

# Strathard News

The voice of Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid [www.strathardnews.com](http://www.strathardnews.com)

## 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  
**Printers:** Exactaprint  
92 West Regent St, Glasgow G2 2QD  
0141 352 6800  
info@exactaprint.co.uk  
www.exactaprint.co.uk

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**Deadline Dates**  
**Issue 52:** 31st May  
**Issue 53:** 12th July  
**Issue 54:** 23rd August  
**Issue 55:** 4th October  
**Issue 56:** 22nd Nov (xmas issue)

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## David does it in style!



On Sunday 19th April, the Co-op's own David Guillard completed a sponsored walk which he had organised in aid of RNID (Royal National Institute for the Deaf). He was accompanied by his good friend Robert Vallance on the walk, which began at the Top of the Town, Stirling, and continued on to the Wallace Monument. David and Robert paced themselves as it was a lovely, sunny day and were able to complete the walk in two hours. David would like to extend his thanks to all Co-op customers, staff, friends and even tourists, who sponsored him. We are delighted and proud to report that David has raised over £616.00 for this worthwhile cause. The RNID works to improve the lives of people who are hard of hearing. Well done David and Robert!

## McLaren fights back

The McLaren High School Under 14 Team played in the final of the Forth Valley Cup against Denny High at Firs park, Falkirk on 23 April. In the first half the boys were outplayed by a skilful Denny side who were deservedly 3 – 0 up at half time. In the second half Grant Craig was brought down in the box and Steven Lauder made the score 3 – 1 from the penalty spot. This sparked a great revival and Grant pounced on a through ball from Calum Wyllie to make for an exciting last 20 minutes. Calum himself levelled the scores at 3 – 3 with only a few minutes left. The game was then decided on penalties which Denny won 4 – 3.



Congratulations to Denny and well done to McLaren for a great fightback. McLaren's "Man of the Match" for sparking the comeback was Grant Craig.

# Community Council Report

No update would be complete without a mention of Roads and this month is not an exception. During May, road closures will take place south of Aberfoyle on the A81 near Ward Toll and will affect anyone heading in the Glasgow direction. The first closures are on weekdays for two weeks starting 11th May. Full details and maps are on village noticeboards and in Aberfoyle PO. After that, further closures are planned south of Ballat so we will get details and publicise these similarly.

As described last month other ongoing issues and complaints lodged with Stirling Council are now on public display too. During May we will start also to put all this information on our website [www.strathard.org.uk](http://www.strathard.org.uk)

**Outdoor Drinking Byelaw:** Details of the Aberfoyle village proposals mentioned in the last edition will similarly be publicised this month, and we would appreciate any further community comments or opinions on these during May and June before progressing any further.

**Forestry Lorries:** We welcomed John Hair of Forestry Commission Scotland to our April Meeting

to explain in more detail what was happening with felling and timber haulage for the Loch Ard Forest, adding to the information provided in the last Strathard News. Please do ensure that any difficulties or problems caused by haulage vehicles are brought to the attention of FCS or the Community Council, so that these can be investigated and dealt with properly.

**Loch Arklet:** A revised planting scheme has recently been proposed by FCS in response to the campaign, and this will be considered by the local community on 1 May. Unfortunately the scheme still involves creating woodland around Loch Arklet, although tree densities have been reduced and some other details specified more clearly. Details are available on [www.locharkletview.org.uk](http://www.locharkletview.org.uk). The names of your Community Councillors are shown in the box – please do get in touch with them on any relevant issue where you would like our help.

Fiona

Tel 01877 387200  
Email [cc@strathard.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathard.org.uk)  
[www.strathard.org.uk](http://www.strathard.org.uk)

**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 Inversnaid on Thursday 4th June at 7.30pm and

Aberfoyle on Thursday 2nd July. Half an hour prior to the meetings a local District Councillor (Tony Ffitch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues and concerns.

Community Councillors

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

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



## Police Community Website

There is a community page for Aberfoyle on Central Scotland Police website [www.centralscotland.police.uk](http://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.



## POLICE WARN HOUSEHOLDERS TO BE VIGILANT

**Thursday, 30th April 2009**

Police are warning householders to be vigilant after a number of homes have been broken into in the Balfron and Callander areas. Dunblane Sergeant Roddy Swan said: "Regularly, around the time of crimes, there were reports of people purporting to be window cleaners."

Both men were believed to be in their thirties. One was 5'3" tall, stocky build with short brown hair and the other was described as 6' tall, stocky build with short brown hair.

Sergeant Swan added: "It is a legal requirement for window cleaners to be licensed before they can clean windows in the Stirling area. This applies to cleaning both residential and commercial premises. It is important that members of the public who allow window cleaners onto their private property should be able to do so safe in the knowledge that they are bona-fide operators who have undergone the relevant vetting and are properly insured.

"Members of the public are entitled to check the licence of anyone who offers them a window cleaning service. Householders are recommended to make use of this to protect themselves from bogus workmen or unlicensed operators."

Anyone who has information regarding unlicensed window cleaners can provide this information to police by phoning Central Scotland Police on 01786 456000 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## THEFTS OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

**15th, April 2009**

Police are appealing for information regarding thefts of industrial equipment in the Stirling area.

Most recently a cement mixer and assorted hand tools were stolen from a partly constructed garage at Ochilmount in Bannockburn sometime between 1am and 2pm on Monday April 13.

An industrial compressor was stolen from road works at New Line Road, Bannockburn, overnight between Saturday April 11 and Sunday April 12.

Constable Derek Mitchell, Community Safety Officer in Stirling, said: "The public are advised to think about the security of their property. These items would require a vehicle to remove them. In some cases the items could have been hitched up via a tow bar or placed in the rear of a large van.

"Take extra care and do not to leave easy pickings for a thief. Road working equipment should be securely attached to the vehicle by chains and close shackle padlocks. Small items, such as stihl saws and hand tools should be removed from the vehicle."

Anyone with information can contact Central Scotland Police on 01786 456000 or information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Stirling Council's Aberfoyle Local Office

The Registration Office at Aberfoyle office has been delighted to register the birth of three babies since last we wrote. Aberfoyle parents Alistair and Jodie were delighted at the birth of their baby boy Spencer Ferguson on the 5th of March. Joseph Liam Milligan arrived, on the 18th of March to the joy of his parents Catherine and Colin from Drymen. Last, but not least, the 6th of April brought happiness to Ruskie couple Amanda and Peter with the birth of their daughter Ursula Elspeth Potter. I think I could speak for us all when I say a very big 'welcome' to Spencer, Joseph and Ursula.



Spring is definitely in the air as shown by an increase in weddings. Some of our beautiful churches have been busily ringing their bells as local couple Colin Moffat and our own police officer Josephine (Jo) McDowell from Aberfoyle were married at the Parish Church in Aberfoyle. The Parish Church at Port of Menteith hosted the ceremony of David Kinnaird from Kinlochard to Janet McDonald from Glasgow, and also of Alexander McDougall from Kilbarchan to Deborah Barbour from Thornliebank. I too have been as busy as the bells, marrying four couples in the area. Richard McBryde married Laura Rickaby, both from Gloucester, in the Marriage Room in Aberfoyle Discovery Centre while Alskeith House was the venue choice of Peter Hanley and Susanna Hargreaves. Forest Hills Hotel hosted the weddings of Andrew Murphy from Glasgow to Ina Schirmer from Fairlie, and also of Alan Clark and Lisa McDonald from Oakley.

Warmest congratulations to all. I've said it before, but I'll say it again \_ haven't I got a great job!

As things get busier at the Registration Office in Aberfoyle, the Local Office work still continues. Remember we can help you access a wide range of services, so if you think there might be something we can do for you, please ask.



The Registration and Stirling Council Local Office, on the upper floor of the Discovery Centre, is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon. 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

Welcome to Issue 51 of Strathard News and back to plain old black and white; a bit like the weather really – a glimpse of the glorious colours of spring rapidly obscured by the rain. We would like to produce every issue in colour but it takes a long time to build up the funds to cover the colour printing costs. If there are any individuals or businesses who would like to "sponsor an issue" so that we could print more issues in colour, we would love to hear from you! Sponsorship could cover the difference in costs between black and white printing and colour printing, and not the total printing costs. Interested?

I'm sure many of you were as disappointed as we were to hear that Duncan Cameron, the RSPB warden, had moved to pastures new. We'll miss his informed and entertaining articles but wish him well in his new job. I'm delighted, therefore, to welcome his successor, Alison Leonard, on board. Travelling to the Garrison and Inversnaid reserves as well as taking on a new job is very time-consuming so we are very grateful that Alison is finding the time to write for us. We really appreciate the commitment that all of our regular contributors make.

We have also received an offer we couldn't refuse. We're going to have our website updated! Colin Stewart of InformComm, Kinlochard, has offered to help us put together a more professional-looking website, so we're going to give it a trial run. We're hoping it won't affect circulation but it is a great deal for advertisers and other organisations with websites because it will be able to link to their sites. It will take time to get up and running but you can check it out at [www.strathardnews.com](http://www.strathardnews.com) in a couple of weeks.

We'd love to hear what you think about this or any other issues. Contact details are on the front page

Margaret

# 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](mailto:enquiries@trossachs.co.uk)



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](http://trossachs.co.uk) and click on Free Competition to start. Good Luck!

**May's prize is a weeks Autumn break in the beautiful Trossachs Village of Aberfoyle courtesy of Stoneypark's 3 star Self Catering Holiday Cottage.**



### Transport

We have heard that some patients are having problems contacting the patient transport service. If you have or had problems contacting the transport office please can you let Rowena Boome (practice manager) have all the details: e.g. date and times and how many times you attempted to telephone the office. Working with the patient participation group we will write to the Scottish Ambulance Service.

### Ethnicity

If you have attended the surgery recently you may have been asked to complete a form asking about your ethnicity.

Why are we asking this?

Your ethnic group may help us to provide services that meet your individual needs and to check

that our services treat people from all backgrounds fairly and equally. Diseases like diabetes, heart disease and cancer are more common in some ethnic groups than others. We want to make sure that NHS services treat people equally whatever their ethnic group.

What is your ethnic group? Your ethnic group is the group you identify with because of your language, culture, family background or country of birth. It is not necessarily the same as your nationality.

### Repeat prescriptions

Reminder: We would like to remind our patients that we require at least two working days to make up your repeat prescription. If we have to order any of your medication it may take longer.

### Please Visit Our Website

[www.aberfoyle-buchlyviesurgeries.co.uk](http://www.aberfoyle-buchlyviesurgeries.co.uk)

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

### CONSULTING HOURS

#### ABERFOYLE

MONDAY	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
TUESDAY	4.00pm – 5.30pm	By Appointment
WEDNESDAY	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm-3.00pm	By Appointment
THURSDAY	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
FRIDAY	4.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
	7.00am-8.00am	By Appointment (Alternate Fridays)
	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm-3.00pm	By Appointment

#### BUCHLYVIE

MONDAY	7.00am-8.00am	By Appointment (Alternate Mondays)
TUESDAY	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
WEDNESDAY	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.30pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
THURSDAY	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
FRIDAY	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm-5.00pm	By Appointment

## “Walk In The Park” Set To Start In June

Have you ever thought it would be a good idea to get out more and enjoy the fresh air but never had the confidence to go it alone?

Then why not come along to the new weekly walking group starting in Aberfoyle on the 10th of June. The new walk programme on offer will initially last 10 weeks and information on routes and schedules will be available from the Medical Centre and distributed by the National park.

The walks will be short (approx 30 – 45 minutes) and are aimed at people who haven't exercised for some time, who are recovering from illness or an operation and for groups such as Mother and Toddlers to get out and enjoy the fresh air (all walks are buggy friendly). They are very informal and there is no requirement to register in advance.

Walking can provide many benefits including reducing the risk of developing heart disease, stroke and cancer. Walking can also help control weight, increase energy levels and improve mood. These walks will allow participants to take small gradual steps towards a more active lifestyle.

Tricia Cumming from Active Stirling's health and fitness team explained: "Weekly walks organised in local communities are an ideal way to get people

who are not normally physically active out and about in their local area. These walks are for people who perhaps need the support of a group to get them started or have been advised by their GP to start taking gentle exercise. Tricia added: "This walking group is to give people a support structure and confidence that they can go out and walk for a short period and enjoy themselves. Walking can play a positive role in creating a healthier lifestyle overall".

"Walk About the Park" is a new initiative being organised by Active Stirling who have taken the lead role in developing the "Walk About Stirling" project. This is a Partnership project supported by the National Park Authority, Active Stirling, NHS Forth Valley and the national Paths to Health programme.

A key part of the project is volunteer walk leaders who not only lead the walks but encourage those taking part. The project is currently seeking volunteer walk leaders to lead walks in the Callander and Aberfoyle area. Local training is provided for volunteers interested in becoming walk leaders. For more information about the project and volunteering contact Tricia Cumming on 01786 432323 or Craig Walker on 01389722113.

## Trossachs 10K Run

**Location: Aberfoyle**

**Date: Saturday 30th May 2009**



The 10K Run starts and finishes at the car park in Aberfoyle and the route is mostly on forest tracks. The route will be fully marshalled and refreshments will be provided at the finish. The entry fee covers the cost of staging the event. This ensures that all sponsorship raised supports our lifesaving work.

**Entry Fee: £12 per person**

If you would like to raise sponsorship for this event please let us know and we will send sponsorship forms to you.

Contact us now to enter:

Jillian on 01877 382332 email: [jillian06@btinternet.com](mailto:jillian06@btinternet.com)

Ian on 07917869074 or at [ian@idema-aqua.co.uk](mailto:ian@idema-aqua.co.uk)

Download an entry form from [www.anthonynolan.org.uk/](http://www.anthonynolan.org.uk/)

## The 4 B's - Boats, Boots, Bike and Bus

The 4B's, a unique bus and bike service along the shores of Loch Lomond was launched on 21 April 2009. The Loch Lomond 4Bs links trains and cruises bringing together local cycle and walking routes, cruise itineraries with a scheduled bus service on the A82 between Balloch and Tarbet. The service aims to make it easy for cyclists and walkers of all abilities to access stunning locations around the Bonnie Banks in a more sustainable way.

The 4B's concept is collaboration between local business including accommodation and activity providers all keen for visitors to enjoy the National Park but reduce their carbon footprint. Visitors will be able to hop on the bus to Tarbet, take a cruise to Inversnaid on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond and enjoy a walk around the RSPB Nature Reserve. Other green days include West Loch Lomond by bike, the West Highland Way Rambler, Inversnaid Explorer, Luss Village walks and a hike up Ben Lomond. With more people holidaying in the UK this year, the service is already in great demand.

Plan your green day out at Loch Lomond by picking up the 4Bs leaflet available from all Tourist Information Centres or visit [www.lochlomond4bs.co.uk](http://www.lochlomond4bs.co.uk) . If you would like more information call 0845 4580 885.

The bus runs weekends and bank holidays until the end of September and every day from July 4 to August 18. All day bus ticket costs £4 for adults and £2 for children and bikes are free. Timetables can be found on the website and in the leaflet.

### Plan Your Day at Loch Lomond

#### West Highland Way Rambler

Combine a cruise on Loch Lomond with a walk along one of the most scenic stretches of the West Highland Way from Rowardennan to Inversnaid. Take the 4 Bs bus to Tarbet, where a ferry will take you on a 45 minute cruise to Rowardennan on the eastern shore. Enjoy a one-way leisurely 8 mile walk enjoying stunning views across the Loch to the Arrochar Alps and north to Ben Lui. Re-embark at Inversnaid for the half hour cruise back to Tarbet

Degree of Difficulty - Moderate

Outward - Bus : Depart Loch Lomond Shores 09:51

Boat : 11:15. Boot : Allow 4 hours for the hike

Return - Boat (Inversnaid) : 16:30 Bus : 17:43

Price : BUS FREE OF CHARGE. £14.50 adults, £9.50 Children

#### Luss Village Walks

Hop on the 4Bs bus to the pretty conservation village of Luss. You then have a choice of walks. First option is a short and easy walk around the village of Luss and the surrounding countryside. Visit the church with the Viking grave, and see the remnants of the slate quarry on which Luss was founded. Or, if you're an experienced hillwalker, why not tackle the Luss hills, a fantastic 5 hour circular walk affording stunning views of Loch Lomond and the islands, and offering superb vistas towards the Cobbler and the Arrochar Alps.

Degree of Difficulty - Luss Village - Easy, Luss Hills - Strenuous

Outward : Bus : Depart Loch Lomond Shores 09:51, 11:51, or 14:51

Boot : Allow one hour for Luss village, or 5 hours for Luss hills.

Return : Bus : 13:03, 16:03, or 18:03

Price : BUS FREE OF CHARGE.

#### Ben Lomond Hike

Take the 4Bs bus to Inverbeg and pick up the ferry to the hamlet of Rowardennan where you can access the hike up Ben Lomond - Scotland's most southerly Munro, reaching a height of 3,194 feet. Enjoy spectacular views from the summit of this famous mountain which towers over the eastern shore of Loch Lomond. This is a strenuous hike, and should be undertaken only with a map and appropriate hillwalking equipment. You will have plenty of time to enjoy your walk and have a refreshing drink in the local hotel before your return boat and bus trip.

Degree of Difficulty - Strenuous

Outward - Bus : Depart Loch Lomond Shores 09:51. Boat : 10:30. Boot : Allow 5 hours for the hike

Return - Boat : 17:30 Bus : 17:52

Price : BUS FREE OF CHARGE. £7.00 return for boat.

## Rural Walking Group Schedule May to June 2009 All Walks start at 11:00am - please be at meeting point by 10:45am

Day	Meeting Point	Walk Route
Thurs 14th May	GARTOCHARN Park at the Guide Hut beyond the campsite	GARTOCHARN NATURE RESERVE
Thurs 21st May	GARGUNNOCK Park in Main Street near the shop	ROUTE TOWARDS KIPPEN
Thurs 28th May	KINLOCHARD Park at the village hall	PATHS AROUND THE LOCH
Wed 3rd June	DOUNE Turn off the A82 Stirling to Callander road at the bridge over the River Teith near Doune, signposted for Deanston. Park on roadside.	DEANSTON LADE
Wed 10th June	MUGDOCK PARK Car park the visitor centre (not the garden centre)	PARK WALK
Wed 17th June	KIPPEN Park in Main St near school	LOCAL PATHS
Wed 24th June	BUCHLYVIE HEALTH CENTRE (We will operate a "Park and Ride" service to the start of the walk)	THE OLD RAILWAY TOWARDS GARTMORE Followed by picnic in wildlife garden behind Buchlyvie Primary School

These walks are for gentle exercise and are led by trained walk leaders. They last for approximately 45 mins – 1 hour and there is no charge. Please remember to wear footwear with a good grip. To join, please come along early on your first walk to complete a questionnaire.

If you require directions to meeting point contact : Susi: 01360 440849 or 07895 512266, Lindsey: 01360 440471 mobile 07836 786259 Ann: 07746453840

For general information, contact: Tricia Cumming on 01786 432323 or e-mail [cummingp@activestirling.org.uk](mailto:cummingp@activestirling.org.uk)

#### Inversnaid Explorer

Your 4Bs bus drops you in the village of Tarbet, where you can cruise the stunning fjord-like north end of Loch Lomond to the peaceful haven of Inversnaid. Once at Inversnaid you can enjoy one of the numerous short walks in the area – visit Rob Roy's cave, the Arklet waterfalls, or stroll around the RSPB nature reserve. Or why not take your bike on the boat, and cycle up the hill to the spectacular surroundings of Loch Arklet and Loch Katrine – 3 Lochs in one day!

Degree of Difficulty - Moderate

Outward : Bus Depart Loch Lomond Shores 09:51 or 11:51

Boat : 11:30 or 13:30 Boot : Allow 1 to 2 hours for your walk Cycle : Allow 2 hours

Return : Boat : 14:00 or 16:30 Bus : 15:43 or 17:43

Price : BUS FREE OF CHARGE. £7.50 for adults, and £4.50 children

#### Trossachs Treks



### Guided Walks off the Beaten Track

#### Arthur Jones

**01877 382 682**

[arthur@trossachstreks.co.uk](mailto:arthur@trossachstreks.co.uk)  
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#### West Loch Lomond By Bike

The scenic West Loch Lomond cycle route runs from Balloch in the island-studded south of Loch Lomond to Tarbet in the fjord-like north. This flat cycle route is 14.5 miles long, and is mostly off-road. The 4Bs bus with bike trailer means you can take the bus to Tarbet, then cycle the return route one-way, giving you more time to have a relaxing day out, take in the amazing scenery, and spend some time in the beautiful conservation village of Luss.

Degree of Difficulty - Easy

Outward - Bus : Depart Loch Lomond Shores 11:50 or 14:50 Cycle : Allow 2.5 hours

Return - By Bicycle!

Price : BUS FREE OF CHARGE. Bike hire from £12, or bring your own bike

# National Park News

## RESPECT THE PARK

### A UK FIRST FOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY RANGER SERVICE

In what is being heralded as a first for the UK, four Rangers from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority have been trained to become Special Constables, giving them increased powers to make the National Park a fantastic place for people to enjoy. This groundbreaking approach is part of a wider 'Respect the Park' programme that is being taken forward by the National Park Authority and Central Scotland Police this summer.

This collaborative approach is aimed at enhancing safety in communities within the Central Scotland Force area, helping to tackle any anti-social behaviour within the National Park



Special Constables are Sacha Beard, Jenny Rogers, Graeme Archibald and Matt Drew

and ensuring that people are able to responsibly enjoy the Park.

To mark the launch of the initiative the National Park new recruits were sworn in at a ceremony held at the National Park Authority Headquarters in Balloch after a three week training course and were congratulated by the Minister for Environment, Roseanna Cunningham, Deputy Chief Constable, Iain Macleod and Fiona Logan, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority. Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing added: "Special Constables come from all walks of life and volunteer their time to police their communities. Rural workers, such as those being sworn in today, provide a wealth of local knowledge that supports the policing of our rural communities.

"These Special Constables were recruited through an Employer Supported Policing Scheme and the National Park Authority is to be congratulated on allowing their staff to have time off to police the park and the wider community."



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## FARMERS AND NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY JOIN FORCES OVER LAMMING

As the recent spell of good weather has encouraged many people to head out and enjoy the countryside, NFU Scotland (NFUS) and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority are asking everyone to take special care around lambs and calves and to be careful not to disturb them.

This time of year is one of the most important and busy periods for livestock farmers throughout the National Park as lambing and calving is under way. Both organisations are asking people to be mindful of that, in particular by keeping dogs well away from vulnerable young and pregnant animals.

Doug Stewart, Access Officer for the National Park Authority, added: "We want to encourage everyone to be responsible when walking their dog. Follow the Outdoor Access Code guidance and avoid taking your dog into fields where sheep are either lambing or lambs are present. It's always best to carry a lead just in case you need to control your dog closely."

The Park Authority will continue to offer help to farmers and land managers this spring and provide them with advice and signs to put up in popular areas at lambing time. Laminated signs in A4 and A3 size and individually worded to suit are an effective method of providing guidance for the public on the presence of livestock. For more information about the signs, contact the National Park Access team on 01389 722600.



Loch Lomond  
& The Trossachs  
National Park

The feelgood factor. It's the economy, stupid! Well no, hereabouts it's the weather and the Easter holiday was a definite boost to the spirits and the local economy. All the experts are suggesting that this will be a bumper year for the tourist trade. The weak pound gives the twin benefits of making Scotland a cheaper holiday for the Europeans and the Americans and encourages more of our own folk to holiday at home. I'm hopeful. In anticipating all those extra visitors, the seasonal Rangers have started and the whole Ranger Service is geared towards a meet and greet programme. In addition the partnership with the Police and the Forestry Commission Rangers in Operation Ironworks is being rolled out again. This will be reinforced this year with

some of the Park's Rangers now also Special Constables. And yes when acting as Special Constables they will be wearing Special Constable Uniforms not Park Ranger uniforms. Coming to a loch near you this summer is the Solar Boat, Bata Greine. The intention is to sail it up Loch Lomond to Inversnaid and then take it by road to Loch Katrine where it will operate in conjunction with the SS Sir Walter Scott. So there is a great day out for you and your guests: a visit to Loch Katrine and the twin joys of a nostalgic trip on the Sir Walter Scott and a spin on an ultra modern solar boat. You may recall that the Park Authority have been planning a festival in 2010 to mark the bicentenary of the publication of Sir Walter Scott's epic poem, The Lady of The Lake. There will be a year long series of events under the banner of Trossachs 2010. In addition Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority

will be hosting the conference of the UK National Park Authorities (ANPA) in the Trossachs area. So with good weather this year and a series of events in 2010 I think this area should ride out the recession very well. Back to Planning and the new rules which will come into play on 3rd August. As I said last month I don't anticipate many Planning Applications which will come into the Major Category (i.e. 50 plus houses or above 2 hectares of development) but it is as well to let you know what is expected should any arise. The main thrust of the change is that the problems should all be ironed out before the application is submitted. The developer will be required to engage with the community before submitting the application. He will require to give full details of the proposed development to the community and endeavour to overcome any objections raised by the community. In submitting the planning application he will have

to tell the Planning Authority how he consulted the community, what objections were raised and how he plans to overcome the objections. Very sensible and although such a process is not required for applications below the Major threshold we will be encouraging developers to adopt a similar procedure. Another major change is that relating to neighbour notification. Presently an applicant is required to notify any owner/occupier of a contiguous property of the proposed development. Under the new rules that duty will be undertaken by the Planning Authority. Next month we will deal with the appeals system. As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post:

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

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## OPERATION IRONWORKS

Operation Ironworks, the six-month operation aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour at some of Scotland's iconic beauty and part of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority's Respect The Park programme, was launched on April 10th. The initiative, led by Central Scotland Police and run in conjunction with rangers from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Forestry Commission Scotland along with Strathclyde and Tayside Police forces, will provide high profile patrols in the countryside.

During the six months there will be over 70 different initiatives carried out by the three forces targeting antisocial behaviour issues which are often alcohol fuelled including damage to property, irresponsible fires, litter, road safety and wildlife and environmental crimes as well as noise disturbance.

High visibility patrols will be carried out by officers on foot and motorbikes as well as officers from the Road Policing Unit, Dog Section and Underwater Search Unit. Mobile police offices will also be used at various locations and community traffic wardens will ensure traffic problems are kept to a minimum.

Alexandria-based Sergeant John Synott, of Strathclyde Police, said: "Together with our colleagues in the other forces and our partners, we are sending a strong message that antisocial behaviour in the National Park is not acceptable. The community who live and work around the area, as well as visitors, deserve to enjoy this beautiful part of Scotland without worrying about their safety or security. To report matters of antisocial behaviour any of the agencies involved can be contacted or information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Letters to the Editor... have your say!

Post to Editor, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid, FK8 3TU  
or email [editor@strathardnews.com](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com) or hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office

Help needed!

I am Macmillan's new fundraiser for the area around Callander and Aberfoyle. As I live miles away in Fife, I really need someone local who would like to get involved in a small way with Macmillan Cancer Support. Macmillan offers people affected by cancer and their families in clinical, practical, emotional and financial support. It looks after people of all ages with all kinds of cancers.

Your role could be as simple as looking after a couple of collecting cans – ie collecting when full and replacing with empties – or putting up posters in the local shops. Macmillan has lots of events supported by all kinds of people across the country – the main one being the World's Biggest Coffee Morning held the last Friday of September. I would also like to say that I am available to give talks to local groups about the work of Macmillan so if anyone is interested please get in touch.

Many thanks,  
Carolyne Nurse  
Fife Fundraising Manager  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
66 Nethergate  
Dundee DD1 4ER  
Telephone 01382 226150

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### Residents Urged Not To Lose Their Vote

Lost voting opportunities are to be found all over the Stirling Council area. That's why Russell Taylor from the Electoral Registration Office is issuing a call for people to make sure they are on the electoral register.

Anyone who misses the May 19th deadline for registration will not be able to vote in the European Parliament Elections on June 4th.

The call comes at the start of Register to Vote Week, which is being organised by the Electoral Commission.

"It is easy to register to vote", explained Russell Taylor from Stirling's Electoral Registration Office. "All you need to do is to call us on 01786-892200 or download a registration form from [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk) and send it to The Electoral Registration Office, Hillside House, Laurelhill, Stirling FK7 9JQ."

"Many people falsely assume that they are automatically

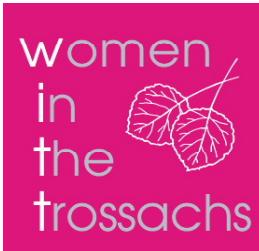


on the electoral register just because they pay council tax. Others forget to tell the electoral registration office that they have moved house", explained Andy O'Neill, Head of the Electoral Commission in Scotland. "We would urge everyone to make sure that they are on the register before the deadline".

The deadline for returning new registration forms and to apply for a postal vote is 19 May 2009. Information about registering to vote and the European Elections, including downloads of registration forms can also be found at [www.aboutmyvote.org.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.org.uk)

### Women in the Trossachs

Come along and meet other women who live or work in and around the Trossachs. For more information and monthly meeting details see [www.witt.org.uk](http://www.witt.org.uk), phone 01877 387200 or e-mail [admin@witt.org.uk](mailto:admin@witt.org.uk). All welcome.



#### Treasure Hunt to Kinlochard

Wednesday 3rd June 7.30pm

A summer evening opportunity to find out more about the famous tourist route from Aberfoyle to Kinlochard and to enjoy some of the best scenery in the Trossachs. There will be a wee element of competition but the aim is to have some fun in the process. We'll finish up with refreshments at the village hall in Kinlochard, either on the lochside or inside depending on weather and midges! Our meeting point is Aberfoyle car park behind Guyana.

#### Annual Dinner

Friday 12th June 7.30pm

Abbotsford Lodge, Callander

Guest speaker Dr. Elspeth King. Pre-booking essential.

#### How Green are you?

Wednesday 1st July 7.30pm

Brig o'Turk Hall

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## Trossachs Businesses Take On The Recession With Postcards

Local business women Caroline Carranza has decided to take on the recession by producing and giving away 20,000 postcards of the Trossachs to accommodation providers in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Asked why she was doing this, Caroline explained how she created the Trossachs postcards as a direct response to the current economic climate. "I want to encourage visitors to not only come to the area, but to also extend their stay and talk about the unspoilt beauty and tranquillity of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park to their friends and family".

Caroline feels a postcard showing multiple scenes and businesses in the Trossachs National Park was the simplest and most effective way to promote the area in both the short and long term, saying that "although the internet is great, there is nothing nicer than receiving a postcard and showing it off to your family and friends".

She went on to explain how the postcard was one of many initiatives she does to promote the area and encourage visitors such as her monthly FREE competitions on her website [Trossachs.co.uk](http://Trossachs.co.uk).

Caroline asks local businesses to donate the prizes; this month the prize is provided by the Winnock Hotel in Drymen and is worth £299, with a runner up prize of a £30 meal voucher for the Bluebell Café at the David Marshall Lodge in Aberfoyle. A random computer programme is used to select the winners.

Another first initiative for the area was the No Fee FREE Accommodation Enquiry Form Caroline had designed and built exclusively for [Trossachs.co.uk](http://Trossachs.co.uk) which allows the sites visitors to have a single enquiry email sent to multiple accommodation providers. Again this is a service Caroline doesn't charge for.

Asked why she is giving away so much, she explained how she felt passionately about the area and wanted to promote it in any way she could. She believes that positive and innovative marketing of the area will bring benefits to everyone involved and employed via the Tourism industry from the accommodation providers through to the visitors attractions. "Rather than visitors passing through the

area on the way to somewhere else, I want to encourage visitors to stay longer in the area and use it as a base to visit other parts of Scotland". She also wants to "encourage local people to explore and discover the many attractions on their doorstep".

[Trossachs.co.uk](http://Trossachs.co.uk) not only provides information on Places to Stay, Places to Visit and Things to Do and Outdoor Activities for visitors to the National Park but it is designed to be used by the Parks residents – such as the newly added What's On Guide where events are listed FREE of charge

She added, "[Trossachs.co.uk](http://Trossachs.co.uk) has already achieved over 1 million hits in 2009. This is a great start to 2009 and I am confident that this is a sign of great things to come for the Tourism industry in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park".



**Plant Sale**  
The Sandy Stewart Memorial Committee invites you to the 21st Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, 16th May, 2009 from 10am-2pm in the Port of Menteith Village Hall. The Rev. Linda Stewart will ring the Rednock Bell to start the sale. A great variety of plants will be on sale including bedding plants and vegetables. Donations to the sales table welcome. The hall will be open from 3-4pm on Friday, 15th May and from 9.00-9.30 on the day of the sale for the reception of plants. Admission: £1.50, children 50p (includes coffee) Soup will be served at noon - £1.50 Hamper Raffle

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Generally, if you ask someone who works for the RSPB there is never a bad time to get outside and enjoy nature (it's what we are passionate about after all!). If you ask me now, as we move from spring into summer, this has to be the best time of year to get out. The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and Mother Nature has woken up from her winter sleep and is getting ready to show us just what she can do; there is just so much exciting nature to get out and experience.

This is particularly obvious in our woodlands just like the oak woodlands we have on the reserve at Inversnaid. The buds on the trees are opening, wild flowers like bluebells are appearing between the trees and everywhere you go, you can't escape the fabulous sound of birdsong. It is at this time of year our resident song bird species like robins, blackbirds

and chaffinches are joined by the migrant species that come to the UK each year to breed. It is well worth keeping an eye open for the striking grey and orange plumage of the redstart or the fabulous monochrome pied flycatcher. Both of these birds, neither of which could really be classed as your usual 'little brown job' started to appear in the wood in early April, setting up territories and hopefully settling down to breed and in the case of the pied flycatcher that is in the many nest boxes scattered throughout the reserve.

Of course, away from the woodland there are other iconic species associated with summer, species like the swallow. The sound of these tiny little birds calling overhead as they gather up insects on the wing surely has to be the sound of summer. Each year a couple of pairs set up home in the rafters of our workshop at the Garrison to raise their broods and it looks like this year will be no different. Another spring visitor to this

country which sums up spring has to be, of course, the cuckoo. Best known for its ruthless breeding tactics, the first cuckoo was recorded at the Garrison on April 20th. The unmistakable sound of the cuckoo is quite simply the sound of spring for many people.

There are also the species that are here all year round but only really make an appearance at this time of year. The most obvious at Inversnaid is the Black Grouse, our star species. Now is the time to see these fantastic birds 'leking' on the hillsides. It might mean a very early start but it is

definitely worth it to see the males strut their stuff in the hopes of impressing a female. As of yet, we haven't done the annual count of the black grouse (typically, the Scottish weather seems to be against us) so no news yet on how many males there are out there trying to bag a female but hopefully we'll know soon. I think it is fair to say that with all this activity, spring has definitely sprung at RSPB Inversnaid.

Allison Leonard

Central Scotland Reserves,  
Assistant Warden.



Black Grouse leking at Loch Arklet (8th April)



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## 20 Years ago...in the Strathard News

Extracts from Strathard News May 1989

### HELP! HELP! CRISIS HITS THE STRATHARD NEWS

The Strathard News is again running out of funds. As you are all aware, there is no formal funding for your local community newspaper from any source. Consequently on your behalf the small voluntary committee endeavour to raise funds in any way possible. The ever-popular Car Boot Sales have been marvellous, as was last year's Coffee Morning. However, unfortunately, despite the committee's efforts to prevent early 'car-booters' causing some difficulties for those on their way to church last year, there were some complaints and problems. Consequently, the April 1989 sale was moved to Saturday. This sadly also caused problems with complaints from local people and traders. Almost worse still, it only raised £60 instead of the £200 or so that the Sunday sale so regularly produced last year. The committee have not yet finally decided, but it is unlikely that they will risk more difficulties by running another Car Boot Sale. This is with funds down to such a level that the Strathard News will have to stop publishing in June unless some other substantial income can be achieved.....

**EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE:** did you know that it costs about £1200 per year to bring you your "News"? This equates to approximately £2.50 per household!

### ABERFOYLE GOLF CLUB

Next year, 1990, will be the Centenary of the founding of the Aberfoyle Golf Club and the committee would be grateful for any papers, souvenirs or memorabilia of any description pertaining to this.....

### MILTON

Last paragraph: "One last bit of news, very exciting. Mum is going to have a baby very soon."

On the front page of the June edition: "Birth Announcement: To Ennovo and Sizzler Otter, twins, a boy and a girl, on 30th May. All are well."

### ROB ROY COLTS

Following last month's report on the state of the park, I'm happy to report a new use for our buckets – building sand castles. After a no-expense-spared repair on the pitch by the District Council (the holes were filled in with sand and rolled), we regret to report the loss of several Mini Colts; they were last seen testing the depth of one of the new quicksand play areas. And so on to football:

Only one game was played due to the recent monsoons and school holidays. This was an away game at Gargunnock on a very cold and windy Sunday afternoon. At times it was hard to believe Aberfoyle had ever played together as a team, but after a very hard fought, end to end match. A 2-2 draw was a fair result.

Goal Scorers – McKay, More

Star Player - Hutchison

### NEWS FROM INVERSNAID

Mothers of Stronachlachar ran a very successful playgroup during the Easter holidays. There are now plans afoot to do the same thing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the long summer holidays. The children of Inversnaid Primary School have just recorded the sixth dry day of 1989.

Committee:

Tom Reay, Joe Fleming, Ian Anderson, Ann Anderson, Bet Mawer, Berit Munro, Russell McKeand, Sylvia McNab.



Since the last update six weeks ago several things have happened:

We have completed negotiations with the Big Lottery Fund on the funding available to us, which depends upon property and land

valuations. Unfortunately the disruptions in banking and property markets over the winter months have had quite a significant effect on the funds we can raise. Valuations do not currently support a viable bid, since our financial projections in April show that we could not now make an offer meeting the seller's expectations. This had been possible when we started the new bid process last summer, but the situation continues to change so we still think it is worth keeping the possibility of a Lottery bid open.

The garage business is now being marketed by a different agent, and of course if it is bought as a going concern that would be very welcome indeed. We have had ongoing dialogue with the owners and await the outcome of that process.

Pressure to submit a Lottery Bid has relaxed a little due to the scheme being extended, with 6 months now available before the final deadline. So a slight postponement is possible while we see if valuations increase a little and/or the price we can afford becomes acceptable.

However we do need to be ready to move quickly if an opportunity arises, so in May we will be contacting all those who have already registered their support to make sure the necessary backup is in place ready to make a bid.

We are also investigating contingency plans to see what might be possible if there is any threat to petrol supply in the area, since this was highlighted by the community as its biggest concern.

The Lottery Bid Shop will be open for a little while longer during May, so do call in as many people have been doing to get an update on what's happening. A big thank you is due to Liz McGregor who owns the shop and who allowed us to stay on for some extra time. We look forward to hearing and seeing what she will be opening there instead! Also many thanks to all their customers from our local arts and crafts people, who have had a successful few months selling their products in this community shop.

Open daily from 10am

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# Ranger's Ramblings

## A View from the Lodge!



courtesy of John McKinlay

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

### EASTER DIARY

#### SATURDAY APRIL 11TH

Following on from the Good Friday rehearsal, the staff braced themselves for a huge influx of visitors, based on the extremely favourable weather predictions for the days ahead. In truth, such welcome circumstances invariably prove to be incidental, as our Easter weekend activities, alongside our Halloween and Christmas events, tend to offer a fantastic response, in terms of numbers, regardless of conditions. And so it would prove.

#### SUNDAY APRIL 12TH

At around 7.30am, I undertook the short journey to The Lodge full of expectation for the day. For a brief time, upon arrival, I felt slightly disorientated. There were no cars, or people, to be seen anywhere. The place was in silence, save for the eternal murmuring rush of The Waterfall of the Little Fawn and the distant, yet very distinctive call of, of all things, an oyster catcher. It was an idyllic moment entirely reminiscent of the peace and tranquillity associated with the great traditions associated with the old building and its mesmerising surrounds. What the heck.... Within thirty minutes, the DML performed its own version of the D-Day landings, as close on two hundred people clamoured over the rise for the annual morning church service on the decking area. (Often, in moments such as these, I search my head for an inspirational piece of music to suit the occasion. In this instance, Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries seemed an appropriate choice). Back-up forces, in the shape of craft activity seekers, bunny hunters and bird-box builders, brought up the rear with admirable strength and precision. The pre-determined strategy to place these first waves into zoned positions was a cunning ploy to create an opening for the imminent advance of the elite duck race divisions. As high noon approached for the first onslaught, anticipation was high. Such is the growing status of this particular happening, there was much jostling for position at the front line, as though this was the Grand National itself, further illustrated by the fact that a great many of the parents appeared more excited than the children. A couple of gatecrashers turned up with their own ducks, but they were politely warned that such indiscretions would see them placed in the stockade.

The day appeared to be won but, as I retired to my personal bunkhouse, I had an abiding memory of Duck no. 14, in race two, who had managed to escape the finishing net with no little degree of skill, seemingly on some undefined mission from God. Lost forever...I wonder? The romantic in me likes to believe that one day in the not too distant future, the captain of a trawler (who, as it happens, has a subscription to the Strathard News) fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, will happen upon Duck no.14 in his catch. Having subsequently read this article, he will then post said duck to The Lodge in order that it be returned to its rightful owner (one Lewis Hernandez), thereby restoring my complete faith in humanity. If only!!

#### MONDAY APRIL 13TH

This extension of the weekend always provides an element of mixed emotions. The visiting children are still on a high, yet the parents are jaded and the pocket money is already well spent. This inevitably leads to great consternation, with much wailing attached. The staff, meanwhile, remain unmoved by these family incidents as they, through their exertions, slowly glide into full zombie mode. Now... there's a thought...maybe we should bring Halloween forward to Easter Monday...at least it would save us some money on costumes.



## THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN... AGAIN

The return of Heelster Gowdie in glorious sunshine on April 19th for their first concert of the season provided yet another superb afternoon's entertainment at the picnic area. On the day, it occurred to me that I was losing track of how long the band have been coming here. In the end, I surmised it was around five years. I then considered that, if there were such a thing as a DML Hall of Fame, this remarkable group of talented and personable individuals would be among the first inductees. Their close connections with The Lodge grow with each subsequent performance, leading me to believe they are now entitled to consider themselves a part of its long history. Furthermore, their commitment to appear can be no more exemplified by the fact that they have never commanded a fee, preferring to collect donations for their chosen charity. It would be hard to imagine a future events calendar without them. This particular date was afforded added spice, as Alison Allerdice and her group, who had earlier celebrated her 50th birthday with a lunch in the function room, were allocated front row seats for the concert. Alison is pictured with the band.



## DOG DAY GALLERY



Lyndsay McKenzie and Emily Palau are pictured with Poppy and Scot after winning the collie toy in the raffle.



If this image doesn't warm your heart, nothing will. Anne and Flo finally get to hug



Helen, and the beautiful Kia, from Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre, enjoy a quiet moment



The 'Barking Mad' pet-sitters, with Pete in the foreground, offered admirable enthusiasm and colour on the day

## Aberfoyle Primary

### Primary 1,2,3 and 4 World. Visit Deep Sea

On Thursday 19th March, Primary 1-4 went to Deep Sea World as part of their topic studies for Under the Sea and Water. They had a wonderful day. Some of the highlights were, stroking or holding Marcel the Bearded Dragon, learning all about Morag and Heather the seals and seeing poison dart frogs. Undoubtedly the most popular experience was watching Hook, Tinkerbelle and Patch (three huge sharks) swimming overhead in the tunnel. A great day was had by all as you can see in the photo.



### McDonalds Football Festival.

On Wednesday 25th March McDonalds Football hosted a football festival at Callander Primary School. There were four schools and six teams, from primary 5 to 7. Each team played four games; the score was pretty close with Gartmore Primary favourites to win. However they were beaten by Callander Yellow Team who drew with Aberfoyle. It was a great success and everyone enjoyed it.



### P7 Go tree planting.

In March primary 7 were invited to take part in The Great Trossachs Forest tree planting event at the Loch Katrine planting site. Although it was a VERY wet day everyone enjoyed themselves and learned lots about trees and the forest.

#### Extract from the school admissions log:

20th April 1965:

Admission to Primary 1 after the Easter Break -  
Janette Bond

Look out for more about "Miss" Bond's time at  
Aberfoyle Primary in the next edition!

## McLaren High School



### Senior Ski Course - Pragelato, Italy

On 4 April a party of 54 senior pupils and 7 staff from McLaren High School set out by coach for the annual senior ski course. This year the location was in the Italian Alpine resort of Pragelato.

Most of the skiing was done in the neighbouring resorts of Sestriere and Sansicario, part of an extensive ski area known as the 'Milky Way'.

The group quickly settled into their hotel surroundings. Spirits were high – the accommodation was superb with all rooms fitted out to a very high standard; excellent food, and a good sized swimming pool for an après-ski 'dook'.

Weather and snow on the first morning were excellent and once under the instruction of the Italian Ski School, the pupils were off on their exploration of the ski area. Each day was punctuated with a tale of a spectacular fall or some other daredevil downhill exploit. As the beginners progressed from the green slopes, the intermediate and more advanced skiers sought their challenge in the red or black runs.

Everyone made excellent progress and by the end of the week all were navigating their way confidently down red runs at least. The hotel's taste of Italy was complemented by a hot pasta or pizza lunch taken in a cafe on the slopes.

The weather throughout the week was changeable but this didn't detract from the fantastic week of skiing that the group enjoyed. Finishing the week with no serious injuries was a reflection on the abilities and resilience of those involved!

The level of achievement for all was excellent, likewise the behaviour. All of this contributed to an excellent week. For S6 this marks their time to move on and organise their own skiing; however, for S5 it's time to start saving for next years event – always priceless!



### Dance Competition

The Forth Valley Schools Dance Competition took place on 31 March and 1 April in the MacRobert Centre, Stirling. There were 13 high schools taking part each night. The Junior Competition was on the 31 March and although no team from McLaren gained a place, they had a great time. On the 1 April the three senior dance teams performed extremely well and the FTW (For the Win) Team, made up of fourth year girls Eve Malloch, Rebecca Davis, Georgia Parkes, Charlotte Hill, Mairi McLellan, Amy Hunter and Jessie Menzies, gained third place. An exciting time had by all, well done to all the pupils who took part.



### Golf

McLaren High School had 3 pupils representing the school in the Forth Valley Golf Championship at Dunblane Golf Course recently. The pupils involved were Darek Kunecki, Christopher Addison and Stewart McLellan. Darek played best of the three with rounds of 78 and 77 to finish 8th out of 45 entries, all with handicaps of 10 or below. Darek's handicap has improved greatly in the last year coming down from 17 to 6. If he keeps up this rate of improvement we may have a future champion.

**Senior Rugby**

On Wednesday 1 April McLaren beat Whitburn Academy 72-0 in the final of the Central and West Lothian Schools Bowl Final at Stirling County. Top scorer was Malcolm Gibson with 5 tries. Well done to the team for a great match!

**Music Festival and Concert**

The McLaren Music Festival took place on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 April 2009 and was once again a roaring success. Over the course of two days, there were over 100 performances from pupils at all stages of the school. The competition was as intense as ever, and the standard was very high, which made the job of adjudicator Mr Lyn Bulloch very challenging.

The concert on the Thursday evening featured the competition prize winners, as well as performances by the school orchestra of the first movement from Beethoven's first symphony and then The Lord of the Rings by Howard Shore. The McLaren Strings, wind band, junior choir and swing bands also performed. Premieres of compositions by various members of the higher music class were also showcased, reflecting the very high standard of creative writing by a significant number of pupils. This included a New Orleans jazz piece, Bohemian writing for violin and some lovely traditional music. Everyone agreed that this had been a special evening of entertainment of rare quality.

**Music Festival Results**

Congratulations to the following Winners:

**Junior Competition:**

- 1st Harry Milligan (Voice & Trumpet)
- 2nd Graeme Platman (Guitar)
- 3rd Stephanie Irvine (Clarsach)

**Intermediate Competition**

- 1st Eilidh Allen (Fiddle)
- 2nd Robbie Oman (Voice)
- 3rd Angus Waite (Voice/Guitar)

**Senior Competition**

- 1st Emma Milligan (Voice)
- 2nd Robert Digney (Piano)
- 3rd Joey Eccles (Guitar)
- 3rd Claire Law (Piano)

# ABERFOYLE ACTIVITIES YOUTH GROUP

The biggest piece of Youth Club news is that it was decided, in a meeting held earlier this month, that instead of closing for the summer at the beginning of May, Youth Club would continue this year until the end of the School Term. We now have a better selection of equipment and facilities that ever before. It would be a shame not to make full use of them, and so members should note that meetings will be held right up to just before the beginning of the school summer holidays. Watch the village noticeboard for details of the proposed end-of-session trip!

Lynne did manage to arrange the purchase of the Airhockey Table, which is now on site and proving very popular. The workshops, including the oft cancelled Blood & Gore Workshop, did finally take place and were just as popular as ever.

Sadly the Senior Group have not been able to make as much use of all this as we would have liked,

as some of the Senior Meetings had to be cancelled as we continued to be short of adult volunteers to help supervise. While they always try to attend, the Committee sometimes have other commitments, and when this happens we advertise on local noticeboards for help. A recent appeal for volunteers to help with a run of such weeks brought more than sufficient parent volunteers to cover Junior Meetings, but alas, as is usual, not enough parents came forward to help with the Senior Meetings. Poor Seniors - we do not want them to keep missing out in this way, so please help! We need at least one more Committee member, who can regularly supervise the Senior Meetings, plus we urgently need volunteers to do supervision of Senior youth club meetings, on Fridays between 8pm and 9.30pm.

Please help.

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### Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

#### From the Manse

It was 1973. Top of the charts was that hard rock masterpiece, Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree.

I had been invited out on a rare date. I would really much rather have stayed in and read of Mr Darcy and Miss Elizabeth Bennett - but, hey, hope springs eternal in the heart of a seventeen year old.

I got myself ready for the big occasion. Bright blue eye shadow, ice pink lipstick, bouffant hair (I was ten years at least behind the then dominant Ziggy Stardust generation of David Bowie). Looking back, I don't even want to think about what I was wearing, but definitely something very unhip: probably a self-knitted twinset. My mother watched as I tried to make myself look sophisticated and offered some motherly advice. She said, 'Don't pretend. Just be yourself! Be myself! That was the last thing I wanted to be. If I went around 'being myself' on a date, I would be on the shelf, as my mother loved to put it, before I was even eighteen.

My mother was right, of course. I have become my mother and given the same advice to my own daughter ... who scoffed at me. Was it Oscar Wilde who

said something about all women becoming like their mothers, that is their tragedy? Anyway, eventually we - men and women - learn that pretending to be something we are not is a waste of time and energy. With maturity comes the calm and grace of just being ourselves.

There is a famous story about Michaelangelo. He was rolling a huge boulder down the hill, to the consternation of onlookers. Someone stopped him and asked him why he was wasting so much energy moving a rock. Michaelangelo replied that he was in a hurry because there was an angel waiting to get out of it. While others saw the mundane and ugly, Michaelangelo saw an opportunity for beauty. While others saw a useless piece of rock, Michaelangelo could see a perfect sculpture: he just had to chip away until he could release the angel within it.

I like this story. We don't have to pretend we are something we are not, but we might emulate Michaelangelo and let our own inner angel out of the carapace of cares and worries we carry around with us. The world certainly needs it.



### St Mary's Episcopal Church

#### Some sayings of yesteryear

Am I right in thinking that there is a four-poster bed visible from the road at a Thornhill house? My apologies to a doubtless indignant householder if my observation has proved correct!

Four-posters were in vogue when houses were not as comfortable and convenient as they are today. Many dwellings were thatched with reed, with no underlay to the roof, or, in many cases, ceilings. All manner of unpleasant objects were likely then to drop from the thatch and soil the bed linen. The bed's cloth roof and heavy side curtains would provide at least some protection for its slumbering occupants.

Thatched roofs would quickly soak up heat from the sun and provide a warm and inviting spot for animals to slumber. However, once the roof had become soaked by rain, the surface would quickly become slippery. Animals aloft would lose their footing and slither to earth: hence the expression 'raining cats and dogs'.

Whilst roofs of ancient houses were of thatch, their floors were generally made of dried soil. Only the well-off could boast a house with a slatted floor. Those making do with earth floors were often described as 'dirt poor'. Slate floors though were slippery and cold throughout the winter. To improve matters, thresh or straw was spread on the floor. But without a barrier at the door, the precious straw would be blown away or trodden outside. To prevent this, a wooden step was inserted into the base of the door and known as a threshold.

A visible sign of a householder's wealth was an ability to offer a visitor a meal of bacon rather than the customary potage of over-cooked vegetables. A showy host would make a point of carrying his bacon home through the neighbourhood in public view: hence the phrase 'bringing home the bacon'. Before dentists became customary, chewing bacon fat with imperfect or missing teeth would take an age. There would thus be ample time at meals for lengthy discourse: hence the expression 'chewing the fat together'.

At such meals, the host would serve bread. The loaf on the table would be divided according to the perceived status of those gathered. The servants and labourers of the house would receive the bottom part of the bread that doubtless had been burnt in the oven. The host chewed on the middle of the loaf, and guests, probably those whom he had already impressed with his bacon would eat the top and best layer. Hence those respected or regarded in society as somehow at an advantage would be termed 'upper crust'.

Here endeth today's lesson.



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**Aberfoyle Bowling Club**  
extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to try flat green bowls. Everyone welcome, most days, weather permitting; residents or visitors, experienced or needing instruction. Its healthy exercise, inexpensive and great fun. "Don't knock it until you've tried it!" Check our promo-flyers on village noticeboards, come to the club house beside The Memorial Hall on Trossachs Road or ask at the Post Office for day by day details.

# Aberfoyle Community First Responder Scheme

On 22nd May, the Aberfoyle Community First Responder Scheme will be officially launched within the village by Trossachs Search and Rescue Team in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Eighteen members of our team have undergone a series of training sessions with the Scottish Ambulance Service so that they can provide early intervention before the arrival of a professional ambulance crew. The types of incidents they can respond to include the unconscious casualty, those with suspected heart attacks and casualties with breathing problems. Three members of the team are actually Paramedics with the Scottish Ambulance Service and they have been instrumental in setting up this scheme for the benefit of the local community in Strathard and the Trossachs and people visiting the area. The necessary communications equipment, vehicles, vehicle locator beacons, oxygen therapy units, defibrillators and first-aid equipment have been provided by the Scottish Ambulance Service, our team and the British Heart Foundation - an organisation with whom we have a long association having been delivering TSART Heartstart classes in the local area for some 8 years, with over 700 people having been trained by team Heartstart Instructors in Strathard, West Stirlingshire and the Trossachs areas.

The Community First Responder Scheme will initially operate at weekends and on public holidays but our members are keen

to expand the service in time to provide midweek cover to include daytime and evenings. To do so will require additional First Responders to be recruited and trained. We hope that more residents of Aberfoyle will train as First Responders and we believe that traders in Aberfoyle could play a vital role here, with their staff becoming trained to use the scheme's lifesaving equipment - vital if the scheme is to provide daytime cover midweek.

When 'on duty', our Community First Responders will be available to be directed to incidents by the Emergency Medical Dispatch Centre of the Scottish Ambulance Service. An emergency ambulance will have been alerted prior to us being directed to attend, but our close proximity to the local area should ensure our arrival on scene first, especially in heavy summer traffic or in poor winter conditions on the roads. Those vital few minutes could make a great deal of difference to a casualty. Additionally, we will have the advantage of 4x4 capability.

The Scottish Ambulance Service has around 50 Community First Responder Schemes across Scotland.

The Scheme will be operational as soon as we secure facilities in which our Community First Responders can stand-by when 'on duty' and securely store some basic lifesaving equipment and mobile phones, radios and vehicle keys when they're 'off duty'. We must also find suitable parking for the team

vehicle being used for the Scheme - a Ford Maverick 4x4.

Trossachs Search and Rescue Team's other roles include the provision of a voluntary search and rescue service and the use of highly skilled search dogs to locate casualties in lowland incidents in support of Police Forces, coastal searches in support of HM Coastguard and in attending incidents such as building collapses and major transport accidents in support of the Fire and Rescue Services, mainly Strathclyde and Central Scotland Fire & Rescue - with whom we have operational and training agreements.

We have attended training and incidents with these services as far north as Thurso, south as far as Southampton, to Stonehaven in the north east and the Outer Hebrides in the west, not forgetting a trip to County Cork in Ireland! A look at our website will provide a flavour of the work we carry out from our bases in Aberfoyle and Stirling.

I'll keep you posted on the progress of the Scheme, which will 'go live' before the official launch date. Meantime if anyone is able to assist with the provision of a room or premises that our crews can use when on duty, and for the storage of the basic equipment please get in touch with me.

**Stuart Ballantyne**  
Chairman

07796 240 023

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  - 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

## Fire Safety in the Countryside

Countryside fires happen all too often and can have an enormous cost and damage potential, even where there is no building or human life involved. The behaviour of such fires is unpredictable. They can travel at an alarming speed and can change direction of spread without warning, due to the type of vegetation and weather conditions.

### Land management

Straw or other controlled burning should be carried out after obtaining any necessary consents and establishing effective precautions, in line with advice available from the fire brigade.

Muir burning is controlled by legislation; contravention of which carries substantial fines on conviction.

Detailed advice and guidance is available from land owners' organisations, Scottish National Heritage and Fire Brigades.

### Recreational

Recreational use of the countryside such as camping, hiking, picnicking and barbecues present potential fire as there are many ignition hazards.

When cooking in open air, where possible use a cooking appliance or barbecue in preference to a free burning fire and cook down wind and well clear of tents and combustible vegetation

If building an open camp fire ensure it is on an area of cleared earth, sited well away from tents and combustible vegetation. Build the fire so as it collapses inwards as it burns away and make sure it is attended to at all times.

- **Never light a fire in wooded area or on peat soil**
- **Always consider fire as a possibility and plan for extinguishing small fires**
- **Never discard lit smoking materials in the countryside**
- **Always drench embers and ashes with water or cover with soil**
- **Never abandon bottles or broken glass**
- **Always call the fire brigade to every outbreak however small**
- **Always ensure your means of retreat remains clear**

Calls to the Fire Service should;  
Be made using 999

Give location accurately

Indicate the size of fire and type of terrain

### Protect Your Natural Heritage!



**Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service**  
Protecting the Heart of Scotland

**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](http://www.centralscotlandfire.gov.uk)

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

## Jobs event for Stirling

Stirling Council, along with its Partnership Action for Continued Employment (PACE) partners have organised an event open to anyone who is facing redundancy or who has recently been made redundant. This will take place between 11am and 4pm on Tuesday 19 May at Stirling Rugby Club. The event is free and no pre-booking is required. There will be an opportunity to meet with local employers – including those with current vacancies – and recruitment agencies. Experienced advisors will also be there to offer advice on job searching, career guidance, training and volunteering options, business start up, tax, welfare benefits and money advice.

Alison Findlater, Customer Service Operations Manager for Jobcentre Plus Forth Valley and Perth said: "This event is an ideal opportunity

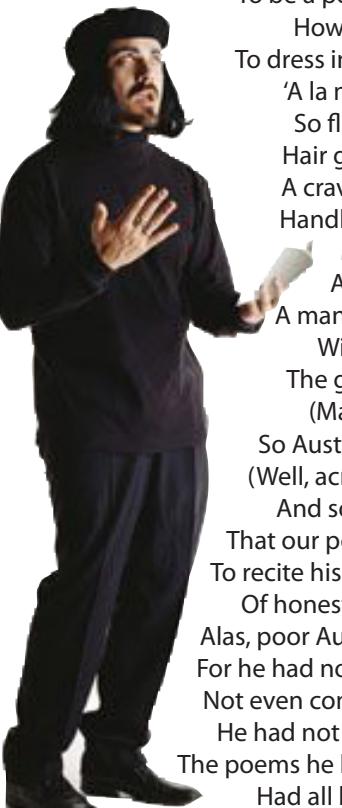
for people to access all the services to help them get back to work quickly. I encourage everyone who has recently been made redundant, or under threat of redundancy, to come along and talk to experts who can help."

Stirling Council's Portfolio holder for the Economy, Cllr Scott Farmer, added: "During these unprecedented economic times I fully support the Council and our partners in PACE in offering a holistic package of support to meet individual needs. Through Welfare Benefits to practical support in Job Search Skills and meeting Local Employers will hopefully create a path for individuals to secure employment opportunities."

More information on this event can be found at [www.stirling.gov.uk/pace](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/pace)

## AUSTIN SPROAT

This is the tale of one Austin Sproat  
Whose dearest wish was to be a poet  
Not any common or garden clown  
But rather a rhymer of great renown.  
So he asked himself: how could he chance  
To fix himself in the public's glance?  
Before any writing he should start  
By trying to look and act the part.  
Austin felt that first impression  
Might centre on how he's dressin'  
Surely the way for a man of letters  
To best impress those, his betters.  
To be a poet one had to know  
How to put on a show  
To dress in style, that was the thing  
'A la mode' without the bling  
So floppy hat and silver cane,  
Hair grown as a long blond mane,  
A cravat and shirt of some frilly stuff,  
Handkerchief protruding from the cuff;  
Meet him in the village street  
A wondrous poet quite effete,  
A man of letters who knows his station  
With just a hint of affectation.  
The great Lord Byron was his hero  
(Mad, bad but nice to know).  
So Austin's fame spread far and wide  
(Well, across the nearby countryside).  
And so one day it came to pass  
That our poet was asked to take a class  
To recite his poetry to the village masses  
Of honest men and bonny lassies.  
Alas, poor Austin was in a frightful mess  
For he had not written one single verse  
Not even composed one solitary line  
He had not found sufficient time.  
The poems he had been going to write  
Had all but taken flight.  
In making his artistic stance  
He was more concerned with appearance.  
So standing up to recite  
He found his courage taking flight  
And admitted to the company there  
That his poetic cupboard was quite bare.  
He added a note, just on closing  
That he was, in fact, still composing.  
The people there said: 'That's quite absurd.  
How can a poet be lost for words?  
We've had to pay our admission  
To hear your poetic rendition.  
Though we sympathise with your plight  
To take our money just ain't right'  
And so the villagers as one spoke  
Leaving our poet almost broke,  
For Austin had the terrible load  
Being unable to pay back what he 'ode'.  
Life for Austin became quite hard,  
He no longer wished to be a bard.  
Rather, as his love of poems grew fainter  
He's since resolved to be a painter.



## PYTHON TO GUIDE DOUNE CASTLE VISITORS

Monty Python has made a permanent return to Doune Castle.

Terry Jones, who co-directed comedy classic Monty Python and the Holy Grail, is the voice of the new audio guide introduced this week. Much of the movie was filmed at Doune and it has been a place of pilgrimage for fans ever since, with HS having hosted a series of Python-themed events there in the past.



Mr Jones, who has presented a number of documentaries on subjects including Roman and Medieval life, said he was delighted to be part of the project.

"I have very fond memories of Doune Castle, it's a fascinating place and the setting is absolutely spectacular. "It's lovely to be involved with the castle again and to have the chance to introduce visitors to its history.

"The audio guide is designed to give people a real sense of the castle's social history – what it was actually like to live there in the Middle Ages," he said.

The audio guide also includes optional Monty Python clips for fans to enjoy. Jennifer Webster, HS interpretation officer, said: "We were really delighted when Terry Jones agreed to take part. "His links to the castle through Monty Python and the Holy Grail and all the work he has done to popularise history on TV made him absolutely ideal. "The guide brings out the Medieval social and architectural history of Doune Castle.

"It looks at the people who were behind its construction, and what life would have been like there. "We are really pleased with the results and hope that visitors will enjoy it for many years to come."

The audio guide is included in the standard ticket price for the castle.



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Hello Children,  
You will never guess what happened to me at Easter. Apart from eating too much chocolate, I actually won the egg-rolling contest. As you know, my sister Braeval always beats the rest of us and thought she had done so yet again. Mum, helped by Braeval and Katrine, filled the picnic basket full of trout sandwiches, a pike pie and delicious frog-spawn mousse, and off we went to the hill behind Ledard Farm. Soon we were ready to roll our brightly painted eggs down the steep slope.

Off they trundled, quickly picking up speed and beginning to bounce and spin in quite different directions. Grandpa Otter's egg soon smashed on a rock sticking out of the ground. Then dad lost his egg as it crashed into a birch tree. We all chased after them, running as fast as we could go. At the bottom of the slope there was a solitary egg, still in one piece. It seemed that Braeval had won again.

Then we sat in the warm sunshine and enjoyed our picnic. From where we were, we could see a strange white object, quite large, floating in the water of Loch Ard, just off the jetty. On closer inspection it looked like an iceberg, only it was not made of ice. There was no one around, so we took the opportunity to explore the mysterious contraption. Was it some sort of boat? Perhaps it was a spaceship, suggested Duke, who is fascinated by such things. No, in fact it is called the Iceberg, a piece of water adventure equipment belonging to Gocountry who now run the loch activities. We all had great fun, climbing up to either slide down again or simply jumping off into the water. You should try it out for yourselves.

To round things off for Easter Day, we spent some of our pocket money on ice-cream, bought at the newly opened Wee Tablet shop. Well, all except Braeval, who bought her ice-cream from the kiosk at the funfair. She just has to be different. Aberfoyle was so busy, so many visitors I wonder where they all come from. I was glad to get back to the peace and quiet of the holt. Rusty, my red squirrel friend, was waiting for me with an invitation from the Queen of the Faeries. On the first of May the gang were to visit the Underworld to see our faerie friends. So, early on Mayday morning we set off to the Faerie Hill. It was wonderful to meet up with the Little People. The queen even had a present for me, an egg. Not just any egg but my very own, hand-painted egg from the egg-rolling contest. My egg had fallen down a rabbit hole and then rolled and rolled, a bit like Alice, all the way to the Faerie Kingdom. No wonder we could not find it at Ledard! As it was completely undamaged, and had gone the furthest distance, my egg was the 2009 champion - at last.

It was just a quick visit to Faerie Land, this time. I really needed to get back in time to see my friend Gordon Menzies and all the other musicians playing at the Folk Festival. It is all happening at Aberfoyle.

Bye for now,  
Milton.



## OSPREYS BACK IN TOWN

Aberfoyle's famous ospreys at David Marshall Lodge are now back in town, with the resident male being spotted on camera on Saturday 4th April.

The bird hadn't wasted any time in tasting the delights from the local lochs as it stood proud as punch on the nest eating a huge trout.

Later on the Sunday, the resident male was nowhere to be seen and a new pair of interlopers began to mate on the nest - this was an unringed female and a green ringed male.

Andrea Williams, Information and Education Officer for Forestry Commission Scotland and RSPB Scotland, at David Marshall Lodge said: "We've been waiting anxiously for the ospreys to return so we were very relieved and pleased to see so much action at the nest over the weekend.



There's obviously quite a few birds in the area as there was so much squabbling and chasing going on! "We are keeping our fingers crossed for a successful breeding season so that visitors to the Lodge will get a bird's eye view on how these magnificent birds raise their young. However, it appears that the pair need a bit more practice at mating - their first few attempts were a bit misjudged to say the least! It will be interesting to see if this pair stays to breed or if our resident female will turn up and push them off the nest. We'll all be keeping a close eye on what happens next."

Visitors to David Marshall Lodge can watch live CCTV pictures of the ospreys and red squirrels at the viewing centre which is run jointly by RSPB Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland. The Lodge is open from 10-5pm Apr-June and 10-6pm July/Aug.

More information can be obtained by calling Andrea on 01786 229252 or by logging on to [www.forestry.gov.uk/aberfoyleospreys](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/aberfoyleospreys).

## Ranger's Corner



*It seems to me there are too many contrasts in our lives, by far...*

*The politicians would have us all believe*

*Behind slightly disconcerting smirks, there will be a reprieve*

*But through the tactile web they spin and weave*

*The small print suggests it will take decades to achieve.*

*Meanwhile the Sunday Times publishes a 'rich list' each year*

*Hands up anyone who looks forward to that with good cheer*

*The one constant to be taken from all this...*

*Is that it is abundantly clear*

*The financial crisis is causing a climate of fear*

*In such times the public look for something special to get them through the night*

*'Red Nose Day' is one such happening which offers brief escape from our 'plight'*

*A grand scheme indeed, reporting on global poverty, abuse and ill-health*

*Yet there remains a sinister notion some celebrities use this vehicle to increase their status, and wealth*

*Suddenly there is a change, which creates a different hue*

*Through the introduction of a woman named Sue*

*Yet in listening to this 'voice of an angel' we should all take pause*

*As it will ultimately do nothing to improve our cause*

*There is a man in America who can do such a thing*

*Inspired by the spirit of Lincoln and Martin Luther King*

*This is the person we should look to in our of need*

*A man dedicated to the defeat of greed*

*The choice is ours - should we aspire to Obama to save the world from turmoil*

*Or settle for a Saturday night TV dinner in the company of Susan Boyle?*

## RURAL FUNDING AWARDS FOR THE FORTH VALLEY AND LOMOND AREA

Rural development projects in the Stirling and Clackmannshire received a welcome financial boost from the latest quarterly meeting of the Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Local Action Group. Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Community Trust were awarded £24,481 to help them install an 'Eco-Loo' at Inverlochlarig at the top of Balquhidder Glen. The Eco-loo will use an innovative design of a composting toilet system combined with a small timber clad re-cycled shipping container. Alan Clarke, Director of the Community Trust said: "We estimate that around 7000 visitors a year use the car park at Inverlochlarig. The Eco-loo will provide them with a much needed facility and also help to protect the environment. The Eco-loo has been designed to be as carbon neutral as possible and will blend in well with its surroundings."

The Scottish Agricultural College on behalf of the Argyll & Bute Agricultural Forum were awarded

£2,275 to help them run a series of events aimed at promoting the economic potential of farm woodlands in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Fergus Younger, Development Manager with the Agricultural Forum said: "We aim to explore opportunities for land owners and communities who are interested in developing the full potential of their woodlands". Doune and Dunblane Fling was awarded £3,635 towards the costs of environmental activities at this year's Fling. Ian Fisher, Chair of the Fling said: "We want to promote International Harmony by staging a series of Fair Trade themed events including a fashion show, café, crafts and workshops. We also plan to bring some world music to Dunblane and hold a ceilidh in the castle at Doune.

Callander Development Trust received £50,000 to help with the construction of a new bridge at Bracklinn Falls. The bridge will have a 20m span and be made of locally sourced timber. The innovative

design is sure to attract a lot of attention and will help to secure the economic viability of Callander. Clackmannshire & Stirling Environment Trust received £1244 to help them run a series of community action days aimed at tackling the threat posed by Himalayan Balsam. Audrey Morrison, Project Manager said: "The plant originally came from Asia and was introduced to Britain in 1839.

It has explosive seed pods which can fling seeds as far as 6m and this has helped it to spread throughout Britain. It's now spreading quickly along our riverbanks where it is shading out our native plants so we want to help communities tackle it in their area."

An Orchard regeneration project across the Forth Valley and Lomond area will see fruit trees and orchards across the area identified and mapped.

Forth Environment Link were awarded £16,040 towards their project to involve fruit tree owners, schools, local communities and

businesses in recording the orchard resource as it is and coming up with ideas to develop it. Helen Morrison, Executive Director with Forth Environment Link said: "The support from LEADER will help us to establish the current and potential contribution of fruit orchards to the economic and natural heritage value of Forth Valley. We aim to involve as many people as possible in gathering the information and in the next stage which will be practical projects around education, tourism, biodiversity and business development".

Dereck Fowles, Chair of the Local Action Group, said, "With this round of awards, the Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Local Action Group was very impressed with the quality and range of projects submitted to us for funding. These projects were particularly good examples of imaginative ways in which European money can be used to help revitalise rural communities and conserve the local environment."

## Future Generation generates future



Pupils from Aberfoyle Primary School

Local school pupils braved the wet weather in March planting native trees as part of The Great Trossachs Forest project. Having spent the winter months learning about Scotland's native trees, pupils from

eight schools will be creating art works and poems that will be exhibited in the spring. But when it came to practicalities they enjoyed visiting Forestry Commission Scotland's Loch Katrine site to get their hands mucky planting some trees. Their hard work has not only improved the site but will also help restore native woodland in the area - woodland that will eventually comprise The Great Trossachs Forest. This will consist of 16650ha of neighbouring land stretching from Inversnaid to Callander currently managed by Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB and Woodland Trust Scotland. The three organisations have been working closely with multi-national company, BP, under the banner of the Scottish Forest Alliance, to regenerate fragmented native woodlands and create a legacy designed to span a remarkable two centuries.

Liz Shortall, for Scottish Forest Alliance, said: "The kids really enjoyed the tree planting they've certainly done their bit towards establishing The Great Trossachs Forest! "I was amazed at how much they knew about trees and about climate change.

"They were really enthusiastic and were fascinated to find out how the careful planting of trees can help biodiversity as well as give local people and visitors a host of recreational and educational benefits." "Working with partners is key to the success of this project - if this event is anything to go by we are clearly off to a good start" Rangers from each of the partner organisations as well as the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park worked together to deliver the classroom and tree-planting sessions with pupils from Lochearnhead, Strathyre, Callander, Trossachs, Inversnaid, Aberfoyle, Port of Menteith and Gartmore Primary Schools. Each of the schools that took part had focused on a particular species of native broadleaf tree. Pupils were inspired to create some beautiful paintings, poems and art works that will be exhibited in the spring.

Supported by a £10million commitment from BP, The Great Trossachs Forest will serve as a demonstration site for other land managers and as a catalyst for landscape-scale action involving other like-minded bodies.

Natasha Wilson (l) and Poppy Wilson (r) from Aberfoyle Primary School



## Third Age Group Strathendrick

'Jupiter Artland' nr Kirknewton Edinburgh and Livingston designer outlet.

A 100 acre mix of ancient woodlands and landscaped spaces, populated by works from some of the UK'S leading sculptures. Opens on 15th May for the first time. It has a Gallery and outdoor cafe.

Aberfoyle 9.am,  
Gartmore 9.20am  
Drymen 9.35 am  
Killearn 9.50 am  
Balfron Clinic 10 am  
Cotton Street 10.05 am  
Buchlyvie 10.15 am  
Book with Balfron Library 01360 440407 or with Joan on 01360 449253 noon-7pm Monday - Friday only. Coach Trip COST £15. Subject to 30 booking.

## The Strathendrick Film Society

Slumdog Millionaire Strathendrick Film Society Fundraiser.

To help raise funds for our film-making project 'Kirk', we are showing Slumdog Millionaire in the Theatre of Balfron High School at 7.30 pm on Friday 12 June. the theatre has a 21 foot screen. Tickets cost £5 and will be available from the committee members and Balfron Library. A coach will pick up in surrounding villages, subject to 20 booking, with Joan Macpherson on 449253 between noon and 7 pm Monday-Friday only (coach cost £5).

Coach picks up Aberfoyle T1 5.50 pm. Gartmore P.O. 6. pm. Buchlyvie 6.15pm. Drymen 6.30pm.

Killearn 6.45pm. Printers row 6.55pm Balfron clinic 6.57pm Book at Balfron Library 01360 440407, or with Joan on 449253 NOON-7 pm. MON-FRI ONLY.

## Co-operative Balfron 10K

Almost 600 runners from all over the UK set off on Sunday 26th April, for the third, prestigious Co-operative Balfron 10K race. The atmosphere was electric as BBC Sports Reporter Rhona McLeod sounded the starting horn. Hundreds of spectators lined the streets as the runners swept past "en masse" from Balfron Campus.

Colin Mendam, Race Organiser said "It was an incredible sight to see all the runners at the starting line. The Co-operative Balfron 10k has become a huge success and a real favourite with runners, young and old from all over the country. The event embraces the whole community and our thanks go to the generosity of our main sponsor The Co-operative and the many other local businesses who continue to support us.

Our thanks go out also to all our many volunteers who willingly gave up their time to assist in so many ways to make the day such a resounding success. The comments posted on our website from runners [www.balfron10k.org.uk](http://www.balfron10k.org.uk) are tremendously encouraging."

The race was recently voted "The 5th Best 10K in Scotland." All funds raised are going to Balfron Primary School and Balfron High School.

### Co-operative Balfron 10k 2009

#### Prizewinners

#### Gun Time

1st Male	Ian Stewart	Carnegie Harriers	00:35:21
2nd Male	Paul Thompson	Helensburgh AC	00:36:04
3rd Male	Stephen Allan	Kirkintilloch Olympians	00:36:44
1st Female	Claire Couper	Unattached	00:40:27
2nd Female	Yvonne Hamilton	Giffnock North	00:42:14
3rd Female	Fiona Greer	Unattached	00:43:28
1st Junior Male	Ross Milne	Central Athletics	00:38:55
1st Junior Female	Rosie Hastings	Central Athletics	00:44:07
1st V40 Male	David Eckersley	Central Athletics	00:37:25
1st V40 Female	Fiona Greer	Unattached	00:43:28
1st V50 Male	Ian Stewart	Carnegie Harriers	00:35:21
1st V50 Female	Jean Anderson	Unattached	00:49:37

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## Elain Gallery

"Coo in the Kitchen and a Duck by the Bath"

A Solo Show of Game and Farmyard inspired paintings by, Iona Crawford

Opens on Sunday 10th of May 2009 at 2pm

Exhibition runs until 9th June

Elain Gallery

36-42 Main St

Drymen, G63 0BG



## Castle Compost in Balfron

Castle Compost as produced by Stirling Council is now available at no charge at Balfron Recycling Centre for uplift by local residents.

Stirling Council's Castle Compost is peat free with nothing added and a quality assured product. The compost is manufactured from green waste and cardboard collected from residents within the Stirling Council area, and processed at the Council's Compost Plant. This high quality compost certified to PAS 100 standards is produced at the Lower Polmaise Composting Plant from garden waste and cardboard collected in brown bins across the council area. Householders will need to bring their own bags and shovels, but are welcome to return this product to their garden where it will enrich the soil. Compost will soon be available later this year in Callander, once the construction of new Household Waste Recycling Facility is complete.

Stirling Council completed improvements last summer to the former civic amenity site in Balfron to convert it into a more accessible Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) accepting a wider range of materials for recycling.

Stirling Council currently recycles over 40% of all waste collected, one of the highest recycling rates in the country. The opening times when compost is available are from Monday to Friday between 5pm - 7.45pm, and Saturday 10am - 1.45pm. No compost will be available to uplift outwith these times.

The Balfron HWRC is located in Dunkeld Court (beside the Fire Station and behind the Co-operative). An attendant will be on site to provide assistance to residents on the operating procedures.



**ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL****Pilates**

Mondays 7-8.15 pm

**Step'n'Tone**

Mondays 8.15 - 9.15 pm

Thursdays 10 - 11am

**Amanda Reid 07811633968****Tap, Ballet & Jazz Classes**

Tuesdays from 3.30pm

**Carla Duggan 07815146462****Toddlers**

Wednesday Mornings

**Contact Julie Glen 382296****Scottish Country Dancing**

Wednesday Evenings

**Contact A Ralston 382847****Ballroom and Latin****American Dance**

Wednesday at 1830 for one hour

**Contact John Epps 382 276****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**

Contact Margaret Brown 382463

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

**WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009****5TH UNTIL 12TH JUNE**

The various venues for the Fips-Mouche World Fly Fishing Championships have been organised and include the Lake of Menteith, Loch Leven, Loch Awe and Carron valley. For the river sector beats on the River Tay have been organised. With such wonderful venues a fantastic time is anticipated for those taking part. The beautiful town of Drymen on the banks of Loch Lomond is to be the venue of the event with the Buchanan Arms and the Winnock Hotel providing the accommodation and hospitality. The competition will give anglers from all over the world the opportunity to experience the wonderful fishing, scenery and hospitality that Scotland has to offer.

[www.worldflyfishingchampionships2009.co.uk](http://www.worldflyfishingchampionships2009.co.uk)

[info@worldflyfishingchampionships2009.co.uk](mailto:info@worldflyfishingchampionships2009.co.uk)

**CLAREWORKMAN DESIGNER MILLINER STUDIO**

Open Day Nether Shannochill, Aberfoyle, FK8 3UZ, Sunday 10th May 2009 - Come along to enjoy a glass of wine and to view the latest collections to buy. 2 - 6 PM

All friends welcome to enjoy an afternoon of hats, viewing the new collections and bagging a bargain from the sale table!

**CAR BOOT SALE**

Sunday 10th May, 10am - 2pm

Scottish Wool Centre Car Park, Aberfoyle

Site available from 9am for sellers. £10 car Enquiries 01877 386222

**RACE NIGHT**

Saturday 23 May

Kinlochard Village Hall

And they're off to Race Night in aid of the hall restoration fund. Buy a horse, place your bets and ride the winner past the post. Fun for all the family. Bring your own bottle and remember, this is not a video game - you will really ride the horses.

**HOECOMING CLAN JAZZ BALL**

The Forth Inn, Aberfoyle

Saturday May 23rd, 2009 from 7.30pm

Featuring two bands: The High Society Jazz Band & The Ken Mathieson Jazz Orchestra

Tickets £15 including buffet meal

Ticket sales debit/credit card The Forth Inn, Aberfoyle Tel: 01877-382372

Also from Callander Tourist Information Office Tel: 01877-330342 or on the door. Early booking recommended. Coach link there and back 7pm South Ancaster Square.

**DRY MEN SHOW**

Saturday 30th May 2009 Gates open 9am

Once again we have a packed and varied day of entertainment for the whole family, with 5 a side Schools football, S.W.R.I Competitions, Sheep Shearing, Schools Competitions, Classic Cars, Fun-Fair.

**GALA AND HIGHLAND GAMES**

Sunday 19 July, 12.00pm to 5.00pm. Ceilidh from 8.00pm - midnight.

The Kinlochard Gala and highland games has everything you need for a day out that the whole family can enjoy; heavy events with public participation, pipe bands, dancers, side shows, children's field events, the World Giant Sack Race Competition, Scotland's Bonniest Sheepdog Competition, a 300-ducks race on the river, and a traditional ceilidh dance in the village hall at night.

**Forth Inn Events Diary****May****Sat 16th May:** Karaoke in The Wallace Bar

Fun starts @ 9pm

**Sun 24th May:** Pub Quiz Prize for Winning Team Starts @ 9pm**June****Sat 20th June:** Karaoke in The Wallace Bar

Fun starts @ 9pm

**Sun 28th June:** Pub Quiz Prize for Winning Team Starts @ 9pm

Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UQ

Tel: 01877 382 372

E-mail: [Phil@ForthInn.com](mailto:Phil@ForthInn.com)**Spicy Lamb Meatballs****INGREDIENTS:****Meatballs**

2lb Minced Lamb

1 Red Chilli Chopped

2 Cloves Garlic Chopped

1 Tblspn Tomato Puree

½ Onion Diced

Fresh Oregano

Salt &amp; Black Pepper

**Tomato and Olive Sauce**

1 tin chopped Tomatoes

1tblspn Tomato Puree

Basil and Oregano

White Wine

1 Clove Garlic chopped

Olives

Salt &amp; Pepper

**METHOD:**

Mix all the ingredients together.

Roll into balls (golf ball size), place on a tray and cook in a medium oven for approx 20 mins. Serve on a bed of spaghetti and cover with the tomato and olive sauce.

For the sauce add all the ingredients together and bring to the boil, simmer for 5 mins.

The lamb can be substituted for pork or beef. More or less chili's can be added for personnel taste.

**ABERFOYLE 100 CLUB**

The winner of the 100 Club in March was Neil Stewart (For Laura) who won £97.00 and in April it was Pauline Frosyth who won £93.



**Janefield, Ruskie, Stirlingshire FK8 3LG**

**Tel: 01786 850500 Mob: 07977 133503 Fax: 01786 850555**

**Email: directvehicleopt@aol.com www.directvehicleoptions.co.uk**

**We are Open: Mon-Sat 8:00-20:00 Sun by Appointment**

## **VEHICLES FOR SALE**



**Fiat Scudo 120 LWB (08/08) In Silver, Twin Glazed Sliding Doors, Partitioned Rear £9750.00 + VAT**



**Honda Civic 1.6 Sport (03/53) In Black, FSH, 103,000 Miles £3,650.00**



**Volvo S 40 1.9 D 115 BHP (W Reg) FSH, 103,000 Miles £2,550.00**



**Vauxhall Signum 2.0T Design (04/04) FSH, 84,000 Miles £2,500.00**



**Range Rover 4.4 HSE (03/03) In Burgundy with Lightstone Leather, 61,000 Miles £11,995.00**



**Volvo V 70 170 BHP SE Estate Manual (03/03) 1 Owner, FSH, Leather Heated Seats, 63,000 Miles £5,950.00**



**05/54 Fiat Panda 1.2 4x4 In Red, 1 Owner Fsh Having Covered 55000 Miles, This Car Is Immaculate And As New £4450**



**01 X Reg Landrover Freelander 1.8 Commercial In White Having Only Covered 24000 Miles £3250 +Vat**

Images for illustration purposes only.

Dear Readers of the Strathard News,

We have had a lot of customers asking us what is happening in the car trade in the current economic climate. At present there are still some 08/08 and 08/58 pre registered vehicles around and these vehicles look good value in comparison with a year ago. But they are running out and prices in the second hand market, which always rises in the first couple of months into a new year have risen at some 20 to 25% this year compared to 4% last year.

I am sure that is not what you are expecting in this current climate but demand is out stripping the supply of second hand vehicles at present. Mainly because the manufacturers are not pre registering and the fleets are not re-fleeting due to the fact all the manufacturers have put their prices up to the fleets and the exchange rates have gone against them, plus increased manufacture costs.

What's going to happen ???

Well I think that as the recession deepens and unemployment rises there will be a number of big car sales groups will become bankrupt. The combination of lack of credit, lack of consumer confidence and manufacturers having to increase prices because none of them are making any money will be just too much for some of the large highly debt geared retailers. This will create a very volatile car market with windows of opportunity for purchasers. As the big groups fail there will be large quantities of cars needing moved on quickly. The manufacturers will not be able to afford to offer big discounts as they will not be making any money - but beware of attractive finance packages from them (always read and understand the small print) especially the term "the vehicle must be returned in a condition commensurate with its age and mileage" This can cost you a lot of money when your agreement finishes.

If you are considering changing a vehicle now or in the future please give us a phone, hopefully we can help get you the right vehicle or at least give you some useful advice.