

Strathard News

Serving the communities of Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid

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Issue 61

Oct 2010

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4-page pull-out of all Festival Events
Pages 15 - 18



Community Council Report



We were saddened to hear just after the September Community Council meeting that our friend and colleague David Horne had passed away, after being ill for several months. We had been delighted to welcome him back in August when we met in Kinlochard after a period when he could not attend. Until recently David was our

Secretary, a role he assumed after he was elected in 2009 to represent Inversnaid and Stronachlachar, where he lived. He was a very well-respected and dedicated member of the community, and chairman of the Loch Katrine Community Trust in addition to being a community councillor. His recent engagement and marriage to Sue Russell, until last year a community councillor for Kinlochard, brought him much happiness and allowed him to make the most of the last months of his life as far as his health allowed. David was a charming man -



David on community council duty watering the new Stronachlachar planter - April 2010

polite, considerate and conscientious - who gave his time freely to the community. He will be greatly missed, and our sympathy and best wishes go to Sue and all his family.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner

Invitations to this popular event will be sent out nearer the time, but as always we find it a hard job working out just who is actually old enough to collect their pension! So if you would like to go and you've just reached the magic age (currently 60 for women, 65 for men) or haven't been invited before and would like to be, please let us know using the website as below or just have a word with Ros in the Post Office, who will be organising the invitations. Couples are invited once one partner qualifies.

Kinlochard Water Mains Renewal project

We have been pursuing this with Scottish Water in the past few months and are pleased at last to have received the news that the project is scheduled to go ahead in November/ December. There will be some impact on B829 road traffic when these works take place, but Scottish Water has promised full details in advance.

Website and e-mailings

We continue to transfer useful information onto the community council website www.strathard.org.uk, and to send out regular e-mailings on matters of general community interest. You can sign up for these e-mailings by contacting us via the website. Information of course will still be put onto our 4 newly-refurbished noticeboards, but we have found that these e-mailings have proved very popular, and have allowed us to provide useful information directly to about 40% of local households.

Finally, the names of your Community Councillors are shown below - please do get in touch with them on any relevant matter if you would like our help.

Fiona

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard and Inversnaid Primary School. The next meetings will be held in Kinlochard on 4th November and Inversnaid on 2nd December. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councillor (Tony Finch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns.

Community Councillors by Ward

Aberfoyle

John Clow
Ros Dingwall
Jimmy Quinn
Geraint Short

Inversnaid

Andre Goulancourt
Ralph Wolfe
1 vacancy

Kinlochard

Maureen Campbell
Mike Campbell
Fiona McEwan
1 vacancy

Contact details: Tel 01877 387200

Email: cc@strathard.org.uk

www.strathard.org.uk

Anne McGuire MP



It's quite an exciting time at the moment for Labour politicians as we reach the final stages of the Leadership election. Many of you may be aware that David Miliband, Shadow Foreign Secretary, recently visited the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum where I hosted a question and answer

session for local people to hear his views and hopes for the future. An issue equally current in the news and perhaps of more concern to tax payers in the constituency, is the recent announcement by the Treasury that some of Stirling's tax payers may be affected by the Government's demands to pay back underpaid tax as a result of errors in their Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax code. In raising my concerns that some of my constituents may experience instances of hardship, I have since been contacted by the Exchequer Secretary to advise me that should any of my constituents have queries relating to this issue, they may contact the HM Revenue Customs and Taxes Helpline on 0845 300 0627. Furthermore, should anyone feel they wish me to speak to HM Revenue and Customs on their behalf, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Stirling office.

On a more spiritual note, I and my fellow parliamentarians were privileged to be amongst an invited audience to be addressed by Pope Benedict XVI in Westminster Hall last week. His address covered the role of religion in society and its contribution to national life. This was a state occasion, and the event was obviously more of a formal event than the religious ones that took place in Scotland and other parts of the UK, but the historic significance of the occasion, regardless of one's own personal religious views could not be understated.

As ever, I can be contacted at my parliamentary office in Stirling, 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling, FK8 1UA. Tel: 01786 446515 Fax: 01786 446513. Website: www.annemcguiremp.org.uk Email: mcguirea@parliament.uk

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Joe Kennedy A.M.F.A.

Keep it local!

Trossachs Area Community Transport

You may have heard or seen that fuel and shop services at the Aberfoyle garage site are closing. The current owners have the right to make that decision and we respect their reasons for so doing.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Please be assured that the garage buyout project is not over just because Aberfoyle Motors has stopped trading from the site. Note however that Aberfoyle Coaches continues to operate both bus services and workshop activities from its existing premises there, under its ongoing tenancy.

Any closure of the shop and petrol station in the interim is regrettable, but this should not affect our ability to acquire the garage site, nor to provide similar services in the future. We will continue our efforts, as always, to move this forward to a successful conclusion. Had our community buyout project not been underway and successful in its efforts to raise funding, then there would have been very little chance at all of the garage re-opening, and fuel services would now probably be lost to this area permanently.

We do share any frustration local people may feel, since we have managed to achieve funding for this buyout with the odds heavily stacked against us. In addition to the Big Lottery Fund grant of nearly £420,000, a further award was made in September (ahead of schedule) of £24,400 Leader European assistance. This means that from all sources the entire project budget of £472,000 is now in place, not only to purchase the site but also to carry out future works both inside and outside and to help with first year operating costs. But public funding is providing 95% of the cost, so we have to follow funders' rules in order to access this money and are obliged to comply with all their requirements.

We cannot breach any commercial confidentiality at this stage. However those who have financially supported the buyout by providing £24,000 to our recent Appeal to raise the necessary community contribution are of course being kept informed as matters progress. Once the situation resolves, a more general announcement can be made.

Forestry Lorries

During the period October - December, haulage of timber will start from a felling site close to Bell House Cottage. Approximately 174 lorry loads of timber will be transported past the Covenanters, onto Manse Road. Lorry drivers have been asked to be particularly careful when driving through the village.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, gifts and best wishes I received on my recent illness. I'm on the mend now but taking it easy.

Janette Bond



HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Rural Stirling Housing Association

Home for rent at Stronachlachar

The Association will shortly be re-letting a 3 bedroom, semi-detached house in the hamlet of Stronachlachar. The house is situated in very scenic surroundings 12 miles north of Aberfoyle on the B829 and would suit a household happy to live in a relatively isolated location.

Priority will be given to applicants who have a housing need and a particular reason for wanting to live in that area (for instance, employment or family support) but all applications will be considered.

The rent for the property is £301.49 per calendar month.

For more information and a housing application form please contact Elaine Whyte Housing Services Manager on **01786 841101**



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FLU CLINICS 2010

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Heart Disease, Diabetes, had a Stroke?**

or

Are you a carer?

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Aberfoyle

Thursday 7th October 2-4pm

Thursday 14th October 2-4pm

Buchlyvie

Tuesday 12th October 2-4pm

Tuesday 19th October 2-4pm



CHANGES

DR POLLOK - This month, much to our amazement, Dr Pollok informed the practice of his intention to retire at the end of July 2011.

DR SUSIE SWINTON – joined the practice in July and is doing one session a week in Buchlyvie and one/two sessions a week in Aberfoyle.

DR MARGARET AITKEN – joined the team in August and will routinely cover surgeries on a Monday for her mum Dr Anne Lindsay. During holiday periods she will be doing sessions at Aberfoyle.

ANNE MACLEAN – is a qualified pharmacist and will be working at both Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres and will be assisting the rest of the team using her specialist skills to enhance patient care.

CONSULTING TIMES

ABERFOYLE – TEL – 01877 382421

Monday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm – 5.30pm	By Appointment
Tuesday:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm – 3.00pm	By Appointment
Wed:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm – 5.30pm	By Appointment
Thursday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
Friday:	7.00am – 8.00am	By Appointment (Alternate Fridays)
	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm – 3.00pm	By Appointment

BUCHLYVIE – TEL – 01360 850237

Monday:	7.00am – 8.00am	By Appointment (Alternate Mondays)
	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Tuesday	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.30pm – 5.30pm	By Appointment
Wed:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Thursday:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Friday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm – 5.00pm	By Appointment

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CFSLA Payroll Committee

The Clackmannanshire Falkirk & Stirling local authority payroll committee (CFSLA) have 6 tombola drums to donate to the best applications from local community groups or charities who apply Applications by email to lottery_russell@hotmail.com by 30th October.

The committee also hope to donate another £5000 to community groups and charities this year IF they receive applications for equipment from groups with insufficient funds to purchase what they need.

Applications forms are available to download from www.cfsalottery.org.uk and should be submitted as soon as possible along with a copy of your latest accounts and constitution for the final meeting of 2010 (in November or December)

Alastair Wilson

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Public asked to play their part in weeding out cannabis factories

A new campaign to encourage the public to provide anonymous information on houses and flats that are being used for cannabis cultivations was launched on Monday 30 August 2010.

The campaign comes as figures released today show that Scotland's police forces have seized almost £40 million of cannabis plants since the national crackdown on this serious organised crime was launched in 2006. The 130,000 plants seized over that period would be capable of covering the football pitches at Hampden, Ibrox and Parkhead.

The £25,000 campaign, which is being led and funded by the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA), highlights the tell-tale signs of cannabis cultivations and calls on the public to anonymously share any suspicions they have through the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cultivations have been detected by all eight forces across Scotland in both rural and urban settings and in a variety of properties, including flats, houses, farm buildings and industrial premises. The public is being asked to use their natural senses to look out for the following signs, which may indicate the presence of a cannabis cultivation:

- Blacked out windows, occasionally with condensation on them, or curtains or blinds that are permanently closed;
- Premises appear unoccupied most of the time but with people seen visiting late at night or into the early hours;
- Visitors to the premises may be seen bringing in building supplies and/or gardening equipment, which may be carried in boxes or suitcases;
- A low level hum or a loud buzzing sound caused by fans or extraction systems;
- A strong, sweet distinctive smell;
- Unusual levels of heat coming through walls and floors, which may be more noticeable in flats.

Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill said:

"Serious organised crime affects us all. It fuels street-level crime in our communities, and increases the fear of crime through the violence and intimidation used. It brings human misery to thousands of families through the harmful drugs they peddle - with cannabis most often the drug that starts people on that dark journey. We need the public's help to expand our knowledge, and disrupt these criminals' operations. Even the smallest piece of information about an individual or group's activity can be the key that unlocks the door to disrupting an entire criminal empire. The fact that so many of the individuals involved in cannabis cultivation are of South-East Asian origin should not be seen as us targeting a community. "Nine out of 10 of those arrested for these particular crimes are of South-East Asian descent and it would be negligent if we refused to acknowledge that reality. But I hope that we will also get the support of those communities with family ties to that region of the world.

Working together we can make our communities safe places in which to live and work for law abiding members of the public - and hostile places for criminals. With your help, there will be no hiding place for the criminal gangs who prey on our communities."

Cannabis cultivations represent a growing threat to Scotland's communities. Since 2006, police in Scotland have detected 278

commercial cannabis cultivations and seized 130,716 cannabis plants, which are valued at £39.2 million. Of the 304 people arrested 74% are Chinese and 22% are Vietnamese.

The figures cover seizures for 2010 so far, which include 22 cultivations detected across Lothian & Borders, Strathclyde, Fife and Dumfries & Galloway. Over 12,000 plants have been seized worth over £3.6 million. Properties are destroyed internally to maximise space for plants, with walls damaged and often knocked down. They represent a serious fire and electrocution risk because the electricity supply is interfered with and bypassed, and powerful lighting is left on for long periods of time.

Deputy Chief Constable Gordon Meldrum added:

"These illegal and highly dangerous cultivations are quite literally on people's doorsteps. These are not the kind of neighbours anyone wants or needs. They won't care about your quality of life, or if your home goes up in smoke because of the risks they take to make profit. We need people to be the eyes and ears of their communities, and hopefully by outlining some key signs people will be able to help us identify where more of these operations are taking place.

"The commercial cultivation of cannabis represents a highly profitable business for serious organised crime groups, and is one which they believe is low risk. I want to change that perception and today send a message to those involved that we are improving our intelligence on a daily basis.

"Across Scotland police have detected hundreds of cultivations and arrested hundreds of people. This has had a significant impact and caused considerable disruption to those involved. I strongly believe that with the public taking a healthy interest in what's going on around them and using their common sense, and senses, we can increase the risk to those behind the cultivations, make them more vulnerable to law enforcement, and ultimately make them think twice about doing business here."

Chief Superintendent Gordon MacKenzie of Central Scotland Police said:

"We are serious about tackling drugs and drugs dealers in Central Scotland, and our involvement in this latest Crimestoppers campaign is another way of showing that commitment.

"Serious and organised crime has no place in our communities, but we need the public's help to crack down on criminal activity. Cannabis cultivations can literally be next door and we need people to come forward if they believe there are cannabis cultivations in their area.

"By working together and with the assistance of Crimestoppers, we hope to bring an end to these activities."

John LS Malcolm, chairman, Scotland Crimestoppers said:

"Crimestoppers plays a vital role in the fight against crime and we have a long history of working with communities to make them safer and help solve crimes.

"The public should be assured that when they call Crimestoppers to report suspicious activity, their anonymity is guaranteed - in 22 years of operating as an independent charity we've never broken that promise. We do not take your name, we do not trace your call and we do not tape calls - all we need is what you know.

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Registrar



I cannot believe that, as I sit here, there is a wind outside, a bit of a 'bite' in the air and there are already Christmas cards, sweets and novelties in some of our village shops! It's already September, but still the sun has managed to shine (between some fierce rainstorms) on our many bridal couples in the area. John and I have both been kept busy officiating at these many celebrations, including the wedding of Robert Taylor from Northern Ireland to bride Nichola Stephenson, at Forest Hills Hotel; at Altskeith, such as the marriage of Stephen Kynaston and Klára Sebestyén from Dunblane; also including weddings at the Registration Office, such as the marriage of Peter Muir and Patricia Powell who travelled from Hampshire; and even at Loch Lomond, such as the marriage of Neil Parley to bride Rebecca Enoch from Kirkcaldy.

Our absence of 'local' weddings last month has been remedied by, not one, but two local connection weddings! The first of these was in our lovely Parish Church, as the Ferguson family celebrated their second such event this year. The groom Neil, son of Christine and Jimmy [the-post] Ferguson, married his lovely bride Gemma, daughter of Ann Michael. All I can say is it's a jolly good job Jimmy built that barbeque and two down, one to go, Christine!

I was lucky enough to officiate at the second local connection wedding. Leila, daughter of Ally Ferguson and Carol Ferguson, traveled back home from Norway with her fiancé Øystein, son of Leif and Inger Bråten, to be married at the Wallace Monument. What an amazing setting for a ceremony and what a lovely couple they made. Our warmest congratulations go to these and to all couples married in our area.

September has brought some sadness, too, with the loss of Margaret McLaren, who will be much missed in Kinlochard and throughout the area. Our thoughts are very much with her family and friends at this time.

I'm picturing a lovely big Nursery School class in years to come, as another three babies have been registered in the area, in the last month. First, parents Nicole and Stuart from Rowardennan chose to come to Aberfoyle to register their son Frederick Peter Durrant, quickly followed by another baby boy James Arthur Coakes born to Aberfoyle parents Alison and John. To complete the trio, it was from the Port of Menteith that mum and dad Pauline and Grant came to register their baby daughter Constance Jean East. Welcome, babies. I think there might yet be a few more this year!

Remember the Local Office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon. Appointments can be made by telephone, 01877 382 986, by email regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk, or by dropping in to the office during opening hours, and John Boyle-Hannah and I will look forward to helping you in any way we can.

Sharon Johnston Registrar



Inversnaid Reserve

We have had quite a few visitors to the reserve over the last little while. Nicki our new ecologist paid her first visit to the reserve not long after taking up the post as well as a group of volunteers from Baron's Haugh in Motherwell (one of the other reserves the Central

Scotland Reserves team manages). Fraser and I were more than happy to have their company for the day as they helped us install the second oak bench which has been sitting in the boat shed for quite some time and it meant we didn't have to carry it up round the nature trail ourselves again. (We're still recovering from the first time we had to do that!). It's now in situ and looking great.

If you have visited the reserve you might also have noticed that we have now removed the Japanese Knotweed growing next to the boat shed. It was two days hard work getting it cut, treated and burned but it was good to get it done. Unfortunately it is a hard plant to actually get rid of as it is just so invasive you only need to leave a tiny piece of plant material behind and a new plant will grow but we are confident that over a couple of years our method of removal, along with other landowners around the loch also controlling the knotweed on their land, will make a difference.

On the wildlife front, our summer visitors have pretty much all gone by now and the woods seem very quiet because of it. The loch side seemed to be a great place for views of passing ospreys in August as many of them use the valley to work their way south towards Africa where they will spend the winter. The jays have been very noisy in the woodland just next to the Hotel but they can be hard to catch a glimpse of, a surprising fact given that they are the most colourful of all the corvids. Goat numbers around the nature trail also seem to be increasing, probably a sign that the winter is well and truly on its way. We hope to gain a better picture of the size of both the goat and deer populations on the reserve this winter with our new mammal count method. I'll let you know what we find later in the season.

Allison Leonard
Central Scotland Reserves,
Assistant Warden.

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Stirling Council's Aberfoyle Local Office

Central Scotland Fire and Rescue



Bonfire Night Is Fast Approaching...

Bonfires need a lot of organising and can be a hazard. Many displays are a great success without one. If, after careful consideration, you do decide to have a bonfire, make one person responsible for it, from early planning to final clearing up. Don't site it too near your display or firework storage area.



Aberfoyle fire station was recently visited by the new Chief Fire Officer for Central Scotland Fire and Rescue, Kenny Taylor. He discussed how he would like to take the service forward in the next few years. The current crew at Aberfoyle Fire Station are pictured above with Kenny.

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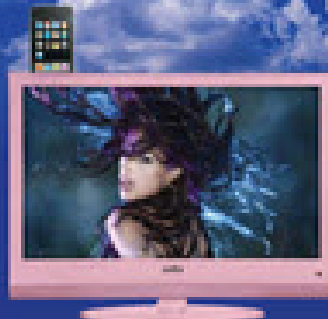
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National Park News

By Owen McKee



Doubtless you will have seen the press coverage of the National Park Authority's refusal of the application for the Gold Mine at Cononish near Tyndrum. Local anger at the decision has meant that I have had a deluge of calls querying the decision. Almost all the callers wanted to know, particularly in the present economic climate, what could be more important than jobs. Not one of the callers was aware of all the facts. I do not propose going into the details but can I please assure everyone that there are ongoing negotiations between the Park's Planning department and the applicant, Scotgold, and there is hope that a solution to the problem can be found. As a commercial company, Scotgold, has to make commercial decisions to protect its profitability and The Park Authority has the duty of protecting the Park. Hence the need for negotiations.

The last week in September saw the Park Authority hosting the annual conference of the Association of National Park Authorities with delegates coming from all over the United Kingdom. It is as well that the theme of the conference was Lochs for the incessant rain ensured that a few

extra lochs made their appearance during the week. Nonetheless the conference proved very successful and even resulted in a small profit for the Park Authority. So impressed with the area in spite of the rain, many delegates promised that they would be returning for a holiday visit.

The East Loch Lomond Camping Bylaw Consultation period has now ended and the proposals are with the minister for decision. The one major objection that remains has been lodged by the Ramblers Association whose main fear is that the proposals run counter to the universal access to the countryside and may lead to a stream of bylaws not only in the Park but throughout the country. There is not a time limit for the minister to make a decision. Clearly the Park Authority has robustly defended the need to introduce these proposals for East Loch Lomond and it is hoped that a positive outcome will be forthcoming to ensure their introduction for the 2011 season.

There is barely a community in the Park that has not expressed the fear that the East Loch Lomond proposals will result in an upsurge in anti-social behaviour in their area. With that worry in mind the Park Authority, in

conjunction with Operation Ironworks, has been monitoring the displacement theory and will continue to do so but to date there is no evidence that it is as yet occurring even though many visitors mistakenly think that the bylaws are already in place. Perhaps the general economic climate is biting there too.

Nonetheless the park authority will be looking at a variety of ways to counteract the anti-social problems and will be engaging in the coming months with communities most at risk. The new Park Board came fully in to play on 1st October with new members undergoing the induction process on 4th and 5th October. Committee appointments will follow and within the next couple of months the Board will be required to elect a new Convener and Vice Convener. Early in 2011 the new structure should be fully in place.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead,
Perthshire
FK19 8PR

Phone: 01567 830214

owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Volunteer Rangers wanted for Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority has launched a recruitment drive to find Volunteer Rangers to help look after the National Park and to ensure visitors have a great experience when they arrive.

The Volunteer Rangers will have the opportunity to work on a number of activities including helping out at Visitor Centres, delivering events, helping visitors at popular sites including village centres and working on environmental projects, such as, wildlife monitoring.

Speaking about the new role, Mike Cantlay, Convener of the National Park Authority said:

"We have the largest professional Ranger Service in Scotland but with an area covering over 720sq miles, we need Volunteer Rangers to support us in achieving even more. We are looking for people to make an ongoing long term contribution to the work of the Park and who can share their enthusiasm for the stunning landscapes we have in Loch

Lomond and The Trossachs with the people who visit the area. This is a fantastic opportunity to escape urban living and to learn new skills with a professional service."

With a minimum commitment of two days a month, Volunteer Rangers will be involved throughout the whole year. There are no specific qualifications needed to get involved but we are looking for people with certain qualities. We're looking for confident people who are able to meet a wide variety of people and share what they know and love about the National Park with others. If you have a passion for interacting with people, being outdoors and want to demonstrate or improve your existing skills, we want to hear from you.

Zoe Morris, Volunteer Development Manager said, "We already have a dedicated team of 200 volunteers who take part in various practical conservation projects. We want to build on the success of this programme and give Volunteer

Rangers the opportunity to get more involved in the breadth of National Park work. Training will be provided in the New Year so Volunteer Rangers are ready to start in April 2011."

A pilot scheme was held this summer with ten Visitor Management Volunteers, helping out at popular visitor sites providing information, helping out with events and carrying out visitor surveys. This was the first time Volunteers have been involved in positive visitor management activities and National Park Volunteer, Tracey Hamilton spoke about her experience of participating in this pilot:

"Overall I think the pilot scheme went really well and I personally got a better insight into other areas of the Rangers jobs and found out there is more to it than you might think. My first weekend I helped at a Bat and Moth Night which was an educational event to teach members of the public more about identifying bats and moths in the area. I also

had the opportunity to deliver an event on a subject I was interested in connected with the National Park and I decided to do it on the biodiversity of the area as 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. The Rangers I was placed with, were really good at letting me know what we were doing, where we were doing it and my role in particular, everything was well organized for my involvement. I would recommend anyone with a real interest in the National Park and working outdoors to get in touch."

An open evening will be held on Thursday 14 October, 6-8pm for anyone interested in becoming a Volunteer Ranger. This will be an opportunity to meet some of the Rangers and find out more about the role. For more information and an application pack visit www.lochlomond-trossachs.org or contact volunteering@lochlomond-trossachs.org or phone 01389 722600. The minimum age for applying is 18.

Rally of Scotland 2010

Information for local residents

A last minute change has created a new stage in the rally, *Clashmore*, running through Fairy Knowe, via Clashmore and High Corrie, finishing at Drymen Road.

Clashmore replaces the Achray stage, which event organizer IMS decided to avoid after the Scottish Forestry Commission pointed out a drafting error in recent Land Reform legislation that affects the suspension of access to what are termed 'core paths'.

Clashmore's inclusion means a new location for Sunday's remote service area, originally planned for Callander, for competing Intercontinental Rally Challenge crews. The service area has now been moved to Aberfoyle's Wool Centre. National B competitors, taking part in a Sunday-only rally that follows the main IRC event, have their service switched as a consequence as well, to the Forestry Commission's district office outside Aberfoyle.

Friday 15th October

Reconnaissance starts 8.00 at Clashmore, finishing 13.00 at end of Lochard Stage (Drymen Road). This allows competing cars to drive the stage at slow speed to familiarize themselves with route, hazards etc. Normally this will be carried out in non competitive vehicles. Access for teams is only available between the hours above. Impact should be minimal with cars passing through the village en route from end of Clashmore to start of Lochard stage (west end of Loch Chon). Some marshals and support vehicles may be involved. This is not a spectator activity.

Saturday 16th October

National B car will arrive in Aberfoyle around 16.00 for scrutineering (to ensure compliance and safety). Most Nat B activity will be based at Forestry Office car park. National B is a lesser competition running alongside IRC. About 25 cars are expected.

Sunday 17th October

International competition starts around 8.40 at Clashmore stage. Rally cars will arrive from Perth, although spectator and support vehicles could pass through Aberfoyle from 6.00 onwards.

Rally cars will pass through Aberfoyle en route from the end of Clashmore to the start of Lochard stage, and arrive back in the Wool Centre car park (first car about 11.15) for a 15 min service. They then repeat the above finishing at Stirling (first car around 15.00).

National B cars will follow International cars for 1 run through Clashmore only, and both Clashmore and Lochard in the afternoon.

There will be plenty of opportunities for close up viewing in the Wool Centre car park and pedestrian spectator access to some of the nearby forest sections.

All spectator vehicles heading for the Lochard stage will be directed into the forest at Milton. This will be the only vehicle spectator access. There is no spectator viewing beyond Milton on B829.

Tickets will be collected beyond the car park and spectators directed to 3 viewing areas within the forest. Spectator vehicles will be brought back out through Milton at end of the day. This area will be heavily manned with stewards, Marshalls, and Police.

This greatly reduces the amount of traffic heading along the loch side and leaves alternative access routes free for emergency vehicles.

All affected residents will be informed of these proposals.

No competitive vehicles should pass through Gartmore. Teams (only) will access A81 using the forestry track at Hoish Farm.



Unprecedented Live Global Tv Coverage For 2010 Rally Of Scotland

The high-speed action, drama and spectacular scenery served up by the 2010 RACMSA Rally of Scotland (15-17 October) will enjoy unprecedented live global television coverage. No fewer than four of the event's competitive timed stages will be broadcast live by Eurosport, Europe's largest television sports channel and promoter of the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC). What's more these programmes will be screened at peak weekend viewing hours. Saturday's live action features the two passes through the challenging 12-mile Errochty special stage in Perth and Kinross at 10:00am-11:00am and 4:30pm-5:30pm (UK time).

Sunday's live coverage will switch to the classic 18-mile Loch Ard test in the Trossachs – widely rated as one of the greatest timed stages in world rallying. Programmes are scheduled for 10:00am-11:00am and 12:45pm-14:00pm.

The 2010 Rally of Scotland is the penultimate round of the high-profile Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC). Some of the world's leading rally teams, cars and drivers – including Brits Guy Wilks (Skoda), Kris Meeke (Peugeot) and Scotland's own Alister McRae (Proton) – are set to be in action during the three-day event. Its route, set against a stunning backdrop, starts at Scone Palace on the Friday night before two days of punishing high-speed special stages through forests in Perthshire and Stirlingshire. It is recognised as one of Scotland's premier sporting events of the year.

Admission to all timed stages is free for children aged 15 and under, while adults can order their tickets in advance and have them posted to their home address prior to the event – removing the hassle of picking them up at a collection point. Adult tickets cost £10 to see the Ceremonial Start and opening two stages at Scone Palace (Fri 15 Oct) or £20 for a day pass which offers full access to all stages on either the Saturday or the Sunday. Alternatively a full-event 'Alba Pass' (in advance only) can also be purchased for £45. All tickets include a complimentary souvenir official spectator programme worth £6.50. Tickets can be booked via the official www.rallyofscotland.com website or the hotline 0844 847 2488 (pre-order deadline is 9.00am on 7 October for UK spectators and 9.00am on 1 October for those travelling from overseas).



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Trossachs Water Vole Project

Project Update

Surveys this summer, with the aid of volunteers, found really encouraging numbers of water vole colonies through Loch Ard Forest.

A small number of new water voles were released at two locations in August, to help link up existing colonies. Thorough surveys will be carried out next Spring to check on how they are doing. Meanwhile, we have been doing some



Water voles being released September 10

Water vole trapping on a forest burn. This is to help us find out what number of animals are there and whether they are breeding. Very good numbers of animals were enticed into the traps using apples, and safely released after being weighed and given a temporary identifying mark. Adults, older juveniles and fairly young juveniles were found, indicating a successful breeding season at this location.

Water voles leave very little sign above ground during the autumn and winter months, so it's a long wait till next Spring when we will resume surveys and find out how they fared over the winter. In common with many other small mammals, Water voles have a high mortality rate over the winter. Project work over the winter will focus on mink detection and identifying new potential water vole habitat.



Reminder - Voles in the Village

The water voles have made their way right down to Aberfoyle village, so do keep an eye out for them feeding or swimming for the next month, and an ear out for the distinctive 'plop' made when they dive into the water. Water voles can be distinguished from the similar sized brown rat by their chubby appearance, short, blunt muzzle and shorter, furry tail. Please let me know if you see one!

Black Scottish Water vole in a Pringles tube. These are used for handling trapped animals to minimise stress.

Mink tracking

The American mink is an introduced species which causes a great deal of damage to native British wildlife, especially water voles. About the same size as a ferret, a female mink can fit into a water vole burrow to catch both mother and young, and will quickly destroy whole colonies. As part of the Trossachs Water vole project, we track the movements of and trap mink.

The rafts consist of a floating tunnel containing a damp clay pad which picks up the footprints of whatever goes through the tunnel, which we can regularly check and identify. Continued vigilance in checking these rafts has paid off – after a nine month period with no mink sign, prints were picked up at the end of August on a raft near the village, very near to a water vole colony. The mink was trapped within 3 days so hopefully did not have too great an impact on the voles or other local wildlife.

On a more pleasant note, otter prints are regularly being found on the rafts.

Please report any mink sightings or evidence to me. If you have easy access to a waterway and would be interested in running a mink raft, it would be great to hear from you.

If you would like to know more about the project, are interested in becoming a 'vole-unteer' or could adopt a mink raft, please get in touch!

Anna-Marie Ford

Water Vole Project Officer

Trossachs Water Vole Re-introduction Trial Project

01877 389235 anna-marie.ford@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The Project is a partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, and Derek Gow Associates.

Strathard Community Trust

Our heritage day 'Scottsland, Slates & Steamtrains' in the Memorial Hall in September was a great success, with around 80 folk turning out to see the displays, hear the talks, look at old photographs, paintings, vehicles and other material, watch vintage film clips and of course chat to old friends. On the Monday morning 40 children and their teachers from Aberfoyle Primary School again filled the hall and enjoyed an informative visit.

Our grateful thanks are due to a long list of people for contributing to the day: guest speakers David Brown and Louis Stott, Alistair Wham our expert on railways, the David Marshall Lodge for organising the related slate quarry minibus tours, Stirling Council Archives and many others who contributed display material, Scottish Screen Archives, Lorna Main from Stirling Council for organising a huge map showing the 353 known historical sites in Strathard and Liz McGregor's for the excellent soup. Not forgetting the many members of the public who brought along material for scanning - we have a flying start now for running another similar day in the future. By popular demand we'll try over the winter to organise a film screening showing even more old footage of our area which has come to light during this project.

The event was funded by the National Park's Scottsland initiative, and confirmed a great interest in the area for all types of local history, so we will continue to examine the possibility of developing a local heritage centre.

Members of the Trust will soon receive renewal subscription notices if due this year, and also details of our AGM to be held on 23rd November. Anyone wishing to join as a member do please contact chairman Ian Marshall on 382211.



Trust director Richard Grosse and his Panther motorbike with Watsonian Monza sidecar.

Girlguiding Visit to Ghana

As part of the centenary celebrations for Girl Guiding this year, Morna Ferguson arranged for a team of leaders to go out to Ghana. I was delighted when I was asked to go along with my Mum, Hazel MacLennan and Morna plus fourteen others from West Lanarkshire Guides. Morna's links with Ghana go back over forty years when she worked there with Voluntary Service Overseas. For the last twenty years Scottish Guides have been involved in a Building Links Project which sends



groups of young women out to Ghana every three years to work with a local Guide group on a building project. We were going to see some of these projects.

We left at the end of July for our eighteen day trip. We were based at the Ghana Girl Guide Training Centre in Accra where we were able to meet the Girl Guides of Ghana who made us very welcome. We were looked after by a fantastic lady called Comfort who cooked Ghanaian food for us and we also had a fabulous bus driver called Ken. While we were there we had arranged that we would do some maintenance work on the centre and we managed to paint the interior of three buildingsmuch to the delight of Ghana Guides.

Once the work was over we were able to travel up to the Volta Region and along the coast to Cape Coast. Then we visited villages where there had been Guide Projects in the past. We were taken on guided walks through the forests and fed monkeys in one forest where the monkeys were called down by our guide. We had a very scary day on canopy walks which were rope bridges that sway a lot as you walk across. There were many markets with amazing hand crafted goods and jewellery which we were only too delighted to buy. Every day we were in Ghana was more amazing than the day before and I hope that some day I can go back

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Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!

Contributions welcome. Contact David Wilkie on 01877 382258 or email clubs@strathardnews.com



Courtesy of John McKinlay

Romancing The Stone

Whether or not you happen to believe in extra-terrestrials, conspiracy theories or the Loch Ness Monster is, of course, a matter of personal opinion, and will no doubt remain subjective debates until such time as overwhelming proof can simply not be denied.

Within the quiet backwaters of the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, however, we have a time-honoured mystery of our own to solve.

The accounts of the hidden existence of fairies in the area known locally as Doon Hill by the Reverend Robert Kirk, a nearby resident, have captured the imagination of countless people for centuries.

On a personal level, having poured through his original transcription of *The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Fauns and Fairies*, written in 1691, I was left with an unerring feeling that the Reverend may not, as most would argue, have been guilty of an extremely fertile imagination, but that he just might have taken part in something quite unique.

In seeking to extend this notion, I would like to recall now a recent happening, which perhaps personifies the legend.

In early June, a parcel was delivered to the Lodge from a lady in Arizona. Inside there was a stone, neatly packaged, and accompanied by a short note. It read, simply,

"Dear Forestry Commission:

Please be so kind as to return this quartz rock to Doon Hill in Aberfoyle, Scotland. Doon Hill is its original home. I picked it up a few years ago while on vacation to your beautiful country. Since then, I have always felt that it should be returned".

This was, clearly, an unusual circumstance, to which the staff gave no little amount of thought. Several weeks later, a chance conversation with a couple visiting from Los Angeles provided the perfect opportunity to have the stone returned to Doon Hill which was befitting of the request.

It was a pleasure to meet, and briefly get to know Kimberly Ball, and her companion Scott, who gracefully accepted the duty cast upon them.

In late August, I received this message from Kimberly.

"Dear Mr. Wilkie:

We met you in early July, when we came to take the walk to Doon Hill. You gave us a stone to return to the hill on behalf of someone who had brought it back to America as a souvenir. We just wanted to let you know that we did return the stone to the hill that day.

We also wanted to thank you for entrusting us with this mission. I (Kimberley) am a folklorist, and have just finished a dissertation that dealt, in part, with northern European fairylore, so I was somewhat nervous to be visiting the place where Robert Kirk is supposed to be imprisoned by the fairies as punishment for writing about them. It was good to have something to bring them.

I held the stone throughout the walk, and as we reached the top of the hill, it began to feel quite hot – but this could be because it was in my sweaty hand! As we put the stone back, we said a few words of apology on behalf of the person who had removed it. We hope everything is going well with her now."



This whole experience, and the trail of events, would suggest scepticism of 'The Myth' might not be the most succinct of options, as it would seem the return of the stone was 'ordained'.

Please feel free to make your own mind up....carefully.

The Doors Open Wide

The second annual 'Doors Open' event at the Lodge, this year held over the weekend of the 18th and 19th of September, proved to be an unmitigated success. Once again, the focus of attention was the local slate quarries which have lain dormant since their closure in 1958, aside from the occasional 'pillaging' of the 'spoils' by the current owners, the Forestry Commission, for use as aggregate in road and path construction.

In attempting to arrange the four mini-bus guided tours over the two days, a significant amount of planning was required, not least in terms of the health and safety aspects involved. Having said that, it was important to create a balance that would ensure the participants were not left with the feeling that their every step was being scrutinised.

The final format included four presentations by the inimitable Louis Stott, local author and historian - two at the Lodge on the Saturday and two at the Memorial Hall on the Sunday. Louis' obvious affection for the area remains clearly without equal. As an added bonus, we had the pleasure of being accompanied on the Saturday tours by Gartmore resident Bill Orr, who regaled us with some fascinating tales of life in the Quarry village as it was, when his family actually resided there between the years of 1938-1946.

Speaking personally, I am not normally 'inclined' to venture higher than the pavement of Aberfoyle's Main Street, but when the opportunity arises to visit this wonderful place, I tend to make an exception.

Each time I go there, quite apart from the stunning vistas, I am often captivated by the utter silence to be found. During the first Saturday tour, however, this stillness was broken briefly by the distant, yet extremely distinctive piercing shriek of a peregrine falcon. Despite a concerted effort from the group, a visual sighting was not forthcoming. Ominously, though, as we reached the summit overlooking the Klondyke Quarry, two wood pigeons, a favoured recipe of this splendid bird, fluttered rather anxiously away from the base.

Anne and Charlie were in charge of the Sunday tours, incorporating visits to the Memorial Hall, which harboured a magnificent collection of interpretative displays relating to the heritage of Strathard.

That the overall feedback received on the back of this weekend of events proved to be exceptional is testament to the exemplary efforts of a great many individuals behind the scenes who volunteered their time and services in order to make it happen.





Johnny Mullholland - "Back down to Earth"



Rob Mullholland - "Silent vessel"



Angela Beardsley - "Roots are still growing"



Anna Perch-Neilson - "The animals are left to wander freely"

Images are taken from a sculpture exhibition on show recently near the Waterfall of the Little Fawn. For further information on the artists please contact:
www.johnnymulholland.kk5.org
www.robmulholland.co.uk
angelabeardsley@gmail.com
www.annapn.co.uk

DML Notice Board

AUTUMN MOONWATCH

FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 6.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
 The Stirling Astronomical Society and National Park Rangers have joined forces to offer talks, activities and displays relating to Mankind's long history of obsessing with the Moon, and its secrets. Hopefully, if it is a clear night, there will also be a chance to gaze at our brilliant dark sky through telescopes.
 Please book for this free event by contacting Suzanne Humphries on 01389 722104.

KATRINE COLOURS CYCLE

SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 9.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
 This is a new event on the calendar, which offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the autumn tree colours at beautiful Loch Katrine on board the Sir Walter Scott to Stronachlachar and then cycle the 12 mile return trip to Trossachs Pier. The cycle follows the tarmac north shore road and includes several uphill sections, so a reasonable level of fitness is required.
 Cost is £24.00 per adult and £16.00 per child, which includes the cycle hire and boat trip. Please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing for the whole day excursion. Spaces for the event are limited therefore booking, through the Lodge, is essential.

MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

FUNGI FORAYS
 FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER, SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER and SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER.
 For details on the guided walks, please refer to the programme elsewhere in this issue.

HALLOWEEN PARTY NIGHT

SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 5.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
 It is hard to believe it's THAT time again. THE highlight of the Lodge calendar is almost upon us, and this year we have a theme of 'Alien Encounters'. Enquiries are already flooding for the best party on this, or any other planet. If you have been before, you will know what I mean....if this is your first time, you are in for one huge 'treat'.
 Cost is £5.00 per ticket, under 5s go free. Booking early will help you avoid the queues on the night.
 David Marshall Hotline: 01877 382 258
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Rangers Corner

The Dance of the Leaves

I close my eyes and it seems raindrops are falling
 But what I hear is the sound of a different calling
 Autumn is approaching.

The Forest is never more active than in the face of a strong breeze
 Anything but silent, yet still aiming to please
 And during this moment, it attacks my senses with ease
 As I witness clouds of leaves pirouetting down from the trees
 In a bid for freedom, they cascade, like lemmings, almost as one
 Perhaps to escape the tribulations of the summer's baking sun
 This whirlpool of motion does not cease once they reach the ground
 As the cavalcade erupts with every leap and every bound
 At first they appear to move like soldier ants on the march
 In a rhythmic formation among the birch, oak and larch
 But there is no hint of aggression here at play
 Simply a majestic celebration of Nature on display
 There is little to equal the beauty of autumn's 'Dance of the Leaves'
 And I would defy anyone who could not draw strength from moments such as these.



Forest Theatre Company 10 Year Special Anniversary

Forest Theatre Company will be celebrating 10 years of wonderful shows in March 2011. Our show for next year is the stunning classic....My Fair Lady. This is a huge undertaking for us and rehearsals are already underway for what is most definitely our most ambitious production to date.

Although the main parts have been cast we would love to welcome new **adult** members to join the company and be part of the chorus. We rehearse on Thursday nights and after Christmas we rehearse on a Sunday too. However, chorus members are not necessarily needed every week. Perhaps you have been in one of our previous productions....if so, we would love to see you again. Apart from being hugely rewarding and lots of fun, it is also very sociable. Now that we have the Black Bull re-opened many rehearsals are followed by 'discussions' in the pub. A pretty good time is had by all.

Please call me on the number below if you are interested and I can tell you more. There is a small annual fee for membership but it is well worth the small outlay for a great time.

Suzanne Teed
Director
07702 969472



Loch Ard Local History Group & Gartmore Heritage Society

October 11th 2010 @ 8PM
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

"CRY HAVOC!"

Stirlingshire and the Scottish Insurrection of 1820.
Patrick Mileham



In April 1820 60,000 people throughout the Centre and West of Scotland struck work. 5,000 troops were mobilized. Dr Patrick Mileham tells of the operations of the Stirlingshire Yeomanry Cavalry in and around Balfour, Fintry, Camelon, Culcreuch and Ballikrain, culminating near Falkirk in the 'Battle of Bonnymuir'. Though not as

severe as the 'Peterloo massacre' in Manchester (1819), great fear had spread through the population in Scotland, with grave consequences for some, before the spirit of rebellion passed.

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Heritage secrets of Scotland's forests go online

Anyone interested in finding out about some of Scotland's hidden cultural heritage can now take advantage of a new online resource from Forestry Commission Scotland.

Managing Scotland's 660,000ha (around 660 km²) of forest and woodland is not just about the trees. There are also many interesting archaeological and historical sites that can provide visitors with a glimpse of Scotland's distant – and more recent – past.

The new Cultural Heritage Information Resource has begun to list websites, books and library resources that can offer history, heritage and archaeology buffs a starting point for gathering ideas for places to visit and things to see and do.

Matt Ritchie, the Commission's archaeologist, said:

"Building on the success of the Forest Heritage Scotland project (www.forestheritagescotland.com), we have created a guide for anyone involved in Ranger Services, providing them with ideas on how to develop or run activities and visits that will help people of all ages to engage with and think about their cultural heritage.

"Although it's mainly there to help Rangers, it contains a huge list of published and online resources that will be really useful for anyone who wants to pursue their own projects and interest in exploring Scotland's heritage."

The new web pages also list 36 of Scotland's heritage trees, giving information about each of the specimen species, the individual tree's history and where to find them.

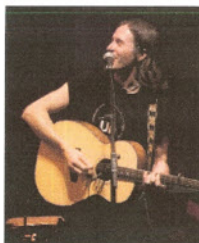
For more information visit www.forestry.gov.uk/culturalheritageresources



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ABERFOYLE PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 11.15am
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01877 382214 and www.wegotickets.co.uk

TROSSACHS MUSHROOM FESTIVAL 2010



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TROSSACHS MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

YOUR LOCAL FESTIVAL

This year, responding to past feedback and thanks to the generosity of our many sponsors, we have a wider variety of events, many of these either free or tickets priced under £5, even some where you can spend to save a fortune. There are many more events to offset bad weather and enough things of the widest interest to tickle the palate - just take a look at our programme and keep up to date by visiting www.mushroomfestival.co.uk for more news and to leave feedback. Remember that it is only with your support during each festival and by leaving feedback that we can continue to improve your autumn festival year by year. The festival organisers wish you a wonderful Trossachs Mushroom Festival 2010. Next year could be your year? Whatever you have to offer, if you would like to be part of the festival for 2011, please use the contact button on the festival website.

The Festival Organisers

Chinese Cookery Demonstrations
Tai Chi Demonstration
Fungi Forays in the Forest
Whisky Tasting
Chinese Banquet
Hong Lok Chinese Dancers
Jazz Dinner
Kowloon Kids Klub
Antiques Roadshow
Bowling Bonanza
Learn Ceilidh Dancing
Chinese Emporium
Craft Fair
Wild Living Walks
Digital Photography Competition
Ceilidh Dances
StrathART Exhibition & Sale
Crafty Raft Race



Now in its 9th year the theme for 2010 will be a flavour of Hong Kong with lots of new and exciting events planned in and around The Trossachs.

One of the main attractions this year are the The Hong Lok Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe who will be performing in various locations throughout the festival. The Hong Lok Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe was formed in

2001 by Sifu Se Kan Chan who wanted to bring to Scotland a unique aspect of Chinese cultural traditions. The troupe is led by artists whom have worked with some of the leading figures in Lion Dancing.

Throughout the years, Hong Lok has taken part in a number of festivals in the UK and have competed in the 2010 Hong

Kong Dragon and Lion Dance competition.

The Festival this year will feature a Jazz Dinner, Ceilidh Dance evenings, Chinese Cookery demonstrations, The Kowloon Kids Club, Fungal Forays, Whisky Tasting, Craft Fayre, Antiques Roadshow, Art Sale and Guided Walks around the Trossachs.

Its all set to be a exciting and varied long Weekend with something for everyone during the day and in the evenings with live entertainment and dancing.

So make a date in your diary and come along to The Trossachs 2010 Mushroom Festival. Tickets for the main events are available on-line at www.mushroomfestival.co.uk

The 4 day programme for the festival with all the events and venues. New for this year is the ability to book the main events on-line and all major credit cards will be accepted. Some events are very popular and advance booking is always recommended to avoid disappointment. So set a date in your diary for October and we hope to see you at the Trossachs Mushroom Festival.

Thursday 21st October

19.00-until late Forth Inn Aberfoyle - The *Grand Opening Night* with a Chinese meal and fun entertainment including Martial Arts, Tai Chi, Fire Poi and setting off Chinese Lanterns. A great start to the festival. Use the contact form to book your place. **£10 per person** **14.00**
15.00

Friday 22nd October

10.00-17.00 All day *Family Fungi Quiz* at the Scottish Wool Centre; learn about fungi & their role in nature-easy walk. **Free**
10.30 *Expert-led Fungus Foray*: mycology in the living forest. Many new venues - Starts at various locations around Aberfoyle. 2 hours duration and much of this forest walking, so less suited for young children. Max 30 people. **£5 adult £2.50 child £12 family** **19.30**
11.00 Family fun-style up-close look at the forest floor with The Festival Ranger team. Starts from The David Marshall Lodge. Last about 90 minutes. **Free**
13.00 *Learn Ceilidh Dancing* - Aberfoyle Bowling Club - family fun at the clubhouse with expert tuition. **£5**
13.30 *Expert-led Fungus Foray*: mycology in the living forest. Many new venues - Start at Various locations around Aberfoyle. 2 hours duration and much of this forest walking, so less suited for young children. Max 30 people. **£5 adult £2.50 child £12 family**
14.00 Family fun-style up-close look at the forest floor with The Festival Ranger team. Starts from The David Marshall Lodge. Last about 90 minutes. **Free**
18.00 *Family meal at The Scottish Wool Centre* with Chinese dancers display. 20% discount on all purchases at the Centre. **£10 per person**
19.30 *Cantonese Ceilidh* at McGregor's Barn Ledard Farm Kinlochard. Sumptuous Chinese Food followed by a traditional ceilidh. A Chinese Scottish fusion event for everyone to meet, mingle and dance. Limit 50 tickets so advance bookings only. BYOB **£15**
19.30 *Jazz and Whisky Tasting Dinner* at the Forth Inn Aberfoyle. A sit down 4 course dinner with Jazz Band "Afterglow" with Whisky Tasting courtesy of Glengoyne Distillery. This promises to be a great night out. available on-line **£17.50**
Tickets

Saturday 23rd October

Watch out for Dragons in Aberfoyle - all day authentic street theatre.

10.00 *Wild Living*; a walk on the wild side with specialist Arthur Jones. Starts from the David Marshall Lodge. Lasts about 1.5 - 2 hours **£5**
10.00-17.00 All day *Family Fungi Quiz* at the Scottish Wool Centre; learn about fungi & their role in nature - easy walk. **Free**
10.00-17.00 *StrathART* - art exhibition and sale by local artists. Memorial Hall Aberfoyle. Tea and coffee, homebaking available. **Free**
10.30-16.30 *"Antiques Roadshow"*; guest experts will value your heirlooms for a charity donation. Plus indoor Craft Fair in the Forth Inn Main St Aberfoyle **Free**
10.30 *Hong Kong House* open all day at the Tourist Information Centre. Hong Kong tourism & China Bank presentations. Watch and try Tai Chi. The SeeWoo Chinese Emporium - a display of Chinese food & drink to try and buy. Wok cooking demonstrations. Local Community promotion and events: getting things done, eco-living. **Free**
10.30 *Expert-led Fungus Foray*: mycology in the living forest. Many new venues - Starts at various locations around Aberfoyle. 2 hours duration and much of this forest walking, so less suited for young children. Max 30 people. **£5 adult £2.50 child £12 family**
11.00 Family fun-style up-close look at the forest floor with The Festival Ranger Team. Starts from the David Marshall Lodge. Last about 90 minutes **Free**
11.15-17.00 *All Day Kowloon Kid's Klub* at The David Marshall Lodge. A FREE turn up and have fun day for youngsters Family entertainment by the Hong Lok Lion & Dragon Dancers. **Free**
12.00 *Free Family barbeque* at the Scottish Wool Centre. Whilst stock lasts so hurry along. **Free**
13.00 *Bowling Bonanza* at Aberfoyle Bowling Club with instruction/fun/club competition. All afternoon event -

please bring flat shoes. Wet weather options. Raffle will be held during event. Min age 10. **£5**

Wild Living; a walk on the wild side with specialist Arthur Jones. Starts from the David Marshall Lodge. Lasts about 1.5 - 2 hours. **£5**

Expert-led Fungus Foray: mycology in the living forest. Many new venues - Starts at various locations around Aberfoyle. 2 hours duration and much of this forest walking, so less suited for young children. Max 30 people. **£5 adult £2.50 child £12 family**

Hong Kong Banquet at The Black Bull Hotel in Gartmore; an authentic Chinese Grand Dinner with entertainment by The Hong Lok Lion & Dragon Dancers with Tai Chi demonstration. Dance to the Kinlochard Ceilidh band until late. Booking in advance recommended. Tickets available on-line **£22.50**

Sunday 24th October

Watch out for Dragons in Aberfoyle - all day authentic street theatre

10.00 *Wild Living*; a walk on the wild side with specialist Arthur Jones. Starts from the David Marshall Lodge. Lasts about 1.5 - 2 hours. **£5**

10.00-17.00 *StrathART* - art exhibition and sale by local artists. Memorial Hall Aberfoyle. Tea and coffee, homebaking available. **Free**

10.30-16.30 *"Antiques Roadshow"*; guest experts will value your heirlooms for a charity donation. Indoor Craft Fair in Forth Inn on Main Street Aberfoyle **Free**

10.30 *Hong Kong House* open all day at the Tourist Information Centre. Hong Kong tourism & China Bank presentations. Watch and try Tai Chi. The SeeWoo Chinese Emporium - a display of Chinese food & drink to try and buy. Wok cooking demonstrations. Local Community promotion and events: getting things done, eco-living. **Free**

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11.00 Family fun-style up-close look at the forest floor with The Festival Ranger team. Last about 90 minutes **Free**
11.15-17.00 *All Day Kowloon Kid's Klub* at The David Marshall Lodge. A FREE turn up and have fun day for youngsters Family entertainment by the Hong Lok Lion & Dragon Dancers. **Free**

12.00 *Free Family barbeque* at the Scottish Wool Centre. Whilst stock lasts so hurry along. **Free**

13.00-14.00 *Learn Ceilidh Dancing* at Aberfoyle Bowling Club Something for all the family with instruction and a lot of fun. **£5**

13.30 *Cookery Demonstrations* in the Pavilion Cafe, Forth Inn. Join Jonathan and Michael as they show you how to cook and prepare some exciting recipes specially prepared with a Chinese flavour. Lasts about 1 hour with fresh coffee and cakes available. **Free**

14.00 *Wild Living*; a walk on the wild side with specialist Arthur Jones. Starts from the David Marshall Lodge. Lasts about 1.5 - 2 hours. **£5**

14.00 *Crafty Raft Race*-Kinlochard. Local teams build rafts and compete on the water. Come along and watch the fun. Contact us to enter a team. **£1**

15.00 *Expert-led Fungus Foray*: mycology in the living forest. Many new venues - Starts at various locations around Aberfoyle. 2 hours duration and much of this forest walking, so less suited for young children. Max 30 people. **£5 adult £2.50 child £12 family**

15.30 *Cookery Demonstrations* in the Pavilion Cafe, Forth Inn. Join Jonathan and Michael as they show you how to cook and prepare some exciting recipes specially prepared with a Chinese flavour. Lasts about 1 hour with fresh coffee and cakes available. **Free**

18.30 *Songs of Praise* at Gartmore House; Our annual festival cross-denomination service; if you like to sing, this is for you! FREE of charge, charity donations welcome for local charities chosen by the community. **Free**

20.00 *Final Fling*; Food and Fun, fusion entertainment with ceilidh and dancing. Black Bull Hotel Gartmore. Everyone welcome and a great finale to the Festival. Tickets available on-line **£10 per person**

TROSSACHS MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

YOUR LOCAL FESTIVAL

Buy Tickets
On-Line

www.mushroomfestival.co.uk

The Forays through the forest around Aberfoyle are led by leading mycologist Liz Holden who has participated in the Mushroom Festival for the past 10 years. Based in Aberdeenshire, Liz has been seriously interested in fungi for over 20 years and is an active field mycologist in fungal survey work all over Scotland and more recently in Sweden. She has a particular interest in sharing her enthusiasm for the subject and runs regular workshops for children and adults in mycology and mushroom identification. The Fungus Forays are always popular so advance booking is always advisable as numbers are limited to 30 person per walk.

The walks are mainly in the forest and last about 2 hours and therefore may be unsuitable for very young children. Go to the bookings page on the website for information on how to book your place or send us an e-mail via the contacts us page.



Join specialist hill walker Arthur Jones for a walk in the forest looking at wild things that we can cook and eat. Arthur has much experience in his field and has been a hill walker most of his life in Scotland and further afield. As Arthur himself says *"Our ancestors were experts at foraging for everything they needed from what was growing around them. From food or fuel, through roofing or ropes, to myths and medicines"*

The walks are limited to groups of 12 persons and start and finish at The David Marshall Lodge just above Aberfoyle. The walks are mainly on forest tracks but good trainers or boots are recommended, as well as a waterproof jacket.

They last about 1.5 to 2 hours and booking and payment can be done in the Shop at the Lodge, or to book in advance go to the bookings page or send an e-mail. Arthur describes the walks as easy going and children are most welcome.

Chinese Consulate to Open Trossachs Mushroom Festival

The 2010 Trossachs Mushroom Festival will be officially opened by the Chinese Consulate-General in Edinburgh, Madame Tan Xiutian. The special guest will attend the grand opening event in the baronial hall in the Forth Inn at Aberfoyle on Thursday 21 October where guests will enjoy a special Chinese meal with representatives from the Chinese Embassy and Central Scotland Chinese Association. The festival this year runs from 21 to 24 October and celebrates Hong Kong with special guests the Hong Lok Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe performing in various locations. The mushroom remains the star of the show with guided walks in and around the Trossachs led by leading mycologist Liz Holden and specialist hill walker Arthur Jones looking at different fungi along the way.

The Trossachs Discovery Centre in Aberfoyle will be transformed into Hong Kong House during the festival with tai-chi and Chinese cookery demonstrations taking place. The Kowloon Kids Club will be based at the David Marshall Lodge over the weekend with the Central Scotland Chinese Association and Forestry Commission Scotland providing free entertainment.

We would like to say a big thank you to our sponsors who help make the Festival a success

- ☺ Allied Vehicles
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- ☺ Bank of China
- ☺ Go Ape Aberfoyle
- ☺ Forth Inn Aberfoyle
- ☺ Country Pursuits of Strathard
- ☺ See Woo Chinese Emporium

StrathART

An exhibition and sale by local artists
Sponsored by Country Pursuits of Strathard
and part of Trossachs Mushroom Festival

Venue: Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle
Date: Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th October
Time: 10am - 5pm daily

 TROSSACHS MUSHROOM FESTIVAL 2010

Call Marion on 01877 386222 for more information



St Mary's Episcopal Church

Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's



'Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf be unstopped'. So wrote the Old Testament prophet Isaiah in the Bible. Certainly my eyes and ears were opened on account of an excellent lecture given over the summer by Bill Black in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. His talk was one of many activities organised by Fiona McEwan through Scottsland to celebrate the glories of The Trossachs.

So much that is good we take for granted, with no appreciation of the toil and effort required to make this happen. As I was to learn, a case in point is the water that flows daily from our taps.

Two hundred years ago of course no water would have flowed from a tap anywhere. It would need to be collected from a well or from source. An advantage of staying in this locality at the time would have been the benefit of obtaining relatively clean water. In Glasgow however, a pure water supply was virtually unknown. For many years, the River Clyde was not only the primary source of drinking water, but also a sewer. As a result, waves of cholera, typhus and typhoid swept the city. The situation was exacerbated by a continually increased demand for water: a rapid influx of immigrants from Ireland swelled the population of Glasgow in the wake of the devastating potato famine in the mid nineteenth century.

Enter John Frederic Bateman, a Civil Engineer born in 1810. Towards the end of a career that eventually was to span nearly half a century, Bateman was to construct a water supply system for Buenos Aires. In 1844 though, he was embarking upon his first large project, a scheme to supply Manchester and Salford with clean water. Eight years later upon the strength of this work, he was approached by the Lord Provost of Glasgow to design a scheme for the city. A scholarly man, Bateman based his designs wherever possible upon schemes fed by gravity to avoid the necessity of costly and unreliable pumping of water. He quickly realised the potential of Loch Katrine and set about obtaining an Act of Parliament to sanction his scheme. Surprisingly, all manner of opposition was flung at Bateman's plans. For example, scientific experts at H.M. Admiralty were to claim that abstraction of water from Loch Katrine would lower the level of the Firth of Forth and accordingly ground warships anchored there! Eventually Bateman needed to enlist the support of the redoubtable Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the foremost Civil Engineer of the age. Remarkably, the ever busy Brunel found time to visit Loch Katrine personally, and assist Bateman in his endeavours to obtain the requisite Act of Parliament.

By May 1856, Bateman was able to start work. From Loch Katrine, some 360 feet above the

River Clyde at Glasgow, an 8 foot diameter aqueduct was painstakingly constructed over a distance of 26 miles through all manner of terrain to reach a new reservoir constructed at Mugdock near Milngavie. Bateman calculated the gravity required to feed the reservoir from the Loch to be precisely 10 inches per mile. Quite how the fall was calculated and then put to practice is regarded even today as a marvel of engineering. Twenty two bridges and eighty tunnels were built by some 3,000 navvies imported into the area for the purpose. They were housed in timber huts covered with turf along the route of the works: the Teapot near Loch Dhu suddenly found many new patrons! Bateman based himself nearby at Tigh na Traigh during operations. The project was concluded with a lavish opening ceremony conducted by Queen Victoria on the 14th October 1859

Not every story though has a happy ending. Bateman initially calculated that the City of Glasgow would need some 50 million gallons of water per day. He was no doubt disappointed after the Queen had left to discover a deficit of some ten million gallons in his scheme. Back at the drawing board, an extension to the scheme was hastily designed. Additional water was first diverted to Katrine from Loch Arklet. At the Glasgow end of the works, a second reservoir was constructed at Craigmaddie. This reservoir was fed from Katrine by a second, parallel aqueduct. Unlike the first scheme which was swiftly completed in three years, the second proved far more troublesome in construction, and it was not until 1896 that the turf huts would finally be dismantled and Teapot serve its last dram to the labourers. Bateman did not live to see the scheme completed. Inevitably, not quite everyone was grateful for Bateman's prolonged efforts: one woman continued to draw her water from a polluted well on Glasgow Green. Asked why she would not use the new water supply she replied 'I canna thole that new water, it's got neither taste nor smell'.

As the season of Harvest Festival approaches, we give thanks for the many natural gifts of the Almighty which are refined for human use by the skill and labour of mankind. God's gift of water and the work of Bateman are surely worthy of our heartfelt thanks.

For the fruits of his creation,
thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us
thanks be to God.

St Mary's holds its Harvest Festival on Sunday 10th October at 11.15am. Please come and join us!

From the Manse

Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church



Well, tally ho! With a bing and a bong and a buzz buzz buzz. Aficionados will recognize that from Blackadder Goes Forth (and can it really be twenty years since it was first screened)? The last episode always brings a lump to my throat, as our heroes go over the top, into no-man's land, machine gun fire and certain death. No anti war film could have worked so well for my then teenaged sons.

Soon it will be November, the trickiest month. It is the time for Remembrance Day. German friends of mine comment on what they see as this British obsession with war and the past. Yet if Remembrance Sunday did not exist, perhaps we would have to invent it. We all - individuals, families, communities, countries - need to recognize where we come from, to know why we are the way we are. We need to remember, which is a re-membering, a putting together of our constituent parts. But we also have to be careful, because remembering is a bit of a minefield. In some places of the world there is too much remembering, and the hurt will perhaps never be healed.

Our identities are tied up with our memories. It must be a terrible thing to lose one's memory. Memory is vital to who we are, and perhaps more importantly, what we might become. So it is that Christians not only remember Jesus Christ at communion, but try to re-member themselves in his image.

Remembrance Sunday has a renewed impetus in our time now. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the war in Afghanistan, who can not be moved by the sight of too many corteges passing through grieving crowds at Wootton Bassett, or the pictures of so many young and vital men - and women - struck down so prematurely?

Remembrance Sunday comes to us with a great responsibility. It seems a great hypocrisy to observe two minutes' silence if our own lives and relationships are bitter and angry. Jesus once warned his friends that if they want God's kingdom of justice, they must first invite God to change them.

I love word play, and I leave you with this one I once heard somewhere. We must each of us choose either the way of justice and peace, or we are left with just ice and a community in pieces. Remember?

NB The laying of wreaths at the War Memorial takes place at approximately 12.15pm after worship in Aberfoyle Parish Church.



The Garden in October

The nights are drawing in and the leaves are turning and falling; autumn is with us. But before you forget about the garden for the year and think it's time to put your feet up there is still plenty to do in the garden before the winter arrives.

Firstly the **lawn**: if you didn't get around to it in September, giving the lawn some attention as soon as you can should pay dividends next year. If moss is a problem use a moss killer as soon as you can. When the moss has died in a week or two, give the lawn a good raking over, or for larger areas use a scarifier, to remove the dead moss and the thatch that's built up over the year; scarifying in two directions gives the best result. Then give it an Autumn Weed & Feed, formulated to toughen it up, not produce lush top growth. Lawns that suffer from poor drainage and/or a lot of moss will also benefit from aeration. Throughout the autumn keep the lawn rake handy to clear the leaves so that lawn diseases don't get the chance to build up. Make leaf compost for a great mulch for the following year. Then raise the cutting height of your mower and give the grass a final trim for the year.

In the **borders** it's time for a bit of organization; plan for next year and remove any unwanted/over-mature plants and relocate as needed, cut back perennials that have finished their displays - not the *Sedums* or *Schizostylis* or other autumn flowerers - split perennials if needed and allocate places for new plants. This is the best time to be planting while there is still some warmth in the soil. If you've a new hedge you want to put in, or space for more trees it's not too late to order your bare root plants at the garden centre. With tall growing buddleias and shrub and floribunda roses, prune the lanky stems to reduce the effect of wind-rock.

When the tidying is finished spread a 2-3" layer of bark mulch over the beds.

In the **vegetable garden**, lift all your root vegetables then dig over the empty beds and apply lime or manure as necessary. Don't waste your energy reducing the soil to a tilth but let the worms and the frost do that for you. Garlic that needs the cold of winter and onions for an early crop should be planted now but make sure they are in well drained soil or add sharp sand or grit.

When the weather is against you there's plenty to keep you occupied in the greenhouse too, such as sowing sweet peas for an earlier flower display, and sowing broad beans. For a good display of flowering bulbs in pots, plant up at intervals to have a staggered display.

Other jobs to do:

- Finish planting out bulbs.
 - If you haven't done so already lift, dry and store dahlia and gladioli corms.
 - Dry off tuberous begonias
 - Take hardwood cuttings of the appropriate shrubs.
- Hedgehogs**; the hedgehogs will be looking for a bed for the winter; a box full of straw seems to suit them very well.

Bird feeders; if you haven't been feeding over the summer, get out the feeders now and stock up with bird nuts or seed.

Benview Garden Centre,
Ward Toll,
Balfour Station G63 0QY
Tel: 01360 850525

Web site: www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk
email: info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk

Winter Opening hours (from 1st October);
Mon - Sat: 9.30-4.30, Sunday: 11.00-4.30

Scottish Orchards

Forth Environment Link is delighted to announce the launch of a new grant scheme to help halt the decline of our valuable orchards across Central Scotland.

The Central Scotland Green Network Orchard Grant Scheme 2010 / 2011 aims to provide funding for community groups or other organisations to establish, manage and use small scale orchards, and to help with managing existing traditional orchards.

Forth Environment Link has been asked to administer the grant on behalf of the Forestry Commission for Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage, and other Central Scotland Green Network partners.

Small traditional orchards are set to vanish from the UK's landscape by the end of the century unless their decline is halted. The scheme will offer a great opportunity for orchard owners and communities to bring orchards back under management, learn how to manage them, and use the fruits of their labour.

The scheme gives priority to projects that will create new orchards, or manage traditional or other existing orchards, enhance orchard biodiversity, and involve the wider community and / or whole school community.

Applications can be made by schools, constituted community groups and organisations, landowners, establishments, or institutions with public access to their land, and who can demonstrate community involvement in designing and delivering the project, and local authorities who can demonstrate community involvement in designing and delivering the project.

Unfortunately, applications cannot be accepted from individuals, establishments or institutions for orchards where public access is restricted for whatever reason.

Grants of between £100 - £500 are available for items such as purchasing of fruit trees, stakes, ties and tree guards; training egg tree planting; enhancing biodiversity; pruning; educational and community events; increasing biodiversity; and using the fruit. Up to 100% of project funding may be given.

Only projects that will take place within the Central Scotland Green Network area can be funded. A list of these can be found on the Forth Valley Food Links website, together with details about the scheme and an application pack at:

www.fvfl.org.uk/How-You-Can-Get-Involved/fel_launch_orchard_grant.htm

There is a very tight timescale. The deadline for returning applications is Tuesday, 26 October 2010, and all projects must be completed by Friday, 18 March 2011.

Forth Environment Link in association with the Forth Valley Orchards Group may also be able to offer some additional assistance to groups within the Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling areas in terms of practical help. Please contact Diane Alderdice, Forth Environment Link Project Officer on 01786 449215 or email: diane@forthenvironmentlink.org This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it if you need any help with your application or carrying out your project.

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THE HOUSE FOLK TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

25th – 27th of November 2010

In the most intimate of historic concert venues, enjoy three fantastic nights of Scottish traditional music with a contemporary flare at the candle lit MacGregor's Barn in Kinlochard the Trossachs.

Offering an expo of bagpipe, strings, vocals and flute music fusing traditional and contemporary Scottish styles that have influenced the folk scene around the globe. A blend of music for everyone!

Complimentary drink at each concert on arrival.
20% discount offered if buying all three nights.

please e-mail Gregor: info@greattimescotland.com

or 01877 387 219 for ticket, booking enquiries & e-program.

Check out www.kinlochard.org for further concert details & local events



Nov 25th Thursday

Gaberlunzie supported by Gleusda - £15

Nov 26th Friday

**Finlay MacDonald & special guest
supported by Duncan McCrone - £15**

Nov 27th Saturday

**Fred Morrison supported by John Burns duet - £20
plus after concert party & jamming session included**

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School News

Inversnaid Primary

Edinburgh International Book Festival

We had an early start. The mist was still keeping the lochs warm and the sun was just getting up as we travelled down the long, twisty Inversnaid road. It was the 31st of August and we were heading to the **Edinburgh International Book Festival**.

We drove to the Castleview Park and Ride bus station in Stirling where we got on the back seat of the bus because Annie and I wanted to get a seat that we could all sit together on. We got off at the town centre bus stop and Mrs Carter suggested that we walk to the train station because we had 50 minutes until our train. We walked through the Stirling arcade so Annie and Laura could look at the drums and the guitars in the music shop.

Our train arrived on time at 10:06. We arrived 1h and 10 minutes later at Waverley train station. We walked down Princes Street and then turned up another street and then we were there.

First we were going to see Joan Lingard. We walked into the room and there were a lot of people. When we sat down we made sure that we got a line of five seats. Mrs Tait arrived just in time! Joan Lingard came in a wheelchair because she had had an operation on her back. Joan Lingard was born in 1932 and has written 60 books. Amongst others, she has written a series of books called the Kevin and Sadie books. Joan Lingard's assistant, who is an actress, read us a bit of The Twelfth Day of July.

After that we went and had lunch with our friends from Strathgryre P.S. When we had finished lunch we were going to see Guy Bass.

Guy Bass is 35 and he started writing books when he was 32. He has written 14 books and there is a new book coming out on the 30th September called Secret Santa and the Agent of X.M.A.S (which I would like to buy). Guy Bass was very funny and very silly. He has written 3 series of books. They are called Gormy Ruckles, Hex the Alien and Dinkin Dings and the Frightening Things. After that we had to leave. It had been a fantastic day and Guy Bass and Joan Lingard had been great.

By Jamie Carter



Lake Garda Orchestra Tour 2010

McLaren

Top Team and House Teams for 2010/11 have recently been selected

Congratulations to:

Head Girl	Jessie Menzies
Deputy Head Girls	Madeleine Darby Jennifer Warnock
Head Boy	Harry Cordner
Deputy Head Boys	Joshua McInnes Angus Waite

House Captains:

<i>Bracklinn</i>	
Captain	Rebecca Davis
Vice Captains	Calum Fountain Luke Melia

Dochart

Captain	Bethany Ross
Vice Captains	Fraser Graham William Vernon

Leny

Captain	Ruairidh Leishman
Vice Captains	Rosalind Bennie Andrew Orr



Angus Waite, Madeleine Darby, Harry Cordner, Peter Martin (Headteacher), Jessie Menzies, Joshua McInnes, Jennifer Warnock

Lake Garda Orchestra Tour 2010

On 25 June seventy-six pupils and nine staff set off on the bus journey for a concert tour to Lake Garda. The pupils were able to enjoy fabulous day trips to Venice and Verona. We went on a boat trip from Bardolino to Sirmione where we enjoyed some of the biggest and best ice cream anywhere in the world. Our knuckles went white on the rollercoasters at Gardaland theme park, and we all got completely soaked at Canevaworld aquapark.

The pupils played four outstanding concerts in Mori, Peschiera, Garda and Cavaion, with performances from the orchestra, choir, strings and wind band, swing band and highland dancers. Each concert was rounded off with an orchestral performance of Highland Cathedral with bagpipes. We were entertained in royal style by the mayor of Mori, who gave us all ice cream, and the people of Cavaion laid on a beautiful buffet. There were so many unforgettable memories for us all, and the atmosphere was extremely happy. The behaviour of the pupils was exemplary.

On our return, everyone hugged each other as they said goodbye, knowing that they had had an experience which will stay with them forever. It was a wonderful way for Mrs Buchanan to round off her time at McLaren High School.

Rowing Achievement

Congratulations to Sabine Lang S4 on her recent success at the Scottish National Rowing Championships held at Strathclyde Park. Sabine and her partner, Catherine Buchanan from George Watsons College, achieved a fourth place finish in the final of the Junior 14 Girls Double Skulls.

UK School Games



I was selected to play at the UK School Games, which were held on the 2 – 5 September in Sunderland. The UK School Games is an elite tournament in which many young athletes from a variety of sports congregate and compete. I was selected to play table tennis against Northern Ireland, Wales and England. I was excited and proud to be representing my country. I was proud to represent McLaren High School, and want to thank the school, in particular the PE department, for their support.

The UK School Games was an amazing experience. Competing at a larger tournament, with a variety of athletes, really gave me a sense of what competing at the Commonwealth Games or the Olympics would be like, and made me even more determined to make this happen. Also, the privilege of being able to go and see other athletes competing at the top level in their sport was an exciting and enjoyable experience. Scotland came third overall in the table tennis event, a massive achievement which I, and all the other Scottish table tennis players, am very proud of.

Bethany Ross S6

Advanced Higher Biology Field Work

On Tuesday 31 August and Wednesday 8 September, the Advanced Higher Biology class (all 3 of us) went to RSPB Vane Farm, part of the Loch Leven National Nature Reserve. On our first visit, we did freshwater ecology. This involved us using a net to fish out invertebrates from a pond, and from the shallows of Loch Leven. We then identified the invertebrates and counted the number of each species. On our second visit, we did woodland succession. We visited four different sites, with varying stages of succession. At each site, we measured pH, moisture and light, and then used a quadrat to choose an area at random. The plants in this area were identified, counted and measured. A

tree was chosen, and its age was calculated. The visits were very interesting, and good fun. The staff were extremely helpful and well prepared. The other classes that were there may have dwarfed ours, but that didn't stop us. Overall, Vane Farm was a very enjoyable place to do our field work.

Amy Campbell, Helen Mitchell
and Peter Smith S6



Jack Barrett's Cycling Summer

Stirling Bike Club's Jack Barrett, S6, has reached the next level after being selected for the Scottish Junior Team, contesting the tough racing scene in Belgium, and training with Scotland's senior team in Holland. The Club gave Jack some financial support and are proud of his achievements as he continues to progress as a rider.

In July he went to France for The Tour Valromey, a four-day stage race for juniors in the Rhone-Alps. Jack said: 'It was hot! 39°C! The roads are beautiful, very hilly but not quite the massive passes of the Tour. 1100m is the highest we raced over.' (Ben Nevis is 1,344m). Jack played his part in the race amongst some of the best junior cyclists in Europe.

Next he went to Flanders in Western Belgium to race with other young Scots. There are several races a week there and it is a great place for young cyclists to learn tactics and test themselves in the tough races, full of cobbles and hills that are Belgium's national passion.

Then it was on to Alkmaar in Holland for a track training camp with the Scottish Commonwealth Games team. From this training camp, Jack now built up to the junior track national championships, in Newport Velodrome, at the end of August, where he rode the scratch race and the individual pursuit (4000m).



Chinese Days

The local schools had great fun at the Chinese Days, organised to tie in with the Hong Kong theme of this year's Mushroom Festival.

On a scorching Friday in September, Yin Ying Cairney, a teacher from North Lanarkshire, and Pek Yeong Berry came to Aberfoyle School. In the morning, the older children learned a little about Chinese calligraphy and how the ideograms developed from pictures and worked on collages of the school name. In the afternoon, the whole school was treated to a Tai Chi session outside in the playground. The heat was almost too much for the nursery children!

Exactly a week later, Yin Ying and Pek Yeong arrived at Gartmore Village Hall in torrential rain. The children from Trossachs, Port of Menteith, Inversnaid and Gartmore schools had all gathered to participate. The morning was split between the hall and the school and followed the same format. In the afternoon, the rain stopped, the sun came out and all of the children and staff joined in to enjoy the Tai Chi as you can see from the photos.

The two days were a huge success thanks to the Chinese visitors and the staff in all of the schools. The children loved it. Thanks also to the Festival Committee who funded the transport to Gartmore. The collages of the school names will be on display during the festival probably at the Kowloon Kids Club at the David Marshall Lodge.

What the children said:

Louis McIlheron P3 - Tai Chi - I liked lifting the moon and the Dragon Dance.

Niamh Gillespie P4 - Shadow Puppets - We all had a great time listening to a legend about shadow puppets. Then we made shadow puppets with our hands. It was so much fun, I didn't want to stop.

Mary Walker P2 - Dragon Dance - Whoever had the Dragon head, they would lead us off in the dance.

Libby Wilson P6 - I learned how to write Scotland in Chinese.

Esme Alexander-Short P7 - I learned Tai Chi in the sunshine. Tai Chi is a relaxing Chinese exercise.



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AN INNOCENT ABROAD

by Joyce Begg

"The thing is," my husband David said to me in apologetic tones, "they forgot about her."

"Who forgot about who?"

"The organisers forgot to book a place for the translator. They fixed accommodation for a whole bunch of councillors from Moscow, and forgot the translator. So I said we'd take her. It'll only be for a couple of nights. Or maybe three. Four at the most."

I was slightly irritated at being asked. I would have made sexist comments about men being rotten organisers except that I wasn't absolutely sure it wasn't a woman. "And what exactly am I going to do with Rosa Klebb for four nights?"

"Most of the time, nothing," David said. "She'll be on duty during the day, and I'll bring her back in the evenings, after the meetings. She'll probably be dog tired and just want to go to bed."

"H'mm," I said. "I suppose I can't say no." He grinned. "I knew you wouldn't."

"I bet she's built like a tractor and throws hammers."

"Oh, I don't think so," David said dryly, and I realised I had watched too many James Bond movies. "She's a language student. I'm sure she'll be delightful. Her name's Svetlana, apparently."

To be fair, he was right about the delightful. Svetlana was tall, slim, youthful, and intensely curious about Scotland. Not that she knew much about it. She had heard of Robert Burns and the Loch Ness Monster, and that was it. I could hardly blame her. I didn't know much about Russia beyond the Kremlin and all those onion domes.

On the first day, I got home early from work and made a hearty casserole from Scottish lamb followed by cranachan with our very own raspberries. She didn't notice, though she did say thank you. The excitement of being abroad for the first time was taking whatever attention she had that could be spared from translating. What she made of some of our finer councillors and their dialectal imperfections I could only imagine. But it must have been tiring.

The conference lasted four days, by which time it was realised that not only had they forgotten Svetlana's accommodation – they had also booked her flight home three days after everyone else's, which meant she would be with us for the weekend. I was quite pleased, really. It would give me a chance to show her something of our village in daylight, not to mention the surrounding country. Saturday morning dawned bright and breezy, with a forecast of lots of sun.

"Let me show you the Trossachs," I said.

"Trossachs," she repeated, rolling the word round on her tongue. She looked at me earnestly. "I do not know this word. Is this the Monster people talk about?"

I was taken aback. I hadn't realised she had no idea what Nessie was actually supposed to be. Ever since she hit Scotland she had been looking for anything that resembled an unusual life form, something not available in Russia. Even a haggis might have fitted the description. Catering size, of course. Not your 'meal for two' in the butcher's window.

"The Trossachs is an area," I said. "Usually it looks very pretty, and today might just be one of those days."

"Can I go to the shopping also? I must buy presents for my family."

"Sure," I nodded. "I know just the place." We set off after an early lunch, and it was as we drove through the village that we heard the sound, carrying eerily on the breeze. Svetlana's eyebrows shot up towards her hairline. As the church hove into view, guests were arriving for the MacDonald wedding, piped on their way by our local dentist George, resplendent in a violent version of the Buchanan tartan. George had been resisting Weight Watchers for many years and was almost as large as the church. "Is *that* the Monster?" Svetlana whispered, which I thought was a bit excessive, even for George.

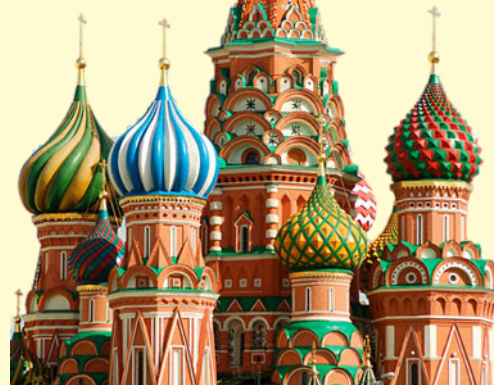
"That's the dentist," I said, and then realised she was referring not to the man but to the instrument. At exactly the same moment, Svetlana realised her mistake, and apologised.

"All those legs," she said. "I thought he was hurting an animal."

I smiled. "You're not the first to think that. Those are bagpipes, Svetlana, Scotland's national instrument, best heard from a distance somewhere atmospheric." "Bagpipes," she repeated, consigning the word to her vocabulary list.

The scenery over the Duke's Pass was magnificent, naturally, and Svetlana took in everything. There was certainly nothing like this anywhere near Moscow, and she appreciated it, in a serious sort of way. After half an hour of vista-viewing, we approached one of our many woollen mills, and I drew into the car park, heading into a marked space against a field fence.

"Shopping," I said, and turned to my passenger, who was transfixed by the spectacle through the windscreen. On the other side of the fence was a herd of



Highland cattle, the largest of which had its head through the rails and was enjoying the heat from the engine. Svetlana was pinned back in her seat, her eyebrows doing their hairline trick again. I grinned. "That, my friend, is a Highland Cow. I understand it is a docile and unthreatening animal. It is not a monster, though you might be forgiven for thinking so."

Only the promise of coffee and shortbread got her out of the car, and she looked over her shoulder at the cow all the way into the shop.

Svetlana had a great eye for a bargain, and spent a happy hour among the wool and cotton, before I took her to the trinket and souvenir section, where I had spotted a china ornament that might interest her. It was quite aesthetically done, in three sections, with a small head and an undulating body.

"That, Svetlana, is a representation of the Loch Ness Monster. The original is a million times bigger, and lives up north." A light bulb went on in her head, and she started laughing. I had been wrong to think her short on humour. She thought it was the funniest thing she had ever seen. Everyone in the shop heard her, and smiled.

"So this is the Monster! She is pretty, yes? I must buy her." Which is how the Loch Ness Monster came to Moscow.



The Aberfoyle Osprey Project

The End of the Season Draws Near...

With autumn now approaching fast our ospreys are heading south away from the cold Scottish winter that's on its way. All of our ospreys have now left the Trossachs and are making their way south towards West Africa. This is a total journey of 3,500 miles that will test our three latest chicks Ozzy, Jemima and Fred to the limits.

They will slowly make their way down to the south of England stopping at a few places along the way to stock up on vital food. After this they will fly across the English Channel and down the Bay of Biscay before reaching North Spain. After this they journey down through Spain and across to Morocco! Then it's a quick flight across to North Africa before, what I believe is the hardest part of the journey, flying non-stop down the Western Sahara Desert, a total of 1250 miles! Then the journey is over with the birds arriving in Gambia and Senegal where they will spend the rest of the winter.

A few osprey facts for you...

Breeding ospreys mate for life but now that they are on migration they won't see each other until next April when they return to their summer breeding grounds.

When our ospreys return next year they will usually head for the same nest where their partner should be waiting for them!

Our three new osprey chicks this year, Ozzy, Jemima and Fred will not head back to the Trossachs for another two or three years when they will start looking for a mate.

So now that they osprey have gone what are we going to be doing up at the lodge?

Well that is a very good question! The wildlife room will be open showing you live webcam of red squirrels, bird nut and seed feeders and also if you have missed any of the 2010 Aberfoyle osprey season then you can pop up and see what you missed as we will be showing recorded footage. The room is also still under redevelopment with new interpretation and a few bits and bobs arriving over the winter.

Also we will still be bringing you regular updates on the on-goings of the osprey team and how we are preparing for the ospreys return for the 2011 season!

Please do get in touch with us if you would like any more information, a group talk, school visit or to volunteer for the project!

Robert Fraser-Binns

Information and Education Officer

01786 229252 robert.fraser-binns@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The Aberfoyle Osprey Project is a partnership between RSPB Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland.



Ozzy, Jemima and Fred will now be heading on their way to West Africa!

Squirrel Spotting in the National Park

Visitors and Residents are being asked to keep their eyes open for any squirrel sightings in the National Park in a bid to help build an accurate picture of species distribution in Scotland. Grey squirrels are non-native invasive species that seriously threaten the future of native red squirrels. Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (SSRS) is a Scottish Wildlife Trust-led project to help strengthen existing populations of red squirrels and halt the further spread of grey squirrels into areas of north and west Scotland as yet unoccupied by greys. It is a partnership between the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and the

Scottish Rural Property and Business Association. SSRS will test whether targeting grey squirrel control is an effective means of protecting red squirrels and reducing the risk of squirrel pox virus spreading into Scotland's red squirrel population.

If you see any squirrels in the National Park, record them at www.swt.org.uk/wildlife/squirrelsightings

SSRS also operates a trap loan scheme for people wishing to assist the project by trapping grey squirrels in the areas where this will have maximum benefit for red squirrels. To assist in this way please contact Lewis Pate lpate@swt.org.uk or call 01389 722605



Photo by Neil McIntyre

16 Days of Action in Forth Valley

The 16 Days of Action is an international campaign that was started by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The 16 Days run from November 25th (International Day against Violence against Women) through to December 10th (International Human Rights Day) – thus symbolising the link between violence against women and human rights, and emphasising that such violence is a violation of human rights. The 16 day period also encompasses World Aids Day and the anniversary of the Montreal massacre.

Since it began, the 16 Days have been used by committed organisations and groups to call for the elimination of violence against women by –

- Raising awareness of the issue at local, national and international levels;
- Building local work around violence against women;
- Providing a forum in which a range of organisations can come together to develop and share their work in this area;
- Create mechanisms to pressure governments to implement policies for the elimination of violence against women.

We have a planning group here in Forth Valley who organise various events while also raising awareness of issues around violence against women. Such issues include domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, forced marriage and human trafficking. The planning group is made up of representatives from Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, and Stirling Councils, Central Scotland Police, Forth Valley NHS, and a number of local voluntary organisations.

For more information on events in your area please contact Anne Meikle on afmeikle@gmail.com or Gail Cook on gail.cook1@tiscali.co.uk



A Walk From "THE CRESCENT TO THE BAILLIE" circa 1952

By Isobel Orr

I was born at Glenwood, Aberfoyle, in the house where my sister and brother in law still live, in 1941. I have very few sketchy memories of my very early years but remember fondly, an exciting and very vibrant village from about 1952 or so. I am sure some of my memories may be a little distorted by the passage of time but I am equally sure if I am way out, Robert Telfer, Joe Oliver, Stewart McLaren and Isobel Frame, among others will all be able to correct me. At that time we all knew everyone in the village, who lived in every house, but Aberfoyle was much smaller then.

The Crescent was probably only recently constructed and the first house was the semi-detached where Ann and Jimmy Wallace now live, the others on the Main Street and at the bottom of the crescent came later. Where the swing park is now was our favourite playground, "the NAAFI". The large nissen huts, which had been there, had been removed, and the concrete bases left behind were a great place to play. Popular games were whatever was "in vogue" at the time, peever, skipping, riding our bikes round and round, kick the can, buzz off, every evening from the change of the clocks in the spring to the darkening autumn days, there was always somebody around the NAAFI to play. Walking further along the street, the road on the right led to Dan's yard, no Montrose Road as yet. We frequently went up Dan's yard to branch either right to go towards the Dounans where we had fun running back and forth over the pipe that spanned the burn, or maybe we would take a left over the stepping stones and up past Chubby's store, where he stored his fruit and veg which he delivered round the village with his lorry, then on to the coup to see if any treasures could be found, or else to the piggery at the end of the lane where we were always amused by Andrew and Sam Sinclair's pigs.

Back on the main road, the dairy and bakery was immediately over the bridge that spanned the 'coup' burn. The dairy was at the back of the bakery, bottles were sterilised and filled before the milk was delivered by Davy King, every morning, (I often wonder where that milk came from?) Many of us keen to augment the family income helped deliver the milk in the morning before school. I hated delivering the milk, but I loved the bakery presided over by Mrs. King. The baker, par excellence, was Frank Piper, and the shop window, especially on Saturdays was a joy to behold. Much later we loved to go into the bakehouse, after returning from the Gartmore dancing to get a freshly made donut or a freshly baked roll.

Next door was Johnsons Garage. There must have been a bit of competition, as along the street was the Welfare Garage. My memory does not allow me to remember which did what, but they had coal lorries delivering coal which arrived by train at the siding, bin lorries collecting refuse from the houses and depositing it at the coup, and buses. Buses were a big part of our life. We could go to the pictures in Callander 3 times a week, I think that was with the Welfare buses. The programme changed Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Every year there was a mass exodus when all the available buses were used, decorated with streamers and balloons, to transport us to Burntisland for the Summer trip. When we got there we had the races, swam in the sea,

played on the beach and had a great picnic, courtesy of the Cooperative - a 'poke' with goodies. I wish I could remember exactly what was in the 'poke'. I just remember what a great day out that was. Saturday evenings in the summer were always exciting. The Rob Roy were a marvellous football team at that time, or so we thought, and every other Saturday in the summer they had an away game. Two buses were required, one for the players and the officials and one for the supporters. We loved going to exotic places like Deanston, Gartocharn and Blanefield. Other than that, we, as children, had little reason to go to the garage, other than to get paraffin or to get the battery for the wireless charged. Opposite the garage was a large area of waste ground behind which ran the railway, with the engine shed and the turntable, another favourite area for playing. The 'English' Church was as it is but the site of the Rectory was just a piece of rough ground. The guest house opposite Craiguchty was the joiner's shop, and in the house next door, the Sunday papers were sold by Lil Lambert. Next door - now the Aberfoyle Butcher - was Bella Lambert's - a sweetie shop with a great variety of jars with boilings of all sorts, attached a little tea room, but I don't remember Bella ever serving teas there.

Almost opposite, the Welfare Garage, a row of petrol pumps, and a large shed which housed the bus. There was a shortcut from here up to the 'back block' on the Trossachs road but you used this at your own risk, as Ian Naismith had hens who 'free ranged' there, accompanied by the wildest cockerel you were ever likely to meet. You had to run like mad if it was in the vicinity to avoid an attack!

Rainbow's End was Dr. McWhan's surgery and also the Welfare office where I remember going to pay the coal bill for my Mother.

We now arrive at the village centre, the hub of village life. The Station Buildings are on the right, the ground floor comprised two ground floor flats and two shops. On the right of the building was Glens - the drapers. He sold everything from thread, needles, pins and wool to liberty bodices, which we girls all wore in winter, and his favourite saying was "I'm just waiting for it coming in" if he did not have your requirements in stock. At the other end of the building, the newsagents, ably manned by Bella and May Blair. Woe betide you if they suspected any cheek or bad behaviour, the Dandy, Beano or whatever was withheld for that week. As Helen reported in her reminiscences, the papers arrived by train, and I'm sure I am not imagining this, but the place was heaving on a Saturday night awaiting the arrival of the train bringing the evening Times, News and Citizen with the football results and reports for that day. I wonder now, how they could have those ready in time, but I'm sure they did.

In front of the Station was the station square, terminus for the buses. Again I'm sure my memory does not play tricks but you could get a bus to Glasgow or Stirling, every two hours, or you could get the train! Duncan Campbell's utility bus also ran very frequently to Kinlochard. Friday night at seven o'clock in the summer months saw the "invasion" of the hikers, out for the weekend. Our friendly village 'bobby', Chuckles, was usually on hand to welcome them to the Trossachs. If he recognised any

who had caused trouble on a previous visit, he advised them to get back on the bus to Glasgow. We were all a bit scared of Chuckles.

On a Sunday evening there was a 'mass' return to the city, and we were sent along to the station square to get in the queue to keep a place for our relatives returning to Glasgow. The queue stretched right round three sides of the square, and there were always several duplicate buses as well as the service bus.

On the site of the tourist office were three shops. Mrs. Watt's - the stationers where we got our new pencils, rubbers, etc., for back to school after the summer. Next door was the chemist and pharmacist, the dispenser was Miss Ferguson, and finally the shoe shop.

I loved the shoe shop, you could buy a new pair of shoes, but most of us will remember it for the huge stack of shoes presided over by old Tommy Frame, the cobbler. I was always scared when my shoes went to be mended or more likely to get segs in the heels, that I would never see them again, they would be lost in the pile. He always had his stove going and it was a great place to go and chat on a cold day in the winter.

Opposite on the site of the police station was another piece of spare ground and yet another shortcut up to the back block.

Along the front of this bordering the street a row of high pine trees.

Staying on the right hand side of the street, was the Clachan Hotel, a sweet shop and again a little tearoom behind. which I never remember being open for teas, and next door McEwans, the grocer. This was a lovely grocer's shop, but we always thought it was for the 'posh' people and only shopped there when we couldn't get what we needed from the Co-op. McEwans, however was a busy shop, the Tesco of the time, as Davy Bell or maybe Mr, McKeich, the vanmen. loaded up their little lorry every day with orders to be delivered. Next door was the Co-op drapery. It had been the Co-op grocery, but a new shop had been built, a smaller version of the one now in the main street. The drapery was a great shop, it could provide all the school clothes, wellies, shoes, wool, summer and party dresses and even dishes, pots and pans and other household items. If they did not have what you required in stock you got a line to go to the Wholesale in Morrison Street in Glasgow, and we thought that was a wonderful adventure. Next door was the space reserved for the co-op van which was a travelling shop, replenished every day and serving the outlying district, Dalmaly, Gartmore, Inversnaid and Strony as well as places like the Slate Quarries. The driver was Kenny Morrison.

Many of the boys at that time were employed after school and on Saturday to deliver orders on the delivery bicycles.

The co-op was also a fine shop and to my knowledge no one ever left the village to buy their groceries, all we ever needed was available on hand. At the co-op you always had to remember your number, ours was 647, and the dividend in these days was a marvellous windfall at the end of every quarter.

We will continue on the right hand side of the street to the Baillie and return from there on the left.

Next door to the Co-op was the post office, and it was only a post office, as far as I can

ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL BIG CLEANUP

FRIDAY 15th
OCTOBER 1pm - 5.30pm

Please come along and help if you can. We will be getting rid of some rubbish and giving the hall a deep clean. There are lots of areas which could do with the paint touched up and there are probably small repairs needing done. If weather and numbers permit the grounds and tubs could also do with a tidy up.

Just come along if you are able to help and please do bring any tools and equipment you think you might need if you have them.

ANY TIME & HELP THAT YOU CAN MANAGE WILL BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

Janet Stewart, Treasurer
(382736)

Whats On At Aberfoyle Memorial Hall?

Mondays	3.15pm - 4.30pm 7pm - 8.15pm 8.15pm - 9.15pm	Mini Kickers 3-4 years Pilates Step & Tone	Active Stirling 01786 432323 Amanda Reid 01360 661403 Amanda Reid 01360 661403
Tuesdays	3.45pm - 8.45pm	Tap, Ballet & Jazz for all ages	Carla Duggan 07815146462
Wednesdays	10am - 12pm Evenings	Toddler Group Country Dance	Alison Graham 382726 John Epps 382276
Thursdays	Evenings	Karate For All ages	Julie Glen 382296
Fridays	7pm - 8.30pm	Youth Club (P6 & up)	Marie Wardrop 382 568

Also available for meetings, parties etc., call Sandara Jardine 382673

Forthcoming events

15th October: 1pm - 5.30pm The Big Cleanup Just Come Along and Help

11th December: Christmas Fair - contact 382736 for a table

31st December: Hogmanay at The Hall. Suggested Donation £10 per Family. Call 382736



Memorial Hall opening dance, September 1953

Please
Support
Your
Local
Hall

remember, and then there was the Butcher's shop, presided over by Mr. McLaren and later by Mr Halkerston. It was a proper butcher's shop, and you may find this disagreeable, but we knew no difference. The carcasses of the sheep, and pigs, were hanging on hooks to the right of the shop, opposite the counter, and a huge carcass of beef was always hanging towards the back of the shop waiting to be cut into the various cuts. There always seemed to be a queue at the butchers.

Next door to the butcher was the cafe.- Johnny's. Political correctness was alien to us at that time and the cafe was affectionately known as the "Tally's" They made the best ice cream, a threepenny cone was the order of the day with a dash of raspberry. Dora and Johnny were the salt of the earth. I don't think there was an extensive menu but teas and coffees and hot orange was always on offer and they were always busy especially at weekends. (In 1956 we thought we were in Heaven when they installed a Juke box - pure magic - music and hot orange)

Then on the corner, as now, was The Bank. I remember going in there with my mother and feeling as if I was in a hallowed place, presided over by Mr. Cameron and Mr. Wilson, and of course, unlike now, it was open every day.

On the other side of the Trossachs Road was the Baillie Nicol Jarvie Hotel, renowned for its excellence. The public bar was a favourite meeting place for the village men and in the hotel was the cocktail bar, barman George McAdam - this was as quaint and as beautiful a small bar as you could ever imagine.

Probably the hotel's best known resident, to us, the children of the time, was Jimmy the Parrot. Health and Safety was not an issue at that time and Jimmy was housed in the kitchen in the hotel. On good days in the summer Jimmy was brought out in his cage into the very beautiful garden at the Baillie. Coming down the road from school we could here Jimmy whistling as far away as the police brae, whereupon we all ran to get a prize place on the wall to watch him and to encourage him to whistle, shout and swear.

To the rear of the car park in front of the hotel was the Baillie Garage. Among other things this housed the local fire engine. A fire was reported to the Baillie office, someone ran to the hotel kitchen and pressed the switch which activated the siren alerting the local retained firemen. There was also a workshop where rather beautiful small brass ornaments were made. The business was called Aberfoyle Industries and was masterminded by a lovely Polish man who stayed in Scotland after the war, his name was Shemanus (Sp. doubtful). Major Cameron who owned the hotel, also kept his car here, and Tommy Sinclair, his chauffeur spent a part of every day polishing this, his pride and joy.

Crossing over the street was the poker tree, again that was a very beautiful garden but at that time my father was the head gardener and if my memory serves me correctly he had three assistants.

Continuing along on this side of the street, crossing the Manse Road on the right hand side was the putting green. This also

belonged to the Baillie. It was beautifully kept and generally well used in good weather. Bordering this on the street side was a low wall, the Medical Board. I do not know how you qualified to sit there but it always seemed to me to be the "old" men of the village, probably they were not that old, but we loved to join in and listen to their stories of more colourful times and often hard times of which we as children were unaware.

Completing our walk we arrive at the Pavilion - now the Forth Inn. At that time it was like a big wooden chalet, but it was very well maintained, and I appreciated later had a wonderful floor for dancing. This was also owned by the Baillie, run and managed by Mrs Cameron. I started working there in the summer holidays when I was 12. That seemed to be allowed at that time. It was very, very busy, seasonal, opening only from March to October, but serving approx 250 lunches and 250 high teas every day. These are stories for another time and we have now completed our walk round the village.

I feel that it was a great privilege to grow up in Aberfoyle and I have nothing but happy memories of a care free childhood. In comparison with today we had very little and yet we had everything that we needed. The village was a friendly place where we all knew each other, where many extended families lived and where there was not a great deal of necessity to go too far afield to get all that you needed to survive. I hope some of my memories will trigger some more from other folks who shared the privilege of growing up in Aberfoyle at that time.

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

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

Superloo

How appropriate that this issue contains an article outlining the Council's proposal to outsource public toilet facilities, as, on a recent visit to North Ayrshire I was so impressed by the standard of the public conveniences there that I had already decided to share the experience with Strathard News readers, and ultimately local councillors.

The toilets are fully automated with automatic handwash and toilet flush. The toilet bowl is retractable for automatic cleaning and the floor is automatically cleaned after each use. They are wheelchair friendly, with written instructions in three languages, audio instructions and instructions in braille. You need 20 pence to access them, but hey that's a small price to pay for such a sophisticated facility.

I can't help comparing that with the dilapidated public convenience at Inversnaid; an embarrassment for the community. Thousands of people walking the West Highland Way each year are faced with the prospect of entering a building which has hazard warning tape wrapped around the handrail, or trying to access the toilets at Inversnaid Hotel, notoriously unfriendly to walkers.

I wonder if the Council has fully investigated the options for public toilet provision before deciding to offer financial (public money) incentives to private businesses to allow the public to use their facilities, something which is probably already being done for free!

Marion Back, Inversnaid



Council Consults on Comfort Partnership Scheme



Stirling Council is asking businesses and communities to be part of a new public toilet initiative called Comfort Partnership Scheme (CPS).

Following a review of the Council's current toilet facilities this year, the Council agreed in June to seek to introduce the Comfort Partnership Scheme to replace some of the existing public toilets and consult with communities on local keyholding where there is a desire to extend the opening hours of Council run toilets.

The Comfort Partnership Scheme would run through partnerships with local hotels, pubs, other private businesses and public buildings, which would make their facilities freely available for use by the public regardless of whether or not they are customers. In return the business would receive an annual payment from the Council depending on the standard of facility provided, free advertising on the Council website and new signage.

A number of local authorities already successfully operate this scheme including Perth and Kinross, Fife, Highland and many others in England.

Stirling Council's Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Economy, Tourism and Finance Councillor Scott Farmer said: "Many of the council's public toilets are no longer fit for purpose so we need to look at alternative ways to providing such an important service. "With the current financial position we cannot improve or sustain the current level of toilets in all locations that is why we want to ensure that there is adequate public toilet provision and the Comfort Partnership Scheme will provide this.

"We would encourage local businesses to find out more about the scheme and get involved. We also hope that communities will work with us to make sure we get the best possible outcome for both visitors to our area and local residents."

Council Officers will consult on the scheme during Community Council meetings in Balfon, Blanefield, Buchlyvie, Balmaha, Callander, Crainlarich & Tyndrum, Doune, Drymen, Dunblane, Killearn, Killin, Kippen, Lochearnhead, Thornhill, with keyholding possibilities being discussed in Bridge of Allan, Causewayhead, Kings Park and Kinlochard.

Further information on the Comfort Partnership Scheme is available on the Council website at: www.stirling.gov.uk/comfort or by phoning Ian Anderson at the Council's Strategic Corporate Asset Management Service on 01786 442809 or email: andersoni@stirling.gov.uk

**Saturday 16th &
Sunday 17th October**



THE REAL TASTE OF MALT

Glengoyne Distillery will be at the Aberfoyle Visit Scotland Information Centre (Trossachs Discovery Centre, Main Street, Aberfoyle tel. 01877 382352)

Glengoyne will be offering drams of their 10 year old Single Highland Malt whisky.

Glengoyne guides will be on hand to answer any questions about how whisky is made, the Distillery, etc.!

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The Trossachs experiences the Thrill of *The Chase*

It may be 200 years since Sir Walter Scott penned his most famous poem, but the spirit of the Lady of the Lake was well and truly alive in the Trossachs the weekend of 25 Sept as people came in their hundreds to take part in The Chase duathlon and Wee Chase family challenge.

Staged to celebrate the poem's anniversary, in the heart of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, The Chase and Wee Chase fused sport and culture creating a truly unique experience for the 500 participants.

Not exactly your conventional duathlon, The Chase complimented the bike-run-bike formula with a series of physical and mental challenges and a host of scored checkpoints to visit along the way. Participants, spurred on by the sound of



a hunting horn and a glimpse of a stag, followed the 40mile route across breathtaking landscape, which took in three lochs - Katrine, Venachar and Achray as well as a number of scenic mountain bike trails. The Chase was won by Brandan Moriarty from Glasgow after he scored a host of bonus points bumping up his finish time of 3hours 10mins. After accepting The Chase trophy he said, "I heard about the event through my work at Event Scotland and thought I would give it a go. My endurance is in good shape at the moment after completing a 194mile race across the German and Italian Alps last week. I enjoyed how different this event was with the puzzles and archery, it made a nice change. I would love to come back and compete here again, the scenery was absolutely stunning." The event was blessed with glorious autumnal weather which encouraged many on the day entries for the Wee Chase which took participants on a 3mile cycle to Loch Venachar. There they embarked on the Sunday Herald Wee Chase Treasure Hunt; gathering clues to solve a puzzle linked to the poem.

The Wischert family from Moodiesburn in Glasgow took part in the Wee Chase. Six year old Louie said, "It was really good. My favourite bit was finding the clues in the treasure hunt. We saw a nice view of a mountain that my uncle said is called Ben Ledi."

Louie's mum Liz added, "It has been a really nice family event and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. The wee BBQ and entertainment at the end provides a great finish to a wonderful day."

To complete both events all participants had to take aim in an archery challenge at the finish before they were welcomed in to the evening's celebratory Gathering by a host of mediaeval entertainers inspired by the time of the poem. Stilt walkers, fire jugglers and minstrels were on hand to entertain and delight whilst everyone tucked in to the authentic hog roast and enjoyed some well deserved refreshments. A sword fighting re-enactment troupe played out battle scenes and the

winners of The Chase and Wee Chase were crowned.

The inspiration behind The Chase began in 1809 when Scott visited the Trossachs and was so taken with the area he wrote this epic poem Lady of the Lake. His depiction of the landscape has helped to establish Scotland as the popular tourist destination it is today. The Lady of the Lake describes how King James V, disguised as a knight, attempts to hunt a stag and eventually seeks shelter on an island on Loch Katrine, summoned by the beautiful Ellen Douglas.

The Chase and Wee Chase are part of ScottsLand, a diverse programme of up to 44 cultural and literary events, promoted by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, to celebrate the poem, the heritage of the Trossachs and its landscape.

Liz Shortall from the Forestry Commission, who took part in the duathlon added, "The event took participants through Scotland's landscape scale woodland restoration project - The Great Trossachs Forest - which is an additional draw to the area that I think Scott would have welcomed."

Catriona Morrison, who recently won the World Duathlon Championships in Edinburgh, helped launch The Chase. She said, "I was delighted to support this exciting new duathlon. The Chase will provide a fantastic opportunity for people from all over the country to experience the thrill of a duathlon in one of the most amazing locations we have."

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer of EventScotland said, "EventScotland is very pleased to be supporting this inspirational event. The ITU Duathlon World Championships were staged in Holyrood Park at the start of this month so the Chase provides a wonderful opportunity for budding athletes to have a go themselves after watching the experts in action a few weeks earlier."

The Chase is a partner programme supported by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, EventScotland and Stirling Council.

Milton



Hello Children,

This is a really exciting time of the year, dark nights to play scary games and still enough hours of daylight for outdoor adventures. I think that the October holiday is the best of them all. This is the chance to get ready for the Mushroom Festival and Hallowe'en, and start collecting wood for the Guy Fawkes bonfire. This November I hope we will build the most massive bonfire ever seen at our holt. Grandpa Otter says that he helped to construct a huge bonfire to celebrate the coronation of the Queen, but that was a long time ago, when he was a kit.

The russet colours of autumn have given the trees of Strathard a wonderful glow, which is quite a good thing for Braeval. My sister was given a holiday project by her teacher, to make a picture, not using crayons or paint but by sticking different leaves onto the paper. This, Braeval tells everyone, is called a collage and, I must admit, is quite amazing. Her picture of a boathouse has used all sorts of leaves, even sticking on blackberry leaves actually covered with blackberry rust fungus to depict a rusty old roof.

Blackberry rust, my know-it-all sister says is *Phragmidium violaceum*, may be a fungus, but it is certainly not edible. Dad has promised to take the whole family on one of the fungi forays that have been planned for the Mushroom Festival, so we will recognise the ones which are safe to eat. This year there will be lots of Chinese cooking, the theme of the ninth festival featuring Hong Kong. The twins, Duke and Katrine, have been busy working with their whole class, making a wonderful Dragon Dance costume. I have been told that the Hong Lok Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe actually have a luminous costume; it really glows in the dark. That will be worth seeing.

With the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, did you know that the first Chinese athlete ever to win an Olympic medal had links to Drymen? The family of Eric Liddell all belonged to our neighbouring village, his parents serving as missionaries in China at the time of his birth.

Not only was Eric a great runner, winning the 400m Olympic Gold at Paris, in 1924, but he

also played international rugby for Scotland. The next Commonwealth Games will be held in Glasgow, just four years from now. So this is the time to get down to some serious training, if you want to compete in 2014. George the Hare is more interested in Winter Sports; he just loves to ski downhill on his very long back feet. George does not even need to wear skis. He has been very excited, the first snow of winter has already fallen on Ben Lomond and his fur has begun to turn pure white. It does this every year, ever since the faeries cast that spell upon him. He actually looks like a ghost!

For more ghost stories, don't miss the Hallowe'en storytelling at David Marshall Lodge.

Bye for now, Milton.

Open Days

Thursday, October 7th & 14th

Open all day till 6:30pm Wine & Nibbles

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Sun 9:00am - 3:30pm

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Not here....but near!

Gartmore Women's Rural Institute

The President and Committee of the Gartmore WRI extend a warm welcome to all ladies in the area to come along and take part in the 2010/2011 session. All meetings are held in the Village Hall, Gartmore at 7.30pm

2010

- 20th Oct Film Show - From Here to Posterity
Janet McBain, Scottish Screen Archives
3rd Nov Carpet Bowling Afternoon
4th Nov Vale of Menteith Group Meeting at Gartmore
Mrs Mary Black, Balfron
17th Nov Night of Music by Fine Fettle, Drymen
27th Nov Federation AGM and Meeting
12th Dec Christmas Lunch Outing

2011

- 19th Jan Scots Night
16th Feb Pilates Night with Amanda Reid
16th Mar Floral Art Demo - Margaret Donaldson
19th Mar Federation - Ruralympics
7th Apr Vale of Menteith Group Meeting
20th Apr Talk on Fire Safety - Margaret Thompson
30th Apr Federation Spring Meeting
18th May Pot Luck Supper - AGM
Talk on Family History by Elma Lindsay



President - Lesley Bond 382739
Secretary - Christine Hamilton 382327

Gartmore Church

Times of Worship

Morning worship is at 10am every Sunday.
We have tea/ coffee after the service on the first Sunday of each month.
The Sunday Club meets most Sundays.

Silent Auction, to be held in the Village Hall, Gartmore, on Friday 29 October 2010 at 7 - 9pm. Come and have fun! Bid for a bargain!! Admission £5, includes wine and nibbles. Donations will be much appreciated of items for sale - or offers of talents! Please bring to hall from 6pm, or can be uplifted, contact:

Christine Hamilton 382327

Janet Billett 382241

In aid of Pakistan Appeal and Gartmore Parish Church

CALLANDER STRINGS CONCERT in aid of LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH

Callander Strings (affectionately known as 'Rusty Strings') will be giving their first solo concert on SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER at 7.30 in the Kirk Hall. This group was formed three years ago to encourage lapsed string players and late starters to enjoy ensemble playing. It began tentatively, but has burgeoned both in numbers and confidence. For this concert, which is in aid of Leukaemia Research, we are extremely lucky to have as our commère, Mary Sandeman. Although Mary has retired from her singing career, she has agreed to help us by linking our musical items and providing a little insight into the life of a professional singer. We also have a guest flautist, Shona Gidney, with her accompanist Heather Smith, and there will be solos, duets, and quartets from within the group. These will include songs from one of our members, Janet Shimizu and a solo from our resident pianist, Ron Thewlis. A small group of young violinists will also take part. The musical content will be highly diverse, ranging from baroque and light classical to romantic, nostalgic and downright slushy! It will also include Scottish, Irish and even some 21st century music. All the pieces will short. Perfection will be striven for, but may not always be achieved! However, it will be an entertaining and fun concert, so come along, listen to Mary and watch your friends enjoying their instruments and having fun, all for a very good cause. So please put SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER in your diaries. Tickets will be available from the National Park Office, members and at the door on the evening.



STIRLING CASTLE EXHIBITION CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF OUTREACH WITH REACHOUT

An art exhibition will celebrate five years of creative collaboration between Stirling Castle and a community group for people with mental health problems.

Alloa-based Reachout is a self-help organisation which uses the arts to help members build their confidence and skills.

Kirsten Wood, Historic Scotland education officer, said: "The exhibition is a celebration of the close working relationship that has developed between us over the years.

"We hold frequent sessions where Reachout members can use the castle as the inspiration for their own artwork, whether that's photography, painting, poetry or story-writing.

"There's so much talent in the group and this will be a chance for the public to enjoy some of the fantastic artwork they have created."

The Historic Scotland education unit makes Stirling Castle available for a wide range of projects and activities involving schools, community and other educational groups.

Its setting, buildings, statues and other architectural details make superb subjects for drawing, painting, photography and other visual arts.

The history of the castle and the stories of those who have lived and worked there over the centuries are an excellent source of inspiration for written work.

The exhibition is entitled Retrospect and takes place in the Nether Bailey. It runs from 1 October for the entire month and is included in the standard entry price to the castle.

It will include 30 pieces of photography, paintings, print and other art forms and is part of Historic Scotland's contribution to the annual Big Draw campaign which promotes drawing and art throughout the country.

Lesley Arthur, Project Manager from Reachout, said: "Our members include professional and amateur artists, who all practice in Clackmannanshire, and over the past five years we have worked closely with the education staff at Stirling Castle.

"This is an ideal time to have a retrospective exhibition to show some of the work that has been done.

"The partnership between Reachout and Stirling Castle shows how historic buildings can play an important part in the life of the local community and allow people to get real benefits from their cultural heritage." For further information: Matthew Shelley 0131 668 8734

Callander Rambling Club

The Club consists of a group of enthusiasts who meet regularly throughout the year to participate in a programme of strolls, rambles, hill walks and a Long Distance Path. Details are published on www.incallander.co.uk/ramblers.htm, in the Ben Ledi View and on posters around Callander. New Members and guests are always welcome.

October

- 8:30am Sat 2nd Hill Beinn Bhreac (Loch Lubnaig) 703m John Snodin 01877-331621
9:30am Wed 6th Stroll Cambusmore 4 miles Margaret Robertson 01786-842021
8:30am Sat 9th LDP SWSW - spare day Paul Prescott 01877-330032
9:30am Wed 13th Ramble Through the Menteith Hills 8 miles Roger Bradley 01877-331124
8:30am Sat 16th LDP SWSW - spare day Paul Prescott 01877-330032
8:30am Sat 23rd LDP SWSW - spare day Paul Prescott 01877-330032

November

- 8:30am Sat 6th Hill Cruachan (Inversnaid) 536m James Kennedy 01877-387201
9:30am Wed 10th Ramble The Strathblane pipeline 10 miles Helen Campbell 01877-382522
9:30am Wed 24th Stroll Beechraigs Country Park (Linlithgow) 4 miles Jean Hammerton 01877-330105

December

- 9:30am Wed 1st Ramble The Whangie 5 miles Jen Shearer 01877-330446
8:30am Sat 4th Hill Innerdouny Hill (Ochils) 497m Rob Smallman 01786-825877
9:30am Wed 8th Stroll Mystery Walk 5 miles Peter Ireland 01877-330444

Drymen and District Local History Society www.drymen-history.org.uk

Whether you want to research topics of local history or just hear from others you will be made welcome by Drymen and District Local History Society. The Society presents illustrated talks on local history on seven nights throughout the winter. Meetings are held in Drymen Village Hall on the fourth Thursday of each month September to November and January to April, starting at 7.45pm. Details of our programme will be on our website.

To join contact our Treasurer,
Peter Smith, 7 Napier Road, Killearn, G63 9PB
Telephone 01360 550726
drymen.history@virgin.net or just come along to a meeting.

Forth Inn Events Diary

October

21 Oct to 23 Oct - Trossachs Mushroom Festival 2010

21 October – Opening Night Join us for Food and Entertainment – Chinese Style!! Tickets £10.00 (available on line @ www.mushroomfestival.co.uk) or from the Forth Inn

22 October – 3 Course Dinner, Jazz Band & Whisky Tasting. Tickets £17.50 (Tickets as above) Entertainment from 'Afterglow Jazz Band'. During dinner enjoy a whisky tasting from Glengoyne Distillery

28th October – Ladies Night. (Think Pink) Pamper Chef, Makeup treatments and Manicures. Call The Forth Inn for more details.

30 October – Halloween Karaoke in the Wallace bar Fun starts @ 9pm

31 October – Pub Quiz starts 9pm

November

20 November – Karaoke in the Wallace bar Fun starts @ 9pm

26 Nov & 27 Nov 2010 - Beer Festival

Live music over 2 Nights featured in our function room "The Gathering" T his room comes complete with suit of amour and portraits of Scottish kings along with the Forth Inn friendly and relaxed atmosphere. We will have around 10 (Scottish) Real Ales to be tried. The fun starts 9pm till late - Entry is FREE! Both nights are Free of Charge - Music starts 9pm

28 November – Pub Quiz starts 9pm

Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UQ

Tel: 01877 382 372

E-mail: Phil@ForthInn.com

Scottish Country Dancing is simply the best!

Aberfoyle Scottish Country Dance Club is delighted to welcome the new dancers who have joined the club this term; we always have space for more and NOW really is the best time to start dancing!

The mixed ability Aberfoyle club makes everyone welcome and at just £1 per session or £10 for the term from October until Christmas, this is tremendous value for such convivial healthy exercise! Just turn up at The Memorial Hall in Aberfoyle any Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. No partner or previous experience is necessary, nor any need for special equipment except flat shoes (eg trainers) - be sure to bring your sense of humour! For more information, please 'phone John Epps 01877 382276 or email crannaighouse@aol.com



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Sponsor an Issue

I think you will agree that the newsletter looks so much better in colour, thanks to all our sponsors this year. We are now in the process of setting the publication dates for 2011 and hope to continue the same sponsorship deal next year, dependent on printing costs remaining the same. There will be 7 editions published, and already we have issue 64 booked up. That leaves 6 available issues. If interested contact Marion 386 222 or Margaret 386 258, or any one of the committee. (see contact details)

Deadline Dates

Issue 59 – 20 June
Issue 60 – 15 Aug
Issue 61 – 26 Sept
Issue 62 – 14 Nov (xmas)
Issue 63 – 23 Jan 11
Issue 64 – 20 March 11
Issue 65 – 15 May 11*
Issue 66 – 3 July 11*
Issue 67 – 28 August 11*
Issue 68 – 25 September 11*
Issue 69 – 20 Nov 11 (Xmas)*
*may be subject to change

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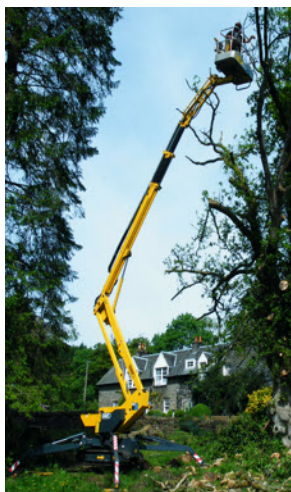
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Swedish Weaving Loom For Sale

This loom is about 48 inches wide, has a seat and produces floor rugs. I have all the instructions with it, along with a lot of materials. **Contact Carol on 01360 440325 if interested.**

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