

issue 33  
october  
2006  
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# STRATHARD NEWS

The Voice of Your Community  
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## CLYDESDALES BACK AT THE KIRKTON !

What excitement we had here at the Kirkton Farm this week! In the middle of an already hectic weekend, we received a frantic phone call from a lovely lady by the name of Annie Rose, and before you could say "HOW many horses tonight??" we found ourselves playing host to 'THE GREAT CLYDESDALE MIGRATION'! Twelve huge and beautiful Clydesdale horses arrived with their riders within the hour for bed & breakfast with us.

(full story on page 2)



Toto McLennan with organisers Tim and John



Collecting in Aberfoyle

### Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival 2006

#### Canine Capers

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> & Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
11.00am – 3.30pm

Scottish Wool Centre

Organised by

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Scottish Charity No. 025843

Programme for the Day.

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11am - 12 noon

Practise runs over 'Fun Obstacle' Course

12 noon - The Prettiest Bitch

12.30pm - The Most handsome Dog

1.00pm - Fastest Recall

1.30pm - Six Best Legs

2.00pm - Best Fancy Dressed Dog & Owner

2.30pm - Waggiest Tail

#### Fun Obstacle Course Races (Agility)

A handicap will apply to experienced entrants

1.00pm – 2.00pm 'Mini' Jumpers

2.00pm – 3.00pm 'Midi' – 'Maxi' Jumpers

For Info: 01389 755 133

Email: adcdts@yahoo.co.uk

## Congratulations Mrs Bancroft

Aberfoyle Primary School Board would like to offer their congratulations to Mrs Linda Bancroft on her secondment as Development Officer (Early Years) Curriculum for Excellence at Learning and Teaching Scotland.

Mrs Bancroft has been very involved in the "Storyline" initiative which has proved a great success with her Primary 1 & 2 class. We are grateful that the children have had the innovative education that Mrs Bancroft has provided, the value of which has been recognised in her secondment.

On behalf of parents and children we would like to wish Linda every success in her new role and we look forward to welcoming her back in the not too distant future.



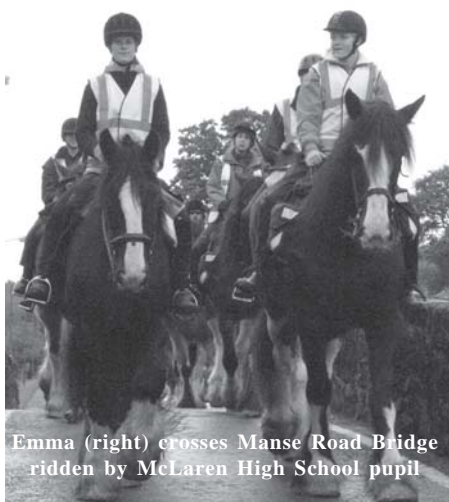
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## The Great Clydesdale Migration (continued from page 1)

We were tempted to go back in time and put them to the plough, but since they had already carried their riders faithfully for over 150 miles when they arrived with us, a good feed and rest in a safe grassy field was a better bet! Even after a long day over rough terrain, these huge creatures had the strength left for a canter and a frisk round a new field! We put them in the field next to Manse Road, and the interest they generated was tremendous.

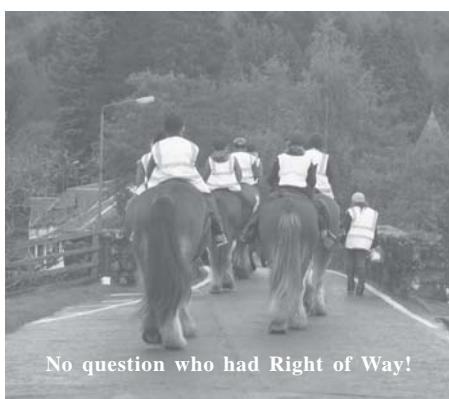
The Clydesdales belong to Annie and her partner Tim, from their 'West Highland Heavy Horses' Riding Centre on the Isle of Skye. For various reasons they are relocating to the Whicham Valley in Cumbria, to become 'Cumbrian Heavy Horses' Having come to terms with the move, Annie and Tim wanted to do something for others, and made the momentous decision to RIDE the horses the 420 miles to Cumbria, raising money for charity on the way. They successfully appealed for support, capturing the public's imagination, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> Sept the Great Clydesdale Migration rolled into action, crossing from Skye on the tiny Kylerhea ferry, following the old drove roads to the Great Glen, Fort William, through Glen Coe down the West Highland Way, towards Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, arriving with us on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, a little saddle-sore, but very happy! Riders join and leave the group along the way, staying for a day or two, a week, or the entire journey for some stalwarts. One young girl is at school with our daughter, and says she already misses Emma so-o-o much! Emma of course was her huge Clydesdale friend!



Emma (right) crosses Manse Road Bridge ridden by McLaren High School pupil



Last minute preparations



No question who had Right of Way!

Tim and Annie are collecting along the way for McMillan Cancer Relief, and also four equine charities; ILPH Laminitis trust, grass sickness and BHS. They also aim to raise awareness of the Clydesdale as a superb riding horse. We all know that they're handy to have about if the three-furrow reversible breaks down, but few people realise that the Clydesdale is a willing and versatile ridden horse, fluent in all paces and over jumps, enthusiastic and gentle in its nature. A strong, exciting and trustworthy performer, it remains at risk, a Rare Breed. We wish Tim and Annie every success in bringing these magnificent beasts back to popularity.

I wonder how long it is since so many Clydesdales crossed the ancient bridge in Aberfoyle? It was quite a sight. From here their route takes them ever southward, eventually into Tweeddale towards the Pennines and into the Lake District National Park, arriving at their new home, Chappel's Farm, on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

It was a pleasure to have these gentle giants towering over us around the farm, and we were sorry to see them go. They left us in the misty mid-morning, heading through the forest towards Drymen, but not before we had extracted a promise, that if they ever migrate back northwards, they will stay with us at the Kirkton again!

*Toto McLellan*

*(Anyone wishing to donate to Annie and Tim's huge effort, or to follow their progress, can find them at:*

*www.thegreatclydesdalemigration.com or look out for them on the 'Landward' programme on BBC1, and in the national press.)*

Photos taken by Mary Phillips and Gill Jaeckish

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If you go down to Aberfoyle today, you're in for a big surprise. For fairy lovers from all around will hardly believe their eyes.....

Rade, located in Main Street, Aberfoyle next to the Green Gallery, opened early in June. A new venture by Diana Carmody and June Symmons, it steps forward from the local legend of the fairies of Aberfoyle who stole away the Reverend Kirk for telling their secrets. Rade is an old Scottish word used to describe an enterprise or expedition. Rade Ltd is just that, an expedition by two enterprising people to bring you items of quality and beauty with a hint of the unusual, the rare or even mystical. Our logo depicts Diana the fairy goddess with her hunting dog and perfectly reflects our two main aspects.

Fairy Rade is the 1<sup>st</sup> May annual celebration of summer for the fairies. Our magical range of gifts from specialist Fairy artists like Jessica Galbraith, Amy Brown and many others will make any occasion



memorable and to guide you on your way we have the reprint of the Rev Robert Kirk's book. We have books and prints and cards and our selected range of T-shirts include wolf and horse prints, dragons and of course fairies in both adult and children's sizes.

Pet Rade expands on our quality range by offering something different for your pet including harnesses, leather or fabric leads, hand made collars and Donegal and Shetland Tweed coats. With our specialist knowledge we can help ensure the correct fit and if we don't have what you want in stock, we can usually source it for you. We have some pet treats in stock and can supply most main brands of pet food to order.

We offer a mail order service and watch the web for our website coming soon! You can contact us on: 01877 382101 or Diana 0793 1161625 or June 07768 687475 – we look forward to talking to you.

## ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL - 100 CLUB

The committee would like to thank everyone who has joined the 100 Club. To date we have 29 members and the first draw was made by Martin McKinlay of Photograph Scotland on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Congratulations to Mrs Catherine Lynch who wins £31.

To join and help out your community hall while having the chance to win a cash prize, please contact Janet Stewart on 382736 or Ros Dingwall in the post office. The cost is £2 per month of which £1 goes to hall funds and the other £1 towards the cash prizes.



Rade

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After a long quiet spell everything seems to be happening at once now!

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Oct is the

monthly meeting of the Planning Committee at which both the Forest Hills extension and Aberfoyle Primary School are up for discussion. By the time this is published we will know the results. Both are recommended for approval by the Planning Officer, but we have registered our objections; to Forest Hills plans because the contribution of £47,500 asked for from MacDonald Hotels is destined to be spent on a footpath between Forest Hills and Kinlochard, whereas we all thought it was meant to go towards improvement of the surface of the B829; and to the new nursery building in Aberfoyle because it is still sited too far into the playground, in spite of the fact that the culvert appears to have been diverted away from the building. I don't hold out a lot of hope that we will be successful in our objections, but we have given it our best shot.

Applause and catcalls for the Council Roads Services this month – applause for finding the funds to spend on the worst parts of the B829; a job well done. Catcalls because I've just heard that 'budget cuts' mean that apparently gritting priorities have changed again and there are no plans to extend early morning gritting beyond Aberfoyle. Its only a couple of years since we last fought this decision – main school routes are supposed to be in category 1 for gritting purposes and this certainly includes the B829, especially since

Kinlochard School was closed. Back to the battlefield I guess.

Advance notice – it was agreed at our last meeting to look into introducing the byelaw which prohibits drinking in public places. We are one of only two villages in the whole Stirling area who have not asked for this measure, and we will find out what is involved and keep you informed. If introduced it will not affect the use of recognized beer gardens within permitted hours which are attached to licensed premises, or the use of off-licences.

Many of you will know by now that we are to lose the postbus service to Kinlochard, which also serves Kinlochard and Gartmore in the afternoons. At the moment the bus to Inversnaid is to continue, but David Brown of Stirling Council indicated at our last meeting that this might also be reviewed. To replace the bus service the Council is hoping to use Demand Responsive Transport which works well in other rural areas. Basically, you phone for a taxi and pay a bus fare for the journey. The Council subsidises the difference. However the postbus will be withdrawn on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, and it will probably take longer than that to arrange a substitute service. We will try to put out more information when it becomes available. (Don't worry, postal deliveries will change to using a van – they won't disappear! But we might have to keep using the bus for a while without taking passengers, if you see what I mean.) More important news for the Community Council – elections take place in November. At midnight on November 2<sup>nd</sup>

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(just after our next meeting), all community councillors step down from office. They may stand for re-election if they wish. Please consider whether you would like to become a member. Information is available on the notices around the community or from Stirling Council. It would be great to have enough candidates to have a vote – it's a healthy sign that you care about what happens in your community! Applications must be in by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

And finally....a note for those who like to party! The Christmas Dinner and Dance for the really young at heart, the senior citizens, is booked for Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>, at Forest Hills Hotel. If you have recently joined the ranks (over 60 for ladies, over 65 for gents), or have recently moved here and think we might not like to ask your age, or if you don't look your age, then please let me know at the PO, and we will put you on our list for an invitation. Depending on the elections, this might be my last CC report, but I'm always happy to pass on community information via the Post Office, so feel free to drop in anytime!

*Ros*

**Strathard Community Council meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnaid Primary School.**

**The next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Thursday 2nd November in Kinlochard Village Hall**



### Aberfoyle Post Office

I am off to London to help  
**Save our Post Offices!**

To everyone who signed our recent petition, thank you. On 18<sup>th</sup> October thousands of postmasters will go to London to present the petition (3 million signatures) at 10 Downing Street. I am going with them. We hope to persuade them to retain and improve the PO Card Account as an option for collecting Pensions and Allowances locally.

**Thank you for your support.**

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local projects local people

The Strathard Community Trust Board met on Monday 18th September. The main topic discussed was the progress made in raising funding for the play park. To date £57,777 has been raised of the estimated £72,520 required. The board felt confident that the balance would be raised to allow the work to commence early next year.

The next meeting of the board will be held on 16th of October and a further meeting on the 27th November. The meetings are open to the public and are held in the rangers office at the Discovery Centre at 7.30pm.

## Medical Centre

### HEALTHYLIVING

A series of evening sessions have been sponsored by *The Friends of Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres*. Each event is **open to everyone in the area** and will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the new **Buchlyvie Medical Centre**: in the large general purpose room that is shared between the Medical Centre and the School.

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October:

**'Exercise - Keep Fit through the Winter'**. Mairi Menzies, the Physiotherapist, will lead this session.

#### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November:

**'Healthy Eating - even over Christmas'**. Paula Dennison, the Dietician, will lead this session.

#### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January:

**'Smoking Cessation - NOW is the time to QUIT'**. Ruth Astbury will lead this.

**'Heartstart'**, emergency response, sessions will be organised during the year at Aberfoyle, Buchlyvie and Gartmore.

Contacts for further information:

Liz Fuller - 01360 850246

Mary-Lou Kerr - 01877 382789

June Naidoo 01877 387777

## ABERFOYLE GALA DAY 2007



**We now have a location, thanks to the kindness and forward thinking of John and Toto McLellan.**

**We also have six organisations and twenty two stall holders already willing to commit.**

**Are YOU prepared to miss out? Confirmation of date will follow in the next issue.**

Please contact

**David Wilkie 01877 382 868**

**Jackie Bell 01877 382 142**

**Julie Glen 01877 382 296**

### Emergency Interpreters Required.

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非常事態通訳が必要とされます

Strathard Community Trust has identified an urgent need for interpreters who could be contacted on the phone to help communicate with visitors from different countries, in an emergency situation. We require interpreters in as many languages as possible. It is envisaged that a leaflet will be published and distributed in local hotels, shops and businesses throughout the Strathard area, with a list of available interpreters. The service should only take a few minutes of the interpreter's time but would be of immense benefit to the community. If you can help call Ian Marshall on 01877382211

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## A LIFE LESS ORDINARY (*JIMMY'S TALE*)

As many locals will know, September 30<sup>th</sup> marked the closure of the original Green Gallery in Aberfoyle and with it the end of 44 years trading for Jimmy Johnston, an active member of the Strathard business community. During the years that Jimmy worked in our community both he and his family were recognised as hardworking and respected members of Aberfoyle. His is a story worth telling.

Originally from Glasgow, Jimmy worked in London for BOAC where he met his future wife, Jean, who was an air stewardess. On holiday in Aberfoyle on a weekend trip, they fell in love with the Inverard Guest House, moving in with their 3 young children in 1962. The following 18 years as landlords of the hotel proved to be very 'lively' and was certainly hectic on occasions!

At the start, Inverard had 6 to 7 letting rooms. By dint of hard work, great flair and hospitality, they started to build the reputation of the Inverard which was to remain for many years. At the same time, and for several more years, Jimmy was also working for Green Shield Stamps. Not the quietest of times! Later extensions were made to the building and the log cabins were built as the popularity of the hotel grew as a destination. In the late 60s and through the 70s, it was the place to be. There was always a variety of people there, from as far away as Glasgow, who wanted an evening out in the country, with good food, good drink and entertainment. There must still be many people in Aberfoyle who have fond memories of the 'musical evenings' at Inverard! Surely much of the attraction of the hotel at that time was the perceived magic of being involved in the rural life. What must have been magical was visitors coming from the city and finding themselves in a completely country setting as the Johnston family kept a fine collection of horses, dogs and poultry, not failing to mention the renowned Rupert the parrot. Now there was a bird! There must still be many patrons of the Inverard who remember Rupert. Many a customer had lively discussions with Rupert over a couple of pints (the customer, that is, not Rupert).

Part of that excellent TV series, 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy', was filmed in the Queen Elizabeth Forest and the cast stayed at the Inverard during the shooting which provided a lot of entertainment and some late nights for all. The cast stayed for 2 weeks and it was wet, very wet (unusual for this neck of the woods, you might say) and Jimmy and the family had the joy of drying out all the greatcoats of the Czech extras with only 2 Aga stoves in the kitchen! Jimmy realized later that perhaps he had the original Fawlty Towers - but without the crazy management.

The Johnston family became an active part of the community, their children attending Aberfoyle Primary School during the early years and all of the family shared

responsibility of hotel life, moving into Inverard Cottage next door.

The family made the decision to buy land in the centre of Aberfoyle and to develop it. The Coachhouse was built at this time by Jimmy. Sadly, in 1979, Jean died which left the family devastated. Despite their great loss, the family managed to pull together and gained strength to carry on.

Jimmy sold Inverard and Jimmy's son, David, who had trained in catering in Austria, was now ready to work at the Coachhouse with the support of the rest of the family. Jill, Jimmy's elder daughter, had worked at Dounan's Camp for a spell then she opened the wee bothy at the front of the Coachhouse as a fruit and vegetable shop.

In 1981, Jimmy met Ann Beard when she was staying with her three children at Ledard Farm. In 1984 they married and moved to Smithycroft in Milton and so their life continued. Jimmy, forever the businessman, built two bungalows on the land next to Inverard. Ann, being an artist and art teacher, now started art classes in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. Whilst Jimmy was working on the new time share development at Forest Hills, he and Ann had an idea to build a teaching gallery on the remaining site next to the Coachhouse. It would be on the site of the original three old garages of Aberfoyle Motors.

So began what was to become the Green Gallery. Initially, when sending in the plans, Jimmy and Ann could not decide on what to call it. 'Johnston Fine Art' did not sound quite right but the problem was finally solved in the most mundane of ways when Jimmy, who was painting the chairs to be used by the art class green, suggested that they call it the Green Gallery. The name can be changed later, Jimmy said, but it never was! Everyone thought it the perfect name.

Sadly, the Planning Department was as helpful as always, so the building had to remain askew to the Main Street. There were other 'irritations', but there was also great fun and pleasure, in Ann and Jimmy using their combined artistic and business skills to make a wonderful gallery, a place with amazing light. It was superb for showing work and, speaking personally, marvellous to paint in. Classes flourished for Ann, and Jimmy enjoyed the stepping into another type of business world - that of the art lover. Jimmy took hold of the business reins and it was, in effect, a new direction for him. Both Ann and he went from strength to strength as the gallery proved to be a continuing success.

Many visitors came to the gallery and artists were keen to have their works displayed there. It became a prestigious rural gallery with some of Scotland's finest artists displayed there. They came from all walks of life and 'all pairs': from all over Scotland and from London, yet still the gallery was supported by the local

communities, as well as visitors from Glasgow, from Edinburgh, Perth and Crieff. It had many clients both in Britain and abroad, particularly Boston in the USA. There were exhibits both in the Art Fair in London and, on a more local level, Art in the Tent in Glasgow. We must also not forget that the art classes, which Ann held, continued apace and moved into the Green Gallery when it opened. Students of art from as far away as Ayr and as close as Aberfoyle and Kinlochard attended. Ann was a talented and skilled teacher of art who passed on her love of her subject to her students. Due to family commitments the classes were finally ended some three years ago, yet such was her enthusiasm both for art and for her students that they still continue to gather and paint as a group at Killearn and Ann still meets up with all of them.

From the very beginning, the ethos of the Green Gallery was set - it would show only the very best of Scottish work and not be governed by trends or commercialism. If there was quality and skill, however unusual, Jimmy and Ann would take it on and this ethos has continued to the present day with Ann's daughter, Rebecca, joining the gallery in the last few years.

But Jimmy's contribution to the overall success of the venture was due to his business knowledge, his entrepreneurial skills, sheer energy and lighthearted personality which played an enormous part in the success of the gallery. Although it was a new field of endeavour, Jimmy has always said that it had been an exciting adventure and he was glad that he did it. Without Ann's knowledge of art and her art teaching abilities he would not have contemplated it. However, working together it had paid off!

Now both Ann and he are retiring from the business and the Green Gallery is moving to Buchlyvie where Rebecca, who had joined Jimmy and Ann in the original gallery 6 years ago, now has two young children to look after, has set up premises in her coachhouse, to be called the Green Gallery At Home. The premises at Aberfoyle will now be home to the Fabric gallery.

Yet Jimmy and Ann and many of the family still reside in the area. Jimmy may think he has retired but now he has 18 grandchildren to keep him from wearying. His eldest grandson has graduated from Stirling University and his eldest granddaughter has completed her training at Tulliallan Police College.

Jimmy has given much to Aberfoyle and, in doing so, has become an integral part of the community. His has surely been a life of quiet yet solid achievement, perhaps both unusual and satisfying but definitely, on reflection, a life less ordinary.

*Dougie MacPherson*





Inclusiveness is a concept which I embrace

wholeheartedly. And yet I have to confess that with all concepts there are practical difficulties which are not tackled well enough in advance. The National Park is just that - a National Park has to be available to all. We then have the Access legislation which further encourages the recreational use of our area. Admittedly we do have a well publicised Scottish Outdoor Access Code but somehow I don't think it is getting to those who are most in need of its advice. This summer the weather has been a further inducement to wild camping but unfortunately not all those participating understand the need to follow basic rules and consequently the resultant mess not only degrades the scenic beauty of our area but poses a health hazard for anyone visiting the lochsides. The visitor season is drawing to an end and a clean up is a high priority.

I attended a Europarc Conference last month where the theme was the sustainability of communities in and around protected areas. The UK is perhaps a little unusual in that all of its National Parks have people living in them; in many other countries the National Parks do not. Scotland is unique (we all know that!!) in

that it has a specific aim of promoting the social and economic wellbeing of its Parks' communities. The English and Welsh National Parks do not have that statutory aim but they are increasingly being encouraged to have regard for the interests of their communities. In most countries the emphasis was on grants to land managers to help them continue practices which secured ways of looking after land to ensure biodiversity.

Another aspect which was being encouraged was one in which Strathard has taken a lead with the Mushroom Festival.

Think and eat what is in season locally. There is no doubt that people in Scotland are eating out more and that standards are improving. The era of celebrity chefs is helping and with our own Nick Nairn well to the fore in that respect we have lots to be grateful for. However we all have to do our bit by asking for local produce whether it is when we are having a night out or we are merely shopping for the family table.

I took the opportunity to visit the headquarters of GSL (an offshoot of Group 4/Securicor) to see how a large international company can operate from a rural setting detached from the normal city/town infrastructure. The premises are a

mile or so from the nearest village in an estate which over the years had been a country manor house and then an hotel - a situation in other words similar to Gartmore House. They employ about 150 people mostly recruited from the neighbouring villages and claim that there is very low staff turnover. This they attribute in part to the setting but also to the fact that the staff have low travel costs and travel time - definite bonus in Southern England. They also claim that their customers much prefer to come to them than have meetings in London. There is a conference centre (again a good comparison with Gartmore House) with residential facilities. I hope that this is one example we in the Park are able to follow. Oh and by the way I did a 5mile stretch of the Cotswold Way (Chipping Camden to Broadway) - a pleasant stroll but for spectacular scenic beauty not a patch on the West Highland Way.

**Owen McKee**

As usual I can be contacted as follows:

Post ; Taigh Na Bhuth,  
Lochearnhead, FK19 8PR

Phone: 01567 830214  
owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

## CHANGES AFOOT

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority is changing the make-up of its planning committee in a general change in approach. The Park Authority board agreed at its meeting in Callander on 11th September a complete overhaul of its committee structure.

Of the previous committees set up in 2002, only those with a statutory function, such as planning and the leisure and recreation committee that deals with access requirements of the Land Reform Act, will remain. The new approach sees an emphasis on providing the strategic direction for the organisation and planning how best to engage local people and improve services.

All five of the board members elected by the local communities will now sit on the planning committee. This is seen as an important way to bring the committee closer to the communities its decisions affect. Iain Wragg, Russell Bruce and Willie Nisbet will join the committee in December following a programme of training in the planning system, design, environmental issues and National Park procedures.

Park Convener Mike Cantlay said at the meeting, "These changes will be beneficial for the committee. But I'm sorry to lose Convener Billie Petrie and Councillor Colin Crabbie, who have served on the Planning Committee since it started, and thank them for their contribution to one of our most important functions."

Terry Levinthal, Chairman of the Planning Committee, said, "These changes come at a crucial time when the committee will be focusing on the first Local Plan for the National Park area."

## RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP

A workshop about renewable energy is being held on Saturday 18 November at the Millennium Hall, Gartocharn, 10am to 4pm. Organised by Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and part funded by Lomond and Rural Stirling Leader+, the event is aimed at community groups and will focus on small scale solar, wind, hydro, heat pumps and biomass technologies. It will also include information about funding sources, planning considerations and best practice examples.

In the morning, key speakers will give short presentations about solar, wind, hydro, heat pumps and biomass energy. Carron Tobin and Aedan Smith from the National Park Authority will talk about the planned HQ in Balloch and discuss some of the sustainable features and challenges along with planning policy for small scale renewables in the Park.

Workshops will be held in the afternoon where the benefits and opportunities as well as some of the barriers to each technology will be discussed in more detail. Delegates can sign up to two different workshops on the day, as well as site visits, arranged for Saturday 2 December to see some of the technology in action.

If you are interested in attending the event, contact Gillian Barrie, Sustainable Development Officer on 01389 722003 or email [Gillian.barrie@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:Gillian.barrie@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

Visit [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org) to view the full programme.

## 'Women in the Trossachs' Loch Venachar Launch Dinner

On Friday 6th October, members of the recently formed 'Women in the Trossachs' group met for its launch event at the newly opened Venachar Lochside Lodge.

Mike Cantlay, the Convener of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, set the lively pace for the evening with his introduction to the group and a brief insight into the way forward for the National Park, which allowed the members of 'Women in the Trossachs' to have a greater understanding of the activities of the Park and to see opportunities where the group could contribute to its future development.

A delicious dinner provided by Trossachs Leisure was followed by an entertaining presentation by Dr Alison Blackwell, the well-known expert on the Scottish midge. Alison let the members see and hear about the surprisingly complex lives of midges, and provided some useful tips on how to survive alongside them whilst living in the



Dr Alison Blackwell (fourth from right) with 'Women in the Trossachs' members

Trossachs. She also updated them with the latest news about developments in 'midge technology' such as air curtains, and the forecasting techniques used to provide website and text updates on daily midge conditions.

The evening was sponsored by both Aberfoyle Motors & Advanced Pest Solutions.

Founder member of the group, Alison Park, was delighted by the success of the evening: She said, "The dinner on Friday

was a great way to start a series of varied events which includes 'Heartstart' Training given by the Trossachs Search & Rescue Team, a Cheese, Wine & Chocolate evening at Deli Ecosse in Callander, and a Dance Taster evening when members will get a chance to try out both salsa & belly dancing." The group also plans to participate in community activities, and to run both skills

and business training in local venues with the support of Stirling Enterprise (STEP). Members come from throughout the Trossachs area, including Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Callander and Thornhill, and the organisation aims to offer regular opportunities to socialise with other like-minded women living in the Trossachs. Anyone interested in learning more about the group or wishing a copy of its programme should contact Ali Park, c/o The Lade Inn, Kilmahog on 01877 330152.



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*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.*





## RSPB Inversnaid

The bracken started turning in mid August and the trees are now on the turn too. Autumn is certainly here, although milder than usual with a few midges biting to remind us they are still

about. On a calm and misty morning I was walking out on the Garrison. A stag was roaring on Stob an Fhainne whilst another was roaring from Beinn a Choin and yet another from the direction of Cruachan. The roaring of stags in the rut is another great reminder that autumn is now upon us. After the mist cleared, the stag on Stob an Fhainne could clearly be seen with his hinds and close by a lone younger stag was eyeing up his chances of taking the older stag's hinds. However, the dominant stand of the older stag changed the mind of the younger and he wandered off towards Corriearklet. Later I also saw a male hen harrier hunting high on Beinn a Choin.

On the West Highland Way I came across a dead goat: this six to seven year old male had probably died of laminitis following an intestinal disorder. Photographs have been sent to the British Feral Goat Society along with the horns to enable further research into the genetics of the feral goat population at Inversnaid. Interestingly, in the previous week, a member of the public had informed me that they had seen a group of goats and that one had been limping badly. Also on the West Highland Way pine marten scats full of rowanberries are dotted all along the Way; the pine marten digestive system is unable to cope with rowanberries and therefore leave this distinctive calling card! Badger scrapings are also noticeable as they have been after invertebrates in the verges of the Way. A member of the rove beetles family



*Staphylinidae* was also about. This beetle was the Devil's Coach Horse. At 25mm in length, it is one of the largest rove beetles. It also raises its hind quarters (very similar to the actions of a scorpion) and will give a nasty nip if you try to pick it up!

Any day now the first flocks of winter thrushes will be descending to strip the rowanberries from the trees, which should also bring in some raptors after the thrushes. A single fieldfare was heard but not seen last week. With the change in the direction of the wind to the north, skeins of geese have been flying in high down Loch Lomond and turning to follow Loch Arklet leading the geese to the Carse of Stirling. Pink foot and greylags have been identified by their distinctive calls but so far I have not heard the Greenland white fronts that winter at the south end of Loch Lomond.

An interesting observation of two sparrowhawks over the Garrison kept my attention for a while. It turned out that this was an adult female hunt training a juvenile. All raptors teach their young to hunt but it was quite late in the season for this to be taking place and by the actions of the juvenile it would appear that the training period was almost over and she will have to survive the winter on her own. Finally, the pupils of Inversnaid primary were good enough to help me plan a new stock fence that will be located next to the Snaid burn to protect the east bank and walls of the houses at Inversnaid from the Highland cattle. There was some tremendous balancing acts as pupils lost wellies in the mud but the plan is now complete and all pupils got back safely albeit slightly muddy!

*Duncan Cameron  
Conservation Assistant*

## Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre

Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre is a recognised Scottish Charity dedicated to rescuing abused, injured, unwanted animals. We moved into part of Easterhill Farm in June of this year. We rescue anything from gerbils to Clydesdale horses and anything in-between. At present the number of animals at Glendrick Roost is about 100.

Residents at Glendrick Roost include :

- 2 Clydesdale horses - Eilidh and Sonny
- 1 Highland pony - Meredin
- 1 piebald pony - Tonto
- 1 chestnut pony - Tammy
- 4 Shetland ponies - Echo, Wispa, Ebony and Jet
- 3 donkeys - Justin, Patches and Pumpkin
- 1 Highland heifer - Molach
- 2 Jersey bullocks - Monachyle and Mingerlay
- 2 pygmy goats - Schwaenli and Heidi
- 2 potbellied pigs - Miss Piggy and Tiggywinkle
- 5 dogs - Yodi, Kizzy, Rags, Frodo and Kia
- 7 cats - Spot, Fudge, Puisicain, Elvis, Dixie, Mr Rochester, Heathcliffe
- rabbits, guinea pigs and chinchillas too numerous to mention by name though they all do have one.
- (60 +)
- 2 gerbils - Snowball and Snowman
- 1 Syrian hamster - Topo
- 1 LARGE terrapin - Turtle
- 4 cockatiels - Cheeky and Lemon
- 3 budgies

All these animals have a story to tell. Some appalling, some sad, some not so sad, but hopefully all with happy endings. Most animals rescued will remain at the centre for the rest of their lives, but some of the wee furries will be found new, vetted homes.

We have several Open Days throughout the year where visitors will be very welcome to come and meet the many resident. Membership is encouraged and members receive four newsletters a year. Adoption schemes are in operation whereby, for a regular amount each month, adopters receive four newsletters a year, a photo of their adoptive pet and information on their progress plus the chance to cuddle 'their pet' on visits. Volunteers are always needed and training is given for the many varied tasks. If you would like more information about the centre or would like to offer your services as a volunteer please contact:

Mione Morrison  
Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre  
Easterhill Farm, Gartmore FK8 3SA  
Tel 07748 351287  
[mionemorrison@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mionemorrison@tiscali.co.uk)  
(Scottish Charity SC036986)



### Free Storytelling

Tues 31st October 3.45pm - 4.45pm  
Spooky Stories & Tall Tales  
Be There Or Be Scared!

### Big Kids & Little Kids "Free Tuition!" for the whole of October

**Learn To Spin** - Every Saturday  
11.45pm - 12.45pm & 1.45pm - 2.45pm

**Learn To Knit** - Every Sunday  
11.45pm - 12.45pm & 1.45pm - 2.45pm

**Adults Coffee Crafts & Chats** - Tuesdays  
10.30am - 11.30 Pm

*Come along and treat yourself to a coffee & a chat. Bring along your knitting, crochet, sewing!*

PHONE 01877 382850  
ask Joanne for further details

# 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)



(photo courtesy of John McKinley)

### JO, no more

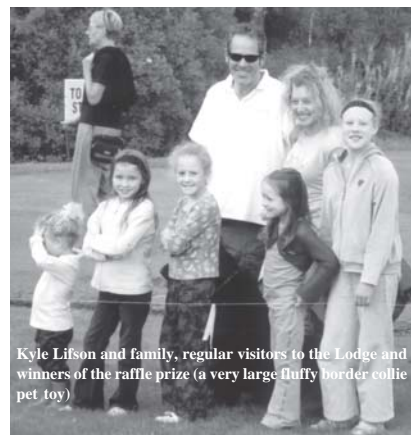
Last month sadly marked the departure of one the most popular members of our team, Joanna McFarlane, who has moved on to pastures new. On Thursday, 24th August, after hours, the DML and District staff hooked up with our merry band of RSPB volunteers, and assorted well-wishers, for a picnic on the veranda, to celebrate Jo's achievements during her time at The Lodge. The spectacular spread of food and drinks on the tables set a perfect scene for a series of gift presentations, speeches and fine conversation. It is not often the staff gets an opportunity to get together and relax, so the moment was savoured to the hilt. The intrusion of The Midge, however, called an early halt to proceedings, but, ultimately, did not spoil our enjoyment of the evening. So what of her stay here? On a professional level, to say her contribution was immense would be an understatement. I have rarely seen an individual so committed to a cause. She was always willing to go that extra yard, to take things to another level, sometimes way beyond her remit, with no obvious expectation of reward or thanks. She displayed an amazing aptitude to deal with anything that was thrown her way with vigorous enthusiasm and her intimate knowledge of her chosen field will remain an inspiration to us all. On a more personal note I will miss her smile, her intellect and, most especially, her deadly feminine demeanour, which has the potential to kill a man at ten paces, with a simple sideways glance.



### DOG DAY AFTERNOON

After a few days of torrential rain, it was a huge relief to see the clouds break for the first ever 'Dog Day' at The Lodge, on 23rd September. This was an 'open' event, at no charge for the visitors, and at no cost to the stall-holders and participants. The day was designed not only to enjoy the agility shows and displays on offer, but also to create awareness of the acute responsibilities of dog owners when in the countryside, and to draw attention to the abuse and misuse of dogs in our society. As to the event itself, unfortunately, we had to endure two call-offs from the SSPCA and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Associations, due to other commitments. Despite this, the day proved to be a great success as visitors were treated to a superb afternoon's entertainment, in bright sunshine, from The Central Scotland Police and Fire Rescue Dog Teams, and the fantastic Lomond Flyball Club in the 'arena' set up opposite

the warden's house. Many thanks are due to all involved, and to Val Stewart, of Diva Dog Grooming, who delighted us with a fascinating insight into 'doggy hairdressing', not forgetting our stall-holders, June Symmons from Pet Rade, Ian Ross from Scotia Pet Supplies and Sarah Coppock from Walk Ease Pet Services who took the time and trouble to attend and contribute to another very special "Lodge Day".



Kyle Lifson and family, regular visitors to the Lodge and winners of the raffle prize (a very large fluffy border collie pet toy)





## CONFETTI CHAOS!

During the month of August, over a period of nine days, The Lodge catered for four weddings. This proved to be a real challenge for the staff in terms of logistics and planning. Ultimately, though, the emotional content and personal satisfaction to be gained in seeing this type of event through far outweighs the hard work involved. Of course, timing is everything and, crucially, we have to consider the weather factor. There is, therefore, always an alternative plan in place, in order that we can adjust swiftly to any changing patterns. The favoured option of most couples is to have the ceremony on the decking area, followed by drinks in the exhibition wing and photographs on the surrounding grounds. The reality is that a few rain clouds can throw the whole

proceedings into turmoil. In the case of Charlie and Kay, it was a very close call. Incredibly, the dreadfully overcast morning made way for brilliant sunshine only for the single half-hour it took to perform the ceremony outdoors. As we had already set up the indoor area, it took a monumental effort to change this around at the last minute.

No such luck for Gavin and Stephen, however, as the decision to stay under cover was taken much earlier in the day. They both accepted this in good grace, and after the papers were signed, the weather improved sufficiently enough to hold a lengthy photo session outdoors.

Robert and Julianna opted for the full deal and hired The Lodge for the evening. There

was a very international flavour to this night as the bride hails from Brazil, and many of the guests had travelled a great distance to attend. One thing is for sure - these people knew how to party!

Each and every wedding was different in terms of presentation, style and performance, but for sheer simplicity and calmness, the coupling of John and Wilma was a revelation from start to finish. John appeared at the desk two weeks prior and explained they had 'sort of decided' to get married, after a long relationship, and politely asked if it was ok to do so at The Lodge. Strangely, I did not recall meeting them before, or even seeing them since. The casual nature of the initial conversation almost threw me, but I was delighted to learn eventually that it was to go ahead, and the party did turn up on the day: the bride, the groom, both sets of parents - and two dogs! I feel humbled to have played a small part in all of these wonderful happenings and I would wish, for the future, all the very best of times for all the couples involved. Thanks for the memories.

P.S. A very special mention is due for our local registrars, Sharon Johnson and Mary Wallace, who brought their experience to the fore, with perfect delivery, and just the right amount of humour and emotion attached. Also, as a footnote, The Strathard News would be only too delighted to publish any of your wedding photographs in future issues.



**Saturday 26th August**  
**Charlie Rae and Kay Booth**



**Friday 18th August**  
**John Boyle and Wilma Hannah**



**Saturday 19th August**  
**Gavin Stoddart and Stephen O'Donnel**



**Friday 25th August**  
**Robert Bell and Julianna Pippa**



## Rangers Corner

On Hallowe'en, The David Marshall Lodge is quite a sight  
And is open only to those who delight in fright.

Are you afraid to step into the night?

Are you afraid of the vampire's bite?

To visit this place you had better prepare

For every single kind of scare

As around every corner and in every single nook

You will find a zombie, a ghoul, or a spook

And every 'witch' way you turn

There will be something to make your stomach churn.

As we dare you to attend the ghostly campfire tales

And brave the horrors of the candlelit trails

A man who breathes fire, what is that all about?

Well...that's up to you to turn up and find out.

All this and a few more surprises

As things get worse once the moon rises:

For this is the time werewolves begin to howl

And goblins are prone to scowl

So, no point in thinking about your Sunday best

As it is compulsory to appear in fancy dress

For, without these Halloween guises

You will not qualify for any of the prizes

There is, one thing I can say **WITHOUT** fear

Hallowe'en at The Lodge is the ultimate party of the year!



## TO SIGRID

Your comments in issue #32 meant so much

And it is good to see you have not lost your touch

For I can still recall your poems in old copies of The News

Reaching our hearts and minds with worldly wise views.

I am uncertain if ever we have met

Maybe I know your face, but I am unwilling to bet

Perhaps, with a little gentle persuasion

We could get together on some future occasion

Maybe for a coffee in the 'But'n'Ben' sometime

(But do you suppose our conversation will be completely in rhyme?)

P.S. No-one is ever too old to go on a date

And I promise I won't keep you up too late!

## HEELSTER GOWDIE

This issue of The News simply could not pass by without mention of thanks to the band for another superb season. Time and again, throughout the summer, their special brand of music and humour has captivated audiences at The Lodge. For all you 'groupies' out there, who cannot wait till next year for another Heelster Gowdie 'fix', they will be treating us to some carol singing in December, in the company of friends and family, under the moniker of 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas'



## DML Notice Board

I think it is safe to say we have a few things going on at the end of October. Here are the details.

### MUSHROOMFESTIVAL-FUNGIFORAYS

**Frid 20th Oct:** 10a.m./1.30p.m. leaving from D.M.L.

**Sat 21st Oct:** 10a.m./1.30p.m. from Rob Roy Motel Car Park

**Sun 22nd Oct:** 10a.m./1.30p.m. leaving from D.M.L.

Adult £5.00 Child £2.50 Family Ticket £12.00

### STAR NIGHT: Saturday 21st Oct

6.00p.m.-7.00p.m. Candlelit Walk

7.00p.m.-8.00p.m./9.00p.m.-10p.m. Star Night

8.00p.m.-9.00pm. Buffet by Liz McGregor

Adult £5.00 Child £2.50 Family Ticket £12.00 for Walk and Star

Night Tickets to be purchased through D.M.L.

Buffet £7.00. Tickets to be purchased through the Coffee Shop

In the afternoon Maori dancers and musicians will be appearing at 2.00p.m. and 4.00p.m

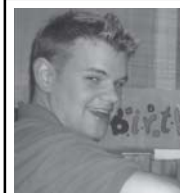
### SQUIRREL HIDE WALK: Sunday 22nd Oct 1.00p.m.

**HALLOWEEN: Sunday 29th Oct 5.00p.m.-8.00p.m.**

Tickets £5.00 Family Ticket £12.00

It will be possible to pay on the night, but it is strongly advised that tickets be purchased in advance in order to avoid delays at the entrance. Food will be available on a pay as you go basis, from Liz McGregors Coffee Shop. There is no limit of numbers for this event!

All enquiries to The Lodge on 01877 382 258



Happy 21<sup>st</sup>, Martin  
From all the Coffee Shop and  
Lodge staff.  
Have a good birthday!



## Liz MacGregor's Coffee Shop

### Mushroom Festival Buffet

£7

Saturday 21 October 8pm

Join us for a delicious selection of  
cold meats, salads, mushroom dishes  
and home-made sweets!

Limited number of tickets available  
From

**Liz MacGregor's Coffee Shop**

David Marshall Lodge

Tel: 01877 382900

# Who's The Top Street Cleaner?

WHICH of Stirling Council's 57 Street Cleaners goes that extra mile to ensure the area is clean and free of litter? – that's the question being asked by Stirling Council's StreetScape Service.

Local residents are being asked for nominations for the 2006 'Street Cleaning Operative of the Year' competition. Whether it's the local Street Sweeper, Village Officer, Mobile Team Operative or Machine Operator the Council would like to know who, through their professionalism and dedication to the job, has given that extra factor to the community they serve. Street Cleaners work hard in all weathers to try and keep the streets clean and litter free across the district.

Stirling Council StreetScape Team Leader Craig Gardner said: "Last year's competition was a huge success and we would like to get even more nominations

this year. We hope that the competition will highlight the importance of the work of our Street Cleaners and give local residents a chance to show their appreciation."

The employee with the most votes will win the competition and there will be two runners up prizes. All prizes are being sponsored by local businesses.

Closing date for nominations is Wednesday November 15, 2006. Nominations can be sent by email to [macleodki@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:macleodki@stirling.gov.uk) please give the name of the nominated person, the reason for the nomination and the nominees name and address. Alternatively nomination forms can be obtained from Libraries, Local Offices, Schools or Environment Services, StreetScape, Springkerse Depot, Kerse Road, Stirling FK7 7TE.



# The Garden

by Wellie Boot



Well, what a wonderful summer we have had; if this is global warming, I love it.

Now, if you can dodge the rain, is very much clearing up time. Cut everything in the herbaceous border to about two or three inches from the ground. Don't worry – they will grow again. This allows you to see the weeds so you can remove them!

If you get fed up with destroying and wish to be a bit more constructive, this is bulb planting time. It is a good idea to plant up mixed tubs of bulbs now so you will have them flowering in the early spring. Try white daffodils and purple alliums in the centre of your tub and surround them with muscari (grape hyacinths) which are a beautiful blue, and chionodoxas forming the edge. Chionodoxas are low-growing, blue, star-like flowers with white streaks in the centre. This should form a tall cone of colour.

It's a good idea to plant lily bulbs now. They need deep planting (about six inches at least) and also have to be kept frost free through the winter. They are also very greedy and need a rich soil. Try block pots if possible as they disappear when you put them among your herbaceous plant in the summer. Let the leaves of these plants grow over the pots and hide them: this gives your border a dramatic touch in the late summer. Don't forget to take them into the shed or greenhouse the following winter!

If you have a little corner of your lawn that can be left wild for two months, it is lovely to plant daffodils and let them naturalise. I say two months because you should let the leaves die off before cutting them down. This feeds the plant for next year's flowering. If you

don't want big, tall daffodils you could try the little varieties like *Tête-a-tête*, *Narcissus minor* or *Narcissus bulbocodium*. These all grow from about six to nine inches tall and are not so messy when dying back.

Don't forget about your garden for the next three months. I know not a lot grows but you could always think of a change in shape for next year. There is always something to do in the garden.

Happy bulb planting.

Wellie Boot



## Hallowe'en

Mischievous sprites control the scene when gremlins call on Hallowe'en.

Unearthly phantoms at the door, one weirder than the one before, witch and ghostly apparition seem to be in competition.

What can I give them to be fair?

When nowadays we are aware: chocolates might make a child obese, sweets produce rotten teeth, whilst nuts could cause an allergy and everybody does agree that fruit is most acceptable but never as delectable as forbidden fruit, I fear,

At Hallowe'en – just once a year!

*Sigrid*



## Stirling & District Association for Mental Health – Rural Access Service

The Rural Access Service assists people experiencing mental ill health to live fulfilling lives in their community and works closely with them to enable them to achieve goals. To access this service, you must be aged between 18 and 65 years and live within the rural areas of Stirling District. If you, or anyone you know, could benefit from this service, please contact SDAMH on 01786 451203

## ARDSTONE

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**Mob: 07732266231**

## The Wee Blether



**Kinlochard Lochside**  
*open daily from 10 am*  
*breakfast till 12 noon*

**Lunches**  
**Afternoon Tea**  
**Home Baking**  
*Disabled Access*  
*Ample Parking*  
*Beautiful Lochside situation*

*Why not stop and view*  
*Scotland's first weather stone!*

**Tel 01877 387284**

## IG Painting

*Interior & Exterior*

**Tel 01877 382296**

Iain Glen, Aberfoyle





# A Tribute To Rev. Danny Gibb

When Danny and Nancy left the Orkneys in 2000 to accept the call to Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Churches they thought they had left island life behind. It didn't take them long to realise that there is island life here as well when the flood waters rise.

He was never called upon to 'do a Moses' but having just seen our minister do a superb rendering of Moses and the Burning Bush at the most recent Six Churches Together Praise Evening I think it is appropriate to compare these two gentlemen.

Moses was full of excuses when called by God to do work for him. Danny (as he is affectionately known by young and old in the community) never shirks work....cleaning gutters; tidying the church garden for weddings; hoovering the church and of course he is certainly remembered for visiting the elderly and the sick.

Nancy refers to them as 'The Girls' when he goes off on his weekly jaunt with tapes of the service for them.

Just as Moses had to deal with the Ten Commandments Danny has had to abide by the rules of the church. However with a varied life before becoming a minister first

as a Prison Officer in Polmont and Perth and then as a Police Officer in Durham, Danny sees rules as there to help us and will not be put off by them.

Danny came here when we had been without a minister for over a year. He has faithfully taken over 600 services in the two churches and has certainly never taken his full quota of holidays. Sometimes he has encountered 'brick walls' as he strove to introduce new hymns!! He has officiated at 61 weddings, mainly in the churches, and he has cared for the bereaved of the parish in an exemplary way. Like Moses he took the caring of his flock seriously. There is a story told locally of a new family moving in to their house and the guy carting in boxes was thought by the owners to be one of the removal men....and they were dumbfounded when they discovered it was the MINISTER!

On a lighter note he is also like his comic namesake...

*'Desperate to rebuild our Boys Brigade and relate to youngsters'.....'Desperate to get out and meet folk and chat to all in the village'.....'Desperate to take the caring side of the church to the parish'.*



Retirement to the Borders (this side) should give him more time for fishing and golf and maybe we will hear of him joining the local theatrical group!!!! We wish him and Nancy many years of happiness in their new home which should be more central for all their family.

Danny's last service will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the usual time of 11.15am and it is hoped that as many friends as possible will be able to attend this and/or the Social Evening on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## The Guild

At our opening meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September Peter Mitchell, a forest ranger with Forestry Commission Scotland, showed slides and gave a very interesting and informative talk on the birds and animals of the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. We were delighted to welcome ladies from the Port Guild, who have joined forces with us and we are now one unit.

"Let's Live: Body, Mind and Soul"; this is the Guild strategy for the next three years and the theme for this year is "Honouring the Body". With this in mind, our October meeting is entitled Healthy Eating, when Colin McKeand will be telling us what we should be eating. Guests from Callander and Thornhill will join us on this occasion.

Guild Week is again being held from Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. We hope to take part in the morning service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 11.15am.

At our meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November we hope to have a speaker telling us about the project we have decided to support, Scottish Love in Action – Touching the Untouchable – India. SLA cares for destitute orphan children in Tuni, Andhra Pradesh, India, by feeding, clothing, housing and educating them. It developed in 1999 from an outreach activity by the youth group at Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh. Most of the children have tragic life histories, are Dalits ("Untouchable", bottom of the caste system) and, before coming to the SLA project, survived by scavenging in rubbish tips or begging and were being exploited. So far, SLA has given hope to 370 children by building a school, clinic and home for them. With the Guild's support this work can be expanded and more children enabled to escape the poverty trap.

The Guild is very much alive – come along and see for yourself. You will be made very welcome.

## Minister's Retiral

It is proposed to hold a Social Evening with buffet (BYOB) in the **Memorial Hall on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.**

Anyone in the community is welcome to attend this function where there will be an opportunity to thank Danny and Nancy for their contribution to life in the area over the last six years.

Anybody wishing to contribute to a retiral gift may use the attached slip which can be handed to our treasurer, Morna Ferguson, "Frenich", Lochard Road, Aberfoyle. Alternatively, boxes for donations are in the Post Offices at Aberfoyle and Kinlochard.

If you wish to attend and are in need of transport, please contact Janet McCallum on 382677

### Retiral Donation for Rev Danny Gibb

Name.....  
Amount.....

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I/We wish to attend/do not wish to attend the Social Evening

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# Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Kirk News



Autumn activities have resumed:

- Sunday Club during Service Times - Port of Menteith 10am and Aberfoyle 11.15am
  - The Boys Brigade, Anchor Boys and Juniors 6.30 to 8.00pm on Friday nights in the Church Hall. Please contact Moira Roach or Tony Hall for further information.
  - "Six Together" praise evenings will take place in Gartmore Church at 7pm Sunday 22nd October and at Aberfoyle Sunday 19th November at 7 pm in the Kirk.
- Remembrance Day Service begins at 9.45am in the Port of Menteith Kirk and at Aberfoyle War Memorial at 10.45 am. Youth Organisations will be on parade to include dedication service.

*Following my retirement on the 30th November 2006, the Reverend Gordon MacRae should be contacted on 01786 870229 or Reverend James Brown on 01877 339425 for any Church advice. Nancy and I have been privileged to serve in both communities and with our neighbouring parishes finding friends and neighbours in the high and low days but always happily saying, "Surely the Lord has been in this place." May He continue to bless your endeavours in His name.*

*With every Blessing, Rev. Danny Gibb*

## School Report.....



### Inversnaid Primary School

The leaves are changing colour and the temperatures are gradually dropping – summer must be over! It seemed to be a beautiful long summer this year with noticeably fewer midges annoying us at playtimes. This week we took advantage of a brief window of sunshine and went out for a walk to take pictures for our next calendar. We already have a bank of fantastic photos that we have taken over the year so look out for our calendar on sale in local outlets nearer Christmas.

We have enjoyed visits to Aberfoyle Primary School this term to rehearse for our performance at the Mushroom Festival. The Maori theme has given us plenty of opportunities for creative work.

We are continuing to make loggies and briquettes out of waste paper. These burn well on open fires and stoves as a supplement to your usual fuel and can be bought direct from our school or from Kinlochard Shop. We are also continuing to remake envelopes that can be bought for re-use. We are very grateful to Rikke for continuing to support us with our fundraising.

## Trossachs Carpet Cleaning Services



Trossachs Carpet Cleaning Services is an upholstery and carpet cleaner service offering services throughout Aberfoyle and the Trossachs. The services we offer include:

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## Concert

Featuring Maori Dancing and Singing  
By children from local Primary Schools  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm**  
In the Trossachs Theatre,  
Scottish Wool Centre, Aberfoyle

# The Rob Roy Hotel

**Have you seen the changes on your own doorstep?**  
**The transformation needs to be seen to be believed!**

Why not come and try the *all new* bar menu, lots of favourites with the odd twist.  
We pride ourselves on making as much as we can in-house with local produce.



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Steven Bundy our Head Chef and his team are producing some superb four course dinners in our non smoking Green Room Restaurant and from only £16.95 plus Tea & Coffee you can always find a "special occasion" to save you from the washing up.

*We also specialize in "Fair Trade" Teas and Coffees which you could always combine with some home baking.*

So come on in and have a look at what we've done and add us to your list of regular haunts. We will be very glad to welcome you.

**Tel: 01877 382245 Fax: 01877 382262**

Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire, FK8 3UX

# Milton

Have you noticed just how early it gets dark at night? By the time we have finished eating our evening meal, complete darkness will have covered Strathard and the River Forth is as black as a coalmine at midnight. If the sky is clear, starlight will twinkle on the water, and if the moon has risen a strange, silvery light dances on the water. And if that is not spooky enough, it will soon be Hallowe'en! On the very last night of October rather peculiar things can happen, mysterious sounds may be heard and, if you are looking, strange sights can be seen.

Perhaps you are not too sure what Hallowe'en is all about and why we go out guising on that night. The old Celtic people believed that it was important for a person to be buried at the same place as their birth. If this did not happen, then, on Hallowe'en, the souls or spirits of dead people were able to leave their graves and return home for a quick visit. But they had to be back in the ground before dawn. So, all through the hours of darkness there are spirits going hither and thither, some not going very far, others travelling a long, long way.

Most of these ghosts are perfectly harmless, intent only on seeing their family and friends before returning to their grave for another twelve months. However, some ghosts are a little bit more mischievous - and there will always be a few that are wicked. That is why the brave young people of every community should go out into the darkness and chase away the spirits, especially the bad ones. This is called guising.

And to make sure that none of the spirits can recognise you and come back to get you later, you must disguise yourself and hide your identity.

For carrying out this brave and sometimes dangerous service, the guisers should be welcomed at every house, given something to eat and drink to keep up their strength and a little gift, too - usually money.

As you can see, this reward is hard earned and has nothing at all to do with the American idea of trick-or-treat which is a form of thuggery!!

Guisers usually keep up their own spirits by singing songs and reciting poems. Sometimes they play games like dooking for apples or eating very sticky buns dangling on strings. Of course, there will always be someone to tell spooky stories of ghouls and ghosts and things that go bump in the night. All these things will be happening at the David Marshall Lodge, at the annual Hallowe'en Happening. Don't miss it.

I will see you all there - you won't recognise me because I'll be in disguise! Bye for now,  
Milton.



## Renovation plans for St. Mary's church

St. Mary's Church was built over 110 years ago and has provided a regular place of worship for many local families for generations. We have a duty to maintain such a beautiful building that was so lovingly built by local slate quarrymen. So in the summer of 2005 a major feasibility study of restoration and alteration was commissioned from a local firm of architects. The study identified action to maintain the church building in good repair, improve its facilities, and reorganise some of the internal structures (such as moving the organ out of the Lady Chapel, replacing some pews etc). The physical survey also included preparation of the first detailed architectural drawings of the Church since its original construction!

Since then the Vestry has consulted the congregation and the Diocesan office and sought competitive tenders from three firms of architects for managing a future St Mary's Church renovation project. From these, Simpson and Brown, a nationally respected firm in the building conservation field, were recently appointed by the Vestry as architects.

The cost of taking forward the final proposals will be substantial - quite probably over £300,000 - and major fundraising will be required. Part of Simpson & Brown's brief is to assist this process, and their first priority is to prepare an application to Historic Scotland/Heritage Lottery Fund for submission by



next February. If this is successful, and given other funding is in place, we would hope to start work on site early in 2008.

As part of this whole endeavour, we'll be developing specific plans for easier access and toilet facilities for disabled users, investigating installation of renewable energy systems, and making further grant applications to other funding bodies. Also, we have tackled more immediate simple problems like blocked rainwater drainage channels, and by taking this action now we hope to reduce the need for more major work later.

Our aim is to enhance our Church building so it becomes not just 'fit for purpose' as a place of public worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but also offers a welcoming Christian setting for all who wish to enter and one that can be used by the wider community for a variety of purposes, including musical concerts focused around our fine and soon to be refurbished Binns / Willis organ.

So it's all go behind the scenes at St. Mary's. Meanwhile it's 'service as usual' and you are most welcome to join us on any Sunday or at one of our social events.

*Nick Cooke*

*Convenor, St Mary's Renovation Project Working Group*

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## The Clachan Hotel



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4. We don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing.
5. No fashion faux pas we make, could ever rival the Speedo.
6. We don't have to pass gas to amuse ourselves.
7. If we forget to shave, no one has to know.
8. We can congratulate our team-mate without ever touching her rear end.
9. We never have to reach down every so often to make sure our privates are still there.
10. We have the ability to dress ourselves.
11. We can talk to the opposite sex without having to picture them naked.
12. If we marry someone 20 years younger, we are aware that we will look like an idiot.
13. We will never regret piercing our ears.
14. There are times when chocolate really can solve all your problems.
15. We can make comments about how silly men are in their presence because they aren't listening anyway.



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**If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Keni or Sheena.**

*Here are some vehicles which will be coming off fleet shortly.*

*If any are of interest to you then please contact us.*



**Toyota Corolla Verso 1.8 T2 (05/05) in Silver, 7,000 Miles. £10,995.00**



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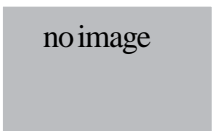
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## NOT HERE.... BUT NEAR!

### Beatson Oncology Unit Fundraiser

A trio of young mums from Balfron have got together to organise a Gangsters & Molls Casino night on 28th October from 7.30 till midnight in the McIntock Hall in Balfron, B.Y.O.B.! There will be craps, roulette and blackjack tables which will all be manned by experienced croupiers who can help guide anyone new to the tables. Helping set the mood, live band 'The Mellotones' will be entertaining the crowd with a 'swing' and ratpack style set and a caracaturist will be mingling with the crowd capturing a few Gangsters & Molls and presenting them with their own special momento of the night. Guests are being encouraged to 'dress to impress' Gangster & Moll style and some costume suggestions can be accessed, along with further information on the girls' website [www.kookyladies.zoomshare.com](http://www.kookyladies.zoomshare.com). Tickets, priced £15 which include £50 fun money for playing the tables, buffet and a glass of bubbly from the champagne fountain can be purchased from Doyles Deli & Cafe or Muffins Bakery on Main Street in Balfron or by calling 01360 449 412 or 449 192 or 449 118.

**Iain Muir**, a cabinet maker from Gartmore is one of the first employers in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park to sign up to a new community project aimed at helping local businesses to take on trade apprentices. Iain has been a cabinet maker since leaving school and now hopes to expand his business by taking on an apprentice and moving to bigger premises.

The Community Partnership's Apprenticeship Project, funded by Lomond and Rural Stirling Leader+, the Community Partnership, Scottish Enterprise and the National Park Authority, has two main elements. Firstly, Forth Valley College will give up to 16 National Park-based applicants 12 weeks taster training, during which the youngsters will spend four days a week with a prospective employer and one at college. This will allow the trainees to be sure they want to pursue an apprenticeship and also gives employers a chance to assess the suitability of their trainee before signing them up to the full Modern Apprenticeships in January 2007. Secondly, the project will support the employers financially in at least the first year of the apprenticeships.

The project can take up to 16 employers. If you need an apprentice and work in or close to the National Park please contact Mike Greig, Sustainable Development Officer with the National Park Authority on 01389 722600 [mike.greig@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:mike.greig@lochlomond-trossachs.org) or Frances Tasker at Forth Valley College Tel 01259 220522 [Frances.Tasker@forthvalleycollege.ac.uk](mailto:Frances.Tasker@forthvalleycollege.ac.uk).

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### Women's Rural Institute

We may not be the *Calendar Girls* but we are certainly NOT all Jam and Jeellie. In fact, you don't even have to be able to bake to come and join us. We have talks and demonstrations on subjects as diverse as Holistic Health and Antiques. We are a small, friendly group who meet on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall** and we'd love you to come and join us. For more information or to arrange a "buddy" to meet you, please call **Margaret on 382463 or 382490.**



## Knitting Group

Would you like to take up knitting?  
Have you forgotten how to cast on/off?  
Do you need help with reading patterns?  
Fiona Stuart will be holding a knitting group on Tuesday evenings in her home.

**Phone 01877 382575**

### COMMITTEE & CONTACTS

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The next issue will be our Christmas Edition, when we hope to add a bit of festive colour. If you would like to contribute the deadline for submissions is 19th November

## Minted Lamb Casserole

### Ingredients:

1 lb Diced Lamb  
1 Onion Diced  
1 Carrot Diced  
1/2 Leek chopped  
2 Cloves Garlic chopped  
2 tblspn Mint Sauce  
2oz Plain Flour  
2 tblspn Tomato Puree  
Salt and cracked black pepper



### Method:

In a hot pan seal the lamb until it starts to brown. Add the tomato puree and cook for approx 2 mins, cover with the flour and stir, cook for a further 2 mins. Add the vegetables, salt and pepper and cover with water. Bring to the boil and then reduce the heat to simmer for about 2 hours, or until the meat is tender. Finish with the mint sauce and serve with mashed potatoes for a good "winter warmer".

sponsored by *Forth Inn*

## Forth Inn News

The staff and customers wave a fond farewell to a fabulous member of staff - 'Nicky boy'. Nick is parting company to follow his dream of becoming a rock star!! He is moving to Glasgow and will be greatly missed. A leaving do for Nick will be held at The Forth Inn on Saturday 30th September at 9pmish - all welcome.

On a happier note - Diane and Tris raised a staggering £600.00 for their brave efforts walking in their underwear through the streets of Edinburgh to raise awareness for Breast Cancer - well done girls!! Lee Wykes celebrates his 21st birthday on the 7th November "Congratulations from everyone". Lee Wykes and Alex Ferrie passed their level 3 and level 2 NVQs with the Hotel and Catering College - well done guys!!

## Forth Inn Events Diary

The Forth Inn and PhotographScotland are uniting again to bring to you another photographic competition. This time it is running during the month of October and is for photographs of Fungi.

As with the last competition there will be prizes for the winners and vouchers for food from The Forth Inn. See The Forth Inn window and PhotographScotland window for more details.

### October/November

**14th Oct** - Karaoke in the Wallace Bar Fun starts 9pm

• • • • •

**19th Oct** - Opening of Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival 2006. After concert buffet served at The Forth Inn approx 9.30pm. Tickets £5 from S.W.C., Fergus Wood or The Forth Inn

• • • • •

**21st Oct** - The Kiwi Feast, 3 course Dinner & Entertainment. Tickets £25.00 each can be purchased from The Forth Inn - booking essential

• • • • •

**21st & 22nd Oct** - Cooking and Butchery demonstrations 1pm & 3pm with Head Chef, Michael Clayton and Aberfoyle Butcher, Jonathan Honeyman.

• • • • •

**27th Oct** - Think Pink Evening. In conjunction with "Think Pink Scotland" our National Park Breast Cancer Charity, this will be an evening of fine dining. Our menu will have a 'Pink' theme i.e. Steak and Pink Peppercorn Sauce, Pork Fillet with a Pink Oyster Mushrooms, Rose Wines and Champagnes - booking essential

• • • • •

**29th Oct** - Pub Quiz Night in the Wallace Bar starts 9pm

• • • • •

**6th Nov** - Belgium Week (Food & Beer) Food this week will have a Belgium theme and will be accompanied by various beers

• • • • •

**11th Nov** - Karaoke Fun starts 9pm

• • • • •

**17th Nov** - French Food & Wine Gourmet Evening. 5 Course Menu is £29.50 per person which includes a selection of wines to be sampled along with your meal. We also hope to be able to take orders on the evening for anyone wishing to purchase the wines sampled. Booking essential.

**To see any of the above menus or make a booking, please contact us.**

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# Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival 2006

Beginning with an Opening Blast on Thursday 19th October and followed by 3 FULL DAYS of EVENTS, ACTIVITIES and COMPETITIONS, the 6th Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival will again offer something for everyone – especially Kids!

We welcome two large groups of Maoris, **Ngati Ranana & Te Kohanga Reo**, to Entertain and Educate and adding a NZ Flavour to our usual Fayre of Fungi, Food and Fun!  
See them throughout the Festival at various venues, The Memorial Hall and evening events.

Here's a Flavour of What's On. Look out for the full Programme distributed throughout the villages  
Or visit [www.VisitAberfoyle.com](http://www.VisitAberfoyle.com) to find out more.

## First & Foremost – The Mushrooms

The forests abound at this time of year with fungi of all sizes, shapes and colours.

Get snapping and enter the **Photography Competition** run by Photograph Scotland (closing date 18<sup>th</sup> Oct) or join National Park Rangers or famous mycologist, Liz Holden to **foray** and find out more about fungi.

## Specially for Kids

The Fungi Photography Competition Photograph Scotland has a section for Under 16's so get creative, get snapping and hand your pics in by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Have you been involved in the Maori project at school? If so, come to the **Opening of the Festival** to welcome the Maoris on Thursday Evening in the Trossachs Theatre  
Get into the woods, Kids!

**Squirrels Can't Hide** – and neither can Mushrooms! Find out where you can find them with Forest Rangers and National Park Rangers

The Little Kids' Welcome to the Maoris is in Trossachs Theatre at 2pm on Friday.

Join the **Maori Marae** in Memorial Hall on Saturday & Sunday. Maori families will teach you Maori crafts, singing and dancing. See your in class project work on display too.

Enter your dog in **Canine Capers** at SWC and visit the cavern at Guyana for Lord of The Rings Story Telling.

If you enjoy fishing, compete in the **Pike Fishing Competition**, or if you're a golfer enter the **Charity Golf Match** on Sunday.

## And Festival Food.

Mushrooms, with Venison and a New Zealand Theme feature prominently.

Watch **Cookery Demos** by 4 accomplished chefs and Aberfoyle Butcher, Jonathan Honeyman at Forth Inn.  
Buy Mushrooms & Venison from NZ House in the Discovery Centre.

Try out the themed Menus at local pubs and restaurants and refresh yourself with Steinlager, the All Blacks favourite beer!

## Steinlager Club

Forth Inn	Wee But n Ben Bistro
Coach House	Black Bull, Gartmore
	Liz McGregors at DML
Aberfoyle Golf Club	Clachan

## Evenings at the Festival

### Great Food and Maori Entertainment!

Book early for these popular events.

#### Thursday

- Opening Concert & Buffet 01877 382 696

#### Friday

- Kate's Steinlager Party, Coach House 01877 382 822
- Kinlochard Hall Ceilidh. 01877 382 219
- Rafters, Forest Hills Resort 08701 942 105

#### Saturday

- Liz McGregors Buffet 01877 382 900
- Candle Lit Walk & Star Party DML 01877 382 285
- Kiwi Feast, Forth Inn 01877 382 372

#### Sunday

- Trossachs Praise, Gartmore House 01877 382 991
- Last Blast, Covenanters Inn 01877 382 347

Thanks to all the Festival Sponsors: Stirling Mushrooms, Callander; The Covenanters Inn & Aberfoyle Coaches, Aberfoyle; Forest Hills Resort, Kinlochard; Allied Vehicles, Glasgow; PetSense.com and Exhibitors in New Zealand House