

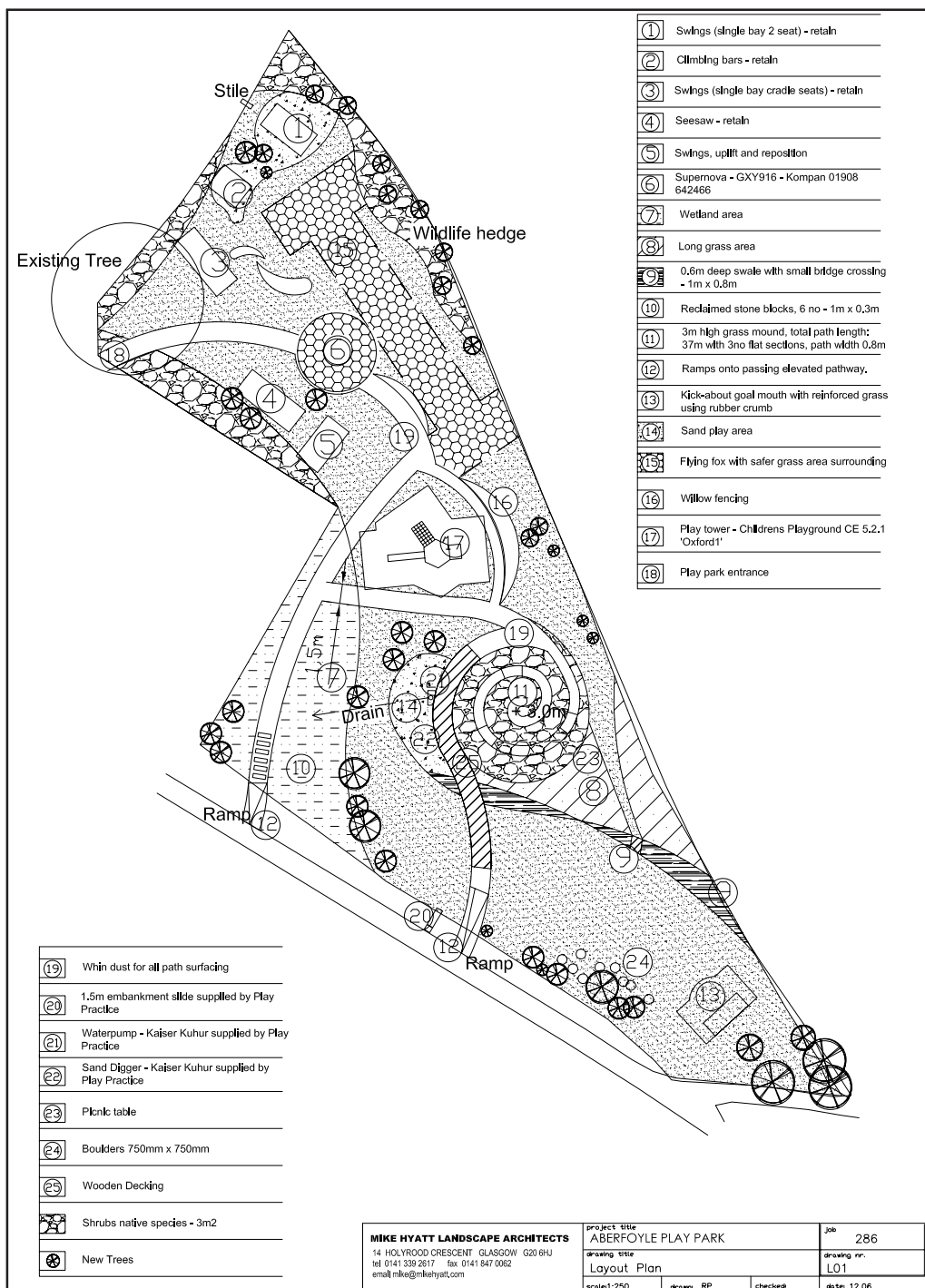
TRUST COMES UP TRUMPS FOR PLAYPARK

After many consultations and negotiations over the past three years, The Directors of the Strathard Community Trust are delighted to report that funding is now in place to allow work to start on the Playpark in March. The main reason for the hold-up has been that until we had a lease from the Council we could not apply for major Lottery funding. The Council has now granted us a lease so this funding

application has gone in. We will still need to apply for more funding next year but we are determined that this project will be completed as it is clear that this is what the community wants. The attached plan shows the new design, which was discussed with representatives of the youth group at the last Community Council Meeting. Following this meeting, some

came to our meeting with Stirling Council and together with the Trust Directors have persuaded the Council to include a hard multitask area for football etc.

We want to thank all the young people and their parents who have worked so hard to help us move this project forward. There is still lots to be done but with your support we WILL do it!



Be a Member of the Strathard Community Trust Give us Your Ideas for Projects

The Trust is for everyone in Strathard and anyone who lives or works in the area can join. The Directors are there to listen to what the community wants and then to help them get projects up and running. As a charity, we can apply for funding which is not available to non-charitable organisations so if you or your organisation have any ideas for community projects then please get in touch. We welcome ideas and offers of help. The Directors are Maureen Campbell, Lesley Quirk, Ian Marshall, Ros Dingwall, John Clow, John Paterson, Bruce Wallace, Peter Barclay and John Paterson. Do contact any of them.

inside

p3	traders
p5	community council
p6	anne mcguire
p7	owen mckee
p9	rsbp
p10	ranger's ramblings
p12	school report
p13	sat nav
p15	wellie boot
p17	church news
p18	milton

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

A coach driver working for Aberfoyle Motors has been declared a hero by his passengers after an accident which occurred on the A85 between Dalmally and Tyndrum on December 30 when he assisted in rescuing a woman involved in a car crash.

Lee Felstead (26) of Banknock helped in pulling a woman out through the sunroof of her car after the vehicle skidded and somersaulted off the road into a field. It happened just after nine in the morning when the woman's Renault Clio skidded off the road. Lee stopped the coach and announced to the passengers that he was going to help the driver and some of the passengers came to assist him. Sadly, quite a few other vehicles carried on without stopping, but Lee managed to free the woman and get her back to the warmth of the coach until an ambulance arrived.

It subsequently transpired that the young lady did not suffer serious injuries and has since returned to work. The passengers of Lee's coach, however, were more than fulsome in their praise for their young driver and wrote to Aberfoyle Motors praising his good deed.

John Paterson of Aberfoyle Motors has applauded Lee's effort, saying that he received many e-mails and letters praising Lee's actions on the day and he is glad that he is getting the credit which he richly deserves.

THE FLOOD RETURNS

Well it's the 13th of December and no snow just rain. I'm sitting here while my mum, dad and next-door-neighbours are doing whatever they can to save us from the water and I bet a lot of other people are doing the same. The fun of it is getting off school but this is definitely the worst flood I've EVER seen. As I'm telling you this, there is a car outside my house up to the windows in water, spinning round and round. All the houses along my street are building walls out of stuff we can find in our garages and in our houses to defend us from the water; but cars keep coming along and the impact from the water keeps pushing the walls over. We have had to abandon the wall so we put sand bags all the way round the houses like a defending sand bag army.

It's Thursday the 14th and looking a bit better than yesterday. The car that was spinning round and round, has just been taken away looking very battered. I have had a look round the village but it doesn't look so good. There are wood chunks everywhere, dust bins floating around and the fields are absolutely covered in water: the village looks a mess.

Were you out last night helping kids across Manse Road bridge? All I know is that a man in his business suit ran into the Forth Inn and came back out looking like the superhero, CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS. It's good to know Aberfoyle has its own super hero.

By Lochard Smithy



ABERFOYLE COACHES

Coach, Minibus 7 to 49 Seats
Tours, parties, weddings, airports etc
Whatever the occasion
Phone: 01877 382 341

email: aberfoylecoaches@aol.com
www.aberfoylecoaches.com

IG Painting

Interior & Exterior

Tel 01877 382296

Iain Glen, Aberfoyle



Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service



are carrying out a
“Retained Firefighter”
recruitment drive

Why not come along and have a go

Tel: 01324 716996

www.centuralscotlandfire.gov.uk

Chill Out

Aromatherapy
Reflexology
Indian Head Massage

Handcrafts
Jewellery
Encaustic Wax Art
Glass-Art Pendants
and more

Tel: 07791 385240

at the David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle

A happy and prosperous 2007 to all from the Aberfoyle Traders Association. January saw a good turn out, despite the weather, for our meeting with VisitScotland at the Forth Inn on Thursday 18th January. Over 40 local traders and community group members turned out for a presentation from Iain Close, Area Director VisitScotland and Catherine Dunkerley, Strategy and Partnership Executive VisitScotland. Following the meeting the Chairman invited a frank and friendly discussion and there was no shortage of offers from the floor. Attendees responded with topics covering funding, tourism growth, marketing, partnership working and the quality and service offered to the visitor, how that might be improved and what training might be available to businesses. It was a great opportunity for all not just for the exchange with VisitScotland but also to network within the local community.

Thank you to all who donated funds on the night, the money was gratefully received and went towards costs. Our thanks to the Forth Inn for hosting the occasion and supplying the buffet. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Discovery Centre at Aberfoyle starting at 7.30pm – our next meeting is on:

Tuesday 13th February at the Discovery Centre starting at 7.30pm.

See posters around Aberfoyle, Gartmore and Kinlochard or give us a call for ongoing dates. Meetings are open to any business in the Trossachs area. Please come along and find out what's planned for 2007. We value any new input and ideas – and of course any offers of help! If anyone would like any more information or raise any queries please contact either me, June Symmons or the Chair, Bruce Wallace. Our contact details are listed below:

Chairman: Bruce Wallace, Wallace Home Services, Aberfoyle FK8 3SJ
Tel: 01877 382098 Email: bruce@wallacehomeservices.co.uk
Secretary: June Symmons, Rade Ltd, Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UG
Tel: 01877 382101
Mob: 07768 687475
Email: june.rade@btconnect.com

GARTARTAN FARM OPEN DAY!

Gartartan Farm Shop is moving from its current location at Ward Toll Nurseries back to Gartartan Farm. To celebrate they're having a tastings day with free samples on **Saturday, 3rd February from 10am - 4pm**. The farm is on the A81 opposite Gartmore House.

Moving back down to the farm has allowed more flexibility in opening hours. Now on Thursday evenings the shop will be open until 8pm. Free delivery to local villages has also proved popular. You can receive fresh local produce direct to your door. The shop also supplies the catering trade.

The Nicolson family have farmed locally for over 50 years and decided to sell some of their produce directly to the public. Their quality Aberdeen Angus beef hangs for 3-4 weeks before butchering and grass fed lamb matures for 7-10 days. The result is tender meat, full of flavour – the way that meat used to taste. They also stock free

range chicken, wild venison and Scottish bacon, all supplied locally. With food miles becoming a bigger issue all the time buying local produce has never made more sense. The Nicolsons also have their own free range hens which produce delicious eggs. A local farm provides duck eggs too. As well as the raw materials you can also buy home made produce - scones, loaves, tray bakes, sponges and soup. Orders are also taken for what ever you would like made especially for you.

Shopping locally gives you complete traceability, you can find out exactly where your food comes from.

There is also a selection of grocery items, fruit and vegetables that compliment the home produce available.

Family Farm

Quality, long hanging, aa beef & lamb

Local village deliveries

Late night opening

GARTARTAN FARM SHOP

WE'RE MOVING BACK HOME

FROM SAT 3RD FEBRUARY WE WILL BE BACK AT
GARTARTAN FARM, OPPOSITE GARTMORE HOUSE ON
THE A81, ONLY 5 MILES FROM BALLAT CROSS
NOW OPEN LATE ON THURSDAY, UNTIL 8PM

Home bred, Long hanging, Aberdeen Angus Beef & Grass Fed Lamb
Free Delivery to Local Villages. Catering & Wholesale Supply.
Fresh & Frozen Fruit & Veg, Home Baking, Scottish Grocery Items & Lots Lots more....
Please come and see us on the farm. Thank you for your continued support.

TEL: 01877 382067 WWW.GARTARTANFARMSHOP.CO.UK
WINTER OPENING HOURS - MONDAY 10-4, TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY CLOSED, THURSDAY 10-8,
FRIDAY 10-4, SATURDAY 10-4, SUNDAY 12-4

The 12 Days of Christmas

Hopefully, most of you will have seen the 12 Days of Christmas Competition for the under 12 year olds which was run by Aberfoyle Traders Association just before Christmas.

The organisers would like to thank ALL the Traders who entered into the spirit of Christmas with some wonderful window displays and posters depicting the 12 days. *Thank You All.*

Our very special thanks go to those who were flooded out but still did their windows despite other pressing matters.

To the children who entered, we hope you enjoyed the search; would you like to do something like that again? Please telephone Ann Epps on 382276.

COMMITTEE & CONTACTS

Editor: Margaret Neufeld
01877 386258
editor@strathardnews.com

Advertising: Ian Marshall
01877 382211
advertising@strathardnews.com

Treasurer: Gwenda Naylor
01877 386244
treasurer@strathardnews.com

Reporter: David Wilkie
01877 382868
clubs@strathardnews.com

Reporter: Dougie McPherson
01877 382564
reporter@strathardnews.com

Layout: Marion Back
01877 386222
newsdesk@strathardnews.com

FVFL Good Food for All Awards 2006...and the winner is...

Christmas came early for several Stirling-based food businesses in December, as they celebrated success in the second annual Forth Valley Food Links (FVFL) 'Good Food for All Awards'. The event brought together the best local food businesses in Forth Valley to celebrate local food, good value and good service to people who live, work or visit the area. Winners and those Highly Commended all received their certificates at an awards ceremony at the Mayfield Centre in St Ninians on 5 December 2006. There is now a growing awareness of the benefits of local food to the environment, our communities, local economy and to our health and wellbeing, and this was reflected in the increase in both the number of nominations, and standard of entries this year. The Awards encourage food businesses to help keep this momentum going by themselves promoting the use of local food on their menus and sales produce lists. The award judges were very impressed by the efforts that many of the entrants have made to embrace the local food ethos and have seen an increase in activity in this respect. Many congratulations are due to all award winners.

BEST BREAKFAST

Winner - The Wee Blether Tea Room, Kinlochard

Highly Commended - Harviestoun Country Hotel, Tillicoultry

BEST EATING PLACE - INFORMAL

Winner - The Lade Inn, Kilmahog

Highly Commended - Blairmains Coffee Bothy, Blairlogie; The Old Bridge Inn, Bridge of Allan.

BEST EATING PLACE - FORMAL

Winner - Castle Campbell Hotel, Dollar

Highly Commended - La Scala D'Oro, Stirling; The River House, Stirling

BEST LOCAL FOOD RETAILER

Winner - T Johnston, Butcher, Falkirk

Highly Commended - James Rae Butcher, Polmont; John Hill Butcher, Dunblane

BEST LOCAL PRODUCER

Winner - T & R Skinner, Kippen

Highly Commended - Briarlands Farm, Blairdrummond;

BEST PLACE FOR TAKE-AWAY FOOD

Winner - The Real Food Café, Tyndrum

Highly Commended - Aberfoyle Deli, Aberfoyle.


BEST FARM SHOP

There were no award winners in this category.

BEST COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECT

There were no award winners in this category.

Our sincere thanks go to the very hard-working team of judges: Wendy Gudgeon, freelance caterer, food consultant, and an Assessor for the new Healthyliving Awards, judging the catering and eating establishments for a second year; Rosemary Third, Food Safety Technician and Member of the Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland, and Dr Keri Davies, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Marketing and a member of the Institute for Retail Studies at the University of Stirling, worked jointly to assess the local retailers and producers. We would also like to record our gratitude to the 3 local authority Food & Safety Regulation Managers and Officers with whom the judges liaised to ensure the application of food safety and hygiene standards: John Sleith, Food & Safety Regulation Manager, Falkirk Council; Andrew Crawford, Team Leader, Food & Licensing, Clackmannanshire Council; and Leslie Fisher, Food Safety Manager, Stirling Council.

**Aberfoyle Memorial Hall
100 CLUB**

The winner of the December draw was Margaret Johnston, who scooped £55. This month's winner of £56 is Stuart Orr. If you are interested in joining and helping out your local hall whilst having the chance of winning a cash prize, please contact Janet Stewart on 382736 or Ros in the Post Office. The cost is £2 per month of which £1 goes to hall funds and £1 towards the prize(s).



Massage Therapy
*eases muscular aches and pains
Sports Massage
Relaxation*

Angela Mudge
Dip Sports M, MSMA, SMT O

Mobile service available
Call: 01877 382632
or 07765570503

Forthvale 

Contractors

.....

woodland & timber services
tree surgery
firewood
fencing
chemical spraying

**Tel: 01877 387202
Mob: 07803 615924**

Trossachs Cab Company

Your Local Private Cab Company

Luxury 7 Seater People Carrier

Airport Transfers

Local and Long Distance Hire Available

Prompt & Reliable Service

Competitive Rates

Tel 01877 382108 or 07791 598925

Main Street Aberfoyle FK83UX

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It was back to business immediately after New Year. Since the plans for the Aberfoyle Playpark had arrived, and since they weren't quite what we had hoped for, the January meeting was held to coincide with the school holidays, so that the young folk would have a chance to come and have their say. And have a say was what they did, and most competently too! The one thing they had asked for particularly when the original plans were drawn up was an area for skateboarding. There was no sign of this in the new plans, but the youngsters weren't just there to ask for that; they have realized that what they need is somewhere to play football as well as boarding; somewhere secure and well lit for winter evenings; somewhere that they can play without annoying anyone or endangering themselves. Much impressed with the way the children spoke up at the meeting, it was decided that Maureen Campbell as Chair of Strathard Community Trust would be accompanied to the next meeting with Stirling Council, by three of the adults present, and that they would all pass on the kids' comments and suggestions. As a result, as you will read elsewhere in this edition, an area of the playpark will be assigned for an all-purpose court which can be used for various different games. This will mean a whole lot more fund-raising, but I'm sure you will support your kids and help them achieve something they really need.

A big disappointment to start the New Year has been the lack of a replacement bus service for the Kinlochard Postbus run, which was withdrawn in November. My understanding, following discussions with David Brown of Stirling Council at the October Community Council meeting had been that he was to call an early meeting with Aberfoyle Motors and Trossachs Taxis to set up a system of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT), whereby the Council subsidises a taxi service so that the customer only pays the price of a bus fare, though the trip must be pre-booked. David did indicate that he would have to look for more funding after April to pay for this, but we thought that in the meantime the revenue saved from the Postbus service would fund something to provide a service for Strathard. On enquiring recently however, I learnt that that money has been used to fund a different service and nothing is in place for Strathard. At my request David has said that he will try to remedy this, but this was not the outcome we expected.

A point of information – if you have noticed an increase in log lorries using Manse Road at present, this is due to the need for urgent maintenance on the Hoish access. Due to start on 22nd Jan., for 3 weeks, the Forestry Commission has asked me to apologise for the

inconvenience, and has made the drivers aware of the need for extra care, particularly when passing the houses in Manse Road.

And finally – please feel free to come along to any meeting – there's always lots to discuss and we love to hear what you think!

Community Councillors

Ward 1 Aberfoyle

Ros Dingwall

John Clow

Paul Owens

John Fraser

Ward 2 Kinlochard

Fiona McEwan

Maureen Campbell

Sue Russell

(1 vacancy)

Ward 3 Inversnaid

Scott Provan

Andre Goulancourt

Ralph Wolfe

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 1st March in Inversnaid Primary

MARTINS
PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES

Jonny Martin - Proprietor

**Tel: Callander 01877 331180
Mob: 07754 067277**



earn to drive with

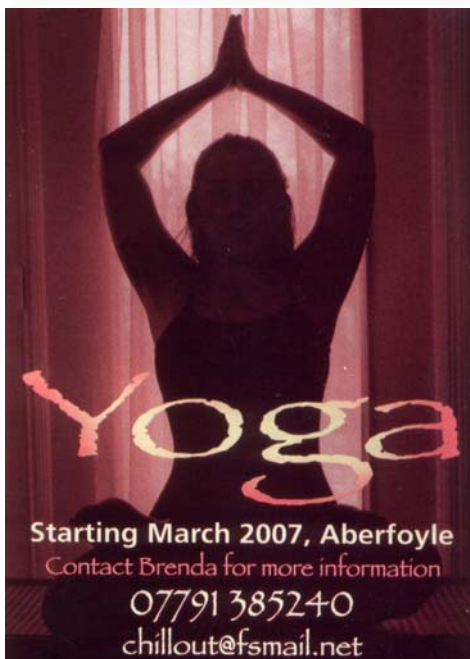
MARK ROBERTSON

DSA Approved Driving Instructor

Friendly, Patient and Professional

Tel: 01877 382748

Mob: 07738660432



Yoga

Starting March 2007, Aberfoyle
Contact Brenda for more information
07791 385240
chillout@fsmail.net

DIY/Grass Livery
available



**The Kirkton Farm
Aberfoyle**

01877 382316

boxwood



WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT
OUR NEW ON LINE STORE

www.boxwood.net

Visit us at: 388 byres rd glasgow
0141 357 6642 (we are located opposite the Hilton)



AnneMcGuire MP



Now in 2007 I would like to begin by wishing all readers of the Strathard News a Happy New Year.

Rain and high winds spoiled many of the New Year celebrations in

Stirling and across Scotland. And as the rain continues we are now too well aware of the consequences with more extensive flooding in many parts of the Stirling Council area – in Riverside, Cornton, Bridge of Allan, Callander as well as in Aberfoyle. Both my colleague, Sylvia Jackson MSP, and I have been involved in discussions with Stirling Councillors and officials over their flood management plan. We have also

asked them to look at short term measures to help residents in flood areas. The developments of flood alleviation proposals for the B829 road continue to be developed.

The future of the post office network is once again at the forefront of the political debate. The Government is committed to maintaining a national post office network, so that people can have access to cash and benefits, especially in remote areas. But we have to look at the future in the light of some pretty harsh facts – for example, 4 million fewer people now use the post office than even 2 years ago and over 8 million pensioners now have their pensions paid into a bank account. The National Federation of Sub-postmasters accepts that the real prize is to have a sustainable and viable network, so that we can get rid of the uncertainty

that surrounds its future. I keep in touch with Ros, Aberfoyle's post-mistress, and usually meet up with her when she attends the Federation's lobbies in London..... If you want to see the full proposals, then please do not hesitate to contact me. And remember if you have a local post office, why don't you use it?

Finally, congratulations to the Killin Drama Club for the 2007 panto. Sylvia Jackson and I joined people from all across the area to enjoy a fantastic night with Ali Bab and the Forty Thieves – or was it the six thieves plus 34?

If you wish to contact either Sylvia Jackson MSP or myself, then please do so by writing to us at 22, Viewfield Street Stirling FK8 1UA, telephone 01786 446515. You can also email me at mcguirea@parliamnet.uk, or visit my website at www.annemcguiremp.org.uk

John & Stuart

Boyd

Plumbing & Heating Engineers
Registered Gas & Oil Fitters

FREE ESTIMATES

Contact information

John: 01877382515

mob 07703183105

Stuart: 01877382488

mob 07801710584

guyana

plants, crafts and art

Unique range of arts and craft
from throughout the world

Extensive plant area for all
your gardening needs

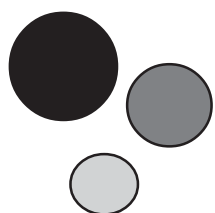
Open seven days - 10am to 6pm
Main Street, Aberfoyle

R&C LUKE



01324 625624

t/a J. Brown
Coal Merchant
& Contractor
12-14 Slamannon Road
Falkirk FK1 1LG



Aberfoyle Satellite Company

Aerial & Satellite Installation & Repair Service

Multi-point Home Solutions

Sky installations

Digital upgrade surveys

FREE ESTIMATES & ADVICE

Tel. 0787 590 6767

Joe Kennedy A.M.F.A. *Keep it local!*





Loch Lomond
& The Trossachs
National Park

The New Year has made quite a dramatic entry

and most of us are now becoming expert on how to cope with flooding and severe weather. But another threat has arisen which I sincerely hope is not to be a regular feature. Stirling Council's Director of Children's Services was not in festive mood when he announced his proposals to close the Village Schools at Inversnaid and Lochearnhead. In the case of Inversnaid a journey on a winter's day to the Primary School there quickly convinced the Director that it would be unreasonable to expect young children to make the trip to Aberfoyle Primary on a daily basis. So Inversnaid was saved.

However, a quick solution for Lochearnhead is not in the offing. The process for closure continues. The Director of Children's Services has had meetings with the parents and there have been public meetings in both Lochearnhead and Strathyre. The public consultation has now ended and now it is up to the Director to put the case - including the representations of those opposed to the closure - to the Council. And if the Council approves the proposal to close then the matter is referred to the Education Minister for the final decision.

by Owen McKee

National Park News

And why should I be concerned. The answer is the simple one of the viability of the community. The National Park has four aims and the fourth is to promote the economic and social wellbeing of the communities of the Park. And the Director of Children's Services himself acknowledges that a village school is a vital social and economic contributor in a village. Why then is he proposing closure? There are a number of reasons but one in particular could arise in any of the Park's communities: and that is the recruitment of Headteachers for small village schools. In this respect Aberfoyle and Killin are regarded as small village schools. The Director supports his case by referring to the difficulties in recruiting for Killearn, Inversnaid, Strathyre and Crianlarich. In each of these cases there is a curious similarity. Each of these villages used to have a house for the headteacher but in its wisdom the Council sold them off. Now is it not possible that the difficulty in recruitment stems from the fact that on enquiring about housing in the area in question intending applicants encountered some affordability problems. I am not one for conspiracy theories but perhaps the Council is thinking about that affordability problem too. After all if you close a school fewer people will want to move into the area

and those in the area with children will move out to an area with a school. Hey presto! Lower demand for houses and lower demand means lower prices. Only joking! Even Councils are not that short sighted. Even they realise that as people move out a community dies and with fewer people paying Council Tax you either have to cut services or put up the tax.

I am happy to say that the people of Lochearnhead have made it very clear that they want their school to remain open. They have contested every single reason for the proposed closure. They have made constructive suggestions to overcome the difficulties that exist. Let us all hope that the Council listens to the community and saves the school for not only do the Council have a duty in conjunction with the parents to ensure the best possible education for the children but they also have a duty to help in the fight to have thriving communities.

As always I can be contacted as follows:
Owen McKee,

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead,
FK119 8PR

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

National Park Volunteer

It's that time again when we all make New Year resolutions. But if you want to do something different in 2007, why not become a National Park volunteer? If you want to get involved in the great outdoors, meet new people and learn new skills, the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs volunteer programme includes a whole host of activities: everything from assessing path damage to wetland bird counts, building nest boxes and creating wildlife gardens.

More than 150 volunteers of all ages and abilities regularly take part in conservation projects in the Park. The 2007 programme is now available and includes work in Callander woodlands, squirrel surveys in Glenbranter, bird counts on Loch Lomond and guided walks through Glen Fruin. Zoe Morris, Volunteer Development Officer, spoke about the programme, "The projects coming up in the New Year for practical conservation volunteers at the National

Park are as varied as ever and we are now running more weekday projects too. Our volunteers enjoy the opportunity to access different parts of the Park, learn more about what we do and contribute to an area they care about. It's a great way to get some fresh air and exercise without having to join a gym."

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Zoe Morris on 01389 722001 or email zoe.morris@lochlomond-trossachs.org



BLACK BULL HOTEL
GARTMORE

BAR LUNCHEES AND AN EXTENSIVE
EVENING MENU AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
FUNCTION ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
(100 MAXIMUM)

CARRY OUT MENU NOW AVAILABLE

OPEN ALL DAY
01877 382225

www.blackbullgartmore.co.uk



communications

marketing, PR, web design & build, press, design, print,
copywriting, editing, branding & identity, newsletters,
brochures

t: 07931 324 802 e: wendy@wendyhouse.uk.com



01877 382473

Dream Curtains

Having spent several years in property renovation and interior design, I decided to focus more closely on one particular area. In 2006 I started my own business called *Dream Curtains*, based at Loch Katrine.

In an age when our lives are getting busier, leaving less time for ourselves, I have set up *Dream Curtains* in such a way that I come to you, at a time that's convenient to you.

Interior design is a tricky thing to get right and by bringing the fabrics to your home or business, it makes it easier for you to choose the right style and colour whilst surrounded by the furniture the fabrics are to compliment.

As well as having custom made and made-to-measure curtains made especially for you, we also make Roman and Café Blinds, bed-throws, bed linen and soft furnishings. (Fitting service available)

The fabrics used are from top designers but without the High Street price tag so you get bespoke curtains without breaking the bank. Choose from a selection of exquisite fabrics and styles sourced from all over the world: from subtle and interesting neutrals to vibrant designs, with a wide variety of textures including chenilles, linen and silk with gold fleck.

So when you need Curtains, Blinds and Soft Furnishings, we hope you'll think of us. Make your home as individual as you are with *Dream Curtains*.

You will be amazed by our prices!

Margaret Marshall

Proprietor

Contact: 01877 376257 or 0781 0057137

Home visits can be arranged at a time to suit you.

ARGATY RED KITES

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2007

24th February 2007: Nest Box Building

Come to Argaty and build yourself a nest box and get advice on the best place to site them to attract more birds in to your garden.

TIME: 12.45 – 13.30, COST: £3 per Box

4th March 2007: Red Kite Tracking

Join expert wildlife tracker Kevin Duffy on a moderate walk and tune into Kites for the day using radio-tracking devices to discover young kites in the area. Robust footwear recommended. *TIME: 11.00 – 13.30, COST: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price.)*

5th May 2007: Lambs at Argaty

Join farmer Niall Bowser at lambing time to get up close to new-born lambs, and experience day to day work down on the farm! A moderate walk, but wear your wellies!

TIME: 12.00 – 14.00, COST: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price.) ***NB;** Sorry, but this event is not suitable for pregnant mums.

2nd June 2007: Nature Detectives – Tracks and Trails of Argaty

Join the Farm's Ranger for a moderate level walk investigating the wildlife which hides around the farm by using the signs they leave behind: footprints, food and droppings.

TIME: 11.00 – 14.00, COST: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price.)

30th June 2007: Argaty Expedition

Join us on a moderate level walk to find out about the flora and fauna around Argaty wildlife friendly farm. During the walk, we will investigate who's at home when we check on some of the residents of our nest boxes. Robust footwear recommended.

TIME: 10.30 – 14.00, COST: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price.)

15th July 2007: 'Hawkers and Darters'

Join expert dragonfly surveyors Betty Smith and Lesley Fairweather to discover the amazing world of dragonflies and damselflies. Help to catch and identify these fantastic insects around the ponds of Argaty. An easy walk, but bring wellies!

TIME: 10.30 – 14.00, COST: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price.)

12th August 2007: 'Behind the Scenes'

Join farmer Niall Bowser on a moderate walk, to learn how an upland livestock farm is run. Follow the journey of sheep and cattle from the field to the table. Experience includes sheep dog demonstration included. *TIME: 11.00 – 14.00, COST: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price.)*

9th September 2007: Red Kite Tracking

Join expert wildlife tracker Kevin Duffy on a moderate walk and tune into Kites for the day using radio-tracking devices to discover young kites in the area. Robust footwear recommended. *TIME: 12.00 – 14.00, COST: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price.)*



Dream Curtains

we'll make it a reality



Custom and Made To Measure :

- * Curtains
- * Roman and Café Blinds
- * Bed-throws
- * Bed Linen
- * Soft furnishings

10% off all fabrics

Fitting service available

**Choose from a selection of quality Designer fabrics
~ sourced from all over the world ~
in the comfort of your own home**

Make your home as individual as you are

Contact : 01877 376257 or 07810057137

Home visits can be arranged at a time to suit you.

Margaret Marshall Proprietor, Dream Curtains, Loch Katrine



RSPB Inversnaid

The following article should have appeared in the **Christmas** issue but unfortunately, computer

gremlins struck and it did not arrive in time for publication:

Regular readers will be aware how 'peeved' I was with the excellent close view our reserve stalker had of a golden eagle recently (September) and the subsequent leg pulling that went with it. Since then, I have been suffering eagle "blues" (withdrawal symptoms from lack of eagle observations!) but I am glad to report that all this changed on the 12th October. Repairing a stock fence, I happened to glance up towards Beinn a Chroin and noticed a large bird dip below the skyline. The fence work was forgotten as I got my binoculars and scanned the hillside and, sure enough, an adult pair of golden eagles was circling just above the skyline being mobbed by five crows. However, the male eagle then did a brief territorial display, (soaring and rapidly falling as if on an invisible roller coaster) which is unusual at this time of year and I wondered what was causing him to do this. The female (which is larger than the male) kept circling over Beinn a Chroin whilst the male was more to the west. Both eagles then slipped from view east over the hill. Back to the fence work but with an eye on the skyline and within a few minutes, I had an adult male eagle on Stob an Fhainne and this landed on a rocky outcrop and scanned

the ground. He stayed there for about fifteen minutes and then lifted off and climbed about 300 metres before drifting off south to Cruachan where he circled a herd of deer on the skyline. Just then, I spotted the adult pair of eagles come over the top of Stob an Fhainne as well. Three golden eagles at the one time! Not bad I thought to myself as the adult pair were now giving good views with a kestrel now mobbing the male adult eagle on Stob an Fhainne. The male eagle on Cruachan then went west towards Tarbet crossing Loch Lomond in the process, whilst the adult pair headed east over the back of Stob an Fhainne. Fence work (eventually) completed it was back to Garrison farm and a quick lunch before heading down to the nature trail on Loch Lomond side. Telescope was set up for the lunch break but nothing showed and I had just packed it away when I glanced over my shoulder before getting in the vehicle and sure enough – an eagle over Stob an Fhainne. It was back out with the telescope and I had brilliant views of a 2-3 year old male golden eagle that also landed on a rocky outcrop, this time being mobbed by three carrion crows. Four eagles and it was just past lunchtime – brilliant! The young male eagle then rose up and flew north with me tracking him in the telescope. He had just reached the slopes on Beinn a Chroin when he suddenly took a swerve to the left and came down on a red deer hind startling her from her leisurely grazing. Well

if you have watched Springwatch & Autumnwatch, you will have seen what I am going to describe. The young eagle was chasing the hind in an attempt to ensure she fell and injured herself so that he could have a meal. Literally, his wingspan made the hind look smaller and he made several swoops, once almost landing on her back as he chased her down the hillside for over 300 metres. The hind held her nerve and ran safely on to ground that is more level and the young eagle gave up and landed on a large rock, still giving me great views of him through the telescope. He then rose and climbed to the west of Castle Rock, picking up something in his talons and then dropping it; by now he was being mobbed by five crows and a kestrel. As he disappeared over Beinn a Chroin I thought it was all over. How wrong could I be! Now I had three eagles in my telescope – all flying towards me: an adult female on the left, adult male in the middle and the juvenile male on the right. Then the adult male was chasing the juvenile over Stob an Fhainne. He really had a hefty swipe at the juvenile then, and the juvenile flew fast going eastwards down Loch Arklet. The adult pair then circled round Stob an Fhainne before disappearing out of sight.

My eagles "blues" have definitely been cured – now where's that stalker so I can get my own back!

*Duncan Cameron
Conservation Assistant*

Pounds for Peewits as competition launches to help struggling bird

£1000 up for grabs for most lapwing-friendly farmer

RSPB Scotland is inviting farmers to help an elusive farmland bird and possibly win £1000 in the process. With a Scottish farm having won last years Operation Lapwing competition, in 2007 we're hoping for an even bigger response to show that the title deserves to remain North of the border!

Small areas of farmland managed in the right way can mean a big benefit for lapwings - also known as 'peewits', so entering doesn't always mean a lot of work. The competition seeks to produce regional winners and then a National UK champion.

Scotland has the majority of British lapwings, however numbers in the UK have dropped by nearly 50% since 1970 as the area of mixed farming in Britain has reduced, and as many wet areas have been drained. Lapwings often thrive where dry, bare ground and wet grassland are close by.

Ploughed ground or short grasslands provide good nesting habitat but wherever they breed, newly hatched chicks must find damp, grassy areas in which to feed.

Young lapwings can walk up to three miles within days of being born but they stand a much better chance of surviving if they can find food close to where they were hatched. Andy Wight, RSPB Scotland, Advisory Officer said: "The lapwing is one of the nation's favourite birds. It is instantly recognised, its call is one of the first sounds of spring and its courtship display is stunning.

"Its decline, like that of many farmland birds, is closely linked to changes in farmland habitats in recent decades. Agri-environment schemes in Scotland have provided opportunities for farmers to help farmland wildlife and we hope that adequate funding will allow the development of Land Management Contracts to boost this yet further.. The Operation Lapwing competition is the perfect opportunity for Scotland's lapwing-friendly farmers to see their hard work recognised"

The RSPB launched Operation Lapwing, now sponsored by Jordans Cereals, in 2003 and since then winners have come from across the UK - including Perthshire in Scotland. To increase lapwing numbers

and take part in the competition, farmers can follow advice including; avoiding the destruction of lapwing nests from machinery (especially after March), limiting livestock in nesting areas and sowing spring crops rather than autumn in arable operations. Even a small, damp and open field can make a huge difference.

The competition's 2005 winner, Angela McColl who farms near Dunblane in Perthshire said her success had been "about letting the farm do what it does best." She added: "In trying to drain the wetland, my father-in-law was fighting against nature. Now we are letting the land revert to its natural condition, which has made it so much more attractive to wildlife. Lapwings and redshank were quick to return and were rapidly followed by many other species."

Entry details for Operation Lapwing are available at www.rspb.org.uk/operationlapwing, by emailing lapwings@rspb.org.uk or by calling Andy Wight on 01738 630 783.

The closing date is March 16, 2007. 9

Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!

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



(photo courtesy of John McKinley)

CHRISTMAS AT THE LODGE

The deluge of rain throughout December did little to allay the enthusiasm of the large numbers of visitors who flocked to The Lodge to pick up their tree and sample the variety of events and fine fayre on offer in The Coffee Shop. Despite the early setback of the closure of the dry sledging slope, which proved so popular last season, due to safety reasons, there were plenty of activities within The Lodge over the period to enjoy, including a hugely informative RSPB winter birds weekend, in the middle of the month, and craft tables and a treasure hunt for the kids. Our old friends from The Lomond Craft Association also put in an appearance, with a wide range of hand-crafted products on display. Together with the vast range of gifts available in the Forest Crafts and Chill Out shops, there were plenty of opportunities to fill those seemingly bottomless Xmas stockings. The David Marshall Lodge prides itself on offering visitors a unique and traditional Christmas experience far removed from the manic and claustrophobic atmosphere of a city centre shopping mall. Sadly, the one thing we could not deliver, to create the perfect scenario, was a fall of snow!

'WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR'

Once again one of the more popular features proved to be our "Wishing Tree", where the desires and dreams displayed gave us another fascinating insight into the mind of a child. It was heart-warming (disturbing?) to note, from the one hundred and eighty five 'entries' some very perceptive and highly relevant thoughts appearing on the stars, such as hopes for world peace, and an end to globile warning (no misprint). For your delectation, here are some classics.

I WISH..I could find a piece of cheese in my bedroom (not mouldy).....Tom

I WISH..I could get everything right first time.....Euan

I WISH..I had a pie.....Jamie

I WISH..I could go to bed.....Anon.

I WISH..For a new car.....Kyle (Aged 2)

I WISH..For a flying polar bear.....Rory

I WISH..My sisters would stop annoying me.....Patrick

I WISH..For more teeth.....Yuan

I WISH..I could have a real big sister who's 16.....Anon.

I WISH..For a sleepover.....Chloe

For sheer emotional value...

I WISH..For me to stop being sick.....Rowan

I WISH..Every wone wode love each othre.....Chloe (no misprint)

I WISH..That the tigers don't get extinct.....Ellie (aged 10)

My personal favourite, however, has to be...

I WISH..I could get whatever I wanted, but not in a greedy way.....Rebecca



LOMOND MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Regular readers of this column will be familiar by now as to highly I value the contribution of the team and the very personal bonds which exist with The David Marshall Lodge. The annual Fun Day in December is not only designed as part of our festive activities, but as a celebration of this special relationship. Beneath the surface of the jovial atmosphere and the mulled wine and mince pies on offer, however, there is a desperate need to source funding to ensure their continued survival as an organisation. The Lodge is proud to play a small part, in this respect, through an annual raffle, the prize being a magnificent chainsaw carving of a golden eagle. The management at the Forest District Office took the admirable decision to waiver the cost of the sculpture, and the carver's time, which meant all proceeds were donated directly to the team. The fantastic sum of £516.20 was raised, so thanks to every single person who contributed to what is a very essential cause.



CAROL SINGING

Last year we had the pleasure of being in the company of three local schools. This time around, Aberfoyle Primary held court entirely on their own, due to call-offs from Gartmore and Port of Menteith, and they certainly didn't let us down, with a heart-rending selection of songs on the 16th. We also had the pleasure the previous week of 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas' ensemble, a group consisting mainly of our resident band, Heelster Gowdie, and which included one individual 'performing' in sign language! Many thanks to the children, parents, teachers, family and friends who took part and gave their support on both days.



Rangers Corner



By now, of course, Christmas is way in the past.
 As usual, in the end, it all happened so fast:
 A curious phenomenon in its own special way
 With months of preparation boiled down to one day.
 As we meet up with those nearest and dear
 The spirit of togetherness is all too clear;
 Exchanging memories and reflecting on the year just gone
 Accompanied by the obligatory Nat King Cole song.
 At this point the mood is utterly fine
 Even forgetting for a moment the 'Visa bottom line'.
 Anticipation is everything as the meal draws near
 And the women in the company suddenly step up a gear
 As into the kitchen, with gusto, they disappear;
 But for the men, this is a chance to crack open a beer -
 Goodness only knows, they are deserving of the break
 For by design, they are not built to deal with this Christmas 'take'
 It is a singularly female thing, you see
 To choose, and hang, the decorations on the tree
 And send every one on the planet a festive card,
 Something a mere male finds difficult to understand
 Presents to be bought, presents to be wrapped (all with a bow),
 Nothing is without her reach, because the credit card is in tow
 But her stress levels will increase if there is anything she has missed
 From her very extensive assortment of 'to do' lists
 Which are usually started in early Spring
 Regardless of the notion this is a 'one day' thing.
 All too suddenly we hear the Darth Vader call
 You have but two minutes to be seated, one and all
 (At this moment, everyone in the household decides they need to use the toilet)
 And upon the arrival of the main course platter
 Rules and regulations no longer seem to matter,
 For this is a time children are prone to cry
 Parental emotions begin to run high, and elders start to sigh
 Because the kids are not hungry, and we all know the reason why:
 They have been eating Smarties all day, and are not in the mood
 To sample even a scrap of the magnificent display of food.
 In truth, it all ends up with a laugh
 But what can be said of the aftermath:
 Of four courses of desserts that go beyond extremes
 The family have a common goal, it seems:
 To lie back ...and slouch
 On any available couch,
 A sensible choice it must be noted
 As we finally admit to being nothing but bloated;
 But the moment is disabled as cheese and biscuits are still to come
 Coffee or tea, and mints, then maybe some whisky, or rum
 And you certainly don't want to be seeming 'blue'
 So you shovel into your mouth a piece of Christmas cake, too
 Not quite the end of the story, as there is one thing left to do
to fall asleep, en masse, in the middle of 'Doctor Who'.
 And as we awake in the morning, with a slight sense of fear
 We suddenly realise this is all going to happen again, next year.

Shop Closes As Businesses Go 'Online & On the Road'

Microcsoft and Boxwood are to close their Aberfoyle shop at the end of February. Microcsoft will continue to work in the area, but will focus on providing a 'mobile' support service. All services and supplies will be available as normal, and Graham hopes to improve the call-out time to a same day or next day service. Please call or visit the website for further information **01877-382-994** www.microcsoft.co.uk or check local press for details.

Boxwood will still trade from their Byres Road branch in Glasgow and from the website www.boxwood.net where the new web-store has just opened with an extended range of items including babyware and furniture which is proving very popular with customers all over the globe (and closer to home, who prefer to avoid the weather!)

As for the shop, a local couple are taking it over as a gift shop and taxi office.

**Saturday 25th August 2007
11am - 4pm**

The Aberfoyle Gathering McLellans Field

Contact

David Wilkie 01877 382 868
 Jackie Bell 01877 382 142
 Julie Glen 01877 382 296

**next year's event!!!
 The Aberfoyle Fairy Gathering
 Saturday 3rd May 2008**

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:

**Special and contract cleaning services
 Spray extraction and upholstery cleaning services**

SPECIAL CLEANING TECHNIQUES COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC CLEANING

Spray extraction and spray cleaning are the most effective ways of carrying out upholstery and carpet cleaner services. This specialist style of cleaning consists of spraying a cleaning agent into the carpet or upholstery which is then instantly extracted again leaving it clean.

For more information on the services we have to offer please do not hesitate to contact us now on

01877-382530



computer repairs - online and on the road



Computer M.O.T's - while you wait

PC Pest Control - all viruses destroyed

Mobile Computer Spares Service

Remote Support - online/phone

PC Doctor - health checks

01877-382-994

www.microcsoft.co.uk

support@microcsoft.co.uk

Aberfoyle Primary

AUTUMN WATCH

This term P 6/7 from Aberfoyle primary school have been Autumn watching. P 6/7 have been inspired by Autumn in our local environment. Matthew Pollacchi has been measuring the diameters of mushrooms. His biggest one was a whopping twelve inches! We have watched birds migrate and the most popular were the geese. We've also noticed birds feeding in our gardens especially the robin. During our observations we have had to collect evidence that Autumn is coming such as; leaves, acorns, conkers and bracken. Various people took pictures of their observations. We have some amazing pictures in the P6/7 classroom. In creative writing we have been writing poems about Autumn. Here are some examples.

We have been investigating leaves. We found out the area and have done rubbings of them. We have made very creative displays on the wall.

We have been influenced by nature, in making "Autumn in a Box" collections.

By David Wallace, Alison Smith and Rachael Faulds P7

One Misty Night.....

*The mist hangs low
As it wraps itself around the
Trees like a coat.
Gently bobbing on the river
Is a ghostly boat,
Grey sky watching a little bench
Standing wearily.
A calm river running cheerily,
Hiding in the mist.....
Are dark trees reaching up high
And a small lost bird soaring
In the sky.*

By Megan Simpson

Autumn

*Autumn colours for all to see
Falling off the trees.
A bed of leaves red orange brown
Covers all the ground.*

*Hedgehogs are frightened
From the winter
They look for a place to sleep.*

*The acorns coming down
Like elephants bowling nuts out
The conkers falling down
Like big footballs.*

By Jack Archibald



Aberfoyle Post Office

Love is in the air
Want to show you care?
We've Valentines galore
And more inside our store!

Shop OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon-Sat. 7.00 - 5.30; Sun, 11.00 - 5.30.



ARDSTONE

Drystone Walling, Pointing, Plastering

David Monaghan
Kinlochard
Aberfoyle
Stirling FK8 3TW

Tel: 01877 387205
Mob: 07732266231



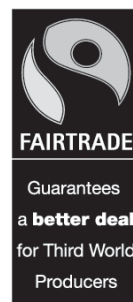
Kinlochard Village Shop

Open 8 am – 8 pm all week
Tel: 01877 387 284

Some of our selection of ethical, organic and fair trade products:

Baked giant beans in extra virgin olive oil; organic artichokes in cold-pressed sunflower oil; garlic stuffed olives; organic kalamata olives; aubergine meze in extra virgin olive oil; sun-dried tomato tapenade; sweet red pepper tapenade; kalamata olive tapenade; canned braised tofu; organic tomato and apple chutney; organic pea soup; organic tomato soup; organic unsalted peanut butter; organic sunflower butter; organic pumpkin seed butter; organic marzipan bar; organic baby food; nutty 9 bar with hemp; hemp power bar; organic chocolate truffles (Booja Booja); fair trade chewy sun-dried banana chips; fair trade chewy sun-dried pineapple slices; unsulphered organic dried apricots; fairly traded fruit salad; organic halva; fair trade coffee; organic and fair trade green tea ...

Are you interested in ordering ethical, organic and fair trade foods in bulk? If so, we guarantee to offer these items at below their recommended retail price (subject to a minimum order). Our supplier can provide over 3000 products. Please contact us for details.



THE DYING ART OF MAP READING or *How I Lost The Plot And Discovered Sat Nav*

By Dougie MacPherson

Long gone are the days of yore when driving was a great adventure, where the roads were quiet and you could park outside your destination. Even then problems could arise. Ah, don't we all remember those days, parked in a lay-by in the pouring rain in the middle of the night, squinting at a road map by torchlight! Or, driving with your wife as passenger, you calling out the street names you pass in utter bafflement whilst she tries to relate this to the real world of the map she is reading.

Then you had the opposite, those travellers who got by on a wing and a prayer. These were the holidaymakers who travelled, particularly in Scotland with nothing more than an *extremely* tiny map of the country – a postage stamp would be bigger – and asked indignantly why Crieff or Tomintoul were not shown on the map; and why was Scotland such a small country? They did not see the point, or profit, in getting a large and detailed map of the country or area which they were visiting. This group of people, who apparently resented the cost of buying a road map, now seem to be the very ones who have been converted to the great god Satnav, or Satellite Navigation to you and me.

This Great Wonder of the Western World is indeed something to behold. It does away with the necessity of studying and interpreting maps and of route planning. Quite frankly, some might say, it would seem to do away with the very act of thinking! All you require is a postal code and, eh bingo, you have arrived! The advantages of this wondrous gadget are manifold: no more need for maps and no more need for road signs, which does include the ubiquitous brown and white 'theme park' signs.

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for progress where it's beneficial and, in some way, the concept of Satnav does have positive results. I *have* seen it in action. Husky racing in France, I have seen a friend take a fast six dog team out at night. He took the team out first in daylight and programmed his Satnav in such a way that it gave an audible signal 20 yards before each turn. Therefore, come the night run, and running blind and at 25+ miles an hour, he was able to identify the turn ahead and call out commands to his team and take the turns successfully without wrapping either himself or his dogs around a tree, something that would have been virtually impossible without this instrument. It also can have positive results where the emergency services are involved and, perhaps peculiar to this and other rural

areas, search and rescue facilities. Though there are drawbacks even here. I have been reliably informed that wooded or forested areas can distort or block out signals.

The main problem seems to be an over reliance on the benefits of the Satnav system where technology overrides basic commonsense. There was the incident recorded in the national press in the West Country last summer where a 53-seater coach, with a full complement of passengers and following its satnav ended up in a narrow winding single track lane and finally had to drive across three fields to get out onto a main road again.

Another such case of human, or Satnav, fallibility, occurred recently in southern England where an ambulance crew had to convey a patient to a hospital at Brentwood, Essex, a journey of only 12 miles. Unfortunately, they relied totally on their Satnav system and ended up 200 miles away in Brentwood, Manchester! The mind definitely boggles!

Then again, examples of such donkey-like reliance you can find even nearer to home. Take, for example, the lady who asked at Drymen the way to Balloch. She was advised to take the A811 which was clearly signposted from Drymen to that well-known burgh. This, however, was not what she required when she then paused and asked for the postal code of Balloch. It seems we either have no wish to use our eyes (and commonsense) anymore, or the brown and white signs are giving people a headache.

Sadly, yet another local example was the lady who telephoned to ask directions from Forest Hills to Drymen, particularly to the village hall in Drymen. Exact details were given, which ended with approaching the village green, which cannot be missed, turning right and the village hall was second on the right. There was a pause over the wire, then the lady said, '*Do you have the postcode for the village hall?*' Now, seriously, for those of you who know Drymen, how hard is it to get lost there? Strange.

Please don't get me wrong. I'm all for progress and for making things easier for the driver but surely nothing could be more simple than to read a road map and follow the road signs. After all, Britain must be one of the most well-signposted countries in the world. We won't talk about Belgium, we really *mustn't*, but there every road sign is in two languages and by the time you have worked out what the *first* name says, you have passed the damned sign before you can read the *second*!



To add to this argument, a recent study by Computer Which? Magazine put the old fashioned road atlas ahead of the satellite navigation system, a route-finding computer system and even the government's official travel website Transport Direct.

So there you have it. Do not put your trust in technology. Rather let us return to the glory days of 20 years ago – or more – when you drove off in your Ford Anglia, pipe clenched between your teeth, pork pie hat fixed firmly upon your head whilst your good lady, sitting by your side would call out directions whilst both frowning at the map on her lap and peering through the windscreen at the road ahead. Above all, count your blessings. You might not have Satnav, but neither do you have a mother-in-law sitting in the back seat!

Aberfoyle Golf Club

is opening its doors to everyone on

Sunday 25th March

We are hosting an Open Day where everyone can enjoy the facilities free of charge. Why not come along and play a round of golf on one of the most scenic courses in Scotland. After playing, have a drink in the comfortable, spacious clubhouse. Perhaps take lunch in the restaurant. You will be made to feel very welcome. If your children are interested, bring them along too. The club will be open from 9.00am till 5.00pm, with staff and members available to assist.



To reserve your time, just call Duncan on

01877 382493

or 01877 382463

We look forward to seeing you on the 25th

News From Glendrick Roost

We have been very busy since the last article and several new cages and pens have been constructed. To enable all the wee furries to live their lives in comfort with as much space as possible a number of brand new cages were donated to house the boy rabbits and their guinea pig friends. These have been built allowing the rabbits to move into their luxury accommodation. The first large pen to accommodate some of the female rabbits and guinea pigs has also been finished and the animals have moved into their new homes. The four rabbits and seven guinea pigs look SO small in the enormous pen. The remaining two pens will hopefully be up and running in the not too distant future and then the new chinchilla house can be started. The roof is still causing a LOT of concern. Several builders / roofers have been out to see the damage - enormous leakage is

occurring wetting the hay stored underneath. All but one wouldn't touch it but unfortunately the only one that offered to help hasn't been heard of since. So we have had volunteers up on the roof trying to plug up the holes to at least see us through the winter.

Now the show season is finished fundraising has had to take a different path and since September a successful Jumble Sale and Bingo Night have added to the funds to help feed the animals in the months ahead. A Grand Christmas Draw has taken place bringing in more money too. A Silent Auction will be held in the Menzies Hall in Fintry on 16th March, starting at 7pm. cheese and wine will be served prior to the start of the auction. Some items for auction include a chef's coat signed by Nick Nairn; a beautiful

signed photograph by Joyce Martin; a dinner for two; 1 hours quad biking and a large flower arrangement. A sponsored dog walk and tour of the centre will take place as the weather improves, [we hope] and our first Open Day of the new year likely in the spring. So a lot is happening over the coming months. I do hope you will all support us in our work.

The animals are all well though very wet as the weather turns to winter with a vengeance. Our oldest resident Tammy is a 36 year old chestnut mare who has been with us for almost 21 years. She has given a lot of confidence and fun to my daughter, her friend Susie and our own Helen, until a stroke three years ago put paid to Tammy being ridden again.

Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre
Scottish Charity SCO36986
Easterhill Farm
Gartmore
FK8 3SA
Tel 07748 351287

Tammy

*In 1970 I was born one frosty misty morn.
I'd found my feet and had a drink, was dry before the dawn.
I grew up fast; I grew up strong fed by my mother's milk
My ears were pricked, my eye was bright, my coat as soft as silk.
My dam she taught me to be kind and gentle in my work,
To try my best and give my all and never, ever shirk.
Young mistress called me Tammy and loved me through the years,
She grew too big; I had to go, despite her many tears.*



*Whilst young I won the jumping; cross country I could go;
But over time my body aged, I started to get slow.
New mistress began looking at young blood going fast
Stamped, "Don't want her; she's FAR too old and ALWAYS comes in last."
So ... sold again? .. where no-one loves me as they did before;
No one comes near; no food; it's cold; no soft bed on the floor?
Thank God THAT horse's nightmare didn't come MY way;
Instead I came to Glendrick Roost and here I 'm going to stay.*

HOT STONE THERAPY 1 DAY COURSE

Certificated / Post Graduate Accredited

*"You can learn this wonderful age old
therapy which dates back 5000 years"*

Courses now being held
throughout Scotland

For further information please contact;
07889469779

Braeval Antiques Aberfoyle



Tel. 01877 382400
Mobile 0781 4405975
Ask for Andrew

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



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

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

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

Local Sled Dog Team Heads North in Search of Snow



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow – that's the hope of the competitors at the 2007 Arden Grange Aviemore Sled Dog Rally on 20 and 21 January. Local musher **Dougie MacPherson** and their team of sled dogs are heading north to take part in this annual event. They will join over 200

mushers and 1000 sled dogs in the race to the finish. Organised by the Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain and sponsored by Arden Grange, the race takes place around Loch Morlich, Aviemore, in the Scottish Highlands. The rally features teams of between two and eight dogs running at up to 20 miles an hour over a gruelling, four-mile track. Along with the Siberian Huskies, rally dogs include Alaskan Malamutes and Samoyeds. Hopefully there will be enough snow for the teams to pull their musher on a sled. If not, the musher will use a three wheeled rig, which resembles a tricycle without a seat! Both dogs and musher have to be fit and follow a strict training schedule leading up to the race.



Medical Centre

Information for all patients registered with the following practices
Aberfoyle, Buchlyvie, Balfon, Drymen, Killearn, Kippen, Strathblane & all branch surgeries

HALF DAY CLOSING FOR STAFF TRAINING

The seven medical practices in West Stirling area have combined to explore ways in which they can improve the care they are able to offer to their patients. One of the areas identified by the practices is the training and development of doctors, nurses, health visitors, practice nurses and administrative staff and, in order to address these needs, staff training will take place from 12.30pm on the following afternoons:

WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2007

THURSDAY 22ND MARCH 2007

TUESDAY 15TH MAY 2007

WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE 2007

On these dates, the Health Centres will close at 12.30pm and the "Out of Hours Emergency Service" will come into operation together with District Nursing and Health Visitor emergency cover. If you have a problem and require emergency medical or nursing care during these afternoons, PLEASE TELEPHONE YOUR HEALTH CENTRE AS NORMAL. You will be told how to access the service you require.

REMEMBER, IN A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY,
DIAL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE.

CREATE (Community Resource for Education Audit and Teamwork)

This initiative is supported by Forth Valley Health Board, Forth Valley Primary Care Operating Division and the Local Health Council.

The Garden

by Wellie Boot



Well, you will all have needed your "Wellie Boots" recently! What can one possibly say about gardening this winter? Perhaps water features!!! Natural water features: ponds that were never there before and were certainly not planned – indeed, in some areas, lochs! There is always "the leaves". Please don't burn them: it just makes awful smoke and annoys the neighbours. Find a little corner, pile them up and leave them alone; they make such lovely leaf mould in a year or two which is so good for your flower beds.

The only consolation about this winter so far, is that it hasn't been too cold. It has therefore been possible to shift shrubs, plants and even small trees – and, there was no need for much watering after the move: this was done very thoroughly for us. The winter is the ideal time to move plants and shrubs as they are all dormant and really don't know they have been disturbed.

The mind doesn't really turn to roses in this weather but from now on, provided it doesn't freeze, you can prune your roses. Don't be afraid to cut them back quite hard. I once read that you will never kill a rose by pruning it! I'm not sure, but they certainly prefer a good prune to a light one and you get much better blooms. On the subject of roses, the early spring is the time to feed them. Roses are very greedy and a good dose of rose fertiliser does them a great deal of good. If you are very "green", a lovely thick mulch of well-rotted dung is perfect for them; it also keeps down the weeds. Well, gardeners, here's to perhaps a good frost to kill the buggy boos and then lots of sun but, please, a lot less RAIN. Happy and drier gardening,

Wellie Boot

Aberfoyle Roofing

slating, tiling
flat roof specialist

ALL ROOF WORK UNDERTAKEN

Tel: 01877 382645
Mobile: 07739690196

The Wee Blether



**New Winter Warmer Menu
Available
opening times
Frid, Sat, Sun & Mon
10am-4pm.**

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

ABERFOYLE MOTORS Ltd

Main Street, Aberfoyle, FK8 3UG

GARAGE WORKSHOP

**Mot's while you wait, Mon-Sat
Car and Bus Servicing, Tyres,
Exhausts, & General Repairs.**

Tel: 01877 382 341/342

Local Names in the Parish of Aberfoyle

by Louis Stott

The parish derives its name from the British term **Aber** which signifies the confluence of two rivers or streams. This confluence takes place near the church where a small river called, in Gaelic, the Poll, i.e. the stagnating water, falls into the Forth at right angles. In that language Poll is, in the genitive case, pronounced foil or **foyle**, whence Aberfoyle. (*Patrick Graham Old Statistical Account 1795*)

By far the most authoritative book about Scottish place-names is *The History of the Celtic Place names of Scotland* (1926) by W. J. Watson. Watson explains that 'sluggish stream' is a specialised meaning of the word "poll" (gaelic poll or welsh pwll), which occurs many times in Perthshire. It may also be noted that sluggish streams called Pows are characteristic of both the Carse of Stirling and Flanders Moss. The parish of Aberfoyle (Obarphuill) was of particular interest to him because it is situated on the frontiers between the Scots of Dál Riata and the Picts, and between them and the British. Watson points out that the headwater of the Pow at Aberfoyle, the Bofrishlie Burn, is a British-Gaelic word, which suggests that this was a district where the two languages have co-existed.

Settlements

The names of settlements have been modified in various ways. In some instances old names indicate more clearly how new names have arisen; but in other instances they obscure matters. It is essential to recollect that the present village did not exist when the name Aberfoyle was first used. On Stobie's map of 1783, one of the first detailed maps, both Wester and Easter Kirkton, and Milltown appear. Later maps refer to Kirkton of Aberfoyle. Aberfoil appears as the name of the parish. Indeed, it is possible that Aberfoyle was first used to describe The Pass of Aberfoyle. A document of 1769 refers to "rentals of barony of Aberfoyle, above and below the pass." Indeed one might speculate whether 'the mouth of the pool' refers to the situation of the Pass at the very foot of Loch Ard.

However, the parish church is undoubtedly situated near the Pow. Indeed the meanderings of the Forth may well mean that the mouth of the Pow was, at one time, closer to the kirk than it now is. When the word Kirkton is used it is often the word "clachan" that is understood in Gaelic, or, perhaps, "clacharan", the stepping stones. Very many Kirktons in the Highlands are

clachans. It is suggested that places of worship were very often built near stepping stones or fords, as is the case at Aberfoyle. In an essay about place names in Balquhider Rev. David Cameron notes that Clachan (Scotice, Kirk town) was also the name given to Druidical places of worship, which consisted of a circle, or collection of large stones, i.e. Clachan (the plural of clach, a stone). These circles accommodated people at worship, so new places of worship, after the introduction of Christianity, were erected on, or near such a site (as is also the case in Aberfoyle), and the name Clachan came thus to be transferred from the one place of worship to the other. It is clear that in Rob Roy Scott means the Milton when he refers to the 'Clachan of Aberfoyle' for there never were many houses at the Kirkton. In the document already referred to the following settlements 'below the Pass' are listed: Craigmuck, Inchrie, Auchilach, Daldanit, Runagaur, The Clap(n) of the Mill, and Milntown of Aberfoil. Of these Daldanit is connected with annaid a word for a church or cemetery, often the parent church of the parish. Once the site of a ford, it is situated on the south bank of the Duchary Water near Craigmuck. 'The clap and happer' is used in sasines to signify legal possession of a mill. Thus the Clap of the Mill is the mill itself, which used to belong to the Earl of Menteith. Milntown of Aberfoyle is clearly a township, consisting of several cottages. Wester and Easter Craiguchtie, in Trossachs road, were the original settlements where the village of Aberfoyle is now situated. Over Dounance, Ballantone and Carsvockie, Nether Dounance and Woodend, Alinan, Breval in Dounance and Balnacraig were also found in 1769. The ford, hard under Doon Hill, where Scott set an escape in Rob Roy, is called 'Alinan'. Macnair suggests that the name is derived from ath a ford and linnean (connected with) linen, since a pool (at the forestry commission offices) was used to steep flax until the fibres separated. However in another document of 1657 the name 'Dallenance' occurs, providing a link with dail, a field. Thus 'Alinan' may mean 'the linen field'. Dounans, the little hill. or Dounance is another long established name. At one time, there was a castle there, sometimes confused with Duchray. The castle mound can be seen next to the Car Park.

Alphabetical Listing of Local Names

<u>Place Name</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
Aberfoyle	confluence of the pool
Alinan Ford	linen field ford
Allt a Cham-ruidhe	crooked red burn
Allt a' Mhangan (m)	little fawn burn or of overhanging boughs
Allt Chroiceagan	burn of the little antlers
Allt Coille Ghiamar	[?] spoiled wood burn
Allt Fearna	alder burn
Allt Glas	grey burn
Allt Glasahoile	see Glasahoile
Allt na Speirag	sparrowhawk burn
Allt nan Seanganan	ant burn
Allt Tairbh	bull burn
Alltan nam Breac	little burn of the trout
Altskeith Hotel	burn of the vomit
Ardchoile	high wood
Arndrum	alder ridge
Avondhu	black water
Avondhu Falls	black water falls
Bad an-t-Sasunnaich	Englishman's thicket
Bad Dearg	red thicket
Bad Malio	St Molios' thicket
Bad na Earbaige	thicket of young roes
Bailie Nichol Jarvie	self-evident
Balanton	[?] the township
Balleich	horse stading
Balnacraig	crag township
Barr a' Ghartain	couligarten top
Bealach an t-Suidhe	bealach of the shelf
Bealach Garbh	rough pass
Bealach Mòr na Beinne	big pass of the ben
Bealach na Craoibhe	pass of the tree
Bealach na h-Imriche	pass of the flitting
Bealach nam Bo	cattle pass
Bealach Pollach	marshy pass
Beinn an Fhògharaidh	† ben of the harvest
Beinn Bhreac	speckled ben
Beinn Chochan	little breast hill
Beinn Dubh	black ben
Beinn Uamha	cave ben
Ben Venue	hill of the little stirks
Black Water	self evident
Blairhullichan	flat of the little mound
Blairuskin Lodge	watery moss lodge
Blairuskinbeag	lesser watery moss
Blairuskinmore	greater watery moss
Blairvouach	beast's clearing
Blan Ros or Blariness	the clearing on the promontory
Blàr Loisgte	clearing of the burned ground
Blarachapuill	the mare's level
Blaregal	church level
Bofrishlie	the hut copse
Braeval	[?] hill township
Briedach	the handkerchief
Brig o' Forth	evident
Brig o' Michael	evident
Buaigheal	cow fold

..to be continued in the next issue

Aberfoyle Parish Church

Aberfoyle:

Sunday 4th February 11.15am - Morning Worship
 11th February 11.15am - Family Service
 18th February 11.15am - Morning Worship
 25th February 11.15am - Morning Worship
 4th March 11.15am - Communion Service

Six Churches:

28th January 7.00pm Worship Together - Port of Menteith Church

Lenten Services:

25th February 7.00pm - Norrieston Church, Thornhill
 4th March 7.00pm - Buchlyvie Church
 11th March 7.00pm - Port of Menteith Church
 18th March 7.00pm - Gartmore Church
 25th March 7.00pm - Aberfoyle Church
 1st April 7.00pm - Kippen Church



Easter Sunday:

8th April 8.00am - David Marshall Lodge

The Guild

A very good New Year to all our members and friends.
 Our next meeting is on Monday 19th February at 2pm in Church House when we will be entertained by children from Aberfoyle Primary School. It is good that this link, started many years ago, is still being maintained.
 Our March meeting will be on Monday 12th at 2pm in Church House. Please note the change of date. This will also be a guest afternoon when members of Motherwell Salvation Army will bring us their Christian message in song.
 Please come along to either or both of these meetings. You will be made very welcome.

Deadline Dates 2007

11th March
 22nd April
 3rd June
 22nd July
 2nd September
 21 October
 18th November

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.

To place/cancel an advert contact
 Ian Marshall on 01877 382211
 advertising@strathardnews.com
 To alter an advert contact
 Marion Back on 01877 386222
 newsdesk@strathardnews.com

Advertising Costs

40mm x 37mm £5
 40mm x 75mm £10
 75mm x 75mm £20
 152mm x 40mm £20
 190mm x 190mm £30

St Mary's Episcopal Church



Oh dear. What is it about January that makes living rather hard work? Is it the incessant rain and the lack of sunshine? Is it the long winter nights with nothing to watch on the box? Is it the reality of Christmas hitting home? Sadly ten thousand families this month will be declaring themselves bankrupt as a result of the festive season. Or is it something less obvious? We welcome the dawn of a New Year of course, but by the third or fourth of the new month, the novelty of 2007 is already wearing off. To put it quite brutally, a New Year means a step away from our birth, and.... well I needn't state the obvious.

All this focuses the mind, and hence the tradition of the New Year resolution. Most focus on the flesh, for Christmas fare has often taken its toll. For most traders January is sluggish save for gym and health club proprietors. They will tell you that business has never been better. So to all those who are intent on these sorts of New Year resolutions, good luck and keep persevering!

But there is something else that might also benefit from a New Year Resolution. What is the most precious asset we possess from the Almighty? It is time. Time is essential for living life. So perhaps it might be as well to examine our time. For some perhaps there is an adequacy of time even perhaps more than we know what to do with. How might that be better used? For many, there are not enough hours of a day. Is there any way of using those hours more effectively? Easier said than done of course from the pen of someone who has only to work one morning a week! Perhaps we might be more grateful if we consider that the time we have is actually worth living and enjoyable. Perhaps we might think more of others for whom time is nothing more than sheer misery through ill health or other circumstances.

*'When as a child I played and wept, time crept
 When as a youth I laughed and talked time walked
 When I became a full-grown man, time ran
 Soon I shall find in travelling on, time gone
 O Lord wilt thou be with me then?'*

If you wish to take out an annual subscription please complete the information slip and post it to: The Treasurer, Strathard News, Garrison Cottage, Inversnaid, FK8 3TU.

Cheques for £10 made payable to *Strathard News*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ TEL No: _____

Date: _____

Environmental Afternoon and Bulb Show

Trossachs Community Council is hosting an Environmental Afternoon in Brig o' Turk Village Hall on Saturday 10th March, 12 – 4 p.m. This event will run in conjunction with Trossachs Welfare Association's popular annual Bulb Show.

The family event is an opportunity for locals and visitors to find out more about alternative energies and try lively activities for all ages on recycling, home composting and wormeries. In addition, there will be displays about the local environment from the Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust and National Park Rangers Service.

Other exhibitors will include SEPA, WRAP, Stirling Council's Waste Awareness Team, Advice Services, Affordable Warmth Officer and Adult Learning Team.

If anyone would like additional information or has difficulties with transport, could they please contact Martin Earl on 01877 376367 by the 9th March.

The Co-op Balfron 10K Run

Balfron is set to host its very first 10K run on Sunday 22nd April 2007. The 10K road race will start from Balfron Campus at 11am and follow a scenic route heading out towards Fintry. Runners of all abilities, aged 15 and over, are welcome to take part in what will be a memorable day out. All funds raised will go directly to Balfron Primary School. The Scottish Co-op is the main sponsor of the event, with supporting local sponsors including the Mulberry Bush Montessori Ltd, Speedy LCH Generators, Careth Landscaping, Forth Valley NHS, Balfron Campus, Jewson, GMC and many smaller, local businesses.

A 10K training programme specifically aimed at new runners, who wish to run the Balfron 10K, has been drawn up by the Leisure Team at Balfron Campus. Call 01360 440940 for further details.

Entry forms and further details of the Co-op Balfron 10K are available at www.balfron10k.org.uk or contact Colin Mendham on 01360 440175.

Jazz Workshops in Stirling / Schools Jazzing up Stirling

A new series of jazz ensemble workshops will be starting up at the Tolbooth in February for young people aged 10 – 18.

Top Scottish saxophonist Laura MacDonald – critically acclaimed for her performances with the Reinvention Jazz Quartet at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival – will lead the jazz workshops from 6th Feb for two eight weeks terms.

Workshop Details:

Beginners (grade 1, 2 and 3 or equivalent): 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Intermediate / advanced players (grade 4 + or equivalent): 6.45pm – 8.15pm

Feel free to come and try. Any instrument welcome.

The workshops are free and are funded by the Youth Music Initiative and have been organised by Children's Services in collaboration with the Tolbooth Arts Team.

For further information or to register a place please contact Clare Hoare, Cultural Coordinator, Stirling Council on 01786 274014 or hoarec@stirling.gov.uk.

Look out for the Traditional Workshops due to start in March. Further information available from Clare (as above).

T.A.G.S. (Third Age Group Strathendrick)

Healthy Eating Indian Style - Cookery demonstration.... The Co-op is inviting its members to a cookery demonstration in St Kessog's Church hall Balloch on Friday February 16th. from 10.30am. to 12.30pm. Members wishing a ticket should contact Carol Donaldson on 0141 304 5581. Mrs. Yasmin McDonagh of 'Scotia Spice' will be demonstrating three healthy and authentic Punjabi dishes. . There will be further information on healthy eating available.

The next outing is on Friday 16th February to Balloch, with a choice of Lomond Shores or the Co-op Punjabi cookery demonstration, and a short time for lunch or for shopping at the Co-op store. A packed lunch might be a good idea if you chose shopping. The coach leaves Callander Dreadnought hotel at 8.50am.,

18 Aberfoyle Tourist Information Office

at 9.05am. Gartmore at 9.20am., Buchlyvie Station Road 9.30am., Balfron Cotton Street at 9.40am., Balfron Register office at 9.45am., Killearn at 9.55am., Drymen 10.10am. The fare will be £6. Please book as soon as possible. Phone Joan on 01360 449253 between noon and 7pm. to book the coach. We will leave Balloch at 1.20pm. Due to requests, we have arranged another group holiday for the summer. It is on July 9th 2007 to the Peak District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales, Bury Market, Skipton and Buxton. We will be staying at the same excellent hotel as our recent Twixmas trip, the 4 star McDonald Dunkenhall Spa Hotel in Accrington. Please Phone Joan (number above) for a booking form. This 5 day holiday costs £229 with free insurance through our usual booking company 'Glenton.'

Milton

Hello Children,

Rain, rain, rain, rain and more rain. You have probably noticed that for yourselves! Even Grandpa Otter says that he has never seen so much water, and he is very old indeed. There has been a lot of wind too, blowing down trees and cutting off the electricity supply to the houses and hotels in Strathard. Many people were eating their New Year's Day breakfast by candlelight. At least they could make toast over open fires – and it tastes much better if you do it that way.

Aberfoyle is famous for several things; faeries, forests, friendly people and Loch Occasional. Twice in recent weeks, Loch Occasional grew and grew until it had swallowed up most of Main Street. The water flowed along the road and poured into the shops, Post Office and Forth Inn. There were very wet people trying to keep the water out with sandbags and rescue as much as they could from the rising flood. It seemed that everybody was out in the wind and rain, all trying to help where they could, even the fire brigade.

The big red fire engine ferried rescuers to the Co-op before starting the enormous task of pumping out the water. Across the road, or should I say river, Alistair was literally beavering like mad to salvage as much as he could in Guyana. As fast as Alistair was lifting bits to safety, the torrent was washing pieces away towards the North Sea. He only left the building when ordered out by the fire officer in charge of the emergency.

We all lent a hand where we could. Dad, Grandpa Otter, Braeval and the twins were busy all through the stormy night; that was until Duke and Katrine discovered the cataract cascading between the Forth Inn and Guyana. The twins spent the rest of the time having great fun being swept down into the car park, time and time again! Two weeks later, when the loch reappeared, the village was far better prepared. Sandbags, though, are still at the ready!

Not only has it been wet and windy, it has been very warm, too. All the hazel trees are covered with long, yellow, lambs' tail catkins, daffodils are well out of the ground and snowdrops are in full bloom. The birds have been singing for quite a while, so spring is definitely on its way. The problem of being an otter wearing a thick winter coat – we just cannot take it off if it gets too hot. Swimming keeps us cool. We can also go up to the high hilltops and play in the snow.

Unfortunately, the postbus service between Aberfoyle and Kinlochard has been taken off. Not only has this made things a bit difficult for a few people, but I cannot pop along to Kinlochard shop for a packet of my favourite liquorice sweets! The daily postbus to Inversnaid is still running and if you have never been on it, you really should. On one journey you will see five glens, six lochs and, on a clear day, five mountains over 3,000ft high. I am off to see Ros at the post office to book my seat on the postbus. Bye for now,

Milton.



Forth Inn Events Diary

Friday 2nd Feb - Australian Food & Wine Evening 7.30pm
4 Course Menu - available NOW! £29.95 per person, including wine tasting

• • • • •

14 to 18 Feb - Valentines Weekend
We are serving Special Romantic Menus

• • • • •

Saturday 17 Feb - Karaoke in The Wallace bar, Fun starts @ 9pm

• • • • •

19 Feb to 25 Feb - Food with Beer Week

• • • • •

Sunday 25 Feb - Pub Quiz Fun starts 8.30pm Prize for the Winning Team!

• • • • •

5 March to 11 March - Food with Liqueurs Week

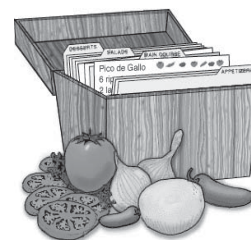
Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UQ
Tel: 01877 382 372
E-mail: Phil@ForthInn.com

Mussels in Sweet Chilli Crème Fraiche

Serves 1

Ingredients

1 portion Fresh Mussels
½ White Onion Thinly Sliced
2 floz White Wine
4oz Crème Fraiche
1 tblspn Sweet Chilli Sauce
White Pepper



Method

Clean the mussels free of all barnacles de-beard and wash - alternatively buy cleaned ones, but they are a lot more expensive!

All fresh mussels should be closed. If any are open, ensure they are still live by tapping them gently on their pointed end, this should make them close. If they do not close Do NOT use them.

Heat a wok to smoke point.

Add the onion and mussels, then add the wine. This will steam the mussels and start to open them. Cook for 2 – 3 mins then add the rest of the ingredients.

Bring to the boil then reduce the heat stirring the mussels occasionally.

If the sauce is too thick add a touch of wine or water.

All the mussels should open fully when ready, if any do not open discard them. Serve with crusty bread and butter.

sponsored by *Forth Inn*

Loch Katrine 12 K Run

Brig o'Turk, near Callander

Saturday 28th April – 12 noon

We're pleased to announce that the 4th Loch Katrine 12K Road Race will take place on Saturday 28th April at 12 noon!

Advance entry is recommended - entry forms & directions are available on www.LK12K.com, by emailing LK12KRun@aol.com or by phoning us on 01877 376381 (Brian) or 376363 (Liz).

Entry fees are £10 affiliated - £12 non-affiliated. Registration will be open from 9.30am at Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine and will close at 11.30am to avoid delaying the start of the race. All numbers will be issued on the day.

Parking and toilets are available at the Pier and the Captain's Rest restaurant will also be open. There will be a water station at the turning point (6Km).

Support for the LK12K has helped us rebuild & fit out Brig o'Turk Village Hall with over £5000 raised in the last 3 years.

We hope to see you on April 28th!

wanted

1 or 2 bed accommodation to rent / buy in

Aberfoyle for single lady.

Contact June on 07768 687475

ABERFOYLE GOLF CLUB

Part-time Bar Staff Required

April to October

Hours negotiable

Contact Duncan on

01877 382493 or 01877 382463

Scottish Country Dancing

Memorial Hall

Every Wednesday

7.30 – 9.30pm

A good way to keep fit and active

aberfoyle motors

private hire service

07790 542 250

- taxi available 24/7
- disabled access
- 16/49 seat coaches
- 4/7 seat cabs

between 07:00-18:00 call 01877 382 341

e: taxi@aberfoyletaxi.com

Women's Rural Institute

Meet on the **3rd Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall**

For more information or to arrange a "buddy" to meet you, please call **Margaret on 382463 or 382490.**



Rade
Main Street
ABERFOYLE
FK8 3UG



Gift items, Jewellery and Statues (inc. limited editions) with a mystical and fantasy theme
T-Shirts – from The Mountain Designer ranges of the Fantasy World and the Animal Kingdom

Books, Art and Cards for children and adults including a publication based on the Rev Kirk's legendary manuscript 'The Secret Lives of Elves and Faeries'

We also stock items to spoil your favourite pet; including toys, high quality leads, collars and harnesses.

Special orders taken for food and pet accessories.

For advice call and ask for June

Telephone/Fax: 01877 382101 or Email: Radetld@btconnect.com



Janefield, Ruskie, Stirlingshire, FK8 3LG

Tel: 01786 850500 Fax: 01786 850555

Email: directvehicleopt@aol.com

We are pleased to announce that we now offer a full mechanical Service and Repair facility. If your vehicle is still within the manufacturer's warranty we can service it within the manufacturer's schedule using their parts whilst continuing their warranties for the full period. Of course we will offer this service at considerably less cost than the main dealer. We also offer an uplift and courtesy car service.

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.



Renault Megane Dynamique 1.9 DCi 5dr 120 (03/53) in Ottoman Blue, 35,000 Miles. £6995.00



V/W Touareg 5.0V10 TDi (04/04) in Silver, 39,000 Miles, FSH, Charcoal Hide, Every Available Extra, £57,000 New, Immaculate Car. £31,995.00



BMW 535D Sport (05/05) in Black with Black Leather, Sat Nav, E M Seats, PDC, Covered 18,000 Miles, £41,000 New. £32,950.00



Saab 9-3 2.2 TDi 5dr Hatch (00/W) in Sky Blue, 100,000 Miles With Good History. £3,250.00



Ford Fiesta 1.2 LX 5 dr (03/53) 13,000 Miles, As New. £5,500.00



Toyota Hi-Lux 270 EX D/Cab (03/53) in Red. £6995.00 + VAT



BMW M3 (03/52) in Black with Black Leather, Electric Seats, 19" Wheels, 34,000 Miles. £22,950.00

no image

Renault Master LM35 DCi 120 4dr Crew Cab Dropside Pickup (03/03) Very Rare Vehicle, Excellent Builders/Landscapers Vehicle. £6,550.00 + VAT