

STRATHARD NEWS

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Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid

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End of an Era

When Bill Pollok finishes his last surgery later this month it will bring to a close 35 years of unbroken service to the communities of Aberfoyle, Buchlyvie and the surrounding villages. Since his arrival in the area as a young GP he has steered the practice through a host of changes and developments while always holding firm to the concept of patient centred care. When I joined him as a partner in 1989 he told me that in his opinion, this was "The Perfect Practice". I know that he still feels the same and when he hangs up his stethoscope for the last time it will be with very mixed emotions.

Although we will be saying a reluctant farewell to Dr P things will still feel familiar at the medical centres. Hamish Maclaren will move from his current role as salaried partner to becoming a full partner. Dr Shionagh Morrison will be joining us as his replacement in August.

I know that Bill feels he is leaving the practice in safe hands and all of the staff are committed to maintaining the high standards he has set. As patients your response to the news of his retirement has been overwhelming and heart warming. I know that you will wish to join all of us here in wishing him a long, happy and well deserved retirement.



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Registrar

It is with much sadness that I write of the loss to the area of two very well known and well liked members of our communities. Cathy Watt who lived all her life in her beloved Gartmore, and Ann Epps who came to live in Aberfoyle many years ago, settling as if she'd always been here. Both will be remembered and sorely missed by so many people, and we would like to offer our condolences to their families and friends.



Other than a few days (remarkable for their rarity, perhaps) summer hasn't brought a great deal in the way of sunshine. Maybe expectant mums are holding off for better weather, as there have been no babies registered since the last issue.

However the lack of sun hasn't deterred people from being married and there have been several weddings recently.

Among these have been David Brodie and Sandra Griggs who were married on the windiest day of the year, with me only *just* managing to get home from Forest Hills afterwards; Colin Morrison and Karen Smith who were also married at Forest Hills; Paul Bowes who married Alison Zimmer at Altskeith; and Derek Toms and Pauline Barnshaw who, with their daughter Jasmine, held a beautiful ceremony at The Lake Hotel.

As well as getting out and about to these, I have also been busy in the Marriage Room at the registry office. Choosing to be married here were Stuart Walters and Kirstie Pressland from York; Mark Parsons and Nicola Lee who unusually were married here at the end of their holiday before travelling home; and John Fraser and Linda Marshall from Dumfries.

To my delight, there has also been a 'local' wedding at the registry office, with Roslyn Nunn returning to Aberfoyle to marry Luke Little from Australia. That wasn't the only 'local' wedding, as Claire McNeill from Kinlochard and fiancé David O'Brien were married at our beautiful Parish Church; a popular choice also made by John Allen marrying Ursula Heidecker; and Robert Barclay when he wed Gemma Donald.

Well it is to be hoped that the weather will vastly improve in the coming weeks, although it can be almost be guaranteed to rain throughout the next week, as I head off to the seaside. The office will continue to open as usual in that time with Assistant Registrar, John Boyle-Hannah, available to you. He and I continue to look forward to assisting you in any way we can. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am until 12noon. 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

Police Business



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

PACT Priorities July - September 2011

- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour within the National Park.
- Speeding and indiscriminate parking.
- Targetting the dealers. Targetting the misuse of drugs and the dealers, working with locals to get drugs off the streets.

Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

13th, July 2011

On 2 July, following closing time, a sign outside the Forth Inn, Aberfoyle, was damaged. The individual responsible for this act has been traced by police and dealt with accordingly.

Over the course of the summer, we should expect an increase in the number of visitors to our community, and it is imperative that the community's reputation of being warm and welcoming is not only maintained, but enhanced. The responsibility for this falls on us all.

Anyone witness to antisocial behaviour should report it to the local police. This helps police identify times and areas where antisocial behaviour occurs, allowing it to be tackled head on, and stopping a problem before it has a chance to take hold and damage the community.

Damage to Van Tyres

13th, July 2011

Overnight between 25 and 26 June, two tyres were slashed on a van parked in the Riverside car park in Aberfoyle. The male to whom this van belongs has become a repeat victim; his van having been targeted in a similar manner three times in the past six months to the cost of several hundred pounds.

It is clear from the repeated targeting of this van that the culprit either resides locally or spends a considerable deal of time in our community. It is important that the community stands together to help trace the individual responsible for this act, as no one should be made to live in the fear of being a repeat victim of crime.

Anyone with information regarding this matter is encouraged to inform the local police at Aberfoyle or Callander, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Prevention of Fuel Oil Theft

27th, June 2011

The difficult economic times of late have led to a rise in the instances of thefts of domestic fuel oil, including in our area. One of the most common problems with fuel oil tanks is that they are very difficult to secure against intrusion, often having only a screw cap on top. Different companies have developed alarm systems to help combat the rise in thefts. Functions include real-time online logs, accessible all over the world via the internet, and real-time links to staffed alarm centres. More information is available online by conducting an internet search for "fuel oil tank alarm".

Of course, other wide ranging measures can be taken to improve the security of tanks and property as a whole. These include motion activated security lights and domestic CCTV systems.

Not only may measures such as these help detect criminals responsible for violating your property, they may prevent you from becoming a victim of crime altogether.

Theft from Aberfoyle Delicatessen

17th, June 2011

Overnight between Sunday 12 June and Monday 13 June 2011, a small, decorative hanging basket was stolen from outside the Aberfoyle Delicatessen. This is the second senseless theft from this shop within a short period of time.

Despite what might seem a trivial matter, thefts of this nature are simply an unnecessary nuisance to local business owners, who contribute to the ethos of the village and who contribute to the local economy.

Moreover, needless acts like these may have an unintentionally adverse effect on the economically beneficial tourist season, as it may lead to businesses ceasing to embellish the outside of their premises.

It is important that we all work together to eradicate these petty crimes and ensure that Aberfoyle remains a pleasant and enjoyable place to visit and in which to live.

As always, anyone with information of those responsible should contact the local police.

Attempted Theft at David Marshall Lodge

6th, June 2011

On Saturday 4 June, an attempt was made to break into a car that was parked in the car park at the David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle, with a view to stealing a handbag that had been left in full view on the back seat. Fortunately on this occasion, access was not gained to the car and nothing was stolen. However, the driver's side windows were left shattered.

The incident happened between 1645 and 1930. Anyone in the area between those times who may have seen or heard anything suspicious around a blue Mercedes saloon should contact local police.

The incident should also serve as a reminder to all of the importance of keeping valuables out of sight. If the items cannot be taken with you, ensure that they are not left in full view within the car

Reporting suspicious activity

31st, May 2011

Between Wednesday 25th and Friday 27th May, the Scottish Wool Centre at Aberfoyle was subject to shoplifting to the tune of several hundreds of pounds worth of whisky.

The summer season is now upon us and we can expect a greatly increased population over the coming months. With so many people meandering in the village and the wider area, it becomes all the easier for those intent on committing crime to do so and then disappear into the crowd.

It is important, therefore, that, as a community, we stand together and remain on our guard to report any suspicious activity we see in our villages. Police can be contacted at Aberfoyle or Callander via 01786 456000 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

THE APPRENTICE: YOU'RE HIRED

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**Contact: Margaret on 01877 386258
editor@strathardnews.com**

System Tool Warning

Several people have contacted me recently having been affected by System Tool. This piece of malicious software (malware) reports that it has found many unsuspected infections by viruses and trojans on your computer, but can be 'fixed' by buying the program. The bad news is that you HAVE been attacked. The good news is that probably the only issue is this program itself and that the cure involves only a couple of changes to the system and registry, though the snag is finding them. I have heard of people being told that the system has to be restored to its "as-new" state with the consequential loss of programs and files such as photos and other documents, and paying several times more than is needed. This is NOT necessary, however it does need some specialist knowledge and care to solve the problem but should take only about an hour's work.



So, how did the system come to be infected and why did the anti-virus software not detect it?

The most likely cause has been that a legitimate advert was hacked and the System Tool offered to unsuspecting readers of the advert. As we install more and more software on our systems these days, updates can become an almost daily task and it's all too easy for a rogue to slip by. Unfortunately this type of infection, though totally undesirable, is a legitimate program, in format at least, as far as the system is concerned, which is why it is not alerted.

Increasingly, it is problems like this, and spy ware in general, that is more likely to cause annoyance and slow the system rather than destroying a system completely like some viruses. An anti-virus program alone therefore is not enough these days - your protection should address malware as a whole. Finally, always show a degree of caution, and ensure, when asked to make changes to your system, that you consciously initiated the change.

Doug Ashworth
Ashworth Computing Services

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ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL

A big thank you to everyone who responded to our appeal in the last issue. We have managed to find a new 100 Club Treasurer, Julie Glen and Chairperson, Andrea Khan as well as committee members Diane Fraser, Rab & Tracey Burns and Alison Graham. Janet Stewart remains as Treasurer and Marie Wardrope as Secretary.



We also received offers of help from the Ballie Nicol Jarvie Masonic Lodge, Dance Connection and Iain Glen. Linda from Hillside kindly sorted out some of our tubs and Guyana gave us a discount on compost and plants for the large window box at the front of the hall. Aberfoyle Post Office continues to assist us with the running of the 100 Club. Emma Ferguson, Kerry Clow and all the hall user groups also promised help if we could not find committee members. We would still be grateful for any help with small repairs and maintenance, painting, gardening, deep cleaning etc. We also need new members of our £100 club as numbers have dropped considerably (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"). Thank you to all our loyal 100 Club Members.

Any help is very much appreciated.
Contact Name Janet Stewart 382736

Brownies

CAN YOU HELP?

1st Aberfoyle Brownies desperately need a new leader if they are to continue to run. The pack currently has 16 enthusiastic 7-10 year olds, who meet weekly during term time. If you are interested in volunteering, please phone 01877 382268 for more information.

Many thanks,
Jane Dunlop



TOWN BREAK STIRLING GROUP VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Town Break Stirling Group is a small local charity which specialises in providing quality support for people with early/moderate stage dementia and their carers which is provided by trained volunteers. During the next few months we are visiting a number of different towns and villages throughout Stirling District promoting our services and recruiting new volunteers for the ever increasing number of people who are being referred to our services.

Our next promotional trip is out to Drymen on Thursday 28th July, where we will be out distributing leaflets and posters. We need your help to promote our rural Day Club and Befriending services so if you can display a poster, or want to know more about our services and how to refer to then please call Julie on 01786 447787 or visit our website www.townbreakstirling.com. We are also looking for volunteers to help us over the summer with our awareness raising events.

Further information will be released throughout the summer about the places we will be visiting. Please contact me for more information if you wish.

Julie Christie, Development Co-ordinator
17 Munro Road, Springkerse Industrial Estate
STIRLING FK7 7UU

Tel: 01786 447787

E mail: befriendingserv@aol.com

Website: www.townbreakstirling.com



New Zealand FEAST COMES TO KINLOCHARD

Kinlochard Hall is the venue once again for the annual Hangi (Maori Feast) organised on Sunday, 27th August by the New Zealand Society (Scotland). A pit is dug, stones are heated and placed in the hole



then the meat - pork, beef, lamb, venison and chickens - and vegetables including sweet potatoes are placed in the pit which is then sealed. The food is slow cooked for five hours and then served in a buffet, which includes trays of Pavlova, the NZ national dessert. Following the feast there will be a family ceilidh dance with the Kinlochard Ceilidh Band. A party of Fijian soldiers and their families will be attending; they have a similar tradition to the Maori Hangi. Locals are most welcome to the Hangi. Tickets (for the meal and the dance) are: adults £20 and children (under 12) £5. The party starts around 2pm. Bring your own booze. Tickets are available from Fergus Wood, Ledard Farm, Kinlochard tel: 01877 387219.

Guild Sale

The Annual Guild Sale will be held in Church House on Saturday, 20th August at 2.00pm. There will be all the usual stalls including teas with home baking. Entry, which includes tea, is £2.00 (adult) and £1 (children). Please come along and give The Guild your support.

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A Mountain Biking Future for the Trossachs

Mountain Biking visitors to Scotland spend £119M per year and the market is set to grow by 30% over the next five years. Yet if you look at maps of the mountain biking centres and trails across Scotland, Aberfoyle, Callander and the Trossachs are not mentioned. (There is a reference to Callander in the most recent VisitScotland report, but this is actually a mistaken reference to Callendar Estate, Falkirk)

Are we underselling ourselves? The number and variety of trails in the area offers something for everyone: easy family trails in Loch Ard forest with the attractions of the Lochan Sping Sculpture Trail; steeper trails over the Duke's Pass requiring a level of fitness with the reward of swooping down to Loch Drunkie and Loch Vennachar; tough and technical single tracks on the steep hill immediately behind Aberfoyle which are unsigned but much appreciated by those who discover them. And Aberfoyle has the advantage over the other main centres in having the trails radiating out from the village centre so visitors have all the amenities they need.

The 7 Stanes trails in the South of Scotland see 400,000 visitors each year for mountain biking, with 80% of these coming from outwith the area and 25% staying overnight – imagine the economic impact if the Trossachs were on the mountain biking map as well!

And it's not just the economic impact that is appealing. Mountain biking encourages young people to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle. It provides social interaction and an opportunity to develop skills which helps with self-confidence and self-esteem. It provides pathways to competition and employment. And it's fun!

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) rates Scotland as a "Global Superstar". We're all familiar with the roadies who pour into Aberfoyle every weekend in glowing lycra, but there is a massive opportunity in encouraging the knobbly-tyre brigade.

A good start would be to produce a map of the bike trails that exist. In other places I've seen people being a bit secretive about the best trails but we need to shout about how good ours are. It would also help start the dialogue about how bikers and walkers (and horses, dogs, etc) can all happily co-exist – detailing, for example, where to be aware that different users are likely.

I'm fairly new to the area but I think it's a brilliant biking area. Not enough people know just how good.

Sandy Slater

www.wildbikingscotland.com

07717-217898

Craigview, Main Street, Aberfoyle, FK8 3UN



Public urged to take a short walk on a long trail

A big push to encourage more people to use Scotland's long distance routes was launched near Peterhead on 17 June by Stewart Stevenson, local MSP and Minister for the Environment.

For the first time, the best of Scotland's long distance paths are being promoted as a suite of trails, known as Scotland's Great Trails. Stretching from the Borders to the Highlands, the 20 trails provide 1300 miles of scenic, high quality paths around the country.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is behind the initiative to inspire more people to use the routes for short as well as long trips, helping promote them as a great way to discover more of Scotland by foot, bike and horseback.

To help people make more of Scotland's Great Trails, SNH and VisitScotland have produced a handy guide featuring short trips on all 20 long distance routes. Ian Jardine, SNH chief executive said: "There is something for everyone in these trails. You can follow rivers from their source to the sea. You can immerse yourself in history, travel along old transport routes and find peace and quiet in wild, rugged landscapes. You can even get a blast of sea air on one of the coastal trails. Many are suitable for cycling or horse riding as well. And of course you don't have to do the whole route."

"We hope the guide will encourage people to explore trails close to where they live, and enjoy some of our finest countryside as well as the sights, sounds and smells along the way. Most also offer regular opportunities for refreshments and have interesting places to visit."

For more information about events on the trails over the next few months go to www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/where-to-go/routes-to-explore/scotlands-great-trails/

Shona Anderson, Aberdeen City & Shire Regional Director at VisitScotland, added: "Getting out and about and enjoying this country's magnificent scenery plays a key part in the year of Active Scotland. Our Surprise Yourself campaign highlights many of the fascinating things that Scotland has to offer and this guide is a brilliant way of showcasing our great outdoors."

Information on each of Scotland's Great Trails is available from the Scottish Natural Heritage, VisitScotland and Walkhighlands websites. For a free copy of the guide ring SNH publications on 01738 458530 or email pubs@snh.gov.uk

List of Scotland's Great Trails - for a map showing the location of the trails www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B795990.pdf

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Rob Roy Mini Highland Games, Kinlochard

The forecast for Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July was gales and heavy persistent rain. Oh no! For the first time in the 7 years that Kinlochard has had an annual fun day, 2011 was going to be the year of the washout and not a tent left standing.

It was not to be, for others the torrential downpours, the flash floods and general unpleasantness. Kinlochard survived with a couple of short showers, a number of sunny spells and a pleasant storm free day all round. This enabled the crowds to appreciate the spectacle which this year included demonstrations from Trossachs Search and Rescue Dogs, Veritas Vincit held the crowds with two battle re-enactments, young and old participated in Heavy Events, and races including the Giant Sack Race.

Main highlight was being able to show off the newly refurbished hall to faithful supporters and new visitors

Thanks to all for their generosity over the years which has made the new hall a reality.

The fundraising element was most welcome to complete the financials of the capital project.

A great day out followed by a rousing Ceilidh in the new hall

Thanks to all who organised, donated and helped on the day.

Photos courtesy of *Acer Photography*



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National Park News

By Owen McKee

Are the new bylaws for East Loch Lomond working and are they causing displacement to other parts of the Park? The early signs on East Lomond are very favourable indeed. There is evidence that more family groups are returning to that part of the Park but whether this is because of the bylaws or whether it is because of the improved facilities that have been put in place as part of the bylaw strategy it is too early to say. The displacement position is also being closely monitored. The partnership of Police and Rangers working on Operation Ironworks will be keeping a close eye on the situation with surveys being conducted throughout the season. Operation Ironworks does pay particular attention to the unruly, the destructive and the antisocial element of our visitors. As part of my role and to see just how the Rangers go about their task I arranged to go on a trip around the Loch Lomond Islands. As has been the situation all too frequently this summer, it was a wet and windy day with the inevitable consequence that there was a complete absence of visitors to the islands. Nonetheless the evidence of the marauding morons was everywhere to be seen: wanton destruction of trees, human waste and litter. We all know that education programmes take a long time to become effective but getting the message across to some elements in our society does seem a fruitless task. If anyone knows how to speed up the process - without resorting to the extermination of the culprits - please do let me know.

The Five Lochs Project is progressing well with favourable responses from the communities and the landowners. In particular good progress is being made on the priority project at Loch Lubnaig. The main land owner is being very supportive and plans are being drawn up for the landscaping for informal camping and car parking. At this stage everything is working towards a successful start to the necessary work late this year with the real prospect of facilities being in place for the start of the season next year. Initial meetings have also taken place with the landowners at Loch Earn and again the reactions are favourable.

Last week we had another meeting of the Local Review Body on a case that is of particular interest to the Strathard area. The case in question was the siting of a mobile Snack Bar in Main Street Aberfoyle. Having examined the case the Review Body decided to uphold the officer's decision to refuse the application.

The Park Authority held its June meeting in the impressive new Kinlochard Village Hall. We were given a presentation by the Provost who highlighted not only the community effort at Kinlochard but also the tremendous achievement by the communities in taking over the Aberfoyle Garage: a truly remarkable community effort. Well done Strathard.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post; Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead,
FK19 8PR
Phone: 01567 830214

Play Safe This Summer

Youngsters and parents are being reminded to play safe around rivers, reservoirs and lochs as schools across Scotland begin their summer holidays.

Peter Farrer, Scottish Water's Customer Service Delivery



Scottish Water
Always serving Scotland

Director is concerned people might take unnecessary risks around water during the summer holidays if the weather improves.

He said: "While it's important that youngsters enjoy their school holidays and that people across Scotland take pleasure in the country's beautiful lochs, rivers and reservoirs, it is also vital that they stay safe.

"We don't want to spoil anyone's fun, but we are reminding parents to keep their children safe, and asking adults to act responsibly around watercourses."

That message is being reiterated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

Peter Cornall, head of leisure safety at RoSPA, said: "In previous years, the number of accidental drownings inland has peaked during hot spells. We want people to be out and about enjoying the summery weather and ideally swimming at properly-supervised sites, such as the local swimming pool."

Be aware of hidden dangers

Reservoirs are man-made features and because of their purpose, they have a number of unique hidden dangers. These relate mainly to built structures such as dams, spillways (overflows) and water intakes (underwater pipe work that takes water out of the reservoir) and the effects of these. For your own safety you should keep away from such man made structures.

Other hidden dangers found at reservoirs include deep cold water (even on a hot day), underwater plant life and steep banks. For these reasons and in the interests of health and safety, Scottish Water does not encourage swimming or diving in any of our reservoirs.

Mr Cornall added: "If people choose not to go to a supervised site, then we urge them to think through the risks of swimming in rivers, reservoirs and lochs before taking the plunge and to make sure they know what to do if something goes wrong. We encourage parents and carers to discuss such dangers and to remind children that they should never swim alone at unsupervised locations.

"Among the hazards to consider are that, even on a hot day, water might be a lot colder than you were expecting and there may be strong currents and underwater debris that you cannot see from the bank. Consider how you are going to get out of the water once you are in it, be honest about your swimming ability and remember that alcohol and swimming never mix."

Keep kids safe

Children are among those most at risk in such accidents. It is vital parents explain the dangers to their children. Adults themselves should set a good example. Even strong swimmers could be fooled by waters which may be colder than they look.

Mr Farrer added: "Natural hazards can also lurk beneath the surface, where children can get entangled in vegetation or stuck in mud. The majority of reservoirs are remote and so there is a lack of immediate assistance. Safety education is a priority - please play safe this summer."

Protect your pets

During the summer holidays people are also more likely to seek exercise, both for themselves and their family pet. They are more likely to visit such sites during warm, sunny conditions.

One of the biggest concerns with dog owners is when their pet dives in, chasing a ball or stick. While the pet more often escapes unharmed during such incidents, the owners, who have attempted to save them, often experience difficulties.

Dogs need to be kept on a lead if they are being walked near reservoirs and other bodies of open water. If customers would like more information they can contact our Customer Helpline on 0845 601 8855 or www.scottishwater.co.uk/takecare.

Community Council



Roads

Our campaign to press Stirling Council to get more work done on the B829 starting at Milton has produced some firm results. Starting in September (no dates available yet) resurfacing costing £150,000 will be taking place at Milton and at two sections on Loch Ard, with Council plans for the year from April 2012 showing more work totalling a similar value at other locations. Exact dates and maps will be publicised by email and on noticeboards once these are received, since this work will of course require significant road closures on the B829. Our thanks to all who have helped progress the improvements by complaining to the Council or in other ways, back to the time of a first meeting with Stirling Council Roads staff on a very chilly night in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall this January, and with a special mention due to Kenny and Archie for their recent assistance. Please do continue to report potholes and make complaints about the poor state of the B829 and C68 though, as there are still more sections that need work done!

Strathard Community Action Plan

Working with our colleagues in Strathard Community Trust two community actions plans were produced with the help of the National Park, most recently the 2008-2011 plan (available on our website or in Aberfoyle PO). This contained local improvement priorities split into six themes, each with various related action points:

- Roads and Traffic
- Community Facilities and Activities
- Improving the Quality of the Built Environment
- Visitors, Tourism & Hospitality
- Improving Local Services
- Local Housing Needs

The plan has helped to guide much of the improvement work and campaigning by the Community Council and Community Trust achieved over past years, including major initiatives like the Trust's playpark, the garage buyout, the community planters and benches and the ongoing pressure to improve roads. For items that remain to be actioned there is generally a strategy to move these forward wherever possible, and some are being actively worked upon at present.

- Have new priorities for the Strathard area arisen since 2008 that are not included in that plan?
- Do we need to add more action points to our list?

Do let us know what you think please. You can contact the Community Council by email/phone or by calling into Aberfoyle PO and talking to our secretary Ros Dingwall, or talk to Ian Marshall, the Strathard Community Trust chairman on 382211.

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

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard and Inversnaid/Stronachlachar. The next meetings will be held in Kinlochard on 4th August and on 1 September (venue tbc). 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

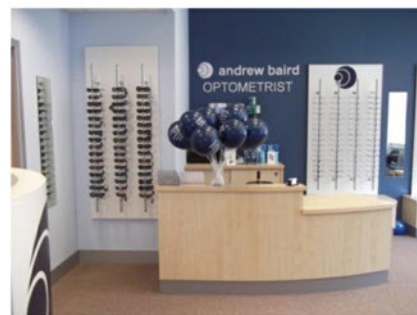
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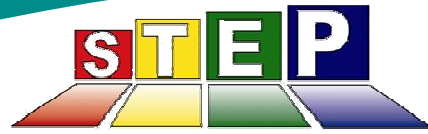
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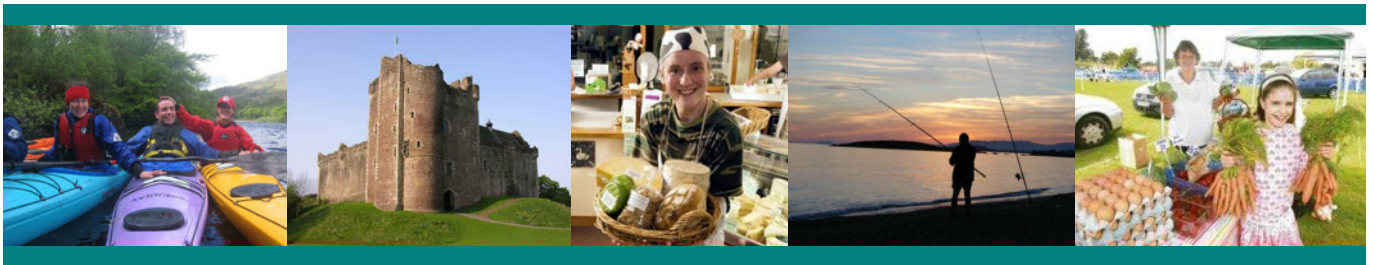


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- ✓ **Need a development grant of up to £10,000?**
- ✓ **Able to deliver community benefit through your project?**

For more information and to discuss your idea, please contact Sandy Slater, Rural Business Adviser at Stirling Enterprise (STEP) on:
Email: sslater@stirling-enterprise.co.uk or Tel: 01786 463 416

Full details will also be available on the Stirling Enterprise website
www.stirling-enterprise.co.uk



This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Forth Valley & Lomond Leader 2007 - 2013 programme



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see insert



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The Aberfoyle Osprey Project

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

So near yet so far!

As many of you may already know the Aberfoyle osprey nest has failed for the third year in a row. This came as great disappointment to everyone at the David Marshall Lodge as the female left the nest just a day (29th May) before the eggs were due to hatch!

The reasons for the female, who was new to the nest this year and totally unringed leaving the nest is not known but we believe that it has something to do with the week of high winds and rain that we suffered in May. This doesn't mean that the osprey nest hasn't seen any activity over the last few weeks though! Since then we have seen last year's male osprey, green DX, return to the nest along with last year's female, Red 6A, who hadn't been seen since last August. This pair seems to have taken on the nest but due to the lateness of the season there is no chance of them breeding this year!

Only set of Barn Owls Chicks Ringed!

Even though we don't have any osprey chicks there are still plenty of birds that have successfully raised chicks this year. One of these is the Barn Owl that we had a camera on, meaning we were able to watch every moment from her laying her eggs to the chicks making their first flights from the box. This year though these chicks were extra special: they were the only Barn Owl chicks that have been successful in Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. It is believed that many of the Barn Owls were effected by the harsh winter.

As part of the BTO ringing scheme a special ring was attached to their legs so that we can keep any eye on where they end up next year and we will know how old they are and where they came from.



So what else is there to see?

While the ospreys may not be around as much as they would have been if they had raised chicks we are still seeing them land the nest. We have also had a swallow camera put in and currently we have 3 large chicks that will be departing from us soon, but we are hoping that the female may lay a second brood! Also we still have a camera on Red Squirrels and a hide a short distance from the David Marshall Lodge.

Cameras are now also starting to go in for the Autumn/Winter period with Bat Cam being looked at along with a few more ideas! So why not pop in and see how the creatures of the forest are getting on?

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

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on 07922 949306



Inversnaid Reserve



We have just about recovered from our (very) pre-dawn starts to count the black grouse on the reserve and are now settling into the summer management programme. It's good to know that our early starts were for a good reason as it wasn't only our grouse numbers that were up: the number of pied flycatcher nests also increased this year from six in 2010 to nine in 2011. The numbers of fledglings also increased slightly from 36 to 39. It may not seem like a huge increase but after a couple of years



Pied Flycatcher female

of dropping numbers and low productivity a move in a positive direction is very much welcomed.

We did also put some nest boxes up on the Garrison side of the reserve earlier in the year and already a couple of birds have

taken up residence: three great tits to be exact. Again this may not seem like a lot to get excited about but, as any of you who have tried to introduce a new nest box or feeder to your garden know, it can quite often take the birds a long time to get used to something new so we are pretty positive about what we might find in them next year. So, in the meantime we will get on with that summer management programme of vegetation clearance and infrastructure maintenance (or, in plain English, cutting back the grass and bracken along the nature trail and treating all of the benches across the reserve – it makes us feel better if we give it a technical name!).

We will also be out and about at various events in the area over the summer including the Callander Highland Games so feel free to come and say hi if you happen to be passing.

If you don't make it to any of those events, try and enjoy the sunshine when we get it and try and enjoy the birds in your garden.

Allison Leonard
Forth and Loch Lomond Reserves, Warden

Black Bull Gartmore



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Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!



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

THE DREAM LIVES ON

In quieter moments, I try to imagine what was going through David Marshall's mind when considering the concept of a facility which could provide refuge for those seeking the benefits of our natural environment.

I often wonder what he would think about the way the Lodge has turned out. Would he be impressed, or would he be disappointed? Would he change anything?

It frustrates me that I was born in a different era, unable to meet him personally and have the opportunity to discuss face to face his sense of idealism and visionary instincts.

His legacy remains, however, and the Lodge continues to be a Theatre of Dreams to many people in the face of countless attempts to alter its profile.

It is not for me to speculate on what the future holds for this most magnificent of institutions within our midst. Rather, for now, I would seek to laud its timeless ability to attract and play host to a fascinating variety of groups and individuals looking to 'exploit' the wide range of options and facilities it has to offer.

In order to quantify this The Lodge greeted, over a short weekend in early June, a party from Lithuania, a two-day seminar from Capability Scotland, and the Helensburgh Classic Car Rally Association. Although diverse in nature to the extreme, each was privileged to a full complement of services.

The high profile Friday visit of the Lithuanian group, which included a number of National Park directors, was part of a week-long study tour programme to gather an in-depth knowledge of how Ranger services are set up and how they function within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park.

On the final day, David Robertson, Visitor Centre Manager for the Commission, gave a lecture examining aspects of visitor interaction, visitor information and education. Senior Forest Ranger, Charlie Stewart, was also on hand to escort them on a field trip to the local slate quarries.

Over Saturday and Sunday, Helen MacGregor, Keith Ames, and Ruth Moody, on behalf of Capability Scotland, booked the Exhibition Wing for a training week-end, organised specifically to prepare those willing to undertake the ultimate challenge of scaling Britain's highest peak, Ben Nevis, in August of this year. Aside from the expectant crucial funding, the event was also designed to raise awareness of and break down the barriers that prevent disabled people exploring and enjoying Scotland's beautiful landscapes.

The whistle-stop appearance by the Helensburgh and District Classic Car Rally Association on the Sunday morning also proved to be a more than welcome alternative attraction.

There is no denying the weight of expectation in terms of the intense level of enquiries for bookings and events, presents a number of challenges. I feel that we can overcome anything that comes our way, not least because we appear to be continually served by 'an extra member of staff' in the shape of The Lodge itself, which has enjoyed undiminished appeal for several generations.

It is my fervent hope however, that any aspirations to change the Lodge in future are compatible with Mr. Marshall's dream. Not something to be taken lightly.



Picture courtesy of David Cowan

WILD ABOUT THE FOREST

There was a healthy turnout for this very special occurrence, despite the threat of scattered showers. Robert Fraser-Binns, our super-confident Wildlife and Information Officer, once again excelled in his dual role as organiser and ambassador. This was His day, and he is deserving of every credit due to his accomplished handling of the proceedings, whereby a marvellous time was had by all, judging by the feedback from the visitors.

The event, structured as part of the International Year of Forests programme, was designed to offer an opportunity to learn about the wide and varied, species which inhabit the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park.

A full complement of DML staff were on board to provide assistance to the wonderful array of organisations and learned individuals who pledged their support. Their efforts cannot be commended enough, particularly as a high percentage appeared on a voluntary basis.

The stunning forest landscape as seen through the north-facing windows of the Exhibition Wing almost certainly enhanced the occasion, providing the perfect backdrop to the wealth of interpretation boards on display.

In attendance were Sue Morris, extolling the virtues of the massive Great Trossachs Forest Project; Fraser Lamont, RSPB ranger stationed at Inversnaid; and Grant O'Donnell, local Wildlife Crime Officer, who sidled up in the car park area with his impressive 'Green Machine'.

Alex Hodge, from the Butterfly Conservation Trust, was also on hand, ably supported by Nick Cooke and Arthur and Jane Jones, who remain heavily involved in recording moth sightings in the area.

James Silvey and Anna-Marie Dennis were available to explain the huge progress being made in the Trossachs Water Vole Project, whilst Lewis Pate offered not only two guided walks to the increasingly popular Red Squirrel Hide, but a chance for children to piece together a giant jigsaw puzzle of this most beautiful of creatures.

RSPB volunteers, Nicola Kerr and David Erskine, came along to keep everyone up to date on the Aberfoyle Osprey Project, and the whole team was ably supported by the presence of our very own Anne Gilchrist, David Cowan and Sylvi Aspden, the Forestry Commission's recently appointed Project Manager. Their duties included manning the Bat Conservation stand, and overseeing the craft activities, to which they applied admirable enthusiasm.

In summing up the occasion, there is no doubt it proved to be a resounding success, with over a third of the visitors taking part.

It was also a day when we were reminded of the unique appeal of The David Marshall Lodge, whereby many like-minded individuals came together to facilitate a very special happening, creating in the process an atmosphere worthy of its esteemed traditions.





The Lithuanian ensemble, captured during their sojourn to The Trossachs, at the entrance to the Forest Drive. Picture courtesy of Charlie Stewart.



Robert, together with one of the many Duke of Edinburgh Award groups who visit the Lodge.



The large Capability Scotland gathering present a fine image at the coach park.



The abundantly talented 'Wild About the Forest Team' seized in time.



Rangers Corner

THE TREE AND ME

In late May, Nature reminded us of the power of its force
 Unstinting, and unfavourable, regarding direction of course
 Tree after tree began to fall
 In the aftermath, one still stood, proud and tall
 With not a single branch, or poker, out of place
 In a show of defiance, worthy of its grace
 Season after season this remains the case
 Displaying an indestructible and beauteous face
 Sometimes, when the wind blows, I hear a chattering among the leaves
 And sometimes I see images, elongating from its mast
 I like to think they are ghosts from the Baillie's past
 Reaching out, to let us know they are still here
 Watching over us, as if to allay any fear
 I cannot help but feel a special relationship with this tree
 As each morning I awaken it is the first thing I see
 Framed perfectly in my window, like a work of art
 And to begin my day, it remains an unspoilt start
 As every sight affords a smile.



DML Notice Board

There is still a chance to enrol in the last of the Summer Nature Club workshops for children, as reported in the last issue, on the 30th of July. Moving on, we have a couple of major wildlife events coming up.

FIRST FLIGHT, FIRST SPLASH

SATURDAY 6th and SUNDAY 7th AUGUST.

4.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Early booking is recommended for this mini-bus guided tour to an osprey site, at a time when the chicks are taking their first flights and trying to hone their hunting techniques before setting off on their long migration south. Refreshments will be available as part of the event, and waterproof clothing, binoculars and insect repellent are also advised. Spaces are limited. Cost: £ 10.00 per adult, £ 5.00 per concession.

BAT WATCH

SATURDAY 27th AUGUST and SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER.

7.30 p.m. – until late.

Our annual Bat events remain as popular as ever, and for those of you interested in this most misunderstood of species, a unique opportunity exists to gain a further appreciation of their habits and movements. Once again, stout footwear and wet weather clothing remain a standard requirement. A torch and midge spray should also be on your list. Refreshments will be provided upon return. Cost: £ 5.00 per adult, under 14's go free.

Please contact the David Marshall Lodge on 01877 382 258, for further details.

Ann Epps- A Life Well-Led 21st April 1944 to 28th June 2011

Family and friends celebrated the life of Aberfoyle's Ann Epps on 15th July 2011.

Born to Ernie and Annie Lloyd in Paisley, Ann was raised by her mother and war hero Donald McInnes in Luss on Lomondside. Primary school was a happy time but Ann never settled to The Vale Academy, so whilst she worked at The British Silk Dyeing company (now Lomond Shores site) and also in an Aberfeldy hotel, it was when Ann joined the WRNS aged 17 that she strode out, finding the strict discipline of service life character-forming and the training inspiring, whilst also enjoying the freedom of leisure time in the good company of her many "Jenny-Wren" pals.

Upon marriage to RN gunner, later Cdr, Ian Anderson, RN rules required she quit the Navy; Adrian and Fiona came along within a few years and Ann settled to raising her family, initially at Locks Heath near Portsmouth and from 1986, in Aberfoyle where SN readers will have first met her – quite possibly when Ann co-wrote/edited/distributed the original SN, or perhaps when she ran the youth club at The Reading Room on Trossachs Road, or later as an organiser of "Country Pursuits of Strathard", an enthusiastic Aberfoyle Trader... and countless other local good causes over the years.

As her family grew up, Ann worked as the council's face in the rural community, her job to ensure that the right council services reached the people in need of them. She did such a good job that her entire department was "deleted" in 1993, a matter which still annoyed her for years. Notable amongst her achievements at that time was the preservation of the old church on Manse Road, and her personal discovery of two historically important mort-safes under the overgrown ivy. Originally introduced to prevent 'bodysnatcher' incidents in the 19th century, there were only five mort-safes at the time known in the whole of Scotland.

As family life became empty nest, Ian concentrated on business in the Far East whilst Ann started her B&B at Crannaig House. Alone in business as in life for several years,

Ann married John Epps at the end of 1996; together they redefined hospitality; working tirelessly they cultivated friendships across the globe. John tells us they hadn't the least regret during their marriage, both of them entirely thankful for 14 years of happiness until Ann developed her rare and invariably fatal cancer. John added that Ann withstood terminal illness with exemplary courage and greater dignity than could be expected of anyone, indeed an example to us all; she remained joyful in spirit and alert to others' needs until her very last day.

A very special lady, Ann always gave of herself in everything she did: she defined the expression "going the extra mile"... in her case for everyone. Rare indeed!!

Ann faded to peace at SRI on 28th June. Her funeral at Cardross on 5th July was very well attended, musical and colourful, not least because Ann herself specified nobody was to wear black! Her ashes were interred in the family grave at Luss churchyard on 15th July and her life celebrated at Crannaig House that evening. Ann always said, "I want no greetin' over my box either". OK Ann, almost!!

Ann was in deed (sic) special; irrespective of the surname we knew her by in her full life story, nobody will ever forget her entirely natural charm, wit, dedication and care in all she did.

Her care for the vulnerable, especially of animals, remains legendary. Put simply, she was the best.

The family are grateful for the kind donations to Ann's last charities: Cancer Research UK, Strathcarron Hospice, Help for Heroes and Scottie Rescue. John Epps will pay the money collected at the end of July so if further contributors favour any one of these charities, or subset, do please say so as you give generously in Ann's memory.



Letters to the Editor

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



I am sure we are all aware that The Trossachs, as a whole, presents a wealth of

activities and variety of places to explore for the casual visitor. It would be safe to say, however, that Aberfoyle, in itself, has little to offer in terms of features, aside from the iconic Poker Tree, which sits in the garden across from The Baillie.

Through the interpretation board adjacent to the car park, explaining its background, there is an opportunity for the tourists to venture into the space to marvel at this interesting piece of history at close quarters. Photographic opportunities are well to the fore, and there is no doubting there is an increased level of activity when it is clean and tidy.

In light of this, I would like to pay respect to Toto McLellan, the owner of the ground, and Davie McColl, for their continued discipline in keeping the gardens in prime condition throughout the summer. Together with Robert Burns' exemplary commissioned hedge work, I feel compelled to offer thanks on behalf of the community for their combined efforts.

David Wilkie
25 BNJC

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New Art and Literary Trail in The Great Trossachs Forest

To celebrate some of the countless artists and literary figures who have visited and been inspired by the Trossachs, The Great Trossachs Forest has installed an Art and Literary Trail at three key locations. To officially launch the Art and Literary Trail, The Great Trossachs Forest will be hosting a day of guided walks to each of the three locations on Friday 22nd July from 10am to 4.30pm. The walks will be guided by experts who have in-depth knowledge of Sir Walter Scott, Ruskin and Wordsworth. There will also be a summer picnic on the shore of Loch Katrine with displays by local artists who have been inspired by these historic artists and the iconic scenery.

The three locations of the Art and Literary Trail are at Brig o'Turk, Loch Katrine and Inversnaid.

The walk to follow in the footsteps of Ruskin, starts in Brig o'Turk village and leads up to the famous waterfall where Millais painted his portrait. The walk is about a one mile round trip, starting from Woodland Trust's Dam Road car park, or 5 mile round trip from the Glen Finglas car park.

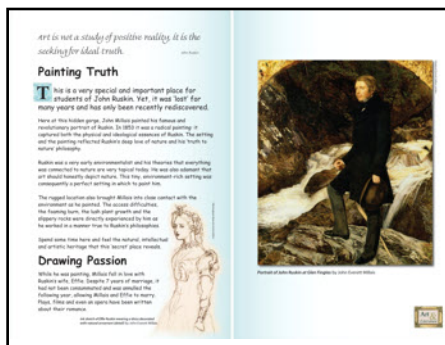
To find out more about Sir Walter Scott, walk along the shores of Loch Katrine. Information boards and audio clips are available along the shoreline walk featuring extracts from the famous 'The Lady of the Lake' poem. The walk starts from the Trossachs Pier car park at Loch Katrine and is about a 5 mile round trip (on tarmac).

To commemorate William Wordsworth's poem, 'To a highland girl at Inversneyde', there is a short walk (less than a mile) from the Inversnaid Hotel car park to the waterfall where he fell in love.

If you would like to attend the launch event and find out more about these art and literary greats, please call Sue Morris on 01877 376340 or 07775 034851 to book your place. Please note booking is essential, a moderate level of fitness is required and transport will be provided between the three sites.

The Great Trossachs Forest is a unique landscape scale project in habitat enhancement and forest restoration that will create the largest continuous native woodland in the UK. It is the culmination of the work of Scottish Forest Alliance, a collaboration between Forestry Commission Scotland, Woodland Trust Scotland, RSPB and BP. The Great Trossachs Forest aims to be a showcase for wildlife and habitat enhancement, and for revealing the long history of the ways in which people have interacted with their environment.

THE
GREAT
TROSSACHS FOREST



Fire Safety in the Countryside

Recreational fire hazards:

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

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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.



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School News

McLaren High

Under-14 Rugby Team Cap a Great Season

On 5 May the team took part in the Central Schools U14 Tournament at Stirling. They opened with a 19-0 win over Wallace High followed by the narrowest of victories 1-0 win over Balfron (a last-minute drop goal by Andrew Nixon). Next up was an 18-0 win over Alva and the final game against Lornshill Academy was won 17-0.

This was a fantastic performance from the boys who all did well against some very strong opposition, albeit having only 13 players. They worked as a team and kept a clean sheet throughout. Captain Andrew Nixon was presented with the winners shield by Kris Burney from Active Stirling.

This means they have played the whole season (13 games) undefeated!

A big thanks to the coaches Marc Cattigan, Chris Rennie and Neil Cattigan who have supported the boys all season.



Under 14 Rugby 7s

Our U14 team added yet more silverware to the trophy cabinet by winning the U14 Central 7s Cup held at Stirling on 25 May.

The boys won all their pool games beating Alva 24-0, Balfron B 26-0 and Alloa 21-0 and the final against Balfron A 12-0.

Scorers were Finn Rhys (2), Will Cartwright (1), Conor Alexander (4), Cameron Hendry (4), Kieran Rennie (3), Andrew Nixon (4), Alexander Allison (1), Gregor Nixon (1), Conor Watson (1), Craig Arnott (1) and Duncan Henry (1).

A great effort from the team, not conceding a single try in the entire tournament!



Music News

Congratulations to Rachel Speirs (singing), Callum Cronin (double bass), John Ferrie (cello) and Katie Allen (violin) who have all been offered places to study at the RSAMD junior school. Also to Stephanie Irvine (clarsach) who has a place at Douglas Academy Music School. Well done to all of you.

Sponsored Walk

McLaren High School's annual sponsored walk was held last Friday and was a great success. The walk was a distance of 5km up through Coilhallan Woods and back down the Invertrossachs Road. All pupils from S1 – S3 took part and this year we had the most pupils who chose to run the course. It would not have been possible to have the walk without the help and co-operation of the many staff members who were seated at various points along the path and those who walked with the pupils. The sponsored walk is a great fundraiser and helps support the additional pupil activities that take place in the school. All pupils enjoy the walk as it is a fun day for all staff and pupils, with many pupils even tackling the walk in fancy dress.

Caitlin Hall and Emma Devlin S3

On Friday 27 May McLaren High School held its annual sponsored walk. The police helped to guide the pupils across the road safely. Teachers took part by stewarding along the route, some walked with the pupils and Mr Hall played his saxophone while it was nice and sunny! Everyone really enjoyed the walk and some pupils even ran it! I would like to say thank you to all the teachers who helped, the pupils who took part and everyone who sponsored us.

Rachel Johnston S1



S3 Visit to Dynamic Earth

On Monday 30 May both Miss Rawding's and Ms Mariani's Geography classes set off to Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Soon after arriving we travelled millions of years back in time to the beginning of the world. After going through many different rooms filled with events that formed the planet we got to a cinema where we sat down and got to view different types of climatic regions in 3D. After this we went up to the café to have lunch. To round off the day we went to take part in a class event where we took part in many group events and challenges about natural hazards. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed Dynamic Earth and found the day very helpful for my Geography course.

Callum Fraser S3

Rapid Response CfE Challenge

All our S1 pupils were recently involved in Curriculum for Excellence challenge called Rapid Response. This simulation was based on helping the people in Honduras after a hurricane. Civil engineers came and talked to us about their jobs and explained the necessity of making shelters and water transportation systems after a natural disaster such as an earthquake or a tsunami.

The activities included water transportation, making water filters, orienteering and making wind anemometers. Our favourite was the shelter building because it brought the team together and it was fun. We all enjoyed the day.

Kirsty Galloway and Samantha Ogilvie S1

In the water transportation activity we had to build a water transportation device to get water from one bucket (a village) to another bucket (another village) using guttering and negotiating the hurdle (mountain).

In shelter building we had to build a waterproof shelter using canes, bricks and plastic sheets. To test if it was waterproof they poured a watering can full of water over the top!

We built water filters using a plastic bottle, a pile of stones and sand, and a tea cloth to filter and clean the water.

In Home Economics we made food that you could give to people that had been in a natural disaster.

Ryan Welsh and Paul Scott S1



Pet Profile



This is CAT
(COINNAHALBA
CATERPILLER)

Or as a little girl at the vets said, "What a silly name for a dog". She is a Siberian Husky, the youngest of the pack of four. She has always been a character and, even though she is the smallest, exerts her authority over her sisters by just lifting her head a bit. Over the years she has developed little habits that we have to laugh at.

Every morning, before they go out to their runs, the huskies have biscuits followed by a saucer of yoghourt which they have on the floor, except for CAT who, as you can see from the photo, sits up on the stool at the breakfast bar waiting patiently to be served. (It is wiped down afterwards)

They then go out to their runs for the day until feeding time. They all have kennels with cosy rugs inside, on which they usually curl up and sleep, except for CAT who likes to sleep outside if it's fine, so she pulls her rug out and curls up on it. Of course being Scotland it does rain occasionally, so CAT pulls her rug back into the kennel until the shower is over. She is the only one we can let run free (huskies are notorious escape artists). She always comes when called. The only bad habit is that she talks a lot, very exasperating when you are trying to watch TV. And of course she's the one who sleeps on the bed at night !!!

This is just a little opener for all you readers. Do you have you a pet with funny habits, or just something that makes you enjoy them? Please let us know and send your contribution in to us at editor@strathardnews.com or leave in Aberfoyle Post Office.

Important changes to Emergency and Minor Injury Services across Forth Valley

The third and final phase of the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital at Larbert will open in July 2011. This will allow a wide range of acute services currently based at Stirling Royal Infirmary to transfer across to Forth Valley Royal Hospital as planned.

This includes Accident and Emergency services for the whole of Forth Valley which will transfer from Stirling Royal Infirmary to Forth Valley Royal Hospital at 8.00am on Tuesday 12th July 2011.

The new purpose-built Emergency Department at Forth Valley Royal Hospital is bigger and brighter than the existing A&E at Stirling Royal Infirmary and has been designed to give patients more privacy.

A new **Minor Injury Unit** will also open on 12th July 2011 on the Stirling Royal Infirmary site which will become Stirling Community Hospital after acute hospital service have transferred to Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

This will ensure that thousands of people across Stirling who require treatment every year for injuries such as sprains, cuts, burns and broken bones will continue to be treated locally.

For further information visit: www.nhsforthvalley.com

What is a Minor Injury Unit?

A Minor Injury Unit is a centre which provides treatment for a wide range of injuries which require urgent care but are not serious or life threatening. It's important to remember that Accident and Emergency Services should only be used by people who are seriously ill and need emergency care.

Minor Injury Units can treat a wide range of injuries including:

- Sprains and strains
- Suspected broken bones
- Minor eye injuries
- Minor burns and scalds
- Cuts and grazes
- Minor head and neck injuries
- Infected wounds

Who can be treated at a Minor Injury Unit?

Minor Injury Units provide treatment for adults and children over the age of one. Children under the age of one should be taken to the Emergency Department at Forth Valley Royal Hospital (from 12th July 2011) which will also provide a full minor injury service.

What if I need to see a doctor at night or at weekends?

If you require to see a GP Out-of-Hours phone NHS 24 on 08454 242424 and you will be directed to one of a number of GP Out-of-Hours centre within Forth Valley.



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Trossachs Search and Rescue Team



Everything you need to know

The team carries out a range of services on behalf of Fire & Rescue Services and the Scottish Ambulance Service. They operate from bases at MOD, Forthside, Stirling courtesy of the Royal Regt of Scotland and from Aberfoyle Fire Station, courtesy of Central Scotland Fire & Rescue.

Skills:

- In partnership with Strathclyde Fire & Rescue we provide USAR Dog cover for major incidents including building collapses and major transport incidents, as well as natural disasters. The specialist USAR dogs and handlers have a wealth of experience including working at the Stockline factory collapse in Glasgow. We also provide USAR dog cover for Central Scotland Fire & Rescue and Fife Fire & Rescue, as well as being a back up service to dogs used by Highlands and Islands Fire & Rescue. For protracted incidents we can call upon additional USAR dogs from Caithness & Sutherland Search Team, who are fellow members of the National Urban SAR Dog Group. We therefore provide USAR dogs for half of Scotland's Fire & Rescue Services.
- In partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service we provide First Responder cover through our Aberfoyle Community First Responder Unit and nationwide through Scotland's first ever countryside First Responder Unit – TSART FRU. The team is available to respond to incidents wherever they are in Scotland while engaged in training/meetings/community events etc. Our vehicles are fitted with Scottish Ambulance Service transponders and contact can be with the crews by mobile phones carried in each vehicle.
- Provide a rural search and rescue service whereby it will respond to requests from the Police, HM Coastguard and families to look for missing people.
- In partnership with the British Heart Foundation we operate TSART Heartstart, teaching ELS skills in the rural communities in the Stirling area including youth groups, churches, mosque, other voluntary SAR services in the Glasgow area. So far, in 8 years, we've trained over 800 people.

Equipment available:

- USAR Dogs and handlers trained and assessed to standards nationally agreed by the Fire & Rescue Services.
- Mercedes Sprinter van is equipped to transport up to eight USAR dogs to any incident. The vehicle is equipped with sufficient kennelling, water, food, protective and veterinary equipment to cater for the dogs for a protracted period of up to a week on scene at an incident. The vehicle carries a defibrillator and oxygen therapy unit and is equipped with a transponder which plots its position on Scottish Ambulance Services Emergency Medical Dispatch Centres' GIS mapping systems. The crew is contactable via mobile phone fitted to the vehicle.

- Renault Trekka 4x4 vehicle which can transport five personnel and two USAR dogs to any incident. The vehicle carries a defibrillator and oxygen therapy unit and is equipped with a transponder which plots its position on Scottish Ambulance Services Emergency Medical Dispatch Centres' GIS mapping systems. The crew is contactable via mobile phone fitted to the vehicle.
- Mercedes 811 Support vehicle which was formerly Central Scotland Fire & Rescue Service's mobile Canteen Unit. The vehicle, the size of a single decked bus has a full size fitted kitchen, a canteen for up to 8 people and onboard toilet facilities. It can be supplemented by a large tow, a van and pop up tent which extends the feeding area once tables and chairs have been erected. The team has registered itself as a catering business and has had to comply with food hygiene licensing requirements for the vehicle and operating personnel.
- Two rescue equipment trailers that carry a range of specialist stretchers for urban and rural SAR, specialist splinting systems, first aid equipment and technical line rescue kit. Both trailers can be towed by the team's vehicles.
- Large tow a van and awning used as a base for the members in which they can be briefed, log their actions and rest/feed.

Sponsorships:

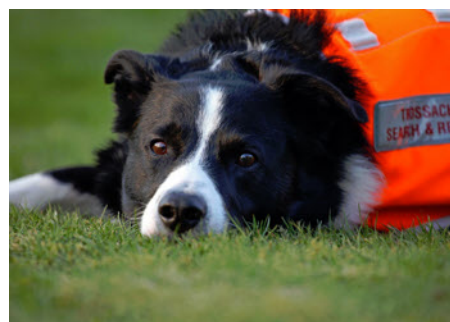
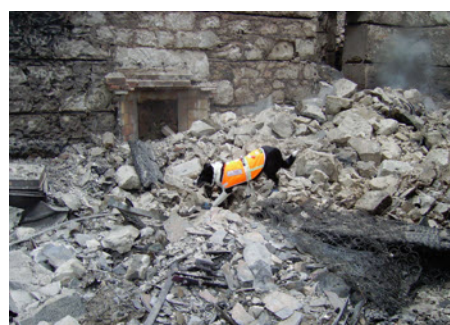
- We receive no funding from the UK or Scottish Government. We receive funding on an annual basis from Strathclyde Fire & Rescue and that serves to keep two vehicles operational.
- We have enjoyed a ten-year sponsorship deal with WAGG Foods that sees us receive 8 x 20kg bags of dog food each month for our search dogs. Additionally, WAGG have been kind enough over the years to donate polo shirts and fleeces for our personnel and leads, dog treats etc. We are now in the eleventh year of this deal.
- We have built up an excellent relationship with our two main suppliers - Keela, who provide our clothing and Safequip, who provide our technical and water rescue equipment. Demolition contractors, land owners and owners of large industrial premises assist us by providing premises and land on which to train.
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service provide us with USAR training free of charge as well as use of training facilities at Alloa and Bo'ness Fire Stations. We operate our First Responder service from Aberfoyle Fire Station and are not charged any costs by the brigade.

Future Projects:

- We are in discussions with three of Scotland's Fire and Rescue Services over expanding our services to include the provision of welfare support using our mobile canteen unit and providing accelerant detection dogs.

Facilities/ Information Required for any incident:

Location and nature of incident
RVP
Contact details of requesting agency



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If you would like further information,
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HETAS APPROVED



Milton

Hello Children,

At last, the long summer holidays have arrived and we can all get out and about and have lots of fun. There are a great many places to explore in and around Strathard: mountains, lochs, rivers and the deep, dangerous potholes of the B829. Who knows what monsters could be lurking in those depths? I took the shuttle-bus from Aberfoyle to the Kinlochard Highland Games; it was more like a fairground ride than a bus journey, everybody bouncing around in their seats. I feel sorry for the motorists who venture all the way to Stronachlachar and Inversnaid, and then who have to come back again.

At the games there were all sorts of things going on: highland dancers dancing, Callander Pipe Band playing, people putting the shot and tossing a caber. There were plenty of stalls too, but the most popular was Kenny McNeill's burger bar, the queue was never ending. In the main arena, the best event was the giant sack-race, whole teams of competitors in their own, enormous wool-bag, racing against each other. I am afraid that there was a little bit of cheating going on, the umpire disqualifying one particular team for ungentlemanly conduct. It was all in good fun.

The Trossachs Search and Rescue Team were there to demonstrate their skills. Glen, a Border Collie, was easily able to find a man who was well hidden in some bushes. In real life, this ability to find somebody lost on the Scottish hills can be a matter of life and death. Even in summer, the weather conditions can completely change in a few minutes, with mists and driving rain making it impossible to see where you are going. All dogs have an amazing sense of smell. Grandpa Otter says that a trained dog could find the only bad apple in two billion bags of apples. That's an awful lot of apples!

The Otter family decided to take advantage of a lovely sunny day and go to Lochan Reoidhte for a picnic. In the height of summer, the little loch was certainly not living up to its Gaelic name of "Frozen", the dark water was really nice and warm. George the Hare has a summer project, counting butterflies for Butterfly Conservation Scotland. George has already seen ten of the 22 species of butterflies that live in this part of Scotland, and is very keen to find the other twelve. After eating trout sandwiches, except for vegetarian George who enjoyed crisp watercress filled rolls, Duke found some small slate stones to skim across the lochan. This soon turned into a contest, to see who could get the most bounces before the pebble sank. Dad eventually won, with one of his stones skipping 16 times before sinking from sight. That is still a long way short of the world record of 28 bounces, set at the World Stone-Skimming Championship at Easdale.

Later, on our way home from the Duke's Pass, Braeval, Katrine and Mum were looking for yellow wild flowers, Dad and Grandpa Otter counting all the different blue flowers. Duke and I joined in the butterfly hunt with George, and actually spotted a Purple Hairstreak to add to his list. That makes it eleven recorded, eleven to go. In the flower stakes, there were a few more blue flowers than yellow. We all had a wonderful summer's day at Lochan Reoidhte. If we go back in the wintertime, when the water really is frozen, then we could have a curling match.

Bye for now,
Milton.



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Church News

St Mary's Episcopal Church

Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's



The Good Samaritan

Some years ago, I was riding my vintage motorcycle on a long journey. Miles from anywhere, the petrol pipe split: the engine, starved of fuel, stopped running. Petrol pipes of the correct diameter for an old machine are like the proverbial hens' teeth. Miraculously a car stopped and the driver asked what was amiss. It seemed pointless to tell him, but I did. Remarkably, he had a length of the correct diameter pipe coiled in the boot of his car: in my astonishment I never asked how or why. He cut a piece off and replaced the split pipe. Before I could thank him adequately, he had driven off. I remember this very kind gentleman as the proverbial Good Samaritan. The expression originates, of course, from one of Christ's most familiar teachings in the scriptures.

Jesus said, 'There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half-dead'. Was the account made up by Christ to illustrate his teaching, or might this have actually happened? Hugh Martin, a well-known religious writer of the 1930s, puzzled over the same question. So during a summer holiday in 1936, Martin hired a taxi in Jerusalem and asked to be taken to Jericho. He jotted notes as he travelled. 'The road in the course of twenty miles plunges over 3,000 feet from Jerusalem which is some 2,500 feet above sea level, down to Jericho some 1300 feet below sea level. Any traveller on that road was certainly going down. The road is unique for its desolation, devastation and dryness. It would be hard to imagine anything more sullen and forbidding. It is an adventure even today to make the journey by car especially if one is travelling after dark. Above the roads, there are rocks and caves aplenty to hid the bandits and shield their escape'.

Thus Martin satisfied himself that this was no far fetched story told by Jesus. St Luke in recording Christ's teaching confirms that when he told this story Jesus was staying near the road at a town called Bethany. This further confirms that such an incident might indeed have happened.

Jesus' account involves three men. The first was the victim of the robbers. Later, two other men passed on the road. The first was a priest and the second a Levite, an equally religious man. The sacred books they read would have urged both to do kindness to others. But neither was prepared to do more than was strictly necessary: both passed on the other side of the road. The excuse in the priest's mind can well be imagined. 'The man is clearly beyond my help. The robbers are not far away and probably waiting to rob me as well. It would be sensible to finish my journey before it gets dark'. The Levite who followed would have needed only one excuse. 'If a priest thought it not right to stop and help, then why should I?'

The Samaritan then arrived on the scene. It is hard to emphasise the mutual hatred of a Jew for a Samaritan at the time. Had the Samaritan also passed on, he would not have been blamed. But the Samaritan did stop and did all he could to help. Olive oil, his own food for the journey, was used as ointment, whilst wine, his drink, stemmed the flow of blood. He went further still. He loaded the man onto his own animal, took him to an inn and paid the innkeeper to look after him. Two silver coins was a day's wage for a labourer. Not only was the Samaritan content to pay this not inconsiderable sum, but promised to pay more until the man was healed. In short the Samaritan gave literally all he had out of love and respect for a fellow human being.

The station master at Lymington in Hampshire was until recently another Good Samaritan. He kept his station meticulously clean and tidy for the benefit of travellers. Once, on his day off, he repainted the station railings. On other days when Mr Faletto, for that is his name, was not on duty, he would still call by to make sure the station was staffed and that no traveller needed his assistance.

One morning he arrived at work to find that vandals had pushed a shopping trolley onto the rails. He was anxious lest his passengers be delayed by the obstruction, or, worse still, a train be derailed. Rather than wait for official assistance, he clambered down onto the track and lifted the trolley clear with a wooden broom handle. Those present were extremely grateful for yet another selfless act.

A senior manager later summoned Mr Faletto. Was this an official commendation? On the contrary, it was a dismissal for walking on the line in breach of Health and Safety legislation. It is a reminder that being a Good Samaritan can sometimes be a very costly business.

From the Manse.....

Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

I write this in reflective mood.



In September 1996 I was ordained. It shocks me that fifteen years can pass so quickly and yet seem so very distant. My ordination took place at my home church at A'Chleit (pronounced something like Claytch) on the western shores of Kintyre, overlooking the islands of Gigha and Cara. It is a small church, built in traditional West Highland style with a gallery, Laird's loft, and a high centrally-placed pulpit. In the quiet there, one can hear the waves fall onto the shore just a few yards away. On that September evening, as we came out from the service, there was a glorious sunset, despite my brothers' expectations that there would surely be mighty thunder and lightning.

There are no stained glass windows in that church, just simple clear glass. Coming from the Church of England, I found it very spartan at first, but I grew to love the simplicity and elegance of design, and the way the light fell through the windows, and the occasional sight of a seagull flying past.

Now I worship in two very different churches. Aberfoyle Church is a very intimate church, its feeling of intimacy created, I think, by the jewel-like intensity of its many stained glass windows. I particularly love to see them at night from outside, when the lights are on inside. Port of Menteith Kirk has a more airy feel and has the best of both worlds, with one spectacular stained glass window and other windows of clearer glass.

When I consider the windows of that church in Kintyre, and the plain glass windows at Port of Menteith, and think of how the light streams into both buildings, I realize that their glass is not absolutely clear or totally flawless. It is flawed glass which allows the light to be refracted. This is a truth which gives me comfort when I ponder what Jesus said about his followers being 'light for the world'.

I think too of how Leonard Cohen puts it in his song 'Anthem': 'Forget your perfect offering, there is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in'.

Linda

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The CFSLA Payroll Lottery

The CFSLA Payroll Lottery is inviting applications NOW for its next meeting in September.

The next meeting will focus on applications from community groups and charities dealing with the elderly and the local community and hopes to distribute over £4000 if it receives enough worthy applications by 31st August.

At its last meeting in June it donated equipment worth over £3800 to a variety of local organisations including Alloa Brownies, Falkirk Archers, Seagull Trust, Alva Bowling club etc.

A full list of beneficiaries and application forms with guidance leaflets is available at www.cfsalottery.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.



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25 new jobs for Stirling

Scotland's leading "care at home" company Independent Living Services, (ILS Scotland Ltd) is embarking on a major recruitment drive in the Stirling area, following its success in securing more work from Stirling Council, which is gradually reducing its in-house care provision and contracting it out to private care services companies.

The firm is recruiting 25 new care workers across urban and rural areas of Stirling, including Central Stirling, Dunblane, Bridge of Allan, Doune, Callander, and Aberfoyle, taking the ILS team in the area to just fewer than 200.

Jacqui Young, Service Manager at ILS in Stirling, says: "We're delighted to be providing more care at home services in Stirling, and are actively recruiting new members to our teams. We train and develop all of our staff, so if you've never worked in care, but are seeking to change career and a post with high job satisfaction, this might be for you. Our care-at-home teams are of all ages – from 18 to over 65. And those who have transferred into the care sector from other sectors in business and industry say they have never enjoyed a job as much as this one."

ILS provides care at home, predominantly for older adults, but also for adults with a disability, and support for children and families. The new recruits will support these people, helping them to remain within their own homes, and will assist with personal care, meal preparation, supervising a medication regime and other daily living tasks. Full training is provided prior to working in the community as well as ongoing training and support with the opportunity for career progression. An SVQ training programme has recently been launched for all members of the teams.

A typical day in the life of a care worker will involve dropping in to see and support several different people in one day, working on a rota and a shift system. Care and support is generally provided on a one-to-one basis, and those who work with ILS derive great job satisfaction which comes from a genuine interest in working with people.

The fact that ILS can offer very flexible working patterns means that it appeals to many different types of people, including mums going back to work, the older generation, and career changers.

Local employee case study – the career changer

Michael Marshall (33), from Clackmannan, joined ILS in 2007 as a support worker, and has already been promoted twice, first to the role of senior support worker, and more recently to acting customer care supervisor. Having previously worked in a sportswear factory, he decided to train as a nurse, but started to look for a job a year into the course, as he had met his wife and had a baby on the way, and a regular income was needed.

"We have a fantastic team here, and provide such an important service to the local community," says Michael. "Most of our clients are vulnerable adults and an ILS care worker might be the only person they see in a day. And although we provide support for simple everyday things such as personal care, shopping and meal preparation, companionship is also vitally important. My job is more office based these days, overseeing care plans, supervising the support workers and ensuring that everything runs smoothly on a day to day basis. But I still have contact with a lot of clients, which is great, as I really like working amongst people and get great job satisfaction from what I do."

"ILS provides brilliant training as well as opportunities to climb the career ladder, and I'm delighted that it has recognised my desire to progress. The complete change of career direction was a bit daunting at first, but now I can't imagine doing anything else, and I only wish that I'd done it sooner."

Anyone interested in working in the Stirling area for ILS can get in touch by calling the recruitment hotline on 0800 055 6219. www.ilsscotland.com.

Extra Rangers in education drive to highlight capercaillie issues

Extra National Park Rangers and an increased police presence are now in place in a bid to step up conservation of threatened capercaillie on the islands of Loch Lomond.

The birds are vulnerable to disturbance from people and dogs. That can be particularly apparent where capercaillie use habitat in heavily visited parts of the countryside.

One area affected at busy times is the Loch Lomond islands,

which will now see new signs strategically placed to educate people about capercaillie. It is hoped this will avoid further disturbance issues at five islands within Loch Lomond.

Visitors enjoying the stunning scenery will be asked to avoid the birds' habitat during the breeding season and to properly control their dogs.

The fresh initiative comes from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), and Strathclyde Police.

Two Rangers are patrolling the islands within Loch Lomond throughout the summer season. Police are also on hand to take action if necessary.

The island rangers are patrolling selected areas during the weekends with a dedicated patrol boat.

Signs have been erected at key launch locations such as Luss Pier; the islands, and flyers distributed to boat users and other water pleasure-seekers.

The action is required as the Loch Lomond capercaillie population is isolated from other Scottish populations, with no immediate likelihood of numbers being strengthened from further north.

Alan McDonnell, SNH's operations manager, said: "We are delighted to be taking part in this innovative scheme which we hope will result in increased education and awareness for users and less disturbance to the capercaillie on the Loch Lomond islands. This is the latest in a range of initiatives designed to help the capercaillie establish a firmer foothold throughout Scotland."

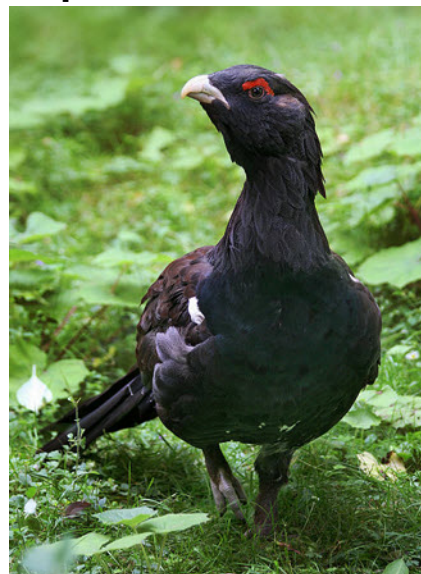
"Capercaillie are under great pressure nationally due to a range of factors which mean that the species has a far from secure future. These include climate change, which can make poor weather at key times more common, low habitat quality and availability, predation, and disturbance of breeding birds and young chicks."

"We also know that recreational users may unwittingly cause disturbance by allowing dogs to roam uncontrolled through important capercaillie areas during the sensitive breeding season. We hope that the signs which are highly visible will educate people about the plight of this most magnificent bird."

Guy Keating, National Park Ranger Service Manager, said: "We are pleased to be working in partnership with SNH to help conserve this precious population of capercaillie."

"The additional SNH funding has meant we have been able to recruit two dedicated seasonal rangers to patrol the islands and engage with visitors during the summer, and we are already seeing the benefits of this approach. The majority of visitors have been receptive towards the rangers and the popular camping spots look much better than they did this time last year."

"In addition, the new signs around the islands contain important conservation messages and our rangers will provide practical advice on how visitors can play their part in protecting the special qualities of these fantastic islands. Also Strathclyde police officers will be joining ranger patrols to ensure the laws protecting these vulnerable habitats are not being broken."





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Camping on Inchcailloch

A new online booking system is now available for visitors wanting to camp on Inchcailloch. Part of the Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve, Inchcailloch is the largest island on the Loch and managed by the National Park with support from Scottish Natural Heritage. Just a short ferry trip from Balmaha the island is an ideal place to experience remoteness and wildness in a safe and easily accessible location.

Inchcailloch is cloaked by oak woodland which is particularly important because of its rich flora and distinctive communities of mosses, lichens and birds. Osprey, woodpeckers, fallow deer and wood warblers are some of the wildlife that inhabit the island. The cost for adults is £5 per person per night and children under 12 go free. Group sizes are limited to 6 people (including children) and the maximum length of stay is two nights.

To book a place visit National Park website.

Please note there are composting toilets on the island but no running water so remember to bring your own.

Leave your keys and pick the Loch

A new timetabled water bus service means that visitors will now be able to arrive by train and set sail to some of the most scenic towns, villages and beauty spots around Loch Lomond.

Following a successful pilot last year, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park has supported the introduction of daily scheduled services that take in 12 destinations covering south, east, west and north of the Loch. Only 45 minutes from Glasgow, people can now leave their car at home and take ScotRail train services to Balloch or Tarbet stations to catch a boat to places rich in history and culture, romantic restaurants with views, picnic sites and breathtaking walks.

The National Park has worked closely with operators including Cruise Loch Lomond and Sweeney's Cruises along with Scottish Enterprise who contributed funding for the initial

pilot and marketing the new service. The initiative has also benefited from a significant investment by the National Park to repair the Loch piers during the winter. The co-ordinated timetables now bring together all water transport on the loch including on demand services from ferry operators including MacFarlane & Sons at Balmaha and others.

The Water Bus routes include Balloch to Balmaha, Cameron House and Balloch Country Park, Rowardennan to Luss, Tarbet to Inversnaid and Rowardennan, Luss to Inchcailloch and Balmaha. Information about the water bus service can be found on the National Park website www.lochlomond-trossachs.org and timetables are available from National Park offices, visitor centres and cruise operators.

Trossachs Area Community Transport Update



We're continuing our gradual expansion of Trossachs Area Services with full-time opening hours and bringing new daily products into the shop. Opening hours are currently:
Weekdays: 7am to 7pm
Saturday: 8am to 7pm
Sunday: 8.30 to 7pm

Our staff team is now up to four, and Andrew, Jen, Laura and Rebecca are all doing a fantastic job coping with the demands of working in our community business. We are now also selling papers, milk, morning rolls/bread and fresh bakery products delivered from the bakery in Callander. Also plants from the very worthwhile Green Routes project based at Gartmore House, and 'Aberfoyle eggs'.

We are taking newspaper orders for 7 days a week – just call into the garage or phone 382735 to request this – papers are usually in by about 8.30am. Fuel continues to be sold at realistic prices for the local area but there have been large oil price rises over the last 2 weeks so pump prices have risen again which we cannot avoid. Prices are based on what we pay for each fuel delivery, which means that they typically get adjusted (up or down) about once a week.

Many local people already choose to buy all their fuel from the community garage to ensure its continued survival – thank you for your support! Once tourist sales reduce in the winter it will become even more important that we are not just a backup source of fuel. We need regular customers all year, so please consider using us regularly even if we cannot match city prices.

We are still looking for volunteers who would like to get involved as we move forward with our new community business. Most urgently:

People willing to learn how to man the shop and till to provide emergency/lunch/holiday cover.

Volunteers for a cleanup of our part of the site – we are planning to get a skip in shortly and many hands would make light work of the job to be done. This would be a weekend job.

Do just e-mail, have a word with Ros in Aberfoyle Post Office or phone 382700 if you would like to find out more about helping us.

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.

Not here.....but near!

Drymen & District Local History Society

meets in Drymen Village Hall at 7.45pm, and the first speakers in our 2011/12 programme are:

22nd September: Malcolm McVittie, Chairman of the 1st Marquis of Montrose Society on "Montrose – a Candidate for Immortality (John Buchan)"

27th October: John Hood on "The Clydebank Blitz".

24th November: Peter McNiven on "History and Place-names in Mediaeval Menteith and Stirling".

Annual subscription is £5.00; admission to a single meeting is £2.00.

Visit our website: www.drymen-history.org.uk

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.

Strathendrick Singers

Our rehearsals are held in Balforn Church every Monday evening at 7.30pm, starting on 5th September. Our members come from all over the area, some travelling from as far afield as Milngavie and Dunblane. We would be delighted to welcome new members. For more information visit our website www.strathendricksingers.org.uk Contact Pat Ashworth 01360 550074 email: drashworth@aol.com

Arts across Stirling

Networking & Workshop - Free

**Thurs 1 September, 6.30pm – 10.00pm
Tolbooth**

We are hosting an evening open to all arts organisations in the area - orchestras, choirs, film societies, music makers, drama groups, craft and art classes - all who currently run arts events, or who would like to set up arts events in the area. This will be an opportunity to meet and network and to discuss what is happening in the Stirling area. The evening will be hosted by Stirling Council with representatives from both the arts and communities team. Also present will be members of the Stirling and District Arts Forum and Voluntary Arts Scotland's local arts ambassador.

Make A Splash!

The evening will include a presentation by Voluntary Arts Scotland with advice to either help you attract new and diverse people to participate in your activities or to set up a group specialising in the art or craft form you love. Also VAS will give information on their small grants scheme, run in conjunction with the Scottish Community Foundation. The aim of the funding is to encourage new activity to help even more people discover how good it feels to take part in arts and crafts activity.

Carolyn Paterson
Arts Development Officer
Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling FK8 1DE
Tel: 01786 274000
Dir: 01786 274023
Email: patersonc3@stirling.gov.uk
www.stirling.gov.uk/Tolbooth

TUNE FOR CHAS/JIG FOR JANE

Leading musicians in Scottish traditional music will be gathering in Kippen on Saturday 27 August for a day of music, dancing and fun for all the family. The afternoon will be filled with warm and welcoming acoustic sessions in the local pubs and the day will be rounded off with a lively supper ceilidh dance in the village hall, all to raise fund for the local hospices.

Tune for Chas

Fiddles, accordions, banjos, pipes and guitars will have everyone toe-tapping in the Cross Keys and Inn at Kippen as many well-travelled and award-winning artists share their talents with anyone that would like to join in. The gastropubs will be serving their usual delicious fayre to complement the music.

Jig for Jane

The Neil MacEachern Ceilidh Band and David Oswald Scottish Dance Band, both regularly featured on the BBC's Take the Floor, will provide the music for a 'Jig for Jane'. There will be a grand raffle for Stathcarron Hospice as part of the evening's entertainment and a two-course buffet will be served. Come along and dance like you've never danced before in what promises to be a swinging hoolie. All welcome.

Date: 27 August:

1pm: Tune for Chas in the Cross Keys and Inn at Kippen

Entry to the daytime sessions are free. There will be collections for CHAS

7pm – midnight: Jig for Jane in the Village Hall. Tickets £10. BYOB. Proceeds to Stathcarron & CHAS

Jig for Jane is in celebration of Jane Singleton, a well-known and much-admired Kippen resident, who loved a ceilidh.

If you are interested in joining in the acoustic sessions or would like more information about coming to the day-long music festival, then contact Angela MacEachern on 01786 870803 or Shiona Mackay 01786 870131 or email angela.maceachern@live.co.uk.

Local Composer Returns Home After Fame On International Stage

Scottish composer Peter Longworth will have his music played in his home town following performances in London, Poland and Canada.

Local composer, Peter Longworth, grew up in Brig o'Turk and always had a passion for music. Whilst a pupil at McLaren High School Peter was Principal Trumpet of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. In 2008 Peter moved to London to study composition at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama. After hearing of Peter's talent, trumpeter Jo Harris commissioned Colori di Roma for the ensemble Bella Tromba. 18 year old Peter was inspired by his holiday travels to Rome and the music evokes the fountains and heat of the romantic city.

UK Classical girl group, Bella Tromba, have performed at London's Purcell Room, the Cheltenham Music Festival and for BBC Radio 3. Awarded Park Lane Group Young Artists in 2007 Bella Tromba have commissioned many new works forming an extensive repertoire.

Colori di Roma has been played by the ensemble in music festivals in Europe and Canada and it received its Premiere at London's Caledonian Club off Park Lane.

The quartet is thrilled to be playing Colori di Roma in Scotland for the first time.

Performances take place at Brig o'Turk and Balquhiddie.

August 06, 7:30pm Brig o Turk Hall, near Callander - contact Kate Longworth on 01877 376 217

August 07, 7:00pm Balquhiddie Parish Church, Scotland

www.balquhiddersummertime.org.uk

For more details visit www.bellatromba.co.uk

Smith Art Gallery & Museum repair to entice visitors

Stirling's principal art gallery and museum is to receive more than £260,000 for repairs Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop announced today.

The Smith Art Gallery and Museum will put the Historic Scotland funding towards roof and stonework conservation to prevent weather damage.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

"Venues such as the Smith Art Gallery and Museum have served their community for generations and are an invaluable resource in providing access to a wealth of art and exhibits. This grant will ensure that these opportunities are not lost.

"Times are tough but this type of project exemplifies why we need to invest in buildings at the heart of our communities so they can continue to be a resource for us all."

Established by the bequest of artist Thomas Stuart Smith (1815 – 1869) the gallery was purpose built in 1874 as The Smith Institute. It housed a collection of mainly contemporary art with museum and library reading rooms "for the benefit of the inhabitants of Stirling, Dunblane and Kinbuck".

The west elevation of the building was designed with no windows to allow for future expansion in accordance with the will of Thomas Stuart Smith which stipulated that allowance should be made for possible future expansion.

Brian Park, Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum Trustee said:

"The Trustees hope to follow the repairs with the development of ambitious proposals to improve access, heating, insulation and an expansion of the gallery spaces thereby providing the opportunity to display the extensive collections more comprehensively and in a contemporary and accessible manner."

Balforn & Callander Recycling Centres

Opening Times:

Monday - Friday: 5pm-8pm

Saturday: 10am-2pm

Sunday: Closed

A wide variety of household recyclables (including garden waste) can be taken directly to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) at Balforn and Callander. Excess waste and bulky household items, including fridges and freezers and furniture, can also be disposed of at the HWRCs.

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or Tools, Enquiries tel:
07909937622

Deadline Dates

Issue 59 - 20 June
Issue 60 - 15 Aug
Issue 61 - 26 Sept
Issue 62 - 14 Nov (xmas)
Issue 63 - 23 Jan 11
Issue 64 - 20 March 11
Issue 65 - 15 May 11*
Issue 66 - 17 July 11*
Issue 67 - 28 August 11*
Issue 68 - 25 September 11*
Issue 69 - 20 Nov 11 (Xmas)*
*may be subject to change

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