

Strathard News

The Voice of Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid

FREE (Donations welcome)

www.strathardnews.com

Issue 49, Feb 2009

COMMITTEE & CONTACTS

Editor: Margaret Neufeld
01877 386258
editor@strathardnews.com

Treasurer: Gwenda Naylor
01877 386244
treasurer@strathardnews.com

Advertising: Ian Marshall
01877 382211
advertising@strathardnews.com

Layout: Marion Back
01877 386222
newsdesk@strathardnews.com

Reporter: David Wilkie
01877 382868
clubs@strathardnews.com

Reporter: Dougie MacPherson
01877 382564
reporter@strathardnews.com

Distribution: Arthur Jones
01877 382682

IMPORTANT Information for Advertisers

When you place an advert with the Strathard News we will continue to run it unless you tell us to stop or replace it. To place/cancel an advert contact Ian Marshall on 01877 382211 advertising@strathardnews.com. For design or to alter an advert contact Marion Back on 01877 386222 newsdesk@strathardnews.com

Next Deadline:
Issue 50; 8 Mar 2009

Loch Arklet Campaign gets MSPs Backing

A motion supporting the campaign to prevent trees being planted on the slopes of Loch Arklet has been lodged in The Scottish Parliament by Christopher Harvie MSP (Mid Scotland and Fife). The motion, which has attracted cross party support from MSPs, makes it very clear why there is such strength of feeling about the loss of this iconic, historical view and its surrounding environment.

In January, Stirling MSP Bruce Crawford visited Loch Arklet to meet and discuss the issue with local campaigners, and he shares their concerns that the current planting proposals are unacceptable, as does local celebrity chef and Landward presenter Nick Nairn. Nick has been in touch to offer his support, and has also signed the e-petition. To date there are 1580 signatures (667 on the e-petition, 913 on paper petitions) supporting the campaign.

In December, Forestry Commission made a public apology (Stirling Observer) when it was discovered that preparatory digging had begun at East Loch Arklet in **error**. FCS agreed to immediately reinstate the ground, but the damage has been done and an initial report produced

for FCS has unfortunately confirmed that this sensitive location can never be fully reinstated. Due to the petition, the planting errors and the input from MSPs, the decision about planting at Loch Arklet has been delayed for now, but campaigners are hoping that the Parliamentary motion will increase pressure on FCS and on the National Park to look at this matter more carefully. They believe the National Park should not be supporting plans to change the special qualities and uniqueness of this view but should be ensuring its conservation for future generations in line with its 'Principles'. Valuable and extensive heather moorland and blanket bog habitats not found elsewhere in the area would be lost at Glen Arklet, with resultant species disruption. Other National Parks and organisations in the UK are striving to protect moorland habitats but the impact here has not been adequately considered.

Read about the campaign at www.locharkletview.org.uk or you can sign the paper petition in Aberfoyle PO, Gartmore shop or the Lottery Bid shop.

*Strahtard Community Council
Loch Katrine Community Trust*

THE MOTION: Tree Planting at Glen Arklet That the Parliament expresses concern about plans by Forestry Commission Scotland to plant trees in Glen Arklet as part of the Great Trossachs Forest despite the fact that this landscape of loch, heather, moorland and blanket bog has lasted for almost as long as human life in Scotland; notes that the open moorland with its spectacular views across Loch Lomond to the Arrochar Alps has been valued by the local population, tourists, photographers, historians, filmmakers, artists and writers, from Sir Walter Scott to Jules Verne, and that the glen, the loch and the burn that flows out of them to Loch Lomond also flow in Gerard Manley Hopkins's Inversnaid, one of the greatest nature poems in the English language, graven on the walls of Holyrood and as iconic as Wordsworth's daffodils at Grasmere, "O let them be left, wildness and wet; Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet", and hopes that other ways to manage the land and control natural regeneration will be explored fully and used at Loch Arklet to preserve the views and natural environment.

inside

p2 cc report
p3 police news
p5 makar
p7 forest theatre
p8 letters
p10 lottery bid
p12 library
p13 owen mckee
p14 rangers
p16 registrar
p18 short story
p19 chill out
p20 school report
p22 milton
p24 church news
p27 not here

R & C Luke



tel. 01324 625624



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

DIY/GRASS LIVERY Available



Kirkton Farm
Aberfoyle

Tel. 01877 382316

MEALS ON WHEELS

Aberfoyle, Gartmore, Kinlochard

Would you like to have hot, nourishing lunches delivered to you by local residents.

Do you have a relative, friend or neighbour you think would benefit from this service?

WRVS Volunteers from the local community deliver lunches made in Aberfoyle Primary School to local residents who qualify for this valuable service. At the moment they are delivered Monday, Wednesday and Friday but may soon be offered every week day.

For more details about this valuable WRVS service, and help arranging Meals on Wheels deliveries please phone Mary Phillips, 01877 382 696



COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

First can I thank my predecessor Ros Dingwall for her dedicated hard work as Chair over many years. Thankfully she is staying on the Community Council and even keeping some of her existing responsibilities, so we will continue to have the benefit of all her invaluable experience dealing with local issues and other organisations.

Hopefully that will include still helping to organise the **Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner** - we have been told by more than one person that 2008 was the 'best ever'. As well as having Ros to thank, special mention for their valuable contributions is due to Forest Hills Hotel for hosting the event and providing an excellent meal, Forthvale Contractors for generous provision of all the wine and spirits for the evening, the Kinlochard Ceilidh Band for our 'wee dance', Aberfoyle Motors for transport, the many businesses and individuals who generously contributed raffle prizes and Community Councillors and others who helped out in various ways. John Clow again efficiently organised food parcels for housebound senior citizens who cannot attend.

We continue to be involved in a range of projects which have kept community councillors busy over the winter months - do read our 'advert' on p65 of the Local Telephone Directory to find out more about the type of work we do.

For example, following repeated complaints about run-down street planters, we have

just managed to access a Community Pride Grant of nearly £1000 from Stirling Council to replace these before April - see separate article on page x.

Planning: Unfortunately the proposals to demolish the much-loved old building in Main Street and build a large new one were approved, despite many objections to the development and the best efforts of the community. However as the result of all the objections, a new parking access condition was imposed which prevents development for now. As a result, we did uncover some interesting history about the building as part of our heritage. It does indeed seem to be the oldest building in Aberfoyle used in the slate quarry industry.

We review all planning applications submitted to the National Park. Details of past applications examined can be found in the Community Council minutes available on the Stirling Council website or noticeboards. Although we need any local input at an early stage to meet National Park deadlines, so do please contact us with any queries as soon as you have these.

The new Park Local Plan, once approved, will affect many matters like planning applications, housing, economic development and tourism. We will be submitting our consultation response before 28 February. Any input you wish to make please e-mail planning@strathard.org.uk.

Community Action Plan: We are currently following through on a range of issues. If you would like to know more, or have any queries or thoughts on the below do let us know.

Roads: Suggestions from the community for various improvements, including increased roads safety measures, are now being taken forward after input from the Police. We continually press for action needed on roads maintenance issues, large and small.

Flooding: See full report in the last Strathard News - the recent incidents in Aberfoyle seem to have been picked up remotely and resulted in us getting some attention. We continue to lobby hard however, but the problem as always seems to be budgets. The Council has given us various suggestions for self-help if anybody would like further details; flood protection for buildings, new flat but inflatable sandbags (some environmental concerns there though) and amphibious vehicles (anybody fancy starting a project to build-your-own for £3000?).

Transport: We provided positive support to the Lottery Bid project by obtaining a Stirling Council Community Grant of just under £1000, since retention of the Garage will be key to improving transport services. Also the Local Phone Directory now contains much useful information about public transport in the area.

Fiona

Aberfoyle & Buchlyvie Medical Centres

You can now book or cancel your appointments on line or order your repeat prescriptions. Whether you are at home or work, you can quickly log on to view, book and cancel appointments. Available 24 hours a day, it's especially useful when the practice is closed or telephone lines are busy. Please ask at reception for a registration form.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.aberfoyle-buchlyviesurgeries.co.uk

Trossachs Carpet Cleaning Services

Upholstery and Carpet Cleaner Services throughout Aberfoyle and the Trossachs.

Special and contract cleaning
Spray extraction & upholstery cleaning

SPECIAL CLEANING TECHNIQUES
COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC CLEANING

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

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

01877 382 530



Strathard Community Council

meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnaid Primary School. The next meetings will be held in Kinlochard on Thursday 5th Feb at 7.30pm and Inversnaid on Thursday 5th March. Half an hour prior to the meetings a local District Councillor (Tony Ffinch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues and concerns.

Community Councillors

| <u>Ward 1 Aberfoyle</u> | <u>Ward 2 Kinlochard</u> | <u>Ward 3 Inversnaid</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| John Clow | Maureen Campbell | Andre Goulancourt |
| Ros Dingwall | Mike Campbell | Scott Provan |
| Jimmy Quinn | Fiona McEwan | Ralph Wolfe |
| Geraint Short | Sue Russell | |

Tel. 01877 387200 Email. cc@strathard.org.uk www.strathard.org.uk

Please do get in touch with your Community Councillor on any relevant issue.



Local Telephone Directory *Tourist Edition*

Thanks to the support of our business advertisers, we are now able to produce a free tourist leaflet of local services and businesses, based on the information published in The Wee Blue Book. If you advertised in The Wee Blue Book the same advert will be used for the leaflet unless you want to amend it. If you didn't advertise in The Wee Blue Book but want to be included in the tourist leaflet please let us know. Contact us on directory@strathard.org.uk

The Local Directory team, Strathard Community Council

Police Community Website

There is a community page for Aberfoyle on Central Scotland Police website www.centralscotland.police.uk which can be accessed by going to My Area, Dunblane Sac, Aberfoyle. There you will find community news regarding crime updates and police surgery dates.



As of November, 2008 I will be based in Callander Police Office and will not directly be involved in Aberfoyle community issues. PC Jo McDowell should be contacted at Aberfoyle Police Office, tel 382 222 for any community related matters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those residents in the Aberfoyle, Gartmore, Port of Menteith and Kinlochard areas who have assisted me during the past 4 years.

PC Ricky Govan

PACT PRIORITIES

8th, January 2009

In line with the new Police and Communities Together (PACT) practices the following are my main priorities in Aberfoyle over the next three months. They are :

1. Anti Social Behaviour in Main Street Aberfoyle (pub closing time in particular) and minor youth disorder, Main Street, Gartmore (evening).
2. Drugs enforcement and intelligence gathering for Aberfoyle/Gartmore.
3. Road Safety in Aberfoyle, Port of Menteith and Gartmore.

Football problems, Aberfoyle

16th, January 2009

Over the past several months damage has occurred at the bus stop beside the Tourist Information Centre, Aberfoyle and other premises nearby. This has been caused by youths playing football. Can I ask that playing football stops in this area. I know that this damage is not malicious and is accidental, however damage to property is not acceptable and is becoming more frequent.

There are football clubs running and anyone requiring further information can contact me at Aberfoyle Police office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PC McDowell

Port of Menteith - Cannabis Cultivation Rumbled

27th, January 2009

Police made three significant drugs seizures worth over £50,000 yesterday and are warning those involved in the illegal trade that the recent activity proves there is no hiding place.

Detective Inspector Ian Motion, head of the force's Drugs Unit, said: "A rural location, a housing estate and the city centre were the areas targeted and shows that we will take action against anyone involved in drugs in any location."

A 42-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman are due to appear at Falkirk Sheriff Court today after police recovered £22,000 worth of cannabis and diazepam in Grangemouth.

Two men and a woman are due to appear at Stirling Sheriff Court on Monday after police seized a substantial amount of cannabis plants, estimated to be worth £30,000, from a farm in Port of Menteith, near Aberfoyle.

A 42-year-old-man has also been reported in connection with various drugs offences when he was found in possession of a quantity of heroin in Stirling City Centre. He was due to appear at Stirling Sheriff Court today.

Detective Inspector Motion said: "These are excellent examples of communities working with us and providing intelligence which we have acted on. The information we receive is extremely valuable and we urge people to continue coming forward."

"People who are living in rural communities should be aware of what is going on in their area. "We will continue to be unrelenting in our fight against those involved in the drugs trade."

Memorial Hall 100 Club

The winner of the 100 Club in January was Margaret Johnston who won £83.

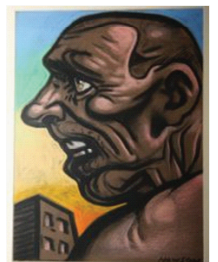


Thank you to all our members, To date the 100 club has raised £2,224 for the hall. We are hoping to put in new windows this year which should make the hall much warmer and would not have been possible without your help. The 100 Club is helping to keep this vital amenity afloat for the village. If you would like to help this local charity and have the chance of winning a cash sum at a cost of £2 per month., please contact Janet Stewart on 382736 or call in at the Post Office.

Peter Howson paintings stolen

Monday, 26th January 2009

Police are appealing for information after four paintings were stolen from a house in Croftamie near Drymen. The four 12x10 inch paintings were by artist Peter Howson and were of the Hardman's Face. Each is worth a four figure sum. The paintings were not in frames and police are keen to hear from anybody who may have innocently bought them or who has been asked to frame them. Jewellery was also taken during the theft which occurred between 11am and 4pm on Monday January 19.



Security Advice

26th, January 2009

ICE - In Case of Emergency

Eight out of ten people aren't carrying information that would help if they were involved in an accident. Storing next-of-kin details in your mobile phone can assist the emergency services (Police, Ambulance and Fire) if you're unable to tell them who to contact.

How does it work?

Simply use your mobile's phone book to store the name and number of someone who should be contacted if you have an emergency – but add the letters ICE in front of their name.

ICE stands for 'In Case of Emergency': it's what the emergency services will look for if you're involved in an accident and have your mobile phone with you. This straightforward idea was developed by the East Anglian Ambulance Trust and is supported by Vodafone. Getting started

On most mobile phones you simply need to select 'Contacts' and choose 'Add New Contact', then enter the letters 'ICE' next to the name, followed by the telephone number of your next of kin. Make sure you choose a number that's easy to get in touch with – a home number could be useless in an emergency if the person works full time. We recommend that you enter daytime and evening numbers where this is possible.

What should I do next?

Make sure the person whose name and number you are giving has agreed to be your 'ICE partner'. You should also make sure your ICE partner has a list of people to contact on your behalf, such as your place of work.

In addition, they'll need to know about any medical conditions that could affect your emergency treatment, including allergies or medication.

If you're under 18, your ICE partner should be your mother, your father or an immediate member of your family authorised to make decisions on your behalf. Friends and other relatives won't be able to take decisions for you if you're admitted to hospital.

Storing an ICE number makes it easier for everyone if you're involved in an accident. It only takes a few seconds, so do it today - please.

Gearing up for National Spring Clean

Providing those who are annoyed by litter with the opportunity to head out into the fresh air and make a difference, National Spring Clean 2009 is set to be the biggest and best yet – and Keep Scotland Beautiful is now launching a major volunteer recruitment drive.

The annual month-long blitz on the litter that blights our streets, parks, riversides and beaches is quickly approaching and Keep Scotland Beautiful is looking for people to restore their sense of community pride and clean up their neighbourhoods for themselves and visitors to our country.

Last year 20,000 volunteers took part in clean up events during the month of April, gathering enough black bags of litter to line the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, from the castle esplanade to the Scottish Parliament, 12 times over.

Many groups already take part in voluntary clean ups during the year, but National Spring Clean provides an opportunity for schools, youth

clubs, voluntary groups, communities, businesses and individuals to play an important part in a bigger, coordinated campaign. It is an ideal occasion for anyone who cares about their local environment to take action.

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment Richard Lochhead said: "Litter continues to be a blight on many communities across Scotland and it is absolutely vital that we all do our bit to tackle this unsightly problem. With 2009 being the year of Homecoming, this is the perfect opportunity to make a difference as part of the National Spring Clean and ensure Scotland has a worldwide reputation for being a clean and tidy country."

Chief Executive of KSB, John Summers OBE said, "It's so easy to get involved in National Spring Clean 2009; all people have to do is find a location near them that they feel could do with a litter clean, choose a date in April and then register their event online at www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/springclean".

The new look National Spring Clean 2009 website is now live, allowing volunteers to view the online map showing all the organised events. Information about litter and how schools, community groups and businesses can get involved is provided, along with case studies, organiser check lists, information about fundraising and publicity and also downloadable template posters and participant certificates.

"Not only does a spring clean event pull communities together, remove litter and improve the local environment, it can also be great fun to get involved in an exciting free outdoor challenge as the weather improves. And with this year being 'Homecoming' we also want to showcase Scotland at its best," added Mr Summers.



ABERFOYLE

Rade your local shop for something different.
Stockists of :

- The Mountain t-shirts; pure cotton natural dyes
- Tree Free cards and prints
- Limited editions from the Fantasy Artists
- Rev Kirk local legend books

Good selection of pet products always in stock.

Rade Shop, Main Street, Aberfoyle, FK8 3UG
Tel: 01877 382101. www.radeltd.com

pass decorators

FOR INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
DECORATION

Eco decorator's
Assoc Member
www.ecodecorators.org

TEL: 01877 330462
MOB: 0788 757 2248
www.123pass.co.uk

Trossachs.co.uk

Your one click guide for visiting
& living in the Trossachs

Contact Us to place your Free Business Listing: enquiries@trossachs.co.uk

| Home | Places to Eat | Places to Visit | Places To Stay | Things To Do | Contact Us | Local Businesses | Trossachs History | Site Map | Useful Links |
|------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------|
| | | | | | | | | | |

Every month Trossachs.co.uk are running a competition from their website, with fabulous prizes for the lucky winners. Entry is FREE, and don't worry if you get the answers wrong you get another chance. To increase your chances of winning why not get your family and friends to enter as well. Just log on to trossachs.co.uk and click on Free Competition to start. Good Luck!

February's prize is a 2 night stay at the award winning Callander Meadows worth an amazing £230

Magi is Stirling's Makar

Stirling Council has appointed writer, poet and performer, Magi Gibson as the City's Makar, who will promote poetry throughout the area for the next three years.

The Burns night announcement was a unanimous decision by the nominations panel chaired by Stirling's Provost Fergus Wood and consisted of various members of local writing and literary groups. The nominations process drew interest from as far afield as Nova Scotia and India, as well as a large number of local poets, and poets with a strong connection to the Stirling area.

Originally from Kilsyth, Magi has lived and worked for most of her adult life in rural Stirling. She graduated from Glasgow University with an M.A. in French and German language and literature, and trained as a secondary school teacher and subsequently became a workshop facilitator for the Workers' Educational Association specializing in working with adults from marginalized groups in society.

Magi Gibson has held three Scottish Arts Council Creative Writing Fellowships and one Royal Literary Fellowship. She has published four collections of poetry and has contributed to several Scottish Poetry Library Work Packs for teachers, and devised the National Poetry Day/ Bob Dylan Lesson Plans for teachers. She is in demand for workshops with children of all ages and was awarded a Scottish Arts Council Bursary in 2007 for writing for children. She is currently working on a series of novels.

On her appointment, Magi explained: "I've lived and worked in the Stirling area for most of my life."

"Stirling's where I first cut my teeth as a poet back in the mid-eighties, and where I developed as a writer. I taught Creative Writing in Stirling for more than twenty years. I worked mostly in the city, but lived in the rural areas



- Gargunnock, Ruskie and Callander. I've always been identified nationally as a 'Stirling' poet, so I was excited at the prospect of being appointed as the first Makar in 500 years."

When asked what the post of Makar brings to Stirling, Magi said: "A community that makes such an appointment is showing an awareness of the importance of the spiritual and cultural side of life. I've worked with communities all over Scotland and wherever I go I find people have a huge love of poetry. Look at how many people celebrate Burns Day. Unfortunately too often they've been turned off poetry at school by being required to connect with it, not on a spiritual level, but in an analytical way. I've long been an advocate of people reclaiming poetry for themselves."

She added: "The post of Makar puts the poet back in the centre of the community. As a ceremonial position it reconnects the new City of Stirling with its historic past when the royal court had its own Makar."

"One of the important tasks for the Makar is to nurture an enthusiasm for poetry. In the past I've worked as a poet with many communities in Scotland from Orkney to Peebles. I have a huge experience in working with poetry and people in all kinds of settings from infant class to university. It's great that I can

bring my years of experience as a poet and writer to foster poetry in my home area.

"I'm very keen to use my post as Makar to find and encourage the poets who live in and around Stirling. I will feature our local talent through my choice of monthly poem for the council. I also hope to host a website, accessible all round the world, to showcase the best of poetry from Stirling. I look forward to developing a programme of workshops with local schools. And I would love to see even more poetry books in our libraries. Encouraging children to read and love poetry will be a very important part of my role."

Provost Fergus Wood added: "This is a magnificent opportunity for Stirling to promote its tremendous literary heritage in the 21st Century. As well as promoting poetry generally throughout the area, the Makar will compose one poem annually about the area and select one poem a month for publication. She will also have some involvement in the City's homecoming celebrations and our Book Festival in September. I look forward to working with the new Makar on making sure that the opportunities for raising awareness of poetry are maximised throughout the whole Stirling area, not least in our schools. Magi also writes in the Scots tongue, which will help foster this important part of our heritage among our young people."

Historically, Stirling was the favoured court of the Stewart Kings, and the Makars were very much associated with the patronage and place of the court.

Stirling has a rich and glorious literary tradition, which flourishes to this day with the many contemporary writers and poets who live in the area. The Stirling Literary Society is also one of the best and busiest societies of its kind in Scotland.

For more information on Stirling's new Maker, please see <http://www.magigibson.co.uk/>

Alastair Wilson

Joinery Services

Fully Insured
Free Estimates

All Joinery work, including:

Windows, Doors, Hardwood Floors, Loft & Garage
Conversions; Rotwork; Renovations & Maintenance

Tel: 01877 382 807

9 Baillie Nicol Jarvie Court, Aberfoyle



'Pamper Night'

Scissor Sister, Main Street, Callander
Wednesday 4 February at 7.30pm

Talk - What Psychology is Not!

Wednesday 4 March at 7.30pm
National Park Office, Callander

Come along and meet other women who live and work in and around the Trossachs. For more information and monthly meeting details see www.witt.org.uk, phone 387200 or e-mail admin@witt.org.uk. All welcome.

women
in
the
trossachs

Good News For Customers As Agreement On Flooding Insurance Reached

Bruce Crawford, MSP for the Stirling constituency, has welcomed the conclusion of a joint agreement on flooding between the Scottish Government and the insurance industry which will give homes and businesses greater protection.

The Scottish Government and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) have agreed to work together to minimise the flood risks and to help people quicker when flooding occurs.

Commenting, Mr. Crawford said: "While flood defences, flood warnings and other policies can reduce the risk from flooding, these risks can never be completely eliminated. This agreement - the first of its kind between the ABI and a Scottish Government - enables households and small businesses to plan for and minimise the financial costs of flooding.

"Insurance companies will provide effective and efficient claims services and repair teams when flooding occurs whilst the Government will put in place various policies to promote flood prevention and mitigation schemes.

"I welcome this shared commitment to work towards a long-term solution that will enable flood insurance to remain as affordable and widely available as possible."

The Scottish Government has agreed to undertake a variety of measures including:

- improving understanding and awareness of flood risk
- developing a long-term strategy (of over 25 years) to reduce flood risk and encourage action to mitigate and minimise the risks and costs of flooding
- ensuring the planning system prevents inappropriate development in flood-risk areas
- ensuring any essential new development in medium to high-risk areas is flood resistant

Actions the ABI have agreed to include:

- continuing to make flood insurance available for homes and small businesses and promote access to insurance for low-income households
- *encouraging customers to reinstate flood damaged property in ways which makes it more resilient to flooding.

Scottish Wool Centre Sold to E.W.M.

Edinburgh Woollen Mill, the tenants in the Scottish Wool Centre, have bought the premises from Scottish Wool Centre Ltd. The changeover took place on Monday, 22 December.

Former Managing Director of the Scottish Wool Centre, Fergus Wood of Ledard Farm, Kinlochard, commented, "We have had a long and successful innings in Aberfoyle - nearly 18 years - and I would like to thank the village and the many locals that we employed over the years for their loyal support. I originally purchased the site in the early eighties. We then tried the concept of "The Story of Scottish Wool" at the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988, where we had retail units, a lambing shed and a weaving and spinning centre. This was an outstanding success and we won a Gold Medal for our efforts. We then built and opened the Centre, which was formally opened by the Princess Royal in 1991.

"It was at the Wool Centre that the Quack Commandos - using ducks instead of sheep for sheepdog demonstrations - was born in 2001, when, owing to the Foot and Mouth crisis, sheep could not be moved from Ledard to the Centre for shows. The Quacks are still very popular - we even got into the second round of "Britain's Got Talent" with Simon Cowell at Blackpool last January!

"I would like to think that the Wool Centre has played its part in the promotion of Aberfoyle as a tourist destination and we wish the new owners every success in the future."

James McArthur & Son

specialising in

Tree Felling • Root Removal • Site Clearance

All insurance work undertaken
Free Estimates • Mobile Sawmill



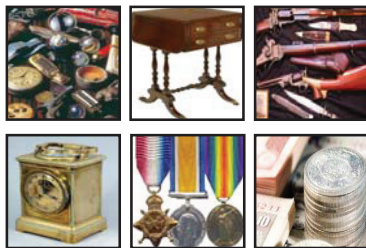
Don't be stumped!

Tel 01360 440483

Mob 07801 584678

Fintry Road, Balfron

Braeval Antiques



Tel. 01877 382 400

Mob 07989 746617

Ask for Andrew

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

1. House and estate clearances. 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.

2. I buy individual items.

3. I wish to purchase the following items:

- Old jewellery (even broken items)
- Old wind up watches and clocks (even if broken)
- Old war medals
- Old coins and banknotes
- Old silver and plated items, including old cutlery
- Old bagpipes, Dirks and skean dhus
- Old swords, knives, pistols and rifles
- Old musical boxes
- Old toys
- General antiques

Trossachs Treks



**Guided Walks
off the Beaten Track**

**Arthur Jones
01877 382 682**

arthur@trossachstreks.co.uk
www.trossachstreks.co.uk

**Highland & Scottish Smallpipes
for Weddings or Functions
01877 382 682
www.cuilvona.plus.com**





FOREST THEATRE COMPANY

Forest Theatre Company was formed in August 2001 by Suzanne Teed, Jacquie Speirs and Marian Mead with sponsorship from Teed Business Continuity. Their aim was to promote theatre and music in the heart of the National Park bringing together local talent from Gartmore, Aberfoyle, Kinlochard and Port of Menteith. The group built on the tradition of theatrical involvement in Gartmore where, for many years, the Gartmore Players had performed pantomimes, which were largely written and produced by Jean Woodburn.

The first production in May 2002 was Annie and involved a cast of 42 adults and children – as well as a dog! Directed by Suzanne Teed, it was a resounding success and on that basis, the company has now gone from strength to strength. We are delighted to have Jacquie Speirs, Acting Principal Second Violin, RSNO, as our musical director.

Fiddler on the Roof, Songs from the Shows, Oliver! and The Sound of Music all followed to great acclaim and audiences grew larger and larger as the company became more widely known. FTC was honoured when local composer Sally Beamish and local poet Donald Goodbrand Saunders announced that they wanted to write a musical for the company. The result was Shenachie - a wonderful love story set in the time of the Highland Clearances directed by Vicky Glassey-Davies. Shenachie went on to be entered into The Highland Quest in July 2006 where it was selected to be one of the 5 finalists.

In March 2007, FTC moved in a slightly different direction by performing the musical comedy Little Shop of Horrors which had everyone laughing and rocking in the aisles. This production brought Stephen Langston of SL-Productions in to our fold and he offered his musical, Faeries, to us and directed the show in 2008. Faeries was performed by actors from Stow College at the Edinburgh Festival in August.

All shows are produced and directed voluntarily by members of the company and friends from the local area. Our next show is The King and I which will run in Gartmore Village Hall from Wed 4th to Sat 7th March 2009. Tickets can be bought from Aberfoyle Post Office and Gartmore Community Shop nearer the time. For further information

on Forest Theatre Company, please contact Helen Webster, Chairperson on 01877 382810



Strathard Community Trust

local projects local people

Membership:

To join or renew your membership please contact Diana at the Rade Shop or Ros at the Aberfoyle Post Office.

Current Groups:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Play Park Group (phase 2) | Diana Carmody | 382345 |
| Railway Turntable (phase 2) | Ian Marshall | 382211 |
| Paths and Trails Group | John Digney | 382636 |
| Strathard News | Margaret Neufeld | 386258 |

Directors:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Ian Marshall | Chair/Director |
| Ian Davison Porter | Vice-chair/Director |
| Diana Carmody | Treasurer/Director |
| John Clow | Director |
| Ros Dingwall | Director |
| Rev Richard Grosse | Director |
| Jimmy Quinn | Director |

Meetings: Open to members. Check notice boards for dates.

Contact: info@strathard-ct.org.uk www.strathard-ct.org.uk

Forest Theatre Company

presents



Wednesday 4th – Saturday 7th March 2009

Gartmore Village Hall

Tickets £6.00 adult (Over 16) £4 children
Available from Aberfoyle Post Office
and Gartmore Village Shop

Letters to the Editor...have your say!

Get it off your chest with a letter to the editor.

Send to Editor, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid FK8 3TU or email editor@strathardnews.com or hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office.

Dear Editor

In December we had a Bring and Buy sale at the David Marshall Lodge for Blue Peter's new appeal Mission Nutrition. We raised a brilliant £101.25 that will go to children who don't have enough healthy food. Some of the places the money is going to are Colombia, South Africa, United Kingdom and Bangladesh. Thank you to all the people who came along and supported us and special thanks to the staff at the David Marshall Lodge who made it possible.

From,

Leah Bancroft and Finn Manders

Dear Editor

I read the "Addendum: Response to letter from [me]" with much confusion (both Addendum and my initial letter issue 48, pages 8 & 9). I just could not understand how my letter could be considered so inaccurate by the four Lottery Bid Community Representatives. After all, the figures I had used were given to me by one of those Representatives and, before printing, the accuracy of the contents of my letter was verified by another Representative. Add to my confusion an anger at being accused of using innuendo (when I knew I had written exactly what I meant, intending no allusion to hidden meaning or overtone); I was feeling really rather cross and my first inclination was to write, going through the addendum piece by piece highlighting what I perceived as its inaccuracies and innuendo.

In fact, I had time to think, simmered down and decided not to. I felt that to write in that way would be nothing better than 'tit-for-tat', petty and would, at this stage, be of no benefit to the community of which I am part. Instead I reminded myself of the first line of my initial letter, "I am writing as a member of the community who does, in principal, support a proposed community buy-out of Aberfoyle Motors" (issue 48, page 8).

That still holds true and, while always reserving the right to question actions taken on my behalf, I will for the moment look forward to all the information being available as 'The Next Steps' (issue 48, page 10) progress.

Yours, etc
S Johnston

Speed limit for Aberfoyle Primary

STIRLING Council's Regulatory Functions Panel has rubber stamped a new 20 mph speed limit outside Aberfoyle Primary School.

The Panel, Chaired by Councillor Tony Ffinch, overruled two objections not to provide a permanent 20mph speed limit and other traffic calming measures outside the school and to provide a part-time 20mph limit during school hours. The Panel unanimously approved the new permanent 20mph speed limit and speed cushions along a 415-meter stretch along Lochard Road.

Aberfoyle Primary School children had indicated in their School Travel Plan that they felt unsafe when travelling to and from school due to the speed of vehicles, especially on the Lochard Road outside the school. The School Travel Plan is part of Stirling Council's Safer Routes to School initiative.

During the Council's Roads and Transport Service's consultation with the local community in 2008, speed counts were carried out which showed that 85% of the speeds recorded on the road were in excess of the current 30mph limit. The new 20mph and traffic calming measures received strong support from both the Community Council and the school's Parent Council.

Regulatory Functions Panel Chair Councillor Tony Ffinch said: "We understand the objector's view but a temporary limit is not

suitable on this section of road as children can be using this route at times out with the normal school day. The clear message here is about encouraging drivers to reduce their speed around schools and driving at more appropriate speed in that area."

One objection was received by a local resident who felt that the traffic should only require to be slowed part-time during school hours and that the speed cushions and a permanent 20mph limit were not required.

Activities at the school can continue beyond the normal school hours with the After School Club, rugby or football matches and the local church, which is on the same stretch of road, is used for Brownies and Boys Brigade. Therefore, as children can be travelling along that road at times out with the normal school day, the Panel were of the view that permanent 20mph limit would be far more effective.

In 2004/2005 the Scottish Government provided all local authorities with Safer Routes to Schools ring-fenced funding to introduce 20mph speed limits around school and other road safety projects to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. Currently two thirds of Scottish Schools are covered by the 20mph zones.

Over the last 5 years 30 out of Stirling Council's 49 primary schools have had 20mph limits, zones or part time 20mph limits provided.

Minister to "carefully consider" forest consultation

Environment Minister Michael Russell said he is very keen to see all the new ideas and proposals put forward in the forest climate change consultation which ends today (Tuesday 27th January.)

Welcoming the responses, he added:

"Climate change is the biggest threat facing the planet. It is right that we explore new and innovative ways to make our national forests work harder to reduce the impact that climate change has on us all.

"I am very pleased that so much interest has been shown and that many individuals, organisations and businesses have taken the time to respond to the consultation. It is now my job to consider these carefully. I shall do so particularly where the submissions argue from a factual basis and eschew the nonsense and scaremongering that has been a feature of the political responses.

"In all my discussions there has been a general consensus that we need to find new and practical ways of maximising the use of our forests in the fight against climate change. Finding practical solutions is now the goal and I will consider very seriously all the ideas submitted."

A decision on a way forward is expected in March or April.

Last Turkey Standing

by Dougie MacPherson

As we are now well into the New Year with the wreckage of the decorations, the fairy lights and tinsel, stored once more in the attic, and the remains of the Christmas tree needle-less and sad, deposited in the wheelie bin, we have the time to look back at the Christmas past and remember the highlights, if any, that come to mind. I cannot recollect any particular high spots other than being part of a noisy weekend of celebration with family. What I do recall are two incidents unrelated to family, small and insignificant in their way, which seemed to portray the Christmas spirit of old.

The first occurred in the John Lewis store in Glasgow's Buchanan Galleries where our weary shopper was heading for the coffee shop. To do so you must pass through the television and radio department. While walking through, our shopper overheard two elderly ladies discussing the relative merits of digital, wall-mounted televisions on display. One lady, obviously not buying but advising, suggested that one on show, a particularly large widescreen version might be suitable. Her friend replied, 'No, there's not much point in a big one. There's just me and the dog.'

Yet another tale from before Christmas when a mature couple were shopping in Glasgow for their nephew which involved having to visit shops normally frequented by the young set. A new experience for them you could say. Entering one establishment selling clothing for youngsters, they were confronted by a youth wearing a nose ring, a beanie hat (Is that the same as a 'tammy'?) and sporting tattoos. Realising, as he approached them, that he was in all probability a member of staff, they expected the standard 'Can I help you?' or even 'Are you being served?' Instead, the young man asked, 'Are you guys cool?' It was December weather outside and the husband had a retort ready only a nudge from the wife killed it. But he was helpful and they *did* buy something.

Only small tales perhaps, anecdotes even, but something outside of the family circle which might still demonstrate that Christmas can still be a special time.

House Folk Music Festival

The recently successful House Folk Festival held two very intimate house concerts in Kinlochard to celebrate St Andrews day and Scottish folk music. Well known Scottish folk singers were supported by young musicians from Balforn and McLaren High schools.

The first concert was held on Friday the 28th of November at Blairhullichan House and hosted by Bridget and John Lewis: their hospitality, complimentary food and refreshments were most welcome. Alastair McDonald the famous Scottish singer song writer entertained a crowd of 28 people with an amazing performance. The pre-act from McLaren High School were Andrew Watt on acoustic guitar and Siobhan Anderson, fiddle and vocals '*these are names to look out for*'. Both acts received a standing ovation as the log fire and candles gave a glowing ambience.



The second concert was held the following evening in the historic 65 seat MacGregor's Barn at Ledard farm and supported by Balforn High School with musicians Rebecca Barr and Yvonne Bowens. The main act, Scots folk legend Jim Malcolm from top band 'The Old Blind Dogs', thrilled the audience. The concert was followed by a St Andrews party held in the adjacent stables bar where a jamming session went on to the wee small hours with musicians from Scotland and Ireland entertaining the guests.

The House Concerts were so successful that there are plans to hold a 3 day event next year for the homecoming year 2009 during October or November which will involve McLaren High School and big name folk acts. The guests loved the intimacy of the venues where they could interact with the artists.

E-mail: Gregor at info@greattimescotland.com for details.

Durashield Windows

01877 389 389

Why choose DURASHIELD WINDOWS
to install your pvcu windows and doors

Local Knowledge,
we are fully experienced fitting high
security pvcu windows and doors.

Local Showroom,
you can talk to us face to face and see
all of our products in BEARSDEN.

Quality Installations,
We care about your installation our
reputation relies on it.



www.durashield-windows.co.uk

BIG Lottery Bid

The last two months have been a series of highs and lows for the Lottery Bid: First the highs:

- Having a shop front in Aberfoyle Main Street has proved a huge success and many folk have popped in for a chat, to buy Christmas presents and Final Fling or Raffle tickets. As a result we are confident that there are more than 200 local supporters, which was an aspect where we knew a lot of work would have to be done to satisfy the Big Lottery Fund bid requirements.
- The Final Fling was also well supported and thanks to all who contributed time, raffle prizes or who came along on the night. We've put the list of business sponsors of the Raffle in the shop window. Again the community goodwill for retaining the garage was tangibly demonstrated and gives us necessary proof for the Big Lottery Fund of community backing. Funds raised were around £600, bringing the total achieved in just 10 weeks from fundraising, pledges and donations to over £10,000. This, plus other indications of future support available, gives us a good expectation that if a Lottery award were to be granted later in the year we would be able to raise enough community contribution.
- Additional grant support to help complete the bid was awarded: nearly £1000 from Stirling Council to cover the main costs of having the shop, and a further £3500 from the Big Lottery Fund to cover survey and other external bid costs.

BUT (and there was a big one) we have also had issues with the Big Lottery Fund, who do seem to keep re-interpreting their rules. Sometimes this helps, sometimes not – but it has certainly occupied a lot of the team's time. At one stage in January we even received notice in writing that the Big Lottery Fund had reconsidered 'State Aid' rules on European competition and decided that our bid (and several others) could no longer be supported. This had been a possibility for quite a few weeks, although as we hadn't spotted any multinationals rushing to set up garages in Aberfoyle, we had argued this was a local, rural market. So that meant the go-ahead twice previously given to Aberfoyle's bid attempt was withdrawn. Just four days later after pressing hard we were told the Big Lottery Fund had re-considered and we could submit a bid after all! Other teams elsewhere have not been so lucky as us though. This did delay us in a few ways for a month or so while the Big Lottery Fund was contemplating matters, for example we did not feel able to set up the new company and sign up members. However we are hoping to catch up on this aspect in February, and will shortly be contacting directly the people who were interested in this.

If you want information at any time please call into the Big Lottery Bid shop, get in touch by phoning 01877 387200, e-mailing transport@strathard.org.uk or contact a community representative:
Ian Marshall of Strathard Community Trust
Fiona McEwan of Strathard Community Council
Ros Dingwall in Aberfoyle PO (Trust and CC)
Margaret Neufeld of Loch Katrine Community Trust



Having obtained revised asset valuations we are now also in the phase of seeing how these can best be funded. As we explained last month when this aspect was queried, this is the time when the funding required and structure of the bid become clearer and indeed, as we said then, it looks as if there will be very major changes. The community contribution is only 5% so that should not change too much though. On the plus side again, Big Lottery Fund policy may have changed here also, and we have had indications that if we can make a good case then the Lottery might look at funding a market valuation, whereas before we had always been advised that other sources would need to be in place to complete a purchase of the garage premises at this market level. The turbulent financial and property markets also are having an impact and we are having to work through the implications of the changing business and financial environment. However, as we have managed to survive the bid being cancelled once anything is still possible, so we will press onwards! If the community doesn't give this opportunity a try, then there will always be a question as to whether we could have saved the garage from being turned into residential flats.

CAR BOOT SALE

in aid of BIG Lottery Bid

Supported by Scottish Wool Centre

Sunday 1st March

10am - 2pm

Scottish Wool Centre Car Park, Aberfoyle

Snacks & Refreshments available from Scottish Wool Centre

Site available from 9am for sellers.

Private Cars: Prepaid £10 - on the day £12

Vans & Trailers: Prepaid £12 - on the day £15

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS 01877 386222

Massage Therapy

**Eases Muscular
Aches and Pains**

*Relaxation
Sports Massage
Remedial Massage*

Angela Mudge

Dip Sports M, MSMA, SMTA



Mobile Service Available

Tel. 01877 382 632

Mob. 07765570503

Do you know the story of the Reverend Robert Kirk?

By Hazel Stuart

Do you know the story of the Reverend Robert Kirk? Have you stood behind the counter of a bar or a coffee shop and recounted it to a tourist, from memory? Although there are some accounts of this three hundred year old tale in written form, this Aberfoyle story continues to live on mainly through the voices of our villagers, as we pass it from generation to generation and use it to entertain our visitors. In contemplating the best way to write it up as an informed and entertaining novel, I would like to invite you, the residents of Aberfoyle, to have some input.

When I first moved to Aberfoyle, as a child, in the mid eighties, I was trained up as a villager. In those days, that meant I was to ignore my parents' previous advice and the government's 'stranger danger' campaign, and instead smile and say 'hello' to every tourist that I passed in the street.

Furthermore, I was to be approachable, polite and answer any questions that they might have about the area. It was important to do this; you'd be letting the side down if you didn't. The village needed tourism in order to survive and the tourists would only come if we were friendly.

So, not only did I have to know where the forest tracks led, where the public toilets were and what times the post-bus ran, but I needed to learn the story of the Reverend Robert Kirk and the fairies. And be able to tell it on demand.

As I lived towards the top of Manse Road, on the way to the 'fairy trail', I was probably stopped and asked about it more than most. In the summer, my mother must have wondered how the walk back from school could have taken me such differing lengths of time. It depended, of course, on how many tourists had stopped me and how much detail and flair I had chosen to give each rendition.

I expect she had some inkling, as I remember clearly that, each year, as the first tourists arrived, I'd happily launch into the story, only to realise that it no longer made sense and that I had forgotten bits. I would then return home and, even before dumping my school bag on the floor, I'd be asking her if she could remember. By the end of each summer, I was a confident expert again.

I took great pride, in those days, in my status as an informative local, but it was in retelling the Robert Kirk story that I was pedantic; it needed to hang together, make sense and entertain. I imagined that people, all around the village, were doing as I was and it all seemed like part and parcel of what it meant to be an 'Aberfoyle' (or 'Aberfoyle'?). Whether or not this was indeed the case, I was never really aware of what

a good story it was and how unique our village was for having it. Nor was I aware that I was partaking in the age-old art of 'oral storytelling' (whereby stories are kept alive through people retelling it to one another from memory, rather than relying entirely on a written version of it); an art many would argue has all but died in recent times.

It wasn't until last winter, when I was teaching (I am an English teacher) an unruly class of secondary pupils in the Midlands, that I realised how special our good old Reverend Kirk and his story were. To demonstrate the point I was trying to get across in the lesson (I forget what that was now), I started to tell them our tale. The room fell silent. It was eerie. They were hanging on every word. Even when I had to back-

track and fill in bits that I'd forgotten, or stop for a second to work out what the next part was, they stayed entranced. They loved the fact that it was based on reality. That Robert Kirk existed and that they could see pictures of his grave and the fairy hill on the internet. What's more, these teenagers, who normally spent their entire time in class mucking about, wanted to know more.

Since then, at first to answer some of the questions that were put to me that day and then led by my own curiosity, I have been spending my holidays and my free time finding out more and more about Robert Kirk and the fairies.

This is a journey that I now want to

begin to share with my fellow Aberfoyleans for two reasons. Firstly, just like back in the eighties, every child in Aberfoyle should be able to be proud of their village and every adult should be able to recount this tale, maintaining this fantastic oral storytelling tradition. It is, after all a story that belongs to us all

and is part of why Aberfoyle is unique. The main reason however is because, if I am to write any version of the tale into publishable form, I'd like it to reflect not only the 'truths' of the tale, as can be found in archives and libraries, but also the 'truths' of the tale as it has been known and told through the centuries by villagers themselves.

Therefore, whether you want to tell me the tale as you know it, want to make sure I'm aware of a little known aspect that would need inclusion, or just want to discuss how you'd like the story to be put across to a wider audience, feel free to get in touch with me by email at hazelstuart@hotmail.co.uk or by dropping a line to a member of The Strathard News, who can forward it to me.





FOOT HEALTH CLINIC

JACQUELINE MORTON
FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

MAFHP MCFHP

01360 550 374
07703799112

KILLEARN PHARMACY



Aberfoyle Post Office

Noses are red
People feel a bit blue
But in the P.O.

We've a warm welcome for you!
...and Valentines with better rhymes!
Mum's Day, Easter, all occasions
...and we post them off to all locations

Shop OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK:
Mon-Sat. 8am-5.30pm; Sun. 11am-5.30pm
P.O. OPEN: Mon-Sat; 9 am - 5.30pm, (Wed-4pm; Sat-1pm)



Mobile Library Timetable

Aberfoyle:

Daytime Service on Fridays

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| SCHOOL | 10.45 – 11.30 |
| CAR PARK | 11.35 – 12.15 |
| OLD KIRK LOAN | 12.20 – 12.35 |
| LIMECRAIG | 1.45 – 2.05 |
| QUEENS CRESCENT | 2.10 – 2.35 |



This service is fortnightly on the following dates:

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
| 16,30 | 13,27 | 13,27 | 10,24 | 8,22 | 5,19 |

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| 3,17,31 | 14,28 | 11,25 | 9,23 | 6,20 | 4,18 |

Evening Service on Thursdays

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| CAR PARK | 6.00 – 7.00 |
|----------|-------------|

This timetable is fortnightly on the following dates:

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|
| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
| 8,22 | 5,19 | 5,19 | 2,16,30 | 14,28 | 11,25 |

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|---------|-------|-----|
| JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| 9,23 | 6,20 | 3,17 | 1,15,29 | 12,26 | 10 |

Gartmore:

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| BOTTOM OF HILL | 2.45 – 3.15 |
| BLACK BULL | 3.20 – 3.50 |

This service is fortnightly on Fridays:

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
| 16,30 | 13,27 | 13,27 | 10,24 | 8,22 | 5,19 |

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| 3,17,31 | 14,28 | 11,25 | 9,23 | 6,20 | 4,18 |

Kinlochard:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| BRAEVAL | 10.55 – 11.15 |
| KINLOCHARD SHOP | 11.35 – 12.00 |
| FORESTRY HOUSES | 12.05 – 12.35 |

This service is fortnightly on Wednesdays:

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
| 14,28 | 11,25 | 11,25 | 8,22 | 6,20 | 3,17 |

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|------|------|------|---------|
| JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| 1,15,29 | 12,26 | 9,23 | 7,21 | 4,18 | 2,16,30 |

Port of Menteith:

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| MENTEITH ROAD | 11.00 – 11.15 |
| VILLAGE | 11.25 – 11.45 |
| SCHOOL | 11.50 – 12.15 |
| INCHIE FARM | 1.20 – 1.35 |
| LOCHEND HOUSE | 1.40 – 2.00 |
| DYKEHEAD | 2.05 – 2.30 |

This service is fortnightly on Fridays:

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
| 16,30 | 13,27 | 13,27 | 10,24 | 8,22 | 5,19 |

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| 3,17,31 | 14,28 | 11,25 | 9,23 | 6,20 | 4,18 |

Make a pledge to keep Scotland tidy!

The people of Scotland are being called upon to have some pride and take a New Year resolution pledge to help Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) achieve higher standards of cleanliness across the country in 2009. Scotland's population is being urged to pledge not to drop litter, or take things a step forward and pledge to pick up a piece of litter everyday and dispose of it correctly.

KSB Programme Manager Donna Niven, said, "As we enter 2009, Keep Scotland Beautiful is urging the Scottish population to make a commitment to the environment by not dropping litter and to make a pledge to pick up and bin a piece of litter a day in a bid to keep our streets, parks, beaches, roadsides and empty spaces litter free.

"If each and every one of us accepted the pledge to not drop litter and to pick up and bin a piece of litter a day we could make an impact on our quality of life. It's up to us to make a small difference – and just imagine the collective result".

Not only do littered streets damage businesses and tourism opportunities but litter clearance costs Scotland £100 million a year.

People can make their pledges at www.keeptscotlandbeautiful.org



ARDSTOVE

Open Fire & Stove Installers
Chimney Sweeping

David Monaghan

01877 387 205

mob. 07732 266231

e-mail: dmonaghan998@btinternet.com

HETAS APPROVED

Iain Glen
Interior & Exterior Painting

Iain Glen

Tel: 01877 382 296

Mob: 0773 772 6338





It's a new year and the hope along the line is that as the days lengthen so will confidence strengthen. Yes the Credit Crunch and the economic woes affect us all but we here have a huge advantage over the vast majority of the nation's population. We live in spectacular countryside which we can enjoy by merely opening our eyes. And that could be the key to not only helping our local businesses but also to stimulating a little confidence in our neighbours.

I don't claim to be an economist - I'm too optimistic by nature to follow such a career - but I am sufficiently aware of human psychology to know that, even when we lack something, we can get a boost from sharing someone else's talent. We bask in the glory of our sporting heroes, delight in the performance of talented musicians and gawp in wonder at the works of art in our galleries and museums. But strangely it is only when we are in foreign parts that we boast of the landscape which is our home. So let's change old habits and start encouraging our Central Scotland neighbours to come and enjoy our environment. The miseries encourage miserliness whilst happiness has a tendency to open pocket books. And the

economists all tell us we have to spend our way out of the recession. New slogan - Come to the Trossachs and be happy. The green shoots of recovery are already starting to sprout.

Now while you are all in a good mood I'll get back to the Local Plan. In December's issue I let you know that the consultation period would end on 28th February but that there would be local events to let you have your say on the Draft Plan. The Trossachs events were in Callander on 14th January and Aberfoyle on 26th February. Did you go? If not you still have the opportunity to make your views known until 28th February. The Draft Plan can be viewed at Callander Office or on our website - www.lochlomond-trossachs.org.

Submissions should be sent to Susan Brooks, National Park HQ, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG.

And please don't assume that someone else will have raised the points you want to make. As one learned individual once said - Assume only that it will make an ass out of u and me.

Legislation and regulations seem to abound and sometimes even the best intentioned can fall foul of them. Recently a Community Council were concerned that a village sundial which was a listed

building was in need of some cleaning and remedial work. So in conjunction with their Community Trust they set about raising the necessary funds and were successful in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. All's well so far. When the contract was commissioned it transpired that the contractor found it necessary/ convenient to take the sundial off to Edinburgh for the necessary work to be done.

No it didn't fall off the lorry and shatter to smithereens but there was a major problem. To remove or dismantle a listed building from its listed setting without specific permission is an offence even when the sole intention is to refurbish and replace it. Historic Scotland has to grant the necessary permission and negotiations have to take place to ensure that the refurbished and replaced structure will be re-listed. It is hoped that all can be sorted out and common sense will prevail.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead, FK19 8PR
01567 830214
owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Friends At Hand For Local Plan

A local conservation organisation is offering to help groups and individuals who intend to make a response to the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park draft local plan. The plan, which is currently being consulted on by the National Park Authority, sets out the framework for development within the National Park over the coming years, including issues like local housing and tourism development. It identifies how the authority will balance the need to conserve the National Park's outstanding scenery with the economic needs of the local communities.

Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, an independent conservation charity working within the National Park, is preparing a response to the plan and is keen to work with groups and individuals who are trying to do the same. "The plan is an important document for the National Park", said Friends' Director Martin Varley, "and it's crucial that we get it right, so we can ensure that the area's landscape is protected and local communities can thrive. However, the plan is also quite complicated and many people may lack the specialist knowledge needed to understand its implications. We would be happy to hear from anyone who has concerns about the plan and would like some help about what they can do from an independent organisation like ourselves."

To get in touch with Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs phone 01436 677733 or email martin@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk. The consultation period for the draft local plan ends on 28 February. After this comments on the plan will be considered and amendments incorporated in the final plan, which will guide planning in the National Park over the coming years.

Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!

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



CHRISTMAS AT THE LODGE

Despite the widespread predictions in the press of approaching financial hardships, there seemed to be no lack of Christmas to be found at The Lodge during December. It was especially rewarding to note, even in these troubled times, our loyal customers were still prepared to make their annual sojourn to purchase a real Christmas tree. Thankfully, it appears this is one tradition that will never fade away. The highlight of the month came on the second weekend as we were treated first of all on the Saturday to a superb rendition of carol singing by The Cadder Choir, from Bishopbriggs. On the following day, our old friends from the Lomond Mountain Rescue team gathered, with mulled wine and mince pies in tow, raising the fantastic sum of £485.12, through a raffle and a tombola, for their funds. As if to emphasise the importance of the team in the scheme of things, they had turned up at The Lodge as agreed despite spending the previous evening rescuing two lost souls on Ben Lomond. The year's appearance also proved to be a poignant occasion, as erstwhile team leader, Bob Sharp, was presented with gifts to commemorate his retirement after thirty years service. Knowing the man as I do, however, I have a sense we have not seen the last of him around these parts!



IN THE EYES OF A CHILD

The David Marshall Lodge 'wishing tree' has become a firm feature during our Xmas festivities. So much so, it is traditional to record a selection of the most interesting wishes, through this column, for your delectation. Sadly, of the hundred and twenty four stars 'posted', there was a huge 'swing' to the young capitalists. Forty three children chose to wish for an expensive gadget or an influx of money. Opposed to this, the traditionalists (wishing for snow on Christmas day and health for their family) and environmentalists (wishing for world peace and food for the starving children of the world) made up a combined total of only thirty eight. Not too many oddball requests this year, but here is a small selection for you.

I Wish... for my two front teeth... Duncan; I Wish... for a baby sister...Liam Mc; I Wish... for a chocolate coin... Lexie; I Wish... more tree huggers...Ross; I Wish... find love...someone; I Wish... I never had bad dreams, just good dreams...Josie; I Wish... a remote control maiter (mother)... Callum; I Wish... I was a witch...Leilah; I Wish... that Jesus will be remembered...Joshua (at least someone knows what we are supposed to be celebrating); I Wish... if the loch freezes over, for David to do a 'strictly come dancing' on the ice (the annual secret wish from one of my colleagues.)

Anyway, I'm up for it - anyone want to dance with me?

THE BLUEBELL CAFE - ONE YEAR ON

The introduction of a new cafe franchise this past year certainly caused quite a stir. Indeed, it would be fair to say the changeover was destined to suffer to a degree due to the long standing reputation of Liz McGregor's Coffee Shop, who had established a firm foothold at The Lodge over a period of six years. The teething problems the new owners, The Bluebell Cafe, encountered during it's formative period were more to do with divided loyalties than what was actually on offer. The overwhelming appeal of The David Marshall Lodge is based on a deep sense of tradition, and any degree of change tends to create an element of doubt- even suspicion - amongst our regular customers. It is to the credit of the cafe management and staff that they have not only survived the initial backlash of opinion, but have also strived to adapt to the very particular requirements of The Lodge customers, through sheer hard work and endeavour. This has culminated in recently achieving the Healthyiving Award, a Scottish Consumer Council and Scottish Executive initiative, given for demonstrating an ongoing commitment to national standards of good practice. Pictured with the certificate are John Coakes, Catering Manager and Babao Nygun, Assistant Manager.



RANGER'S CORNER

All joking aside...

Isn't strange Sir Cliff seems to appear only at Yuletide

With yet another remake of his Greatest Hits

Designed for karaoke fanatics to go into fits

It's enough to drive you round the proverbial bend

This seemingly never-ending festive trend

And as we sing-along again to 'Mistletoe and Wine'

Isn't it also convenient the new Indiana Jones c.d. is also out in time The advertising vultures definitely know our weak spot

Trouble is we never seem to give a jot

Because at Xmas, none of us want to be compared to 'The Grinch'

So we casually ignore The Credit Crunch 'pinch'

As we decide the exotically priced presents we have in mind

Will have to be paid 'in kind'

Sadly the comfort we take in our 'plastic friend'

Will always come back to haunt us in the end.

At this time of the year, to be with our families, we should all give thanks But truth be told, the only winners are the banks



DML PHOTO GALLERY



Rory Dean, from The Baillie, appearing slightly overwhelmed at meeting The Great Man



Anne and the Old Man of The Forest get up close and personal with the man from Lapland



Andy Mac weaves his chainsaw magic to produce a thing of beauty



The Cadder Choir - they performed at such a high level it was almost ethereal

YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH ...GARTMORE HOUSE



**CONFERENCES ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION MEALS B&B
SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION COMMUNITY EVENTS**

01877 382 991 info@gartmorehouse.com
 Gartmore House, Gartmore, Nr. Stirling, FK8 3RS
www.gartmorehouse.com

Charity No. SC029484

Need Help?

With the credit crunch, rising food, energy and fuel bills all taking their toll on households, Stirling Council is asking people to check to see if they qualify for help in reducing their council tax or rent.

More households are seeing their income being stretched, especially those on fixed incomes like pensioners or people with disabilities or in low paid jobs. Service Manager, Margaret Campbell explained: "Many people are not aware that there are benefits and discounts available and you don't have to be unemployed or elderly to claim. I would encourage householders to call us on (01786) 443210 or go to the Council's website for more information. We want to help and anyone who is struggling should contact us to discuss their situation."

Stirling Council Economy spokesperson, Scott Farmer added: "People are feeling the pinch, and any information that could help them financially will be of great benefit. I urge householders to claim for any discounts or benefits that they are entitled to."

Householders who live on their own, or lone parents whose family are either under 18 or students can also qualify for a discount of 25% off their council tax. There are other Council tax reductions that might apply, so householders should check them out. Call the Council Tax & Benefits Team on (01786) 443210 or go to www.stirling.gov.uk/counciltax Check out benefit entitlement with the Benefits calculator online at http://www.stirling.gov.uk/benefits_calculator

Wishing a happy and healthy 2009 to all,

from the Registrars at

Stirling Council's Aberfoyle Local Office

Several events have been registered at the Aberfoyle office since the last issue of the Strathard News. Many in the area were saddened by the death of Mr. George Meek, who passed away in December. Well known throughout the area, he will be missed, and I'm sure I am just one of many, many people who offer condolences to his family.



On a happier note, there were two weddings during December. We offer congratulations to Gartmore couple Douglas Brown and Sheena Connor who were married at Gartmore House, and to Stephen McCambridge and Sally Spillane who traveled all the way from Cardiff for their ceremony at Forest Hills Hotel.

For some, it was not the sound of Father Christmas at the chimney, but the patter of tiny feet that were heard. A huge big 'Welcome' to the three babies, whose births were recently registered at this office. In late November, baby Ben Hart was welcomed by parent's Laura and Stephen, while December saw the birth of Murray Campbell McGuire to parent's Lorna and Hamish. It was a girl, however, to be the first baby registered in Aberfoyle for 2009, as January brought parent's Craig and Susan the birth of Sophia Margaret Macfarlane. Congratulations.

In addition to Registration Services we continue to provide access to Stirling Council Services and both myself and the Assistant Registrar, John Boyle-Hannah, will look forward to giving you our best effort throughout the year.

The Registration and Stirling Council Local Office is open by appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon, and is situated on the upper floor of the Discovery Centre with a buzzer entrance on the Main Street. Appointments can be made by telephone, on 01877 382986, or by dropping in to the office during opening hours. We hope we can be of service.

Sharon Johnston Registrar

Get connected to My Stirling

Stirling Council's award winning web site has a new online service - My Stirling, which allows people to be kept informed of the latest council news either online or by mobile phone.

Need to find out if your child's school or nursery may be closed because of heavy overnight snow? Or want to know when there are any road closures in your area before you leave work and head for home? Then My Stirling can help.

Customer Service Development Manager Alan Whisker explained: "My Stirling is all about putting you in control and letting you choose what information you want to receive, when, and in which format. We can email you events information weekly or monthly, or generate a handy list of nearest bus stops, local libraries, council offices or recycling centres."

It's quick, free and easy – simply register at www.stirling.go.uk/my then choose the items that you would like to subscribe to (news, severe weather, service disruptions, road and school closures, events/concerts and much more) and indicate how often you would like the alerts and in what format (email/sms text messaging).



Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor – Routes to your Scottish Roots

Leading the way for family historians during Scotland's Year of Homecoming is Stirling Council's 3 day conference, specially geared to those who want to find out how to go about tracing their Scottish roots.

The dates for your diary are Friday the 19th to Sunday the 21st June 2009, and the venue is Stirling's well-known Albert Halls, conveniently near the city centre and both the railway and bus stations.

The first day will concentrate on locally held sources. In the morning session, Council staff from the Registrar's, the Cemetery Office, the Reference Library and the Archives will highlight material they hold and services that they offer to the public. Following on in the afternoon are talks on resources which may not be immediately obvious but which can help provide background information. Speakers from the University of Stirling, the Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum all will reveal how their collections can assist

in research. Although the focus for this first day is on Stirling-based resources, these are representative of material that may be found in most local authorities in Scotland.

On day two, Saturday, the spotlight falls on lifestyles—the occupations which our ancestors may have followed or circumstances in which they may have found themselves. This is where the 'tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor...' of the conference title comes in and speakers include not only council staff but a renowned Scottish author, and local and professional historians as well as university lecturers.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of such conferences is the opportunity to meet like-minded enthusiasts. On Saturday evening, there is the chance to relax and unwind after a day's concentration by going along to Stirling's Smith Art Gallery and Museum to enjoy a glass of wine and a buffet supper. Following this are Travellers' Songs and Stories sung and related by none other than Jess Smith, one of Scotland's best-known authors. Born into a travelling

family, Jess is an acknowledged expert in Traveller lore as well as a great singer. She is also one of the guest speakers on Saturday, so this is an opportunity not to be missed.

The conference ends on Sunday 21st with a half-day session which will examine the significance of graveyards to the family history enthusiast. Again, experts in their fields will examine important aspects of graveyard culture including the garden cemetery movement and gravestone symbolism. Stirling's own Old Town Cemetery will also come under scrutiny, having recently undergone an extensive restoration programme. In the afternoon, volunteers will lead walks through the Old Town Cemetery, and tell of those at rest there whose decisions and input to the Royal Burgh have helped to make Stirling the vibrant place it is today. For safety reasons, numbers will have to be limited for the walks. Bookings can be made at the Conference.

Family history societies will be in attendance for the duration of the conference with their stalls of specialist books and other materials. For details of prices and booking, please check www.homecomingstirling.com

Aberfoyle Coaches Day Trips

01877 382 341
sales@aberfoylecoaches.com

Royal Yacht Britannia

Sunday 22nd February

Coach & Entry £20



Kelvingrove Art Gallery

Thursday 26th February

Coach £12 Entry FREE



Dumfries House (Ayrshire)

Thursday 23rd April

Coach & Entry £22



New Lanark World Heritage Site

& Garden Centre

Sunday 24th May

Coach & Entry £18



Alton Towers

Wednesday 15th April

Sunday 19th July

Tuesday 11th August

Coach & Entry Adult £45

Children 4-11yrs £40



Spend an enjoyable day out with family or friends and let us take you on trip to some of Scotland's interesting venues. We are happy to organise special trips or just transport for groups from 16 to 250 passengers.

All trips are subject to minimum numbers. Under sixteen's must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Full details on each trip will be published shortly. Local pick up points will normally be Callander, Aberfoyle, Balfron and Killearn.

Home Reports & Energy Performance Certificates

New legislation that comes into force on Monday 1 December that is designed to further protect the interests of consumers when buying, selling or letting property will be enforced by Stirling Council's Environment Services on behalf of the local authority, including fixed penalty notices.

Stirling Council's Trading Standards Service Manager, Neil Chalmers, explained: "Environment Services will take a reactionary approach to enforcement of the new legislation. Any complaints that we receive will be fully investigated."

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 require that houses put on the market after 1

December 2008 must be accompanied by documents that make up a Home Report. The Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2008 imposes a duty on the owner of a building, which includes certain public buildings, to make an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) available or displayed to prospective buyers or tenants where the building is being sold or let. This comes into force on 4 January 2009.

From 1 December 2008 the seller of a house or their agent must possess two documents before marketing the property, and must be provided to prospective purchasers within 9 days. The two documents required is a Single Survey Report including an Energy Report, and a Property Questionnaire.

Voter increase

The new Register of Electors (Voters Roll) published on 1st December shows an increase in the number of eligible electors in the Forth Valley Area of 3924 to 222,616 on the last published register on 1st February 2008.

Brian Byrne, The Electoral Registration Officer, (ERO) for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling Councils areas has released figures which show the electorate in each ward of each council area.

The figures for each Polling District and street within each polling district are also available to view on his website at www.sa.gov.uk/central

Although disappointed that over 12% of households have not yet returned the annual form he expressed his satisfaction that staff have managed to ensure that the number of households responding increased and that the additional electors registered will now be able to vote in any future elections including the European Parliament Election on 4th June 2009.

As well as an overall increase in the registered electors there has also been an increase in the percentage of voters who have chosen to withhold their names from the Edited Register of Electors.

From the figures released the % "opting out" of the Edited Register ranges from over 30.8% in Forth & Endrick ward to 20.7% in the Bannockburn ward of Stirling Council. This indicates that the electors in Bannockburn are less concerned about the amount of "junk mail" they receive than the electors of Kippen & Drymen.

Local areas of the 1st December Register of Electors is available to view in local libraries and the full register is available to view in the council headquarters and the office of the ERO. (A full list of the places of publication is listed on www.saa.gov.uk/central)

Anyone who has still to register or needs to notify the ERO of a change of address or name can obtain a form in their local library or download a registration form from www.saa.gov.uk/central or www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Postal Vote forms and more information of registering to vote and voting options are also available from these websites or from Electoral Registration Officer, Hillside House, Laurelhill, Stirling FK7 9JQ Tel 01786-892200 or Fax 01786-892255



FORTHVALE CONTRACTORS



woodland & timber services



tree surgery

firewood

fencing

sawn timber

woodchips

Drew Keir

Tel: 01877 387202

Mob: 07890 331702

drew@forthvale.co.uk

Corrie Beag, Kinlochard, Stirlingshire FK8 3TL

Aberfoyle



**Satellite
Company**

**Aerial & Satellite
Installation & Repair Service**

Multi-point Home Solutions

Sky installations

Digital upgrade surveys



FREE ESTIMATES & ADVICE

mob. 0787 590 6767

Joe Kennedy A.M.F.A.

Keep it local!

Gardeners



We need
YOUR
spare plants!

Aberfoyle has recently been awarded a 'Community Pride' grant, thanks to Stirling Council. This is to allow us to replace the shabby planters on Main Street with brand new, locally-made ones from Kirkton Studios. The project has only been possible because of other donations, subsidies and offers of maintenance assistance from local businesses and residents – many thanks to them also. Basic planting – evergreens, bulbs and some bedding plants – is already included, but to maximise the impact, we are looking for further donations of bulbs, colourful plants, perennials, maybe some trailing ivy.... Help with organising and filling the planters when they are put in place would of course be appreciated – many hands make light work! The old planters were organised by the village many years ago when there was a community effort to brighten up the Main Street and enter a competition. Maybe we can get a scheme like this going again, and look at extending this initiative in the future with more planters and hanging baskets? If you'd like to donate plants or get involved in any way, please contact Geraint Short at Fairyland Aromatics on 382349 or the Community Council cc@strathard.org.uk or tel.387200.



guyana

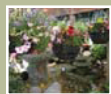
main street
aberfoyle

plants, art and crafts

unique range of arts
and crafts from
throughout the world.



extensive plant
area for all your
gardening needs.



open seven days
10 am to 6 pm



tel. 01877 382 308
enquiries@guyana.ltd.uk
www.guyana.ltd.uk

Chill Out

Stuart & Brenda's wee place at
David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle
tel: 01877 389302
email: chill@chilloutscotland.com
www.chilloutscotland.com



Happy New Year!

We hope you had a peaceful Christmas, a happy time at New Year, and are looking forward to the exciting challenges that 2009 holds! Remember in December we mentioned having a choice between feeling scared and depressed or the sheer love of just being.... well, let 2009 be the year we challenge our choices and let's be good to one another. We will keep you updated on things we are planning for the year. ChillOut opens again on the 1 March, and we look forward to seeing you!

Hooray! Yoga sessions start again on Tuesday 3 March. In all the sessions we will look at ways for yoga to become part of your life by using the different techniques according to what you are doing and how you are feeling. This way, in or out the yoga room, you can continue benefiting from yoga's wonderful effects, which will help with not feeling tired, stressed and run down.

Each month will focus on a different aspect of yoga, including breath awareness, building strength and flexibility and the benefits of relaxing. Remember that all yoga techniques can be adapted to suit anyone, and I strongly believe that when you build your yoga practice gently and with patience over time, working with your body's unique needs and eccentricities, it's one of the most rewarding and precious gifts you can give yourself.

All sessions are open to anyone, if you can come once a week, once a month or once a year, the door is always open to you.

Look out for the Big Bang on Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 March – there will be a variety of yoga and relaxation sessions to kick-start the year and shake off the last of winter!

I will be emailing more info out on the Big Bang, and there is also more info on the website.

I look forward to seeing you!

All the best,

Brenda

Regular drop-in Yoga classes

Open to all!

Tuesdays 9.30-11am

Fridays 9.30 – 11am

Saturdays 10am – 11am

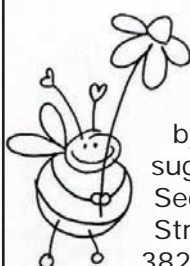
(not every week, please check dates)

Sundays 9.30-11am

(not every week, please check dates)

BEGINNERS' CLASSES IN BEEKEEPING

The Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers' Association will be running classes for beginners entitled "The Basics of Beekeeping" on Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:30pm in the St. Andrew's Hall, Leny Road, Callander, FK17 8AL. Classes will start on February 3rd 2008 for 7 weeks. A donation



by students of £14 to cover costs is suggested. To enrol, please contact the Secretary Peter Hunt, Wildenmore, Main Street, Gartmore FK8 3RW. Tel.: 01877-382594 or email: pd.hunt@virgin.net

School Report.....



Happy New Year.

On behalf of the staff and children of Aberfoyle Primary and Nursery I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

2009 has seen us move into the New Nursery building, a move that has been long anticipated by everyone. The nursery class has moved into one room and the primary 1/2 class has moved into the other. The children are really enjoying the new facilities and the floor to ceiling windows are very popular as they let in so much light and also allow the children to look out.

Up and coming events.

*P7 are hosting a Burns Supper in the school on the 4th February and the p7's are busy practising their poems, drama skills, and instrument playing for the big event-more in the next issue.

*Four pupils, from school have entered a Euro Quiz which is taking place at Wallace High School on the 30th January. They are studying hard for it at present and we are sure that they will do well.

Chinese New Year Comes to P3/4

Our topic is Chinese New Year. On Thursday we had a Chinese tea party. First we decorated the class room then we made FLAMES the dragon.

Afterwards we got dressed in Chinese outfits and it began. We had noodles and prawn crackers and lots more food. At the very end we got a red envelope and when we opened it we found money, Chinese money! I enjoyed getting the strawberry flavoured sweet at the end.

By Sophie Anderson p4

On the 21st of January some of the boys and girls from p6 & p7 at Aberfoyle Primary School took part in a 1 mile cross country run at Stirling University. The race was tiring but because most of the boys and girls do athletics training they got a lot of practice. There were over twenty schools that took part in the cross country race and there were 4 races, p6 girls, p6 boys, p7 girls and p7 boys. Overall everyone had lots of fun and we would like to thank everybody who helped out with the race.

By Emily Palau

P 1/2 have been learning about winter.

'We made winter books all about what animals do in the winter.

We decorated our books with snowflakes, snowy trees and snowmen. This is what was in my book. Birds fly to hot places for the winter. They find food. Bears hibernate all winter. This is a deep sleep. Bears hibernate in dens.

Many animals stay active in winter. Rabbits grow new thicker fur to stay warm. Geese fly south for the winter. They go to warmer places to find food. We get ready for winter. We put hats, scarves and gloves on.'

By Kim Stevenson, P 2.

Extract from the School Log

Feb/Mar 1912

Measles and whooping cough outbreak:

February 2nd-The cases of whooping cough have increased and attendance is poor.

February 9th-Whooping cough still spreading.

February 16th-same as last week, still spreading.

March 1st-Work almost at a standstill-measles outbreak.

March 11th-Acting on the advice of the County Medical Officer, the school will close for two weeks.

March 26th-Dr Graham and Dr Lindsay advised that we should close the school for another week!

Winter Poems from Inversnaid Primary School

The children and Mrs Carter would like to thank the volunteer decorators for brightening up our classroom and toilets. The bright, cheery environment is definitely helping us to enjoy our learning!

Flying

Winter is here!

Children rushed through the door

Snow!

White, white everywhere

Children rushed to get their skis on.

Mountains look like fluffy white clouds

White, white everywhere.

Children rushed, zoomed down the hill like lightning,

They flew back to the village like birds

In the sky

White, white everywhere.

Jamie Carter

Snow

Snow

Flutters like feathers coming down in the morning

People rushing to work

Before they get snowed in.

A dog steps outside

Has one look at the snow

And runs back inside

I'm not going out

In that white stuff,

I don't like getting

Wet, wet, wet,

Yuk, Yuk, Yuk.

Snow

Still falling in the evening

Like leaves falling off the tress

In the morning

All the snow has disappeared

Dog's face

Brightens up like the sun.

Eilidh Walker

One Snowy Day

Kitty and I

Step out in the snow

We play snowball fights

Build snowmen

Make snow angels

I pull her on my sledge

She is my friend

Kitty.

Morgan-Leigha McPheat

Home

Snowman stands like a stranger

Mountains above like giants

Skiers cover the slopes like busy little elves.

Ski class like a snake

In front of me

Home for a rest

At last.

Annie Carter

Aberfoyle Activities Youth Group

The volunteers at Aberfoyle Youth Club would like to wish everyone all the best for 2009. We had a great time last year and hope that Youth Club will continue to go from strength to strength.

Unfortunately, our first event of the year - the trip to Glasgow to see the panto the Wizard That Never Was - had to be cancelled as there was insufficient uptake of places to allow eligibility for the special group rate. This caused disappointment, and many came forward afterwards to say they would have liked to have gone after all, which leads into the next point. Aberfoyle Activities Youth Group notices and advertisements will be displayed in the Co-op, on the Public Notice Board between the Clachan and the Co-op, and on the Notice Board outside the garage. We do hope everyone, both Members and non-Members will read these. All trips and special events will be displayed, but we will not be able to inform individuals, unless they have made sure that the Administration Secretary, Sharon Johnston, has their email address. Members should read the displayed notices in order to take part in forthcoming events, but non-members should be aware that (eligible) persons can join Youth Club at any time, and some of our events and trips (such as Panto) are open to adults and non-members, too.

Planned events which have been advertised include the 'Banner Making' graffiti workshop on the 30th January. Forthcoming events which we hope to have and will be advertised on the notice boards, include the Junior Trampoline trip to Stirling University. Members interested should inform the Chairperson, Lynne Wallace. An extra trip, to replace the Panto, may be planned (possibly the cinema) and will be discussed at future meetings. We also intend to continue buying new equipment, whenever possible, and welcome ideas about what would be most popular.

Welcoming new members all the time, we would also like to remind everyone that adults are also welcome to drop in. Come and see what we're doing, have a chat and, if you feel like staying to give a hand, that would be specially welcome too. We look forward to seeing you in the run-up to Spring.

Urgent Youth Club Appeal Aberfoyle Activities Youth Group

We are currently short of one adult volunteer to help supervise the Senior youth club meetings, on Fridays between 8pm and 9.30pm. Can you help? You do not need to be a parent or relative of any of our members, or have any special skills. You do need to be 18 years old or over, enthusiastic about preserving a youth club for the young people of the area, and free to commit to attending the meetings on most Friday evenings. If this sounds like you, please get in touch. Please don't presume someone else will do it, because actually, it's YOU we need.

If you cannot commit to helping out most Fridays, but could come now and again, then please also get in touch. You have no idea how much we welcome an extra pair of hands.

We are also looking for people with special skills to that our members might enjoy learning. Could you coach in football or sports? Can you teach us how to street-dance? Are you a musician that could get a jamming session going? We would love to hear from you all.

Please phone Lynne Wallace (Chairperson) on 01877 382578.



Aberfoyle Golf Club

is opening its doors to everyone on

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th March

We are hosting an Open Weekend, where everyone can enjoy a round of golf free of charge. Why not come along and play a round of golf on one of the most scenic courses in Scotland. After playing, have a drink in the comfortable, spacious clubhouse. Perhaps take lunch in the restaurant.

You will be made to feel very welcome. If your children are interested, bring them along too.

The club will be open from 9.00am till 5.00pm each day, with staff and members on hand to assist.

Great Membership Opportunities!

To reserve your time, just call Duncan on either

01877 382493 or 01877 382463

We look forward to seeing you!

MEALS ON WHEELS

Aberfoyle, Gartmore, Kinlochard

Can you offer a few hours of your time to help deliver meals to people in local communities as a WRVS volunteer?

If so please call Mary Phillips, Local M.on W. Coordinator

01877 382 696 email: mary@ForthHouse.com

or WRVS on 01786 450718

Trossachs Cab Company

Quality Private Hire Service



6, 9 and 16 Seater Vehicles Available



Mini Bus Hire



Airport Transfers



Local Hires

Tel. 01877 382 108 or 07791 598925

info@trossachstravel.co.uk

www.trossachstravel.co.uk

Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UX

Milton

Hello Children,

First of all let me wish you all a Happy New Year. I know time is moving on, January has already gone and we are now approaching springtime. Have you noticed how much lighter it is in the morning and that it does not get dark until well after five o'clock? This is great for playing outside after school. The snowdrops are out in flower; you can see lots of them in the woods and gardens around Aberfoyle. Grandpa Otter says that it was the Romans who brought snowdrops to Britain, nobody knows why but they certainly are very pretty. Look out for the bright yellow gorse flowers, too. Not only are they spectacular against the dark, spiky bushes but you can actually eat them. They taste just like coconut.

On Burns' Night we had a special birthday celebration for Scotland's most famous poet. As this year was the 250th anniversary of Rabbie's birth, mum produced a haggis with 25 lit candles stuck in it - one candle for every ten years of his life. The heat from all those burning candles certainly made sure that haggis was cooked. The twins, Katrine and Duke, blew out the candles and dad recited the haggis poem written by Burns and performed at every Burns' Supper throughout the world. Dad did leave out the couple of verses about unpleasant thing, like chopping off the heads and arms of English people. That is certainly something we should not be doing today.

In case you had not noticed, this is the year of the Homecoming. With a bit of luck, and a lot of fine weather, it is hoped that Scots from the four corners of the planet will come to Scotland between now and St Andrew's Day. You may be surprised to know that there are 5 million people living in Scotland and another 50 million people with Scottish blood spread across the world. If they all came back at once, Scotland would sink! There will definitely be plenty for our visitors to do; you can pick up a Homecoming events guide at the Tourist Information Centre. In this area there will be ceilidhs, galas, concerts and highland games, as well as golf, guided walks and a host of other activities to take part in.

My sister is busy making a Valentine's card for her boyfriend. Nobody knows who he is; it is all a very big secret. Braeval is not even giving anyone as much as the smallest clue. As always, my sister is being very irritating - it is what she does best. Valentine was a Roman soldier who became one of the early Christians. This, unfortunately, was against the law of the time and he was sentenced to die. In jail, waiting for his execution, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter and on his way to be fed to the lions he sent her a message, written on a small piece of paper: the very first Valentine's card. I wonder who will get Braeval's card on the 14th February - and will anybody send one to me?

Bye for now,
Milton.



Stirling Enterprise (STEP)
delivers the **Business Gateway**
service on behalf of **Scottish**
Enterprise Forth Valley.



FREE BUSINESS GATEWAY TRAINING

February 2009

Advertising & Promotion

25th Feb 09 18.00 - 21.00 STIRLING

T: 01786 463416

This course considers the various advertising options available, looks at what's cost-effective and what's not when it comes to spend and will help delegates formulate a basic advertising strategy.

March 2009

Get Real Results from your Website

4th March 09 09.30 - 12.30 STIRLING

T: 01786 463416

Considers what makes a good website - from a human and technical perspective. Looks at site planning, design and operational processes.

Book Keeping 1 11th Mar 09 18.00 - 21.00

Book Keeping 2 12th Mar 09 18.00 - 21.00

STIRLING

T: 01786 463416

The golden rule of setting up a system to manage your finances is that it should be simple and methodical. This course will teach you the fundamentals and at the same time equip you with a new skill for life.

April 2009

Marketing your Business 28th Apr 09 18.00 - 21.00 STIRLING

T: 01786 463416

Getting the marketing right for your business is crucial to its success. This workshop will help you to understand your competitors, identify your customers and understand the things you need to consider for effective marketing.

IT & BUSINESS SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

Beginners Word 11th Feb 09 09.30 - 16.30 STIRLING £75 (+vat)

Learn how to create simple documents, saving, folder creation and editing.

Beginners Excel 18th Feb 09 09.30 - 16.30 STIRLING £75 (+vat)

Designed for people with little or no previous experience of using a spreadsheet program. The client group is small to medium businesses who wish to expand their spreadsheet skills or learn from scratch. The seminar covers creating simple spreadsheets, saving, folder creations and editing the spreadsheets.

Enhanced Communication Skills 19th Feb 09 09.30 - 16.30 ALLOA £75

(+vat)

This workshop will help you build rapport and confidence using sensory specific language, influencing with integrity and understanding communication with clarity.

Selling Skills/Telesales Skills 26th Feb 09 09.30 - 16.30 ALLOA £75 (+vat)

The aim of this workshop is to help you in dealing with difficult customers, find out how to project interest, gaining personality and warmth in your voice and knowledge of trusted selling techniques.

MARCH 2009

How to Succeed in Business 9th Mar 09 09.30 - 16.30 ALLOA £75 (+vat)

Success in business has to be earned it is not guaranteed. Success depends on many factors not just luck. This one day workshop shows you how you can be the success you have always wanted to be.

Build Your Own website 10th Mar 09 09.30 - 16.30 ALLOA £75 (+vat)

This course is primarily a Web-site design course that will look at the importance of establishing your name and the reasons for obtaining a dot com or co dot uk. The main focus of this course will be building a Web-site including establishing pages for Index, About, Product and Contact.

Desk Top Publishing Using Publisher 18th Mar 09 09.30 - 16.30

STIRLING £75 (+vat)

Uses Microsoft Publisher to demonstrate the creation of flyers, posters and publications.

Stirling Enterprise Park

John Player Building

Stirling FK7 7RP

Phone: 01786 463416

Fax: 01786 479611

Contact Email: step@stirling-enterprise.co.uk

www.stirling-enterprise.co.uk

Past Times

By Major Proops (Ret'd)

In the beginning was the start and the start was called the Nice Age which really wasn't very pleasant at all. Snow and ice covered the world and great beasts roamed the land, big they were, and some were mammoth. There was the Dinosaur which sat for long periods in one position, eating, until it got cramp in its bottom. The Tyrannical Rex was fierce and was the king of the animal kingdom and a bit of a bully, truth be told. Then there was the Broncosauras, a prehistoric precursor of the horse which man tried to tame for transport. This proved very difficult as the beast kept throwing its rider who, again, got a sore bottom. Not the best of times to be a human, I guess. Needless to say, these beasts found themselves unsuited to surviving in a cold climate what with the increasing cost of fossil fuels and so it gave way to the Bronze Age.

This era was epitomised by the surge in numbers of tanning parlours, the resulting tan known locally as 'Glasgow

Orange' due in part to its bright hue and so beloved of many. It did have its advantages to our distant ancestors – and also those nearer to home – in that they could spot one another whilst out hunting at night. Sadly, it did have one slight downturn in that the prey could spot them too, the latter quite often being bigger and more vicious than our well-tanned ancestors. Naturally, the fashion of getting a tan died a death, so to speak.

The Iron Age followed pretty quickly but it only lasted for a short period of time, relatively speaking. In this era of prehistory, mankind seemed to be in a constant rush, claiming pressing engagements elsewhere. It was truly a trying time for our forbears and did test their mettle.

Thus came the Stone Age, the last of the prehistoric ages of man and sadly the most brutal. During this period man found the means to make alcohol and discovered the joys of drinking

to excess, the pleasures of fighting others who were equally under the influence and the incomparable joy of insulting passing strangers in slurred voices. These people were instantly recognisable by their extremely red faces though whether this was due to the amount of alcohol consumed or a genetic hangover (no pun intended) from their tanning parlour ancestors is still in dispute. Suffice it to say, this was before the dawn of history proper when our hirsute and barefoot ancestors were quite barbaric in thought and deed. In the present day, we would not countenance such ridiculous and uncivilised behaviour.

In the next instalment we will bring you how the Ancient Geeks brought us computers which they called A Bacchus, how the Ancient Romans showed us how to wear skirts and the French gave us the Garlic Language.

Really not to be missed!

Fisheries Permit Pricing

Stirling Council's Regulatory Functions Panel met last week to discuss and agree fishing permit charges for the 2009-2010 season.

It was previously agreed that the Council's two Fisheries, on the Teith and Forth, had to be put onto a commercial footing by 2011/12. This means the cost of running both fisheries should be met by permit charges.

Council Leader, Graham Houston, welcomed the introduction of the proposed charging mechanism, which will see the fisheries become self-financing, reducing the burden on council tax payers.

The review of charges will also see the introduction of new Fisheries Officers for the start of the new fishing season. The Fisheries Officers will oversee the management of the fisheries, introduce improvements to riverbank facilities and carry out conservation as well as enforcement duties.

Councillor Jim Thomson, Portfolio Holder for Environment added: "Our fishery prices are among the lowest in Scotland, as a result our rivers are busy with visiting anglers. We want to ensure that both local anglers and visiting tourists have access to the Rivers while at the same time protecting stock levels for future generations."

Results of a recent survey of anglers undertaken by Environment Services, indicated that the top issues were conservation of stocks, increased policing, retaining concessionary permits, and having a consistent approach to pricing for both the Forth and Teith. Respondents also identified the fisheries as being of good value but overcrowded.

Aiming for a new record in 2009

The CFSLA Payroll Lottery donated over £10,000 in 2008 to local community organisations. local, national & international charities

It donated equipment and supported council staff fund raising efforts to a wide variety of organisations including scout groups, youth football, playgroups, community newspapers, cancer charities, hospices, overseas orphanage etc.

The committee of volunteers from Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling Councils as well as Police, Fire & Assessors Services meet 4-5 times annually to decide which applications to support with the profits of their monthly payroll lottery. The lottery is open to all employees of the 6 organisations above and to former employees.

Staff can apply for additional help with their fundraising efforts and organisations can apply for equipment to help them maintain or improve the services they offer.

The next meeting will be held on 11th February 2009 but organisations can apply at any time.

Forms are available from lottery_russell@hotmail.com or shortly from the new website www.cfsla.org.uk

Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

From the Manse

The Christmas decorations are safely packed away, but a dim memory now; first footers are long since departed; the Burns' Night haggis is eaten, the Immortal Memory remembered. Card shops are presently filled with Valentine cards, and Mothers' Day cards can only be a lick of a stamp away. I haven't seen cards for Candlemas, but that is the time now upon us, on the 2nd February.

Candlemas was one of the old Scottish Term Days. It was one of four days dividing the legal year, when rent and interest on loans were due, when servants were hired and paid, and when new contracts or leases would end or begin.

In pre-Reformation times, here in Scotland as everywhere else in Christendom, Candlemas was originally a holy day to celebrate the Feast of the Purification, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple forty days after his birth. People would take beeswax candles to their church to be blessed for use in the church or at home, and there would be procession with the lighted candles. It must have been a magical sight, a sight to gladden hearts and minds weary with the long dark days of winter. And Candlemas is still celebrated, especially in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican traditions. Aside from Hyacinth Bucket's candlelit suppers, how powerful is even a single candle flame. Poets and writers from Ronsard to Yeats, Hardy to Edna St Vincent Millay have all been inspired in different ways by a candle flame. This Candlemas, so might we. Says Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, 'How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world'. In these dark and trying times we might just take time to remember the one whom we remembered only forty or so days ago, for his arrival among us as the light of the world.



St Mary's Episcopal Church

Food for thought.....

As I write, there are still one or two discarded Christmas trees awaiting collection by the Council. These forlornly remind us that the festivity and fantasy associated with a New Year is over: now we face the reality not only of 2009, but also of life itself.

The turn of a year is a reminder of the passing of time. Time is always moving forward of course, but often it takes the start of a New Year to remind each of us that we have taken another further step away from the cradle. So for a month or so into a New Year many have a renewed awareness of the value of time and of life. Some ponder how we use time: as a result, it suddenly becomes treasured.

New Year Resolutions reflect this desire to make best use of time. Some decide to improve the mind and others the waistline.

Soon though, everything will be back to normal. 'New Year Resolutions are made to be broken' say many cheerfully. But even if new challenges soon fade, doubtless in the days ahead, our time will be mapped out for the next twelve months with plans for holidays or perhaps a special anniversary.

An Uncle and Aunt recently planned to celebrate their Golden Wedding. It was planned to be held in an extremely busy week. At the beginning of the week my Aunt was to be admitted to hospital for a cataract to be removed. Later, after the wedding celebration, my Uncle would enter hospital to have a knee operation. Such are the marvels of modern science that so often are able to enhance the quality of our time.

And so it was. My Aunt went into hospital for a day. The operation was successful, and the next day my uncle busied himself at home whilst my Aunt slept off the effect of the anaesthetic. In the meantime, congratulation cards for the Golden Wedding were beginning to fall through the letterbox. The phone then rang. It was the hospital, but the call had nothing to do with my Aunt's stay. Instead, it was the haematology department phoning about my Uncle's forthcoming operation. The hospital asked my uncle to come in and give a blood sample, so that should a transfusion be needed during the operation, the correct type might be to hand. Thus my uncle set off in the car.

Having given the required sample, my uncle phoned home to say that all was well and that he would be home within half an hour to prepare lunch. In fact he never arrived home. For some unexplained reason, his car left the road on the journey home. He died instantly.

It is right to value time. It is sensible to make plans for use of that time. But in so doing, we bear in mind that we live each day only by God's will. It is perhaps a sombre note on which to start a new year, but nevertheless a right one.



Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Guild

A very good New Year to all our members and friends. The Scots Afternoon held on Monday, 19th January went with a swing and was enjoyed by all.

The February meeting is now on Monday 23rd - please note the change of date. At this meeting, Quint Glen will speak about the Lake of Menteith, a topic which should be of interest to men as well as ladies. So come along, gentlemen; you will be made very welcome.

We are also hosting the Church Coffee Morning on Saturday, 7th February from 10.30am-noon.

The World Day of Prayer service on Friday, 6th March is being held in the Port Church at 7.30pm

At our meeting on Monday, 16th March we will hear about The Jubilee Sailing Trust, a charity which enables handicapped people to have a sailing holiday.

All our meetings are held at 2pm in Church House.

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A RETAINED FIREFIGHTER?



Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service
Protecting the Heart of Scotland

There is a shortage, at the moment, of people who will turn out and help in an emergency. This is particularly true in villages like Aberfoyle and Doune because nowadays there are fewer people who live and work locally. You might be just the person to fill the gap.

In more rural areas such as Aberfoyle, the station is staffed by people who live in the village and have other jobs such as builders, shopkeepers, farmers or plumbers. When the call comes to attend an incident in the area, they become part of a dedicated team ready to face any emergency.

To apply to join the service you don't need any paper qualifications. You must be at least eighteen at the time of appointment, with good all-round fitness and good eyesight. You will be asked to take a straightforward written, fitness and practical test and undergo a medical.

On average, you will be called out one or two times for a couple of hours. If you cannot be available all the time, that's not a problem. You can be paid for being 'on call' only part of the day or week. There is a shortage of people who are available during midweek working hours, so you could have weekends or evenings free and still do a worthwhile job. If you really can't be on call, for example due to holidays, you can 'sign off'. In addition you will be required to attend a training night once a week.

As well as job satisfaction, you will be trained in the use of equipment. You are paid a basic retainer, a fee for call-outs and another for turning out to a fire or another type of emergency. You are paid for drill nights and duties like equipment maintenance.

Application forms can be collected from the local fire station or by contacting Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Services Headquarters on 01324 716996



Would you like to be able to:

- ☐ Provide a vital service to the Aberfoyle Community?
- ☐ Deal with emergency incidents and Community Safety?
- ☐ Develop your skills and team working ability?

Retained Firefighters

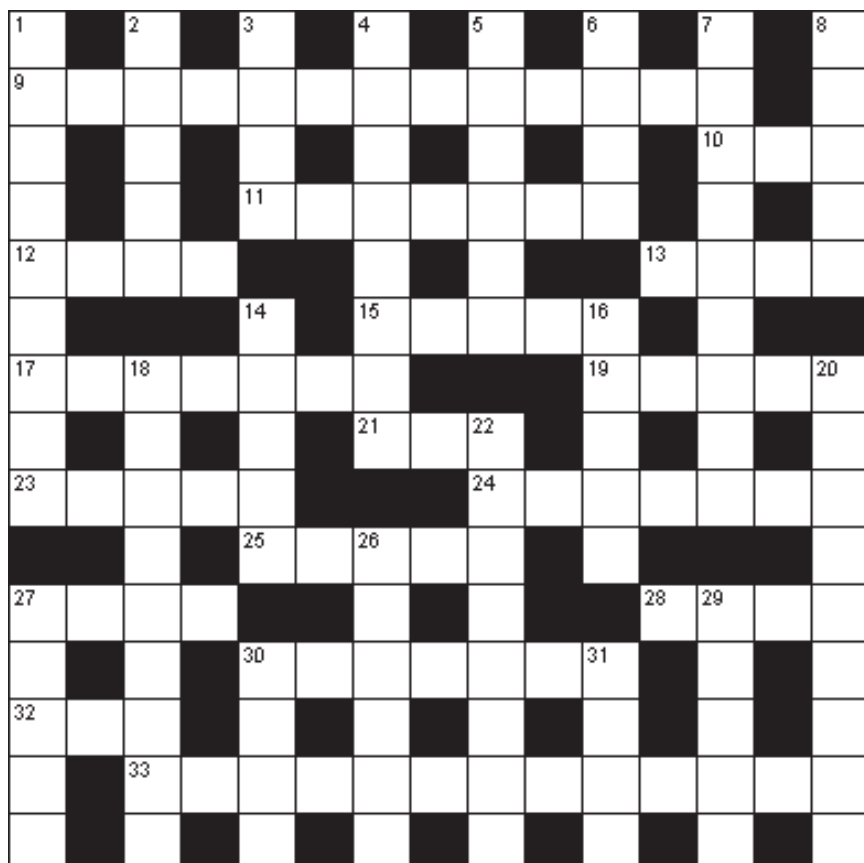
If so, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service have opportunities for Retained Firefighters (part-time) at Aberfoyle Fire Station

Please Contact:

Tel. No. (01324) 716996 or visit our website

www.centralscotlandfire.gov.uk

APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE DAY COVER WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME



Across

- 9. Powerful computer (13)
- 10. In favour of (3)
- 11. Garment worn by dancers (7)
- 12. Aromatic herb (4)
- 13. Donated (4)
- 15. Fertile area in a desert (5)
- 17. Person who rows (7)
- 19. Freedom from war (5)
- 21. Affirmative reply (3)
- 23. N Scottish coastal town (5)
- 24. Large ships (7)
- 25. Frighten (5)
- 27. Actively engaged (4)
- 28. Incandescent lamp (4)
- 30. Juror (7)
- 32. Fuss (3)
- 33. Rebirth of the soul in a new body (13)

Down

- 1. Psalter (5,4)
- 2. Kingdom in SW Europe (5)
- 3. Spoken (4)
- 4. Lack of variety (8)
- 5. Talks (6)
- 6. Collar fastener (4)
- 7. Institution for orphans (9)
- 8. Lying flat (5)
- 14. Wrong (5)
- 16. Slap (5)
- 18. Storm with heavy rain (9)
- 20. Headed east (9)
- 22. Steam-ships (8)
- 26. Continent (6)
- 27. Facial hair (5)
- 29. Undo (5)
- 30. Lockup (4)
- 31. Ark builder (4)

answers on page 26

Not here.....but near!

Strathendrick Film Society

The next film is: 'I'm Not There' (2007) on Friday February 13 at 7:30pm. Runtime: 135 minutes.

A dazzling, experimental take on the life of popular music's most revered and enigmatic artist: Bob Dylan. In keeping with the impossible-to-pin-down nature of Dylan himself, Todd Haynes chose to cast six different actors to portray several incarnations of the groundbreaking troubadour. The result is a challenging, sprawling work that spans several decades and genres. Starring Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, and the late Heath Ledger - All as Bob Dylan. "One of the sexiest pieces of cinema I've seen at a festival." James Christopher - The Times (Cert 15).



The society is pleased to announce it is putting on an extra film: 'Out of Africa' (1985) as a fundraiser for Balfron High school Malawi exchange, at 7pm on Friday 27th March. Doors will open 7pm. Members will have free entry (if they book through the society) non members will be charged at the door if they do not have a ticket. Members should book free places through Joan, the secretary by e-mail joanmacp@aol.com or ask for a ticket on the usual film nights. Tickets will soon be on sale from Balfron High reception area, afternoons only. Cost will be in the region of £5.

Third Age Group Strathendrick

National Arboretum Holiday. The group are now taking the booking for this years holidays.

We have put together three of next years trips with Glenton (ABTA).

May holiday : Edgebaston. Friday 15th May '09. DB&B Price: £179 per person. 20 single rooms available at no extra cost, 4 days 3 nights staying at Menzies Strathallan Hotel Insurance included, Black country Museum £10, Cadbury World £10, Birmingham Botanical gardens £4.50, National Arboretum Memorial free.

German Rhineland - Hotel Lamm Assmannshausen: Saturday 29th August '09, 8 days. Cost £499, Single supp: £115 per person (Sole occupancy throughout.) Subject to 35 booking.

October trip to Nottingham. Friday 23rd October for 3 nights, to co-inside with the Robin Hood Pageant. £165. Single supplement £30. Book with Joanmacp@aol.com or phone Joan on 01360 449253 between noon and 7pm Monday - Friday only.

Countryside events in February

Stirling Council's Countryside Service are all ready to roll their sleeves up and get their hands dirty in 2009 with a full list of events where volunteers can lend a helping hand.

February is especially busy starting off with Drystane Dyking at Abbey Craig Woodland (below the Wallace Monument) on Sunday 8 February from 9.30am - 3pm. There will be a chance to join an expert dyker and learn some of the skills of this ancient craft. Volunteers are asked to wear sturdy boots, steel toecaps if they have them. Places are free but limited – advanced booking is essential.

On Sunday 15 February Stirling Council's Countryside Service is looking for volunteers to help with simple woodland management in 'The Kingdom' at the end of Beech Drive. Countryside Ranger Dougie Flynn explained: "We'll be thinning trees, cleaning bird boxes, coppicing hazel and managing the scrubby vegetation." The work will take place from 10am - 3pm and volunteers are asked to meet at the far end of Beech Drive, Killearn.

At Doune Ponds, enthusiastic volunteers will get the opportunity to get their hands on free firewood on Sunday 22 February in return for helping the Countryside Rangers to continue felling small trees around the site as part of the management of this woodland reserve. The wood can be taken home for firewood or craft projects.

Places are free but limited – advanced booking is essential. Do Your Bit for Doune Ponds and meet at Doune Ponds Car Park between 10am – 3pm.

Please note for all our events including volunteer days, children are welcome but MUST be supervised by an adult at all times.

For practical conservation day's bring/wear: Outdoor clothing suitable for practical work, a packed lunch if staying the whole day and work gloves if you have them. Tools and refreshments will be provided.

Booking essential on some events, please call during office hours 01786 442971. If you need to cancel, please call so your place can be given to someone else. For more information please see <http://www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside>



Drystane Dyking

Crossword Solution

Across 9.supercomputer 10.pro 11.leotard 12.mint 3.gave 15.oasis 17.oarsman 19.peace 21.yes 23.Keiss 24.tankers 25.scare 27.busy 28.bulb 30.juryman 32.ado 33.reincarnation

Down 1.Psalm book 2.Spain 3.oral 4.monotony 5.speaks 6.stud 7.orphanage 8.prone 14.amiss 16.spank 18.rainstorm 20.eastbound 22.steamers 26.Africa 27.beard 29.untie 30.jail 31.Noah

ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL

Pilates

Mondays 7 - 8.15 pm

Step'n'Tone

Mondays 8.15 - 9.15 pm

Thursdays 10 - 11am

Contact Amanda Reid 07811633968

Tap, Ballet & Jazz Classes

Tuesdays from 3.30pm

Contact Carla Duggan 07815146462

Toddlers

Wednesday Mornings

Contact Julie Glen 382296

Scottish Country Dancing

Wednesday Evenings

Contact A Ralston 382847

Ballroom and Latin American Dance

every Wednesday until the end of March, starting at 1830 for one hour, £1 per person per session

Shotokan Karate

Thursdays

7pm (kids from 8 yrs)

8pm (adults)

Contact Julie Glen 382296

or Jackie Bell 382142

Youth Club

Friday Evenings

Contact Marie 382568

WRI (Womens Rural Institute)

Contact Margaret Brown 382463

The hall is available for meetings, parties and other events (to book call Sandra Jardine 382673)

Cottage to Let in Aberfoyle

2 Bedrooms and 2 Public Rooms

Furnished To A High Standard

Gas Central Heating

No Dss. No Pets. No Smoking.

Tel 01877382211

If you wish to take out an annual subscription please complete the information slip and post it to: The Treasurer, Strathard News, Garrison Cottage, Inversnaid, FK8 3TU.
Cheques for £12 made payable to Strathard News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ TEL No: _____

Date: _____

Forth Inn Events Diary

February 2009

Fri 13th & Sat 14th: Valentines Menus

Saturday 14th: Valentines Karaoke in The Wallace Bar, Fun starts 9pm

16th to 21st Feb: Food with Beer Week

Sunday 22nd: Pub Quiz in The Wallace Bar starts 9pm Prize for winning Team!

A Date for your Diary: On the 27th to 29th March 2009 we will be holding our 1st Beer Festival. Live Music, Music Sessions and of course loads of Real Ale to sample!! Watch this space for more details or phone (01877) 382 372.

***** **New for 2009 Winter Afternoon Special*******
Menu - served from 3pm till 5.30pm

Soup of the Day

Steak Pie or Haddock served with Chips & Peas
Cold meat or Cheese Salad served with New Potatoes
Ice Cream

The above will be served with
Bread, Butter, Tea or Coffee

Any 2 Courses ONLY £6.00

Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UQ

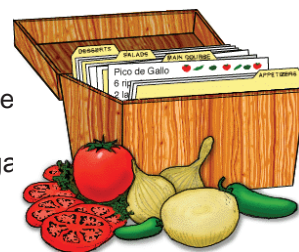
Tel: 01877 382 372

E-mail: Phil@ForthInn.com

Dark Chocolate and Cointreau Mousse with Caramelised Orange

INGREDIENTS:

Bitter Chocolate
Double Cream
1 measure of Cointre
1 large orange
8oz Granulated Suga
Icing Sugar
Orange Juice



METHOD:

Lightly whip the cream with the Cointreau and add a tablespoon of sifted icing sugar.
Melt the chocolate in a bowl over warm water.
Grate the orange and add to the cream.
Pour the chocolate into the cream and stir with a plastic spatula. Place in the fridge to set.
Peel the orange with a knife and segment. (do this over a bowl to keep all the juices).
Squeeze the rest of the orange into a pan, add the juice from the segments, the orange juice and the granulated sugar.
Bring to the boil until it reduces to a thick syrup.
Add the segments to the syrup carefully.
Turn over with a spoon and allow to cool.
Scoop the mousse and serve with segments and syrup over the mousse.

Enjoy!!!



Janefield, Ruskie, Stirlingshire, FK8 3LG
Tel: 01786 850500 Fax: 01786 850555
Email: directvehicleopt@aol.com

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

INTERESTING!!!

Motorists in the UK could save more than £100 million a year if they switch to independent garages for servicing, new Government figures show. But the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) says 86% per cent of business still goes to franchised dealers, despite new rules letting owners get work done outside the network without invalidating the warranty. A new OFT report says the average bill is 40 per cent cheaper at an independent garage but only 14% of owners took advantage of this. Those who left the dealer network in the two years after the warranty servicing rules were changed in 2003 collectively saved £30 million. But if every driver had followed suit, this could have been £214 million - or £107 million a year.

Vehicles for Sale



Volkswagen Golf 1.6 FSi S 5 Door, (06/56) 6 Speed in Black. Air Con, Alloys, CD, 9,000 Miles. **£9,995**



Vauxhall Corsa Club 1.4 Auto 5dr (07/07) 17,000 Miles in Blue **£7,450.00**



Volvo C30 2.0D SportPack (07/07) 30,000 Miles in Metallic Silver/White **£13,750.00**



BMW 320 DSE Manual (07/07) in Silver, 15,000 Miles, Climate, Sat Nav **£16,500.00**



Toyota Hi-Lux HL2 2.5D D/Cab (08/08) Delivery Miles **£12,500.00 + VAT**



Vauxhall Combo CDTi Van (05/55) 39,800 Miles, FSH. Immaculate **£4,550.00**



Volvo XC90 (07/56) 2.4 185 DSE Auto Tip, Comms Pack, Barents Blue, Off Black Leather **£21,995.00**



Smart Pulse (04/04) in Blue/Silver, Panoramic roof, Leather heated seats, 45,000 miles, Good service history, 60 MPG+ **£4,550.00**



Ford Focus TDCi Style (08/08) 3,500 Miles in Black **£11,750.00**



Renault Clio 1.2 Expression (02/52) 5dr 60,000 Miles, FSH **£2,650.00**



Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDi 4x4 Estate Car (05/55) 1 owner, FSH, 39,000 Miles **£9,750.00**

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

Images for illustration purpose only