

STRATHARD NEWS

ISSUE 65
MAY/JUN
2011

Serving the communities of
Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid

FREE
Donations welcome

sponsored by



New Kinlochard village hall opens for business

The sun shone, the skies were blue, the loch sparkled and spirits were high for the opening of the new look Village Hall in Kinlochard.

"WOW" was the most frequently heard reaction as people stepped inside. Architect John White's clever designs with the glass frontage, refurbished old hall and new additions make full and fantastic use of its stunning lochside location.

This wonderful new facility is the result of a lot of hard work, good will and generosity by funders (see below), fund raisers, professionals, builders and folk from near and far, many of whom joined the celebrations.

Over 200 friends, supporters and those directly or indirectly involved, gathered to celebrate what had been achieved. The Kinlochard community turned out in force - from babes in arms to those over 90, and those who remembered the original Hall coming into being over half a century ago.

Kate Joynson officially opened the Hall and her husband Peter - whose family had donated the site in 1957 to the community - unveiled Toto McLellan's stunning wood carving. Both beautiful and intriguing, it shows Kinlochard and its surroundings, with lots of "hidden" details of flora, fauna and local history.



Opening Ceremony Group: (left to right) Fergus Wood, Bridget Lewis, Peter Joynson, Kate Joynson, Peter Salgo and Katy Lamb

....continued on page 7

www.strathardnews.com

Community Council



Some recent information which we have received from Stirling Council:

Winter Weather Response

Following the many difficulties experienced during the last two severe winters, the Council has requested and reviewed local feedback from throughout its area. It now recognises that performance could have been better, and that prolonged freezing conditions need to be planned for. Therefore it will prepare new procedures which will be followed if there is a repeat of similar bad weather again. These are aimed at alleviating the worst difficulties relating to roads, access, services such as refuse collection and also to communicate better with local people and communities. We expect more information to follow in the coming months, but the fact that these problems are being addressed for the future is welcomed.

Craigmore Centre

With the closure of the out of school service there is some concern that this building which the community helped to get up and running many years ago will fall into disuse. If anybody can identify any useful or community use for the premises then do please contact Ros Dingwall in the Post Office, who is liaising with Council staff on the matter.

Community Information

- Our website is www.strathard.org.uk.
- We 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.
- Current information is also placed on our 4 community noticeboards.

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

ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL EGM WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2011 8pm (In The Small Hall)

Due to poor attendance, we were unable to elect a committee at our AGM. We urgently need community spirited people to come along to the EGM to ensure the survival of this important village asset. We must elect a new Chairperson and 100 Club Treasurer. The current Treasurer and Secretary would also like to step down but if no replacements can be found will continue for a further year.

This hall is owned by the people of Aberfoyle and is a local charity run by volunteers with the assistance of a caretaker. The hall is currently well used for Youth Club, Toddlers, Dance Classes, Pilates/Step & Tone, Country Dancing, Karate, Masonic Lodge and other meetings, parties etc.

If you cannot commit to being a Committee member, we need help with small repairs and maintenance, painting, gardening etc. We also need new members of our £100 club (you pay £2 per month £1 of which goes to hall funds with the other £1 going in to a prize draw with a member winning the "pot"). Any help is much appreciated.

Contact Name Janet Stewart 382736



YOUR HALL URGENTLY NEEDS YOU

The Trossachs 10K will be on Saturday 28th May 2011 in the Ard forest in Aberfoyle

Entries are now open at www.ENTRYCENTRAL.COM

The race starts at 10.30am; registration will be in the Forth Inn between 9am and 10am.

All money raised will be donated to www.AnthonyNolan.org
The route will be fully marshalled and refreshments will be provided on route and at the finish line.

The organisers would like to thank the Forth Inn, the Aberfoyle Deli and Akva Group Scotland for their continued support.

For any queries about this event or to request a postal entry contact Jillian on 07828310946 or jillian06@btinternet.com

Strathard Community Council meets on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard and Inversnaid Primary School. The next meetings will be held in Inversnaid on 2nd June and Aberfoyle on 7th July, which will also be our AGM. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councillor (Tony Finch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) normally will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns. If you are planning to come to one of these surgeries we suggest you check noticeboards or our website in advance, since there are sometimes dates when Councillors cannot attend.

Community Councillors by Ward

Aberfoyle

John Clow
Ros Dingwall
Jimmy Quinn
Geraint Short

Inversnaid

Andre Goulancourt
Ralph Wolfe
1 vacancy

Kinlochard

Maureen Campbell
Fiona McEwan
Alex Murray-Brown
1 vacancy

Contact details:

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

ARDBUILD

All Joinery, Building & Roofing Work

Including Kitchen & Bathroom Installations

Timber Preservation Treatment

Dry Rot/Wet Rot/Woodworm - 30yr guarantee

Property Maintenance Services

Slabbing

Monoblock Paving



Tel: 01877 387 238
Mob: 07749 418463

24 hr emergency callouts
e-mail: ardbuild@hotmail.com



Aberfoyle Holidays have been providing worldwide timeshare re-sales since 2003 at world renowned resorts such as Anfi, Marriotts Hilton and De Veres. However what is probably not very well known locally is that we also provide rental accommodation at 5 star resorts worldwide from as little as £159.

Some examples of accommodation for rent

Cost	Resort	Size	Area	Check in Date	Days
£159	Clube Praia da Oura	1b/4	Albufeira, Algarve, Portugal	12 Jun 2011	7
£159	Evergreen Inn And Villas	2b/6	Southern, Maine, USA	18 Jun 2011	7
£159	Maeva Clubhotel Tignes Inter	0b/2	Tignes, Rhone-Alpes, France	19 Jun 2011	7
£159	Club Tahiti	1b/4	Costa Teguisse, Lanzarote	30 Jun 2011	7
£199	Royal Goan BC Benaulim	2b/6	South Goa, Goa, India	16 Jul 2011	7
£159	Pattaya Hill Resort	0b/2	Pattaya, Thailand	16 Jul 2011	7

We offer a free registration to all of our re-sale customers as well as various advertising packages such as enhanced web advertising, sponsored links and national newspaper advertising.

Buying a timeshare re-sale entitles you to the same ownership rights and benefits as a new timeshare purchase. Most importantly it allows you to save a considerable amount in comparison to the prices charged by the timeshare resorts for their timeshare weeks. Below is a very small selection of some of our best bargains picked from our vast inventory of Timeshare Resales. Please note that the costs also include the transfer fees.

Resort	Area	Wk No	Size	Cost
Forest Hills	Trossachs	37	2 Bedroom(sleeps 6)	£299
Hilton Craigendarroch	Royal Deeside	37	2 Bedroom(sleeps 6)	£2250
Westgate Vacation Villas	Florida	20	2 Bedroom(sleeps 6)	£1300
Pestana Grand	Madeira	42/43	Studio	£1200 per week

If you have any queries or want to purchase any of the fantastic bargains above please get in touch.

Aberfoyle Holidays Ltd, Viewforth, Main St, Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire FK8 3UG.
tel: 01877 382390 fax: 01877 382394 e-mail: enquiries@aberfoyleholidays.com
Lots more on our website www.aberfoyleholidays.com



Trossachs Gardening Services



RELIABLE

Advice • Grass Cutting • Maintenance • Planting
 Painting Fences • huts
 Hedge trimming • Pruning • Weeding

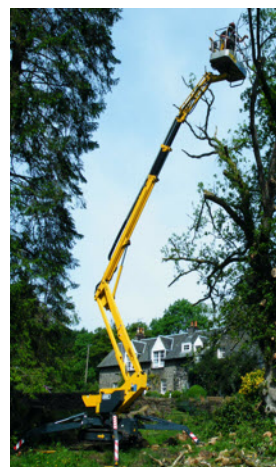
YOU DESERVE A BETTER GARDEN

Contact Trossachs Gardening Services

Tel: 01877-382141

Mob: 07546-066511

Forthvale CONTRACTORS



Tree Surgeons

Firewood Suppliers

Fencing

Chemical Spraying

tel: 01877 387 202
 mobile: 07890 331702
drew@forthvale.co.uk

Registrar

The good weather may have (hopefully, temporarily) deserted us, but that hasn't deterred those couples choosing to be married in the area, as we enter a busier time of year. Wedding parties and ribbon festooned cars have become a much more regular sight in the past few weeks. People have travelled from near and far to be married. Among these, London couple Graeme Harrow and Charlotte Hansen who were married at Ledard Farm; Neil Clark and Wendy Jamieson who came to Forest Hills from Ayrshire; and first Callander couple Paddy Gilmore and Liz Rouse, then Surrey couple Dudley Cochran and Elaine Gardner, who all chose to be married at Altskeith. Weddings have also been taking place here at the Registry Office with Southsea couple Leigh Savage and Natalie Greenwood, then Gregory Norrby and Helga Franse who traveled from Germany to be married in Aberfoyle; while Kevin Callaghan and Victoria Henry from Glasgow were married in Aberfoyle's beautiful Parish Church.

Weddings have not been the only events taking place, as two baby boys have recently been registered. Our congratulations go to parents Laura and Calum on the birth of their son James Crowder and to parents Jodie and Alistair on the birth of their son Nathan Noah Ferguson.

It is to be hoped that the coming months will bring, in addition to the wonderful summer that we all deserve, many more happy events. Meantime John and I will look forward to assisting you in any way we can. The 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.

Sharon Johnston Registrar

 Stirling Council's Aberfoyle Local Office

Thanks

A note of thanks to family, friends and neighbours for all cards, gifts and kind wishes during my recent stay in hospital.

Many thanks,
Margret Rose

Police Business



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

Central Scotland Police
Together for safer communities

PACT Priorities January - March 2011

1. Travelling Housebreakers and seasonal thefts from rural properties.
2. Road Safety.
3. Targetting the dealers. Targetting the misuse of drugs and the dealers, working with locals to get drugs off the streets.

Aberfoyle

Thefts from Rural Properties

8th May 2011

On 5th May 2011, the property owner and another member of the public disturbed a male raking through a skip at The Barn at Port of Menteith. The male was asked to leave, but it was discovered after his departure that a log burner had been stolen from the property. The property owner was able to pass details of the vehicle used, and police have a positive line of enquiry to follow as regards this theft.

Whilst rural thefts are falling in number across the Aberfoyle area, it is important that members of the public remain vigilant and report any activity they deem suspicious to the police at the earliest opportunity to maximise the chances of catching any potential offenders.

Suspicious Vehicle

5th May 2011

Police have been contacted regarding a suspicious vehicle in the Aberfoyle area. It is described as a blue and white tipper/flat bed Transit van. The occupants of the van appear to be carrying out 'reconnaissance' while asking property owners whether they have any scrap.

Many of you will be aware of the thefts in and around Aberfoyle over the past few months. Any sightings of this van should be reported to the police.

Police can be contacted at Aberfoyle or Callander on 01786 456000.

Aberfoyle Golf Club

will be holding a Gents Open Texas Scramble on Saturday 30th July. The cost to enter a 4 man team in the event is £20. This has been one of our most popular events in the past few years, attracting up to 45 teams from Clubs across the area. Entries should be sent to secretary@aberfoylegolf.co.uk

We are also pleased to report that The Wee Kitchen is now up and running at the Club. With a sound reputation for great food, friendly staff and good service, you will always be assured of a smile and a blether.



At The Ward Toll
Balfron Station
G63 0QY
4 miles south of
Aberfoyle on the A81

Garden Centre • Pet Supplies • Orchid House

- All your gardening needs catered for
- All you need to grow your own fruit & vegetables
- Hanging baskets & planted containers
- Plants grown on site
- Bark, compost & decorative stones
- Large selection of orchids and accessories
- Food & care items for small animals, including poultry

Free expert gardening advice

Opening times:

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 5pm

info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk tel: 01360 850525

Proprietor: Graham Scott

DIY/GRASS LIVERY Available



Kirkton Farm Aberfoyle

Tel. 01877 382316

Trossachs Area Community Transport Update

We're pleased to say that fuel is now on sale at realistic prices in Trossachs Area Services. According to our pump engineer the fuel is 'crystal clear' due to the tank cleaning and relining. Thanks to all those who have given us their custom so far - our 'fair pricing' policy has been greatly welcomed. We set prices based on what we pay for each fuel delivery and this means that prices will go down as well as up. There have been 3 fuel deliveries so far, and prices have been lowered with each new delivery!

As a start-up community business we have to reduce risk as much as possible so until we can see how many customers return, the filling station is opening only at peak times. Once sales increase, hours will be extended, so do encourage your friends and neighbours to buy their fuel from us! The shop is also open and will gradually be restocked, but will not be fully operational until refurbished. Opening hours are published locally and on our website www.ta-ct.org.uk and are currently:

Weekdays: 7 to 10am & 3.30 to 6.30pm
Weekends: 8am to 7pm

We are also looking for volunteers who would like to get involved as we move forward with our new community business - do have a word with Ros in Aberfoyle Post Office or phone 01877 387200 if you would like to find out more. NB Membership subscriptions and contributions can now be made online at www.ta-ct.org.uk, or by collecting a form at the PO or garage.



McLaren Community Leisure Centre

TIGHT TIMESCALE FOR FUNDING CAMPAIGN

We would like to take this opportunity to up-date the Trossachs Community on our proposal for a full-size outdoor Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) based at McLaren Leisure Centre. The Multi Use Games Area Project is a partnership between McLaren Community Leisure Centre, McLaren High School Parent Council and Stirling Council.

We would like to clarify that, contrary to previous press information, we have not secured funding for this project. A working group (McLaren MUGA Working Group - MMWG) has been established by the partners stated above and is charged with progressing the project. We are making a concerted effort working within a tight timescale to secure sufficient funds to bring this much needed and desired facility to Callander.

The total projected costs are approximately £450,000 and whilst we have secured £70,000 from Stirling Council the Working Group is embarking on a major fundraising campaign and would welcome any support or sponsorships with match-funding businesses to realise this aspiration which will be a benefit to all in the wider community.

For more information, please contact Janet Al-Asadi at: janet.al-asadi@hotmail.co.uk



Anne McGuire MP

Summer is beckoning but work in Westminster continues apace. I have lent my support to the Fish Fight campaign, calling on the Government to vote against proposed reforms of the EU



Common Fisheries Policy unless certain conditions such as the current policy of fish discards are met. Currently, EU boats in the North Sea have to throw away up to half of what they catch to stay within their quotas. As the mother of a fisherman I have welcomed efforts by my colleagues and also of TV chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall in bringing this waste of both fish and the fishermen's efforts to the public's attention.

Many of you have written to me expressing your dismay at the possibility that the government may reject the advice of the Committee on Climate Change regarding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I have made representations to Chris Huhne, the Energy Secretary to express the hope that should Mr Cameron wish to run "the greenest government ever" then he must take into consideration of my constituents concerns and mustn't water down the climate targets.

From global to local climate concerns ...at the time of writing this article, I am looking forward to opening the newly refurbished pond area at Trossachs Primary School in Brig O'Turk. The school was successful in receiving a Big Lottery Fund award that allowed them to install a pond dipping platform at the school pond and to build a decking area around it. I hope to use one of their special Pond Dipping kits when I am there and will keep you updated of my visit in the next issue!

As ever, I can be contacted at the Parliamentary Advice Office at 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling, FK8 1UA. T: 01786 446515, F: 01786 446513 email: anne.mcguire.mp@parliament.uk

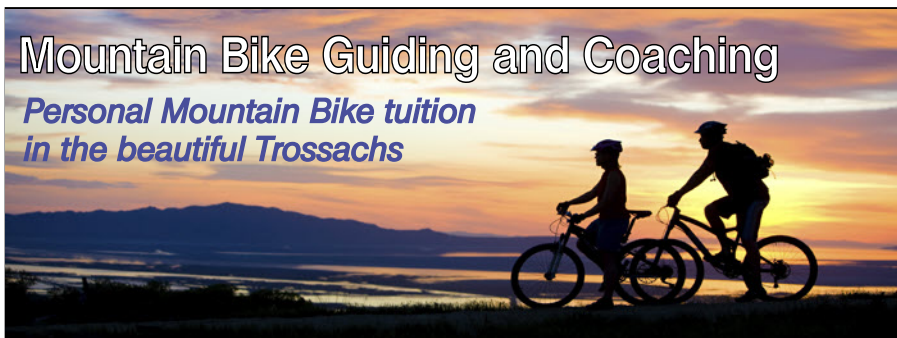
Arts and Craft Fair Saturday 25th June 11am - 4pm

Hand Painted Silk Scarves And Ties
Thistle Threads - Milliner
Paper Crafts, Spinner,
Samson Fine Arts
Garden Furniture By Kirkton Studio
And Other General Crafts & Jewellery

BENVIEW GARDEN CENTRE
Ward Toll, Balfron Station

Mountain Bike Guiding and Coaching

*Personal Mountain Bike tuition
in the beautiful Trossachs*



www.wildbikingscotland.com

and on Facebook

E-mail: sandy@wildbikingscotland.com

Tel: 07717-217898



Cheese and Wine Retirement Party

*Come and say Happy Retirement and farewell to
Dr. Pollok!*



On:

Wednesday 20th July 2011 at 7pm at Buchlyvie Medical Centre

OR

Thursday 21st July 2011 at 7pm at Aberfoyle Medical Centre

EVERYBODY WELCOME

*Retirement Donation Box and Card for signing, now available at Reception
(Should you wish to contribute)*

Medical Centre PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

June	Monday 27th June 2011
September	Monday 5th September 2011
October	Monday 17th October 2011
Christmas	Monday 26th December 2011
	Tuesday 27th December 2011
New Year	Monday 2nd January 2012
	Tuesday 3rd January 2012

DURING THESE CLOSURES THE OUT OF
HOURS SERVICE IS OPERATIONAL
08454 24 24 24

Iain Glen
Interior & Exterior Painting

Iain Glen

Tel: 01877 382 296
Mob: 0773 772 6338



A Book and a Brew



Are you a keen reader of books or wanting to become one? A book group may be the answer. Book or reading groups have been established for sometime now, and I have been thinking that it would be good to have one in the Strathard area. I was a member of a book group a few years ago and enjoyed the experience. I read books that I would otherwise have not read and met different people to chat to about the books. Sometimes I couldn't wait to read some more and other times I left it on the heap unread. Either way, if you enjoy a book or not, it's worth talking about over a cuppa.

The idea is simple. Stirling Council's Library Service has a large stock of books available for groups, about 180 titles. The group members decide on what books to read, and when, and then the group meets every 4 - 6 weeks to discuss them. We would use the newly renovated Village Hall in Kinlochard as the venue at a time, day and dates of the group members choosing.

The group would meet over the winter months from September/October until March/April. The only cost would be the hire of the hall and that would be shared amongst group members.

If you are interested in being in at the start, please contact me James Kennedy jfk1957@btinternet.com 01877 387201 or Nelson Busby, Mobile Library Officer busbyn@stirling.gov.uk as soon as possible.

ChillOut

HandCrafts & Gifts Holistic Therapies

**open the door
to a world
of something different...**

Therapeutic Massage Shiatsu
Reflexology Indian Head Massage
Clinical Hypnotherapy
Beauty Therapy

Trossach's Gate
Main Street **Aberfoyle**

01877 389302 07791 385240

www.chilloutscotland.com

continued from front page.....

Provost Fergus Wood presented a plaque on behalf of Stirling Council and the Kinlochard Children's Choir gave a very confident, charming and accomplished recital... and all with only a couple of days rehearsal. What a lot of talent in a small community.

Bunting, balloons and a huge array of home baking and sandwiches made for a party atmosphere, with sticky faces and sharing of memories and reminiscences over cups of tea.

The day ended on a lively note with an evening of song and dance until late into the night: a fitting close to a happy and memorable day of celebration and appreciation to launch the new facility.

FUNDERS:

- Local Community
- SRDP Rural Priorities
- Hugh Fraser Foundation
- Gannochy Trust
- Robertson Trust
- European & Scottish Gmt. Funding from LEADER for Broadband WiFi
- Stirling Council Community Grant to assist with the opening event
- Lottery funded Awards for All for additional furniture
- Stirling Council facilitated a Community bridging facility

Kinlochard Village Hall opening day



Photos courtesy of *Acer Photography*

More photos and video online at <http://tinyurl.com/5s93mon>

On a High! Renewed Village Hall's First Wedding

When Elke and Prasad arranged their wedding they decided to build the day round what they like doing most - running up hills! They were doubly brave as, not only did they decide to trust to Scottish weather and opt to tie the knot on the top of Ben A'an, they chose to do it on Friday 13th! Kinlochard was delighted to welcome them as the renewed Village Hall's first wedding. But that's not all! To get to their reception, the bride & groom and many of the guests, went down from Ben A'an to Loch Achray, up Ben Venue, down the other side to Ledard, into the showers in the Village Hall and THEN settled down to a well earned reception meal of hog roast and refreshments. I was privileged to be allowed to visit the reception and am pleased to report that the day had gone well and, despite wet weather before & after, it was dry for the wedding itself. All who had planned to go "over the top" had done so and I can vouch for the fact that young and old alike were having a great time in the Hall, having enjoyed a hog roast



Elke & Prasad enjoying their Wedding reception after being Married on the top of Ben A'an. Elke and Prasad live in Callander and chose Kinlochard Village Hall as they are great fans of the Wee Blether Tearoom, and love coming to Kinlochard



Main Hall Kinlochard.

Beautifully set out for 120 by Elke & Prasad (With a little help from friends & family)

Lochside Yoga Update

The Kinlochard yoga class is delighted to be back at Kinlochard Village Hall, now the renovations are completed! A huge thank you to the Forest Hills Hotel management for allowing us to use a room there whilst the work was going on, and an even bigger thank you to the tireless energy of the Village Hall project team for producing the hall that we now have! It is a joy to have the gorgeous views from inside the building as well as from outside. The focus of this class is to Breathe, Stretch and Relax. So, if you have had a busy day, why not come along and let all the busyness and tension go? If you feel tired, come along and allow yourself to relax, it can't fail to make you feel better! The class is suitable for all levels of flexibility and experience. We meet on Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9pm and it costs £6 per class. No booking required, just come along and 'drop-in'. Everyone is welcome.

A Sunday Morning Yoga session "Yoga for the Family" is planned for July 10th, 9.30 - 11.30. A morning of Yoga fun for everyone, with yoga, chat, refreshments - and Sunday papers for those not on the mats. Cost: shared mat (Adult and 1 Child) £8.50, single Adult mat £6; Child only mat £4. Booking required.

If you would like to chat about any of the yoga classes before you start, please contact me (don't forget there is no mobile phone reception in Kinlochard, so please don't expect an immediate response on the mobile number). More details can be found on my website www.lochsideyoga.com
Gillian Lester 01877 387201, 07738 225996
gillian@lochsideyoga.com



The CFSLA Payroll Lottery

The CFSLA Payroll Lottery is inviting applications NOW for it's next meeting in June.

The next meeting will focus on applications from sports groups and charities so if you need sporting equipment whether it be footballs, canoes, play parachutes etc. now is the time to get a list of equipment you need together and send it with an application form, your constitution and latest accounts to the lottery committee.

Application forms and guidance leaflets are available from www.cfslalottery.org.uk The lottery is run for the benefit of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling local authority staff and ex-employees as well as Police, Fire & Assessors services employees. Participants are encouraged to apply for additional help when they fund-raise for their charities.

The committee distributes £18,000 annually based on the applications it receives.

Special application forms to support staff fund-raising and applications to join the lottery are also on the website as well as a list of the latest winners and beneficiaries.



Fairyland Aromatics

New in!

Blended Grain Incenses,
Beautiful Fairly Traded Stoneware
Fantastic Fairly Traded Rag Dolls
Specialist Suppliers of:

Pure, Therapeutic Ingredients

-Inc; our Own Range of over 75 Essential Oils-
Natural, Handmade Body Products

To the Public, Shops, Therapists, Schools etc;
...From the Heart of Scotland's
Fairy World!








www.fairylandaromatics.com

Telephone 01877 382349

National Park News

By Owen McKee

How is it possible to feel disappointed when Bank Holiday weekends are blessed with exceptionally good weather? Unfortunately we all know the answer. Along with the very many people who come to enjoy our beautiful area there are always some who have no respect for others or the countryside. I am always challenged when asked what the Park Authority is doing about it for in my heart of hearts I know only too well that unless we have Rangers or Police covering every spot 24 hours a day there will be problems. Operation Ironworks is making a big difference in reducing the mayhem but still we are left to clear up the mess left behind. We are more than grateful that we get so much voluntary help clearing up. Oh for the day when that willingly given help can be utilised to bring improvements to paths and the like instead of clearing up health hazards!! The Bylaws for East Loch Lomond which will see the banning of wild camping in the stretch from Drymen to Rowardeneen will come into force on 1st June. Borrowing from the experience of that exercise we will now be looking at what can be done in the area of Lochs Venachar, Achray, Lubnaig, Voil/Doine and Earn. Because of its proximity to the trunk road it is accepted that Loch Lubnaig is a priority and discussions are already taking place with the relevant land owners and community councils to try to put in place some facilities this year. Also we will shortly have a special Board Meeting to finalise our special pleading for extra funding to tackle the problem throughout the Park.

It is not all bad news. One area where voluntary help has produced a big improvement was in the building of the replacement bridge at the Barcklinn Falls in Callander. We have just heard that the new Bridge has been shortlisted in the nominations for the International Footbridge Awards. The other nominations in the category are from USA, South Africa, Portugal and England and the awards will be made at a gathering in Poland in June. I will let you know the result even if we don't win.

The Local Plan examination by the Reporter is progressing with final public hearing taking place in Callander on the 10th and 12th May. That hearing was concerned with specific proposals for Callander where there had been a number of objections to proposed housing sites and some long term proposal for tourism related developments. Both days were well attended and the Reporter gave the objectors the opportunity to question the Park Officers on the process and reasoning behind the Local Plan proposals. The Reporter will continue his examination of the Local Plan over the next couple of months, after which he will let the Park Authority have his views. With a little luck we will have a finalised Local Plan for the Park by the autumn.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,

Lochearnhead.

Phone: 01567 830214

email: owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk



Cakes for morning coffee and afternoon tea, savouries for lunch, dinner parties at home and catering for events or functions, we can provide speciality fine food to suit your mood.

Awarded Gold in the UK Great Taste Awards 2008 2009 and 2010

For further information or to discuss your requirements call us on 01877 387236 or email contact@cookroom.co.uk www.cookroom.co.uk

We also offer a hire service for crockery and cutlery

cookroom

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Launches Free Business Toolkit

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park are offering tourism businesses an opportunity to register for a new, innovative online Business Toolkit free of charge. The toolkit will give them access to a wealth of valuable information to help increase tourism spend and encourage visitors to stay for longer in the National Park.

The 'Business in the Park' toolkit is a free service designed to support local businesses. It provides National Park information for their customers and includes a stunning photo gallery, a series of 'Top 10' tourism things to do and see unique to the park, downloadable maps, case studies, green tourism ideas, and lots of tips on how to successfully promote your business, event information, and daily weather forecasts. The toolkit will be regularly updated to help keep the local business community in touch with news and developments in and around the area and will include visitor statistics, event information and monthly recommendations from National Park Rangers.

Fiona Logan, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park explains: "The more information and knowledge local businesses can share with their visitors, the more likely they are to succeed in helping them to get the best out of the park, to stay for longer and to return time and time again. By offering the new toolkit with a range of essential information for visitors, we hope to help local businesses capitalise on the huge tourism draw National Parks bring."

The toolkit also includes 'Business in the Park' brand information and an eye-catching logo, designed for businesses to use to highlight their association with the National Park.



It is estimated that within the National Park there are nearly a thousand tourism businesses, all of whom can now benefit from quality and relevant information that has been made available within the toolkit. One company that plans to make use of the toolkit is Cruise Loch Lomond. Stuart Cordner from Cruise Loch Lomond explains: "The business toolkit provided by the Park is an excellent source of valuable, up-to-date information. We have already incorporated the toolkit's images and Business in the Park logo within our own marketing materials, and on our website. By partnering with the Business in the Park brand, I firmly believe we can all work together to raise the profile of our unique National Park and help to build an internationally recognised brand that visitors will come to value, respect and cherish".

Fiona Logan adds: "Being part of a National Park is very special. We hope businesses and organisations, proud to work within the Park, will be inspired to use the logo and work with us as we try to build a strong, recognisable brand which celebrates this unique and special place. Working together, we want to help businesses strengthen their own product by having this close National Park association and offer visitors a shared warm welcome, quality service and unrivalled visitor experience."

If you would like to know more about the Park's business toolkit, visit <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/business toolkit> and complete a registration form.





**IF YOUR CAR OR VAN NEEDS A SERVICE OR MOT PLEASE
PHONE KENI OR SHEENA ON 01786 850500
WE PROVIDE AN UPLIFT AND DROP-OFF SERVICE**

VEHICLES FOR SALE



Toyota Hi-Lux D4D Double Cab (06/56) 37,000 Miles in White with a Truckman Top, very nice pick-up. **£8995+VAT**



Renault Modus 1.2 Oasis (06/06) 15,000 Miles, 1 Owner, As new **£4500**



Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Auto 5dr (07/07) 2 Owners, 20,000 Miles, FSH **£5500**



Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Club 5dr (2001) 24,000 miles, 2 Owners, As new **£2250**



Citroen Dispatch L1 H1 Van (09/59) In White, 32,000 Miles, FSH **£8250+VAT**



Mercedes A150 SE Elegance 5 dr (05/05) 23,000 Miles, FSH In Sky Blue Metallic with Beige Interior. **£6995**

*Images for illustration purposes only.

Janefield, Ruskie, Stirlingshire FK8 3LG

Tel: 01786 850500

Mob: 07977 133503 Fax: 01786 850555

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

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

Welcome to the news from **Glendrick Roost**



Spring has well and truly sprung and we have all been enjoying this wonderful spell of weather. The animals are also enjoying the sunshine but the grass is slow in growing.

Rescues recently have consisted of three lovely guinea pigs – Alder, Bramble and Blackberry - and a couple of rabbits Celandine and Buttercup - along with another dog, Ty, who has gone to live with a volunteer. She was an unwanted mongrel and was going to be put to sleep as the previous owners couldn't be bothered with her. !! No comment!!!

Fundraising venues have more or less been worked out now for the rest of the year and there are very few weekend days with nothing at all on. We will be at Drymen Show, Callander Highland Games, Doune and Dunblane Show, Fintry Fling, Kippen Street Fayre, Gargunnoch Show as well as local Dobbies throughout the year. Please come and say hello and meet some of the animals. I am still happy to do community talks to organisations within this area be they youth groups or adult meetings. Several of the animals can be in attendance and there is a slide show of those too big to attend!

Please contact me if your group is interested: Mione 07748 351287

We have had a lot of expense with vet bills recently but as we are a welfare centre the animals' welfare has to be

taken care of. We have had a very sorry time with our beautiful chinchillas and after 3 post mortems, numerous tests and biopsies, we are still no wiser as to why ten of them died within a month. The usual answer to unknowns is 'a virus'. Whatever; it was a very sad and upsetting time. Hopefully now the 'virus' has burnt itself out and we lose no more.

Orion, one of the tortoises we rescued last summer became and still is quite poorly. Due to being fed incorrectly when very young he has grown too quickly resulting in an uneven shell and worse - a liver with excess fat. Reptiles are very slow at showing any symptoms and equally slow in recovering. He is now not able to eat properly and I am feeding him via a tube inserted in his neck and into his stomach. I hope with the excellent care and support from the team of 'exotic' vets at Edinburgh vet school he will make a good recovery and be able to lead a happy life. Obviously all these vet visits cost a lot of money. Please consider sponsoring one of our animals to help pay for costs like these. Thank you.

Muffin our newest donkey has had an operation to remove a sarcoid (a warty growth) but is still not healed up enough to allow him to go outside as flies could cause problems with the wound. This means, rather than leave him on his own, all the donkeys are still inside.

With any luck they will all go out within a week or two.

We have a new mobile field shelter for the girl donks that Gavin and I spent time erecting this week. It will be invaluable whatever the weather allowing protection from rain, wind or flies. The big horses, Sonny, Gwerthfawr, Meredin and Tonto, crossed the Blane to their summer grazing this week. A big thank you to all the vols who undertook that task in the rain!

Animals are going over to Briarlands in dribs and drabs this year due to Briarlands opening early for the whole of April (earlier than usual) as the children were at school so little. There are now four rabbits, four guinea pigs and at present three mini Shetlands there. Two standard Shetlands and two donkeys will replace the minis to allow us to do pony rides to raise much needed funds. If you haven't taken the kids there yet it's a lovely day out for them and you can sit, relax with a cuppa and watch whilst they have a ball! You could meet some animals too.

We still haven't found new premises but please remember we have over 150 animals that need looking after and reliable volunteers and donations are always needed to help us in our work.

Thank you



24 hour Reliable Service
Wheelchair Access
Distance No Object



Tel. 01877 382587
Mob. 07710 800067

bertcomrie@btinternet.com

www.crescentcabs.com

Proprietor: Bert Comrie

MIDSUMMER CELTIC SESSIONS

Kinlochard Village Hall

Saturday 25 June at 8pm

*The HouseFolk Festival in collaboration with the
Stirling-Galway Festival invite you to an
evening of Scottish-Irish music*

Featuring:

From Scotland:

Chris Stout (Fiddle)
Catriona McKay (Clarsach)
Finlay Macdonald (Pipes/Whistles)
John Burns (Accordion)

From Ireland:

Sean Ryan (Whistles)
Kathleen Loughnane (Clarsach)
Cormac Cannon (Uilleann Pipes/Flute)
Cormac Begley (Concertina)
Breda Keiville (Fiddle)
Greg Cotter and Mary Flanagan
(Guitar/Mandolin and Accordion)



When the Scots and Irish get together the music and the craic are going to be of the best!

Tickets: Adults - £10, Concessions - £5
Contact: info@greattimescotland.com
Tel: 01877 387219

STEAMSHIP SIR WALTER SCOTT JOINS 'HISTORIC FLEET'

The Steamship Sir Walter Scott's place as one of the UK's most historically important vessels was marked last week by the raising of a new ensign bearing the mark of National Historic Ships' Historic Fleet. Launched in 1899, the Sir Walter Scott has been sailing Loch Katrine for over 100 years, taking countless visitors and tourists over the tranquil waters of one of Scotland's most breathtaking inland lochs. Today, it is believed to be Scotland's oldest passenger steamship still operating a regular service, with daily sailings available from Trossachs Pier near Callander from April to October.



The ship itself was constructed by Dumbarton shipbuilders William Denny who built what was then a state-of-the-art passenger steamer powered by cutting edge triple expansion steam engine by Paul & Co of Dumbarton.

Robin Denny, a descendant of the Denny family who build the steamship 112 years ago, returned to Loch Katrine last week to mark this latest accolade - and to assist the team in her ongoing maintenance. He also joined Operations Director Gordon Allan in unveiling a plaque commemorating the hard work of the many highly skilled professionals and volunteers who contributed to a major renovation and restoration programme in 2005-9 which secured the ship's future.

Gordon commented: "Robin is now a regular visitor to the Steamship Sir Walter Scott and he is a great supporter of all the hard work which goes into maintaining a grand old steamship like ours. You could say it's after sales service - more than 100 years on! For us, though, Robin represents a wonderful link to the people who, over a century ago, sat at a drawing board then began the long process of putting together every last nut, bolt, timber and mast before launching then transporting her up Loch Lomond and overland from Inversnaid to her home on Loch Katrine."

Both the new ensign and the plaque were arranged by Graham Ellis, a founding Trustee of the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust, the charity which owns and operates the ship. Graham added: "The continued existence of the Sir Walter Scott as an operational passenger steamship is down to the fantastic restoration work which was undertaken over the five winters between 2005 and 2009. During that period numerous highly skilled engineers, craftsmen and volunteers worked in all weathers at the Stronachlachar slipway, transforming the ship into the beautiful, comfortable vessel visitors enjoy today. This plaque marks their exceptional work, and their invaluable contribution to ensuring the future of one of the country's most historic vessels, and for the public to continue to enjoy."

The Steamship Sir Walter Scott is now sailing daily on Loch Katrine. For times and booking details please go to www.lochkatrine.com or call 01877 332000.



The Aberfoyle Osprey Project

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

Ospreys Return

The season only started on the 31st March but already the Aberfoyle ospreys are having a rollercoaster of a ride! We had five different ospreys on the nest in three weeks, making it one of the most sought after nests in the Trossachs.



Currently taking up residence on the nest is last year's "trouble maker" metal ringed bird and a new female who, unusually, is totally unringed. She is sitting on three eggs which were laid on the 23rd, 25th and 27th April. The incubation period for an osprey is approximately 37 days so we are expecting the eggs to be hatched round about the last week in June.

What else is there to see?

As well as the ospreys, we also have live cameras of barn owls and her chicks and red squirrels; a blue tit currently sitting on nine eggs and our new Trossachs Water Vole Project area. With lots to see and do, why not pop in to Wildlife Watch at the David Marshall Lodge soon?

For more information, volunteering opportunities, a school or group talk contact Robert Fraser-Binns on 01786 229252 or robert.fraser-binns@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

ABERFOYLE ROOFING



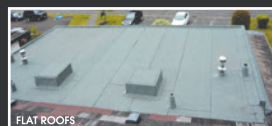
FLAT ROOF SPECIALISTS

20 BAILLIE NICOL JARVIE COURT, LOCHARD ROAD,
STIRLING, FK8 3SZ

• INSURANCE APPROVED CONTRACTOR •

- EMERGENCY REPAIRS • GUTTERS REPAIRED/REPLACED •
- SLATING & TILING • UPVC CLADDING • CEMENT WORK •

EXTENSIVE LIST OF REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



CALL NOW ON: 01877 382 645
24/7 EMERGENCY: 07739 690 196

SEE OUR ADVERT IN THE YELLOW PAGES, THE WEE BLUE BOOK AND LOCAL PRESS

Paws 4 Thort.

Mione from Glendrick Roost

Please answer these questions on the relationship between you and your dog.

1. Does Fido greet you with love and excitement when you come home?
2. Does he love to go for a walk with you and rushes out of the door when you are ready?
3. Does she bark and/ or jump at the door to tell you someone is there?
4. Does he get his dinner and go lie in his basket/bed to allow you to eat yours in peace?
5. Is she eager to go on her walks with you and is excited to get there quickly so she can play with you?
6. When you go into the garden does he love to go with you and is there before you sniffing and running about?

A domestic dog is a wolf in dog's clothing and as such is a pack animal. As you know, in all packs there is a pecking order. At the top is the alpha dog then below him are all the other members of the pack in decreasing order of rank. At the bottom are the young dogs and puppies. In a domestic situation the pack obviously includes the human members the domestic dog lives with and Fido is a member of that pack.

If you answered yes to any of the questions above your dog, in your pack, is the alpha dog! i.e. he is the leader!

He is also a very confused, stressed dog and I am sure you would rather he was a happy, contented dog.

Fido isn't stressed or confused I hear you cry, this is rubbish you shout. He is a loved and very happy dog you say.

Bear with me. Please read on and continue to answer the questions.

7. In your family is Fido allowed to do everything he wants?
8. Is she allowed to sit on your favourite chair and you have to sit somewhere else?
9. Does he lie on your bed and push you off?
10. Is she allowed to eat the choicest pieces off your plate?
11. When out for a walk on the lead does he spend ten minutes sniffing one spot whilst you wait for him?
12. Does she push you out of the way and steal your food off the table or cupboards?

If you answered No to any of these questions how can you do this to the ALPHA animal? HE is the leader, you are lower ranking; SHE makes all the decisions in the pack, you do as you're told; HE gets the choicest pieces of food you get the left overs; SHE chooses the best spot for sleeping you can find another place.

Now do you see that your dog is confused and stressed? In some situations he leads then in others he is told he is not allowed to lead and must do as you tell him. I am sure you want to now make your dog a happy woof and several easy steps can be taken to do this. The one stipulation to make this work is that EVERYONE who lives with this wee dog must be consistent with the new easy steps.

In your pack you are the alpha animal; you make all the decisions; you decide where everyone sleeps, eats, what they eat and how much; you choose the walks and how long and you greet the visitors and make sure all is safe for your family. To enable Fido to know where he stands in this new pack of his he must be made aware of the rules. In each of the situations above a method of putting Fido gently in his place and eventually making him a happier dog is outlined below.

1. When you come home or enter the room your dog is in she shouldn't greet you till you are ready. She is telling you, "Oh good you got home safely. I am so pleased. I have been worried about you going out without me to protect you. I am glad all is well." You are the boss; you can do as you like and can go out without her worrying about you being out of the pack, therefore she should wait till you have taken off your coat not scratch the material, put down the shopping not tear the carrier bags, taken off the office suit not cover it in hairs, moved into the room not cause you to fall over a wiggly dog. Easily solved! When you come in ignore her. Turn your back till she stops leaping about. No eye contact, not a word, keep your hands up in front of your chest. Then when the leaping, yipping, wiggling, scrabbling for attention has stopped go in and get ready to greet her. If the leaping starts again, turn your back and go through it all again. Won't happen straight away but happens very quickly if you are consistent.
2. When you go for a walk make him sit at the door till you are ready in your coat and boots; make him stay sitting till you open the door and go out. THEN let him come out. By rushing out in front of you he is the pack leader checking there are no dangers outside the house that would get you; he is keeping you safe.
3. When visitors come she can woof to let you know they are there and then go sit down as the pack leader (you) has now taken charge. Go through the same routine of ignoring her and your visitors must do the same. Does work but takes time and consistency.
4. NEVER feed him before you. Alpha animals eat first! If you are not due a meal - no problem. Make his meal up and have a 'handful' out of his dish and let him see you eating it. Put a biscuit behind his bowl wherever it is made up and he will think you are eating his food. Make a great show of eating it in front of him. Turn round so he can see you. This is very important. Watch his face - a picture!! Then feed him.
5. You, the pack leader, take the rest of the pack on a walk. You check for dangers in front. The underlings DO NOT take you or check all is safe. If she pulls, stop. Say don't pull or wait or whatever and wait till she has come back to your side. Never pull against her. Then set off again. Might be only one step but if she pulls, stop and do it again. This can take ten minutes or more the first time for the rule to sink in but when it works it is wonderful. Future walks will soon be stress free for both. Once more consistency is the key and all family members must take part.
6. Going outside the door anywhere means you must go first as you check for safety not him.
- 7- 12 are obvious NOs and most can be sorted by using the rules above.

These easy, gentle remedies can make a big difference to your dog's peace of mind and make your life easier too. They are all carried out with no physical contact with the dog. No forcing him/her to do anything. They make the decision themselves because they don't get what they want until they do what YOU want them to. !

Give him/her a BIG cuddle

Inversnaid Reserve



This is both my favourite and least favourite time of year. It is my favourite because there is nothing quite like settling down to watch the black grouse knocking lumps

out of each other in the name of procreation. It is my least favourite because I have to get up at 3.30 in the morning to get to the reserve in time to witness the spectacle - but what a spectacle it is!

Male birds gather on 'leks' (display grounds), displaying furiously and chasing off weaker birds. Their bubbling call is punctuated with violent shrieks that reverberate around the glen. The Inversnaid lekking ground is relatively large and the birds tend to keep quite a few metres from each other. Some of the other leks in the area are much tighter with a lot more friction between the birds. However, no matter which lek you are at, you are bound to see birds squaring up to each other before coming to blows. If it happened at two in the afternoon, I have no doubt that it would be a major tourist attraction.

The perfect lekking areas do not happen by accident, rather by careful management of stock numbers and monitoring of vegetation. This is before you even consider the ground scrub required for their chicks, and tree cover for winter. With a bird as fussy as the black grouse, you cannot leave things to chance. As for the number of males on our lek; it has increased by one for the second year running. It may not seem like a lot, but 'the trend is your friend' and we are delighted that we are continuing in the right direction. However, when dealing with small populations any disaster is usually a major one, so we will not be taking our eye off the ball just yet.

See you on the reserve,

Fraser

Fraser Lamont

RSPB Inversnaid, Assistant Warden.

Black Bull Gartmore



- * Lunches
- * Bar Meals
- * Evening Meals
- * Morning Coffee
- * Afternoon Tea

Open Daily
Tel 01877 382 225
Function rooms for hire: 16 - 100 people

Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!



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

Easter Parade

It is always the most fervent wish of the David Marshall Lodge staff, as we approach a major event, that the weather conditions remain favourable. As eternal optimists, we tend to plan for the best case scenario, regardless.

On the approach to the Easter Weekend, however, there were initial fears that the week-long dry spell would have a detrimental effect on the current leading down from the Waterfall of the Little Fawn for the ever-entrancing 'Duck Races'. In the end, with a few adjustments to the course, they went ahead, and proved, as always, to be a resounding success.

Although I have enjoyed the privilege of 'leading the charge' in recent times, the all too clear recollection of the last two seasons, whereby I found myself submerged in the water in attempting to free the ducks caught up on their journey, convinced me it was time to hand over the reins to the younger generation.

By all accounts, Robert Fraser-Binns and David Cowan rose to the occasion with anticipated enthusiasm, ably marshalled by 'old campaigner' Susan Nash. Meanwhile, Trish Roberts from the District Office had kindly volunteered her services by way of supporting

Anne in delighting the younger element with craft activities in the Exhibition Wing.

Margaret and I manned 'the front line' at the tills, which also offered the opportunity to test observational skills on the Easter Hunt Trail. Despite minimal costs for the event, each and every participant was able to take something away in remembrance of the day.

Mentions in despatches: David Robertson, Visitor Centre Manager, and his altogether laid back 'car parking squad'; The Bluebell Café for rising as early as the Sun to provide breakfast sandwiches for the traditional Sunday church service congregation; the Go Ape staff, for their continued professionalism in dealing with a large volume of customers, and our evergreen group of RSPB volunteers, whose contribution simply cannot be quantified, as they relate the dramas unfolding on our live action cameras at the osprey nest to our eager customers.



Yet again, it has been demonstrated that, with the right people in place, the David Marshall Lodge is inherently capable of producing a high quality visitor experience in the face of changing trends.

Duck Race Gallery



All the winners hailed from Glasgow. First over the line in the red race was Katy Caldicott's duck. Katy was obviously feeling lucky with her choice of teeshirt!



Rory Dickson was clearly very proud to bag the prize in the penultimate blue race.



And, finally, Hannah Davidson, enjoying the extra attention, took the honours in the green race.



Some of the staff ducks on display. Susan's 'homage to Kate Middleton', in the forefront, was always going to get the vote.

DML Notice Board

On the back of the intense Easter programme, there is a welcome pause of sorts, in terms of the level of upcoming events. We do however, have one or two things on the go.

SATURDAY 28th MAY. 12.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.

WILD ABOUT THE FOREST

As part of the celebrations of the International Year of Forests, this happening is intended to spark interest in the many, and varied, species which inhabit the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park.

Themed craft activities and games will be on hand as our conservation team relay the ongoing, and exciting projects happening within the district. This is a free event, which promises to be one of the most exciting in this year's calendar.

SUNDAY 18th JUNE. 2.30 p.m.

HEELSTER GOWDIE

The band play their second concert of what is deemed to be their last season. Judging by the reception of the May gig, there are some very special Sunday afternoons ahead. If you enjoy Scottish and Irish folk music, liberally sprinkled with a taste of humour, then this is for you.

This is a free event, but donations will be gratefully received for their chosen charity. C.D. recordings will also be available for purchase on the day.

SATURDAY'S 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th of JULY. KID'S SUMMER NATURE CLUB, 11.00 a.m. - 12.30p.m.

No excuses for promoting this event so early, due to it's increasing popularity. Booking is essential for this rare opportunity to discover the beauties of our natural environment in the company of a forest ranger. All-weather clothing is required, and refreshments are included. Cost: £ 3.50 per individual session or £15.00 if booking all five sessions.

Spaces are limited for this event. Please contact the David Marshall Lodge on 01877 382 258 for details.

SNH welcomes increase in outdoor recreation figures

The news of an increase in the number of people in Scotland using the outdoors for recreation has been welcomed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The latest results from the Scottish Recreation Survey run by SNH show that the number of Scottish adults visiting the outdoors for leisure or recreation at least once a week has gone up from 46% in 2009 to 48% in 2010.

Last year SNH launched its "Simple pleasures, easily found" campaign, which encourages people to enjoy nature close to where they live.

Richard Davison, responsible for SNH's people and landscapes programme, said: "This is great news. The reasons for the increase will be many and varied but we believe our work on encouraging more people to visit the outdoors and the excellent work being done by local authorities and many others is helping to inspire people to get outdoors. Even in towns and cities, people have great opportunities to explore green places near to home and enjoy good local path networks which is why it's important to look after them. Spending time outdoors is fun and very rewarding, and is a great way to improve your health for free."

SNH's 'Simple pleasures, easily found' campaign provides information to inspire people to get outdoors more often, with recommended routes round some of Scotland's towns and cities, and beyond. For these, and top tips for fun activities to do when you're out, go to www.snh.gov.uk/simplepleasures

Inchmurrin aims to be rhodo free in five years

The fight to tackle invasive species has opened a new front on Inchmurrin, at the south end of Loch Lomond, which it is hoped will be declared rhododendron free within five years.

One of the most virulent and widespread non-native plant species in Scotland, *Rhododendron ponticum*, poses a significant threat to habitats, the wildlife they sustain and to the regeneration of Scotland's forests.

Infesting about one third of Inchmurrin - a 115ha island, part of which holds SSSI designation - the rhododendron menace is a significant threat to the 75ha of ancient semi-natural woodland to be found there.

Dr Stephen Murphy, Forestry Commission Scotland's Rhododendron Project Officer, said:

"The presence of rhododendron on the island is really bad news because it poses a threat to the important Alder-Ash woodland, one of the best examples of slope alder woodland in the area.

"Previous control measures had met with some success but the only way to preserve the island's special habitats and forest is to completely clear it of rhododendron."

"With £80,000 of grant support from SRDP the owner will spend the next five years working to eradicate this problem plant and restore the island to a pristine condition."

A range of techniques will be used to tackle the rhododendron, including mechanical flail, hand pulling, cut, burn and stump treatment and foliar spray. Any regrowth will be sprayed.

Forestry Commission Scotland has worked closely with the owner, staff at Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park and at SNH, both to secure SRDP funding for the project and to draw up a project plan.

Dr Murphy added:

"Removing the rhododendron from the island will also mean that it cannot become a haven for plant diseases, such as *Phytophthora ramorum*, which have the potential to seriously impact upon Scotland's forests.

"This project illustrates that well-planned proposals, from land owners who are committed to tackling the rhododendron issue, can benefit from Scottish Government support."

For more information on the SRDP grant funding available (Rural Priorities Axis 2) visit

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/RuralPriorities/Options/Controlofinvasivenon-nati>

Or contact Steve Murphy, Argyll and Bute and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Rhododendron Project Officer, email: stephen.murphy@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

RangersCorner

THIS THING CALLED SPRING

Of the warmth we feel from an early sunrise
Teased by the light that permeates from cloudless skies
Of embracing Dawn's gleaming mists, extorting hue
In tantalising images of spiders' webs amidst the dew
Of vast fields of oil-seed rape creating a yellow haze
Swashbuckling in form, leaving us all in a daze
Of copious, towering clumps of daffodils
Easter holidays and endearing duck-race thrills
Of the triumphant beauty of the bluebell 'rise'
Extreme in number and ever-pleasing to the eye
There is a swagger to be found in this thing called Spring
Consistently boastful in manner as to what it can bring
As sweet as sugar, though, there is no more equal to be found
Than in the euphoric rhythm of the woodland bird sound
As each sight of flight and resonant voice
Exudes contentment, and an opportunity to rejoice
Despite being passengers in the never-ending fable
All of us should feel humbled to 'Sit at Nature's Table'
A majestic force beyond all belief
And with each new-born chick and budding leaf
Inspiration comes.



TracyRich

garden design • planting plans • construction tenders

01786 470243
tracyrichdesign.com

Letters to the Editor

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



Susie Davidson's comments in the last issue, regarding her daughter being ignored in a queue at the Co-op, certainly struck a chord with me, as I have been witness to several such instances in the past.

Our local supermarket is clearly a vital part of our community, and the staff within certainly cannot be faulted in any way through their continued exemplary service in the face of heavy demand. In fact, it could also be said it serves as a meeting place of sorts, where good conversation can be found ('gossip', if you like).

Despite this, it cannot be argued that a mild hysteria on the part of some customers is in evidence from time to time, if 'forced to wait in line', particularly in the early hours of opening, when people are racing to get to work. There is also an unhealthy 'jostling for position' on occasion, which can reach embarrassing levels.

There are, of course, very obvious and basic alternatives to these 'practices'. These come in the form of good manners, patience, and respect.

David Wilkie
25 BNJC



RAFTING DOWN THE FORTH RIVER

During a conversation over the phone with my old pal Joe Oliver (a retired Head Gamekeeper) the subject of 'cruising down the Forth' on makeshift rafts came up where Joe described his exploits from Aberfoyle village to the Rob Roy Hotel at Braeval. It reminded me of a similar adventure when Jackie Orr and I were about 14 years old. We built a crude raft with four five-gallon drums for flotation and launched it from the Forth Bridge at Aberfoyle when the river was well and truly in spate and just about to burst its banks and flood the fields and threaten the main street. The raft floated well enough and, with no steering other than a crude paddle made from a plank, we sped down river. But as we approached the first bend we saw water boiling. Not fancying the prospect of white-water rafting, as is done on the mighty Colorado River and the even mightier Frazer River in British Columbia, Jackie, with his stick, managed to steer the raft close to the bank. Just when the raft was docking nicely by the bank, in panic

I grabbed onto an overhanging branch – a very bad move – because the raft tipped backwards and we slid off the back into the river. So there we were fully dressed bobbing down beside the bank. Were we scared? Not at all! We were good swimmers and couldn't be greetin' knowing we could grab onto one of the numerous exposed roots of old trees and pull ourselves onto the bank, which we did after a dozen or so yards. In fact, our only disgust was that we ended up on the wrong side of the river and had to walk soaking wet all the way back to cross the bridge and back down through the village past the snickering villagers (my pal Joe being one of them). Perhaps this little reminiscence will horrify latter day mollycoddles. Suffice to say that, by today's standards, childhood living in the highlands was not for wimps. In reality, a highland childhood up to the 1950s was not a designer lifestyle or social engineering experiment but a well-rounded survival education on how to live with nature in the raw.

Cheers
Sandy Robertson

Aberfoyle Bowling Club

The Bowling Club opened for the season on Sunday, 1st May. Anyone interested in bowling can come along on a Monday at 6.30pm to 'Have a Try'. If you would like further information, contact Helen Campbell on 01877 382522.



Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service
Protecting the heart of Scotland



Fire Safety in the Countryside

Recreational fire hazards:

Camping, hiking, picnicking and using barbecues in the countryside can present fire hazards

Precautions to take in the countryside.

Never

- ... discard lit smoking materials
- ... light a fire in a wooded area or on peat soil
- ... leave hot embers or ashes unattended
- ... tackle a fire unless it is safe to do so



Recently local crews took 15 hours to extinguish a heathland fire in the surrounding areas of Loch Katrine. Please take care whilst enjoying the countryside.

Would You Like a **FREE** Home Safety Check?

Email: community.safety@centralscotlandfire.gov.uk



SKERRYVORE



Friday 17th June

8.00pm (doors open 7.30pm)

From Celtic Connections and T in the Park via St Andrews University for the Eve of Royal Wedding Ceilidh to...

Gartmore Village Hall

Skerryvore have gripped audiences worldwide from Chicago to Beijing with their traditional music and songs, fused with the urban sounds of rock and funk. Don't miss this great evening!

Tickets £12.50 available from Gartmore Village Shop
01877 382214

or online at www.wegotickets.co.uk

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult

The Hornet's Nest



Communication

Does anyone remember just exactly when The Computer took over our lives?

It is a worrying notion that, as the years go by, we are becoming more and more reliant on machines and gadgets to communicate.

As a first thought, how many of us can truly admit to getting through a complete day without checking our e-mails (a faceless ideal, it must be said, which is capable of creating behavioural mood-swings on the part of the recipients, depending on the content, or lack of)?

There is no question, the advancement of technology can be of immense benefit to certain sectors of the populace, particularly the housebound and disabled, and those in outlying locations. There remains a base fear, however, that the traditional art of conversation is in danger of being annulled, as a consequence.

It is an undeniable fact that we are fast approaching the point of becoming a colourless society, whereby it will be more preferable to stare hypnotically into a mobile phone and 'text' (with all its downsizing of the English language through abbreviations) rather than engage in direct speech. In addition, 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' could, in the large part, almost be described as covens for egotists.

Alarming, these forms of social networking are proving prone to misuse, and there are increasing cases of radical individuals being charged for unsavoury comments posted. Political and racial extremism is, sadly, well to the fore.

This would seem to suggest a fine line currently exists between freedom of speech and censorship. The problem being, that by the time the messages have been

'withdrawn', the damage has already been done.

The Internet has also proved itself time and again to be a vehicle for many forms of deviants, and companies all too eager to offer a scam to the unsuspecting public. On a slightly more bizarre level, I have also read of an instance whereby a Japanese lady was actually charged, and imprisoned, for killing her partner on a Virtual Reality game programme.

Whilst its availability clearly opens up a spectacular wealth of knowledge, I fear we are setting dangerous precedents by becoming over-dependent on what is on offer. As a 'for instance', it will almost certainly lead to widespread health problems, as we get lazier and lazier by choosing to shop online. As a result, advertising and distribution methods will eventually change beyond all recognition, as global concerns realise the opportunity now exists to close cost-effacing local retail outlets by way of introducing larger central warehouses.

In turn, this will reduce the need for skilled employees in favour of lower earning manual labour, who will probably be 'farmed' from outside the United Kingdom. This 'knock-on' effect will almost certainly then have a profound impact on small businesses and employment levels in rural areas.

I despair at the lack of forethought and willpower, in terms of our general clamour to acquire the latest communicative products, whatever the cost, which, if we are honest about it, are basically designed to increase our social standing.

'The Laptop Generation', for example, are in danger of becoming a secular breed, seemingly living in mortal fear that someone

would dare to avert his or her gaze from the screen by way of polite conversation.

The behavioural patterns of some mobile phone users (whose numbers, it would appear, now include everyone on the planet), also leaves a lot to be desired. As their chosen dialling tone rings, there is often a pause before answering, just enough time to make everyone in the vicinity aware of their importance; that someone is trying to reach them. This is generally followed by a striding out procedure and talking in a very loud voice, altogether woven by a peculiar and utter denial of their surroundings.

Immediately prior to this type of communication becoming widely available to the masses, companies actually employed individuals to frequent public places, and answer the phone on an ongoing basis. Of course, there was no one at the other end of the line: marketing at its best, or worst. I leave you to decide.

It is patently obvious that the mobile phone can be an extremely useful tool in the case of emergencies, but to most of us, it remains but a status symbol.

Another thing... how many of us, I wonder, now bother to take the time to write a letter, or send a postcard to friends, or loved ones?

In the recesses of my mind I recall a quintessential advertising campaign on television by British Telecom many years ago. Its simple, but very potent message was 'It's good to talk'. It remains to this day a defining phrase.

Perhaps it is time we got back to basics.

The Hornet.

Discover Loch Katrine



Enjoy the special experience of cruising Loch Katrine - the beautiful heart of The Trossachs. Now with special savings your favourite Loch Katrine experience is even better value!

20% DISCOUNT ON YOUR NEXT CRUISE

Present this voucher at Loch Katrine to receive 20% discount on all standard cruise fares. Choose from sailings on the steamship Sir Walter Scott or the cruiser Lady of the Lake. VALID UNTIL 31st OCTOBER 2011.

NOT VALID IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

• Family Cycle Hire • Shopping in Katrine Gifts • Snacks and meals in Katrine Café

Information & Reservations 01877 332000
www.lochkatrine.com

guyana

main street
aberfoyle

plants, art and crafts

unique range of arts and crafts from throughout the world.

extensive plant area for all your gardening needs.

open seven days 10 am to 6 pm

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





School News

Aberfoyle Primary and Nursery

Apologies

Sincere apologies for all the confusion I caused when I inadvertently submitted the March 2010 news for the last edition. Thank you to all the pupils who pointed out my mistake.
M.C.

Nursery News

Thank you to everyone who helped us to collect the plastic bottles to make our recycled bottle wall in the garden. The children really enjoyed the learning experience surrounding the building of this wall.
Next time you walk past the school please take time to look over the fence and enjoy the wall and all the plants in the nursery garden and the school playground.

Aberfoyle Primary School gives the village a spring clean

On Tuesday 10th May P4 & P7 took part in a village litter pick as part of the schools eco/health week. Litter pickers, black bags and volunteer work wear were kindly donated by waste services and the children took on the task of picking up litter with great vigour. After only an hour the children had collected almost 10 bags of rubbish from the streets of Aberfoyle.

Earlier in the day the P1 – 3 had also taken part in a school litter pick cleaning up the school grounds and the playing field opposite. The school is now looking spotless and we aim to keep it that way. Keep Aberfoyle clean, take your litter home and bin it!

Eco/health Week 9th-13th May

A long walk to the David Marshall Lodge, outdoor learning in the woods behind school, litter picking, rounders, gardening, making birdfeeders, yoga, junk modelling, a fun run and many more activities made this a hugely enjoyable and successful week in school. A big thank you to the staff and particularly to all the parents who put in a huge effort to support this week and help make it such an enjoyable and constructive week for the children.

The children particularly enjoyed being outdoors, despite the weather. A number of local residents have commented on how nice it was to see them out and about in the village and how well behaved they were. They also said that they had done a great job "litter picking." Well done everyone!



P6/7 Eco House Project

During the spring term P6/7 were invited to design and build a scale model of an eco house as a transition project with McLaren High School. The children were split into groups of 3 and were asked to draw a 2D drawing of an eco house and to think about the properties of an eco house. This design was then built into a 3D scale model using recyclable materials. The children gave the task their all and have designed some amazing houses which include geothermal energy, solar power, wind power and rain water harvesters, which parents can view at McLaren High school on the 18th May or feel free to visit the school to have a look and maybe even take away some ideas for the future.



Summer Fair

All Welcome at Aberfoyle School Summer Fair
Aberfoyle School's Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 4 June, 1-3pm at the school, rain or shine. The fair will feature a tearoom with fresh home baking, a raffle and tombola, table-top sales and lots of games for children of all ages. All are welcome at this community event-come along and get your face painted, win a prize and enjoy a fresh scone.
Organised by the Parent Council, the fair aims to raise money for educational class trips. Traders and members of the community are invited to take a stall for a small donation. To reserve a place, please contact the Parent Council on info@aberfoyleparents.org.uk

Jewellery Making Parties

Children/teens choose from a wide selection of beads etc to make several items of their choice
(No need for goody bags)

The Quietest & Best Party EVER
Tel: Julia 01877 387327
(Experienced teacher with Full Disclosure Scotland)

McLaren High

Senior Health Conference

On Tuesday 1 March S5 and S6 pupils participated in a Senior Health Conference in the school.

This consisted of groups moving round different talks on a variety of relevant issues concerning our health. These included Gamblers Anonymous, Healthy Eating, Internet Safety, Testicular and Cervical Cancer, and Psychology. It was an interesting morning, and time well spent. We were warned of the effects of gambling from members of Gamblers Anonymous, and this was painfully eerie, as the three men all started gambling with innocent bets but eventually were seriously addicted and in debt. We gained an understanding of the causes and different types of cancer which seems to affect everyone in some way or another. Then we were treated to some harrowing statistics in the internet safety talk which set everyone thinking, and the facts about 5 year olds having Facebook and mobiles left many stunned!

The day was very informative, broadening senior pupil's views on the issues, and would be useful for future pupils to attend in the coming years.

Kelsie McAlpine, Bethany Ross and William Vernon, all S6

Stock Market Challenge

A group of 5 S3 Business Management pupils participated in a Stock Market Challenge event in Edinburgh recently. During the event pupils had to work in teams through a week of simulated trading on the stock market, making decisions under pressure, taking calculated risks and experiencing the excitement of the trading floor. This opportunity gave the pupils an insight into career opportunities within the financial services sector and developed skills such as communication, problem-solving and working with others.

Our pupils prepared in the weeks leading up to the competition, by completing an online version of the Stock Market Challenge. On the day they competed against 25 other schools. All 5 pupils worked well together and should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Hungry for Success

The all new healthy eating reward scheme continues with 15 sets of 2 cinema tickets being awarded in a monthly draw. Cinema tickets were awarded in March to the following pupils:

Conor Alexander, Jack Barrett, Scott Dineley, Stephanie Irvine, Hannah Lane, Sabine Lang, Quintin Lyle, Luisa McWilliams, Euan Meikle, Phoebe Myles, Robyn Napier, Gregor Nixon, Samantha Ogilvie, Sophie Rees and Fiona Semple.

Congratulations to all and well done for making healthy choices when purchasing food in the cafeteria. At the end of the school year in June 2011 the 80 pupils in Stirling Council's high schools with the highest points will each receive an Amazon voucher to the value of £100. Pupils should register their lunch card at www.fresh-eating.co.uk

Tree planting at the Great Trossachs Forest, Loch Katrine

On Wednesday 2 March thirty pupils and two members of staff from McLaren High were fortunate enough to take part in tree planting on the side of Loch Katrine. The trees, once established, will become part of the largest forest in the country.

In addition to planting hundreds of native trees, the pupils took part in two workshops based on the local environment.

The pupils listened to a talk on deer management from one of the pupil's parents. The tree planting and workshops fitted in well with the school's aims within Curriculum for Excellence and a great day was had by all! Thanks to Forestry Commission Scotland, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Rangers, Grounds for Learning and all others who made this such a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

Here are some pupil's thoughts on the day:

On Wednesday 2 March 2011 a group of 30 of us went tree planting at Loch Katrine. The teachers we went with were Miss Wood and Mr Clark. When we got there we were split into two groups. McLaren planted the trees first and our pupils alone planted more than a hundred trees!

After that we had lunch and free hot chocolates, tea and coffee. Then McLaren went to the tepee with a bonfire.

After that we went and drew a picture that we could see through a grid facing the Loch. Using the nature around us we coloured our pictures in. Then we went to a lady who told us to collect water. We went in and out of the trees and at the end we threw the water to rehydrate the soil but some of us threw the water and soaked ourselves. Then we made objects out of bamboo.

By Elianna Pywell, Fiona Semple and Olivia Person, all S1



Forth Valley Schools Dance Competition

On Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 March many talented pupils from across the school took part in an annual dance competition which was held at the MacRobert Arts Centre in Stirling. Each year McLaren High School competes against other schools in the Forth Valley district. This year we were once again very successful when FTW, a group of 8 S6 pupils, took 3rd place in the large senior dance category. The dance was choreographed by Mairi McLellan S6 and was highly regarded. The school entered six dances and all dances were commended. A massive thank you to all those who participated in the event.

Rebecca Davis S6

Mufti Day — Comic Relief/DebRA

On Friday 18 March McLaren High School held a very successful event in aid of Comic Relief and DebRA. DebRA is the national charity working on behalf of people in the UK with the genetic skin blistering condition Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).

The day itself was a Mufti Day where pupils paid £1 to wear casual clothes to school, and the Charities Committee held a raffle with prizes ranging from a box of chocolates to a date with the Head Girl! During the day we raised £809.76 in total and this was divided equally between the two worthy charities.

Pictured receiving the cheque from the Charities Committee on behalf of DebRA are Jaye Hamilton, Regional Fundraising Manager for Scotland and Northern Ireland (far right), and Lorraine Alcorn, parent. Also pictured far left is teacher Mrs Cleary who works with and assists the Charities Committee.



Inter-House — March Event

Wednesday last week saw a very large number of pupils take part in the March Inter-House Competition.

Girls Football, Boys Rugby, Cross Country and Sudoku were the activities offered and as usual there was a strong competitive nature displayed throughout them all.

In the Girls Football Bracklinn pipped Leny into being outright winners but this was certainly not through any lack of effort from the Leny girls. It was Leny who won the senior contest, but Bracklinn came through well in the other age groups ensuring them overall victory.

With so many boys in school playing rugby, the standard of these seven-a-side games was particularly high. Not surprisingly the overall result was also extremely close. The senior event was won by Leny, but one of the best competitions was in S3 where Dochart finished as overall winners. Despite the wet and muddy conditions, all teams produced some excellent handling particularly Gregor Black from Leny, who seemed to be involved in every play. In the end, Dochart had the pace and produced a couple of good tries from Hamish Innes and Oliver Wesley to seal victory.

The cross-country route this year saw the runners complete a circuitous route on the bank of the River Teith. While much of it was flat there was one good hill and this, along with the underfoot conditions contributed in sorting out the places. The senior races were won by Callum MacDougal and Morvyn Menzies. Allison Smith had a fantastic run to snatch the S4 girl's race but in the boy's competition, Kyle Petrie romped home almost a lap ahead of his nearest rival. In the only indoor activity, sudoku, Leny demonstrated their numerical prowess narrowly edging Dochart into second place with Bracklinn third.

Moving toward the final event of the session, the scores are extremely close with Bracklinn on 446 points, Dochart 434 and Leny 428. With so few points between the houses it means that the overall winners will be decided at the School Sports!



The Garden in June

What a fantastic spell of weather we had in April – I'm sure we are all hoping that that wasn't summer! All the work you did in the garden then should be paying off over the next few months.

The last frosts must surely now be behind us so it's safe to put out all the tender annuals that you've been keeping under cover. Whether in the borders or in containers make sure they're well watered in. Hanging baskets too can be put in position if they have filled out sufficiently; if the liner is still a bit too obvious keep them undercover a while longer.

In the ornamental garden it's time to prune spring-flowering shrubs such as Philadelphus and Deutzia; if you leave it till later in the year you risk losing next year's flowers. Remove suckers from roses. Take a look at any variegated-leaved shrubs and prune out any shoots that have reverted to plain green. Perennials will be growing rapidly and hopefully putting on a great show; help the taller ones to look at their best by using canes or other forms of support – on a large scale letting them grow through netting is very effective. Then when the flowers are fading, dead-head to prevent energy being wasted on seed formation. Climbing plants may also need to be tied in and extra support wires put up for those that don't self-cling like clematis and honeysuckle.

When mowing the lawn the height of cut should now be down to the minimum you want for the year, and if you haven't done so already apply a granular feed/weed.

The vegetable plot is where there should be the most action over early summer, far too much to list everything here, with everything from sowing to harvesting to be done.

In general keep the vegetable beds well weeded, and the more developed the crops are ensure they get adequate water, particularly the potatoes and especially if you are growing in containers; lack of water reduces the crop and increases the potential for diseases.

Keep earthing up potatoes, plant out all the veg you've started in pots and sow salad crops little and often. When you're planting your tomatoes plant deeply enough to cover the stems up to the bottom leaves which will encourage more roots to develop; except for the bush varieties such as Tumbling Tom, keep pinching out the side shoots. Water very regularly especially when the fruits start to grow as irregular watering leads to splitting of the fruit.

Spur fruiting fruit trees should be summer-pruned now to maintain the shape of the tree, pruning back to a pair of leaves above the spur. When fruits are developing do not be afraid to thin out the crop; leaving all the fruit on runs the risk of either breaking the branches and/or ending up with loads of fruit that are too small. And put up netting to stop the birds stealing your crop.

Watch out for mildew on currants and gooseberries and when you've finished harvesting, prune the bushes to maximize air-flow through them.

Orchids: With the frosts over, now is the time to put any Cymbidiums outside for the summer. Place them out of the full sun and in July keep them completely dry; this should encourage flower spikes to be produced rather than just new leaves.

Bird care: Keep feeding the birds to encourage them into the garden; you may spend a bit on bird food but they'll repay you by eating plenty of unwanted bugs and beasts.

Whatever you do in the garden, make the most of the long evenings and take time to appreciate your work when it's done.

Benview Garden Centre
Ward Toll
Balfon Station G63 0QY
Tel: 01360 850525
www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk
info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk
Opening hours: Mon – Sat: 9.00-5.00
Sunday: 10.00-5.00



ARDSTOVE

Open Fire & Stove Installers
Chimney Sweeping

David Monaghan
01877 387 205

mob. 07732 266231

e-mail: dmonaghan998@btinternet.com

HETAS APPROVED



ChillOut YOGA

...the heart of Scotland

Every Tuesday & Friday 9.30 – 11am

David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle £6pp

Every Thursday 10 – 11am

BlackBull, Gartmore £5pp

Every Wednesday 7 – 8.30 pm

Renagour, Milton, Aberfoyle £6pp

Saturdays 10 – 11am

not every week..Please check dates!

David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle £5pp

everyone welcome...

You don't need to be able to touch your toes
to enjoy the benefits of yoga....

it reduces stress, improves fitness and flexibility,
helps relieve back-ache, headaches and other
aches... basically, it helps you feel good!

Brenda's classes are fun and down-to-earth,
you're welcome to drop in as and when you can.

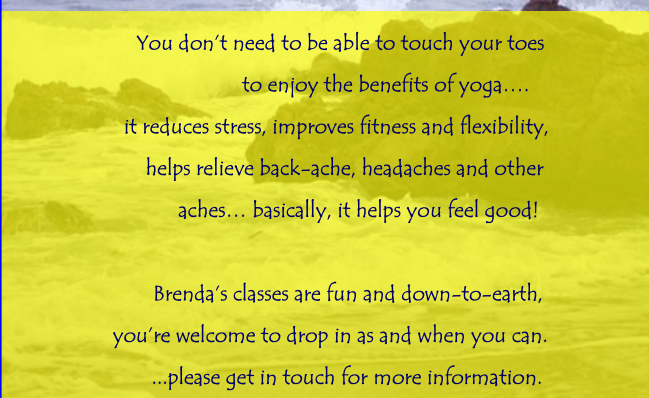
...please get in touch for more information.

www.chilloutyoga.co.uk

01877 389302

07791 385240

welcome@chilloutyoga.co.uk





Young Carers are children and young people aged 7 to 18yrs who care for a parent, sibling or other relative who can't manage without their help. The family member may have;

- a long term / terminal illness,
- physical or sensory impairment,
- mental ill health,
- addiction to alcohol or drugs
- learning disability

What does a Young Carer do?

Young Carers provide emotional support, intimate caring, additional child care, general caring, and domestic chores. These incredible children assume a level of responsibility usually expected of an adult.

The Government cannot provide all the support services that often we might need and sometimes children and young people can naturally assume these caring roles out of their love for the family member. Because of their responsibilities to others, Young Carers often miss out on the educational, vocational and leisure opportunities their peers take for granted. Stirling Young Carers try to minimise the impact of the children and teenagers' caring role, help them with any problems they might have, introduce them to others in the same position. We can help by offering Young Carers

- free short breaks and days out,
- groups – a place to chill out and have fun,
- individual support if its needed,
- advice, advocacy
- workforce training.

Is this you or someone you know?

Want to know more? Contact us:

Stirling Carers Centre

Tel: 01786 447003

Email: youngcarers@stirlingcarers.co.uk



Milton

Hello Children,

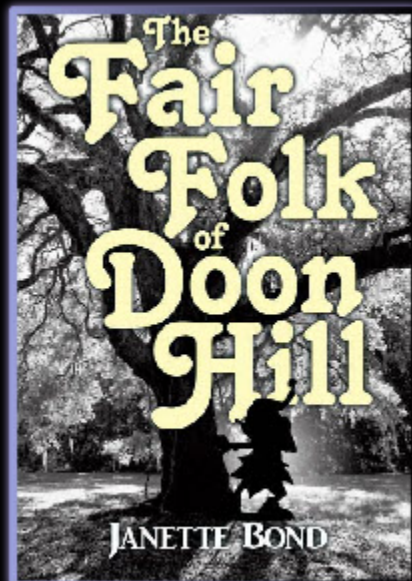
What excitement in Strathard. First of all we had fire engines, ambulances, assorted smaller vehicles and a helicopter, racing to Glengyle to put out a massive grass fire on the hillside. The family living in the Dhu of Glengyle had to be evacuated for safety, in case their house caught fire. Then, a few days later, an air-ambulance was scrambled to fly to Forest Hills, one of their guests having been taken ill. However, it all ended well, the fire was put out, the hotel guest did not need to go to hospital and was able to continue his holiday at Loch Ard.

The day had started quite quietly, Grandpa Otter taking the family on a butterfly watching expedition to Loch Katrine. We had made our way up one of the water board's aqueducts, arriving at Royal Cottage to see great plumes of smoke billowing towards Stronachlachar. The twins thought that a volcano must have erupted! Dad suggested that we swim over to the Black Isle, to get a much better view of the blaze. After a long dry spell the loch had dropped quite a lot, which is probably the reason that the water board would not let the helicopter scoop up water to put out the flames. Luckily they changed their mind before the fire reached the houses of Stronie.

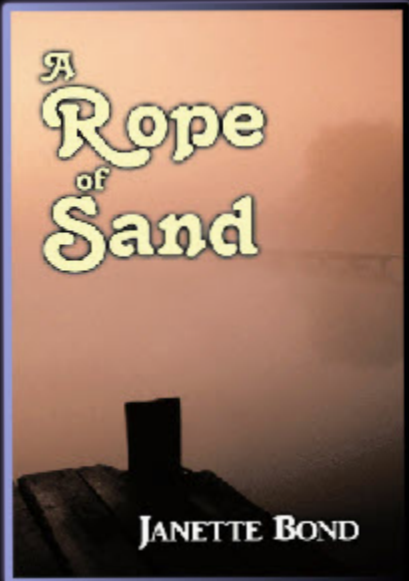
Even the thrill of an inferno loses its impact and soon Katrine and Duke began to notice white butterflies flitting amongst the flowers, searching out sweet, nutritious nectar to feed on. This, if you remember, was the reason for coming to Loch Katrine in the first place. There are several species of white butterflies, all looking rather ghostlike, now you see them – now you don't. The first pair were identified by Grandpa Otter as Green-veined White, never attacking domestic cabbages and quite harmless if they come into your garden. It will be the caterpillars of Large White and Small White butterflies that will happily munch through your garden brassica plants.

Next stop was the Portnellan graveyard and now the butterfly hunt was really on. Before long we had found a Mountain Ringlet, quite small and brown, with tiny black dots on orange wing flashes. This is truly a creature of the Scottish Highlands. Dad told us to watch carefully. Each time the sun disappeared behind a cloud, the Mountain Ringlet simply vanished, as if by magic, to re-appear as soon as the sun returned. Braeval, not to be outdone, discovered a Peacock butterfly as it checked out a stand of half-grown nettles. These large, beautifully marked butterflies always lay their eggs on stinging nettles. Look out for the large, psychedelic spot on each of the four wings, remarkably similar to the larger version displayed on the tail feathers of a real peacock. By this time the hillside opposite had been blackened to the skyline, the sun was dropping behind the Arrochar Alps and our visit to Loch Katrine was coming to an end. That had been a lot of excitement for one day.

Bye for now,
Milton.



Hamish and his clan must protect their secrets against Rev. Robert Kirk.



Meet Zander and his crew of goblins and their encounter with the Earl of Menteith.

A mix of legend and historical evidence are captured in these novels.
Available from Aberfoyle Post Office and Gartmore Village Shop.



GO COUNTRY OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS WATERPARK SEASON ON THE 1ST OF APRIL AND IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE SOME EXCITING NEW FEATURES, INCLUDING A NEW CLIMBING FRAME AND GIANT MULTI PERSON ROLLER.

**AS WELL AS ALL OUR EXISTING EQUIPMENT
WE HAVE INSTALLED A SATURN ROCKER.
CAN YOU BE THE LAST TO SURVIVE IT?**

COME ALONG.....YOU'LL BE THRILLED YOU DID!

Tel: 01877 387750 Mob: 07833 466373 www.gocountry.co.uk
Go Country, Foresthills Watersport Centre, Kinlochard, FK8 3TL

Church News

From the Manse.....

Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church



I believe I have a fairly positive view of humanity, but sometimes this is challenged. One Sunday afternoon in May, I was standing outside the Woollen Centre clutching a Christian Aid collecting tin, hoping people would drop in pound coins, perhaps even the odd £5 note. A two hour stint of this is nothing, I told myself, looking forward to the gin and tonic and Sunday papers awaiting my return home.

I had donned the ring of confidence - my clerical collar. Surely, I thought, a dog collar gives a smidgin of authority as I collect for Christian Aid. "Aw, what did you do to your neck, hen?" asked one lady solicitously.

She was the exception. She actually spoke to me and put in a generous donation. Most people coming up the path seemed to have their eyes raised heavenward, inspecting the flashings and rainwater goods on the roof above me. It was very good of them, I thought, to care so much about the fabric of the building in these straitened times.

Rather than the ring of confidence, I felt I must be wearing Harry Potter's cloak of invisibility, so I decided I would greet everyone with a friendly "Good afternoon". It must have sounded a little menacing because people gave me a funny look. I always think a bright smile never goes amiss, so I then gave everyone my very best of smiles. It too seemed to make people nervous. One lady even pulled her handbag closer to her, as if I were a prospective mugger.

Of course, some people did put in money, including one or two children, encouraged by their mother saying, "Go and give that to the nice lady", (nice lady, moi?), but on the whole it was a depressing time. As someone who cannot walk past anyone collecting without putting something in the tin, I was sure everyone else would be the same. Almost everyone who did give, gave, they said, because they knew what it was like to collect for charity.

It wasn't the amount given that mattered - after all if everyone put in just a little loose change ... My expectations lowered from pound coins to pennies. In shame I must admit that my whole identity was now so tied up with my collecting tin, I would have welcomed a button.

It was, it must be said, a long afternoon, and there is a limit to the number of times one can listen to Highland Cathedral sung Eurovision style. And did I hear pan pipes playing the Black Isle? I heard several different languages too, and within them noted how universal is the word "whisky". Thoughts of a G&T faded from my plans and I decided I would have decent Islay malt when I eventually got home. I deserved it, I thought.

As I write, it is still Christian Aid week and my thoughts are with those who stand hopefully with their collecting tin. I wondered how many of them thought like me that they would rather just put in a cheque and save themselves time, trouble and cynicism.

I was lucky. The very thoughtful and gracious lady who is our Christian Aid Co-Ordinator, Mrs Jean Sykes, kindly took over from me before my shift ended. I left thinking, is it the word "Christian" that puts people off, especially younger people? Are people embarrassed because they really cannot afford to give much? Or, are we now consumers even in charity: we want to see people make fools of themselves or give pop concerts before we give? Instead of my dog collar, should I have worn a red nose, done handstands, and offered my own, special, rendition of Ye Banks and Braes? I don't know, but all credit to those (mainly hard-up and very elderly pensioners) who did give of what little they may have.

In spite of everything I met some lovely people during the afternoon, even some I knew from Campbeltown thirty years ago. I had collected some money for Christian Aid, and received an invitation to apply for a vacant parish in Glasgow! But what a strange, disconcerting afternoon it was. I was glad it was over.

And the Islay malt? It is sad to report that the yearned for bottle of Lagavulin was empty - drained, I remembered now, by a recent visitor. Oh well, they do say charity begins at home.

Linda

Sunday Service is in the Parish Church, Lochard Road, Aberfoyle every Sunday at 11.15am and at Port of Menteith Church at 10.00am. Everyone will be made most welcome.

St Mary's Episcopal Church

Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's

Fame at last!

A remarkable phenomenon has occurred today: Aberfoyle has been mentioned on national radio! Was this perhaps the announcement of a forthcoming Royal visit to formally open the new community petrol pumps? Alas no: Aberfoyle was mentioned only in the dismal context of the road traffic news to warn motorists that yet again the road between Ward Toll and Ballat crossroads will be closed with consequent long diversion and possible congestion.

How often then has the name of Aberfoyle been spread throughout the land? In the world of church hymn music at least, the village has one claim to fame. The Revd Clifford Davies OBE RN, the Rector of St Mary's between 1966 and 1978, and no mean musician, composed a hymn tune which he named 'Aberfoyle'. Although appearing in one or two Anglican hymn books, it has yet to be voted into the top ten of the BBC's 'Songs of Praise'.

'The Railway Magazine' has been in print continuously for over a century as the authoritative voice of the railway industry. In September 1951, its correspondent, one M.D. Greville, came to the village to describe the railway for its readers. Did he have 'insider' information to come quickly and write before it was too late? The railway was to close the following month. Nothing specific is said about this, and yet the article hints darkly that 'trains from Glasgow on the Aberfoyle line run on weekdays only and are now less frequent than before the second world war'; that 'traffic to Aberfoyle is light' and that Gartmore Station had recently been closed. The author describes Aberfoyle station platform as 'being of considerable length and the layout includes a runround for engine release. The goods yard and engine shed adjoin the passenger station. Of that miserable Highland clachan to which Sir Walter Scott brought Baillie Nicol Jarvie and Frank Osbaldistone for their meeting with the redoubtable Rob Roy, little or nothing remains and Aberfoyle is now a bright and clean holiday resort standing on historic ground where the Highlands and Lowlands meet'.

In 1951, memories of coaches, especially the horse drawn stage coaches that plied for tourist trade at the station would still have been relatively fresh. The article explains the reason for their provision 'Not long after the opening of the line, the North British Railway began to advertise this as a route to the Trossachs, in competition with the Caledonian Railway's route via Callander. This route never achieved the popularity of its rival, which had the advantage of passing Loch Vennacher and Brig O' Turk and largely following the course described in the opening stanzas of 'The Lady of the Lake'.

The article is complete with a photograph of a small locomotive standing on the turntable outside the engine shed. The site of this turntable is of course still identifiable, but little else remains. I am most grateful to John Clow for the loan of this information. Just before the outbreak of the Second World War a reporter from the BBC took up residence at the Baillie Nicol Jarvie Hotel and interviewed a number of local people. The resulting programme was broadcast nationally: more anon perhaps.



Flower Festival

at
Aberfoyle Parish Church

Friday 3rd June 12 noon - 4.30 pm
Saturday 4th June 10.30 am - 4.30 pm
Sunday 5th June 12.30 - 4.30 pm

Entry by donation

Tea/Coffee & Home baking	£2.50
Light Lunches including Home baking	£5.00
Strawberry Teas	£2.50



CRAFTS AND HOMEBAKING FOR SALE

Scottish deer consultation begins today

A public consultation begins today (11 May) on a new code for deer management in Scotland.

Anyone with an interest in deer management is being encouraged to give feedback on the Code of Practice on Deer Management, developed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The purpose of the code is to help all land managers and land owners, whether in the Central Belt or the Highlands of Scotland, to manage deer sustainably. The code supports the current voluntary approach to deer management. The consultation runs until 1 July.

Andrew Thin, SNH chairman, said:

"Wild deer are an important part of Scotland's ecology, economy and culture. Deer are managed in certain parts of Scotland to protect crops, trees and protected natural areas, as well as to reduce road accidents. Deer stalking also provides a valuable source of income to many fragile rural economies throughout Scotland. Balancing these different objectives presents a real challenge."

The code provides guidance on how to manage deer sustainably and outlines the main environmental, economic and social actions associated with deer management. The code also sets out when SNH may intervene in deer management for the public interest.

SNH has developed the code with input from a range of organisations and people involved in land management. The code arises from the Wildlife and Natural Environment (WANE) (Scotland) Act, which was passed by the Scottish Parliament earlier this year.

Alastair MacGugan, SNH's wildlife management manager, said:

"I'd encourage anyone involved in managing deer to look at the code and let us know their thoughts. This guidance will help all of us to manage Scotland's deer sustainably in a cooperative way – so it's important we get input from all those involved to develop a workable and clear code."

For more information and to respond to the consultation see www.snh.gov.uk/land-and-sea/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/code-of-deer-management. Hard copies of the consultation can be supplied by contacting Scottish Natural Heritage, Deer Code Consultation, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW.



Aberfoyle and Gartmore Running Group

Meeting every Tuesday at 7pm
All abilities welcome from beginner to experience.

If interested call Angela on
01877 382632 or email
aberfoylerrunninggroup@live.co.uk

Durashield Windows

01877 389 389

Why choose DURASHIELD WINDOWS
to install your pvcu windows and doors

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

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

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

www.durashield-windows.co.uk



**Trossachs
Treks**



**Guided Walks
off the Beaten Track**

Arthur Jones
01877 382 682

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

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



Refugee Week 2011 20th – 26th June

Refugee Week is celebrated across the UK each year and aims to get rid of the negative stereotypes and misconceptions about refugees. A number of events are held nationwide to help educate people and break down some of the barriers and discrimination that refugees face. There will be several events going on around Stirling so please look out for the publicity, which will be available shortly.

Running alongside Refugee Week is the Simple Acts campaign. This campaign is being used to encourage people to do one small act to help change the negative perceptions of refugees. It could be something like – cooking a dish from another country or watching a movie about refugees and is a great way to get all ages involved and learning about Refugees.

If you want to find out more about Refugee Week and the Simple Acts campaign please check out their websites, www.refugeeweek.org.uk or www.refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts.

You can also follow them on Twitter or Facebook at twitter.com/RefugeeWeek and www.facebook.com/RefugeeWeek.

If you would like to find out more about what is going on in Stirling please send an e-mail to proctork@stirling.gov.uk.



Armed Forces Day

On Saturday 18th June 2011, Bridge of Allan will be playing host to the annual Armed Forces Day parade and military show. This also marks the Homecoming of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders from Afghanistan.

Serving personnel, veterans and cadets are invited to gather outside the Old Bridge Inn (close to Bridge of Allan Railway Station) from 11.15am for the parade to commence at 11.40am. The parade and bands will march to Strathallan Games Park - where those less able can join in before entering the arena for inspection of the troops at 12.30pm.

The Stirling Military Show, which is free entry, starts after the parade and provides an afternoon of entertainment for all the family – there's a tug-of-war, mock battle, watch the Police dog display team, the Quack Commandoes and lots more. There will be bouncy slides for the little ones, a climbing wall and inflatable assault course too. There will be a variety of stalls selling arts & crafts and lots of good food will also be on sale.



Provost Fergus Wood said that "Stirling enjoys a unique relationship with the Armed Services, and this is a great opportunity to meet our young service men and women, celebrate the contribution they make, and have a great fun day out."

Please note that parking at the Park will cost £1.

On Thursday 16th June at 7.30pm, two authors will visit Bridge of Allan library and will be speaking of their experiences. Tom Renouf was in the Black Watch and saw service at the battle of Normandy, the liberation of Holland and the battle of the Bulge. Alistair Urquhart wrote The Forgotten Highlander, an incredible story of his survival as a Japanese POW.

Finally, a thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday 19th June, at 11am, in the Church of the Holy Rude. A warm welcome is extended to all serving armed forces, veterans and families.

Aberfoyle



**Satellite
Company**

**Aerial & Satellite
Installation & Repair Service**

**Multi-point Home Solutions
Sky installations
Digital upgrade surveys**



FREE ESTIMATES & ADVICE

mob. 0787 590 6767

Joe Kennedy A.M.F.A.

Keep it local!

Alastair Wilson

Joinery Services

Fully Insured
Free Estimates

All Joinery work, including:

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

Tel: 01877 382 807

9 Baillie Nicol Jarvie Court, Aberfoyle



McLaren Rugby Football Club

Match Report

Strathclyde Police RFC 10 McLaren RFC 31

McLaren RFC clinched the SRU West League Division 2 on Saturday after a tense and challenging encounter against Strathclyde Police at Lochinch in Glasgow. McLaren went into the match knowing they needed to win by 16 points or gain any bonus point win to take the title from Paisley, a success that looked improbable after 3 consecutive defeats at the start of the season.

The McLaren team had a familiar line up, with experience in Gregor Harvey and Chris Crichton providing experience alongside Blair Craig in the front row. From the kick off it was clear that the Police would prove a greater challenge than the recent comfortable victory McLaren achieved in Dunblane. Early phases saw McLaren attempt to move the ball quickly and vary the attack, but any opportunity for a clean break was closed out quickly by the Police, or broke down by unforced errors on McLaren's part. This allowed an experienced Police team to settle into the game, and raised the voices of the already well spirited visiting Paisley team, hoping for an upset. This spurred the Police on and they capitalised on a defensive error to touch down and take the lead with an unconverted try.

McLaren regrouped and with the experience of half backs Ross and Scott Drummond they managed to steady things, clear lines and settle into a more structured pattern; this allowed centres Robin More and Fraser Graham to get their hands on the ball and threaten the Police backs. This opened the opportunity for McLaren's try of the day: Fraser Graham, getting the ball deep inside his own half broke right and used his pace to round 3 defenders, cutting in under the posts, much to the delight of the travelling support, with Ross Drummond converting. However instead of capitalising on the try McLaren once again found themselves struggling for continuity, an opening for wing Martin Fisher saw the final pass forced and knocked on much to the wing's frustration. Shortly after, opposite wing Jamie Robertson was caught just offside, catching a Dave Millar clearance. Things just got worse as the Police crossed the line to nudge into the lead once again. Heading towards half time McLaren were working themselves steadily into the game with Adam More and Andrew Drummond winning ball in the back row; coupled with captain Callum Dykes the scrum was steadied and opportunities were starting to emerge. Chances saw Ross Drummond and Dave Millar come close, however it was left to Scott Drummond to create a gap from 30 metres and dive in under the posts. Ross Drummond converted to take McLaren in 14 -10 up at half time.

Half time allowed coach Kris Burney to bring the team together and target the two tries which were now essential. The second half started on the right note with Fraser Graham squeezing over after McLaren gained clean ball. The conversion established a 21-10. The feeling on the touch line was that surely now McLaren would take a grip on the game and move clear, however the Police were once again resolute and competing for every ball.

As the second half continued McLaren rang the changes from the bench, losing the presence of vital second row Graeme Robertson to an injury, they steadily gained the ascendancy, Blair Craig breaking well and Scott Drummond forcing the game from stand off. The game was now deep into the second half and McLaren were still short of the vital try, with nerves on the touchline very frayed. However the full McLaren side chased and harried, knowing time was running out. A scrum five metres out saw a real opportunity, and with a good solid scrum, Ross Drummond reached for the line but was just short. McLaren were not to be denied and it was Ross again who made it across the line from a short break on the next attack, much to the relief of the travelling support. With Ross converting and following up with a subsequent penalty, McLaren saw the game out winning 31-10 and taking their first title since 2003.

After being clapped off by both the Police and Paisley, it was left to Callum Dykes to receive the trophy, followed by champagne and celebrations on the bus trip back to the Waverley Hotel in Callander.

Team: Millar, Robertson, Graham, More, Fisher, S Drummond, R Drummond, Crichton, Craig, Harvey, Budge, Robertson, Dykes, More, A Drummond. Subs: Cameron, Barnes, Creevy, Buchannan, Campbell, Barnes, Burnett.



Jacob Barnes and Adam More closing down the Police late in the game.



Ross Drummond rises from scoring the League winning try.



Callum Dykes receives the West 2 Trophy from Bill McMurtrie from the SRU

Not here.....but near!

DARK INTO LIGHT

16 April - 5 June 2011

Selection of works by ART UNLIMITED

The latest exhibition at the Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum by Art Unlimited has set out to be one of hopefulness and optimism after the dark and difficult days of this past winter, hence the title.

The group has been exhibiting together since 1997 and the artists themselves come from as far afield as Crieff and Perth, and from the Stirling area to Kirkcaldy: their artwork is as varied as their locations and draw from many sources such as literature, including poetry; gardening; the seashore; memories; music; and architecture, as well as life events, good or bad. In other words, anything and everything can be drawn on to provide inspiration quite apart from the visual world all around us.

The artists, as a group, are dedicated to learning new skills and techniques, exploring new horizons through workshops and visiting interesting exhibitions wherever they happen to be, and bringing back new ideas to share with the rest of the group.

The artwork on show will be a mixture of oils, acrylics, watercolours and mixed media as well as ceramics and will be for sale at very reasonable prices.

Admission, parking and gardens are free.

Open 10.30am-5pm Tuesday to Saturday and 2-5pm on Sundays.

Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum
Dumbarton Road

Stirling FK8 2RQ

Tel: 01786 471917

www.smithartgallery.demon.co.uk

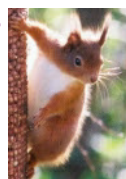


Balquhiddar Summer Music

is in its 26th year of providing classical music concerts in Balquhiddar Kirk on summer Sunday evenings. In 2011 there are five concerts, the first on 10th July and the fifth on 7th August, all at 7pm. A good line-up of musicians has been arranged.

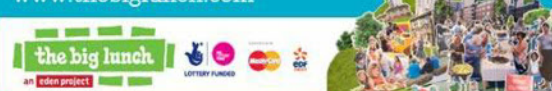
Details are on the website,

www.balquhiddersummermusic.org.uk, which includes the concert programmes and pictures of some of the participants. Tickets cost £8 (concessions £7), and season tickets £30. Do come to this long-running concert series which has built up a reputation for high-quality music by young professional players and singers. For more details, call Alan Clarke, 01877 384 338.



A one day get-together for neighbours Sunday 5th June 2011

www.thebiglunch.com



The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project and receives funding from the Big Lottery. The aim is to get as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to have lunch with their neighbours for a few hours of community, friendship and fun. This year's event will take place on Sunday 5th June and a record number of people are expected to take part. Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities and the best part of a million people have taken part each year.

A Big Lunch can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in a garden or on the street, to a full blown party with food, music and decoration.

We have done our homework and know from our research that The Big Lunch actually delivers what it sets out to do. An incredible 97% of people who attended Big Lunches over the last two years tell us that they now regularly keep in touch with neighbours. New relationships have been cemented and new local social groups have formed, and all because of one Big Lunch on a summer Sunday.

In real terms this can mean increasing awareness of your work and other initiatives in your area and helping to recruit volunteers and people passionate about their community. Successful outcomes from Big Lunches so far have seen people setting up local groups, skill swapping, car sharing and organising events.

To get a free Big Lunch Organiser's Pack people can register an event at www.thebiglunch.com. The pack includes leaflets, posters, balloons and all that you need to start planning an event this summer.

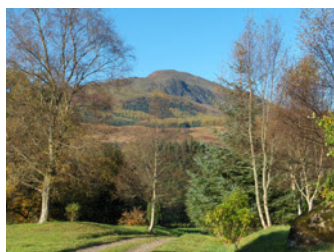
You can have a chat with me about the Big Lunch by calling 0141 242 1512 or 07703 189049. Alternatively you can send me an email at steve.williams@thebiglunch.com. I have materials ready which I can send to you to promote The Big Lunch in your area.

Thanks in advance and hope to hear from you soon.
Steve Williams

Rotary Club of Callander and West Perthshire

Ben Ledi Ascent

Saturday 4th June 2011



Enjoy climbing Ben Ledi whilst raising funds for any good cause.

Examples are:

- charities such as Help for Heroes or CHAS;
- local charity i.e. Young Explorers Scotland
- local needs, e.g. football club or youth group
- your school funds or a school charity

Pick up your Entry and Sponsorship forms from
CCW (Caledonian Country Wear) 79 Main Street, Callander
or e-mail richard.a.cooper@btinternet.com



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.

Gartmore's "Roaring 20s" Gala Day June 11th

Starts 12.30 with crowning of Gala Queen in Village Square followed by fancy dress parade to the Football pitch.

"Speakeasy", Bouncy Castles,
tea tent, Kids Races, Dog Show
and lots more ...

Massage Movement

Aberfoyle-based Practitioner Mobile Service available

Expert massage therapist with over 20 years experience

Fiona Campbell Dip. T.M

Tel: 01877 382 603 Mob: 07706 932630

InformComm

IT Training and Consultancy
www.informcomm.co.uk

Training

Windows
MS Office and Open Office

Services

Web design
Virus removal
Hardware and software installed and upgraded
Wired and wireless networks
Home multimedia
Photo restoration

Free Software

Office Automation (Open Office)
Email
Anti Virus

01877 387737
info@informcomm.co.uk

R&C LUKE



01324 625624

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



Deadline Dates

Issue 59 - 20 June
Issue 60 - 15 Aug
Issue 61 - 26 Sept
Issue 62 - 14 Nov (xmas)
Issue 63 - 23 Jan 14
Issue 64 - 20 March 14
Issue 65 - 15 May 14*
Issue 66 - 17 July 14*
Issue 67 - 28 August 14*
Issue 68 - 25 September 14*
Issue 69 - 20 Nov 14 (Xmas)*
*may be subject to change

IMPORTANT

Information For Advertisers

When you place an advert with the Strathard News we will continue to run it unless you tell us to stop or replace it.

To place/cancel an advert contact

Ian Marshall on 01877 382211
advertising@strathardnews.com

For design / alter an advert contact

Marion Back on 01475 560300
newsdesk@strathardnews.com

Forth Inn Events Diary

14th May: Karaoke Fun Starts 9pm

29th May: Pub Quiz in the Wallace Bar. Free Entry with Prizes!!

11th June: Karaoke Starts 9pm

26th June: Pub Quiz in the Wallace Bar. Free Entry with Prizes!!

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

Car Boot Sale

at BEN VIEW GARDEN CENTRE
Near Aberfoyle

Every fortnight. Starts Sunday 8th March

8am - 1pm. £10 per pitch. 1st come 1st served. Restrictions: No Food or Drink, No Garden Produce or Tools, Enquiries tel: 07909937622

COMMITTEE & CONTACTS

Editor: Margaret Neufeld

01877 386258

editor@strathardnews.com

Treasurer: Gwenda Naylor

01877 386244

treasurer@strathardnews.com

Advertising: Ian Marshall

01877 382211

advertising@strathardnews.com

Layout: Marion Back

01877 386222

newsdesk@strathardnews.com

Reporters:

David Wilkie

01877 382868

reporter@strathardnews.com

Fiona Campbell

01877 382603

Bridget MacPherson

01877 382564

Distribution: Arthur Jones

01877 382682

Printers:

more_bespoke print management solutions

5 Eagle Street,

Craighall Business Park,

Glasgow G4 9XA

Tel: 0141 354 7910

tellme@aboutmore.co.uk

www.aboutmore.co.uk

Webmaster: Colin Stewart

InformComm Ltd.

01877 387737

cstewart@informcomm.co.uk

GREAT
GIFT IDEA!

Strathard News Subscription

Never miss an issue!

Why not have the newsletter delivered to you for the next year for only £12.

If you wish to take out an annual subscription please complete the information below. The completed form should be posted to The Editor, Strathard News, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid FK8 3TU along with a cheque for £12 made payable to Strathard News. Alternatively, hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Sign: _____

Tel No: _____ Date: _____

Your subscription will start with Issue 66.

tv Village



Call our friendly team now on

01877 382173

Monday - Friday 9am-5pm

TV Village are the authorised distributor for Cello Electronics. Our staff have vast experience in the electronics industry going back over 30 years and we have been selling Cello products successfully online for many years.

Cello Electronics manufacture LCD TVs in the UK under their own brand as well as other brands such as Neon, Marks and Spencer, Soundwave. One of the leading lights in innovation, Cello were one of the first manufacturers to introduce built in DVDs into their TVs as well as the iPod TV and now the iViewer web streaming TV, where you are now able to stream BBC iPlayer, YouTube and Skyplayer to your Cello iViewer TV.

Because of our close relationship with Cello we can offer our clients the best prices possible and a totally peace of mind guarantee. The Cello after sales service is widely recognised as the best in the business.

TV Village stock the entire range of Cello TV's and accessories at unbeatable prices. So, whether you want super slim LED, Full HD 1080P, 15", 55", black or pink then we have it all and much more besides.

Cello LED TVs

**16" to 55" Digital
Freeview integrated
DVD and HD**

Made in the UK

**One for One 3 Year
guarantee available**



**TV Village, Main St, Aberfoyle
Tel 01877 382173, www.tv-village.net
Open 9 to 5 Mon- Frid, 10 to 4 Sat**

**"19" LCD Built in
DVD/Freeview HD Ready
Only £119.99"**