

The Voice of Your Community

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LOCAL FARMER TO STAND FOR COUNCIL



includes Strathard.

Fergus Wood is a sheep farmer and tourist operator based at Ledard Farm, Kinlochard, near Aberfoyle, where he created the Scottish Wool Centre in 1992. A former Chairman of Strathard Community Council and a founding Board member of Forth Valley Enterprise (now Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley), he was also Chairman of the Stirling Economic Partnership and currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the National Park's Access Forum.

A keen supporter of the Arts and, in particular, traditional Scottish music, Fergus is Chairman of the now well-established Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival and is bandleader of the local and well-known Kinlochard Ceilidh Band. He was a

Kinlochard farmer, Fergus Wood, has been selected as the candidate for the Scottish National Party at the elections for Stirling Council on 3 May for the new Ward 1, which

major in the T.A., being awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1978.

Fergus is married with three grown-up children and three grandchildren – with another on the way!

Fergus's Focus

"I have set myself four principal areas to focus on - all of which are designed to strengthen the Rural Stirling economy.

1. **Rural Roads.** Our rural roads, particularly the B829, are in shocking condition. Many of these roads are vital tourist arteries to attractions, such as the Sir Walter Scott. Proper maintenance – in particular drainage - is vital if the National Park is to be regarded as a serious world-class tourist destination and local people, including school bus parties, are to travel in safety.

2. **Rural Transport.** An integrated transport system is vital for the well-being of rural communities. This is not the time to abandon the post buses. This is the time to encourage and assist local private transport companies to expand their services and routes.

3. **Rural Schools.** The closure of rural schools must be halted. They play a vital role in rural communities and must be allowed to flourish and encourage more young families to live in the countryside.

4. **Rural Housing.** Rural communities in West Stirlingshire must not be allowed to become dormitories for city workers or weekend homes. There should be a healthy mix of rural housing – private, council, co-ownership. There must be a system to allow young, first-time buyers to remain in their local community and to provide sheltered housing for our elderly, particularly if they have to downsize their homes.

I intend to focus my attention as your councillor in these areas. I will also be concerned about the well-being of village shops and post-offices and the adequate support of village halls and the organisations which use them.

I will work closely with my fellow councillors in this new multi-member ward, irrespective of which political party they are members. I will support my fellow S.N.P. councillors in the move to abandon the iniquitous Council Tax and replace it with a more equitable system based on the ability to pay.

Finally, I will work to ensure that the National Park Authority operates in the interests of the communities it serves, with particular reference to planning decisions."

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Impossible Dream

At night a pretty primrose stood
Forlorn and lonely in a wood,
And looking at the sky above
Quite mystified it fell in love.
Just one star's flirtatious blinking
Set the little primrose thinking:
"Of all the stars that I can see
This one has surely chosen me;"
Thus with spectacular display
A gallant star was on its way...
But then – the universe it seems
Casts spells on wishes, stars and dreams;
Without a trace they disappear
Like magic in the atmosphere.
Upon a dream it had relied...
A primrose closed its leaves and died.

Sigrid



Thank you Kinlochard

Colin Hutton, his daughter Corinne and two friends held a "Bring and Buy Sale" on behalf of Maggies Cancer Caring Centres at Colin's home in Kinlochard on Friday 16th February raising an amazing £970.00 for the cause. Other donations handed in since has raised this total to £1088.00. The four fund raisers have committed to raising a minimum of £12,000.00 prior to trekking for 10 days at heights up to 16000 feet through the Ladakh region of the Himalayas. Colin and the girls were overwhelmed by the generosity of the local community and take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to the 50+ locals who turned out to empty their pockets.

All of the items sold were donated and there are sufficient items left to ensure a good start to one of their future fund raising events, a Car Boot Sale which they plan to hold in the girls' home village of Howwood in April

More information about Maggie's can be found on www.maggiescentres.org
If there are any of you wonderful people out there who did not attend and would like to support this worthy cause, Colin and Corinne can be contacted [daytime] on 0141 336 3371 or by E mail on colin@colinhutton.com



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Sylvia Jackson MSP



Flooding is a recurring problem in many parts of the Stirling constituency, as was highlighted by the devastating floods across the area at the end of last year. As many of you may know I have pushed for improved early warning systems and flood prevention systems in the area, including Aberfoyle and I am pleased that Stirling Council are now taking forward both short-term and long-term measures to tackle the problem.

A paper on management of flooding recently went before the Executive of Stirling Council and financial approval by the Council will be sought in the near future. I was pleased that Aberfoyle has been identified as a top-

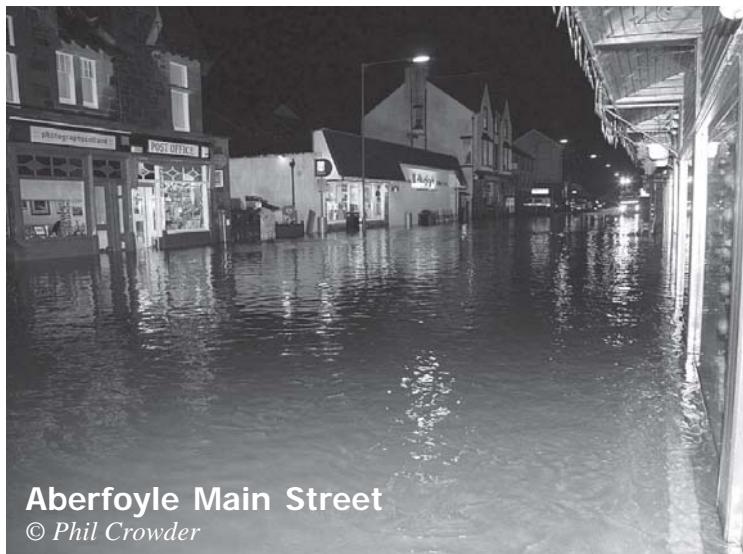
risk location and estimates have been given to undertake flood studies to test the various intervention options. The protection of residential problems is of course key and Floodwater Protection Systems, such as floodgates, have been identified as necessary flood intervention measures. I will keep readers of the *Strathard News* up-to-date on the development of these flooding proposals.

I was also delighted to open the two new RSHA homes at Stronachlachar the other week. The work of the Loch Katrine Advisory Committee, Loch Katrine Community Trust and Rural Stirling Housing Association in securing these two family homes for affordable rent in the area must be commended. I also know that Strathard Community Council played an important role in the negotiations with Scottish Water, the National Park and local communities. Thinking back to the many meetings on this issue I remember the work of Pam Abraham, Ros Dingwall and Margaret

Neufeld, among many others, providing refreshments and Pam, of course taking the all important minutes. Many of the meetings were in the Hall in Aberfoyle.

I was also pleased to facilitate discussions between Rural Stirling Housing Association, the Rural Affairs Minister Ross Finnie, MSP and the then Communities Minister, Malcolm Chisholm MSP. Along with the SS Sir Walter Scott, these two new homes help to ensure that Stronachlachar and the surrounding area are developing both economically and socially in a sustainable way.

As always Anne McGuire MP and I can be contacted through our Parliamentary Advice Office at 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling FK8 1UA – Tel: 01786 446515 or Sylvia.jackson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk. My website can be found at www.sylviajackson.co.uk

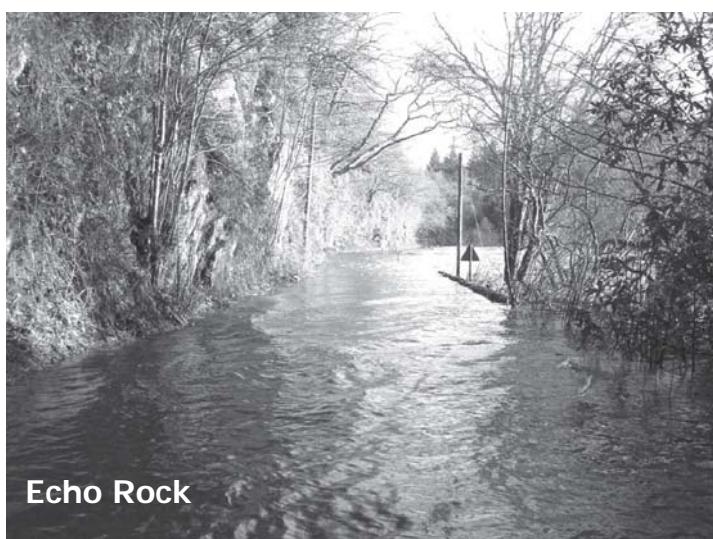


Aberfoyle Main Street

© Phil Crowder



Kinlochard



Echo Rock



STRATHARD FLOODING – CAN YOU HELP?

At the February and March meetings of the Community Council, the recent floods were an important topic of discussion. We are now in active communication with Stirling Council, and it seems that the 'detailed assessment' and 'flood alleviation proposal', publicised as taking place in 2003/04 for Aberfoyle and the B829 lochside road to Kinlochard, have never actually happened. Other areas have been given higher priority for the available budget, which appears to have been decided more by reference to property damage, without knowledge of our road closure difficulties.

Official data on file about our problems here in Strathard seems a little sketchy to say the least! So, with your local input during March and April, we hope to be able to provide clear evidence to the Council and other bodies to push for something to be done about this ongoing problem. Also, please try to report any future flooding / road closure incidents directly to the Council, since we are told this will help with recognition of our problems and ensure Council records are correctly updated with any new incidents. This is the official request:

'If you are affected by a flood incident please report it to Stirling Council on 0845 277 7000.' We've heard a lot of quite worrying stories following the last series of floods and would like to be able to summarise and present these to the officials responsible for both flooding and roads to give them a clear description of the situation, which affects most of Strathard residents in one way or another. Any information you can supply about other flooding incidents in previous years would be helpful too, so that recent problems cannot be dismissed as a one-off issue, or as being caused only by 'global warming'.

So, can you help by providing backup information for action on the Strathard road flooding problem? For example, please send us details about any of the questions below, or other related issues you think might be important.

1. Do you have any record of the **dates** when flooding has previously shut the B829, or caused problems in Aberfoyle itself? The recent closures are now quite well documented, but there was also a major problem in early January 2005, and there have been several shorter closures over the years, but the years and dates when these incidents took place are not recorded.
2. The **exact locations** on the B829 / in Aberfoyle where the flooding occurs is of great interest – once the road is closed only local people know where the troublespots close to their own house are? So please help us by identifying the specific parts of the road that become impassable.
3. Are there any locations on **other roads** in the area, e.g. the A81, which have caused you a problem too?
4. Have you suffered any **property damage** or is it only road closures which have affected you? Or maybe you or your business has lost income when the road was closed?
5. Did any flooding incidents stop you getting home, or cause you or your **family difficulties**? Maybe you had to rely on alternative methods of transport to get through the water?
6. Have you ever used any **unofficial routes** to bypass the floods in an emergency – if so which route(s)? Although we know this is not a solution, since they can also be totally closed to vehicles.
7. Maybe you have some good **photographs** showing recent or previous floods – you can either send these by e-mail or provide the photos (prints or CD) for us to copy and return to you.
8. Did you or your family experience any risks to **health or safety** when medical help, ambulance or fire engines couldn't get through? Or maybe someone has a medical condition which could become a major problem when road access is stopped?
9. Did you hear about any other **potentially dangerous situations** caused by the road closure, which you think we should try to follow through?
10. We have anecdotes that **loch levels** have risen a lot but no evidence. Do you have any historical information or photographs about the River Forth or Loch Ard water levels which could demonstrate or help explain why the problem has got worse?
11. Are you aware of any differences in **land or watercourse management** compared to past years, which might have contributed to the problem?
12. Officially the **tides** have no impact here, but locally everybody seems to think they do – have you any information that could help us support this theory?
13. Are there any informal methods you use that help you predict potential flooding, since these might assist in developing a local '**flood warning**' system?
14. Do tell us about anything else you think might be helpful, or if you have suggestions for action that could be taken.

Please give us feedback by any of the following methods:

- leave written information on any of the above questions at either Kinlochard Village Shop or Aberfoyle Post Office (please include name, address and telephone number in case we need to get back to you).
- ask there for a form to complete.
- leave your name and telephone number there, and we will contact you to record your feedback.
- send an e-mail to flooding@lochard.co.uk with details and/or photos.

Any personal information supplied (name, address, telephone) will be kept within the Community Council and only used to contact you if clarification is needed.

Many thanks in advance for your help with this exercise.

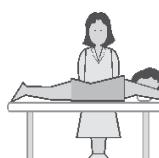


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STRONACHLACHAR OPENING DAY

Loch Katrine residents turned out in force on Friday to help celebrate the completion of two affordable homes for rent and to welcome new families into the area.

Loch Katrine Community Trust (LKCT) and Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA) have been working together over the last two and a half years with the aim of providing affordable housing in the area.

The Loch Katrine Catchment has seen many changes during the last twenty years, resulting in a loss of employment and a sharp decline in the number of residents. With the recent sale of redundant Scottish Water property at prices well beyond the reach of young local people, and mostly as second homes or self-catering accommodation, it seemed as if the resident community was doomed to decline.

The two houses in question are adjoining semi-detached 3 bedroomed houses, built in 1950 and occupied until recently by Scottish Water workers at Loch Katrine. Following lobbying by the local community, RSHA and MSP Sylvia Jackson, Scottish Water was allowed by the Scottish Executive to sell the properties to the housing association in March 2006.

Whilst in habitable condition the properties were in need of significant refurbishment to ensure that they would continue to provide good quality accommodation into the future. The properties previously had electric storage heating and oil fired boilers respectively. It was agreed that, if possible,

these should be replaced with new systems that would be more energy efficient. Following advice from the Energy Savings Trust it was decided to install air-sourced heat pumps and also solar panels to heat the domestic water. It is believed that this is the first use of air-sourced heat pumps in the rural Stirling area.

The costs of acquisition and refurbishment were largely met by Communities Scotland, topped up by funding raised by the Association itself. Contributions to the cost of the sustainable heating and hot water system were made by the Energy Savings Trust (through SCHRI grant) and SUST along with a contribution from Communities Scotland.

The project aims to contribute towards the development of a vibrant and sustainable local community. A Local Lettings Initiative was agreed and operated by RSHA through which additional priority was given to applicants with a significant housing need on the housing list who either lived in the immediate Stronachlachar/Inversnaid/Kinlochard vicinity or who had employment or support connections to the area. In addition added priority was given to applicants with primary school age children. Chair of the LKCT, Kate Longworth, said: "Loch Katrine Community Trust aims to combine a thriving rural community with the environmental needs of Loch Katrine. We are delighted to have been working with Rural

Stirling Housing Association on the acquisition and refurbishment of these two houses for local families. This joint project between LKCT and RSHA has rescued our community in a way that nothing else could have done, enabling us to have more full time residents, including new pupils for Inversnaid Primary School. The completion of these houses is not simply the end of a project but the start of a new chapter for the Loch Katrine community.

We are deeply indebted to RSHA for taking over these two houses (and renovating them so thoughtfully), and to everyone else who has enabled the project to succeed, notably Dr Sylvia Jackson MSP, Peter Cook (formerly of Scottish Water and now on the board of the Sir Walter Scott Trust), the Energy Savings Trust and Communities Scotland. We would also like to thank the many local people who have given us moral support throughout the project, and we extend a warm welcome to the two families who have come to live here."

Rural Stirling Housing Association Chairman, Jim Milne, commented: "This is an excellent example of what can be achieved through combining the energies and expertise of the local community and the housing association, in an area where even two new homes can make a huge difference. We hope that it will be a model for many similar projects in future."

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Inversnaid Primary

Spring Report

Our Burn's Supper

On the 25th of January it was a special day because it was Robert Burns birthday. Robert Burns was a famous poet. First Eilidh did her Highland Dancing then we went to Dinner. It was a very special dinner because Ross had to address the Haggis. Mrs Jones said Grace then we ate Dinner. Then I had pudding. In the pudding there was shortbread and ice-cream and raspberries. To finish with we sang 'The Red Yo Yo'.

by Jamie Carter

Reports on Creativity Week at Aberfoyle

On 19th February we went to Aberfoyle Primary School. We went to Miss Kent's class where we did a fun play. It was called 'Monkeys aren't so Cute' and the animals were lions, a tiger, zebras, elephants and a giraffe. There were also some big trees. We did it in Aberfoyle School in the hall. We rehearsed two times. We performed it twice – once on Friday then again on Monday. I really enjoyed it because we got to go to a big school and we did a play.

by Eilidh Walker

On the 19.2.07 we began our visits to Aberfoyle Primary School for creativity week. We had a GREAT week. The P1/2s did a puppet show about the smartest giant in town; the P2/3/4s did a music play about three Vikings that were looking for Thors chest; the P4/5s did a play about 2 people who won the lottery and took all the animals from a zoo then took them back to the wild and took back an evil monkey. The P6s did Enterprise work and the P7s learnt to knit.

by Ross Walker

Drumming with Chief Chebee

On Wednesday 28th February we all went to Thornhill Primary School to do a drumming workshop with Chief Chebee. He taught us some songs to drum to. Chief Chebee came from Africa and one of the songs he taught us was 'Mosquito one, mosquito two, mosquito jump in a hot calaloo'. All of the school had a turn at drumming. At the end of the P6/7 session we 'drummed' to the Queen song 'We will rock you'. That was great!

by George Thwaites.

ARTS & CRAFTS IN THE PARK

A new opportunity for Craftspeople resident or employed within the National Park is now available at the Gateway Centre, Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch.

A series of one-day events will be held, beginning May 07. If your Craft or Artwork is capable of simple demonstration to involve and interest the public, a 6ft x 3ft table or equivalent space can be booked for £10 per day.

Crafts required - ceramics; glass; jewellery, wood and metalwork, textiles, with an emphasis on original work.

However, no food or bath products, or publications are eligible. Work must be your own and not bought in. Crafts using materials from within the park are especially welcome.

Our intention is to showcase new talent, as well as established businesses.

The Gateway Centre is a high profile, busy international tourist venue, offering your product maximum exposure at minimum cost. All applications warmly welcomed. Please send details of your craft or artwork, with a photo or image, if possible, to peter@midgydesignstudio.co.uk or ann@crannaighouse.com



Lopi Knitters Wanted

The international flavour for the 2007 Mushroom Festival is Iceland. Ann Epps needs help from everyone with knitting skills in making woollen garments from Icelandic "Lopi" wool. Ann has been buying-up wool and patterns on the internet so, unless you already have wool you would like to donate, your contribution is your enthusiasm. By sharing the task between many hands, it will be light work. Could anyone willing to help by knitting a garment in time for the Festival in October please contact Ann tel 382276 or e-mail Ann@crannaighouse.com Our work will be displayed much as we used to when "Country Pursuits of Strathard" held an annual show. Garments will be priced for sale during the festival and profits donated to charity.



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



The Garden Lobby at the Scottish Parliament was

the venue for a gathering in celebration of the community activists who have proved so helpful in getting the Park up and running. I know that it has been a long hard slog and there are still many who have yet to see any benefit from the Park. Indeed there have been times when I have touched on despair but all the despondency was banished as I mingled in the crowd of well over two hundred from all parts of the Park and who were able to relate what had been achieved in their communities. Everywhere there were tales of how being part of the Park community had engendered a spirit which made local dreams possible.

The event was arranged as a Thank You to the communities but the opportunity was taken to get the message over to those who hold the purse strings that with a bit more funding a lot more could be achieved within the Park. We had made sure that the relevant mandarins, MSPs and Ministers were in attendance. I am not overstating the position when I say that each and every one of them was impressed by the Pride In the Park exuding from the community representatives. Already we have had confirmation that our Funding for 2007 - 2008 will be £M7.391, an increase from the current year of £M1/2. With the confidence of community support behind us we are negotiating for more. Once again it has been shown that when the

community gets behind something, it can be done. So again a big thank you.

Friday 9th March saw another event which proves the worth of community initiative. This time it was housing and the Loch Katrine Community. I am sure that there will be full report elsewhere so I will confine my remarks to saying well done to all those involved in bringing to a successful conclusion the provision of two ex Scottish Water houses for tenants of Rural Stirling Housing Association.

And now to something about which I seem to be forever beating the drum and that is the National Park's Local Plan. As I have said on many an occasion, this is the document which most directly affects the residents of the Park. It is the document that determines what can and what cannot be developed within the Park. It is the aid to providing housing where communities want it and it sets the scene for anything else you want to see in the Park whether it be more commercial development or more leisure facilities. And the big thing is that you have a direct say on just what goes into it. This time the Local Plan is being prepared under the 2006 Planning Act which means that the community is consulted BEFORE a draft plan is prepared. The first meeting in this process for Strathard was on 17th March and I do hope that many of you managed along to the event but do not despair if you didn't as there will be other opportunities for you to make a contribution. We are trying to

align the Local Plan consultation with the revision of the Community Action Plans as they will be fed into the Local Plan. Once we have been round the various communities we will be gathering together all the issues that have been raised and we will publish details and seek the communities' comments. Only then will we proceed to producing a Draft Local Plan on which we will again consult the communities. I know that it sounds like a long drawn out process but the one thing it does ensure is that the communities of the Park will get the opportunity to influence exactly what goes into the plan. So please take that opportunity.

And finally I would like to highlight the very successful series of recitals by Scottish Opera in the venture called "Singing in The Park". They kicked off in Arrochar on 17th February and finished in Kilmun on 18th March, having visited a total of 10 communities - Gartmore and Callander being the nearest two communities that benefited. It is hoped that the venture will be repeated and I will be seeking to get Strathard CC area included next time around.

Owen McKee

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead,
FK 19 8PR

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

Trossachs Enterprise Rural Mentoring Scheme (T-E-R-M-S)

An innovative new rural business mentoring scheme has been launched to help aspiring entrepreneurs in the Trossachs tap into a wealth of rural business knowledge. The scheme, funded by Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER+, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Stirling Council and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, will be delivered by the local business association, Callander Enterprise.

The Trossachs Enterprise Rural Mentoring Scheme (TERMS) is a pilot scheme that will run across the whole of the Trossachs area on behalf of the funding partners.

Mentors from the local business community will be recruited to help support people who are thinking of setting up in business in the area. Enterprise visits will also be co-ordinated to help share good ideas and best business practice in rural areas.

TERMS came about after a year long study into the business support needs of the rural Stirling area and looked at how best to help budding entrepreneurs access the business opportunities presented by having National Park status in the area.

TERMS will be based in the new Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority's Offices in the Main Street in Callander from mid April 2007.

The scheme will run for two years in the first instance. Anyone interested in taking up the services of the scheme should contact Alison Wilde on 07912 853396.

CROSS COUNTRY STARS

Many of our young primary school children from Aberfoyle and Inversnaid Primary Schools took part in a cross country event held at Stirling University in late January. In freezing conditions some 250 girls and 300 boys from schools from all over Stirlingshire took part and there were some stellar performances by many of the children.

Achievement of a top 30 finish at this event meant qualification for the regional cross country finals held the Denny Centre on February 22nd.

Ellie Hall from primary 6 and David Wallace from primary 7 won through to represent Aberfoyle Primary School in an event which had 48 schools from Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling competing. In atrocious weather with knee deep mud and driving rain both Ellie and David put up outstanding performances to finish 20th and 25th respectively against some 150 qualifiers from around the region in each race.

Congratulations and well done to the both of them for a great achievement and for showing such commitment and tenacity in what were very challenging conditions.



Registering the changes this election day, 3 May



Voting is quick, easy and the single most important thing you can do to make your voice heard in your local community and in Scotland as a whole. Voters across the country will be going to the polls on Thursday 3 May to elect Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) and local councillors. Stirling Council is gearing up efforts to encourage people to check they are registered to vote and to make their voices heard on the day.

"Time is running out for any potential voters who have still to register to vote as the last possible date for receipt of applications is April 18, " says Electoral Registration Officer Brian Byrne. "You must be registered in time or you won't be able to vote on the day and if you leave it too late any queries on your application may prevent you being granted a vote.

"Paying council tax doesn't make someone eligible; you have to register annually at the address where you are resident. If you've recently moved house, changed your name or can't remember filling in a Voter Registration Form in the last 6 months, the advice is to check now that your name is on the Register."

Commonwealth, European Union and British citizens are eligible to register and vote if 18 on polling day, and students if registered can choose to vote in respect of either their home address or term-time address.

You should check now if you are unsure if you are registered by visiting your local library and asking to see the Register of Electors or by contacting:

Electoral Registration Office, Hillside House, Laurelhill, Stirling FK7 9JQ

Tel 01786 892289, Fax 01786 892255, Visit www.saa.gov.uk/central

Email ero@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk

If you prefer to vote by post rather than in person, you can apply for a postal vote, unless you have already filled in a form requesting a postal vote at every election. Application forms are available in local libraries or from the Electoral Registration Office, and must be received by 18 April at the latest.

There are some new things happening this election day.

In the Stirling Council vote:

- *you will vote in one of seven new multi-member wards, each of which will have three or four councillors. So instead of having one local councillor you will have three or four, who may represent different political parties.*
- *for the first time the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system will be used to calculate results instead of the traditional First Past the Post system. This means marking numbers (1,2,3,4 and so on) against candidates' names in order of preference instead of marking a single cross (X).*

In the Scottish Parliament vote:

- *both the constituency candidates and the Regional List will be set out on one single ballot paper. You make your choices by marking one cross (X) on each list.*

"There are going to be a few changes that people will notice on election day this year," explains Community Governance Manager Lyn Kennedy, who leads the elections team. "For example we'll be having an electronic count. All ballot papers will be scanned into a machine at the count, so we're asking voters please not to fold their ballot papers, as this will slow down the process. Another new thing will be having an official Information Officer on duty in most polling places. He or she will be happy to explain the voting process and answer any questions.

"We've prepared a dedicated elections website on www.stirling.gov.uk/elections with all kinds of useful information, including maps of the seven new multi-member wards, a presentation explaining how STV works and details of all polling places."

More Cuts Equals A Better Service

STIRLING Council has unveiled its plans for grass cutting provided by the Streetscape team for this year.

Streetscape employs 32 seasonal and permanent grass-cutting operatives, who recently underwent a 3-day induction training and health and safety programme at Forthbank Stadium. This included use of various machines and equipment, customer care, manual handling and health & safety in the workplace. Large contingents of the seasonal workforce are local residents of Stirling and return each year. Following last year's consultation, and in response to complaints received, the Council has committed additional resources toward the grass-cutting and grounds maintenance service for 2007-2008. This will permit the Streetscape Service to increase the number of grass-cuts from 14 to 16 (approximately every 10 working days), during the coming season

Executive Committee Member with Portfolio for Environment, Tom Coll said, "This year will see the communities in and around Stirling benefit from a focused, well thought out plan for grass cutting."

Vice Convenor of Development Control Panel, Tom Hazel, added, "Hopefully, past problems that have blighted the service will be eradicated and local residents and business will be able to see the commitment and level of service that Streetscape will provide."

The Council entered into a contractual arrangement for most of its grass-cutting services, for a two-year period, which began in April 2006. The Council proposes to re-tender the grass-cutting service, with the new contract commencing in spring 2008.

To ensure that all grass-cutting areas are included in the tendering exercise, the Streetscape Service has been re surveying all open space areas that the Council has responsibility for. These maps are currently being prepared on a community by community basis (54 in total). It is intended that these new maps will be issued to each Community Council, possibly through the Area Community Planning Forums, over the next 4 to 6 weeks. Some maps are already available and there are proposals to issue them as soon as practicable.

As part of the consultation process, communities will be supplied with; their map, showing the areas the Council has responsibility for; a questionnaire, to gather the views of each community and an opportunity to review and comment on the standard of service currently provided.

The consultation process will take place during the summer, with the communities' responses incorporated into the re-tendered contract(s), for the 2008-2009 season.

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RSPB Inversnaid

Andre, our grazier, reported hearing a green woodpecker on the edge of the reserve, an unusual reserve record and a species I have not recorded on the reserve in the seven years that I have been here. Luckily, I also heard it on a goat count one morning in the broad leaf woods near the boathouse.

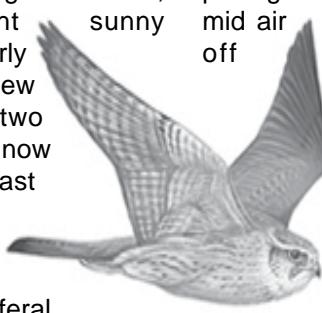
The feral goat counts have been less this winter with the weather being so bad; ideally, we need a bright sunny day with light winds. In early February the first of the new kids was showing, only two recorded so far but as it is now over a month since the last count there are bound to be a few more roaming about.

One of the kids is almost pure white except for the feral goat eye stripes and a broad brown stripe down the middle of its back. Thirty-one adult goats were counted, in their usual heft areas. The two billies resident on the Garrison have been sheltering in the sheep fank, and I find it interesting in that they don't always stay together when grazing, sometimes finding one well out on the hill whilst the other is close to the sheep fank. The mild but wet winter weather continues. Interestingly there has been little small bird activity: eight twite, thirty chaffinch, twenty fieldfare, six bullfinch, four reed bunting are

being regularly recorded and very early in February a skylark indicated that the spring passage was already under way. This is the earliest I have recorded skylark returning to the reserve, beating the previous date by three weeks! Golden eagles continue to be seen on an irregular basis, three being recorded together; since then we have had two on another day and even single golden eagles being seen. A peregrine falcon and a raven had a good tussle one morning and just mid air off the reserve, a barn owl has been showing regularly on the roadside at Loch Arklet. With the nights now starting to stretch, I had superb views of a male merlin flushed from a fence post and then landed on a pylon for two minutes, enough time to get the telescope out and admire it in detail.

Finally, by the end of April we will have installed our new car park at Garrison farm. The upland walk to the sheep fank will incorporate a new small bridge across the burn for keeping your feet dry and a couple of seats for resting and enjoying the superb views and wildlife that Inversnaid has to offer - however don't forget your midge repellent or you may not want to stay seated for long!

Duncan Cameron
Conservation Assistant



Male Merlin

Looking for a Speaker?

The RSPB is the largest conservation charity in Britain and plays a major role in protecting the wildlife of Scotland. We are keen to raise public awareness of birds and their habitats. We aim to develop an understanding of the role RSPB plays in protecting Scotland's wildlife and environment, and our talks certainly demonstrate this. Our most popular is "The RSPB in Scotland: its history and work", while we also have a range of other topics such as "Gardening for Wildlife" or The International Work of the RSPB. All are fully illustrated, informative, and entertaining. Talks can last from anything between twenty-five and fifty minutes, and the group would not have to supply any equipment as we have our own digital projector, screen and laptop.

If you require any more information, or to make a booking, please feel free to contact me either by email, post or directly at our Scottish headquarters on the number below. We are happy to take bookings from September 2007 and into the next year. Our talks are free of charge, although any donations are welcome.

Aileen Fox
Community Talks Volunteer
0131 311 6500
RSPB Scotland
Dunedin House
25 Ravelston Terr
Edinburgh EH4 3TP

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

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tramping through the trossachs!

Aberfoyle's 6th Annual Spring Outdoor Festival

01877 382 352

www.VisitAberfoyle.com

saturday 31st march to sunday 15th april 2007

Friday 30th March

South African Night

The Forth Inn

Pre T4 Gourmet Food & Wine Evening £29.95

Booking essential

01877 382 372 phil@ForthInn.com

Saturday 31st.

Intro. to Wayfarer Sailing

10.30am-Noon Forest Hills Watersports

£25pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm

Forest Hills Watersports

In the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park. £45pp

GoForth 01877 387 775

Sunday 1st. April

Trampers Big Fancy Dress Breakfast

10am to Noon Wee Blether, Kinlochard Dress Up as a Trossachs Trumper, arrive before noon to win a FREE Award Winning BIG breakfast!

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm £18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm

Forest Hills Watersports

In the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. £45pp

GoForth 01877 387 775

Climbing & Abseiling

1.30 - 3pm Forest Hills Watersports £30pp Booking Recommended GoForth, 01877 387 775

Archery

14:00 Easterhill Farm £18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Archery

4.00 - 5.00pm Forest Hills Watersports £20pp GoForth, 01877 387 775

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm £25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Trossachs Easter Praise

7pm Gartmore House A short service of praise to celebrate Easter. All are welcome. Refreshments to follow. 01877 382 991 info@GartmoreHouse.com

T4 Pub Quiz.

Fun starts 9pm The Forth Inn Prize for Winning Team! 01877 382 372 phil@ForthInn.com

Monday 2nd. April

Guided Walk

9.30 - 11.30am Aberfoyle

Sian Barrington, renowned writer and storyteller will illuminate a walk with his wealth of local knowledge.

Wear Sturdy Footware and suitable clothing

£3 Book: Forest Hills 0870 194 2105

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm

£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Kayaking on Loch Ard

10.30am-Noon Forest Hills Watersports

£25pp GoForth, 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm

Forest Hills Watersports

In the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park. £45pp

GoForth 01877 387 775

Blindfold Driving

14:00 Easterhill Farm

£12 per round

Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Sailing

2.00 - 3.30pm Forest Hills Watersports

£25pp GoForth, 01877 387 775

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm

£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Scottish Evening Booking Essential

Forest Hills, Kinlochard

6.00-7.00pm Whiskey Tasting £2

7.00-9.00pm Scottish Meal POA

9.00pm onwards Ceilidh Book: Forest Hills 0870 194 2105

Tuesday 3rd.

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm

£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Intro. to Quad biking on a Track

10am on - All day Forest Hills Watersports

£30pp for 30 mins GoForth 01877 387 775

Open Canoeing

10.30am-Noon Forest Hills Watersports

£25pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Paintball

14:00 Easterhill Farm

£35pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm

£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Farm Tour

2.30 - 5.30pm Ledard Farm, Kinlochard

Join us for an animated guided tour of this working farm with bags of history. Whisky Tasting, Jacobite Weaponry Display, Tea/Coffee in 17th C. MacGregor's Barn Booking essential Adults -£10, Children (10-15) -£5 Fergus or Gregor 01877 387219

Tuesday 3rd cont.

Archery

4.00 - 5.00pm Forest Hills Watersports £20pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Fly Casting

5.00 - 6.30pm Forest Hills Watersports £20pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Wednesday 4th.

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm £18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Quad bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm

Forest Hills Watersports

£45pp In the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park. GoForth 01877 387 775

Adventure Day

10.30am-1pm Land Based Adventure

Forest Hills Watersports

£35pp 1/2 Day or £60pp Full Day

Including some of the following, Climbing, Archery, Mountain Biking

2pm -4.30pm Water Based Adventure

Forest Hills Watersports

£35pp 1/2 Day or £60pp Full Day

Including some of the following Canoeing, Kayaking, Raft Building & Sailing come and explore the Loch. Booking Recommended for both. GoForth 01877 387 775

Archery

14:00 Easterhill Farm

£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm

£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Ghost Walk

7 - 9pm from Forest Hills, Kinlochard

Do you believe in ghosts? Sian Barrington, renowned writer and storyteller, will keep you spellbound with tales of the supernatural. Wear Sturdy Footware and suitable clothing. Car essential £3 Book: Forest Hills 08701 942 105

Thursday 5th.

Guided Walk

9.30 - 11.30am Kinlochard

Sian Barrington, renowned writer and storyteller will illuminate a walk with his wealth of local knowledge. Wear Sturdy Footware and suitable clothing. Car essential £3 Book: Forest Hills 0870 194 2105

Easterhill Adventure

Full day 10.30am-approx. 4pm

Easterhill Farm

Quad Biking, Paintball, Mountain Boarding, Power Kiting & Archery. Includes lunch. £60pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Thursday 5th, cont

Mountain Bike Tour

10.30am - Noon Forest Hills Watersports
Within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. £30pp
GoForth, 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. £45pp
GoForth 01877 387 775

Archery

4.00 - 5.00pm Forest Hills Watersports
£20pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Friday 6th,

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm
£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

4x4 Safari

10.30am - Noon Forest Hills Watersports
Visit areas around Loch Ard. Amazing views
throughout this area of the Loch Lomond and
Trossachs National Park with some excellent photo
opportunities. £25pp Booking Recommended
GoForth 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. £45pp
GoForth 01877 387 775

Paintball

14:00 Easterhill Farm
£35pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm
£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Festival Family Easter Ceilidh

8 to Late Kinlochard Village Hall
Easter EggHead Painting Competition! BYOB
Get your Tickets early: Adults -£7. Children -£5
Raising Funds for Village Hall.
Kinlochard Shop 01877 387 284

Saturday 7th.

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm
£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Intro. to Wayfarer Sailing

10.30am-Noon Forest Hills Watersports
£25pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
£45pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Scavenger Hunt

11am - 4pm David Marshall Lodge
What's to be found on the Waterfall Trail? Come and
see what you can find. Prizes 01877 382 2258

Archery

14:00 Easterhill Farm
£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm
£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Candlelit Dusk Walk with Ranger

7.30pm David Marshall Lodge
£5 Booking Essential 01877 382 2258

T4 Karaoke in The Wallace Bar

The Forth Inn Starts 9pm

Sunday 8th.

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm
£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the
National Park. £45pp
GoForth 01877 387 775

Climbing & Abseiling

1.30 - 3pm Forest Hills Watersports
£30pp Booking Recommended
GoForth 01877 387 775

Easter Fun Day

11am - 4pm David Marshall Lodge
A Fun packed day full of Easter surprises;
Scavenger Hunt, Egg Decorating, Duck racing Bird
Box Building, Donation to RSPB

Diving Ducks

12noon & 2pm
Rubber duck races £1 entry. Prizes too
01877 382 2258 susan.monkey@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Easter Sunday Funday,

12 noon - 4pm. The Scottish Wool Centre
Bring the family to meet the Magic Clown and join in
egg hunt, quizzes and colouring competition. FREE
01877 382 850

Blindfold Driving

14:00 Easterhill Farm
£12 per round
Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm
£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Archery

4.00 - 5.00pm Forest Hills Watersports
£20pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Monday 9th.

Guided Walk

9.30 - 11.30am Aberfoyle
Sian Barrington, renowned writer and storyteller will
illuminate a walk with his wealth of local knowledge.
Wear Sturdy Footwear and suitable clothing
£3
Book: Forest Hills 0870 194 2105

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm

£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Kayaking on Loch Ard

10.30am-Noon Forest Hills Watersport
£25pp GoForth, 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the
National Park. £45pp
GoForth 01877 387 775

Paintball

14:00 Easterhill Farm
£35pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Sailing on Loch Ard

2.00 - 3.30pm Forest Hills Watersports
£25pp GoForth, 01877 387 775

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm
£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Monday 9th. cont.

Scottish Evening Booking Essential

Forest Hills, Kinlochard
6.00-7.00pm Whiskey Tasting £2
7.00-9.00pm Scottish Meal POA
9.00pm onwards Ceilidh
Book: Forest Hills 0870 194 2105

Tuesday 10th.

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm
£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Intro. to Quad biking on a Track

10am - All day Forest Hills Watersports
£30pp for 30 mins GoForth 01877 387 775

Open Canoeing

10.30am-Noon Forest Hills Watersports
£25pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Archery

14:00 Easterhill Farm
£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Farm Tour

2.30 - 5.30pm Ledard Farm, Kinlochard
Join us for an animated guided tour of this working
farm with bags of history. Whisky Tasting, Jacobite
Weaponry Display, Tea/Coffee in 17th C. MacGregor's
Barn Booking essential Adults -£10, Children (10-
15) -£5 Fergus or Gregor 01877 387 2119

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm
£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Archery

4.00 - 5.00pm Forest Hills Watersports
£20pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Fly Casting

5.00 - 6.30pm Forest Hills Watersports
£20pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Wednesday 11th.

Mountain Boarding & Power Kiting

10:00 Easterhill Farm
£18pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the
National Park. £45pp
GoForth 01877 387 775

Adventure Day

10.30am-1pm Land Based Adventure
Forest Hills Watersports
£35pp 1/2 Day or £60pp Full Day
Including some of the following, Climbing, Archery,
Mountain Biking

2pm - 4.30pm Water Based Adventure

Forest Hills Watersports
£35pp 1/2 Day or £60pp Full Day
Including some of the following Canoeing,
Kayaking, Raft Building & Sailing come and
explore the Loch.

Booking Recommended for both
GoForth 01877 387 775

Blindfold Driving

14:00 Easterhill Farm
£12 per round
Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Off Road Buggy Driving

15:00 Easterhill Farm
£25pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Wednesday 11th. cont.

Ghost Walk

7 - 9pm from Forest Hills, Kinlochard
Do you believe in ghosts? Sian Barrington, renowned writer and storyteller, will keep you spellbound with tales of the supernatural! Wear Sturdy Footwear and suitable clothing. Car essential £3
Book: Forest Hills 01870 194 2105

Thursday 12th.

Guided Walk

9.30 - 11.30am Kinlochard
Sian Barrington, renowned writer and storyteller will illuminate a walk with his wealth of local knowledge. Wear Sturdy Footwear and suitable clothing. Car essential £3
Book: Forest Hills 01870 194 2105

Easterhill Adventure

Full day 10.30am-approx. 4pm

Easterhill Farm

Quad Biking, Paintball, Mountain Boarding, Power Kiting & Archery. Includes lunch. £60pp Ross: 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898

Mountain Bike Tour

10.30am - Noon Forest Hills Watersports
Within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. £30pp
GoForth, 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park
GoForth 01877 387 775

Archery

4.00 - 5.00pm Forest Hills Watersports
£20pp GoForth 01877 387 775

Friday 13th.

4x4 Safari

10.30am - Noon Forest Hills Watersports
Visit areas around Loch Ard. Amazing views throughout this area of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park with some excellent photo opportunities. £25pp
Booking Recommended
GoForth 01877 387 775

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest area of the National Park. £45pp
GoForth 01877 387 775

T4 Family Challenge Day 1

6 Fun Events, 3 Different Venues, 3 Days
Prizes. Call for info & entry form.

Easterhill Farm 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898
10:30 am Blindfold Driving Mega Course
13.30 pm Mountain Boarding/ Power Kites

Ledard Farm 01877 387 219
10.30am Clay Pigeon Shooting
13.30pm Rifle Target Shooting

Forest Hills Watersports 01877 387 775
10.30am Archery Competition
13.30pm Open Canoe Treasure Hunt

Saturday 14th.

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park.
£45pp GoForth 01877 387 775

T4 Family Challenge Day 2

6 Fun Events, 3 Different Venues, 3 Days
Prizes. Call for info & entry form.

Easterhill Farm 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898
10:30 am Blindfold Driving Mega Course
13.30 pm Mountain Boarding/ Power Kites

Ledard Farm 01877 387 219
10.30am Clay Pigeon Shooting
13.30pm Rifle Target Shooting

Forest Hills Watersports 01877 387 775
10.30am Archery Competition
13.30pm Open Canoe Treasure Hunt

Ranger Guided Walk

12pm David Marshall Lodge
Ranger Lead Walk (1 1/2 - 2 hours) taking in the Achray forest walk (Red) covering the heritage and nature of the area. £5 charge Booking essential 01877 382 258 susan.monkey@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Sunday 15th.

Quad Bike Treks

10.30am, 12.30 & 2.30pm
Forest Hills Watersports
In the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park.
£45pp GoForth 01877 387 775

T4 Family Challenge Day 3

6 Fun Events, 3 Different Venues, 3 Days
Prizes. Call for info & entry form.

Easterhill Farm 01877 382 875/ 07768 128 898
10:30 am Blindfold Driving Mega Course
13.30 pm Mountain Boarding/ Power Kites

Ledard Farm 01877 387 219
10.30am Clay Pigeon Shooting
13.30pm Rifle Target Shooting

Forest Hills Watersports 01877 387 775
10.30am Archery Competition
13.30pm Open Canoe Treasure Hunt

Ospreys Return & Bird Activities

11am - 4pm David Marshall Lodge
An event to celebrate the return of the Trossachs ospreys from West Africa. Visit the bird of prey viewing centre at the David Marshall Lodge and watch the osprey drama unfold live on camera.
Donation to RSPB 01877 382 258

Ranger Guided Walk

12 pm and 2pm David Marshall Lodge
See and look for the signs of the animals and birds that live there. £5 per adult, children free but must be accompanied. Booking required.
01877 382 258 susan.monkey@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

and to finish off

T4 Pub Quiz.

9pm Forth Inn
Prize for Winning Team

That's all for this year!

But remember we are here all year round to help you get the most from your visits.

...and the scenery is here, changing with the seasons, all year too!

Find out what's going on at

www.VisitAberfoyle.com,

www.forestry.gov.uk

www.visitscottishheartlands.com

Park Life mag. and Park Free Press

Rob Roy Highland Games For Kinlochard

The Rob Roy Highland Games, kindly sponsored by Forest Hills Hotel, are to take place on the loch field adjacent to the Village Hall on **Sunday 15th July** commencing with a Grand March from Forest Hills to the Games Field. Heavy athletes, led by the veteran Hamish Davidson, will be taking part along with pipe bands and dancers. There will be a special Children's Games with traditional competitions, such as egg-and-spoon, sack race, and three-legged race. Waterborne activities include a regatta by Loch Ard Sailing Club, steamboats, and an Open Day presented by the Central Scotland branch of the Pike Angling Association of Scotland. A highlight of the show will be the Prettiest Sheepdog in Scotland Competition for Border Collies – girls only! Side shows will include the famous Duck Race, Beat the Goalie, Guess the Weight of the Logs, and a Coconut Shy. A licensed bar and burger BBQ will be available during the day and also at a family ceilidh dance in the hall, featuring the Kinlochard Ceilidh Band.

For further information, contact Fergus Wood, tel: 01877 387219.

Is Big Really Beautiful?

We keep being told that big is better. The parents and children at Lochearnhead are being told that the curriculum can't be delivered effectively in a small school. This is simply not true.

We are told that a bigger hospital will deliver a better service. How can this be? The cunning plan is to offload some of the services to our community resource which is already stretched to the limit. This is not intended as a criticism of our local practice: I'm sure at times the staff must share our frustration.

I've been without a telephone for two weeks and from what I hear I am lucky to have had the problem fixed so quickly. It took me a week to convince BT that there was a fault on the line. Each time I complained, they sent me a phone. Is this another company which has grown too big, is top heavy or understaffed. Whatever the cause, the company is not delivering.

I could go on; in fact I am rapidly becoming one of those *Grumpy Old Women*. However, sometimes the inefficiency of these large companies can work in our favour. Just recently I had a problem with my computer and was told I would probably lose all my data (I know I should have backed it up). I was advised that I could try PC World but there wasn't much hope. When I phoned, I was told I couldn't have an appointment for at least two weeks. I had already tried Graham at Microcroft but it turns out he was snowed in in Birmingham. I then tried Stirling IT. This is a tiny business in Stirling Enterprise Park manned by enthusiasts. Stuart started work on it immediately at 4.30pm. He apologised for keeping me waiting but my system was complicated (can't remember the technicalities). He persevered, keeping me updated by phone – yes, HE actually phoned ME. When he managed to recover my data the following morning, he was as delighted as I was. The whole experience quite restored my faith in human nature.

I also think there's a valuable lesson to be learned. We are lucky to have small businesses locally who give the personal touch and who are good at what they do. Let's use them before we lose them. Too big is too unwieldy and just does not work to our benefit.



Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

To mark Dementia Awareness Week 2007 (3rd-10th June 2007), the Stirling and Clackmannanshire Service is organising a 'Risk Reduction and Healthy Living' Conference on Wednesday 6th June 2007 at The Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling between 9.30am and 2.30pm. Included in the day will be speakers on the latest research findings; on managing your memory; some ideas for activities for people with dementia; and information about living with dementia in the community. In addition, there will be plenty of information available and a chance to have your blood pressure checked, to test for diabetes or to speak to someone from the Carers Centre. The day costs £40, including refreshments and lunch, with concessions for people with dementia and carers.

Dementia is one of the most devastating conditions that can affect us. It progressively destroys the brain cells, affecting every aspect of daily life and can last for many years. Approximately 58,000 people in Scotland have dementia and this number will continue to rise with our ageing population.

Alzheimer Scotland, Scotland's leading specialist dementia charity, provides practical help, support and information to people with dementia, their families and carers. To find out more about our conference or to book a place, please call us on 01786 831171 or e-mail us at stirlingservices@alzscot.org.

FRIENDS OF ABERFOYLE AND BUCHLYVIE MEDICAL CENTRES

AGM will be held in BUCHLYVIE MEDICAL CENTRE on APRIL 23rd @ 1.30pm.

At the end of this meeting DR .B. POLLOK will give a talk on: COMPUTERISATION OF MEDICAL RECORDS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY.

Non-members also welcome to attend.

FUTURE EVENTS: An open session on: DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS FOR PARENTS will be held in BUCHLYVIE VILLAGE HALL on APRIL 24th @ 7.30pm. (For further information contact: Liz Fuller 01360 850 246)

Police Community Website

Constables Jo McDowall and Ricky Govan are the two locally based Police Officers covering the village of Aberfoyle and the surrounding communities. They carry out community liaison duties in Aberfoyle and can be contacted at Aberfoyle Police Office. Tel 01877 382 222. They can also be contacted by email through the Central Scotland Police website www.centralscotland.police.uk. There is a community page for Aberfoyle on the website which can be accessed by going to MY AREA, DUNBLANE SAC, ABERFOYLE. There you will find community news regarding crime updates and proposed police surgery dates.



Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!

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

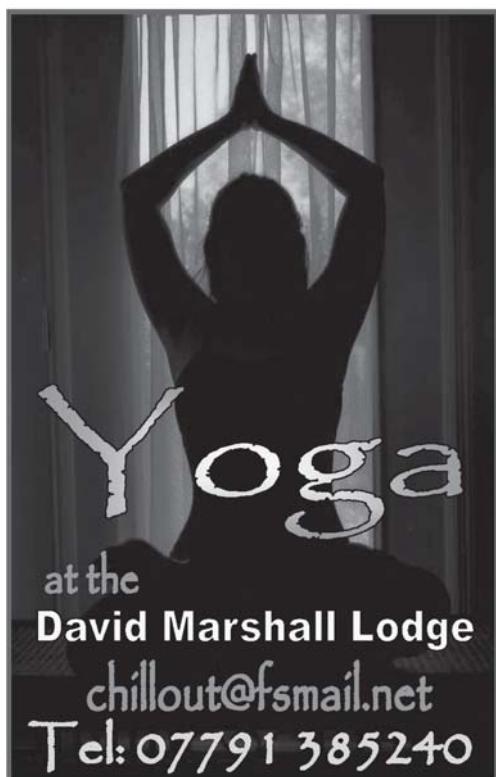


(photo courtesy of John McKinley)

WHEN YOGA UP TO THE LODGE TODAY...

To do yoga you don't need to be anything but yourself. It's a common misconception that you need to be bendy and flexy to take part in yoga. But it's more than getting yourself into weird and wonderful positions – it's about breathing and inner focus, making it so much more rewarding than mere stretching. Yoga is not a synchronised 'sport', it's an individual practice which you take and make yours. The benefits are vast: expanding lung capacity, calming and relaxing the mind, improving blood circulation to joints, muscles and inner organs to name but a few. Yoga gets you feeling energised, relaxed and taller....improved strength and flexibility are just an extra added bonus! Classes have now started at the David Marshall Lodge. Ashtanga Vinyasa is a set routine of yoga postures which flow from one to the other and is great for a hot and sweaty workout - an 8 week introductory course will start you out if you have never done yoga before. The general yoga class concentrates on breathing, yoga postures, relaxation and inner focus.

For more information contact Brenda at ChillOut at the Lodge or phone 07791 385240



ARGYLL CLASSIC CAR RUN

An unexpected bonus for our visitors arrived in the shape of the ninety- plus classic vehicles which descended upon The Lodge as part of the centenary celebrations marking the opening of the magnificent Argyll Motor Works Alexandria. What made this happening special was the fact it was Scotland's first GREEN classic car event. The organisers, seeking to raise awareness of climate change issues, with a carbon payback scheme, had decreed that an amount be taken from each entry fee reflecting the carbon footprints of each vehicle taking part in the 100 mile run. In addition, entrants, spectators and organisers were asked to make a contribution reflecting the impact of their travel to and from the event. Despite the drizzle of rain as the cars pulled in, there was a healthy turn out to witness the proceedings, with every available space taken. I think it would be fair comment to suggest this splendid day has staked an early claim to be one of the highlights of the 2007 Lodge calendar.



(NOT ONLY) JUST THE TICKET

The Lodge has recently introduced an innovative scheme which goes under the banner 'Friends of the D.M.L.' For the price of a seasonal car park ticket (£10.00) our regular customers will qualify for 10% reduction on Forest Crafts Shop purchases and 10% discount on Christmas trees. Although still in its infancy, this will eventually reap further benefits such as newsletters and preferential bookings for events. I think anyone would have to agree this represents exceptional value for money. Please contact any of the staff for details on 01877 382 258

DML Notice Board

To get us under way for the new season, we have two major events taking place:

EASTER WEEKEND

Saturday 7th April:

The waterfall trail will be the focus of attention throughout the day (and Sunday) with a free spring scavenger hunt for the kids and a candlelit dusk wildlife walk at 7.30 p.m. The evening event costs £5.00, and numbers are limited

Sunday 8th April 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.:

Traditionally regarded as a curtain-raiser, the Easter Fun Day is one of our busiest and most enjoyable of the year. Following our church service at 8.00 a.m. the children's activities will begin at 12.00 p.m. with the first of two rubber duck races at the waterfall (the second is at 2.00 p.m.) These proved extremely popular last season and each race is limited to 50 entries. From 12.00 p.m. till 3.00 p.m., there will be an egg decorating competition within the Lodge, along with nest box building. There is a minimal charge for the activities and prizes will be available.

OSPREYS RETURN

Sunday 15th April

The long- awaited return of our osprey family is celebrated with related activities and two ranger guided walks with a bird of prey theme at 12.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m., which are bookable, again with limited numbers, for £5.00

Rangers Corner

Waiting for a winter that never came,
Now, it appears, things will no longer be the same.

Global Warming is here to stay

And the reasons for this are as clear as day:

Lack of thought, lack of care,

Lack of insight, and the need to be aware.

Make no mistake; changes will impact on us all

Black, white or yellow, tall, medium or small

And instead of 'looking forward' to the next heatwave

It is our very existence we should be seeking to save.

As Nature delivers its own warning signs

It is time we started to read between the lines

And time we all made an effort to understand

The problems we face before things get out of hand.

This planet offers a wealth of resources and a myriad of pleasures;

Are we truly prepared to give up on these treasures?

Our environment need not take second place

To endless conflicts of politics, religion or race

And if we continue to consider this a problem for tomorrow

The lives of our children will be filled with naught but sorrow.



THE

Aberfoyle Gathering

McLellans Field

Saturday 25th August
11 am till 4 pm

Contacts

David Willkie

01877 382 868

Jackie Bell

01877 382 142

Julie Glen

01877 382 296

GUESS WHO'S ON THEIR WAY?

There is an ever growing sense of anticipation in the Birds of Prey room at the D.M.L. The adult pair of ospreys that successfully raised two chicks in 2005 and 2006 are due back from their wintering grounds in West Africa during the last week in March / first week in April, and, to be frank, we cannot wait to welcome them home. The cameras on the nest that send us live pictures are now on site and we are ready to record their arrival. Hopefully the two adults will have survived their 6,000 mile round trip, and we have numerous questions that will no doubt be answered over the exciting weeks and months to come: will our birds have to defend their nest from intruding newcomers? How many eggs will be laid? Will all the eggs hatch? Will all the youngsters survive to fledge the nest? So many imponderables and so many uncertainties - one thing that IS for certain is that whilst the ospreys may be the 'stars of our show' there will be plenty of supporting acts, which we also have live on camera. Great tits are already taking nesting material into one of our nest-cam boxes, red squirrels are regularly seen in fine weather enjoying the peanut treats from the squirrel boxes and a pair of barn owls have been observed mating in their nest box. Spring is in the air - why not join us at the D.M.L. and watch the intimate events of the season unfold before your very eyes. It will be magic!



GREEN LIGHT FOR ABERFOYLE'S HIGH ROPE ADVENTURE COURSE

Plans to build a high wire forest adventure course with a difference at Forestry Commission Scotland's David Marshall Lodge in Aberfoyle, have been approved by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

The Go Ape course is to be built amongst the tree tops, offering participants a physical and mental challenge, and a different perspective of the surrounding environment. Go Ape, the a multi-award winning provider of high ropes adventure courses at twelve forest

locations across the UK, will take participants 60 feet high up in the canopy, allowing them to climb, swing and slide through a series of nets, ropes, trapezes and zip slides. Anyone over 10 years can enjoy up to three hours of fun and adventure in the treetops.

Stuart Chalmers, for Forestry Commission Scotland in Aberfoyle, said:

"We are delighted that the Go Ape course is coming to the forest.

"The course is about challenging yourself whilst you swing through

the trees surrounded by a fantastic landscape. The best bit is that whilst you are having a great time you will also be getting some healthy exercise too. A visit can be nestled into a day trip, where you can cycle through the forests taking in the stunning views, view some wildlife at our watch centre, or take a gentle stroll.

"The course will build on the development of the visitor services at David Marshall Lodge and will add a significant and appropriate tourist attraction to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park portfolio."

The proposed course is adjacent to the visitor centre and car park. It will also open up previously inaccessible parts of the woodland with the creation of new paths.



KIRK NEWS

A few years back, my wife and I decided to climb the Lime Craig. We were following a guided walk which we had found in Cameron McNeish's book, 25 Walks in the Trossachs, purchased from the Rob Roy Tourist Centre in Callander.

It was a beautiful day and, as we climbed upwards, we were afforded some beautiful views of Aberfoyle and its surroundings. As we neared the top, we consulted the guide book and found these words: "Continue uphill, but take heart, as you round the next bend you'll see the TV mast and the hut which sit on the summit of Lime Craig, your destination".

Onwards and upwards we went until we reached the hilltop, on which there stood no mast or hut. Where had they gone? We looked at the date of the publication, which recorded it as 1994. The book was relatively recent, but the ground markings indicating the position of the mast seemed to suggest that it had been removed much earlier.

We puzzled about it for a moment or two, but were soon captivated by the panorama which had opened up before us. What a beautiful place to live and work in!

Now that I am covering as Locum during the ministerial vacancy at the Kirk, I still hold that feeling in my heart. It is my privilege to be able to offer preaching and pastoral support at this time and to get to know you and the community.

My prayer is that it will not be long before you (and the folks at the Port) will have a successor to Danny Gibb who served you so well. In the meantime, I will seek to offer you the best that I can, in God's service.

As I drive over to Aberfoyle now, I sometimes look up at the Lime Craig and think about the missing mast. What difference does it make to your life? Probably none, you may reply. But say it was the Kirk that was missing from your community – what a difference that would make! No worship and no caring, loving, witness to the love of God in Christ. There would be a big empty spiritual hole at the heart of your community life. Just as we need the support of the church, during sad and joyful times, so during the vacancy we need you to support the church. We want it to be strong and active for the arrival of a new minister.

Jim Brown, Locum Minister.

Services

Sunday 25th March

11.15am: Morning Worship
7.00pm: Six Churches United Services for Lent - Aberfoyle

Sunday 1st April

11.15am: Palm Sunday Worship
7.00pm: Six Churches United Services for Lent - Kippen

Friday 6th April

7.00pm: United Service of Worship on Good Friday

Sunday 8th April

8.00am Six Churches United Family Easter Day Service at the David Marshall Lodge
11.15am: Worship for Easter Day

Sunday 15th April

11.15am: Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd April

11.15am: Morning Worship

Sunday 29th April

11.15am: Morning Worship

The Guild

Meetings for this session are now over. We were delighted to have ladies from Port of Menteith Guild joining us and we are now one unit.



Over the year we visited surrounding Guilds and were happy to return the hospitality when they came to us.

Our project for this year, *Scottish Love in Action*, has proved very popular and we were delighted when Mrs. Gillie Davidson came and gave us the latest news about it. When we learned that Gillie's father was Rev. Boyd McPhail, one of our former ministers, it made it all the more interesting.

In February we were very pleased to accept Mrs Barwick's kind invitation to visit the school and hear the children perform their Scots poems and songs. It is good that this link between school and church, started many years ago, is being maintained.

We will be holding our Annual Sale on Saturday, 18th August when we hope we can count on your continued support: more news nearer the time.

PORT OF MENTEITH

The **Sandy Stewart Memorial Committee for Cancer Research** welcomes everyone to the annual plant sale to be held in Port of Menteith village hall on Saturday 12th May 10am - 2pm. As well as a variety of plants for sale there will be a sales table and hamper raffle. Coffees will be available till noon. Soup (£1.50) will be served from noon onwards. Admission £1 (includes coffee and biscuits)

Contribution of Plants - Please bring to hall on Friday 11th March 3pm - 4pm.

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Albion Mobility is a new family run company based in the very heart of Scotland. Barbara McCallum, one of the partners said, "I am passionate that the foundation of Albion Mobility will be built on our promise to provide the one thing lacking in so many areas today, good service. From the first point of contact through assessment, sale and beyond, we want to assure our clients that they will be treated in a friendly respectful manner. We are determined to build a client base built on trust, with the client knowing that we will offer a first class service long after the sale has been concluded."

Barbara has worked within the private Mobility market for the past seven years, before which she worked within the NHS in both the wheelchair service and community loan stores. With her previous employer, Kent Mobility, Barbara's role was in the provision of prescriptive products, where she amassed a wealth of knowledge providing assessments on manual and powered wheelchairs together with comfort style tilt in space chairs. Albion Mobility still has strong links with Kent Mobility and through them has secured sole distribution rights for the Colours in Motion manual wheelchairs in Scotland something they are proud to promote. Colours in Motion's everyday and sports chairs are famous for their unique ride and sometimes controversial names. In addition these

chairs all carry a user's lifetime warranty on the frames! Albion Mobility delivered their first Colours in Motion chair in Scotland to Mr Ian Morris of Aberdeen who said, "I have never had a more professional service or been measured more thoroughly for a wheelchair before. I am more than happy to recommend your company to other wheelchair users." Having been happy in her job in the South it was with mixed feelings that she left but says she has found the experience of opening her own business both daunting and exhilarating. "Not being from the area poses its own problems so we need to get ourselves known and to build up the same type of reputation which I left behind in the South. We are aiming to work closely with local nursing homes, local doctor's surgeries and hospitals." Albion Mobility has a large showroom where, along with manual chairs, they hold a wide range of powered chairs from Invacare and Moving People.net. Both manufacturers provide good quality products combined with a back up system and easy access to spare parts. There is also a private room where an assessment can be conducted and where clients can trial products at their leisure. Alternatively they are more than happy to conduct an assessment in the comfort of your own home. The company are also fortunate to



have an in house technician and workshop on site.

The ethos of our business will be to provide a high standard of customer service with assessments conducted in a friendly but professional manner, Barbara said, "With so many options now available on products we will ensure our staff impart clear concise information on the product and its capabilities. Combine this knowledge with listening to the user's expectations and any limitations in using the product, which may be environmental or as a result of their medical condition, thereby ensuring the end user receives a product which will enhance their lifestyle. We aim to be able to provide any mobility/rehabilitation provision our clients may require; our range includes manual and power wheelchairs, mobility scooters, electric profiling beds, floor hoists, stair lifts, rise and recline armchairs, walking aids, bathing/toileting aids, the Chilloo pillow and aids to daily living"

Albion Mobility will be exhibiting at the Independent Living Scotland at Glasgow SECC on the 28th – 29th March 2007 you will find them on stand C3 where they will have a range of the everyday, sport and paediatric chairs manufactured by Colours in Motion UK and they hope to exhibit the newest model to hit the market 'The Razor,' along with Küschall's new 'R33' and a range of power products from Invacare and Moving People.net. Why not come along and meet the team. Free registration forms for the show can be sent on request; contact Albion Mobility on 01259 272167 or albionmobility@btconnect.com.

Albion Mobility, Unit 3 Block 1 Cooperage Way, Cooperage Way Business Village, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, FK10 3LP
www.albionmobility.co.uk

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To arrange a free demonstration call
01259 272167

Or visit our showroom:
Unit 3 Block 1 Cooperage Way, Cooperage Way Business Village, Alloa, FK10 3LP

News From Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre

Work goes on at the centre and everyone is very busy.

All the big pens for the wee furries have been finished. We just need shelving in the chinchilla house to enable all the cages to be off the floor then they can move into their new home. Thanks go to Andy, David and John for their hard work.

The horses are all inside giving us more work but they are much more comfortable. When wet and windy outside it is lovely to hear them munching contentedly on their hay and are dry and warm.

We managed, with help from two large donations (thank you Iain and Douglas) to buy some comfy rubber mats enabling all the equines to rest on soft floors. This is an enormous welfare issue and relieves pressure on the horses legs giving even more comfort. It also gives us less work as mucking out is MUCH easier!

Another important part of the centre is our desire to help some Rare Breeds in some way. After discussions and deliberations it was decided to start a small breeding programme for some animals on the Critical list of the Rare Breed society. As I have more knowledge in breeding horses than cows, sheep or pigs (having bred and reared 8 foals over the years) we went for a VERY rare breed of pony - the Eriskay. These beautiful hardy ponies are indigenous to the tiny island of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides. Due to the difficulty over the years of transporting animals on and off the island they have remained one of the purest breeds. We spent a long time looking for our pure Eriskay female and at long last managed to find a beautiful seven month old filly foal in WALES. She came home at the end of last year a wild,

frightened baby having had little handling. Through gentle persistent handling she is beginning to trust those around her and EVERYONE thinks she is wonderful. There is still a long way to go but we are getting there. Gwerthfawr (Gweth - ow) Diamond is 95% pure meaning she is registered in the Main Register of the Eriskay Pony Society and is able to be used for breeding. When old enough she will become one of only three HUNDRED pure breeding mares WORLD-WIDE !!!

Other animals taken into the centre over the past few months have luckily been few: two baby rabbits came and very quickly were rehomed along with a male guinea pig and another HUGE castrated male rabbit arrived who has moved into the "Ladies Drawing Room" - our large female enclosure. Willow has taken to the bachelor life very well and is often found cuddled up to one or other of the ladies. Our Silent Auction will have taken place by the time this article goes to press. We will be having a sponsored Dog walk probably on the weekend of 28/29th April; this will take place from Easterhill and will include a tour of the centre once the dogs have been walked and replaced in the cars. Please support this enjoyable way to raise funds. Look out for

posters advertising the event nearer the time.

Sarah, one of our volunteers has gone to work in a vet practise in England; Gavin is at present at Oatridge Agricultural college and Emma is hoping to also go to Oatridge in September to study Animal Care. It is nice to think we have in a small way helped these youngsters towards their goals. Well done all of you.

Other volunteers are always needed as the work is never ending and if you feel you would like to spend time helping the many animals in our care or help at the many fundraising events please get in touch - Tel : Mione 07748 351287. We accept all ages from 10 - 80+ and training is given for the many tasks involved.



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

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Ask for Andrew

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Nr Aberfoyle, Stirling. FK8 3UY**

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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.

DRY MEN SHOW

SATURDAY 26TH MAY 2007



The mornings are brighter and the nights are now getting longer, and that only means one thing in the Strathendrick area, there are only a few short weeks left for the Drymen Show Committee to get the 2007 show organised.

With that in mind a lot of hard work has already taken place by each and every one of us involved in the show and it is only early March. This year's show will take place on Saturday 26th May 2007 with the gates opening at 9am to the public.

This year we have lots of new and exciting events and classes taking place for all the family to enjoy throughout the day: there will of course be all the regulars with Cattle, Sheep, Highland Ponies in-hand and ridden classes, Rabbits, Sheepdog Trials, Sheep shearing S.W.R.I tent, Schools Competitions (see web-site for class details), Dogs (enter on the day), Baja Show Jumping both junior and senior, in-hand and ridden, Hunters, Show Ponies, Mountain & Moorland and, of course, everyone's favourite the in-hand and harnessed Clydesdales horses. For the first time this year a ridden class has been added to the schedule for the Clydesdale breed; just don't stand too close to the ring as they show off their canter - the ground really shudders under you as they pass by. For a full show schedule please see the shows web-site at www.drymenshow.com.

Plans for the afternoon's entertainment are also well under way. We hope this year's main ring events will be a real winner, and there is something for all ages. To start the afternoon off there will be the prize winner's parade lead by the Milngavie Pipe band, after which the prize giving will take place. This year's prize presenter is a well guarded secret, keep checking the website for details on who it will be. For the first time this year we have Kenny Dickson and the Scottish Wool Centre's Quack Commandos. Ever wondered how the shepherds on One Man and His Dog do it, well just watch the commandos and listen to Kenny and you will learn a lot, but watch out for the a u d i e n c e participation part (I made the mistake of looking into

Kenny's eyes two years ago at Blair Castle Horse show and lived to regret it). After their performance you are welcome to meet the ducks and dogs.

Returning to our main ring this year are the wonderfully active and speedy Pony Club Games Teams - boy can those ponies move and how on earth do the riders stay in that saddle, (super glue I think)! Also returning this year will be the Strathendrick Classic Car Club, Heavy Horse Turnout class and Children's Races. We hope to have confirmation soon of other acts for the afternoon's entertainment. Please see website for up to date information on the afternoon's events.

Outside of the main ring there will be lots to stop and have a look at: Frazer Spittle will be showing off his skills as a farrier by shoeing a Clydesdale as you watch; a team from the Jenkins Highland Dance troop from Falkirk will also be on hand for

a fling or two; weather permitting the helicopter will take you up for a bird's eye view of the show and, as always, there will be a large selection of trade stands for you to stop and buy from.

This year's kids' competition to win free entry for you and your family (2 adults 2 Children and car) can be found on the show website (see below for address): just answer the 6 easy questions and either email your answers to press.drymenshow@fsmail.net on the entry form provided or download the enter form and post to the following address -

Drymen Show Comp,
c/o H McAllister,
Creightyhall Farm,
Buchanan, Drymen
GLASGOW G63
0AD, closing date for
this is Friday 11th May
2007 at 5pm. Winners
will be drawn Monday



the 14th May and will receive their prizes by post, so don't forget your full name and address on the form. Good luck to you all. Have you been coming to the show for years, and always meant to become a member but have never bothered, well why not do it now - nothing could be easier. There are a few different options for you to choose from. Have a look below and once you have made your choice please contact Mrs Rosie Allan 7 Creightyhall Rd. Buchanan, Drymen, Glasgow 01360 870288. That is all there is to it; you'll wonder why you didn't do it sooner.

Single Membership	£10.00
5 - 16 years old	£5.00
4 years and under	£2.00

Can be paid by cheque or direct debit.

Hope to see you all on Saturday 26th May 2007 for a great family day out.
www.drymenshow.com



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FRIDAY 10-4, SATURDAY 10-4, SUNDAY 12-4

Local Names in the Parish of Aberfoyle

by Louis Stott

...continued from issue 35

Several settlements south of the present village have more recognisable names Cobleland, the forestry commission campsite, is the site of a ferry where a *coble* (a primitive boat) preceded the old bridge. Wester and Easter Park and Dunverig in Park are the sites of former settlements. Dunverig occurs twice in the parish. It is probably *dun bharraigh* meaning, perhaps, "brushwood knoll". Gartlonan or Gartloaning (once called Gartalunane), where the battle of Talla Moss in 1489 concluded with the defeat of the Earl of Lennox, means "the cultivated part of the little meadow".

Although Aberfoyle, like most villages in central Scotland, now has a greater population than it has ever had, it is remarkable the extent to which the rest of the district, has become depopulated. In the parish of Buchanan, for example, there were in 1759 132 persons living between Rewardennan and Inversnaid. At the same time there were 129 in Stratharklet and more than ninety in Glen Dubh. Thus there are many deserted settlements throughout the district. One of them, above Loch Lomond, appears on today's maps as Stuickiruagh. It was called Stuckinrory on a map dating from 1817, but the first edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map correctly identified the name as *Stùc an Fir Ruaidh*, 'the peak of the red-haired man', perhaps a reference to Rob Roy.

The period of greatest population in the Highland areas was probably the end of the 17th century and the first half of the 18th century, i.e. before the clearances. In 1718 the township of Coraklait (*Coriearklet*) had 22 buildings Coriechichon, *Corieachan*, where Rob Roy's wife lived with her uncle, was the "horse corrie".

In 1759 there were ninety-one people, in sixteen families, living between Comer and Stucabhuich. In Glen Dubh there were several important townships. Big and Little Bruachcaorainn, *rowan bank*, have been written down in different ways. In 1583-1601 Pont had the two settlements as Bracheurin; later they appeared as Wester and Easter Brachairin, as Bruachairnmore and as Bruchorn. One suspects that some places changed hands without either the owner or his or her amanuensis knowing how the name ought to be spelled. Such variations are found throughout the district. Dalavie was Delvie in 1807, but, nearby, Slochd, Duchary and Inchrie have remained virtually the same as they are now.

In Glen Dubh occupants of the glen would be tenants of Montrose, probably through the tacksmen. There was probably still some community organisation and the Tom-a-mhoid (Moot Hill) at Ballimore, *the big township*, may well have remained the central meeting point for the glen, even if it was only to decide when the cattle and other livestock would be moved from the low ground to the summer grazings behind the Bein Bhan. There the *airidh* (summer houses) can still be found. Rinzoorach and Glashlet still have traces of them.

In Strathard there were several settlements near Loch Chon where there is just one, French, these days. These included Blaregal, a name possibly connected with a church or chapel, and, in 1624, Boquhople [Boquhapple], which by 1806 had become Blarchaple, a clearing for horses, and Dunvarig. Further down the glen the Blairuskins have lasted longer. In a document of 1427 Blaerereruscan appears; by 1624 it had become Blairruskanmoir [Blairuskinmore]. Blair occurs frequently in highland names; it means 'a level clearing'. Blairuskin means 'a watery clearing' Gartnerichnich, is *the bracken enclosure*; it appeared in 1427 as Gartnerhynach

Around Lochard there are several long established names Couligarten, *cuil a' ghartain*, 'nook of the cultivated patch' first appeared in 1427 as did Blairhullichan, *blar an tullachain*, the level clearing of the little mound. Dalchon, *Dalchone* in 1783, but *Dalcho* in 1807, means 'the dog's or the dogs' field' or 'the dogs' haugh'. Blairvuach, which, in 1792, was *Blairverock*, became *Blarvuick* in 1807. It means 'beast's clearing' Ledard, *high slope*, dates from 1647 or perhaps earlier. The Forest Hills Hotel replaced a house called Dalveagh, probably *dail bheag* 'the little field'. The name may occur again in the valley of the Duchray Dail often indicates land gifted to the Church. Nearby is another such name, Dail Malio, 'St Molios' haugh'. This is a particularly interesting name, referring to a seventh century Celtic saint, St Maoliosa or St Mo-laise. The name occurs again outside the village of Aberfoyle in Bad Malio, St Malios' thicket. Drumlean, *druim leathann*, means 'broad ridge' The Glassert, *glas ghart*, is 'the green enclosure' Opposite it is Blar an Ros near Rob Roy's Cave appeared on Stobie's Map in 1783 as Blarinross *the clearing on the promontory*.

Alphabetical Listing of Local Names

Place Name

English Meaning

Caile Mullach	[?] woody summit
Caisteal Corrach	pointed castle
Camadh Laidir	the sharp bend
Ceann an Fhéidh	deer head
Ceann Mor	big headland
Clachan	stone circle
Cobleland	ferry-boat place
Coille Mhór	big wood
Coire Dhàidh	n David's corrie
Coille nan Darach Rioghail	Oak Royal Wood
Coire Eirigh	corrie of the rising
Corrie nan Uruisgean	urisks' corrie
Corrienessan	corrie of waterfalls
Corryglas ‡‡	grey corrie
Couligarten	nook of the cultivated patch
Covenanters' Inn	self evident
<i>From the Covenant got up by the SNP in 1949</i>	
Crag-nacardoch	smithy crag
Crahanie	[?] tree place
Craig a' Ghaisteil	castle crag
Craigantlick ‡‡	see <i>Croit an Shluic</i>
Craigenvoech	[?] beast's cliff
Craigenvoech Lodge	see above
Craigfoot	foot of craig mhor
Craigie Falls	self evident
Craigmore	big crag
Craigmuck	pig's crag
Craigucht(ie)	house under the hill
Crannog	self-evident
Crantullich	tree hillock
Creag Luchie	[?] mouse crag
Creag a' Bhealaich	crag of the pass
Creag a' Chait	wildcat crag
Creag a' Madhaidh	fox crag or wolf crag
Creag an Eas	waterfall crag
Creag an Tuill	crag of the hollow
Creag an Uilleam	William's crag
Creag Ard	high crag
Creag Beithe	birch crag
Creag Bhreac	speckled crag
Creag Bhuail an t-Sagairt	the priest's cattle-fold crag
<i>Known as 'Echo Rock' see Graham's "Sketches of Perthshire" also known as 'The Baile's Rock' from Scott's 'Rob Roy'</i>	
Creag Dhamh	deer crag
Creag Dhubh	black crag
Creag Dubh	black crag
Creag Ghaineamhach	sandy crag
Creag Gownan	smith's crag
<i>[?] Connected with Gabhran, King of Scots</i>	
Creag Innich	[?] pleasant crag
Creag Mhor	big crag
Creag na h-Iolaire	crag of the eagle
Creag nam Fairenean	crag of the sentinels
Creagan an Amair Ghlas	n crags of the grey
Creagan Buidhe	river bed
Creagan na Ceardaich°	wee rock of the smithy
<i>Croit an Shluic</i>	croft in the hollow
<i>Croit Ban-riaghlaire Uaisle</i> °	croft of the well-born
Croit na Ceardach °	governess
Croit na Gaoithe °	smithy croft
Cuivilona	windy croft
Culligart	the niche in the hill sheltered enclosure

..to be continued in the next issue

St Mary's Episcopal Church

Do you know about the season of Lent? It lasts a little over forty days starting the day after Pancake Day on a Wednesday named Ash Wednesday. In time past Lent was kept as a period of fasting and in early times, the regime was strict. Only one meal a day was allowed, and from this meal, meat and eggs were forbidden. This explains why pancakes were customarily eaten on Shrove Tuesday so as not to waste the eggs in the larder before the start of Lent.



Over the centuries though, the custom of fasting in Lent has ceased. Or has it? Tuning into a commercial radio station on Ash Wednesday this year, I found a phone-in programme during which listeners told what they planned to give up for Lent. The favourites so far as I can recall were chocolate and alcohol. So why even today do many still hark back to ancient custom? Is it a good thing that Lent should still be observed?

I think it is. 'Of course he would say that' you will be thinking. 'That's all the church wants to do, make our lives a misery'. But I promise you that Lent offers to everyone, believer or no, a necessary lesson.

In days past, Lenten fasting would involve a great deal of self-discipline. It would mean, say, waking each morning to no breakfast, not even a crust of bread. Similarly today it takes self-discipline if we are to resolutely refuse every After Eight mint and glass of sherry on offer for nearly six weeks.

Self-discipline includes a degree of self-examination, which will reveal at least some of our shortcomings. The next step is for us to acknowledge these failings. Acknowledging failing means accepting weaknesses as our own, and not the fault of others. It is this owning of shortcoming that is going by the board in 21st century society. Left unchecked, it will mean that in time nobody will acknowledge wrong except in others. What happens after that?

If you don't believe me, go to any supermarket, and there will be the proof. Pick up a bottle from the off licence shelf. Ask for a packet of cigarettes at the counter on the way out. What you get with both is a health warning. Drink and smoke other than in moderation and both will affect your health. And why need cigarette manufacturers and distilleries need to warn customers about something that is quite obvious? The answer is that customers are not prepared to accept the responsibility of self-restraint and moderation for themselves.

This trend of deflecting responsibility to others has begun to establish astonishing legal precedents. An inherently lazy schoolboy for example managed to successfully sue his Local Education Authority for failure to teach him to pass his exams. Idle, what me?

Perhaps the season of Lent teaches us more than we imagine.



Strathendrick Rotary Club

Classic Car Tour

Sunday 29th April

starting at 9.30am from Culcreuch Castle, Fintry

All Vintage, Historic and Classic Cars, including Modern Sports Cars are welcome. Entry and sponsorship forms are available at www.strathendrickrotary.org and completed form should be sent to Joe Norman, Longlands, Gartmore FK8 3SA.

The club meets every Monday evening, 6.30pm for 7pm, in the Black Bull in Killearn. If you are interested in finding out more about the Rotary Club of Strathendrick please phone Joe Norman on 01877 382075

Aberfoyle Coaches are providing a FREE bus service, for a trial period only, from Aberfoyle to Kinlochard. There are two services a day stopping at Forest Hills and Kinlochard Village Shop. Also FREE until 26th March, is the Aberfoyle to Callander bus service C29. This service operates four times daily. Contact John Buchanan, Aberfoyle Coaches for timetables and fares. Tel. 01877 382 341 or email: sales@aberfoylecoaches.com

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David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle

NOT HERE.... BUT NEAR!

T.A.G.S. Day Trip.

The next day trip is on Wednesday April 25th, to the refurbished Kibble Palace (ie. The Botanic Gardens) Plus Lunch and a play at the Oran Mor then on to the Tramway for the Air World exhibition. Coach Trip £17, Includes entrance to Play & Lunch. Coach picks up Callander 8.50am, Aberfoyle 9.15am, Gartmore P.O. 9.40am, Buchlyvie 9.55am, Drymen 10.10am, Balfour Cotton Street 10.25am, Balfour Registrars 10.30pm, Killearn P.O. 10.40am, Blanefield P.O. 10.55am, Book at Balfour Library 01360 440407, with Gena on 850 437 or Joan pm only 449253.

Film Third Age Group Strathendrick

The West Highland Line, Glasgow to Mallaig, short break has proven so popular, we are running another trip on Friday 18th - Sunday 20th May. This is one of the world's most memorable rail journeys. To make this as relaxing an outing as possible we have reserved rooms in the 3 star West Highland Hotel Mallaig for two nights dinner bed and breakfast. Book with the secretary Joan Macpherson on 449253 noon-7pm Monday to Friday only please. The cost will be between £80 - to a maximum of £120 (+£10 single supplement), depending on numbers. Coach travel will be from the usual pick up points to Glasgow Queen street station and return from Helensburgh Station. The hotel is near Mallaig station and ferry terminal, so it would be easy to cross to Skye for the day. For a booking form please contact Joanmacp@aol.com.

Dates of the next films to be shown by Strathendrick Film Society in Balfour High School are: on Friday 23rd March, at 7.30 pm., 'Spring Summer Autumn Winter'. UK15 2003 103 mins. A Korean film with little dialogue. This is a beautifully made film, with few characters but stunning scenery and a must for those who live their lives aware of and appreciative of the changing seasons in nature. Friday 6th April. 'Inside I'm dancing'. 2004 UK15 104 mins. Hailed universally as an uplifting, no-holes-barred film, this is a cheerful, dramatic and moving account of rites of passage for two extraordinary young men in a very ordinary situation. The actors sparkle! and on Friday 27th April. 'Geordie' 1955 UK (U) 93 mins. A boy is tired of being small and sends off for a "HE-MAN" mail order course...He grows to become an Olympic champion in the Hammer Throw. (May be shown in 16mm.)

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Milton

Hello Children,

Spring has well and truly sprung and Strathard is speckled from end to end with brightly coloured flowers. Drifts of snowdrops were soon joined by purple, yellow and, occasionally, white crocus flowers. Now hosts of golden daffodils nod their heads in cool March winds. It is unusual to see all three flowering at the same time. And the prickly gorse has been flowering on the hillsides since before Christmas.

Grandpa Otter thinks that this is all to do with Global Warming. England has just had the third warmest winter in 346 years and Switzerland has recorded its warmest winter ever.

Already some of the birds that migrate to warmer countries for the winter months have returned and are busy looking for good places to build their nests. The wheatear is always first to come back, flying in from Africa. This rather strange name is actually stranger than it sounds. It has nothing to do with either wheat or ears, being originally *hwit-oers*, an Old English word meaning white-arse - how rude is that? When this little, mainly grey bird flies off, the white rump can be clearly seen. Not here yet, but expected any time soon, our famous ospreys will return to the Lake of Menteith. At one time these magnificent fish-eating birds had been hunted to extinction and were not seen anywhere in Scotland for more than 50 years. Then, in 1955 they began to revisit. After four years, when nobody shot at them, ospreys started to nest and raise native bred chicks. Under constant protection, numbers have built up steadily ever since.

With the lighter evenings, I can meet up with my friend George and go off to find adventure in the forest. If you are looking for adventure too, then there is nowhere better than David Marshall Lodge. The specially designed adventure playground is a great place to climb, scramble, slide and, if you are not very careful, fall off! George is not the bravest of hares and sometimes gets quite scared, especially when he is high off the ground. Well, hold on. The adventure playground is about to become much larger - and an awful lot scarier.

Something called Go Ape is under construction. When it is finished, it will be long, it will be high.....and it will definitely be scary.

I love swimming in the burn below the waterfall of the fawn. George, who is not so keen on getting wet, leaps backwards and forwards across the bubbling water. After the last wet spell, the Burn of the Fawn was flowing rather faster than normal and was quite a bit wider. George, not paying attention to the condition of the water, completely misjudged the width of the burn and fell in. Fortunately otters are very strong swimmers and I quickly rescued my water-logged friend. Once we had dried off, playing a game of tigg around the trees, we were off to Liz MacGregor's for some home baking and a glass of milk.

There is something for everyone at David Marshall Lodge. Mum and dad enjoy the walks laid out through the forest, while the kits play games with their friends. Grandpa Otter likes to look for the local wildlife and make sure that no wicked mink are trying to sneak into the area and upset the balance of nature. Eventually we all meet up and, ever since I was a tiny kit, it is into Liz MacGregor's for a treat or two....or three. There is a great shop, too. I like the toy birds that sing like the real thing. When the ospreys get back from Africa and start to spring-clean the old nest, every move will be covered by CCTV. The pictures are beamed directly to monitors at the Lodge, birdwatching in comfort and with all that freshly prepared food, made from the best ingredients, always at hand. And, unlike the ospreys, Liz is here all the year round.

In no time at all Easter will be upon us, time for painting and rolling eggs, eating lots of chocolate and enjoying all the activities at the Fun Day at David Marshall Lodge. Pop in and say hello to Liz, she will be very pleased to see you.

Bye for now,
Milton.



Great 2007 Giveaway!

If your charity or local community group needs new equipment have you applied yet to the CFSLA Payroll Lottery?

The committee is looking for applications **NOW** as it has over £5000 available to groups who apply and submit their constitution & a copy of their latest accounts.

The lottery, which is made up of employees & ex employees of the local councils, buy equipment and support the fund raising efforts of staff from the profits of a monthly lottery in which employees can win up to £1250. Application forms & more information from www.cfsla.org.uk. Answering machine/fax 01259-211052 or write to Treasurer CFSLA, Unit 9 The Trade Centre, Bruce Street, Alloa FK10 1NX

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.**

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ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL 100 CLUB

The winner in February was Peggy MacMillan and in March (for the second time!) Margaret Johnson - they both won £57. Since October when it was formed the 100 Club has raised nearly £300 towards hall funds with prizes paid out to the same value. So thank you to everyone who has made this possible. We would like to get the numbers up to the 100 mark - if you would like to help your local hall whilst having the chance of winning a cash prize please complete the enclosed form.

Forth Inn Events Diary

17 March to 23 March - Irish Week

Food & Beers from Ireland

• • • • • • • • • •

25 March - Trossachs Bike Ride & Ard Forest Walk in Aid of The Anthony Nolan Trust

• • • • • • • • • •

30 March - Gourmet Evening, Food & Wine from South Africa 7.30pm, 4 course dinner £29.95 per person including wine tasting - Booking Essential

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1 April to 15 April - Tramping through the Trossachs. Spring Festival of the Great Trossachs Outdoors!

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7 April - Karaoke

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15 April - Pub Quiz - Prize for Wining Team

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28 April - Karaoke

• • • • • • • • • •

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22nd July

2nd September

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18th November

Baked Fillet of Salmon on a Bed of Creamed Spinach served with Champ

Ingredients:

2 Fillets of Salmon

1 Bag of Washed Spinach

1 Bunch Spring Onions - finely chopped

2lb Maris Piper Potatoes

4oz Butter

1/2 Pint Cream

1 Glass White Wine

Salt and White Pepper



Method:

Place Salmon Fillets on a baking tray.

Place a small amount of butter on top of each fillet, add a pinch of salt and white pepper to season, pour 1/4 glass of wine onto fish. Bake in a pre heated oven at 180c for 15-20 mins.

Creamed Spinach

In a pan pour the rest of the white wine, spinach, couple of pinches of salt and one pinch of white pepper.

Over a medium heat, cook the spinach until it has reduced by 1/4. Add half of the cream and bring to the boil, serve

Champ (mashed potatoes & spring onions)

Peel and boil potatoes until soft, drain, add the butter, then mash. Season to taste. In a microwaveable dish put the remaining cream and finely sliced spring onions. Cover and heat on high for 30 seconds. Add to the mash and beat with a wooden spoon until mixed through. Serve.

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ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL 100 CLUB

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I would like to join the Aberfoyle Memorial Hall 100 Club and agree to pay the sum of £2 per month. I understand that, if I do not pay my monthly subscription, my number will not be entered in the draw for that month.

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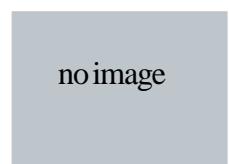
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