
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Dounans flies the Green Flag

Eco Centres
Award 2005

The Dounans Centre flew the flag for the environment, literally, on the 29th April. The Centre, which offers education and activity programmes to schools and youth groups, gained its Eco Centre green flag in January; the official flag raising ceremony celebrated the centre's commitment to recycling, waste reduction and energy saving. In order to gain the award, the Dounans staff team looked at making their working environment and practices as environmentally friendly as possible. Examples include using energy efficient light bulbs, reusing or recycling paper creating a compost heap and introducing a wormery. Souvenir pencils now come from our recycled plastic cups.

Lots of help in gaining the award came from Shona Wallace of Stirling Council who advised us on the criteria needed to gain the flag. Gartmore Primary School also generously gave up time to show us how they went about achieving their Eco Schools award as well as attending the flag raising ceremony itself.



Dounans is one of 5 centres operated by Scottish Centres, a voluntary organisation, recognised as a charity, which seeks to promote the personal and social development of participants, through the use of the outdoors as a vehicle for learning. "Currently having 16,000 participants pass through the doors of our centres each year, gives us a tremendous opportunity to promote environmental awareness to people. We were delighted when we found out we had been given the award" said Sandra Bisset, the programme co-ordinator who was responsible for getting the staff team on board.

The next step is to continue to build on the success of our first flag, by promoting sustainable living to the 7500 people that Dounans sees each year and to integrate fully a sustainable lifestyle into the centre. We are creating an exemplar of sustainable development right here in Aberfoyle!

Gavin Chalmers, Deputy Manager.

Sri Lanka Villagers benefit from £5000 raised by Strathard Villagers

Rev Charles N. Jansz, the Minister of Dehiwela, a small community in Sri Lanka hit by the Boxing Day Tsunami being presented with a cheque for £5000 by Mary Phillips, Secretary of Aberfoyle Traders' Association. The presentation took place at Gartmore House after Rev. Jansz led a short service of praise giving a graphic account of the catastrophic event and the on going needs of his community. ATA members, Phil Crowder, Forth Inn and Fergus Wood, Kinlochard Ceilidh Band gave locals the opportunity to contribute so generously at the Kinlochard Ne'erday Dance and Burns Supper. Also pictured are John and Ann Epps of Crannaig House, Stephen Palmer of Aberfoyle Holidays with his daughter Holly and Andrew Carter of the Wee Market.



.....continued on page 3

Chernobyl Children Life Line

By David Wilkie

Some of our readers may have noticed an article in the April 15th issue of the Stirling Observer which reported on a visit to The Trossachs by a group of children who experienced the horrors of the Beslan school hostage tragedy. The main aim of The Chernobyl Children Life Line charity, who organised the trip, is to bring children from contaminated areas of Belarus to the United Kingdom, for recuperation



and, in a superb gesture, The MacDonald Forest Hills Hotel set up a range of sporting activities and a buffet dinner for the party free of charge. During their stay, the children paid an impromptu visit to the D.M.L. and were offered the private use of the function room for an afternoon. After discussions with the group leaders, it was decided that the Forestry Commission would offer a free guided walk in the company of a forest ranger whilst on their next intended visit in July. Communications are ongoing with Forest Hills Leisure Manager, Caroline Kelly, and The Lodge, in the hope that both organisations can offer their support on an annual basis.

SOME FACTS

In April 1986, the fourth reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant 12km south of the Belarusian border exploded. The radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident was 90 times greater than that from Hiroshima.

- 70% of the fallout landed in Belarus
- It will take 400 hundred years to rid Belarus of contamination
- More than 2 million people still live in contaminated areas
- There is no access to "clean" food. People still till their fields, herd cattle, and eat the contaminated produce of their labours.
- 92% of children living in the area suffer from illness.

Life expectancy of children in Belarus is now around forty years.

If you wish to learn more about this very essential concern, or wish to offer support, financially or otherwise, please contact telephone number 01428 642 523 or access web site www.chernobylchildlifeline.org

Letters to the Editor....

....have your say!

Get it off your chest with a letter to the Editor. Send to Editor, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid FK83TU or email editor@strathardnews.com

Music To My Ears...

Dear Editor,

At last the car park in Aberfoyle is alive with the Sound of Music! Alec Colquhoun and family are to be congratulated on the introduction of a traditional merry-go-round which plays the most fantastic barrel-organ music. Marches, waltzes, polkas – it's absolutely wonderful and brings back childhood memories to me of the Kelvin Hall half a century ago! All we need now to give our visitors the perfect welcome in the car park is a coat of paint on certain strategic walls of Duke's Court!

Fergus Wood
Kinlochard

Does anyone know anything about a **Wellington Bomber** that crashed in the Trossachs during the last war? Apparently the plane came down around two miles from Loch Katrine in November 1944. The six man crew all parachuted to safety. Air ministry records also state that the crash site was 15 miles south of Killin. A restoration group are currently rebuilding a Wellington Bomber and are looking for key parts to complete the project. This group believe that the plane came down to the west of Ben Ledi. The group are aware of and have visited the site of another wartime crash in the area, that of a Whitley bomber in Fathan Glinne south of Loch Doine. If you have any information please contact Mark Evans on 01926 512264.

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Anne McGuire MP

...continued from page 1



Well it is back to business as usual in the House of Commons, although not quite. Now that the General Election is out of the way, the political pundits

have moved onto the next big stories – who will succeed Michael Howard and Jim Wallace, and when will Tony Blair step down? Another day, another story.

Life on the Government benches has been interesting as well. I have now taken up my new position within the Department for Work and Pensions with responsibility for disabled people and I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

The recent Queen's Speech also addressed the challenges facing the country and set out the Government's legislative programme for the session ahead: a Work and Families Bill to help parents balance work and family commitments; a Violent Crime Reduction Bill to deliver safer communities; an Incapacity Benefit Reform Bill to simplify the benefit structure and offer new support to people seeking to return to work; a Consumer Credit Bill to provide greater protection from unfair lending practices - all just some of the bills introduced.

Locally, it has also been a very busy period with the launch of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Plan for consultation and the Freedom of the City of Stirling being conferred to 43 (Fighter) Squadron, RAF. I was also glad to support Christian Aid Week and congratulations to all those who have contributed.

Finally, thanks for the good wishes I received from many of you during and after the recent election.

As usual, you can contact both Sylvia Jackson MSP and myself at the Parliamentary Advice Centre 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling FK8 1UA, telephone 01786 446515.

You can also visit my web site at www.annemcguiremp.org.uk or e-mail mcguirea@parliament.uk

While thankfully, Dehiwela did not suffer any loss of life, 20 families lost their homes, the orphanage was destroyed, and the fishing fleet put out of action, The first task will be to build new homes for the families who are living in a refugee camp.

"We wanted to give the money directly to a community and build a relationship with them," commented one of the organisers, Fergus Wood of Ledard Farm, Kinlochard, "As luck would have it, Charlie Jansz just happened to be in England at a Bible Study conference and was able to come up and receive the cheque on behalf of the community."

Mr Jansz preached at two services while in Aberfoyle at St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church and at Gartmore House.



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Community Council Report

It was a pretty quiet meeting in May – something to do with election night? Nice to know so many of you are civic minded! Our main discussion centred on the demonstration of a seaplane landing on Loch Ard. I went along to watch this event and must admit that in spite of being extremely sceptical about the suitability of the Loch for landing a plane, this was an impressive performance. With less noise than many an outboard motor, the craft landed gently and coasted to the jetty with hardly a ripple on the water. So, with hardly any noise pollution and no environmental pollution from fuel discharge, what is there to worry about in landing seaplanes on the Loch? This particular operator is extremely responsible and keen to show the community that he is willing to work with us to allay our fears. But I think the most frequently expressed worry

has been 'Who or what next?' There are no other operators at the moment, but they will surely come, and will they be as responsible? What about jet-skiers? Might they see planes landing and think this gives them the right to use Loch Ard's hitherto quiet waters? These are all questions which have to be addressed by the riparian owners of Loch Ard; they have sought opinions from all sections of the community and now have the unenviable task of balancing the needs of business, tourism and community in deciding how to manage the waters of Loch Ard.

We talked about the mystery of the benches that were removed from the Main Street of Aberfoyle during the recent car park and Main Street works, and which have never been traced. The Community Council had asked that they be used in other parts of the village, but they have gone.

Since that discussion I have discovered that another two or three have vanished from the other side of the Main Street. The Council have no knowledge of their removal, so can any of you throw any light on the subject? We've only got one left now!

And finally..... by the time you read this it will all be over but I must mention our Environmental Day on 25th May in the Memorial Hall. She will tell me off for mentioning it, but this is the brainchild of our secretary, Pamela Abraham. She has developed the idea with such success that other communities are coming to Strathard now for advice as to how to organize their own. It involves a fair amount of organization, all of which is down to Pam, who does a great job! I hope you all found something of help or interest on the day.

Ros



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"2 for 1"

The old 'World of Football' on Main Street in Aberfoyle has recently been refurbished and is now open as **Boxwood** and **Microcsoft**. A bit of a mix with artificial flowers, gifts and pictures on the one side and PC's, printers and computer repairs on the other. A strange combination you might think, but according to partners Jill and Graham, the two compliment each other perfectly.

"When I was looking to establish **Microcsoft**, Aberfoyle seemed the ideal location. Having worked in Argyll previously, I was looking for an area with a high ratio of professionals working from home and small rural businesses, which in my mind is an area neglected by most city based IT companies. Also from a work point-of-view it's far more rewarding than working in a windowless office." Graham Flett, owner of Microcsoft describes it as a small village shop "but instead of bread and rolls we sell replacement ink, paper, computer spares etc and round the back we can give your computer a MOT while you do your shopping! The whole thing developed further when Jill expressed an interest in shop sharing"

Having established **Boxwood** on Byres Rd in Glasgow over 3 years ago, Jill was looking at creating a 'town & country' feel. "It seemed like a natural development. A majority of our present customers are from outwith Glasgow and travel to us, and many of the gifts have a very 'country living' feel to them, like rustic pots, garden furniture, handmade heart cushions, delicious scented candles from America or Scottish driftwood mirrors. We also specialise in artificial flowers which are great when you don't have time to replace the real thing, so good you'll be tempted to water them!" Boxwood also offers a picture framing service and has many of their Scottish artist's collection on show.

Jill also mentioned that some of her most popular ranges in Glasgow are made by local artists and would be keen to sell local work in Aberfoyle too, so next time you're passing drop in some work.

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Loch Lomond
& The Trossachs
National Park

National Park News

Pairc Naiseanta Loch Laomainn is nan Troisichean

by Owen McKee

The Park Plan consultation launch was blessed with a glorious day at Loch Katrine where the highlight was a sail on the Sir Walter Scott. If you haven't done the trip (there is that tradition that we don't do the things on our own doorstep) then I would strongly urge you to have a go the next time a friend is visiting. It was while on the trip I was speaking to someone from the south who was visiting for the first time and the conversation turned to the losses that Scottish Water had incurred in the operation of the Sir Walter Scott and the related tourist complex. He was dumbstruck and gasping for breath but eventually managed to regain control and blurt out while gesticulating at the wondrous scenery enveloping the boat, "I'd gladly bring back the death penalty for anyone who couldn't manage a profit from this." Thankfully the operation is now under the control of a charitable trust whose remit is to refurbish the SS Sir Walter Scott and revitalise the tourist complex. Scottish Water has worked hard with the various public agencies to effect a smooth transfer and will continue to lend support for the next couple of years. With sound commercial, tourism and visitor attraction experience featuring highly among the trustees of the new venture I have no doubt that all the effort to get the operation into the charitable

trust will be rewarded with a bumper harvest.

Now back to the Park Plan. By the time you have read this there will have been public meetings at Callander and Killin and I hope many of you managed to get along. Additionally the current edition of A Phairc is devoted to a digest of the Park Plan. The Park Authority has expended considerable time and effort in preparing the plan. Throughout the period discussions were taking place with the other agencies operating in the Park and the views of the communities and businesses of the Park sought at area meetings. All that information was distilled and fed into the Park Plan. However it is accepted that people need to see what is proposed before the final Plan is submitted to the Scottish Executive for ministerial approval. That is why there is a period of consultation which will last till 2nd September. Your views do matter so do make the effort to see what is planned and make your comments. Remember that once the Park Plan has received the ministerial approval it becomes a very important document because under the National Parks (Scotland) Act not only the Park Authority but also all the agencies and public bodies operating in the Park **MUST HAVE REGARD FOR THE PARK PLAN** in all transactions that affect the Park.

Over the last few months there has been a growing demand that something be done about toilet facilities within the Park. I would say that the complaints on that front are beginning to overtake those about litter. Now that the tourist season is officially with us and our field wardens are operating throughout the area it may be that the litter problem is less noticeable and that our wardens and countryside rangers are making a difference not only in the collection procedures but also in their education efforts among the litter louts. I do hope so. But a lack of usable toilets is definitely a serious problem. Local authorities have no statutory duty to provide public toilets and in some areas they are making efforts to close them. You will note from the draft Park Plan that the provision of toilet facilities is a recognised need. We will therefore be working with the public agencies and private businesses to improve the provision of toilet facilities. Don't be cynical - there will not be a rush by local authorities to close their toilets in the Park before the Park Plan receives ministerial approval.

As always, if you have any comments, complaints or suggestions on our National Park I can be contacted as follows:

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Scotland's First National Park Launches First National Park Plan Consultation

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority launched Scotland's first National Park Plan for consultation on 16th May 2005. Lewis Macdonald MSP, Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs, joined the Authority and its partners at Loch Katrine in the Trossachs, to introduce the Plan and highlight the spirit of partnership that is vital for achieving the National Park aims. The culmination of an innovative and participative process, the draft National Park Plan sets out a clear vision for the National Park's future, with supporting policies and actions for all organisations in the area.

Gillie Thomson, Convener of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority said at the launch, "I'm pleased to present our draft Plan in the heart of the National Park at Loch Katrine. The range of issues the Plan covers is almost as breathtaking as our scenery. We've had significant input from a wide range of partners. We want to hear what everyone with an interest thinks about the Plan – both in general about the approach that we've taken and in particular about the policies that affect people most. We also want to learn what actions individuals or organisations can take to help deliver the vision of the Plan."

Tricia Bradley, Member of the Park Authority and Chair of the National Park Plan Working Group said, "This plan will set the context for what the Park Authority does and decides and it must also guide all partners in delivery. These partners include visitors, communities, agencies and government."

Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lewis Macdonald supported the Authority's consultation, "The draft National Park Plan marks a new chapter for the area and presents

a chance for all those with an interest in the Park to have a say in how it is managed.

"As Scotland's first National Park, the Authority has the opportunity to pave the way in devising local solutions for the unique set of circumstances affecting our most scenic areas."

Prof Alan Alexander, chairman of Scottish Water said, "The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is a real asset, not just to the Park area but to Scotland as whole. The potential this area holds is immense and we all have our part to play in making Scotland's first National Park and everything it encompasses a huge success in terms of protecting our precious natural environment, driving forward the vital tourism industry and boosting local economic development. It is heartening to see the National Park Authority taking forward their plans and looking to the future and seeking direction from those who want to see Loch Lomond and the Trossachs develop and prosper."

Iain MacInnes Convener of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Community Partnership said, "I'm proud to be present at Loch Katrine today for the launch of the National Park Plan. We in the Community Partnership board have followed with interest the coming together of this plan for our first National Park. We are proud to be part of its development, along with all the agencies, Community Trusts and individuals who have contributed to its progress over the past few years."

James Fraser, VisitScotland Area Director, commented, "The publication of the Park Plan represents an important milestone in helping to shape the future of Scotland's first National Park. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs is one of Scotland's top visitor destinations and I

very much welcome the proposals contained in the Plan to improve the overall quality of the visitor experience while protecting the unique nature of this very special place."

Dr Bob McIntosh, Director of Forestry Commission Scotland said, "Forestry Commission Scotland is the manager of the biggest single landholding in the National Park, and through forestry grant support for other land managers we influence the character of a significant proportion of the rest of the park. We are therefore very conscious of the special responsibility and privilege we have in contributing to the park's objectives. With this in mind we were pleased to contribute to the successful drafting of the Park's Forestry and Woodland Framework. We now look forward to working with the Park Authority, our neighbours and other stakeholders in helping to develop a plan that is good for for the people who live and work in the park, for the people who come to enjoy the park, and for the landscape, wildlife and natural heritage of the park."

David Hughes Hallett, Acting Chair of the National Park Access Forum said, "Access to land and water for recreation is a key issue for the National Park. The Local Access Forum has been set up, as required under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. It brings together a variety of people, including representatives of user groups and landowners, who together will advise the Park Authority on access rights and the Core Path Plan, and assist in the resolution of related disputes. Consultation on the National Park Plan is a great opportunity for people who come to the area to enjoy outdoor activities to have their say, so as to

CAN ANYONE HELP?

This photo show my grandfather, John Crerar, when he was a driver on the Aberfoyle line. The date is not known. My grandfather is the first one in from the right in the photograph. Considering the original photograph was only about 2" by 4", I think it has come out quite well. I would be interested to know if anyone could put names to the others in the picture.

If anyone has any information, I would be grateful if they could please contact me, **Kirsteen Wormald**, 15 Finch Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9TX. Or **Carol Hemfrey**, 3 Clairinch Way, Drymen. Tel. 01360 660720 PS: There is a second photograph, but it proved to be too 'grainy' to get a decent reproduction.



Strathard Community Trust

This is to update you on progress with the Trust since the article in last month's Strathard News. The Trust was formally incorporated on the 8th of March. Charitable Status, which will help the Trust widen its fundraising activities, was granted on 24th March. The appointment of the 9 directors, 5 Member Directors and 4 Co-opted Directors, is almost complete. Those now appointed are as follows:

Member Directors: Maureen Campbell, Chair; Lesley Quirk, Treasurer; Ian Marshall, Vice Chair; John Paterson; Ros Dingwall.

Co-opted Directors: Under the constitution, 3 of these vacancies are to be filled by nominees from the Traders Association, The Local Churches and The Community Council. John Clow, has been nominated by Strathard Community Council. Nominations have yet to be received from Aberfoyle Traders Association and Aberfoyle Churches. There is still one vacancy and nominations will be welcomed.

These 9 Directors will stand down at the first AGM and new Directors will be elected by the Trust members.

David Miller is the Company Secretary and Brenda Barclay is the Administrator. For more information please contact Brenda on 382415 or email: bmbarclay@ecosse.net

Launch of the Trust Monday 13th June, Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle

The Launch of the Trust will be held on **Monday 13th June, from 6.30pm to 9.00pm in the Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle.**

Refreshments will be served and you can learn more about what the Trust is planning to do for the community.

Aberfoyle Motors will arrange transport for the pick-up of members of the community from the Kinlochard area to enable them to attend the launch. Please contact Aberfoyle Motors if you would like transport.

You can either join now, by sending in your form, or come along and decide on launch night if you want to join.

Membership

Who can join? All who live or work in the Strathard Community Council area can become a member of the Trust. Membership is £1 a year. You will be very welcome to attend Trust meetings and bring your ideas.

Why join? Members can do as much or as little as they want to support the Trust but the more members there are, the more the Trust can do for the community. Simply by paying your £1 you will demonstrate your support and will also help with the running costs. You are welcome to contribute in other ways – by helping one of the existing action groups or by coming up with an idea for another project to help the community.

Howto join? You can send in the form printed here or pick up a form in the Post Offices at Aberfoyle and Kinlochard, Aberfoyle Garage, Inversnaid School or the Bunkhouse at Inversnaid.

Strathard Community Trust - Membership Application Form

Full Membership is open to all, over 18 years of age, who live or work in Strathard. The Cost is £1 per annum.

Junior (under 18) **or Associate** (supporters from outwith Strathard) are welcome to join as members **at no cost** but will have no voting rights

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I wish to apply for membership of Strathard Community Trust Ltd
I enclose the membership fee of £1 per person for one year

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Please send the completed form together with payment, cash or cheque made out to Strathard Community Trust Ltd, to Lesley Quirk, Treasurer, Glencleland House, Aberfoyle FK8 3TJ, or drop it off at Aberfoyle or Kinlochard Post Office

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Working Groups Report

There are currently 4 working groups taking projects forward with the support of the Trust. The Directors named below have agreed to be the point of contact with the Trust

1. **Environmental, Social and Community** - *Maureen Campbell & Ian Marshall*
2. **Paths and Trails** - *Maureen Campbell & Ros Dingwall*
3. **Local Economic Development** - *John Paterson & Lesley Quirk*
4. **Youth Group** - *John Paterson*

Environment, Social and Community

Work on the Aberfoyle Car Park has finally been completed and the lane between the Forth Inn and Guyana has had new drains laid and been resurfaced. Kinlochard Village Hall is raising funds for an extension and the recent Race Night raised over £700

The Strathard News is doing extremely well and going from strength to strength. The committee is always seeking to expand. Anyone interested in joining this happy little band should contact any member of the committee (contact details on page ??)

John Clow is currently carrying out a feasibility study on setting up a Waste Management and Recycling Site in the area, now that we do not have the skip anymore. If this is feasible, the intention is to set up a community business to manage the site and provide local employment. John is also hoping to involve Port of Menteith and Gartmore community groups since the loss of this facility affects all 3 communities. This will not be a quick process but he will give regular updates on progress.

Path Group

Following the second public consultation sessions in February, the path group is ready to produce an Action Plan identifying routes that need to be developed, improved and signed.

At the same time, the Forestry Commission are approaching the end of a five-year access improvement project within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. This has produced many new paths, five footbridges, new and improved car-parks and some horse-friendly barriers to replace gates, opening up a wide range of new options for walkers, cyclists and riders. Information points are to be sited at key car parks with display boards, each showing several suggested routes. The path group has taken up the offer to be involved in the selection of these routes.

Paths and Trails – Historic Route

A feasibility study is now under way to examine the proposal to establish a traffic-free route through Strathard. This would use existing forestry roads and paths from Aberfoyle, and at the Inversnaid/Stronachlachar end would link to sections of old road which are now becoming increasingly indistinct as peat growth submerges them.

In April an archaeological dig took place to establish the condition and structure of the old roads. This was carried out by a total of 23 volunteers, mainly local but from as far afield as Crianlarich, Arrochar and Clydebank. Five trenches were dug, and up to eight volunteers were working at a time under the supervision of two archaeologists from CFA Archaeology.

The weather was kind to us apart from on the first day when it rained continuously and our Time Team returned from lunch at the Inversnaid Bunkhouse to find their trench full of water. Work had to be abandoned early that day, but the sun shone most of the time for the rest of the week.

Although we didn't dig up any treasure, the vast majority of volunteers found it a very rewarding experience and feedback was very positive. As well as hard graft with pick and shovel there was some hi-tech surveying equipment to work with, and the archaeologists did their best to ensure that everyone had a taste of the various processes involved – cleaning surfaces, surveying, measuring, recording, drawing etc.

At the time of writing we are awaiting the final report from CFA Archaeology. The feasibility study itself should be completed later this year.

Local Economic Development

- Tourism and Visitor Management - the Group is working with the National Park and the Forestry on the subjects of signage and paths. New visitor attractions are also being explored. The development of a Branding strategy for the area is still ongoing. John Epps is continuing to encourage and support Local Crafts suppliers to develop new markets.

Youth Group

The Youth Group is awaiting the results of various grant applications which they have submitted. Owing to the departure of Kevin and Paddy, there will be an emergency AGM in the near future. Volunteers are desperately needed to take forward the plans for the playpark. If you are interested, contact John Clow, tel. 01877 382508

Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!

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



**History Of The David Marshall Lodge
Part 3 will appear in the next issue of
Strathard News**

Hugh Clayden - Moving On

On Friday, April 22nd, the villagers of Aberfoyle may have noticed the distinct lack of Forestry Commission vehicles cruising their regular beat. This was down to the fact that the entire Cowal and Trossachs Forest workforce were meeting secretly at a classified fictional location, code-named "Hugh's Hollow" to pay their respects to the departing Forest District Manager, Mr. Hugh Clayden. Although strenuous efforts were made to disguise the occasion as a team-building exercise, the appearance of the "Good Luck" balloons Liz McGregor's staff were busily attaching to the lunchtime BBQ marquee may just have given the game away. Lo and behold, Mr Bruce Sewell, Deputy Forest District Manager, appeared to make a presentation of a number of gifts on behalf of the staff. Despite a fair amount of light-hearted heckling from the back, Mr. Clayden held his poise and paid thanks to the workforce for their efforts and support throughout the years. An excellent speaker, and highly regarded by his staff, Hugh always led by example, and his



contribution towards a variety of instrumental projects within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and the National Park throughout his 13 year tenure, was immense. Mr. Clayden has moved on to take up the post of Project Manager – Scottish Forestry Strategy Review at the Forestry Commission national office in Edinburgh. He is succeeded by Mr. Gordon Donaldson, previously of Lochaber Forest District.

Environment Weekend

Sunday 5th June is World Environment Day, and the David Marshall Lodge is planning a full weekend of activities on the theme. On the Saturday, (the 4th), volunteers are invited to come and help cleaning the forest trails, with the reward of free refreshments for all participants. There will also be working forest mini-bus tours on each day, aimed at raising awareness of forest operations and the importance of forests as "carbon sinks". Numbers for these tours, starting at 1.00 p.m., are limited and the cost is £10.00 per person. Children under 14, if accompanied by adults, go free. Booking is essential. Sunday takes the form of a volunteers work day, giving people the opportunity to have a positive impact on their local environment by helping the conversation team to carry out some habitat enhancement. Fun environmental activities will also be available all weekend for children. For booking, and further information, please contact The Lodge on 01877 382 258.



David Thornaby Brough Retiral

Easter Sunday, 2005, marked the last official working day of one the most charismatic figures in the history of The Lodge. In the long distant past, an approach was made by the Forest District office, to David with the hope that he would accept a post as resident woodcarver at the David Marshall Lodge. Not one to ignore a challenge, David took the bait, and ended up staying for thirteen years!! To mark David's retirement, a surprise party was held in the building, after hours, following another superb afternoon rendition of traditional Celtic music by Heelster Gowdie. As the assembled guests enjoyed a wonderful buffet supplied by Liz McGregor, the departing Forest District Manager, Mr. Hugh Clayden, offered the main speech, and presentation gifts were handed out by family members and staff. These included a celebration cake in the shape of bodhran, David's chosen instrument in the band, and a pair of slippers from his grandchildren. I suspect however, that these may lie in the cupboard for a little while longer, as David seeks to "carve" another notch to his bow as a musician. It would be inappropriate at this stage to say David will be sorely missed, as I am certain he will continue to be regular visitor to The Lodge, not least of all with the band, who will be playing live on the first Sunday of every month through until October.

The Knot is Tied

On Saturday 7th May, The David Marshall Lodge was proud to play host to the wedding of Jim Aitken and Cairsti Steele, two regular visitors, and popular figures in the community. Despite a few summer showers, and a few nerves, the assembled company, consisting mainly of the immediate families and close friends, enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere in the tranquil setting. On completion of the ceremony, a light buffet was served by Liz McGregor's catering staff, accompanied by the traditional, and wholly necessary, chilled champagne. After the photograph session, the guests descended upon the Forth Inn in Aberfoyle for the evening reception, where, by all accounts, a fine time was had by all. The staff at The David Marshall Lodge enjoyed the occasion as much as the guests and wish Jim and Cairsti all the best for the future.



Bluebell

The David Marshall Lodge is proud to host the annual Bluebell Festival on May 10th. This event has been running for two years and is a slightly out of the ordinary, two themed garden tour of Katy Freeman's time you read and whilst the to exhibit a wonderful flow of bluebell paintings and nursery and paintings and winners. A free the school, is are also due arranging this

OSPREY DRAMA LIVE FROM DAVID MARSHALL LODGE

Who Needs Coronation Street?

On the 7th April a female osprey arrived on our nest and was joined by a male 3 days later on the 10th April. Due to their relaxed behaviour, enjoyment of mating and similar arrival date to last year, we believed it be our resident pair reunited on the nest after being apart for 6 months over the winter.

Using our new close up camera, we saw the female had a yellow leg ring OU. From this we could tell where and when she was hatched. You can imagine our surprise when we found out that not only had she been ringed by our very own Conservation Manager Dave Anderson in 1999 but she had actually hatched on another of the live Ospreys 50th viewing sites in Scotland - Glentress in Peebles. And if that wasn't enough, we were told that Roy Dennis, the Scottish

osprey expert, had captured this same female osprey as an adult wintering in Spain in 2002! He even had photos of her - she was becoming quite a celebrity! This in itself is very unusual as most Scottish ospreys migrate to West Africa. Despite all this, more importantly, our ospreys were back. As we began to relax and await the arrival of eggs, suddenly our pair was faced with an intruding young male who promptly ousted off our first male and took over the nest and the female. The female was completely disinterested, so much so, that she would intermittently mate with the first male while the second male was off fishing for her – what can I say?

A few days later another pair of ospreys appeared on the scene. We could see that the female of this pair had a red leg ring. At this point we had five ospreys

fighting for the nest. Just as we were waiting to see the outcome of the battle.....the camera malfunctioned!

When the main camera came up again we saw we had 2 ospreys on the nest, but which two? We looked long and hard at footage from the main camera and



were convinced (with an element of optimism I admit) that we could see the glimmerings of a light coloured leg ring on the female rather than a dark (red) ring. We could not be sure but we believed that the first pair (OU and first male) had won. Especially since once again, they looked very settled and relaxed in one another's company. By Sunday 1st May, the female had laid her first egg.

The total number of eggs remained a mystery until three days ago when the close up camera was repaired and we saw we had three but no sign of a yellow leg ringed female. Instead a red leg ringed female sat in her place. We had been wrong, the second pair had won and no sign of the female celebrity OU. The letters on the leg ring look like 6A but we are awaiting their next incubation changeover to be sure.

If the leg ring is Red 6A, then she is a Perthshire bird who hatched in 2001. This cannot be the osprey female we have had breeding here for the last 3 years. Ospreys do not breed until 3 years old and she is only 4 years old meaning, at the most, she can only be in her 2nd breeding year.

So we are left with these questions. Was Yellow OU the resident female of 2004 who has now been ousted by the Red 6A female? Was Red 6A the resident female of 2004 and OU and her male were in fact intruders on the nest? If this is the case did Red 6A oust off another female in 2004 to get the nest? Well we can only hypothesise and as yet we are not convinced about the Red 6A leg ring. As for the male, well he doesn't have any leg rings so let's not get started on that one! The eggs could hatch anytime from the 5th

June. Our new close up camera is beaming wonderful pictures back to the Lodge with incredible clarity. It is our hope that with this new technology, we will witness the chicks hatching. Please come and join us to see how the story develops. We now also have buzzards live on camera as well as a blue tit nestbox with nine chicks that have just hatched.

The Bird of Prey Centre at David Marshall Lodge is a partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB and SNH working together for the continuing conservation success of Scottish Ospreys, with financial support from THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER+ 2000-2006 Programme.

Joanna McFarlane, Bird of Prey Officer.

ay

David Marshall Lodge held the first of its Celebration Days on Sunday 8th. It has been in the planning stage for some time though our timing proved to be a good day was had by all, and our forest walks in the company were received favourably. By the time the bells should be in full bloom, mainly so, The Lodge will continue an interesting array of facts on this together with a superb display of plants, kindly submitted by Aberfoyle primary schools. Ann Johnston, of The Lodge, kindly agreed to judge the prizes which will be awarded to the three winners. A guided walk by a forest ranger, for part of the prizes. Many thanks to Carol Omand, Head Teacher, for her contribution at short notice.

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Spring News from Inversnaid Primary School



In September of last year Jo Mercer from the National Trust for Scotland came to talk to us about a project that she was going to do in some local schools. It sounded really interesting when she explained exactly what we were going to do. The Project was to make a film all about Ben Lomond and the people who live and work on its slopes. This was a great opportunity for us as we live so close to Ben Lomond. First of all we had to decide how we were going to share out the jobs that would need to be done. At the time we had 7 pupils all ready to be on our Film Crew.

For our film we needed Researchers, a Scriptwriter, Camera people, Editors (they got to do loads of computer work), Presenters, a Producer and Directors. Some of us had to do several jobs.

A few weeks later Mrs Cassidy came to show Thomas and Mathew how to use the editing software on the laptop. That was really tricky and it took a lot of time to feel confident with doing it.

Our first filming session was at Rowardennan where we filmed one of the workers and met the Warden. It was interesting seeing how busy it is on the other side of Ben Lomond.

A few weeks later we went to Comer to interview Mrs Campbell. That was a great visit. We met all the puppies as well as finding out a lot of interesting information. Our last film shoot was up the hill behind our school. We only needed to go part way up to get a view of Ben Lomond peeping over the top of Cruachan.

The whole project was very exciting and we learnt a huge amount about Film-making and Ben Lomond itself.

We are in the process of making copies of our film, which will be on sale from our school very soon. Please phone the school if you would like a copy. (01877 386218)

By Thomas Ferrie, Mathew Simpson, Ross Walker and Eilidh Walker.

Grand Opening of the 'Cabin'

On Saturday 23rd April we had a barbecue and 'Cabin Opening Night' at our school. We were also planting our Orchard. All our Dads and other helpers had to dig holes for the trees to go in then we put the trees in the holes and covered them up with soil. Next we officially opened our Cabin. Everyone gathered around the cabin. We had a glittery red ribbon to cut. I was chosen to cut the glittery red ribbon since I'm the oldest.

Then it was time for the barbecue. My Dad was cooking. We had burgers, sausage and coke. It was the best night in ages.

By Thomas Ferrie

On Saturday 23rd April we went to a barbecue at school. We opened the cabin by cutting a red ribbon. We chose Thomas to cut it. We ate sausages and burgers and potatoes. Then we played lots of games.

By Eilidh Walker

To all Residents in Strathard, Gartmore and Port of Menteith

Help the Strathard Community Trust to help you. After Stirling Council removed the skip from the car park, many residents filled in a petition to save the skip. The Strathard Community Trust has come up with an idea to try and bring the skip back to Strathard and surrounding villages. We would welcome your opinion and any suggestions on where to have a new amenity site in the surrounding area. Please tick which of the below you feel we need the most – even if you think they are all important and hand this survey into the Post Office.

We hope the site would contain the following:

- ☐ Skip
- ☐ Garden composting area
- ☐ Bottle bank
- ☐ Clothes banks
- ☐ Paper banks
- ☐ White goods
- ☐ Furniture recycling area

Name _____

Address _____

Congratulations

to

sisters Jillian McLean and Yvonne Lawson who are raising money for The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. On 17th April 2005 both ladies completed the London Marathon.

In June Jillian McLean and Cameron McCallum are competing in the Edinburgh Marathon again for The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

To help with the fund raising Jillian is organising the very first Trossachs 10k race. The race is open to anyone over 16 and the £10 entry fee is going to The Trust. This is to be held on Sat. 4th June at 10.30. Entry forms are available at the Tourist Information Office, The Forth Inn (where the race registration on the day will take place) or by post from J McLean, Duchray Road, Aberfoyle.

Please support this event. If it is popular it could maybe be run annually.

Loch Katrine Deal's Huge Boost For Scottish Native Woodland

A huge area of native woodland twice the size of Dundee will begin taking shape across the heart of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park over the next 20 years.

Spread over almost 8500 hectares (21,000 acres), it will be a size of mostly-broadleaved native woodland that has probably not been seen in Scotland since the Middle Ages.

This vision follows the lease by Scottish Water of its 9600-hectare property around Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet to Forestry Commission Scotland, which Forestry Minister, Lewis Macdonald, formally announced at a ceremony at the loch on Monday May 16.

The Commission has ambitious plans to begin restoring thousands of hectares of natural habitats around the loch over the next 10 to 20 years, including at least 2000ha of native woodland habitat. This project, when added to neighbouring properties where native woodland is also being restored, will create the biggest continuous area of native woodland habitat south of the Highlands, and Scotland's biggest native woodland that comprises mostly broadleaved trees rather than conifers.

Loch Katrine lies between two other properties where native woodland habitat is also being restored. They are RSPB Scotland's 817-hectare Inversnaid property to the west, and the Woodland Trust Scotland's 4085ha Glen Finglas estate to the east.

There are already 1500ha of native woodland habitat established or regenerating at Loch Katrine, and the Commission plans to restore at least 2000 more. The Woodland Trust expects to restore about 2000ha at Glen Finglas, and the RSPB expects to restore about 400ha of native woodland and montane scrub habitat at Inversnaid.

The jigsaw of landholdings where native woodland is being restored continues south of Inversnaid, in a strip along the eastern shores of Loch Lomond.

From north to south, the Jensen Foundation is restoring about 300ha on Comer Estate, the Commission is restoring about 1900ha in Ptarmigan, Rowardennan and Salloch Forests, and the Royal Scottish Forestry Society is restoring about 385ha of native woodland habitat at its Cashel Forest.

Added together, the woodland across the five contiguous properties will form a continuous area of native woodland and

associated habitat of almost 8500ha, and possibly more, stretching up the eastern shore of Loch Lomond and across the Trossachs almost as far east as Callander.

The woodland at Loch Katrine will comprise mostly birch and Scots pine, with oak on the lower slopes near the loch, as well as hazel, rowan, alder, willow, juniper, ash, bird cherry and aspen, with montane scrub of woody shrub species and stunted forest trees in the harsher environment of the higher slopes.

The exact area of woodland habitat to be restored at Loch Katrine will depend on the outcome of discussions between Scottish Water and the Commission based on the catchment's "hydrological yield" (the amount of water that runs off the land into the loch). This can vary according to the type of vegetation in the catchment.

Welcoming the lease, Lewis Macdonald said,

"This is a win-win deal for all concerned, most importantly for the people of Scotland. The Loch Katrine property is believed to be the largest single landholding taken into Forestry Commission management for more than 30 years.

"Scotland lost nearly all of its original woodland as our ancestors cleared the land for farming, settlements, industry and development, so that we have only about 1 or 2 per cent of this priceless natural asset left today. So it's wonderful that at Loch Katrine we can make such a significant contribution towards replacing some of that lost heritage.

"It will free up resources at Scottish Water to allow it to concentrate on its core activity at Loch Katrine of providing clean water to the people of Glasgow, and greater efficiencies to its customers. "It will make a major contribution to the achievement of the aims of Scotland's national parks, particularly the aim of conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

"It will also enable us to deliver locally on priorities for action in our Scottish Forestry Strategy, which calls for us to expand, enhance and link areas of native woodland. This is something that is strongly supported for the Loch Katrine area by the integrated catchment management plan, the National Park's Forestry & Woodland Framework, and the draft National Park plan. Forestry

Commission Scotland, with its wealth of expertise and experience in this field, is ideally placed to take this forward.

"Another priority in our forestry strategy is to increase forestry's contribution to tourism. And here at Loch Katrine, the Commission will work with local communities and businesses, the National Park Authority, Stirling Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, its neighbours, VisitScotland and other partners to maximise the potential benefits for public recreation and tourism, the local community and local jobs.

"The Commission will work in partnership with the local community and next-door neighbours with compatible objectives to achieve an even greater asset on a whole-landscape scale across the heart of the national park, not just on a single property. Forestry Commission Scotland, Woodland Trust Scotland and RSPB Scotland have worked in partnership with one another for many years on native woodland and biodiversity projects, and I am very pleased that they have already begun working together, and with National Park staff, to identify the potential for co-operation and shared interests in the area.

"Loch Katrine's proximity to Glasgow, in particular, also provides a wonderful opportunity for our Healthy Living initiative and the Forestry Commission's Active Woods campaign to get people to enjoy exercise in the peace and quiet and fresh air of woodland as a great way to improve their health, fitness and well-being.

"Loch Katrine and its surrounding landscape is already a magnificent asset, much loved and enjoyed by visitors and the people of Scotland. However, I am confident that in decades to come, thanks to what we are announcing today, it will become truly one of the jewels in the crown of the national park and the nation."



Forestry Commission

ABERFOYLE OSPREY CAMERA SPOTS BORDERS BIRD

High-tech cameras in an osprey viewing centre at Aberfoyle have helped give a big boost to the Tweed Valley Osprey Project in the Scottish Borders.

Thanks to precision zoom technology, wardens in Aberfoyle have been able to identify a coloured ring on a female osprey that is featuring on their live CCTV links. The bird has been traced back to the Tweed Valley, where it was hatched six years ago.

The coloured leg ring had been fitted to the bird back in 2002, when she was caught while migrating through Spain, and this was matched up with another British Trust for Ornithology ring fitted by a Forestry Commission Scotland bird expert back in 1999.

The fact that Tweed Valley ospreys are now breeding in other parts of Scotland is a welcome boost to the Tweed Valley Osprey Project, which opens its viewing centres near Peebles in mid-May.

Neil Harnott, the RSPB osprey information officer for the Tweed Valley Osprey Project, is delighted:

"This is fantastic news for everyone involved in the osprey project. It is extremely encouraging to see that a chick from our area is now fully grown and successfully breeding elsewhere in

Scotland. It is especially nice that she should have settled at Aberfoyle, because the male bird we've currently got in the Tweed Valley was actually hatched in the Aberfoyle area in 1997.

We appear to have swapped birds!"

The osprey viewing centres in the Tweed Valley are expected to thrill thousands of visitors again this year. Forestry Commission Scotland's viewing centre in Glentress Forest, and the Kailzie Gardens viewing centre, are just outside Peebles and will open their doors to the public on the 14th May.

Sarah Oakley from the Commission says the centres are a real success story too: "Over the past two years the centres have been busy with visitors glued to the CCTV cameras watching the ospreys bringing up their chicks. It's been our very own wildlife version of Big Brother. "This year we are hoping that an osprey pair will breed again and delight onlookers by giving us all a glimpse into their secretive and fascinating world."

For more information on the Tweed Valley Osprey Project, log on to www.forestry.gov.uk/tweedvalleyospreys or call the Forestry Commission public enquiries line, 0845 FORESTS (0845 367 3787).

The Garden

by Wellie Boot



May seems to have been just like April – glorious sunshine and torrential showers. It isn't easy weather for gardening: do you plant out or do you not? Well, I think the frost is past now but, oh this rain!!

The planting out question is always a worry and this year we did have a late frost. Most people were sensible and didn't get caught, but nature itself was not so wise. Some of the herbaceous plants were encouraged to produce their lovely young shoots by the early sun and warmth and, bingo, they got frosted. The beautiful young bronze shoots of the rodgersia suffered badly and are now all crisp and crumple and will have to be cut back. Don't worry, however, more will come, unlike the annuals: they just die. The rhodies and azaleas have again been magnificent and make such a show in everyone's garden.

At this time of year there is so much to do in the garden I'm afraid I butterfly around. I start to weed and get a bit of the border clean; this reminds me of that plant I bought which would be just lovely in the space; so I go to the greenhouse to get it. I then realise the plants in the greenhouse are needing to be watered, so I do that. Then I discover the parsley seedlings are ready for pricking out, so that gets done; and so it goes on. The first plant doesn't get planted or the weeding finished – but that's gardening, and think of all the other things that did get done.

To add to all the gardening, I have an added task of potting up plants for the plant stall at the garden opening:

DALDRISHAIG HOUSE

On Sunday, 12th June

In aid of Aberfoyle Parish Church.

Do come along and visit us and pray for a lovely day. There is a free mini-bus from the village car park as we have very little parking space.

If you do come you will see my plant of the month – the wonderful blue meconopsis (Himalayan Poppy). They are such an intense blue rising above their soft, green, hairy leaves.

Do try and keep on top of the weeding; it makes gardening for the rest of the year so much easier.

Happy weeding.

Wellie Boot



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RSPB Inversnaid



The reserve open day was well attended with the weather playing an important part, brilliant sunshine and light winds. The guided walks on the nature trail allowed visitors to view red-breasted merganser, dipper, pied wagtail, robin, common gull, black headed gull, mute swan, mallard, pied flycatcher, cuckoo, wood warbler, blackbird, song thrush, garden warbler, willow warbler, blackcap, tree pipit, buzzard, carrion crow, chaffinch and redstart. In addition, we also observed red fox, a single slow worm (over 15 centimetres in length) and found a pine marten scat next to the footbridge. On the moorland walk starting from Garrison farm, visitors were able to view redpoll, whinchat, stonechat, snipe, twite, skylark, meadow pipit, curlew, oyster catcher, carrion and hooded crow, grey wagtail, pied wagtail, house sparrow, blackbird, song thrush, wheatear, willow warbler, cuckoo, greenfinch, goldfinch, swallow, house martin, buzzard, tree pipit, but unfortunately no golden eagle or black grouse. Due to the interest in the guided walks, it is our intention to start a regular programme of guided walks next year for the benefit of locals and visitors. Tracy Livingston from the British Feral Goat Research Group also had an excellent display stand, which interested both young and old alike.

Twite has been showing well along the sheep fank track all spring, with a minimum count of eight birds. When you consider that only two years ago, this species had not been regularly recorded on the Garrison and it was only last year that successful breeding was proven with two pairs, the change in the grazing regime is showing immense benefit for a number of declining species. Other birds that have been observed include a pair of linnet, merlin, peregrine falcon, house sparrow and swift. The goats have been lying on the open moorland above loch Lomond enjoying the good weather. The kids are growing rapidly and so are their horns! From little stubs, they are now about four inches long but they are still clinging close to the nannies. Red deer are also about the reserve in smaller numbers now, with four young stags grazing beside the sheep fank. An interesting find was a female emperor moth, this is a very large moth with a large 'eye' on each wing, a beautiful mixture of greys, white, black, purple and pink colours. Unfortunately, I had hoped to include a photograph for you all to see the beauty of this species but they were slightly out of focus!

*Duncan Cameron
Conservation Assistant,
Central Scotland*

The **RSPB** is the largest conservation charity in Britain and plays a major role in protecting the wildlife of Scotland. We are keen to raise public awareness of birds and their habitats. We aim to develop an understanding of the role RSPB plays in protecting Scotland's wildlife and environment.

We have prepared an illustrated talk called "**The RSPB in Scotland: its history and work.**" The talk is presented by a skilled speaker and is fully illustrated. The talk is provided free of charge, however donations are most welcome. We look forward to speaking to Community groups and if you wish further information or to book a talk please contact Aileen Fox, RSPB Scotland, Dunedin House, 25 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3TP

Tel: 0131 311 6500

Email: aileen.fox@rspb.org.uk

Bookings will be accepted from September 1st 2005 to 31st March 2006.



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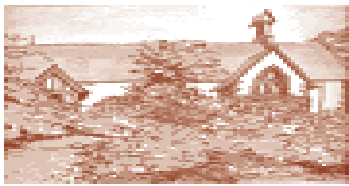
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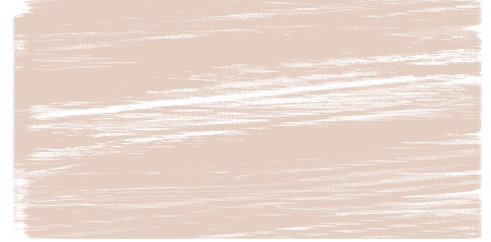
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St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church In The Trossachs and Strathendrick

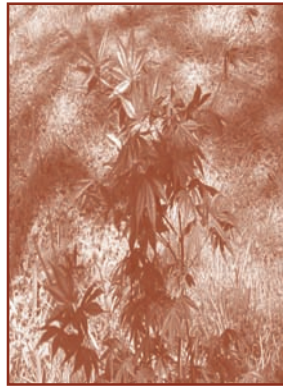


Summer is on its way!

The Church garden has looked lovely this spring and the ten varieties of daffodils on the bank by the car park get better and better each year. The Church garden is looked after by Davie Henderson who comes "just in time" to make sure the lawns look good and the hedges are trimmed.

The main feature this year is going to be the wild flower banking and the memorial garden and the pictures of this show the potential for making St Mary's church one of the places that visitors to the National Park will love to come and visit.

On Trinity Sunday 22nd May we were visited by the Wordsworth Singers who gave a concert at Renagour in aid of the Children in Need Institute in Calcutta that is one of the church congregation outreach projects. The singers come from the Lake District and 17 of them sang an anthem after the communion.



The attendances at the regular 11.15 am Sunday services show a steady increase and visitors are starting to come as a result of our publicity campaign and

the establishment of our church web site. The web site address is: www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk/ We would like to know what you think of the web site so please visit it and leave a message saying that you are a reader of the Strathard News.

After over 100 years of continual use without any major construction problems the vestry have commissioned the well known local church architect Tom Robinson to prepare a detailed survey and identify what has to be done to ensure that we have another 100 years of trouble free use of the church building.

One of the challenges will be the repairs and possible resiting of the Willis Organ that was gifted to the Church over 50 Years ago by Mr Stuart Black of the Donaldson and Black shipping line whose ships used to sail from the river Clyde all over the world.



The sponsored walk up Ben Venue is the first fund raising event where the target for money to be raised was exceeded. This is a good start to fund raising that will be a huge task for the congregation over the next few years.

The memorial to those who died in the Great War has been restored and is now alongside the memorial to the slate quarrymen who built the church with their own hands in the 1890's. Come along and see if one of your ancestors was involved. Contact the Verger, Mrs Margaret Johnson (01877 382611) if you would like to see the inside of the church and study the memorials.

The new church notice board is under construction and will be in place soon. All are welcome to come to the church and the Rector the Reverend Richard Grosse will be pleased to hear from you.

Braeval Antiques Aberfoyle



Tel. 01877 382400
Mobile 0781 4405975
Ask for Andrew

*Braeval Old Mill, Braeval,
Nr Aberfoyle, Stirling. FK8 3UY*

I have been involved in the antiques business on a part-time basis for the past forty years and am passionate about my work. Since retiring from the hospitality business I am now involved on a full-time basis and would, therefore, be delighted to help, to the best of my ability and knowledge, in the following areas:

1. Free valuations for insurance (without prejudice)
2. Valuations for probate (without prejudice) cost 2.5 % of valuation
3. To help and advise on a) antiques repairs b) antiques restoration c) antiques maintenance
4. Help and advice on selling your antiques by auction
5. The location and purchase of that rare item you have always promised yourself
6. I purchase individual items
7. I purchase complete estate or house contents

Every contact is made with total discretion, confidentiality and courtesy, at a time to suit the client. Properties cleared will be left secure, swept and tidy.

Aberfoyle Rob Roy F. C.

For the avid soccer fanatics amongst us, the closure of the professional season is a depressing time. During the summer months we are subjected to the constant drone of golf commentators, the media catwalk images of the high and mighty Ascot nobility, and the hysterical nationalistic fervour of the Wimbledon crowds, Cliff Richard and all. If you are in need of a "football fix", these nightmarish scenes can easily be avoided by supporting your local team, Aberfoyle Rob Roy, from April to September. Apart from the Forth and Endrick Championship, the team compete for four trophies throughout the season. For all you old-timers out there, why not come along and rekindle those memories when you could actually kick a ball about yourselves (I include myself in this category, unfortunately). For the youngsters of the village, the opportunity for stardom awaits, if you feel you have the skills to make the team. Training is held every Wednesday at Balfron campus and games take place on a Tuesday or Saturday, in the evenings. An increase in attendances would create obvious benefits for the team in terms of morale, but there also remains a desperate need for financial support to meet the high running costs of the club. If anyone is willing to invest in the team by way of sponsorship or is able to offer advice or contribute to raising funds: please contact Ricky Govan on 01877 382 198.

Loch Ard Sailing Club

*When the dinghy goes wop! with a wiggle between
And the shores of Loch Ard are burgeoning green,
And the wind as usual is howling out of the east,
But never mind, in the clubhouse there's a veritable feast,
Then you know the season has just begun
And oh, let's hope this summer we'll see some sun!!*



With abject apologies to the shade of Rudyard Kipling (NOT him of the exceedingly good cakes!!), that is all 'Just So' I can report on the first few weeks of this, the 38th Sailing Season of the Club.

During the winter, the Loch once more investigated how well the floor of the Clubhouse could stand up to 15cms. of water sloshing around, so the members had a bit more cleaning and painting to do than usual at the working parties before the Opening Day on the 10th April. Since then, there has been the usual mix of wet, windy and 'interesting' sailing conditions, sufficient to keep the good sailors occupied and the less-experienced, such as myself, wary!

This year, the Club Regatta was moved forward into mid-May and a good fleet of members enjoyed the two days of

racing in reasonable sailing conditions on this beautiful and peaceful loch. The Club views with some reservations the possibility that the character of this area may be changed by the pressures being placed upon it by the increasing demands of tourism and access.

We have been encouraged by the number of new members with young families joining the Club this year as many of us sadly are becoming older if not wiser. It is perhaps an interesting indication of this that one of the trophies, originally called the 'Milligan 41', for which only members over 41 years old were eligible, is now the 'Milligan 51' and may well soon have to become the 'Milligan 61'!!

The season continues until the last week in October and anyone who thinks that they might be possibly interested in sailing is very welcome to come and visit the Club to see what it is like any Sunday afternoon until then.

Richard Gordon
Hon. Secretary, LASC

This writer would welcome contributions from the community for this column. If you have any particular memories, or have any photographs, relating to the history of Aberfoyle Rob Roy, the Strathard News would be more than happy to publish them. For this, please contact: David Wilkie on 01877 382 258 or e-mail david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

FORTH & ENDRICK F. A. SEASON 2005

<p>SATURDAY 23rd APRIL 7.00</p> <p>L Aberfoyle 2 Drymen 0 L Balfron Buchlyvie L Blanefield Thornhill L Fintry Gargunnoch L Gartocharn Deanston L Kippen Killearn</p> <p>SATURDAY 30th APRIL 7.00</p> <p>L Aberfoyle 2 Blanefield 2 L Buchlyvie Killearn L Deanston Balfron L Drymen Gargunnoch L Gartocharn Kippen L Thornhill Fintry</p> <p>TUESDAY 3rd MAY 7.30</p> <p>L/TC Balfron Gartocharn L/TC Blanefield Fintry L/TC/MWT Deanston Buchlyvie L/TC Gargunnoch Thornhill L/TC/MWT Killearn Drymen L/TC/MWT Kippen Aberfoyle</p> <p>SATURDAY 7th MAY 7.00</p> <p>L/MWT Aberfoyle 2 Fintry 1 L/MWT Blanefield Gargunnoch L Buchlyvie Gartocharn L Drymen Thornhill L Killearn Deanston L Kippen Balfron</p> <p>TUESDAY 10th MAY 7.30</p> <p>L/TC Aberfoyle 2 Gargunnoch 1 L/TC Blanefield Balfron L/TC/MWT Buchlyvie Thornhill L/TC Deanston Kippen L/TC Fintry Drymen L/TC Gartocharn Killearn</p> <p>SATURDAY 14th MAY 7.00</p> <p>L Aberfoyle 2 Gartocharn 1 L Balfron Thornhill L Deanston Fintry L Drymen Buchlyvie L Killearn Gargunnoch L Kippen Blanefield</p>	<p>TUESDAY 17th MAY 7.30</p> <p>L/TC Buchlyvie 6 Aberfoyle 0 L/TC/MWT Drymen Balfron L/TC Gargunnoch Kippen L/TC/MWT Gartocharn Blanefield L/TC Killearn Fintry L/TC/MWT Thornhill Deanston</p> <p>SATURDAY 21st MAY 7.00</p> <p>L Blanefield Deanston L Buchlyvie Fintry L Drymen Kippen L Gargunnoch Balfron L Killearn Aberfoyle L Thornhill Gartocharn</p> <p>TUESDAY 24th MAY 7.30</p> <p>L/TC Aberfoyle Deanston L/TC Blanefield Killearn L/TC Buchlyvie Gargunnoch L/TC Fintry Balfron L/TC Gartocharn Drymen L/TC Kippen Thornhill</p> <p>TUESDAY 31st MAY 7.30</p> <p>L/TC/MWT Balfron Killearn L/TC Drymen Blanefield L/TC Gargunnoch Deanston L/TC Gartocharn Fintry L/TC Kippen Buchlyvie L/TC Thornhill Aberfoyle</p> <p>SATURDAY 4th JUNE 7.00</p> <p>L Balfron Aberfoyle L Buchlyvie Blanefield L Deanston Drymen L/MWT Fintry Kippen L/MWT Gargunnoch Gartocharn L Killearn Thornhill</p>	<p>TUESDAY 7th JUNE 7.30</p> <p>L/TC Aberfoyle Kippen L/TC Buchlyvie Deanston L/TC Drymen Killearn L/TC Fintry Blanefield L/TC Gartocharn Balfron L/TC Thornhill Gargunnoch</p> <p>SATURDAY 11th JUNE 7.00</p> <p>L Buchlyvie Balfron L Deanston Gartocharn L Drymen Aberfoyle L Gargunnoch Fintry L Killearn Kippen L Thornhill Blanefield</p> <p>TUESDAY 14th JUNE 7.30</p> <p>MWT sf</p> <p>THURSDAY 16th JUNE 7.30</p> <p>MWT sf</p> <p>SATURDAY 18th JUNE 7.00</p> <p>L Balfron Deanston L Blanefield Aberfoyle L Fintry Thornhill L Gargunnoch Drymen L Killearn Buchlyvie L Kippen Gartocharn</p> <p>TUESDAY 21st JUNE 7.30</p> <p>L/TC Balfron Blanefield L/TC Drymen Fintry L/TC Gargunnoch Aberfoyle L/TC Killearn Gartocharn L/TC Kippen Deanston L/TC Thornhill Buchlyvie</p> <p>SATURDAY 25th JUNE 7.00</p> <p>L Balfron Kippen L Deanston Killearn L Fintry Aberfoyle L Gargunnoch Blanefield L Gartocharn Buchlyvie L Thornhill Drymen</p>	<p>TUESDAY 28th JUNE 7.30</p> <p>* MWT *</p> <p>SATURDAY 2nd JULY 7.00</p> <p>L Blanefield Kippen L Buchlyvie Drymen L Fintry Deanston L Gargunnoch Killearn L Gartocharn Aberfoyle L Thornhill Balfron</p> <p>TUESDAY 5th JULY 7.30</p> <p>L/TC Aberfoyle Buchlyvie L/TC Balfron Drymen L/TC Blanefield Gartocharn L/TC Deanston Thornhill L/TC Fintry Killearn L/TC Kippen Gargunnoch</p> <p>SATURDAY 9th JULY 7.00</p> <p>L Aberfoyle Killearn L Balfron Gargunnoch L Deanston Blanefield L Fintry Buchlyvie L Gartocharn Thornhill L Kippen Drymen</p> <p>SATURDAY 16th JULY 7.00</p> <p>L/TC Balfron Fintry L/TC Deanston Aberfoyle L/TC Drymen Gartocharn L/TC Gargunnoch Buchlyvie L/TC Killearn Blanefield L/TC Thornhill Kippen</p> <p>SATURDAY 23rd JULY 7.00</p> <p>L/TC Aberfoyle Thornhill L/TC Blanefield Drymen L/TC Buchlyvie Kippen L/TC Deanston Gargunnoch L/TC Fintry Gartocharn L/TC Killearn Balfron</p>	<p>SATURDAY 30th JULY 7.00</p> <p>L Aberfoyle Balfron L Blanefield Buchlyvie L Drymen Deanston L Gartocharn Gargunnoch L Kippen Fintry L Thornhill Killearn</p> <p>SATURDAY 6th AUGUST 6.30</p> <p>CC1 CC1 CC1 CC1</p> <p>SATURDAY 13th AUGUST 6.30</p> <p>CC2 CC2 CC2 CC2</p> <p>SUNDAY 21st AUGUST 2.00/4.30</p> <p>MFC 1 MFC 1 MFC 1 MFC 1</p> <p>SUNDAY 28th AUGUST 2.00/4.30</p> <p>TC sf TC sf</p> <p>SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2.00/4.30</p> <p>MFC sf MFC sf CC sf CC sf</p> <p>SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2.00</p> <p>* TC *</p> <p>SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2.00</p> <p>* MFC *</p> <p>SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2.00</p> <p>* CC *</p>
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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS L - League Championship MWT - Margaret White Trophy MFC - MacGregor Ferguson Cup CC - Cameron Cup
TC - Telfer Cup ** - Cup Final

Milton

Hello Children,
Summer is really here, long days and short nights - and the school holidays just around the corner. After tea there is plenty of time to play before going to bed. There is just one thing that I do not like about this time of year. Midges! Midges are so small that you can hardly see them, but you certainly know they are out and about. The other evening I was helping Grandpa Otter in the garden. The breeze suddenly stopped and out came the midges, hundreds of them. We soon had to leave the garden and go back inside the holt to get out of their way. Grandpa Otter told me a story of how midges came to be.

A long time ago lived a wicked witch, the most terrible witch that had ever been. The people decided to get rid of her once and for all. So, they baked a cake full of lovely fruit and a lot of poison...and left it for the witch to find. The witch ate the cake and soon died. The people buried her - but next day she was back, even more wicked than before. Next, they stabbed her until she was quite dead, dug a deeper hole and buried her again. And again she came back, even worse than she had been before. So they stabbed her again and this time they chopped her up into little bits and dug a very deep

hole to bury the bits. This, of course, made things a lot worse! Now when she came back the witch was everywhere - a hand here, a foot there, little wriggling fingers and toes and arms and legs...wherever you looked there was a piece of the witch!

The people, once they had recovered from the shock, lit a big fire of wood and peat. They collected all the bits of the witch (not a nice job) and put them into a wooden barrel. Once every last piece of the witch had been picked up they threw the barrel onto the fire. For seven days and seven nights the people kept the fire burning, throwing on lots more wood and lots more peat, until there was nothing left of the barrel or the witch.

As the fire burned sparks drifted up into the sky, some sparks from the wood, some sparks from the peat and some sparks from the burning of the witch. These sparks turned into midges and come back to bite us!

Bye for now,
Milton



Funding Information

Stirling Council Funding Information:

The Local Community Development Fund (LCDF) has its next deadline for applications on the 30th June, and decisions will be made on the 8th September.

The Community Grants scheme is now open again for awards up to £1000 for community groups. Details of both of these funds, and others, can be found on the Funding Portal on the Stirling Council website www.stirling.gov.uk

External Funding Information:

Funding To Promote Regional Events

Tourism EventScotland provides support to promote Scotland as a tourism destination for major events. As well as promoting Scotland for major international events, EventScotland administers an annual budget of £500,000 to support regional, cultural, sporting, etc events outside the major towns of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Funding is available to develop and grow existing events as well as bids to create new events. The fund is distributed as an outcome of two competitive application 'rounds'. Applicants can apply for between £2000 and £25000 as appropriate. The next deadlines August 5th 2005. www.eventscotland.org/supportprogrammes/regionaleventsprogramme.htm

Comic Relief has announced that in order to strengthen its impact, it recently reviewed its grant making policies and will be issuing a Revised Version of its grant making guidelines. The new grant guidelines should be ready in late spring of 2005.

www.comicrelief.com

Sport Relief Grants

The Scottish Community Foundation is distributing grants of up to £5,000 to small, locally based groups or organisation to fund work which uses sports and exercise to strengthen communities and provide opportunities for people who are excluded or disadvantaged through low income, rural or social isolation, age, disability, race, sexuality, or gender, by increasing access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation, helping people who are experience difficulties in their lives to regain confidence and self esteem; and/or encouraging people to take part in sporting activities that bring communities together. www.scottishcommunityfoundation.org.uk

RESOURCES

Volunteer Centre Edinburgh has launched an online resource library to provide information in volunteer management, including useful contacts and sample policy documents. The library can be found at www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/resources.

Community Webnet is a one-stop shop for Scottish community groups carrying out projects which improve the quality of life for local communities.

www.communitywebnet.org.uk/

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.**

Cheques for £10 made payable to *Strathard News*

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Charity Fundraising Auction & Dinner



Give a Child a Chance

The theme of the Fundraising Auction and Dinner organised by Vision Ministries at Gartmore House, Gartmore on Friday 13th May, was Give a Child a Chance. Held to raise funds for, and awareness of, HIV/AIDS affected people/children in Kenya.

Vision Ministries is a registered Scottish charity working in Kenya. One important area of involvement being HIV/AIDS affected children/ families:

- Promoting HIV/AIDS awareness
- Educational support
- Relief of poverty
- A Christian organisation working in a cross denominational, multicultural society to – *Give a Child a Chance* – in life.

Many local businesses and individuals contributed to the auction helping to make the evening a great success. Pledges for child sponsorships along with donations, raised a wonderful £2100.

*Barbara Edmondson
Vision Ministries*



Pastor Angus McAuley with members of The Door Christian Community



Auctioneer for the evening, Bill



Anne Davidson, Isobal Smith



Pastor Anita McAuley, Mark McAuley, Barbara Edmondson of Vision Ministries



Local Artist Frances Rennie, Barbara Edmondson of Vision Ministries, Pauline Carter



Anne Davidson, Margaret Clemison

RANGERS CORNER



It makes some people cry, It makes others rejoice
And for the wonders they create we have little choice
But to stop and stare at these bells so small
cascading down the slopes, like some fairytale waterfall
As summer approaches and the days become longer
This silent army continues to grow stronger
And as the contrasting blue becomes ever more bold
The reasons for this begin to unfold
This awesome display is not only for show
As the bells lie in wait for their ultimate foe
Like some nightmarish scene out of Doctor Who
They appear out of the sunset to smother the blue
The “dreaded bracken” may for now have their say
But the bells will return to fight another day
And we will bask again in the eternal glow
Of the bluebell waterfall in full flow

Aberfoyle Church Flower Festival

Weekend 1st/2nd October
Theme: “Year of the Volunteer”
(in the village)

Contact:
*Irene Timson 01877 389160
before 27th June 2005*

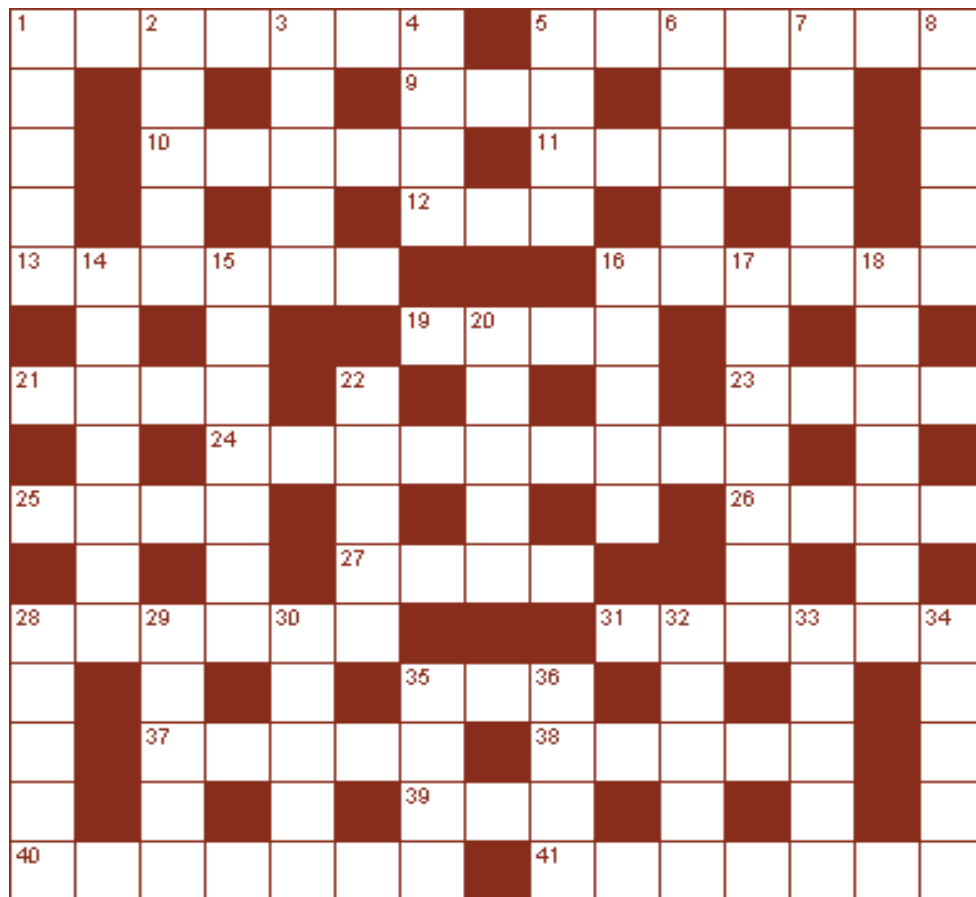
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Across

1. Prickly shrub (7)
5. Earphone (7)
9. Also (3)
10. Worn to protect the clothing (5)
11. Sift (5)
12. Malt beverage (3)
13. Cricket team (6)
16. Sweet baked food made of dough (6)
19. Second son of Adam and Eve (4)
21. Free from bias (4)
23. Long fish (4)
24. Custom (9)
25. Indonesian resort island (4)
26. Distribute cards (4)
27. Golf mounds (4)
28. Men of courage (6)
31. Make worse (6)
35. Gone by (3)
37. Elects (5)
38. Poliomyelitis (5)
39. Acknowledgement of debt (3)
40. Seedless raisin (7)
41. Wave riders (7)

Down

1. Burn brightly (5)
2. Astonish (5)
3. Vessel (5)
4. Sicilian volcano (4)
5. Flexible tube (4)
6. Area used for sports (5)
7. Perfume (5)
8. Tiny (5)
14. Act of leaking (7)
15. Dizzying sensation (7)
16. Braid (5)
17. Thin (7)
18. Free from confinement (7)
20. Salt water (5)
22. Trousers (US) (5)
28. Small mountains (5)
29. Competitor (5)
30. Beyond what is usual (5)
32. Oilcan (5)
33. Small bread-like sweet cake (5)
34. Metal spikes (5)
35. Continent (4)
36. Literary work (4)

Please send completed crossword to Editor, Strathard News, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid, FK8 3TU or hand to Aberfoyle Post Office. Solution and winning entry will be published in Issue 23

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Issue 21 £5 prize winner: Catherine Sherwood, "Morvern", Duchray Road, Aberfoyle

Issue 21 Solution:

Across 1. strives 5. stubbed 9. pal 10. large 11. oscar 12. wag 13. accuse 16. deadly 19. floe 21. sikh 23. trip 24. uppercase 25. anna 26. maui 27. cosy 28. piracy 31. titles 35. loo 37. verdi 38. melon 39. fee 40. salvage 41. nominee
Down 1. samba 2. relic 3. virus 4. spew 5. slog 6. uncle 7. bared 8. doggy 14. chianti 15. ushuaia 16. delay 17. attempt 18. leisure 20. larks 22. spicy 28. props 29. revel 30. circa 32. islam 33. lenin 34. swine 35. life 36 omen

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and get the 8th advert free**

To place/cancel an advert contact

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**Midsummer
Ceilidh
family ceilidh dance**



Friday 24 June, 8pm till late

Kinlochard Hall

Kinlochard Ceilidh Band line-up

Alastair McPhail (accordion),

Neil Ferguson (fiddle)

Fergus Wood (drums)

Tickets on sale from

The Village Shop, Kinlochard

there will be a bar