

# STRATHARD NEWS

Issue 25  
Oct 2005

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## Club Sails Into a Storm over Mast

Having discovered that Loch Ard Sailing Club was in discussions with Orange about plans to site a mobile phone mast (for an annual rental of £2500) on land next to Lochard Cottages, over 50 Kinlochard residents put their names to a letter (printed on page ) in an attempt to persuade Sailing Club members that the money on offer should not be the primary factor in any decision the club made.

Many local people feel a deep sense of outrage that a Club whose members use Loch Ard for a few Sundays a year and who will not be affected by the consequences (apart from the money) of siting a mast at the Sailing Club site can so easily brush aside the concerns of those whose health and well-being may be put at significant risk by the siting of a mast so close to their homes. What do you think?

## Stewart Retires

Many thanks to Stewart for ensuring the safety of all our schoolchildren crossing the road over the last 10 years. On his retirement Stewart was presented with his own special seat outside the Post Office. **Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof!** (translation) "Thank you for all the biscuits and tickles under the chin." We will all miss you. Happy retirement. *Froach, Orla, Hamish, Bracken, Kirsty and friends.*



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# 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](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com)

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to find Strathard News on the Internet. I must say, it's a great read with so many diverse topics I can relate to: Issue 16 (Aug/Sept 2004) is particularly interesting because it contains so many interrelated topics.

The article on the Ordnance Survey maps by the Hon. Anne Maguire MP written in the context of a consultation process noting how place names developed in Stirling made me wonder how many place names got shifted at the cartographer's discretion. Take Inversnaid for example. How many local people know where the exact location of Inversnaid is? Most would probably think it is at the Inversnaid Hotel. For example, in his fine book, "Loch Lomond & Trossachs", P.J.G. Ransom's book refers to Inversnaid being at the hotel. Actually, the 1718-20 military maps show **Inversnaid Harbour**, and **Inversnaid Mill** far inland. **Innersnaid**: on the 1866 OS map the harbour becomes a **Pier** and the **Inversnaid Hotel** is replaced by the **Inversnaid Mill**; and at the crest of the steep road is **Inversnaid Lodge**, then **Inversnaid Cottage** close to the school and **Garrison** (labelled 'ruins of ' - suggesting its stonework had not quite been recycled into Garrison Farm) and finally **Inversnaid** proper which is the ruin known as the "posthouse" about 220 m north of the Garrison. The latest OS Internet map merely lists **Inversnaid Hotel**, **Inversnaid Lodge** and **Inversnaid** misplaced by 300 m up on the hillside. What's the significance of this? I wonder how many other places have been 'shifted' in this manner.

Simply put, the latter OS cartographers have unwittingly lost a valuable and historical perspective. So anyone who wants to visit the site of Rob Roy's farm will get no clue from modern maps. In the meantime I have attached a photo of the original location of Inversnaid (i.e. the **Innersnaid** mentioned in Robert Campbell's will) which, I suspect, is that low pile of rubble stone which was Rob Roy's sod & stone farm. A few metres south of it and all around it are traces of the old in-bye dyke evident in the vegetation patterns on the deep peaty slopes. Of course, in the last few years, archaeologists, have thoroughly surveyed the Snaid and I look forward to reading their final report.

And speaking of ruins, here is a photo of the Aberfoyle slate quarry workers houses being demolished in 1969 and one taken Sept.2005 of the village smothered in trees. (ed. photos not published due to poor quality) On our return to the Highlands after the war our family lived in the wood one. In the Church News section (same issue) it was good to see the Aberfoyle Slate Quarrymen being acknowledged for their building of St. Mary's Church. I attach a photo of the quarry houses being demolished

around 1969. And speaking of churches, I note on page 4 the Aberfoyle School is a listed building and wonder why the Church, also built in 1870 and of the same architectural genre by the generosity of the Hampson family, is not a listed building.

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.....

## Kinlochard Resident's letter to LASC

Dear Chairperson,

In view of the significant impact upon those who live in Kinlochard and, particularly, Lochard Cottages, of any siting of a mobile phone mast at the Sailing Club we would be very grateful if you might read this letter to members at the E.G.M. Thank you.

Having discussed the potential siting of a mobile phone mast with a number of our neighbours we would hope that the following points might be given due consideration by members of the Sailing Club:

1. We are concerned by the increasing body of credible scientific (evidence which underpins the Catania and Salzburg Resolutions) linking long-term exposure to non-thermal pulsed microwave radiation from mobile phone masts to a range of health problems – these include *cardiovascular problems; cancers; neurological effects such as sleep disturbance, depression, headache and cognitive difficulty; reproductive effects (especially miscarriage); and reductions in the efficiency of the immune system.*

2. The first specific study (Santini. et. al. 2002) of symptoms experienced by people living near mobile phone masts concludes "the *minimal* distance of people from base-stations (masts) should not be less than 300m. Australia sets 500m as a minimum "exclusion zone". Depending upon a range of other factors ground-level radiation appears to drop off quickly around 750m.

3. In May 2000 the Government-sponsored Stewart Report recommended that a *precautionary* approach be taken in relation to the siting of masts – noting that children are particularly susceptible to the adverse health effects listed above.

4. Siting of a mast will impact upon the amenity of the site and surrounding area.

5. In some areas the erection of a mobile phone mast has led to a reduction of 25% in property values of homes within a half-mile radius.

6. Lloyds of London has recommended to its members that they do not insure landowners for public liability against emissions from mobile phone masts.

7. Any "planning battle" in relation to a mast on the site will cause considerable stress and anxiety for many local residents, and could put in jeopardy the "good neighbour" relations which exist between the Sailing Club and the Kinlochard community

8. Many other sites, with significantly less potential impact upon health, exist locally.

## The response from the Sailing Club.

22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005

Dear .....,

At the recent EGM of the Sailing Club to discuss the possibility of a mobile phone mast on the site, the members present noted and discussed the concerns raised in the letter delivered by you on behalf of local residents. There was general agreement that it was important that the good relationship of the Club with the local community should not be harmed by this development.

The meeting considered that there were benefits to be obtained by the community at large by improving the communications in the area and therefore, in the event of a request to use the site being formally received, the members were disposed to agree to the use of club ground as proposed by Orange subject to clarification of certain technical aspects.

It would seem fairly certain that sooner or later a mast is going to be erected somewhere in the area. The club is requesting that Orange and its agents at the earliest date should consult with the residents of Kinlochard and their elected representatives over this intention to site a mast in the Kinlochard area. The community should also seek to gain maximization of benefit to amenity to the community from this.

In the event that the site at the Club is chosen, the Club in its dealings with Orange would also seek to maximise any benefits to the community that might be obtained.

Yours sincerely,

## Baillie Nicol Jarvie Sign

We have not had a reply to our letter regarding the Bailie Nicol Jarvie Sign from the Strathard Trust. Our only concern was that it should be maintained and in a sense nurtured as there has been no obvious evidence for caring in the past about artefacts and buildings. We had hoped that now Aberfoyle is in the National Park this attitude had changed, but with no interest in the sign we are considering contacting the Bailie Nicol Jarvie people in Leith, Edinburgh who may be interested in preserving such a prestigious free sign.

We were really sorry that you do not want it. It is an important and historical part of Aberfoyle

Yours sadly

Maggie and Sam Seabrook





**STRATHARD**  
Community Council

# Community Council Report

First, a comment on the letter in last month's edition regarding the Bailie Nicol Jarvie sign. The issue of whether it returns to its original position is a matter for the residents of the Bailie. Community organizations cannot use public funds for an artifact which they don't own. It is disappointing however to be told that the community has no care for its history. The Community Council *did* attempt to prevent the demolition of the Teapot; the old military road is currently part of a project to provide a traffic-free route to Inversnaid; and during Historic Scotland's recent survey of listed buildings and historic monuments, many submissions were made and acted upon, with regard to buildings you felt were worth preserving. One of these was the subject of discussion at our last meeting in Inversnaid – the former tearoom and toilets at Stronachlachar. The re-opening of a facility at this end of Loch Katrine is something for which we have been pushing for some time now. The application was approved in principle therefore, although we were concerned about some aspects of the plans with regard to the retention of some original features of the building.

Planning is always a major part of our meetings. If you know or even suspect that a project in which you are interested is to be discussed at a meeting, it would be a great help if you come along to give us your views. Failing that, why not drop us a note? We cannot represent views that aren't made known to us. Whenever possible, applications which might be contentious are advertised on the agenda, but sometimes there is not enough time to highlight the latest applications received. Help us to help you!

I have attended a couple of meetings now with members of the School Community in Aberfoyle and members of Childrens Services from Stirling Council to try and get a resolution to the design of the replacement for the Horsa Hut. At the last meeting several options were discussed and currently the designers are also looking at a new suggestion to turn the building to face into the playground, instead of towards Lochard Road.

One of my favourite events of the year is fast approaching – the Senior Citizens Dinner. This is just a plea to let us know if you have recently joined the list of the eligible, or if you will 'come of age' by December. We try not to miss anyone out,

but mistakes do happen. Invitations will be going out mid-November. Please contact me at the Post Office if you should be included and don't receive an invitation. And finally..... There cannot surely be anyone who doesn't know by now that Stewart McLaren retired a few weeks ago. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to him in print for all his years of dedication to helping others. He probably thinks he was just doing his job, but we all know how much we missed him when he was off work for any reason. Everyone has a tale of the extra bit of help which he happily undertook as a matter of course. And always a cheery greeting, no matter how foul the weather! So many of you contributed to his presentation. (You'll have noticed 'Stewart's Seat', so that we can still sit and have a chat on sunny days). You also raised enough to buy him a new music centre, and the small change went towards spending money so that he and Joyce could have a really special holiday. I'm also delighted to welcome his replacement, Walter, who has a hard act to follow, but he's had a great teacher and has set to with a ready smile!



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## Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

# National Park News

*Pairc Naiseanta Loch Laomainn is nan Troisichean*

*by Owen McKee*

There are more changes on the way: this time to the Planning System. The Scottish Executive has tasked itself with the problem and a very real one it is. We need a system which is streamlined, speedy and efficient but ensures community involvement and accountability. Furthermore it is on a timescale which is pretty tight.

What is proposed? Firstly the National Planning Framework will detail schemes of national importance e.g. major road programmes like the M73 extension or in our case the possible re-alignment of the A82 from around Ardlui. In these cases the Scottish Executive can call it in i.e. make the decision and there is no appeal. Potentially speedy but hardly involves the community.

Next up is major developments like a shopping/hotel/conference centre project or a sizeable housing development. Here the proposal is that the developer will undertake the consultation with the community (no laughing please it's a serious proposal). There will be pre-planning application, negotiations with the planning authority and then a contractual arrangement whereby an increased fee will be payable and the planning authority will be obliged to give a decision within a guaranteed timescale. The fee is refundable if the planning authority fails to meet the target date.

The next proposal affects the majority of cases i.e. cut down the number of cases

which are decided by the planning committees and assign them to the Planning Officer for decision. At present the Park Authority delegates the decision to Planning Officers for any cases that can be strictly decided by reference to the Local Plan except where there is an objection from the Community Council or a substantial body of objection from individuals. Again if an application is likely to have a significant impact the Park's Planning Committee will deal with it. Details of the proposals for the heightened Planning Officer authority are not yet available but I don't see there being much change to our system of delegation.

There is also a proposed change where the application involves a listed building or a conservation area. At present in these cases a planning application and a listed building etc consent is required. The new system will require a single application. Again details of the new scheme are awaited.

Now comes the bit where I do think there will be real savings. It is proposed to increase those items for which planning authority will not be required i.e. permitted development. Again details are awaited but it is assumed that this will cover minor house extensions etc.

Going out is the Outline Application. This is intended to cut down on speculative applications. In future an application will have to be a detailed one and the permission will last for three years only.

And where is the community involvement? The indications are that this will be in the preparation of the Local Plan. The present system allows for community involvement in the preparation of the Local Plan but it may be that this will be enhanced in the new system. I do hope so.

And there will be a requirement for the Planning Authority to ensure that there is a new Local Plan at least every five years. The Scottish Executive has been consulting with Planning Authorities on these proposals. The reply from the Park Authority has indicated some considerable support for the proposals but we have voiced our concerns about the perceived lack of community involvement on National and major projects. Furthermore we await more detail on the "delegated" powers for Planning Officers and on permitted development. And, particularly in the case of major developments, it is inevitable that additional resources will be required. Somehow I doubt if they will be forthcoming. And when is it hoped to have all this up and running? The target date is 2007. And the Bill has not even started its trek through parliament. Ah well, here's hoping.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

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# Red kites are top local attraction for tourists



A Stirling farm giving visitors a unique chance in Central Scotland to view wild red kites and other wildlife has been awarded

'Three Star' status from Visit Scotland for its joint venture with the RSPB, the 'Argaty Red Kites project'.

Niall and Lynn Bowser of Lerrocks Farm near Doune, celebrated the first year of red kite viewing in November 2004, after red kites were reintroduced to Stirling back in 1996 and began to favour the wildlife-friendly farm, which soon became the ideal site for a

The judges from Visit Scotland were particularly impressed by the original nature of the project, and its reluctance to become a more conventional visitor attraction, but instead maintain the traditional feel of a working farm, with visitors experiencing the wildlife in the most appropriate setting.

The close-encounters with swooping swallows and a simply planted car-park were just two of the aspects that won the site praise

says Lynn Bowser of the project:

"We are really thrilled with the three star rating – we try very hard to give our visitors a really good view of the kites and at the same time tell them about the reintroduction project and what we are trying to achieve here with the RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage"

Along with the red kites, which gather in the biggest numbers during the winter months, hundreds of farmland birds including goldfinches, linnets, greenfinches and twite can also be encountered in swirling flocks above the specially planted 'wild bird cover' crops such as oats.

The project also provides superb 'hands-on' outdoor education to local schools, with children able to visit the site and learn about many of the birds and their often chequered history with

humans, whilst the kites, with a five foot wing-span circle high above the barns.

Tom Marshall from partnership organisation the RSPB added:

"Its superb news to hear Niall and Lynn have received 'three stars' for their hard work at Lerrocks Farm, especially less than two years after opening the doors to the public! Its great that our first Kite Officer Mike



McDonnell is still based at the farm to welcome visitors, and I think many of the folk appreciate the traditional feel of the project which is somewhat different to other local three star attractions such as Blair Drummond Safari Park".

Road signs are now directing people to the kites, with new visitors arriving every day from across the UK and Scotland. As Argaty Red Kites Project is on a working farm, please book in advance to avoid disappointed and ensure that you experience the very best of what the project has to offer with an introduction to the kites from Niall, Lynn or Mike.

Argaty Red Kites is located near Doune, from the A84 Callander road or the A820 from the A9 [www.argatyredkites.co.uk](http://www.argatyredkites.co.uk), 01786 841373.



viewing hide and daily feeding regime for the rare birds of prey.

With thousands of visitors enjoying unrivalled views of the colourful birds for nearly two years, and 'open days' attracting up to 300 people from across Stirling, the popularity of the project has soared – along with the numbers of kites, which can now be in excess of 30 birds at one time during the winter period.

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## Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

The Sunday Club started again in September and meets during the Kirk Service beginning at 11.15 am. All children are welcome. The Anchor Boys have started meeting at 6.30 pm and the Junior Section at 7.45 pm on Friday evenings. Any parents considering becoming leaders or helpers please contact me on 01877 382391.

### Harvest Thanksgiving and Flower Festival

In spite of unforeseen delays in having our disabled access completed, the Kirk was open to visitors on Saturday and Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

The theme for the Flower Festival was *The International Year of the Volunteer*. It was a great community effort; the imaginative use of colour and design was a wonderful example of everyone working together. In fact, I described it as an Aberfoyle Tapestry at our "Six Together" Evening Service. Our appreciation goes to everyone involved. Nourishment and encouragement came from our dedicated volunteers slaving away in Kirk House providing soup, sandwiches, teas, coffees, home baking and selling donated produce. Well done everyone and, again, thanks to The Session Clerk, Brownies, Loch Ard Curling Club, Cancer Research, Aberfoyle PTA, Church Treasurers, Community Council, Medical Centre Garden Committee, Rural, Sunday Club, Meals on Wheels, The Guild, Rob Roy Football Club, Christian Aid, Strathard News, Reading Room, Mothers and Toddlers, St Mary's Episcopal Church and The Boys Brigade for their imaginative floral displays.

### Future Activities

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October: wedding at Aberfoyle 2 pm

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October: Pulpit Exchange – Rev. Elaine MacRae conducting worship at Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith. "Six Together" Evening Praise at Buchlyvie.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October: Aberfoyle Guild meets at 2 pm in Church House.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: wedding at Aberfoyle 1.30 pm

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Port of Menteith Harvest Festival and Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October: Norrieston Kirk, Thornhill – joint meeting of elders from the "Six Together" 2.30 pm until 4.00 pm.

If you are feeling bored, at a loose end or sick of repeats on TV, come and give us your company.

With every blessing  
Rev. Danny Gibb



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

### St Mary's Church in Flower

Today was our harvest festival service and the Church looked at its best as the result of the work carried out by the Flower Ladies and was admired by the large congregation that attended.

There is a great feeling of anticipation and excitement amongst the congregation of St Mary's as it gets ready to confront and embrace the changes that must be made to the church for the future. It is a long time since the bold quarrymen from the Aberfoyle Slate quarry decided to challenge the establishment of the Scottish Episcopal Church authorities and the Vestry of St Andrew's Callander who were responsible for the administration and the implementation of the Episcopalian way of life and worship in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in South Perthshire.

The quarrymen succeeded where most ordinary workers at that time would have failed, that is to have their own church against the wishes of the local church establishment. The leaders had a lot of courage to go on and get Mr Kennedy to help them build their own church in Aberfoyle on a piece of ground that the Duke of Montrose had given to Mrs Kennedy as a wedding present. One thing that the

quarrymen did have was more cash than most of the employed persons in south Perthshire at the time as the slates from the quarry were in great demand and were getting good prices which enabled the "piece workers" in the quarry to earn huge amounts of money.

A lot of this and of their time was spent in building the church with stones brought in cheap as trial loads for the railway and timber from the forests and specially selected undersized Aberfoyle Slates that did not have a profitable market outside the local area to the quarry.

With the help of Mr Kennedy and a few of the local landowners like the Stirlings of Garden whose family are still great supporters of the church they managed to do something that was unique in any church's history.

They built their own church and worshipped there as do many now from as far afield as Killearn, Drymen, Balfron, Buchanan and Strathblane as well as local families in what was South Perthshire. What the future has in store is unknown but the faith of the dedicated Episcopalians in the Trossachs and Strathendrick will follow the example of their forebears and support St Mary's whatever may happen.

The pictures show the church at harvest festival and the display at the flower festival in the Aberfoyle Kirk.



### Aberfoyle Parish Church Guild

At our first meeting for this session, everyone enjoyed hearing Rev. Elaine MacRae speak on the theme *Dare to Care with Commitment*.

On **17<sup>th</sup> October**, at 2pm in Church House, Mr Richard Morrison, Project Manager with Reality Scotland, will tell us about the work he does with disadvantaged young people.

**November 21<sup>st</sup>** is the first of our Guest Afternoons when friends from Callander, Thornhill and Port of Menteith will join us to hear musical entertainment by Callander Kirk Choir under their conductor, Mr. Ian Milligan.

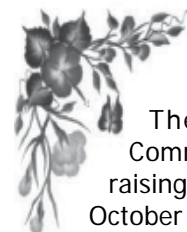
**November 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>** is Guild Week and we hope to mark this by taking part in the morning service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>.

All our meetings are held in Church House at 2 pm. Do come along. You will be made very welcome.

### Invitation To Voluntary Groups

CVS Stirling's new project; Building Voluntary Organisations Capacity is underway, and all local voluntary and community groups are invited to attend an **Awareness Raising session, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm-9.00pm, in Cambusbarron Community Centre**. The event will detail how taking part in the one year project will enhance each of the organisations' capacity through a variety of means. There are only 15 spaces available, giving each participating organisation dedicated support, free training, information and advice, on how to make more successful funding applications, improve their forward planning, and achieve their own individual goals and objectives. This is an opportunity not to be missed, and is all free of charge to the 15 organisations selected to take part. To find out more about the project, come along to the event, or call Rosie on 01786 469916, or email- [rosie.brown@cvs-stirling.org.uk](mailto:rosie.brown@cvs-stirling.org.uk) **DON'T MISS OUT!**

### The Medical Garden

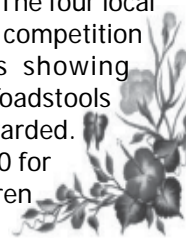


The Medical Garden Committee is holding a fund raising event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the Memorial Hall from 12 noon to 5.00pm.

Four different kinds of soup will be available from noon to 2.30pm after which coffee, tea and biscuits will be served.

We are holding this fundraising event to celebrate 10 years of the "Practice Garden" by designing a low allergy garden to help people with problems to design their own garden.

Various craft tables have been organised for selling goods - ideal for Christmas gifts! There will be a lucky entry ticket prize and also a tombola stall. The four local schools will be entering a competition of collages or pictures showing Mushrooms, Fairies and Toadstools and certificates will be awarded. The entry fee will be £1.50 for adults and £1.00 for children



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6. I purchase individual items
7. I purchase complete estate or house contents

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# Ranger's Ramblings

## *A View from the Lodge!*

.....

Contributions welcome: Contact David Wilkie on 01877 382258 or email [david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)



### David “Thornaby” Brough

In its early days of conception, The David Marshall Lodge attracted widespread media attention. History will record that Andrew Carnegie, the great philanthropist, was its ultimate benefactor. There were a vast number of organisations and institutions founded through the distribution of his wealth, one of which was The Carnegie U.K. Trust. Among its many trustees came along a man of vision and high ideals who instigated the construction and financing of the building, which was subsequently named in his honour. The Lodge, for all its grandeur and superb location, offered only basic facilities in 1960, and it quickly became apparent that it would have to build a reputation for itself. The type of people enlisted to instil ‘character’ would prove to be a vital ingredient in its growth. Mr. Bill More, the first warden, by all accounts, led by example. Many like-minded individuals followed, to carry on his good work, as standards continued to be set. One of those ‘adopted’ along the way, came in the unlikely shape of a wily old Londoner by the name of David “Thornaby” Brough. David came to Scotland around 1988. He arrived cradling a C.V. that would put most of us in the shade. After serving four years in the R.A.F., which included desert reconnaissance and rescue, he moved into the retail clothing industry, rising from shop assistant to a managerial position in a fashionable West End shop. As sales manager for a London based company, he moved on to selling woollens to the



European and North African markets. Through his love of sailing, he then moved to Dover, where he started a career in boat building. This led to such diverse activities as delivering yachts throughout the Mediterranean and North Sea, racing, and professional diving and helming, also finding time to set up ships chandlery for a local company. Never a particularly modest chap, David will be at his happiest recounting his daring exploits for The Dover Lifeboat crew. Moving on, he decided to go into the business of liquid plastics with his elder brother, which served several national companies, diversifying into modular buildings and take-away food shops. At the age of fifty, he moved back into the yachting world as a consultant. Having then moved to Norfolk, the opportunity arose to teach woodwork to pupils at a local prep school, which he later

developed into a craft and design course. After moving to Scotland to be closer to daughter Colette, and having honed his carving skills, Thornaby Crafts was born. An approach was made to David in 1992 by the Forestry Commission to take up a position at the D.M.L. as resident woodcarver. The agreement reached was that he would not be salaried. In return, he would be allocated an area within The Lodge, with no provision for rent, whereby he could set up a workshop in order to sell his carvings on a normal retail basis. Also included in the ‘deal’ was the offer of free demonstration talks for visiting groups. Through time, David would be involved in countless such talks, attacking each occasion with the same boundless enthusiasm as the previous one. Personal tuition classes were also available throughout his thirteen year tenure, and remarkably he also managed to write and publish a children’s book, which proved very extremely popular with the visitors. David’s contribution, influence, and impact on the D.M.L. has been truly exceptional and unique, and The Lodge has become a smaller place without him. From David.....” watching the development of the D.M.L. from being just a building where people sometimes came, to its present form of a thriving enterprise with the developed trails and events, with particular regard to music, is very rewarding. Above all, however, I will always remember the quality of friendliness of the visitors and staff.”

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

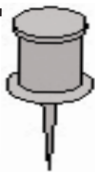


### Heelster Gowdie - A Thanks

It would be David Brough’s love of music that would lead to the next chapter in his life. After discovering an interest in the ‘bodhran’, he began making his own copies of the instrument in his workshop. The natural step toward forming a band had already taken shape through his association with three very close friends who also happened to share the same love of music. Russell Wheeler, Vincent Mellon and James Thumath make up the group that has delighted crowds all year at The David Marshall Lodge. Combining a fine balance of humour and accomplished playing is the band’s strength, and their very diverse characters and choice of songs clearly makes for a colourful afternoon’s entertainment. Heelster Gowdie have played on seven occasions this year, playing on the first Sunday of each month from April through till October, and turned in a superb performance each time. They have even developed a small cult following!! What many people might not know is that have appeared without a fee, a truly admirable gesture. Early discussions have already taken place with a view to the band coming back to play for us all again next year. Thanks a million, guys (especially The Loch Tay Boat Song !! )



## Notice Board



### Mushroom Festival - Fungi Forays

The Lodge is delighted to welcome back the ever popular Liz Holden for another bout of fungi forays. An extra date has been added this year to cope with the anticipated demand. Please note that the afternoon walks will be starting at 2.00 p.m. and not 1.30 p.m. as stated in the programme. Also, that only the Saturday walks will be leaving from The Lodge. All Friday and Sunday walks will be leaving from the rear of The Rob Roy Motel at the edge of Aberfoyle village, and setting off into Loch Ard forest via one of the brand new Forestry bridges. Many thanks to Anne for giving us permission to meet there.

**10.00a.m. and 2.00p.m.**

**Frid, Sat and Sun 21 - 23 October**

**Adults £5 Children £3**

### Nordic Walking

One of the fastest growing sports in Europe, this is a new venture for The Lodge, which will be introduced by Ian Davidson. Why not come along and learn the benefits of this very special of exercises?

**10a.m., 12.30p.m., 2.30pm.**

**Saturday and Sunday 22/23 October**

**Adults £5 Children £2.50**

### Candlelit Walk / Musical Evening With Buffet

A slightly different format from previous years sees a more structured evening of entertainment culminating in a special slide show.

**7p.m. Guided candlelit walk to a floodlit waterfall**

**8p.m. Buffet**

**7p.m.- 9p.m. Live traditional Finnish music**

**9p.m. - 10p.m. 'Forests for Life' presentation**

**Saturday 22 October All tickets £12**

### Halloween

There is NO limit of numbers for the party of the year. Anyone who decides not to attend will have their name posted on the village notice board for all to see.

**Sunday 30 October 5.00p.m. - 8.00p.m.**

**Admission £5, payable at the door on the night.**



## Rangers Corner

On Halloween night you'd better prepare,  
You'd better watch out, you'd better beware,  
For your visit to The Lodge there is only scare  
As we serve up the ultimate nightmare.  
Of the wonders we will bring you, you will never tire  
For instance, have you ever seen a man who can breathe fire?  
And ghostly tales from the campfire site  
Will surely leave you with a sleepless night.  
For vampires who come there will be necks to bite,  
For zombies a chance to cause many a fright.  
All you werewolves we want to see you scowl  
And when the moon goes full we want to hear you howl.  
For every ghoul, monster or spook  
An opportunity for apples to dook... and more;  
The waterfall walk will deliver some surprises  
And The Lodge may also have in store a few prizes.  
There is just one thing I should stress  
We expect EVERYONE to come in fancy dress  
That goes for you "mummies" and daddies too !!!

## CAR RALLY PHOTO COMPETITION

The winner of the Car Rally competition is Isobel Bennie from Prestwick who receives a prize of £5. The answers are:



## Wombles Keep the Forest Green

Wombles have been busy collecting rubbish around four lochs in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Rather than the famous children's TV characters created by Elisabeth Bersford, our litter collecting Wombles were twenty Forestry Commission Scotland staff from Aberfoyle (What better way of team building than picking up all the disgusting things thoughtless people have left behind).

Almost a full skip load was collected on the day with some weird and wonderful objects picked up from Loch's Chon, Ard, Drunkie and Achray. The selection rubbish included underwear, nappies, scaffolding, copper pipes, umbrellas as well as the usual array of beer bottles and cans from all over the world.

Forestry Commission Scotland actively encourages people to come and enjoy the outdoors and all we ask is people leave the place as they would like to find it. After all if you carry in full containers then surely it is easier to carry them out empty.

To ensure that visitors to our Forest Park enjoy the experience we, as an organisation, have taken a decision to employ a seasonal person just to collect litter from our carparks 2 days per week. So far this year (April to September) we have filled 8 skips just from litter left behind.

Next year we hope to hold a similar event and would welcome any one who wishes to participate and become an honorary Womble for the day.

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



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# School Report



## Out and about with Inversnaid Primary School

On the 8<sup>th</sup> September we joined the other local schools for a day of fun and learning at the David Marshall Lodge. We thoroughly enjoyed all the games that had been organised. It was a very well planned day, thanks to the hard work of Jo McFarlane, RSPB, Forestry Commission, Dounans and the Police. They had prepared such a great range of games and we all came away with a lot of new knowledge.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September we were invited to join the Port of Mentieth children at the Wool Centre for a morning visit. It was very interesting learning about the Highland Clearances and the Clan Tartans but we all agreed that the Dog Show was the best part of the visit.

We are continuing our 3R's work this term. Our Snail Loggies and Briquettes are selling well. They are available directly from school (01977 386218) and from Kinlochard Shop.

This summer we succeeded in growing several potato crops but due to the dry weather our potatoes were rather small in size. Hopefully the last crop which is still in the ground will have grown much fatter with the recent heavy rain.

Mathew, Ross, Eilidh, Jamie and Mrs Carter

## Aberfoyle Primary School Five-a-Side Football Team



*From L to R: David Wallace, Andrew Roberts, Laura McKenzie, Ryan Fenwick, Jake Neufeld, Jordon Craik.*

Aberfoyle Primary School five-a-side football team had a great day out at the Thornhill Gala Day football tournament. Aberfoyle were runners-up after winning all their games but were unfortunately beaten in the final by Fintry.

Never mind, lads and Laura, I'm sure you will pick up the winner's cup next year.



Staff and Pupils of Aberfoyle Primary had to start their year with a goodbye. Carol Omand who was the Head teacher of Aberfoyle for nine years, left to become Head of Gartconnor Primary in Kirkintilloch. The pupils and staff had a presentation for Mrs Omand where they offered her a big book of memories. Each pupil wrote something that they remembered about Mrs Omand and drew a picture, which was then compiled into a book. They then viewed slides of events taken over many years.





## Aberfoyle Primary's Book Week 2005

I'm Amy Baston age 9 and I'm going to tell you all about book week at Aberfoyle Primary School.

Book week is great fun for all pupils of any age, from primary 1 all the way through the school up to primary 7. Loads of book marks are made, loads of stories are written. Loads of creative imaginations are thrown about on one page after the other and are most definitely working hard. A fun thing is the readathon which collected a lot of money last year and hopefully will collect as much this year.

On Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> September Clare English an interviewer from BBC came in to talk to primary 4/5. Clare told us what it is like to interview people on the radio and she was very nice, nice enough to let us record a question on her little pocket recorder. The really cool part about it is, Clare is going to make CD with all our voices on it.

After lunch primary 4/5 had another surprise. Frank Rogers the illustrator and author of other peoples book and his own books. Frank showed primary 4/5 how he did some of his drawings for books and read us a story that he wrote plus he made all the voices and faces and made it sound really realistic. Frank did autographs and gave us a poster for out side our class room.

"Thank you Clare and Frank from primary 4/5. Still to come on book week is dress up as your favourite book or book character day and lots of fun stuff. I hope to write again soon thank you bye for now.



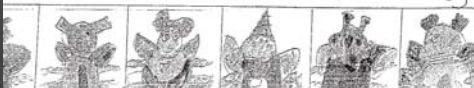
This week we have had lots of fun. We have had a famous author and an illustrator, Frank Rogers. He was a great drawer. Clare English from Radio 4 and Radio Scotland made us all interview her. Donald Morton from the Stirling Observer came and showed us how to do shorthand. On Wednesday we dressed up as our favourite book character. My favourite character is Willy Wonka.

By Poppy

## Reduce, Re-use, Recycle Winners



Our litter bugs  
We made litter bugs in pairs. These litter bugs went in to Stirling for a competition to get people to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We were asked to do this competition by someone called Avril. And the bugs were brilliant.  
How we made our litter bugs  
We got a tin and covered it in pva glue and net's paper. We got a balloon and done the same. We stuck the head together with the body. We stuck the antennae on and the eyes and stuck the mouth on too. We painted it and that's when we put the cardboard at the top of the head. We put depths on and painted the bit. We had misted. We stuck the arms on. We had to let the glue dry before we could do anything else. We made our little book from recycled paper on the front there was a photo on the next page was a photo as well then the page after was a little story of the bug's then on the next page there was a bit about what it was made from. These bugs were sent to the competition in Stirling. And the winners get £100.





# The Garden

by Wellie Boot



Wellie Boot is on holiday in Shetland. Before I left for all parts north, I did wonder what could be featured this month and, short of pruning and tidying up in the rain, nothing much else came to mind.

When we arrived here we discovered Beachgrove had been televising a community garden project round a church in Weisdale on Shetland. Since this is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our own community garden around the surgery, it seemed appropriate to compare the two.

In Weisdale the ground is a very steep slope with the church at the top and a burn at the bottom (thereby hangs a tale). Their aim was to build paths suitable for wheelchairs so everyone could get from the church to the flat sheltered area at the bottom. This meant the hiring of a digger and several members of the team taking drystone dyking lessons. Our efforts pale into insignificance compared to theirs.

The slopes between these snaking paths are planted with many tough plants to hold the banks and provide colour. The ubiquitous *Alchemilla mollis* was used in great quantities along with honeysuckle (allowed

to trail) and *Vinca major* and *variegata*. One plant which surprised me was the blue poppy, *Meconopsis*. I would have thought it too fragile for such an exposed site. It does, however, hail from the Himalayas so maybe it's not so surprising. The garden just now is quite sparse but, as most of the plants chosen are fast spreaders, it should be well covered in no time at all.

All these ventures have their ups and downs, but they had a real down. They had everything ready for filming well in advance when the rain came down: rain and rain and rain, causing the burn to flash



flood and wash away a large part of the lower garden. What must they have felt?

Still, it was a community project and the community banded together, rebuilt and replanted ready for filming on time.

These projects are great fun and do bring groups of the community together. Ten years after the Aberfoyle Medical Centre project, we

are still working on it and hope to finish the low allergen garden at the entrance this year. This will give people who suffer from allergies a place to sit, in the summertime, comfortably. I hope they will also learn how they can have allergies like asthma and hay fever and still have a garden.

We are having a fundraising event in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. "Soup for lunch and crafts for sale": do come and support your community garden. Happy gardening.

Wellie Boot

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# Dan Wants To Set The Wood Alight

Former naval officer Daniel Gates used to guide submarines safely through the ocean depths. Now, with his feet firmly on terra firma, he's helping to guide a new industry to what he hopes will be a glowing future.

He has just started work as a wood-fuel information officer for Forestry Commission Scotland, helping to get the emerging wood-fuel industry on to its feet in eastern central Scotland.

The idea is to use modern technology and Scotland's increasing output of wood as a fuel for heating, as Daniel explained,

"The foresight of foresters and governments who set about re-establishing Scotland's lost forests over the past 80 years means that Scotland is now in an excellent position to use its increasing output of wood as a renewable fuel, not only to combat climate change, but also to provide new jobs and business opportunities in rural areas.

"Modern technology has developed sophisticated, automated, wood-burning boilers that are a clean and easy way to provide heat and hot water to buildings. This combination of modern technology and a plentiful wood supply gives us a wonderful opportunity to develop a whole, new, environmentally friendly industry." Modern, wood-fired boilers can be used for both space and water heating, and they can be fed with chips from automated hoppers that only need refilling at intervals ranging from a few days to more than a week, depending on their size. They are especially suited to buildings with a constant demand for heat, such as hotels, offices, schools, hospitals, care homes and

factories. In combination with energy efficiency measures, wood fuel can provide an affordable means to heat homes and buildings, especially in areas without access to the gas grid, and Daniel added,

"Wood fuel is really beginning to take off with new systems being installed and new supply chains being established all the time. My job is to promote the benefits of wood fuel and to help bring together 'clusters' of suppliers and customers, throughout eastern and central Scotland.

"If we can get woodland and sawmill owners to commit to supplying wood fuel, this will give potential customers the confidence to install boilers in the knowledge that they will have a reliable fuel supply. Conversely, if we can get potential customers to commit to installing boilers and buying wood fuel, this helps to give potential suppliers the confidence to invest in the equipment they need to supply it.

"The trick is to achieve these two in the same areas at the same time, and therefore one of my most important roles will be in helping to kick-start that process. In doing this I will be able to help suppliers and customers tap into grants that are available for helping to develop the use of renewable fuel."

A resident of Glasgow, Daniel spent the first 11 years of his working life in the Royal Navy, including six years as a submarine navigation officer. While with the navy he also completed a BSc first-class honours degree in zoology from the

University of Glasgow. He is now working towards a post-graduate advanced diploma in advanced decision making from the Open University, and an MSc degree in resource management from Edinburgh University, writing a dissertation on wood-fuel management in Scotland. He hopes to complete both qualifications this year. He has also worked as an assistant conservation officer with the RSPB, and has taken part in scientific expeditions carrying out research into wildlife in the Arctic, Bolivia and Trinidad.

Daniel's "patch" includes parts of Moray, all of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross, Stirling district, Clackmannanshire and Fife, and parts of the Lothians. Anyone in those areas who is interested in installing wood-fuelled boilers or in supplying wood fuel can contact Daniel for information and advice at the Forestry Commission Scotland office in Perth, telephone 01738 442830; e-mail: [daniel.gates@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.gates@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) land owned by Scottish Ministers to provide multiple benefits including timber production, public recreation, nature conservation, and rural and community development; supports other woodland owners with grants, felling licences, advice and regulation; promotes the benefits of forests and forestry; and advises Ministers on forestry policy.

## MEDIA CONTACTS:

Charlton Clark, Forestry Commission press office, 0131 314 6500;  
Dan Gates, FC Scotland Perth & Argyll Conservancy, 01738 442830.

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## RSPB Inversnaid



Autumn came in early and the first skein of geese was flying south, along and high above Loch Lomond on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, unfortunately too far away to hear the calls to identify them accurately as pinkfoot, greylag or Greenland white front. The bracken on the hillside is also turning fast and this year there appear

to be many stags taking advantage of the changing colours and lying up in the bracken after grazing in the open. It is surprising just how good the red deer coat camouflages the beast when strolling or lying up in amongst the brown bracken, unfortunately, for him his antlers were rather large and showed well against the skyline although his body was blended in well to the vegetation. He was a magnificent young stag who should do well in the rut. A party of Belgian walkers who appeared close to him disturbed his rest and he ran off, unbeknown to the walkers. There are fewer birds on the hill side now, flocks of meadow pipits have been gathering to move to the lower ground nearer the coast, swallows and house martins have also started their journey to Africa after successful breeding (7 young swallows from the Garrison barn two nests). Chaffinch, goldfinch, siskin and redpoll flocks have also gathered to show that winter is on its way.

The black cock (male black grouse) are starting to appear more regularly at the lek sites after their moult, displaying and battling trying to decide which one will take prime court space for when the greyhen (female black grouse) appears for mating next spring. Despite the change in weather a successful late family of stonechat were feeding near Garrison farm; stonechats can have three broods in a year, sometimes fledging as late as October.

An otter was fishing a pool in the Snaid burn, our first reserve record of otter for a long time. He scurried off into the deep heather when he realised he was being observed. Pine marten scats are also starting to show that they have started feasting on the rowanberry crop, albeit a poor crop this year. The poor crop will also affect the wintering thrushes (fieldfare and redwing) that will be here soon. Already small flocks of mistle thrush have started feeding on the rowanberry, leaving even fewer berries for their Scandinavian cousins to feast upon. In keeping with the change in the weather, the feral goats have been less obvious on the hillside and will probably stay in or close to the woodland until we get a spell of good calm frosty weather. When the leaves are off the trees in November, I start the mammal count for goats and deer. This winter the local National Park rangers (Scott & Steve) are coming to help, along with "Bird of Prey Trail" Jo from the David Marshall Lodge.

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Tinytalk baby signing classes are becoming increasingly popular in the UK with over 70 classes at the last count and will be available in Dunblane at the Helen Lamb Room, Cathedral Halls on Fridays 10am-11am from 9<sup>th</sup> September and in Stirling at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Albert Place, Dumbarton Road on Mondays 10am - 11am from 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### **How Does Baby Signing Work?**

- \* At around 6 -9 months babies realise that objects have names. They also have good control of their hands whereas vocal cords are not fully developed until 12-18 months.
- \* Baby sign language helps to bridge this wide gap
- \* Visual clues (signs) help babies make sense of the words that they hear as they look at everything around them.
- \* Every time an object is introduced the word is both said and signed
- \* It is best to start with a handful of signs, including "milk" and "food"
- \* On average babies take 4-6 weeks to make their first meaningful signs
- \* Other signs can then be introduced, a few at a time. These will be learnt much more quickly and a wide range of vocabulary developed.

### **What Makes Tinytalk Baby Signing Classes So Popular?**

- \* You sing along to favourite nursery rhymes and action songs with signs
- \* The classes are fun and relaxed but use a structured and educational approach
- \* All teachers are professionally trained
- \* Newborns are most welcome
- \* You don't have to book for most tinytalk classes. "Drop in" suits young family life.
- \* The hourly rate is per family not per child.
- \* After the singing and signing it's playtime for the babies and coffee and biscuits for parents/carers.

### **Classes In Dunblane And Stirling Starting In September**

For further information contact:  
KATHY PIDGEON  
TEL: 01786 832566/07941 348175  
EMAIL: [kathyp@tinytalk.co.uk](mailto:kathyp@tinytalk.co.uk)  
WEBSITE: [www.tinytalk.co.uk](http://www.tinytalk.co.uk)

## **Foresters Hit The Right Track For 'Green' Transport Award**

The Forestry Commission is just the bicycle's bell in the eyes of the sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, for it has just won an award from Sustrans for its role in helping to develop the National Cycle Network. The award was one of a series made by Sustrans to honour the people and organisations who made exceptional contributions to its first 10 years' work and to the completion of the first 10,000 miles of the National Cycle Network.

The Forestry Commission won an award in the "People - Supportive Landowners" category for providing "many crucial links as well as whole networks of local cycling routes" over national forest land.

Sustrans made the award to the Commission at a ceremony in Cambridge on Sunday (11th September), and Sustrans chief executive officer John Grimshaw said, "Sustrans would like to thank the Forestry Commission for helping it to reach the first 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometres) of the National Cycle Network.

"Already nearly 50 per cent of the population lives within one mile of these safe, attractive walking and cycling routes.

"With the support of partners such as the Forestry Commission, we aim to offer people more choice to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment by extending the network to even more people."

The Commission's Chairman, Lord David Clark, congratulated Sustrans on its achievement, adding,

"We're delighted to receive this award, and we've been delighted to help

Sustrans' efforts in this very worthwhile project, and we will continue to do so.

"Britain's national forests are the people's forests, and the UK Government, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government are keen for us to maximise the benefits that they can provide to Britain's people.

"Cycle trails are one of the many benefits we provide in national forests. By doing so, not only do we provide opportunities for folk to enjoy an environmentally friendly means of transport, but going for a regular bike ride in the fresh air and peace and quiet of woodland does wonders for our health and well-being.

"Indeed, it is most appropriate that this award has been made to us in the year that we launched our Active Woods campaign to get more people off the couch and into the forest to get fitter and feel better."

The Forestry Commission has more than 2600 kilometres (1625 miles) of cycle routes on its 1.04 million hectares (2.56 million acres) of national forest land in England, Scotland and Wales, as well as thousands of kilometres of walking trails, hundreds of kilometres of horse-riding trails, and a number of world-class mountain biking centres. Further information is available by visiting [www.forestry.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/cycling) and [www.forestry.gov.uk/activewoods](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/activewoods), or by phoning the Commission's public enquiry line, 0845 FORESTS (0845 367 3787).

# Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Access Forum

The first meeting of the National Park Access Forum to be held in public took place on 13 September at the Forestry Commission's Visitor Centre, David Marshall Lodge, near Aberfoyle. The group was set up earlier this year to advise the National Park Authority with regard to the duties and responsibilities under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act and offer advice on issues such as core path planning, access exemption orders and the exercising of access rights. In addition to this there will be opportunities for the LLTAF to advise on other access related work in the National Park such as Access Plans.

David Hughes-Hallet, member of the National Park Authority, was elected to serve as convener and Fergus Wood, local farmer and businessman, as deputy convener. The meeting went on to discuss the forum's work programme and agreed to focus on core path planning, signage standards and access plans. Members of the forum also plan to be in contact with

the public to help them fully represent all the people involved in access issues, such as walkers, farmers, cyclists and canoeists.

Forum members from farming, fisheries and conservation, horse-riding, walking, climbing and outdoor education backgrounds attended the evening meeting. Three advisory members from Scottish Natural Heritage, Paths for All and Sportscotland made presentations about their respective organisations and the new access legislation.

Earlier in the day, the forum visited Ledard Farm to view access issues associated with lowland farming and managed solutions including advisory signage for walkers and a diversion of the path around the farm buildings and looking at the potential for improving information and paths and the native woodland.

Bridget Jones, Senior Access Officer for the National Park said, "Managing access and the public in such a popular area of

the National Park presents a number of challenges for local landowners. Guiding the public around farming operations and minimising the impact on day to day activity is essential and this is where good signage and information is invaluable. Signage can advise people on a number of things including nearby livestock or the importance of keeping dogs under close control."

The next meeting will be on 13 December at the National Park Gateway Centre, Balloch. More information about the forum members and its activities can be found on [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org). The other news we have is the new appointment of the Area Access Officer to replace Jimmy Connolly. He is Kenny Auld who will be starting on 24 October and working with the local path groups in the Trossachs and Lomond areas of the National Park and in particular the Strathard Path Group. He will be based at the NP's Balloch HQ.

## Poppies Hotel & Restaurant



### Autumn/Winter Opening Hours

From 1st October to 31st December  
Lunch 12 - 2 pm. Closed Wednesday and Thursday  
Dinner 6 - 9 pm. Closed Thursday

## Special Events

### **Seafood & Fish Week October 7th - 13th**

Choose your favourite 3 fish from our fresh catch and ask us to prepare it your way! Accompany with a glass of Backsberg Estate John Martin Sauvignon Blanc. Only £9.99 (each evening and lunch)

• • • • •

### **Jazz Supper with local band "Moodswing"**

**Friday 14th October**

Arrive from 8.45pm, supper around 9.45pm, finish 11.45pm  
Only £10 per person. (please reserve tables)

• • • • •

### **South American and Salsa Night**

**Friday 28th October**

Tantalising evening commencing with wine sampling from Argentina and Chile, Theme dinner.....testing Chef!, our usual dosage of questions on your knowledge of South America (optional), live Salsa from "Stirling Salsa", and Ricardo from Cuba with sounds of the South! £23.50 per person

• • • • •

### **Ladies Lunch, "Katy Rodger, making interiors"**

**Wednesday 9th Nov**

To continue our Lunches with topics, we have Katy Rodger from Fintry, making a presentation on interiors, and introducing a new range of childrens fabrics. Arrive 12 Noon till 2.15 pm. £12.50

### **Poppies Early Evening Menu 6-7pm**

Still tremendous value.

2 courses £12.50. 3 courses £15.50

### **Poppies moves into Festive Gear from 9th December**

#### **FESTIVE LUNCH**

2 courses £9.95

3 courses £13.50

#### **FESTIVE DINNER**

3 courses £19.95

#### **SPECIAL DAYS/MENUS**

Christmas Eve Dinner 6.30-8.30pm £22.95

Christmas Day Lunch 12-3.30pm £39.50

Hogmanay Gala Dinner & entertainment £45

New Years Day Brunch 11am-2pm £15

New Years Day Dinner 7-8.30pm £25

Reservations are now being taken

**Poppies Hotel & Restaurant, Leny Road, Callander.**

**Tel: 01877 330329**

Email: [poppieshotel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:poppieshotel@yahoo.co.uk) Web: [www.poppieshotel.com](http://www.poppieshotel.com)

# Strathard Community Trust News

STRATHARD COMMUNITY TRUST  
Held at The Rangers Office, Aberfoyle  
1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2005 at 7.30

Present	Mr J Clow	Director
	Mr D Millar	Director
	Mr J Paterson	Director
	Mrs R Dingwall	Director
	Mr N Brooks	National Park
	Mr T Messer	National Park
	Mrs L Campbell	National Park
	Mr J Digney	National Park
	Mr I Marshall	Director Chair
Apologies	Mrs M Campbell	
	Mrs L Quirk	
	Mrs B Barclay	

No Minutes were issued for the last meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July since there were insufficient members to form a quorum.

Other business discussed:

## Play Park

An emergency meeting is to be held in the Memorial Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm to discuss the way forward. John Clow and John Paterson to attend. Any other members of the committee and members of the public would be most welcome to add support to this valuable project.

## Skip

John Clow stated that the project is still on going and he would issue an update at the next meeting.

## Bailie Nicol Jarvie Sign.

A proposal by Pamela Abrahams is to return the Bailie Nicol Jarvie sign to its original position on the current property, now converted into flats. The sign is being held by the Seabrook family currently residing in England. The Seabrook family rescued the sign from the developers. If the sign is returned to its original position, the Seabrook's wish the trust to restore it but wish to retain ownership. This proposal is not acceptable to the committee. Mrs M Campbell has responded accordingly.

## Mr Tim Messer the new National Park Representative.

Tim introduced himself and gave the committee a full rundown on his new position and his previous employment history and experience. Tim was welcomed by the committee. Mrs Leslie Campbell, his line manager, also described how Tim would interface with the various groups.

## Paths and Trails and Historic Route.

John Digney gave a very interesting update on the status of the progress on the Paths and Trails and also on the status of the Historic route to Inversnaid. He explained that the intention of this route is to provide an off road cycle and walking track whilst maintaining and upgrading the original historic road and bridges etc. There has already been a very successful historical dig at which some of the more enthusiastic members attended. John explained that the considerable funding for this project is not yet in place.

## Finance

Since our treasurer was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances no financial report was given.

## Date of next meeting

No date was set for the next meeting due to the low attendance of office bearers.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

*PS The next meeting of the Strathard Community Trust will take place on the 24th October at 7pm in the rangers conference room in the Discovery Centre. The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome.*

# Milton

Hello children,

Do you like the long, dark, winter nights? At the end of October, when the clocks go back one hour, it will get dark even earlier. On nights with no moon, if the sky is clear, there will be millions of stars shining down on Strathard. Sometimes, if you are lucky, you will see the Northern lights dancing in the heavens. It is always a wonderful sight. The full moon, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, is known as the Hunters' Moon. It is so bright that you can see perfectly well - without a torch.

There is nothing much better than going out with Braeval and the twins and meeting up with our friends. We love to explore the wonderful countryside and climb up to the very top of the hills and mountains. It is a long way to the top of Ben Lomond, 974 metres up! But that is nothing compared to another gang from Aberfoyle - they have been climbing up Mount Everest. Not only is that on the other side of the world, it is the biggest mountain of them all - 8,848 metres. That is nine times higher than Ben Lomond! Tris and her friends are raising lots of money for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. I have given a whole month's pocket money; so has Braeval. Perhaps you would like to, as well.

Grandpa Otter has been out in the woods collecting wild mushrooms; it is that time of year. That means, of course, that the annual Mushroom Festival will soon be here. If it is like last year there will be lots of fun and food for everyone!

And then it will be Hallowe'en. Duke and Katrine have already started to make their turnip lanterns. There will be a great evening at the David Marshall Lodge on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - all sorts of things will be going on. Don't miss the spooky storyteller! On the Monday, Hallowe'en, you should go out guising - chasing away all the evil spirits - and getting well rewarded. Have fun, take an adult and stay safe.

Bye for now,  
Milton





# Yet Another Bridge Spotted

Our Strathard News Reporter "scoop" has discovered another bridge constructed by the "Phantom Bridge Builder of Aberfoyle". This is the fourth bridge spotted to date. This one is not quite as spectacular as the others but it does provide access to magnificent views over Loch Achray looking towards Ben A'an. The bridge is near the end of the Three Lochs Forest Drive adjacent to the Three Beinns Viewpoint Car Park. The bridge spans a river known as Allt a' Cham-Ruidhe which flows into Loch Achray. We will keep you posted if we find any more of these beautiful structures.



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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*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## IMPORTANT

### Information for Advertisers

When you place an advert with the Strathard News we will continue to run it unless you tell us 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

# Business Roadshow Event

WINNOCK HOTEL - DRYMEN

WED, 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005



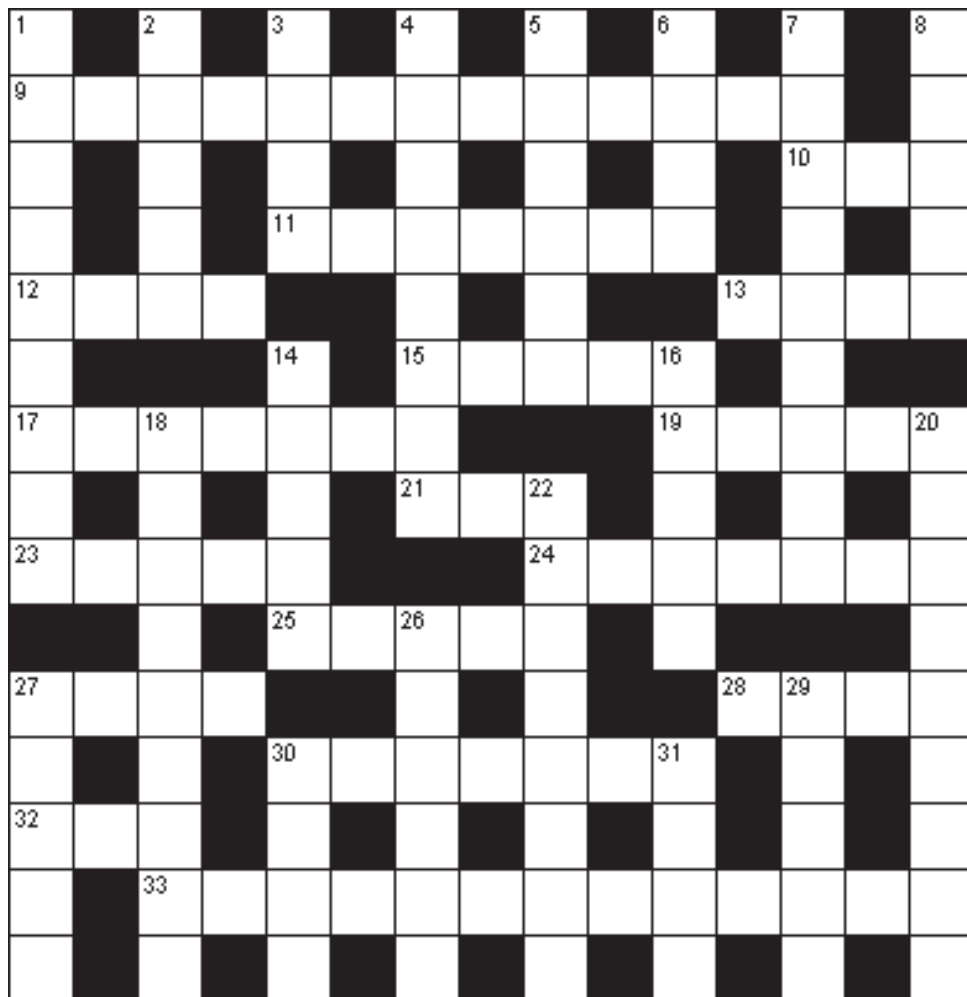
Are you thinking about, or already running a business venture in the Port of Menteith, Aberfoyle, Kinlochard or surrounding areas? Yes? Then here's an open day event not to be missed. Stirling Enterprise (STEP) Business Gateway will be stationed at the Winnock Hotel on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, where Business Start-up and Growth Advisers will be more than happy to talk to event attendees. So, if you have a business idea you have been mulling over for a while and just want to chat it over with a Business Adviser, then feel free to drop by.

If you are already running a business and are looking for a bit of advice on how to take things forward and GROW your business, then a chat with one of our Business Growth Advisers might be just what's required to make an impact in 2006.

If it's IT advise you're after, perhaps on how to get a website up and running or how to maximise the potential of an existing website then why not make a point of stopping by for some FREE advice.

There will also be representation from a number of partner agencies throughout the day. The **Inland Revenue** will be on hand to offer advice of any tax matters. For any local farmers thinking about diversification, an officer from **SEERAD** will be on-site to talk about recent improvements to the **Farm Business Development Scheme** and how you can access grant funding of up to £30,000 for an identified project. **Learn Direct** will also be present, so if you are interested in learning something new, whether for fun or to improve your job prospects, be sure to stop by and find out what's on offer.

Interested in attending? Then please contact STEP to register your interest and reserve an appointment slot with an Adviser. Contact Caroline Brown on 01786 463416 or e-mail [cbrown@stirling-enterprise.co.uk](mailto:cbrown@stirling-enterprise.co.uk)



## Across

- 9. Reechoed sound (13)
- 10. Plaything (3)
- 11. Not either (7)
- 12. Rind (4)
- 13. Slay (4)
- 15. Something that is put in (5)
- 17. Arid areas (7)
- 19. Contraction of has not (5)
- 21. Burdensome charge (3)
- 23. Skin openings (5)
- 24. Inhabitant of Africa (7)
- 25. Shrimp (5)
- 27. Tailless amphibian (4)
- 28. Fruit (4)
- 30. Drunk (7)
- 32. Speck (3)
- 33. Not practicable (13)

## Down

- 1. Fabricated (7,2)
- 2. Elude (5)
- 3. Small songbird (4)
- 4. Advocate of feminism (8)
- 5. Clean dishes (4,2)
- 6. Pillar (4)
- 7. Inherent (9)
- 8. Faithful (5)
- 14. Brittle (5)
- 16. Next after the second (5)
- 18. Given to the use of sarcasm (9)
- 20. Person who makes tents (9)
- 22. Salt of xanthic acid (8)
- 26. Parka (6)
- 27. Subject to tides (5)
- 29. Foyer (5)
- 30. Drinks slowly (4)
- 31. Web-footed swimming bird (4)

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 26

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Issue 24 £5 prize winner: Mhari Bell, 8 Braeval, Aberfoyle**

Issue 24 Solution:

**Across** 1. husband 5. tenants 9. neatest 10. rusty 11. egypt 12. gel 13. ornery 14. detain 15. now 17. fountains 21. fib 23. quaker 24. refuel 27. oat 28. slept 29. those 30. itemize 31. creases 32. explain  
**Down** 1. handgun 2. swallow 3. axeman 4. deterrent 5. tokyo 6. northern 7. nosebag 8. skyline 16. palestine 18. overseas 19. aquatic 20. war zone 21. florida 22. between 25. upkeep 26. sends



# Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival 2005

2005 International  
Flavour of Finland



cooking demos -  
concerts -  
ceilidhs -  
fungus forays -  
musical soirees -  
dog show -  
golf match -  
dinner nights -  
& mushrooms,  
mushrooms,  
mushrooms...

Thursday 20th - 23rd October 2005

www.VisitAberfoyle.com

Tel: 01877 382 352

## THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER

### OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OPENING TROSSACHS THEATRE, SCOT. WOOL CENTRE. 7.30 P.M.

OPENING PERFORMED BY A SURPRISE GUEST FOLLOWED BY A CONCERT & CEILIDH OF TRADITIONAL FINNISH AND SCOTTISH MUSIC, AND A BUFFET.

SPONSORED BY R. DYKES AND SON, THORNHILL.  
TICKETS: £5 (CONCERT ONLY) £10 (WITH BUFFET)  
FROM SCOTTISH WOOL CENTRE OR TOURIST OFFICE.

## FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER

### FINLAND HOUSE TROSSACHS DISC. CENTRE 10.00AM - 5.00PM

COOKERY DEMONSTRATIONS BY FINNISH CHEFS,  
FINNISH BERRY LIQUEUR TASTING,  
MUSHROOM DISPLAY,  
HOLIDAYS IN FINLAND INFORMATION,  
FINNISH MUSIC.

### FINNISH COOKING DEMO. TROSSACHS DISCOVERY CENTRE

SPACE LIMITED! 11.00AM 1.00PM 3.00PM  
TOP FINNISH CHEFS IN ACTION WITH KIND ASSISTANCE FROM  
JONATHAN HONEYMAN, THE ABERFOYLE BUTCHER.

### FORAY FOR FUNGI

HAVE FUN DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT FUNGI!  
ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL - THESE ARE VERY POPULAR

DAVID MARSHALL LODGE 10AM 1.30PM  
£5.00 ADULT £2.50 ACCOMPANIED CHILD.  
BOOKING: 01877 382258

TROSSACHS DISC. CENTRE 11.30AM - 1.30PM

JOIN A NATIONAL PARK COUNTRYSIDE RANGER TO DISCOVER  
MORE ABOUT FUNGI AND THEIR PLACE IN THE WILDLIFE  
COMMUNITY.

FREE - CHILDREN BRING A RESPONSIBLE ADULT, WATERPROOF  
CLOTHING, STURDY FOOTWEAR AND A SNACK.  
BOOKING: 01877 382 034 OR 07739 775050.

### MUSHROOM FEAST

RAFTERS, FOREST HILLS 7.30PM ONWARDS

COME ALONG FOR AN INFORMAL EVENING. ENJOY A VARIETY  
OF MUSHROOM DISHES AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO  
THE FINNISH BANDS LAFO AND HAVILLA.

### FINNISH FLAVOUR

THE COACH HOUSE EVENING DINING

EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC AND A TASTE OF FINLAND FOR ONLY  
£15.50 INCLUDING A BOTTLE OF FINNISH BEER  
TO BOOK: 01877 382 822

## IRISH-SCOTTISH FAMILY CEILIDH DANCE

KINLOCHARD VILLAGE HALL.

8.00PM

A GREAT NIGHT FOR ALL THE FAMILY SPONSORED BY ALLIED  
VEHICLES.

TRADITIONAL SET DANCING FEATURING THE KINLOCHARD  
CEILIDH BAND AND IRISH MUSICIANS. CELEBRATING  
COMMUNITY LINKS WITH CO. ARMAGH AND CO. MAYO.  
GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE.

ADULTS: £7, CHILDREN: £5  
FROM KINLOCHARD SHOP & TROSSACHS DISC. CENTRE

## SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER

### THE MFS DOG SHOWS

SCOTTISH WOOL CENTRE ALL DAY

YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER YOUR POOCH IN ONE OF MANY  
COMPETITIONS.

FOR ADULTS & KIDS! FOR INFO: 01877 382 850  
SPONSORED BY MCCASKIE FARM SUPPLIES, STIRLING

### FINLAND HOUSE

TROSSACHS DISC. CENTRE. 10.00AM - 5.00PM

COOKERY DEMONSTRATIONS BY FINNISH CHEFS,  
FINNISH BERRY LIQUEUR TASTING,  
MUSHROOM DISPLAY,  
HOME BAKING,  
HOLIDAYS IN FINLAND INFORMATION,  
FINNISH MUSIC.

### FINNISH FOOD - WORST IN THE WORLD??

TROSSACHS DISC. CENTRE 10.30AM, 12.30 & 2.30PM

JANNA MURE GIVES AWAY THE SECRETS TO THE REMARKABLE  
CHANGES FOR THE BETTER IN THE HEALTH OF FINNS IN RECENT  
YEARS.

LOOK, LISTEN AND LEARN!

### FINNISH COOKING DEMO.

TROSSACHS DISCOVERY CENTRE

SPACE LIMITED! 11.00AM 1.00PM 3.00PM  
TOP FINNISH CHEFS IN ACTION WITH KIND ASSISTANCE FROM  
JONATHAN HONEYMAN, THE ABERFOYLE BUTCHER.

### NORDIC WALKING

DAVID MARSHALL LODGE 10.30AM, 12.30 & 2.30PM

TRY THIS EXCITING NEW ACTIVITY FROM FINLAND.  
EACH SESSION LASTS FOR 90 MINUTES AND INCLUDES HIRE OF  
EQUIPMENT, WARM-UP ROUTINES, COACHING AND A ONE-HOUR  
NORDIC FOREST WALK - BRING WATERPROOFS, JUST IN CASE!  
ADULTS £5 KIDS £3.00

VISIT WEBSITE: WWW.NORDICWALKINGSCOTLAND.COM  
BOOKING: 01877 382 258

### FORAY FOR FUNGI

HAVE FUN DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT FUNGI!  
ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL - THESE ARE VERY POPULAR

DAVID MARSHALL LODGE 10AM 1.30PM  
£5.00 ADULT £2.50 ACCOMPANIED CHILD.  
BOOKING: 01877 382258

TROSSACHS DISC. CENTRE 11.30AM - 1.30PM

JOIN A NATIONAL PARK COUNTRYSIDE RANGER TO DISCOVER  
MORE ABOUT FUNGI AND THEIR PLACE IN THE WILDLIFE  
COMMUNITY.

FREE - CHILDREN BRING A RESPONSIBLE ADULT, WATERPROOF  
CLOTHING, STURDY FOOTWEAR AND A SNACK.  
BOOKING: 01877 382 034 OR 07739 775050.

### DAFFY DUCK DERBY

SCOTTISH WOOL CENTRE 3.00PM

A HILARIOUS DUCK RACE FEATURING THE QUACK  
COMMANDOS.

OWN A RACING DUCK AND BET ON THE WINNERS.  
ALL PROCEEDS TO ANTHONY NOLAN BONE MARROW TRUST.

### AFRO-LATINA BARBEQUE

GUYANA GARDEN CENTRE 12 NOON - 5.00PM

DANCE TO THE MUSIC AND ENJOY THE BARBIE WITH  
MUSHROOMS.  
ALL PROCEEDS TO CHAS (CHILDREN'S HOSPICE  
ASSOCIATION, SCOTLAND).

## SAVOUR THE SOUPS- AND MORE!

MEMORIAL HALL, TROSSACHS ROAD 12.00-5.00PM

SCRUMPTIOUS HOME MADE SOUPS, TOMBOLA & SALES  
TABLES. SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FAIRY & MUSHROOM ART  
COMPETITION.  
£1.50 ENTRY.

FUNDS FOR THE MEDICAL CENTRE LOW ALLERGY GARDEN.

## CANDLELIT WALK, MUSIC AND MORE

DAVID MARSHALL LODGE 7.00 - 10.00PM

A GREAT NIGHT FOR LOVERS OF TRADITIONAL LIVE MUSIC WITH  
FINNISH GUEST MUSICIANS, A SUPERB BUFFET AND FORESTS  
FACTS. SAMPLE SOME FINNISH BEER.

7.00PM GUIDED CANDLELIT WALK TO A FLOODLIT WATERFALL

8.00PM BUFFET SUPPER

7.00 - 9.00PM LIVE TRADITIONAL FINNISH MUSIC

9.00 - 10.00PM PRESENTING FORESTS FOR LIFE!

TICKETS: £12

TO BOOK: 01877 382 258 TAXI SERVICE AVAILABLE.

## THE FINNISH FEAST

FORTH INN 8.00PM

A NIGHT OF FINNISH FOOD, DRINK AND MUSIC FEATURING OUR  
GUEST CHEFS AND MUSICIANS FROM FINLAND. IN ASSOCIATION  
WITH FINLANDIA VODKA.

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY FOR 100 DINERS TICKETS: £25

TO BOOK: 01877 382 372

## SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER

### THE MFS DOG SHOWS

SCOTTISH WOOL CENTRE ALL DAY

YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER YOUR POOCH IN ONE OF MANY  
COMPETITIONS. FOR ADULTS & KIDS! FOR

INFO: 01877 382 850  
SPONSORED BY MCCASKIE FARM SUPPLIES, STIRLING

### CHARITY GOLF MATCH

ABERFOYLE GOLF CLUB ALL DAY

IN AID OF THE ANTHONY NOLAN TRUST. TO ENTER OR FOR  
MORE DETAILS TEL: 01877 382 493

### FINLAND HOUSE

TROSSACHS DISC. CENTRE. 10.00AM - 5.00PM

SEE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY'S PROGRAMME FOR DETAILS

### FINNISH COOKING DEMO.

TROSSACHS DISCOVERY CENTRE

SPACE LIMITED! 11.00AM 1.00PM 3.00PM  
SEE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY'S PROGRAMME FOR DETAILS

### FORAY FOR FUNGI

HAVE FUN DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT FUNGI!  
ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL - THESE ARE VERY POPULAR  
SEE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY'S PROGRAMME FOR DETAILS

### NORDIC WALKING

DAVID MARSHALL LODGE 10.30AM, 12.30 & 2.30PM

SEE SATURDAY'S PROGRAMME FOR DETAILS

### FINNISH CARVERY LUNCH

BLACK BULL, GARTMORE. 12.30 - 7.30PM

PRIME SCOTTISH BEEF AND LAMBS COOKED FINNISH STYLE  
- WHAT A COMBINATION! WASH IT DOWN WITH FINNISH  
BEER AND VODKA WHILE LISTENING TO FINNISH MUSICIANS.  
£12.99 TO BOOK: 01877 382 225

### SONGS OF PRAISE

GARTMORE HOUSE 7.00PM

A SHORT SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING & CELEBRATION.  
ALL WELCOME. FOLLOWED BY TEA & COFFEE

### THE LAST BLAST

BLACK BULL, GARTMORE. 8.00PM

A CEILIDH TO BRING THE ABERFOYLE MUSHROOM  
FESTIVAL 2005 TO A FOOT STOMPING, TOE TAPPING,  
WHIRLING AND BIRLING FINALE! WITH THE KINLOCHARD  
CEILIDH BAND AND FINNISH BANDS, HAVILLA AND LAFO.  
DO NOT MISS THIS!  
£5 TO INCLUDE LIGHT BUFFET. TO BOOK: 01877 382 225