

STRATHARD NEWS

Serving the communities of
Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid

ISSUE 67
SEP/OCT
2011
FREE

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**CALLANDER
JAZZ & BLUES
FESTIVAL 2011**
30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER



* Photo of *Fly Agaric* courtesy of Fiona Campbell

www.strathardnews.com

Community Council



Roads Update

The B829 upgrading work we advised in last month's Strathard News has unfortunately been postponed by Stirling Council until October. 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. We have been advised by Stirling councillors that a large supply of salt has now been procured for the winter months and plans for additional snowploughing are being developed for extreme weather, but details on how this will affect Strathard are as yet unclear.

Antisocial Behaviour and Illegal Parking

Over the summer months reports have again been coming in of disruptive and damaging behaviour in our rural and lochside areas. 'Operation Ironworks', the Police and National Park initiative to target these issues, is now taking more action to help combat the problem. Please help keep unacceptable visitor behaviour in Strathard as visible as possible to them by reporting incidents to the Police at the time of occurrence, so that action can be taken and the extent of the problem here recognised. This includes incidents of excessive noise, damage to property or the environment, parking in designated passing places or causing a road obstruction. The Police can be contacted on 01786 456000 for reports of ongoing incidents (for emergencies call 999).

Flood Monitoring

After finally getting the river levels online following a long period of lobbying to Stirling Council, it has been very disappointing that the Manse Road bridge gauge is now offline, and this has been made clear to the Council. No date can be given for reinstatement, which is also disappointing, and we will continue to press for this.

FCS activities incl. Loch Arklet and Stronachlachar

A review meeting with FCS is pending, and we are in the process of contacting all residents living there for their feedback on Forestry

activities in the above area. Issues to be discussed include:

- New proposals revising earlier plans, which would fence the area off from deer (as at North Loch Katrine last year).
- The new footpath currently under construction which has raised several local complaints, such as the issue of large vehicles on the road and an extended period of road closure after a major 'large vehicle' incident.
- Ongoing forestry work (e.g. at Glen Gyle), details of which are on the website.

Please contact Andre Goulancourt or Fiona McEwan by 30th September if you have any queries you would like answered or wish to advise us of any feedback or opinions on Forestry operations at Loch Arklet or elsewhere in Strathard.

Rally of Scotland

We have been advised this event will take place on Sunday 9th October, with the preliminary visit by rally vehicles being on 6th October. More information will go onto noticeboards as before.

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



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Keep it local!

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard and Inversnaid. The next meetings will be held in Aberfoyle on 6th October and Kinlochard on 3rd November. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councillor (Tony Finch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) normally will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns. If you are planning to come to one of these surgeries we suggest you check noticeboards or our website in advance, since there are sometimes dates when Councillors cannot attend.

Community Councillors by Ward

Aberfoyle

John Clow
Ros Dingwall
Jimmy Quinn
Geraint Short

Inversnaid

Andre Goulancourt
Ralph Wolfe
1 vacancy

Kinlochard

Maureen Campbell
Fiona McEwan
Alex Murray-Brown
1 vacancy

Contact details:

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

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Callander Jazz & Blues Festival

The national and international performers are booked, the venues selected and the 2011 event programme is now available on the Festival web site and in printed format as well.

A great weekend of jazz and blues music is on offer from our Festival cast of five Big Bands; four Trad Bands; fifteen Blues Bands; three Jump Jive Bands; a bevy of quartets, quintets and sextets plus a unique nine piece jazz band from Moscow; a salvo of jazz duos including a Caribbean jazz duo; one of USA's top blues guitarists; and for good measure, a Rock n' Roll and an Oompa Band. To round it off, there are two Jazz Cruises, a Jazz Parade and Jazz Festival Praise.

All of this is surely guaranteed to keep you well entertained.

In addition to the fourteen usual Festival venues, we have added something new and slightly unusual for an entertainment venue.

We are delighted to announce a first for Callander and a first for any Jazz Festival in Scotland – a theatre size Yurt for our new Headline Venue, supplied and manufactured by a Callander company, Red Kite Yurts. This unique structure allows us to seat up to 300 people at any

single performance and is a perfect way to accommodate our ever growing Festival audiences.

This year's Festival is centred in Callander and nearly all events in this year's programme will take place in the town. So, park up your cars, there is never very far to walk to the next performance.

The only events outside the town are the Jazz cruises on Saturday 1st October and Sunday 2nd October on board the SS Sir Walter Scott sailing from Loch Katrine Pier. There will be free coach transport there and back from Ancaster Square each day. We are also offering a free shuttle bus service to and from Callander Golf Club on Saturday evening and are planning to provide a late night bus to the main caravan parks at the Gart and Keltie Bridge.

All that is required to top off a superb long weekend of great live music is the pleasure of your company and perhaps a glimmer of autumn sun.

We look forward to welcoming you to Callander and the Trossachs.

Graham Oliphant
Festival Director

**** Full festival programme on page 27**

Jazz on Loch Katrine

Take your seat and take in the stunning views of Loch Katrine and Ben Venue whilst listening to the band during the 2011 Jazz Cruise on Loch Katrine in the Trossachs. It just doesn't get better than this! What a day out and if last year is anything to go by this will be a sellout event enjoyed by all onboard.

Relax with a drink or a snack and enjoy the majestic scenery which inspired Sir Walter Scott to write his famous poem "Lady of the Lake"

Loch Katrine is located some 7 miles from Aberfoyle and 10 miles from Callander. Coach Links will be provided and there are excellent parking facilities at Loch Katrine.

Due to the popularity of this event there are two Jazz Cruises this year, the first one on Saturday 1st October, and the second on Sunday 2nd, both last for 2 hours. Sailing time is 3pm.

The deck is covered in front of the band and in the case of inclement weather the new forward lounge has spectacular views of the loch and you can still enjoy the music. This is a trip not to be missed but places are limited so it is highly recommended to book your tickets in advance.



www.callanderjazz.com

Ticket Information and Pricing 2011

Festival Rover Tickets

Weekend Rover Ticket - £40.00 (PP)

Friday Night Rover: £10.00 PP

Saturday All Day Rover: £25.00 PP

Sunday All Day Rover: £15.00 PP

Rover Tickets entitle the holder to all performances during the valid period of the ticket (but subject to space being available).

Individual Performance Tickets:

Headline performances £10 PP

Non Headline performances £5 PP

All of the Headline Performances will be clearly indicated on the festival programme

Tickets will be available on the door at each venue subject to seats being available for the event.

Please note on the door tickets cannot be pre-booked and are issued on a first come first served basis.

Jazz Cruise Tickets

(For both Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October 2011 - Cruises 3-5pm each day)

Festival Ticket Holders will be charged £14:50 to board

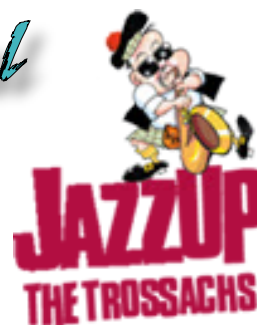
Non Rover Ticket Holders will be charged £19-50 to board

NB: Jazz Cruise tickets can only be purchased from Loch Katrine Pier Ticket Office

Purchase on the day or pre-purchase by calling telephone number: 01877-332000

or E-mail: cruises@lochkatrine.com to purchase cruise tickets or request information.

All Debit/Credit Cards accepted.



Open Mic & Jam Sessions

If you are an aspiring jazz singer or instrumentalist this could be your chance to perform at the 2011 Callander Jazz & Blues Festival.

At this year's festival we are hosting 2 open mic/jam sessions. Details will be posted on the website soon.

Entry fees:

Singers: £3:00

Instrumentalists: £2:00

Audience: FREE Entry

Any vocalists or instrumentalists wishing to take part at this session please contact

graham@callanderjazz.com or by telephone to the festival office 01877-339399.

This will allow us to organise a performance slot for all our participants.

Please bring your musical parts/charts with you where possible.

If you just want to turn up on the day just do that and you will be allocated a spot and if you don't have any music just give us the key.

We look forward to welcoming you to these most enjoyable festival sessions.

It has been my great pleasure to register two new babies born in our area. Born to parents Kim and Peter from Ruskie, a new baby daughter Amie Elizabeth Stewart; while across in Gartmore parents Philippa and Jacob had a new baby son Gil Joseph Lovatt. Welcome to both babies, and congratulations to their families.



Although our summer weather never greatly improved, the area has hosted many weddings in recent months. Among these many is that of Stuart Gordon and Katy Stephen who were married at the Lake Hotel; while at Forest Hills were weddings such as those of John Wallace to fiancée Sharon Forbes, and of Martin Bath to Norma McCarthy; then Bruce Mackie and Diane Cox whose ceremony moved from the Marriage Room at Aberfoyle Registry office, to be hosted beautifully by the Forth Inn, as guests grew in number from 13 to almost 100; and also hosted by the Forth Inn, much to my delight, was the wedding of local couple Stewart McGregor and Tina Moutrey. Congratulations to these and to all couples married in the area.

As the wedding season runs on in to September and the Autumn, we continue to be particularly busy at Aberfoyle Local Office and so hope you will forgive this rather shortened version of our news. Next time we will aim to offer a lengthier update, but meantime the office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon. Appointments can be made by telephone 01877 382 986 by email regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk or by dropping in to the office during opening hours.

Sharon Johnston Registrar



Stirling Council's
Aberfoyle Local Office

Open Day Café
In aid of Strathcarron Hospice
at
4, Renagour, Aberfoyle
On Saturday 5th November 2011
10am - 4pm

The café will be serving:
10am - 12noon

Tea, coffee and homebaking

12noon - 4pm

Soup and sandwiches

Raffle, home baking and Strathcarron Christmas cards will be for sale. All proceeds go to support Strathcarron Hospice.

Everyone Welcome!



Central Scotland Police
Together for safer communities

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.

New Parking Restrictions, Aberfoyle

7th, September 2011

New parking restrictions on Main Street, Aberfoyle, have been put in place by the council. The restrictions are explained on the signs running from Liz MacGregor's Tea Room along to the police station.

The restrictions include loading bays from 0500 until either 0930 or 1100 and then parking bays for a maximum of 30 minutes and no return within 1 hour from either 0930 or 1100 to 1800. Of particular note are the disabled only bays which are located immediately outside the front door of the Co-op. Everyone should familiarise themselves with these new parking restrictions to ensure that they do not park outside the conditions noted on the signs. Anyone needing any additional advice can pop into the police station at any time.

Detected Thefts

7th, September 2011

Three thefts reported to police in June and July have been detected. One individual has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for the theft of a washing machine in Gartmore. Another individual has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for two separate, high value thefts of fence posts from Stronachlachar.

In both cases, the crucial piece of information came from a member of the public, without which neither case could have been detected. Indeed, in both cases, it was the smallest piece of information that provided the missing piece in the puzzle for police to trace the offenders.

This highlights the importance of the community in local policing. Even the smallest piece of information can lead to the detection of crime, and it serves as a reminder that any suspicious activity should be reported to the police. That way, we can all work together to keep our community safe and crime free.

Do not give out banking details warn police

Tuesday, 06th September 2011

Police are urging members of the public not to give out their bank details – no matter how plausible the caller may sound.

The warning comes after a 70-year-old woman in the Stirling area was persuaded to give out her details to a company saying they could save her money on her fuel bills.

A Central Scotland Police spokeswoman said: "Many different tactics are being used to persuade people to give out their bank details. Our advice is quite simply to never give out banking or personal details."

"In this case the person calling said their company could save money on fuel bills. While this may sound plausible our advice is to go to a reputable energy firm for such advice. "Luckily in this instance the woman was suspicious after she had given out her details and contacted her bank immediately."

Drug warning issued by police and health officials

Wednesday, 31st August 2011

Police and public health officials are warning the public over Ecstasy tablets which are in circulation in the Forth Valley area.

The warning has been issued following the death of a 17-year-old male in the area on Monday 29 August 2011. Inquiries have revealed that his death may be linked to the drug.

Central Scotland Police, NHS Forth Valley and voluntary workers are liaising over the issue and are alerting drug users over the potential risks. The pills which drug users are being warned about are pink coloured.

Detective Inspector Ronnie Isles, of Stirling CID, said: "Our inquiries into the death of a 17-year-old in the area are ongoing. Whilst the exact cause of death is still being investigated, we are concerned that Ecstasy would appear to have been involved."

"I would reiterate the message to all drug users that taking any type of illegal drug is inherently dangerous. Anyone who has information about drug supply should contact the police immediately and there are many routes for users to receive support."

Dr Henry Prempeh, NHS Forth Valley Consultant in Public Health Medicine, urged drug users to seek help. He explained: "A wide range of services and support are available and I would urge anyone who is concerned about their drug use to speak to their GP or phone the free helpline on 0845 673 1774 for confidential advice."

Racial abuse will not be tolerated on social networking sites warn police

Monday, 29th August 2011

Police are warning those who use social networking sites that racial abuse will not be tolerated and those responsible will be reported. The warning comes after a 12-year-old girl and a 14-year-old girl were reported to the police in separate incidents in the Falkirk area. Inspector David Mitchell, from Central Scotland Police, said: "People may think they are safe in writing whatever they want on sites such as Facebook in the misguided belief that it is doing no harm. That is totally wrong – once something is written online it is there for posterity. Writing something online is just the same as saying it in public. And the same rules apply – if it causes offence to anybody and it is reported to us then we have to investigate – just in the same way as anything which might be said." The two girls will now be reported to the Children's Reporter.

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

Anne McGuire MP

I've just come back from visiting my grandchildren on the Western Isles, when my grand-daughter started primary school for the first time and I'm sure I share the hopes and aspirations of many of you who see their own children and grandchildren starting off on their own for the very first time!

I too am going back, not to school, but to Westminster. However, in the run up to Parliament returning, my mail box is increasing daily not only with emails from constituents but requests from organisations for my help. One of those has been the charity, Anthony Nolan, a pioneering charity that saves the lives of people with blood cancer by matching donors on their register who are willing to donate their blood stem cells to people who desperately need potentially life-saving transplants. There is a shortage of young male donors and I would like to encourage as many young people as possible to register, especially young men aged between 18- 30, at www.anthonynolan.org/mp and enter the code BVL6.

An issue that has dominated my casework this summer has been that of Housing Benefit. The rules on claiming this benefit, which can also be paid to those in work as well as out of work, have been drastically changed. Unfortunately, this has had a detrimental effect on claimants who have seen their benefits slashed, making it even more difficult to secure a lease on a private property, with many unable to afford to rent any property at all. The end result is a greater level of homelessness on the streets, urban or rural, and a backwards move by any standards.

One further issue which I feel very strongly about is the recent news from the Royal Bank of Scotland that they are to remove free

access to rival bank machines for its basic bank account customers. I am concerned that for those of you who live in the more rural parts of the constituency, this move will increase the pressure on cash-strapped hard working families who have enough to worry about without this further burden of cost and access to their money. I have written to Stephen Hester, Chief Executive at the Royal Bank of Scotland to raise my concerns and to remind him that 83% of the Royal Bank is owned by us the taxpayer.

As part of my usual round of surgeries, I intend to hold a surgery in Aberfoyle on Saturday 29th October but as we go to press, time and venue remain unconfirmed. However, if you would like to meet with me in Aberfoyle on that day, please contact my office to find out the surgery details. Otherwise I can be contacted as usual at my Parliamentary Advice Office, 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling, FK8 1UA. T: 01786 446515 F: 01786 5446513 or by email at anne.mcguire.mp@parliament.uk. You can now also follow me on Twitter @annemcguiremp or see my website at www.annemcguiremp.org.uk



Anne at Royal Bank of Scotland ATM



Anne with Paul McClung, a young Stirling father whose life was saved by a donor from the Anthony Nolan register.

Organist sought
by
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Mrs Janet MacCallum (382677)
or
The Revd Linda Stewart
(382391)



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THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2-3.30PM

Medical Centre Closures

October Monday 17 October
Christmas Monday 26th Dec 2011
Tuesday 27th Dec 2011
New Year Monday 2 Jan 2012
Tuesday 3 Jan 2012
In An Emergency Please Telephone
NHS 24
08454 24 24 24

Mobile Phone Numbers

In the future we are hoping to send patients reminders about their appointments by using mobile phone text messaging. We would be grateful if you could please inform the surgery of your mobile phone number.

Many Thanks

Massive Registration Campaign



Brian Byrne, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), is advising electors that the annual Voter Registration Form is being posted on 31st August to their address.

The form should be checked to ensure that all eligible resident electors over 16 years of age are included before making a prompt response.

The most cost effective response to the form can be made by telephone, email, fax or text if no changes are necessary.

Should changes be necessary then a signed form with details of the changes is required and can be returned by scanned email attachment, fax or in the pre-paid envelope provided.

It is in every elector's interest to ensure that a response is made and they are included in the 1st December Register of Electors as not being registered prevents you voting and reduces your credit rating. Should anyone require further advice please refer to the frequently asked questions (FAQ's) on www.saa.gov.uk/central

Should anyone not have received a registration form and hasn't registered already by telephone or email by 9th September please download a form from the above website.

Contact details for the Electoral Registration Office are

Email stirling@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk.
Tel 01786-892289 or Fax 01786-892255.

Thank you everyone

I have thoroughly enjoyed working here for 34 years and I am very pleased that we have managed to improve the services provided.

I would like to say a big thank you for all the kind thoughts that have been expressed and for the retiral present which I have now received. This is an Ifor Williams trailer so you will see me towing it around the villages. I will make very good use of this.

Dr Pollok



Rural North West Forth Valley Partnership Update

The Rural North West Forth Valley Partnership has been fully staffed since this beginning of this year. This team comprising of occupational therapy, physiotherapy, district nursing and occupational therapy are based in Callander Medical Centre. The area that they cover starts at Blairdrummond, Doune and Thornhill and covers the northwest area of Forth Valley including Killin, Crianlarich and Ardeonaig. The team provides a responsive, locally based rehabilitation service for up to 4 weeks. The aim of this is to support people in their own homes or community to regain their optimum level of independence to allow them to prevent admission to hospital or to allow people to be discharged home sooner. A crisis care service is also provided. This allows intensive support to be put in place quickly if there is a sudden change in circumstances such as ill health of a carer.

To date the service has supported almost 80 people at home. This new service was set up as a pilot and the evaluation of the work is currently being undertaken. This includes interviews with service users, carers and staff about the new service. A full report will be completed by the end of September 2011.

If you have any questions about this service please contact Alison Keir Project Lead Alison.keir@nhs.net

Gartmore Gigs

presents an evening of traditional Scottish music

Gaberlunzie

Robin Watson and Gordon Menzies have been together as Gaberlunzie since the early 1970s and are well known for producing an exciting blend of modern and traditional songs. Essentially Scottish, with an emphasis on rhythm and harmony, Gaberlunzie has a wide appeal to audiences both at home and abroad. They have travelled extensively in Europe, Canada, United States, and the Middle East, taking with them not only Scottish music but also that other extra special ingredient - Scottish humour.

The Gabs, as they are popularly called among their loyal following of supporters, have a wealth of experience in performing for a wide variety of audiences. As singers, instrumentalists, and songwriters, their talents are impressive and Gaberlunzie's gift for entertainment is unsurpassed in Scottish folk music.



Haggerdash

A band well known in folk circles having played at many festivals, on the radio and with regular gigs covering Scotland. A trio consisting of Billy, Davy & David from around Lanarkshire they have been entertaining crowds for years. From traditional songs to their own creations they are always going to put a smile on your face with their tall stories or a song to your lips with their sweet music.



Gartmore Village Hall

Saturday 1st October 2011

Doors open 7.30pm, performance 8.00pm

BAR

Tickets £10.00, available from Gartmore Village Shop 01877 382214 or www.wegotickets.com

Welcome to the news from **Glendrick Roost**

Now the children are back to school and mums and dads are breathing a sigh of relief we are settling down into our 'autumn' mode. It's unbelievable that the summer is almost gone and winter once more looms on the horizon.

Most of our animals have fared well over the summer months as, though wet, it has not been too cold or windy - a bad combination.

We have rescued a couple of buns: one being an ENORMOUS giant rabbit easily the size of a West Highland terrier!! Being so large and a reddish fawn colour we have named her Redwood. She was supposed to be pregnant but as yet hasn't produced any offspring! The other rabbit is also female and albino - she is called Bindweed. We took in a rather appealing Maximilian parrot who now has the name Hogwort. He is a 'feather plucker' which is just what it says - he plucks his own feathers out. This is a stress symptom but then may become a habit. Hogwort doesn't wear any trousers - he keeps plucking them off!! He does look a little strange. He has settled well and is living next to Bahni and Orinoco our other two parrots.

We have rescued yet one more donkey! Donkeys are struggling just now and the recession is being blamed as one more mouth to feed is unwanted! Our new boy is a very dark brown three year old whom we have called Chocolate Pudding. He was rescued from Ireland originally and though we are not sure of his history he is once more a very trusting chap regardless. He has already been on a fundraising event when he attended an Open Day at Balgair Castle Caravan Park in Fintry. His next fundraiser will be on Sunday November 20th where he will be on call when Santa visits Dobbies at Braehead. Please make a date and come and meet him AND Santa.

Muffin, our last rescued donkey, has now taken up residence with Justin the donkey, Echo and Wispa two of our Standard Shetland ponies and Chocolate Pudding and is spending the summer at Briarlands near Stirling.

There have been several visits to Hessilhead, the wildlife hospital with animals and birds that have been rescued. One such rescue was two baby wood pigeons that had been nesting in an old tree that council workers chopped down. The workmen found the babies still in the nest and sent the whole lot to Hessilhead via us - NEST and all. There are some very compassionate people out there. Thank you all.

Most of the summer outdoor fundraising events have now passed; the last highland games being at the beginning of September at Blairgowrie. Our winter programme is being worked out and Dobbies garden centres play an enormous part. We have visits to Ayr, Dundee, Edinburgh, Stirling, Milngavie, Livingston and Braehead Dobbies before Christmas. We are also going to be at Ikea in Braehead on 19th and 20th November [Chocolate Pudding will be at Dobbies there on the same weekend!!] Our two other main fundraisers before Christmas are a Fancy Dress Wild West Ho-down later in September and a Guess the Whisky competition.

Please contact me if you would like details of the where or when of any of the above events.

Carol, one of our volunteers, and Andy, her husband, have had a beautiful baby daughter they have named Ailsa Joyce. Our congratulations go to the happy [tired] family. The wee furries look forward to Carol's return once she is able to tear herself away from the baby!!!

Volunteers are always needed to help care for the many animals at the rescue. Please consider spending a little time looking after those creatures less fortunate than you.

You can contact me on 07748 351287. Thank you
Mione Morrison, Centre Manager.



ChillOut YoGA

...the heart of Scotland

Every Tuesday 9.30-11am

David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle £6pp

Every Thursday 10-11am

BlackBull, Gartmore £5pp

Every Tuesday & Friday 9.30-11am

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Saturdays 10-11am

not every week..Please check dates!

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gocountry

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

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The Apprentice to the Scribe's Apprentice!

Topic: Mountain Bikers!

You know, I love a good grumph!

It cleanses the soul as it were and around Aberfoyle there are plenty of opportunities to whinge about something or other.

Take the tourists for example; yes do take the tourists, right out to a convenient wall and shoot them. Well shoot the ones who come by car, and the ones who bring a bike. Especially the ones who bring a bike. A mountain bike!

Sorry to have to say this but, as a species, I have never seen a more useless, ignorant, brainless bunch of nutters in all my life; and I've walked the face of this planet for nearly 60 years. I used to be employed to drive a big yellow machine with mechanical digging arms, and the male mountain biker was and still is, the bane of my life.

I don't know what it is but, whenever they put on the aero-dynamically sculpted, thermodynamically designed helmet and the day-glow yellow stretchy shirt and shiny black breeks, all vestiges of common sense and normal consideration for other road user seems to disappear.

I remember one time; I was sitting on the road minding my own business cleaning out the roadside ditches. I had my warning signs out, prominently displayed, the machine was gurgling away quite happily to herself and I had her lit up like a Christmas tree with flashing beacons; and do you know? This bampot came thundering round the curve head down, arse up, with his wee legs going like a pair of hairy pistons and nothing between his ears.

It was a slightly incredulous, totally stupefied expression that flashed across his sweaty face when he saw me; a sort of "What the *****! How dare you be on the same road as me when I'm trying to live out my Tour d'France fantasy?"

This was just before the divot realised that he was heading for calamity at 20 odd miles an hour! Then survival mode kicked in and he had a sudden attack of the skitters, ultimately taking to the hedge rather than face the hardened steel that oh so comfortingly surrounded me.

Don't get me wrong... I don't dislike all cyclists; only the kind of mindless twat-like-organism that I've just described.

In fact I have a favourite: the group of MUMs. Bless them!

These ladies can sometimes be found, with a small flock of bairns in tow, round and about Aberfoyle and their behaviour could not be more different.

As soon as they see the machine they gather their charges together and use the opportunity to impress on the weans the need to be careful and watch what they're doing. They wait for permission to pass; indeed so considerate are they that often they will turn back at the first sight of the machine.

Never seen one of the male variety do that; in fact another anecdote springs to mind.

I was replacing a culvert, again minding my own business, with a big hole in the road and very muddy it was too.

I had just got the pipes in the ground and was in the act of back filling when he appeared..... going full tilt, head down and not a sensible thought running through what passes for his mind.

As a Christian I'm tempted to think that there are such things as guardian angels but if there are then these biker bams must go through entire squadrons; but, however, on the day in question this lad's angel was awake and on the ball because the twat saw the trench in time and got the bike stopped.

Now on this occasion I had the back window open and I shouted to him to give me a wee minute and I'd let him across (I don't like the species but one has to be professional about these kinds of things dontcha know). However not this loony: bold as brass he grabs the bike, hoists it onto his shoulder and tries to jump the trench! Thick ass-hole that he was, he didn't make it half way across but rather went into the muck up to his knees.

So there he is floundering about in the muck getting filthier by the second, has to fling the bike away and sprackle out as best he could; and all this with me watching and laughing.

As my father might have said, "Stone mad head-case is the alternative spelling for mountain biker"

Och aye, ye dinnae get a lot of money in this job but ye aye get a laugh.

More whining and moaning next edition when we'll be discussing the standard of driving in and around Strathard.



Revealing the woodland history of South Loch Katrine.

A guided walk on 23rd October

The Great Trossachs Forest is pleased to invite you to an all day hill walk to explore the natural and cultural heritage around Ben Venue and South Loch Katrine on Sunday 23rd October.

This walk will introduce you to some rarely explored woods and reveal clues to their history. Experts Peter Quelch and Coralie Mills will be on hand to demonstrate their great knowledge and passion for the area and to inform us about their latest work on ancient wood pastures and old oak coppices.

The walk will start from the Ben Venue car park on Sunday 23rd October and will be an all day event (9-5.30 approx). During the day we will walk over the Bealach nam Bo pass to the lovely oakwoods and archaeology around Glasahole. We will stop regularly throughout the day, but due to the terrain the walk will be strenuous. Therefore participants need to have a moderate fitness, suitable outdoor walking gear and will need to bring a packed lunch.

This event is free, but numbers are limited. A similar event last year (which focused on a different part of the woodland) was extremely popular and well attended. Booking is therefore essential. If you are interested in attending this event, please call Sue Morris on 01877 376340/ 07775 034851 or email suemorris@scottishforestalliance.org.uk

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National Park News

By Owen McKee

Renewables is a subject which certainly generates a lot of heat especially where wind turbines are involved. And sales teams targetting farmers in the Carse are bringing the problem to our doorstep. What is the Park Authority's position? Clearly we are bound to buy into the Government's renewables targets but we have made it clear that large scale wind farms are a "no no" for the Park. However, consideration will be given to small scale generation which is sensitively sited and is not a threat to the special qualities of the Park. Other considerations are what the scheme contributes to the energy efficiency and self sufficiency of the Park's communities and businesses and whether the electricity supplied to the national grid generates income to support identified social, economic or environmental projects or initiatives. What has been proving most successful in these areas in the Park is the Run of The River Hydro Scheme. A number of these have now been given planning permission. And here's the rub. There is a saturation point for everything. You may be aware that the Forestry Commission is involved in encouraging communities to make use of Forestry Commission owned land to set up community schemes. Callander Community Trust is currently negotiating for use of forestry land above Loch Lubnaig for such a scheme. Is there any hope that something similar could come about in Strathard where Forestry is the major land owner? After the protracted but very successful community effort in acquiring the Garage the appetite may be a little lacking at present but

hopefully in due course the hunger pangs of community involvement will return.

Whilst on the renewables tack may I add that there is also a sales drive on for the installation of Photovoltaic Panels. Do such installations need planning permission? They may do depending on such things as, "Is it a listed building or in a conservation area?" The Park Authority is favourably disposed so if you are thinking of installing them just lift the phone and ask The Planning Dept whether a formal application would be required. Phone number is 01389 722600. Just remember Planning Permission is NOT a guarantee of the efficiency of your particular installation. PV generation works on a combination of light and sun and is most effective on south facing structures. Plans and consultations do seem to be a constant feature but they are an essential part of running the Park. Park Plans are for a five year period. The Plan for 2012 -2017 was launched for consultation on 25th August when we had the company at Balloch of all four of the Park communities' MSPs. The consultation period will last till November. Please do have a look at what is in the Draft Plan and let us have your comments. The Plan is online at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org or if you prefer a paper copy can be obtained from Park HQ.

As always I can be contacted as follows:
Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead,
FK19 8PR
Phone: 01567 830214
owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Loch Ard Local History Group

Our monthly meetings resume in September in the smart new Village Hall in Kinlochard.

On the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm we welcome speakers on a wide range of subjects with a Scottish historical perspective, sometimes very local and sometimes from further afield. This year the subjects extend from Strathard via the Central Highlands to wartime Holland and Boer War South Africa.

Details of the talks can be found on the Kinlochard website www.kinlochard.org

All are welcome. Annual membership £10 or £3 for a single talk.

Secretary Alan Cooper 01877 387270

POETRY CORNER

Jake

His racing days are over, he just can't go that fast
He tries so hard to please them but he always comes in last
His owner's very angry, he shouts and tugs his rope
Jake looks at him with pleading eyes; with love and fear and hope.

The owner swears and shouts at him and throws him in the car
He slams the door and grates the gears but doesn't go that far
Jake's thrown into a kennel and left there all that night
When daylight comes he wags his tail when brought into the light.

His owner doesn't look at him or speak just yanks his lead
And chucks him in the car again; no time for Jake to plead
Into the vets the dog is pulled and in a cage left there
One vet tries hard to find a home - does NO one out there care

At last ... a home is found for Jake - a temporary spot
With GAL he'll have the home he wants and love he'll get a lot
The phone call to the vets is placed the home is offered fast
Too late poor Jake has lost the racealready breathed his last.

Black Bull Gartmore



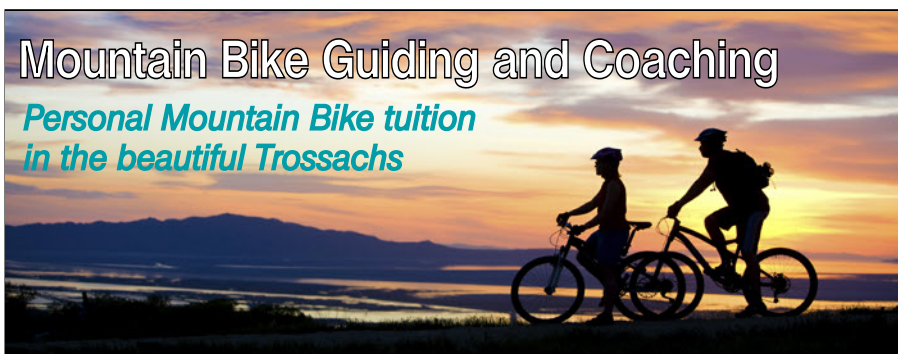
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Could you give a loving home to sibling duo: Tango & Pongo?



The Blue Cross, in collaboration with Pet Fostering Service Scotland, is appealing for a loving home for brothers Tango and Pongo, five-year-old Golden retriever cross whippet dogs who are being fostered in Callander. Tango and Pongo are very friendly, endearing dogs who just love to play with toys. However, what they love most of all is each other so we are looking for a home where they can remain together.

Tango is a fun-loving boy; he is fantastic with people and would be fine to be homed with older children. Pongo is not as confident as Tango and can look for reassurance at times. He is very affectionate and enjoys cuddling up to a cosy lap in the evening after a hard day's play.

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's leading animal charities, teamed up with Pet Fostering Service Scotland (PFSS) in 2008 to help animals in need across Scotland. The collaboration helps the PFSS develop its work assisting pet owners on a low income who need their animals cared for on a temporary basis, for example if their home is flooded or if they need hospital treatment. PFSS runs a network of volunteers who provide foster care for pets until they can be reunited with their owners. By teaming up with The Blue Cross, the charity now also helps find loving new homes for homeless pets.

To find out more about Tango & Pongo, or if you are interested in becoming a short term or rehoming foster carer in Scotland, please contact Natalie Hogg at PFSS on 0300 456 8500 or email natalie.hogg@bluecross.org.uk for more information.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND COMES TO THE RESCUE OF PORT KIRK

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has agreed to award £125,000 toward the restoration of Port of Menteith Parish Church. This sum will help fund the urgent works required to keep the building wind and watertight, and protect its impressive Stephen Adam stained glass trefoil window.

The church was built in 1878 to a design by the renowned architect John Honeyman. It is in a beautiful setting on the shore of the Lake of Menteith, but its exposed position has meant that the sandstone has deteriorated over the years.

The work, which has just begun, will see vital repairs to the stonework and wall heads, re-plastering, and careful restoration of the stone surrounding the Adam trefoil window.

Mrs Sheena Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Treasurer of the Port Kirk said, "We are thrilled that the HLF has helped us so generously. We are a small congregation of just 65 members and over the last two years we have worked very hard to raise over £70,000 ourselves through concerts and other fundraising events, but the award by HLF makes all the difference. It means that we can now go ahead with the works immediately, before there is any further deterioration in the building. The church is an important part of rural life here, obviously for Sunday worship, weddings and funerals, Christmas and Easter, but also for concerts, due to its great acoustic. Thanks to this grant we will be able to protect our church building for future generations. The trefoil window pictures faith, hope and charity – and we are fortunate that we are in happy possession of all three."



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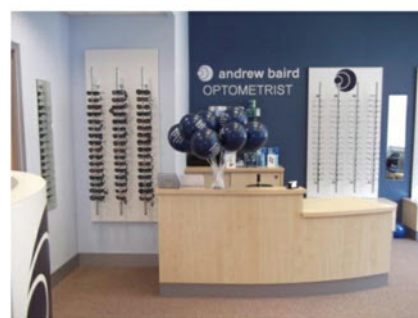


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Thank you to everyone who has expressed their best wishes and all of our patients for their support.

Strathard Historic Route

Work has been progressing well on the project to create a traffic-free route along the length of Strathard, and completion is expected later this autumn. Going west from Aberfoyle, the route will use existing forestry roads and paths along the south side of Lochs Ard, Dhu and Chon, beyond which it will follow two sections of 18th century road to Stronachlachar and Inversnaid. These two old roads, a statute labour road and a military road pre-dating General Wade, have needed major restoration work which has been undertaken by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) as part of their Great Trossachs Forest native woodland scheme.

The idea for the project emerged from the 2002 Community Futures initiative. A steering group was formed, consisting of three local members, representatives from FCS and the National Park together with the Stirling Council Archaeological Officer. Working as a sub-group of Strathard Community Trust we received external funding for a feasibility study and an archaeological dig that involved 23 local volunteers. FCS then took over the project, secured Heritage Lottery funding, obtained planning consent, prepared a construction specification and carried out a full archaeological survey. Contractors were appointed and have been on site for much of this year.

When complete, the route will provide a link between National Cycle Route 7 at Aberfoyle,

the West Highland Way at Inversnaid and the popular walking and cycling route beside Loch Katrine from Stronachlachar. Although the forestry road section will remain unchanged, the newly restored sections will offer a welcome respite from the public roads and will open up a range of opportunities for people to explore the spectacular landscape between Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine on a multi-purpose path. The surface will be mineral rather than tarmac, to be in keeping with the character of the area.

As well its recreational value, the project will serve to rescue these almost-forgotten roads from oblivion. In places, the roads show a well-defined profile as they contour round the hillsides, but elsewhere they have become submerged under peat and bog and almost lost. The archaeological studies have revealed numerous original features, notably stone-built culverts, which will be cleared and restored where necessary. FCS have their own Inverness-based archaeologist who has been advising on this.

Those of us who have been involved from the outset are now eagerly anticipating the conclusion of the project. In the meantime, for safety reasons FCS are keen to discourage anyone from wandering on to the site while work is still going on. We'll keep you posted on its progress.

John Digney



Under construction - the start of the new section of path north-west of Loch Chon.



High point - the path follows the line of the old statute labour road over the watershed above Glen Arklet

LOCHSIDE YOGA

Kinlochard Village Hall

Tuesday Evenings Drop-in

7.30pm – 9pm: A relaxing class, suitable for all abilities. Please check website for dates.

Weekend of Yoga: 1st & 2nd October



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Saturday 1 October

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10am - 12.30pm: Release and Free: Yin (still) and Yang (flowing) Yoga.

5.30pm - 7pm: Wind Down: Calm your mind and relax your body.

Sunday 2 October

10am - 12.30pm: Chakra Yoga: Focus on your energy centres.

Places are limited, so booking is required for all sessions.

Sunday Mornings for Beginners

10am - 11.30am: Breathe, Stretch & Relax

30 October 2011

20 November 2011

11 December 2011

There are limited places to assure personal attention and tuition. Booking required for all classes.

For further details, or to book a place please **contact Gillian on 01877 387201**

07738 225996

or **gillian@lochsideyoga.com**.

Lots more information on
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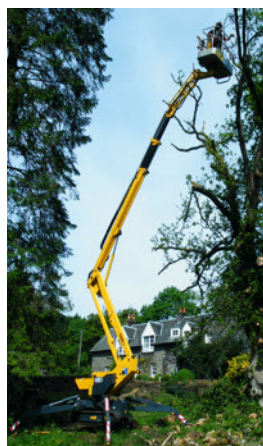
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The Aberfoyle Osprey Project

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

Changing Seasons

As you may all have noticed the temperature outside is changing and while this means that for us we maybe put on an extra layer of clothing or turn the heating up slightly, for many animals it is just the start of a very long journey. Two of the species that we have been watching closely this year at the David Marshall Lodge fit perfectly to this category, Ospreys and Swallows. Both of these birds have already started their long migrations to warmer climates, West and South Africa respectively. We wait in anticipation to see them return next year!

This time of year is also a change for us at the David Marshall Lodge with the focus moving over to the species that spends the winter here. As previously mentioned in an earlier issue Bat Cam is now in place and we are waiting to see if any bats appear on screen. Also for the first time, the live web link will be kept on during winter, focussing on one of the red squirrel feeders down at the David Marshall Lodge squirrel hide. Why not follow the link below, sit back, relax and see if you are lucky enough to spot on these iconic Scottish species or an illusive pine marten.

www.forestry.gov.uk/aberfoyleospreys

Species Special– Pine Martin

Now that the ospreys have left heading for warmer climate, it give us a chance to look at some of the different species that call the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park home.

Pine Marten (*Martes Martes*)

Is one of six native members of the weasel family, which includes stoat, badgers and otter.

They are found mainly in mature woodland and their diet includes nuts, berries, insects and small rodents.

It has been suggested 6,500 years ago, that pine martens were the second most common carnivore in Britain when there was greater tree cover.

In Loch Ard Forest grey squirrels seem to have declined while red squirrels have expanded since the expansion on the Pine Marten in the area, this may have something to do with how efficient Pine Martens are at hunting grey squirrels.

Pine Martens have been spotted having a quick snack from the squirrel feeders at the David Marshall Lodge especially in the winter months when natural food is harder to find!



Inversnaid Reserve



As you no doubt had no idea, I missed the last news letter due to being merrily on holiday. While you were basking in the editorial delights of my colleague Allison, I was basking in a baking hot July in the south of Finland.

Due to family over there, we spend quite a bit of time in Finland, but this was the first time in a while we had made it during the summer months. With such an extreme difference in weather between summer and winter, it was like visiting a different place. For one thing, there were so many birds around that are not there when it is minus 30. I was particularly struck by the large numbers of fieldfare and swift. Anywhere you looked up there were three or four swift flying high overhead, and the fieldfare were so numerous that they were like...like, umm? And that was the problem. On describing it back home I wasn't sure how to finish that sentence. '...like sparrows?' There have been a huge decline in recent years, and they are a much rarer sight these days. '...like starlings?' We can all remember huge flocks of starlings, but how long ago is it since you saw the last one that took your breath away? In conservation we talk about the ratchet effect. This is where subsequent generations of people accept lower and lower numbers of a species present. So your great, great grand children will accept the fact that there are only a handful of sparrows, starlings, or whatever around, because they have never known any different. It is up to all of us to make sure that we don't become complacent with the numbers we have. They can be improved and we should not stop trying (soap box mode off). Chaffinches...that's what they were like. Chaffinches round Inversnaid hotel when you are eating your sandwich....

See you on the reserve,
Fraser
Fraser Lamont
RSPB Inversnaid, Assistant Warden.

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Letters to the Editor

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



This damage occurred at the B829 on the lochside at Kinlochard on 5 August 2011.

How very sad we were to find this beauty spot maliciously damaged with bonfire, broken glass, rubbish, fish hooks /lures/line, raw fish and goodness only knows what else???

We have contacted Stirling Council Emergency Services this morning and they have advised us that someone from Environment Services will be out to clean up today... In the interim we have bagged the raw fish & fish hooks to ensure no wildlife or other animals are harmed and have taped off the site to try to discourage access until it is cleaned. We understand that someone witnessed the event last night and directly contacted the police to advise them of the situation. Unfortunately there appears to have been no direct action or intervention from them.

From a very disappointed local resident of Kinlochard.



Saturday 13th August 2011,

Firstly on the way to Aberfoyle there was a tractor and trailer half on and half off the road with a digger trying to offload its 17 Ton cargo, which took 45 minutes.

On the way back home following a massive truck with a 70 tonne load he unfortunately slid off at the back on a bend when moving over for cars that were unable to reverse! Not the driver's fault of the truck but it eventually closed the road on Saturday which was still not open this morning at 6am. But it seems strange that from the Inversnaid end at Strony T-junction there were no road closed signs. It seems the residents have to report any potholes prior to damaging their vehicles or the claim is not valid. But it also seems strange that vehicles with loads in excess of sensible weight limits for the road can just come up when they want and with no prior notice. Also there are several bridges on that road which I am sure are not made to take that sort of weight and that's not counting the countless trucks coming up with hardcore for the cycle way.

Disgruntled, Inversnaid

Before



During



After



Aftermath



Stirling Area Broadband

It widely acknowledged that a significant number of businesses and residents in the Stirling Council area are suffering from poor broadband internet access.

Working with Clackmannanshire Council and partners, Stirling Council is currently putting measures in place to address broadband issues that have been plaguing the areas surrounding and including Bandeath Industrial Estate (Throsk) and Touch Business Centre (Cambusbarron).

The Scottish Government has ambitions that by 2015 all homes and businesses in the UK will have access to at least 2Mbit/s broadband and that 90% will have access to 24Mbit/s. To this end the Government will soon make a limited amount of funding available.

To meet the Government's ambitions and Stirling Council's own economic development objectives, we plan to build on what we are already implementing in the Bandeath/Touch areas and ensure a quality broadband service is available to all residents and businesses throughout Stirling.

To do this we need to apply for Government funding and we need your help to do so.

If you, as a resident or business, are suffering from poor or no access to broadband please e-mail or write to Sandy Frickleton at the address below.

If you know of any other residents or businesses in your area that have broadband issues, please encourage them to respond to Sandy as well.

To help with building the case for Stirling. Sandy needs a description of the issue and what you/they mainly use the internet for. Also, an indication of current speed would be helpful.

The more evidence we have, the stronger our bid for funding to get a quality broadband service out to you will be. Contact details:

Sandy Frickleton,
Business Liaison Executive, Stirling Council, New Viewforth, Stirling
Email frickletona@stirling.gov.uk
Tel 01786 443403

Free food waste caddy liners available- limited period only!

For a limited period only, Waste Services is making a quantity of food waste caddy liners available to households in the Stirling area free-of-charge. These liners will be available to collect from the Customer First "One Stop Shop", located in Port Street. The promotion of the food waste caddy liners is part of a trial looking at how food waste caddy liners affect recycling behaviour.

Each household taking part in this trial can be issued up to 2 rolls of liners. Each roll contains roughly 25 liners.

As part of this project, and, in return for the liners, we would like to ask you a few questions about your food waste recycling habits and we may also phone you to discuss your opinion about the use of food caddy liners in more detail.

This trial is part of the national "Zero Waste Scotland Strategy" which aims to reduce all forms of household waste, including food waste.

Thanks for your support
Stirling Council Waste Services

Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!



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

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

If there is one thing I have learned, during my tenure at the Lodge, it is that this is certainly not your average Visitor Centre. I have long held the belief that the David Marshall Lodge holds an everlasting and universal calling, 'cast in slate' if you like, by way of its long and illustrious history. It is a place where tradition holds strong and family values are realised as a constant.

These feelings are not immediately apparent with everyone, but those who have made the sojourn to the Lodge on countless occasions over the years will surely understand my train of thought.

I also remain convinced that a huge part of its unparalleled attraction can be easily 'mapped' by way of its formidable setting and, in particular, the astonishing outlook available from the south facing veranda. This, to me, is the major enticement for the visitors.

Notwithstanding the marvellous spillage of colours established in its vistas throughout the changing seasons, the area tends to be a hive of activity for a diverse range of individuals and groups. Asian, Muslim, East European, Jewish, English, Irish, Welsh, Dutch, German, French, Scandinavians, Australians, Japanese, Chinese, New Zealanders, Canadians, South and North Americans, Amish. No matter. That they all find their way here is testament to its appeal.

A little known secret, which may or may not interest you, is that when I joined the Strathard News team around eight years ago, my original intention was to call the column you now know as 'Rangers Ramblings' as 'A View through the Window'. The window being the one directly behind the desk in what I like to call the Forest Craft Shop, but which is now known as the shop@ the Lodge.

Through time, 'The Window' has become a portal of sorts to me, whereby, from the inside looking out, people can be seen to be enjoying themselves in a variety of ways. The imagery, at times, can be delectable:

Children flying kites, pet dogs wallowing in their freedom, ice-cream consumption high on the agenda and heady family gatherings in the shape of picnics and barbecues.

A seemingly never-ending flow of Hen Parties, Stag Parties, Birthday Parties, Wedding Parties, Easter Celebrations and Heelster Gowdie music concerts are also worthy of remembrance.

It is the impromptu scenarios, however, which tend to solidify my impressions, some of which have bordered on the surreal: a circus troupe from Argentina, for instance, who delighted us with a two-hour juggling performance in 2003. Another acute memory exists of a group of Morris Dancers, hailing from Bristol, who commandeered the courtyard in 2006. Then there was the visit from a group of Elvis impersonators, who quietly side-shifted into the café to order some coffees as if it was an every day occurrence. Photographic opportunities were well to the fore that day, as I recall. These are but a few examples.

As if to further shape its profile, a Belgian entourage descended upon us recently, setting up what was initially visible as a simple buffet picnic outing, on the veranda. Only, the group in question shaped up in what appeared to be home made tartan garb, with tea towels and carpet rugs draped as makeshift kilts. After a few glasses of wine were consumed, the atmosphere rose somewhat, and a full-blown tug-of-war contest between the group was seen to follow. For the life of me, I struggled for a moment to make sense of it all.

Then I realisedIt's just The Lodge. Being itself. Being different. Being unique.



*Just when you thought it was safe
to go back into the forest!*



It is borne of the deep, but this is no shark
Aggressive in nature, but containing no 'bark'
Hovering menacingly, until it settles on our skin
With the sole intent to drink the blood within
Growing in confidence with increase of number
The dilemma is accentuated when they arise from their slumber
As, with military precision, they group for 'the kill'
Turning happiness into misery with inordinate skill
"Once bitten, twice shy" should be the order of the day
When you come into the forest, in the summer, to play
For, although there are many wonderful things to find
You should observe particular caution toward the insect in mind
Miniscule in size, yet powerful in force
It will surely reach its 'destination' in all due course
And other than relating this fairly obvious fact
I can offer little advice in dealing with any impending 'attack'
Save for the words of a gentleman from Ireland
Who, totally straight-faced, suggested a solution in hand
"Drink ten pints of Guinness in the event of a sting
With the added assurance you will not feel a thing!"
Good riddance to the dreaded midge for another season.

Rangers Corner



Mairi MacDonald, from the District Office, offered her services during the Nature Club season on the Mini-Beast Day. It looks like she enjoyed the occasion.



David Cowan 'cuts' a fine pose after earning his 'strimming' certificate.



Janet Marshall, grand daughter-in-law of David Marshall, and her daughter Millie, paid us a very welcome visit during August.

BUILDING BRIDGES

It is fairly possible that some of our more discerning and regular walkers within the Forest Park may have a sense of déjà-vu when encountering the 'new' bridge which has recently appeared at Sallochy, on East Loch Lomond side.

This is down to the fact that the five metre span originally stood proudly for many a year at the base of the Waterfall of the Little Fawn, ten minutes walk from The Lodge.



Aside from the very obvious re-cycling aspects, the Commission should be highly commended for taking the decision to re-locate this piece of Lodge tradition for the future benefit of walkers, rather than break it up.

Thanks are due to Alan Jackson, Robin Lunn, David Robertson, Jim Scott, Jim Malcolm and Eddie McGuire for making this so.

GREEN DAYS

The staff are delighted to report the recent Gold rated Environmental Management Award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Efforts to establish the David Marshall Lodge as a sustainable tourism operation have continued apace since the introduction of a biomass boiler system to provide renewable energy, in 2009. Through concentrated training and team work with the Franchises on site since then, our profile is steadily increasing.

There is also now a permanent 'Green Board' on display at the entrance, which promotes recycling, conservation and community projects and encourages the use of public transport and cycling routes.

It is fitting that Anne is pictured with the plaque, as it is as a result of her drive and determination in particular that the award was finally achieved.



A warm image of Anne, on the back of her hard work toward achieving the "Gold" Green Tourism Award.

DML Notice Board

DOORS OPEN DAY

ABERFOYLE SLATE QUARRY TOURS Saturday 17th September

A privileged opportunity exists on this day to learn about the history and workings of the nearby quarries through, first of all, a presentation given by local author and historian, Louis Stott, followed by a guided mini bus tour to the site.

Talks begin at 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

Trips begin at 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

This is a free event, and certainly not to be missed. Spaces are limited

HEELSTER GOWDIE

Sunday 18th September. 2.30 p.m.

This is the last chance to catch the band this season. An added reason to attend what is always a superb afternoon's entertainment, is that the boys will be showcasing songs from their new C.D., which will be available for purchase on the day. It's your choice- be a couch potato, and catch up on the Eastenders Omnibus, or come to the Lodge and witness something special.

A free event although contributions to the groups favoured charities will be most welcome.

DEER RUT WEEKEND

Sunday 2nd and Sunday 9th October, 3p.m. – 7p.m.

The limited places are already being snapped up for this exceptional opportunity to enjoy a minibus excursion into the heart of the forest, to experience the sights and sounds of the autumn stag rut. The event involves hill walking, and requires a reasonable level of fitness. As such, walking boots and waterproofs are essential items to consider. Binoculars are a standard.

Cost : £12.00 per person, Concession / Children £10.00 per person. Children must be aged over 10 and accompanied by an adult.

NUTS ABOUT SQUIRRELS

Sunday 2nd October, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Find out more about our bushy-tailed friends during this ever-popular event, as we celebrate Red Squirrel Week with guided walks and related activities. Forestry Commission and National Park staff will be on hand to extol the virtues of these elusive creatures. Outdoor waterproof clothing and binoculars are required for the walks, which are not strenuous. No dogs are permitted on this occasion.

Cost: There is a small charge for the craft activities available on the day.

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

School News

Aberfoyle Primary and Nursery

The sixteenth of August saw the start of a new school term. As always the children all appear to have "shot up" in the holidays and P7 just seem to get taller each year!

Staff

The new term brings a number of staff changes, in school, with Mr Casserly teaching P1/2, Mrs Eckersall teaching across the school for two days per week and Mrs MacDonald joining us in the office. We are delighted to welcome them all to Aberfoyle P.S.

Primary 1 (see photograph)

This year we welcomed eight new P1s to school. They have all settled in really well and when asked what they most liked about school, these were some of the answers:

"I like standing in a line in the morning"

"Writing on the board is best"

"Reading and sounds are the best things"

"Playtime!!"

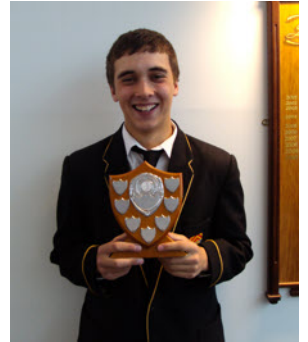
When Mr Casserly was asked what he liked best at Aberfoyle P.S. his answer was, "Just how friendly everyone is."



McLaren High

Senior Golf Championship

Callum Fountain won this year's Senior Golf Championship by beating Darek Kunecki in the final round. Competition was very strong and credit must go to Callum for his success. He will have his name engraved on the Senior Golf Championship trophy as well as recognition for his golfing prowess at the Senior Awards Ceremony. Well done to all entrants for making this year's competition a very successful one and for conducting themselves in a very sporting manner.



Box Tops for Books

McLaren High School is participating in the Box Tops for Books scheme this year. It is an initiative from Nestlé offering a wide range of new books from the leading children's publisher Dorling Kindersley in exchange for tokens from the top of Nestlé cereal boxes.

You can view the types of books that are available by visiting www.bboxtops4books.co.uk. As well as information about the scheme, the website has lots of tips about how you can support your child's reading at home.

It takes as little as 10 tokens to get one book, so the more tokens we collect the more books we can receive for our library. This is where we need your help and support to make the most of the scheme. If your family eats Nestlé cereals, please remember to tear off the token on the top of the box and bring it in to school. Tokens can be handed in to reception, the pupil office or the library.

Edinburgh International Book Festival

On Monday 22 August pupils from S2 and S3 went to the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Here are 2 pupil's thoughts on the day:

'I enjoyed the book festival because it was a good way to see new authors, hear them talk about their books and hear how they were inspired to write their books.

I liked all the authors and thought they're books sounded very good. One of the authors, Celia Rees, had written historical novels and she talked about her newest book, *The Fools Girl*, and how she had based it on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. I thought the plot was clever and it is a book that I want to read in the future.

I really enjoyed listening to Julie Bertanga and Keith Gray. Their books were both about surviving in different ways. Julia's was about a future sinking world in the year 2099. Keith's book was on running away from home with his friend's urn.'

Hannah Michael S2

'When we arrived at the book festival we went to the Scottish Power tent and saw Celia Rees. She explained that she buys one piece of jewellery for every book she writes, to reward herself. Next we went to another workshop which was held in the RBS tent with Keith Gray and Julie Bertanga. They told us in detail about how they wrote their books, the style and what they were about. Both of the books sounded good. Julia had published a series of books about 2099 where the world was all underwater. Keith Gray has written many books but he described his book *Ostrich Bay* and it sounded good and he encouraged us to read it. The Edinburgh Book Festival was a great experience.'

Gregor Henderson S2



Nuts About Squirrels
David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle
Sunday October 2nd 2011
11am – 4pm

Join us at David Marshall Lodge and learn more about these endearing forest creatures. To celebrate Red Squirrel Week, (a national week dedicated to everything red and squirrelly) staff from the Forestry Commission, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park will be on hand to advise on all squirrel matters!



* Photo by Steve Gardener

There are two guided walks organised, one at 12pm and another at 2pm. Visit the nearby squirrel hide with our expert staff and learn more about these, and other creatures that inhabit the surrounding Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Pine marten, water voles, osprey, golden eagle, otters, barn and tawny owls are a few of the creatures that share this amazing forest with the red squirrels.

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels is a project currently running in the National Park to help protect the remaining population of red squirrels. Come and learn how you can help to protect our local red squirrel population by taking part in a worthwhile project working locally to protect our native biodiversity.

Event is free of charge...all ages welcome.

Gartmore Primary School
Employment Opportunity

We would like to be able to offer a breakfast and homework club for the children at our school.

Are you in a position to offer help at either or both ends of the school day?

Please contact Mr David Scott, the Headteacher of Gartmore Primary School on 01877 382343 or email gartmps@stirling.gov.uk

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Rally of Scotland will take place
on Friday 7 - Sunday 9 October

Running on a Friday - Sunday format again, and one week earlier than in 2010, this year's event will be decided by three days of competitive driving on timed Special Stages on closed Forestry Commission Scotland gravel roads in Stirling, Perth & Kinross and North Lanarkshire.

The Rally of Scotland is the penultimate round of the high-profile Intercontinental Rally Challenge and could see the crowning of a new IRC Champion as one and a half times the normal points on offer for a win will be up for grabs. That is expected to lead to a first-class overseas entry while also attracting a number of leading domestic crews eager to make a name on the international stage. Among the top British names will be Lanark's Alister McRae and Dumfries' David Bogie.

Adding to the entertainment, spectators will see a supporting rally for national crews being held on Saturday's and Sunday's stages that follows straight after the headlining IRC event. Furthermore, the route for IRC competitors features a Ceremonial Start at Stirling Castle, a central service park at Perth Airport and a Ceremonial Finish at Scone Palace.

Sunday 9 October

Service (Perth)	07:12
SS9 Carron Valley 3	09:08
SS10 Loch Chon 1	10:52
SS11 High Corrie 1 (LIVE TV)	11:10
Remote Service (Callander)	12:28
SS12 Loch Chon 2	13:37
SS13 High Corrie 2 (LIVE TV)	13:55
Service (Perth)	16:20
SS14 Scone Palace 1	17:00
SS15 Scone Palace 2	17:19
Finish (Scone Palace)	17:31
Parc Ferme In (Perth)	17:51

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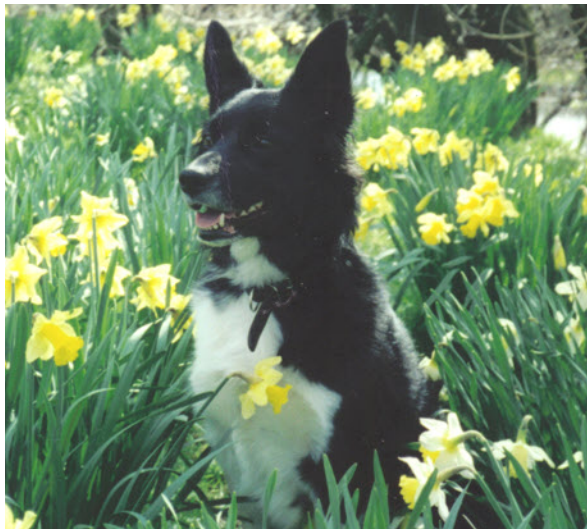
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Pet Profile



I would like to introduce you to Heather.

She is a border collie, and, on the 19th of December this year, she will reach the age of thirteen. That's doggie years, of course. They say that one such portion of time is equivalent to seven in human terms. That would make her ninety-one on her birthday. This theory seems strange to me, as she still displays youthful exuberance on a regular basis. This is particularly evident when I return home from work.

As always, I look forward to the moment with high expectation. She is my surrogate child and, as such, during the day I miss her intently. It would appear the feeling is mutual as, every evening when I creep in the close and sneak a look through the letter box, I spy her lying in wait behind the door.

The romantic within likes to think she has been sitting in that position since I left (shades of Greyfriars Bobby) but, nonetheless, I check the fridge just in case she has raided my beer supplies.

Thereafter, there is a period which is known in the Wilkie residence as the Bonio Chompie Championships. This basically involves a half-hour bonding period whereby an exact number of Bonio biscuits (four) are placed around the household for her to find. If I place only three, she will look me in the eye as if to say, "Where is the other one?" Believe me, if you thought dogs can't count, try this exercise out.

Another thing she does, which totally endears me to her, is when, despite seeming to be asleep, her eyes appear to follow me when I move around the room. They say the portrait of the Mona Lisa, which hangs in The Louvre, has a similar effect. I have seen this for myself on a youthful sojourn to Paris but quite clearly this magnificent pastoral contribution to history is totally incapable of competing with the base emotions which come to the fore when a dog owner and their pet try to outstare each other.

There is no question they will always win the day and this is usually rewarded with a cuddle, and that's OK because it is all part of 'the game', as the level of pleasure, comfort and companionship they offer is worthy of a little submission from time to time.

In summing up, I make no apologies in admitting my relationship with Heather has been a love affair of sorts. She is my inspiration, and every moment I spend with her is cherished.

Post-script.

This article was written a few days before Heather passed away on Sunday 21st of August. I decided to submit it, nonetheless, as a result of the level of support I have received from the community, my appreciation of which cannot be underestimated.

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.

Trossachs Landscape History Network First Meeting

At a recent public meeting in Callander, various individuals came together for the start of a new community-generated network. This was a positive and creative beginning for the local initiative, which brings together diverse local individuals, groups and organisations to explore the area's past.

The Network is independent of any institution and is organised by local volunteers. Through it, people of different ages, interests and backgrounds can collaborate on activities relating to archaeology, history, ecology, or anything else to do with the local landscape and its heritage. There are a number of local history groups already active in and around the Trossachs and a number of other organisations whose work relates in one way or another to the landscape. There are also many people pursuing an interest in local history on an individual basis. The Network will not duplicate this but generate new projects which bring individuals, groups and organisations together to achieve things which might not otherwise happen. This is about more than the past. The focus is the local landscape, local history and so on, but we are looking to achieve other things as well. The Network will provide opportunities for everyone to learn something new, for children and young people to explore the landscape, and for those involved to pursue creative interests (e.g. photography, sketching, creative writing, film making). The Network will provide new opportunities for getting out-of-doors and seeing how the past connects with the present.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to join and there are no joining fees. You can join as an individual or as a representative of a group or organisation. The membership is diverse, with people of different ages, backgrounds and interests. Whether you currently know little about the local past or have been active in local history for some time, the network could be for you. Each of us will concentrate on those activities and projects which fit with our interests and the time we have available.

Following on from the enthusiastic first meeting in Callander, we have begun organising one or two initial events, including guided walks and training sessions in archaeology, history and other ways of investigating the past. The meeting generated a number of ideas for more ambitious projects, and these will be taken forward as the Network gets off the ground. If you are interested in finding out more and in getting involved, visit the Network's website (www.trossachslandscape.org.uk) where you will find a summary of the first meeting, or contact Chris Dalglish (chris@trossachslandscape.org.uk; 01877 389366).

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Inversnaid in the 1940s - Part 1

By Duncan McDiarmid

The harsh winter of 1939-40 was probably not the wisest time to undertake a flitting but, for the McDiarmid family, it was a case of necessity. My father, Archie McDiarmid, had been appointed by the Corporation of Glasgow as Estate Manager for the area covered by the waterworks at Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet, an area which was owned by the Corporation. The flitting from the island of Tiree was quite an undertaking from a tree-less island with numerous sandy beaches to a mountainous snowy area with scattered houses and farmsteads. The family home was Arklet House, the larger of the two houses built at the end of the massive 350 yards long dam which had been built across the Glen which, up to then, had housed the much smaller Loch Arklet, effectively damming the then Snaid burn which flowed from Loch Arklet and which was completed in 1914. The house itself was large with a large kitchen with built-in glass fronted cupboards, a large range which required black-leading every so often, and a maid's room to the side; the stone-floored scullery housed two large sinks, the deeper of the two being the sink in which the clothes being washed were steeped. As an aside I can remember being awakened one morning by a loud scream emanating from the scullery area. My mother had looked in the large sink, picked up what she thought was a scrubbing brush only to discover it was a mouse which had drowned in the sink overnight. Beside the back door was the larder and, just inside the scullery door, was the flour bin, a large wooden construction which, if the flour was not used quickly, was a happy hunting ground for maggots. Also on the ground floor was the dining room with the telephone sitting on top of a large desk (tel.no. Inversnaid 209). This telephone had an extension to the house next door occupied by the McDougall family. Then the lounge at the western end of the house, but not forgetting what we called the sun-parlour leading off from the dining room, I suppose nowadays it could be termed a 'conservatory'! Upstairs (14 stairs to the turn, 5 other stairs to the top) were the four bedrooms and the smallish bathroom. Heating throughout the house was by making use of the fireplaces situated in each room; lighting was by Aladdin or paraffin lamps, or simply by using candles. In extreme winter conditions use was made of large upstanding paraffin stoves in several of the rooms. Cooking was done on the range or by using a primus stove, especially for a quick breakfast in the morning. Outside the back door, but attached to the house, was a shed in which were stored wood blocks for the fires, paraffin, bikes etc. Next door was the McDougall family - father Dugald a joiner, Mrs. McDougall

along with children, John (who served in the war with the 6th Airborne Division), Patricia, Dugald jnr and Jean. What always intrigued me was the fact that, whereas our house boasted a piano, Mrs. McDougall had a harmonium.

The only other family employed by Glasgow Corporation were the Mackies who lived in a house beside the bothy and outbuildings at the end of a private road leading in from the road to Inversnaid. Workers were housed in the bothy, these buildings also contained the joiner's workshop, a garage for my father's Austin 10 car (SB 6214), an open area for the carts etc., and a stable unit. Across the grit road was the trout hatchery, an eternal source of interest for a small boy!

Between the bottom of the slope at the back of Arklet House, and the burn, which at times took the overflow water from the dam, was a most magnificent garden shared between ourselves and the other families in this group. White currants, red currants, black currants, strawberries, raspberries, and all sorts of vegetables were grown. This of course proved invaluable during the war years. Manure for the garden was brought by horse and cart from Corriearklet Farm - two journeys per day with the one-eyed horse, Major, being stabled each night in the stable which was part of the outbuildings. It was tempting to eat too many fruits all at the one time from this garden - the result, inevitably, was a sore stomach!

Inversnaid is a scattered community. Our nearest neighbours, down the road towards the school, were the Brodie family. John Brodie, a retired gamekeeper, Mrs. Brodie and daughters Diana and Hettie. Next to the Brodies was what we called the tin house, with corrugated roof, in which stayed Arthur Roberts and son, Andrew, an excellent pianist who served in World War II. Of Mrs. Roberts I have no recollection. Next, the primary school with attached schoolhouse occupied by the teacher, Mrs. Sarah Baird, husband James and two daughters. James, with his trusty Vauxhall car, did the school run every morning collecting pupils from as far afield as Stronachlachar along with Jean McDonald from Corriearklet Farm. The pupils from Stronachlachar were probably the Gillies family - Neil, Robbie and Trena from the Crossroads (the other half of that house was occupied by John McArthur, the Gaelic-speaking gamekeeper).

Beyond the schoolhouse a track led to the Manse occupied by the Braden family. John, who was the preacher in the local church and who left to go firstly to Edinburgh and then to Dunoon. That family was followed by the Thomsons who were still in residence at the end of the 1940's. Communion was taken by the Rev. Fulton from the Parish of Buchanan Church at Drymen. My mother used to

provide the accompaniment for the hymn-singing on the small harmonium in the church.

Beyond the church, on the hill down to Loch Lomond, stood Inversnaid Lodge occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Maddocks. I do recall our family being invited to lunch one day at the Lodge where home-made ice-cream was provided. My small sister, aged four at the time, promptly turned up her nose after the first spoonful and refused to take any more! During the war Inversnaid Hotel was closed to visitors which, as events unfolded, was probably just as well. It was looked after by Arthur Roberts, although owned at the time by the Blair family. I can recall the two Bedford buses, based at the hotel, being driven away as they were no longer being used to transport tourists on the 'Trossachs' tour which included the journey between Inversnaid on Loch Lomond and Stronachlachar on Loch Katrine.

Last, but not least, was the Garrison Farm occupied by George and Annabel Buchan and family of Helen, George jnr, Marion, Annabel jnr and Alex. What always intrigued me, as a small boy, was the hand-powered butter churn situated in the scullery just off the kitchen.

As a primary one pupil it was a big adventure for me to be starting school. Fortunately it was an enjoyable walk down the road with the McDougalls. In later years the journey was by bicycle. The single schoolroom had two rows of double-seater wooden desks, the smaller desks at the front facing the fireplace, the larger desks at the back. In 1940 there were probably about 14 pupils in the school - by the time my sister was eleven the roll was only three. Teaching followed a set pattern - each class reading in turn standing beside the teacher's table, then doing 'sums' where, if a new section of work was being shown, eg. short or long division, an example was shown on the blackboard and, if you did not understand it first time, then it was hard going.

Because of the distances involved most pupils had packed lunches with them - so it was a case of 'swapping' - one of your sugar sandwiches for one of my jam ones and so on. In the afternoon it was writing, for example M is for Malta, written by the teacher in each jotter and copied neatly by the pupils underneath on the lines on the page. Thereafter it was Grammar - usually for the older pupils it was Analysis with vague memories of such as Principal Noun or Adjectival Clause and so on. If we managed to sort that out it was on to handwork - I don't know how many dish cloths I turned out in Primary 7! Each pupil jealousy guarded their bottle of water and cloths which were used for cleaning the slates which were neatly stored in the slot at the front of the desk. When it came to writing in ink it was a case of whose pen nib scratched first!

Parts 2 & 3 to be continued....

Trossachs Search and Rescue

Milton



Trossachs Search and Rescue Team provided water safety cover for the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival on the Forth & Clyde Canal over the past week. Using our SeaSearch

3.9m boat, rescue dog Aiyla (sponsored by WAGG Foods along with our USAR & Accelerant dogs), a member who is a canoe instructor using his own canoe and team personnel ashore with throw lines, we were on duty last Tuesday evening when the BBC One Show was filming two presenters racing across Southbank Marina at Kirkintilloch in two inflatable tubes and again on Saturday and Sunday when canoe trips and other 'on the water activities' were abundant. In all we rescued an upturned canoeist on Tuesday evening near Twechar, two young pigeons from the Forth and Clyde Canal under Hillhead Bridge, Kirkintilloch (their first flights ended in a splash and thankfully were saved before becoming meals for pike) on Saturday and then on Sunday rescued an adult canoeist who had fallen down the embankment into the canal and was swept along by strong winds (also then recovered his canoe which was way ahead of him) and later on recovered a thirteen year old girl who fell out of her hired canoe in the marina. Additionally, we recovered two canoes floating alone, their owners having failed to tie them up

properly - when you see an empty canoe floating past your heart skips a beat - so it was good to find out these were there because of carelessness rather than through someone ending up in the water. Thankfully all three canoeists rescued were unhurt - just a bit cold and wet. An eventful few days!

The photos show Tuesday evening's boat crew - Stuart Gunn and Steve Band at Auchinstarry Marina and a wet but delighted Courtney with Grace & Aiyla, Stuart and Iain Ballantyne. Courtney's mum phoned to report she'd had a hot shower, hot chocolate and Sunday roast - great news and just what we wanted to hear when we were still on the boat and facing a 6 mile trek on the canal back to the slipway at Kilsyth and a drive back to base at MOD Forthside, Stirling ensuring the boat and 4x4 were refuelled and operationally ready before we stood down. The team uses water safety clothing and equipment supplied by Safequip, with undergarments and landbased foul weather gear by Keela - both of whom we have enjoyed a long relationship with for many years. Oh, and a thank you to Maritime Rescue Institute SAR at Stonehaven for all that powerboat and man overboard training on the North Sea in March in the world's greatest swell and on waves so high they blocked the sun - it came in very useful!

Hello Children,

Well, we are all back in school and the nights are definitely getting darker, and a wee bit colder. The sun is setting to the south side of Ben Lomond, a sure sign that autumn is coming this way. I really did enjoy the long summer holidays, there was so much to do and things to see. The Great Adventure was our Three- Peak Challenge, going over the summits of Ben Uird, Sron Aonaich and, of course, Ben Lomond. To get to all the tops took in 2,108m or, in Grandpa Otter's figures, 7,047 feet, of both swimming and hard climbing.

With George the Hare hopping alongside, the Otter family set off, swimming up Duchray Water. There was a left turn into Glean Meadhonach, which means the Middle Valley. When the burn became too shallow, we joined George on dry land and ran quite quickly to the first target. Ben Uird is pronounced as Oorst, and is said to be the place Finn McCoul had his armour and weapons made. Next stop was the Peak on the Moor, marked on the map as Sron Aonaich, standing at 577m. By the time we had struggled to the top of Ben Lomond, everyone was absolutely puffed out.

From a viewpoint 974m up, we could see for miles and miles, and in every direction. Braeval pointed out Edinburgh, a long way to the south-east. Dad went one better, saying that was Ireland on the south-west horizon. When it came to the furthest distance we could see, the twins beat us all. Duke and Katrine pointed out the New Moon, a very thin sliver and just visible in the western sky. As we enjoyed our picnic, everyone agree that it was well worth the effort to climb to the very top of this Munro mountain, one of 283 mountains in Scotland over 3,000 feet.

The last leg of this expedition was back in the water, except for George who hates getting wet. The Allt Mor lives up to its name in being a big stream, tumbling down past the Comer Farm. Very soon we were swept back into Duchray Water and heading for Aberfoyle. Above the oak trees around Duchray Castle, where Rob Roy MacGregor once hid from the Redcoat soldiers, was a very hungry buzzard. We could hear him mewing pitifully for food but both his parents were telling their baby to catch his own. He might only have hatched this summer but was fully grown and had all his own feathers. By now junior should be well able to look after himself. At this point George the Hare was conspicuous by his absence, deciding that he should keep well out of sight of the buzzard!

The leaves on the oak trees are already changing to their autumnal colours and will soon begin to fall. This heralds a season of festivals, harvest festivals, mushroom festival, all celebrating the fruit and fungi found throughout Strathard, all ready the eat. If you don't actually fancy eating horse chestnuts, you can use them to keep spiders out of your house. Spiders hate conkers.

Bye for now,
Milton.



Top left: Boat at Auchinstarry Marina

Left: Safe and well

Above: Trossachs SAR's Gordon Gregory with Accelerant Detection Dog Fruin at Milngavie Fire Station open day

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Contact Robert Hutchinson

on 07922 949306



Church News

St Mary's Episcopal Church



Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's

In the May issue of the News, I mentioned a series of programmes made by The British Broadcasting Corporation under the title 'The Scottish Country' The series was, and is now of special interest locally, as the twelfth programme was centred upon Aberfoyle and its locality.

In a letter dated 9th March 1939 the producer of the programme, one Alan Melville, wrote from the Corporation's studio at Hamilton Drive Glasgow to thank P.C. Hogg care of The Police Station Aberfoyle for his part in the venture. The programme was made at the Baillie Nicol Jarvie Hotel.

At the time the programme was being compiled, the war that had threatened for the past two or three years was fast becoming reality. In the previous October the then Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain had flown to Germany and obtained from Adolf Hitler a piece of paper claimed to guarantee 'peace in our time' By March 1939 it was evident the paper was worthless and preparations for war were uppermost in everyone's mind. Indeed P.C. Hogg would in the following year be joining Aberfoyle's Home Guard.

Today the BBC produces both television and radio programmes. In 1939, few if any households in this area would have possessed a television set, this being at the time a new and largely untried invention. Its development was laid aside for the duration of the war. By contrast, most households possessed a radio or wireless set. The choice of listening though was limited to one broadcast channel known as the Home Service. The first, and autocratic, director of the Corporation was John, later Sir John Reith a native of Glasgow.

Alan Melville then a junior assistant producer of the programme after the war graduated to become a well known television writer of the sixties and seventies.

The first local interviewed was a Mr Johnston. He introduced himself as a farmer 'with 450 acres at Malling just besides the Lake of Menteith. Most of the land is in pasture and I've got about forty or fifty head of cattle on it. Not so many years ago my stock for the Stirling and Glasgow markets went by rail. The journey from the farm to Stirling took six hours, and if the stock was for Glasgow it had to be railed the day before. Today the stock is landed by motor haulage in either market within the hour'. His comments give some clue why Aberfoyle Railway Station would be closing just twelve years later.

Mr Johnston also made reference to a Silver Fox farm to the west of The Port. The farm was then a new venture keeping some two hundred pairs of breeders. He mentioned the activities of the Forestry Commission that had recently planted hundred of acres of trees on land to the west of Aberfoyle which, in Mr Johnston's opinion, was more suited for grazing. He thought the greatest curse of the area was the growth of bracken that he believed might usefully be cleared by the unemployed. He lamented the disastrous harvest of 1938 and the ruling of the Agricultural Wages Board, whatever that might have been.

Next up to the microphone was another farmer, a Mr Forrester the manager of a farm at Gartartan: more anon.



At the top of the bottom
of the world

Michael Forsyth will give an
illustrated talk following his
successful ascent of Mt

Vinson in Antarctica.

In aid of St Mary's Church Aberfoyle.

Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle 7.30pm on Friday
14th October - tickets £5

To book contact John Tilman on
01877 385791 | john.tilman@btinternet.com

From the Manse.....

Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church



It is four hundred years since the King James Bible was published. Authorized by King James I and VI, its editors sought to uphold the episcopal structure of the Church of England, unlike the popular Genevan Bible (1560), which used then-troubling words such as 'congregation' instead of 'church'. (If you want to know the agenda of a particular bible version, always read its Preface.) The KJV holds a special place in people's affections, though it is not the bible of choice in divinity faculties.

Translating the bible was once dangerous, but gradually new translations appeared, some more successful than others. I have a particular fondness for one version which memorably instructs its readers with the words, "Thou shalt commit adultery".

The KJV is the one version that lurks in many a house, with an undertaker-black cover, gossamer-thin paper with gold edges, and tiny print. The bible itself is one of those books, like The Divine Comedy, or Proust, that one means to read in their entirety but never does. We would read it if for no reason other than to see its profound effect on Western culture. We assume that effect in English-speaking culture is entirely due to the mighty and poetic language of the KJV, but a quick look at dates tells us that William Shakespeare, John Milton and possibly John Donne would all have had the Genevan Bible on their desks.

There are too reasons for not reading the bible. It can be dreadfully dull. The prophets are wildly repetitious and don't know when to stop. Passages about the tabernacle, its workings and the composition and colour of its curtains would make Moses nod off. There are barbarities and fanatical nationalism. The sublime and the unspeakable are always jostling with each other. Psalm 137 starts, "By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept", and ends "Happy shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock". There are laws that are thousands of years ahead of their time, like the one that exempts a newly married man from military service for a year "so that he can be happy with the wife he has taken", alongside laws that would make Genghis Khan blush. On one occasion Jesus holds up a hated Samaritan as an example of good neighbourliness, on another he tells a Canaanite woman that it is not fair to throw the children's bread to the dogs.

The Good Book is not always a good book and, in any case, it is a library of books written by many different people over more than three thousand years. It teems with contradictions and inconsistencies. It is a veritable ratatouille of poetry and propaganda, law and legalism, myth and murkiness, history and hysteria. It has more recently become associated with tub-thumping evangelism, dreary piety, nasty moralizing and crippling literalism. And yet, and yet -

Although it might be a book about the sublime and the unspeakable, it is a book about life, about people who can be both believing and unbelieving, good and bad, all at the same time. It is about us.

It is about God. If at times it is about the God we don't believe in, at others it is about the God we do believe in. We find our own story there. But how should we read the bible? Don't try to read it straight through - you will never get beyond Exodus 28 - a truly exciting description of a priest's sartorial accoutrements. Read the famous stories first. Buy a good, scholarly, but not too academic, commentary. It will help. For instance, the book of Jonah seems complete nonsense, until we learn that it is a comedy intended to advance the notion that God's love extends to all humankind.

Some passages are too familiar and we no longer hear them properly. Try reading it in a foreign language, then we might hear what the bible is saying instead of hearing what we assume it is saying because it is in the bible! So, "Blessed are the meek", becomes "Heureux sont les débonnaires". Magnifique!

If someone tells you that you must take the bible literally or not at all, ask them if you have to take John the Baptist literally when he calls Jesus the Lamb of God.

If someone asks you how you can take seriously a book that claims God created the world in six days, and a man in an afternoon, by all means talk of myth in the sense of symbolic story, or else ask them if they can take Shakespeare seriously, whose scientific understanding would make a Primary Three child giggle.

Whether we use the bible to hit people over the head with, metaphorically speaking, or as a way of trying to make sense of life, (and I pray the latter) we cannot ignore its influence on Western life. Read it and see.

Linda

The Garden in October

Dew on the grass and a chill in the air in the mornings, chestnut trees turning to reds and yellows and birches dropping their leaves; autumn is with us. But before you forget about the garden for the year and think its time to put your feet up there is still plenty to do before the winter arrives. For starters enjoy the autumn colours and if you don't already have plants in your own garden that provide them, earmark a few spots where you could plant a Berberis, Rhus (Sumach), Cercidophyllum (Katsura) or Acer.

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

In the borders it's time for a bit of organization; plan for next year and remove any unwanted/over-mature plants and relocate as needed, cut back perennials that have finished their displays – not the Sedums or Schizostylis or other autumn flowerers – split perennials if needed and allocate places for new plants. This is the best time to be planting while there is still some warmth in the soil. If you've a new hedge you want to put in, or space for more trees, put in your order for bare root plants at the garden centre. With tall growing Buddleias and shrub and floribunda roses, prune the lanky stems to reduce the effect of wind-rock. When the tidying is finished spread a 2-3" layer of bark mulch over the beds.

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

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

Other jobs to do:

For a bit of winter colour, replant your hanging baskets and containers with winter pansies.
Finish planting out bulbs.
If you haven't done so already, lift, dry and store Dahlia and Gladioli corms.
Dry off tuberous Begonias
Take hardwood cuttings of the appropriate shrubs.

Hedgehogs. The hedgehogs will be looking for a bed for the winter; a box full of straw seems to suit them very well. Bird feeders; if you haven't been feeding over the summer, get out the feeders now and stock up with bird nuts or seed.

Craft Fairs at Benview Garden Centre 24th September, 29th October

Benview Garden Centre
Ward Toll

Balfron Station G63 0QY
Tel: 01360 850525

www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk
info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk

Opening hours: Mon – Sat: 9.00-5.00
Sunday: 10.00-5.00

N.B. Winter Opening hours (from 3rd October)
Mon – Sat 9.30-4.30, Sunday 11.00-4.30



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The Association's aim is to support rural communities by providing affordable good quality homes for people in housing need. We currently have over 500 rented homes and around 30 of these become available for re-let each year. We also build some new homes each year.

For more details and a housing application form please contact us at:

Rural Stirling Housing Association

Stirling Road, Doune, FK16 6AA

Telephone : 01786 841101

E-mail: Enquiries@rsha.demon.co.uk

Website : www.rsha.org.uk

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Please note that we encourage all applicants to also apply to Stirling Council's housing list (Tel : 0845 277 7000). Being on both lists is the best way to maximise your chances of being rehoused.

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Forestry Commission Scotland

Cowal & Trossachs Forest

SIGHTINGS WANTED

The Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) is a predominately dark brown butterfly but has ringed eye-spots. Generally both sexes are similar in appearance but the male is smaller and darker than the female. The flight time of the butterfly is July to August and is being found now in suitable habitat. The ringlet likes wet grasslands and woodland glades, preferring damper more lush grasslands than the Meadow Brown.



The Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) is a common bird of prey which can be seen throughout the forest, circling overhead, perched on a tree or telegraph pole or being mobbed by crows. Brown in colour with a lighter underside with yellow beak and feet, it can be distinguished by its broad rounded wingtips and fan shaped tail, and may be seen sporting a smart, brightly coloured wing tag. A distinctive shrieking call can be heard particularly when a nest is nearby. Buzzards feed on a mixture of carrion and live prey including field voles and water voles.

NB: Any records of young buzzards, which can be heard calling from nests at this time, are of particular interest to Dave.

The Common Golden-ringed Dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*) occurs in a large part of western and Northern Europe. It belongs to the order of insects called Odonata (meaning 'toothed jaw in ancient Greek'). All Odonata have two pairs of densely veined wings and long ten-segmented bodies, which are often brightly coloured. The adults are day-flying and are usually seen close to fresh water, this is because the larval stage is aquatic. The Golden-ringed Dragonfly is large, about 8cm long and easy to identify with its distinct golden rings on black. It can be found by burns, small rivers, often in forests and also on open moors and heaths. The flight time is June to late August.



Please email your sightings (with date, grid reference, habitat, number of plants/animals seen and any other useful information) to jane.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Many thanks!!!



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*Images for illustration purposes only.

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Drawing on Scotland's proud tradition of feminism, we want to create a women's group in Stirling.

Join our first meeting and help us create a buzz around women's issues.

If you are interested email us at

stirlingfeminists@gmail.com

and we will get back to you with a time and place.

"Feminism is the radical notion that women are people"
Chris Kramarae + Paula Treichler

**It's True – for THE BEST exercise
Take Up Scottish Country Dance**

Aberfoyle Scottish Country Dance Club

Autumn term start on Weds 5th October

7.30 PM Memorial Hall, Trossachs Road

Everyone welcome – any age & gender

No skill, equipment, or your own partner needed
Just wear casual clothes and bring your sense of fun!

Further Details. Please phone:

John Epps 382 276 or Allan Shepherd 385 236

Clubs in the Memorial Hall

Mini-Kickers 3-4 years:

Contact Active Stirling 01786 432323

Pilates and Step & Tone:

Contact Amanda Reid 01360 661403

Tap, Ballet & Jazz – all ages:

Contact Carla Duggan 07815146462

Toddler Group: Contact Alison Graham 382726

Country Dance: Contact John Epps 382276

Karate – all ages: Contact Julie Glen 382296

Youth Club – P6+: Contact Marie Wardrop 382568

Also available for meetings, parties etc.

Call Sandra Jardine 382673

Christmas Fair

Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Saturday 3rd of December.

We are offering tables to stallholders for £10, contact Andrea 07717418087 or Janet 382 736 to book

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 – 4 September 11

Issue 68 – 9 October 11

Issue 69 – 27 Nov 11 (Xmas)* sponsor needed

Do you like to sing?

Calling all amateur singers in Strathard who may be interested in getting together on a regular basis to have some fun with group singing. If you are interested in singing, or being the musical director/conductor, please let me know. Contact Morag Philips, 01877 387236, email moragphilips@btinternet.com

The Guild

The opening meeting of the Guild will be held on **Monday, 26th September** at 2pm in Church House when the Rev Jim Brown will speak on the theme 'called to walk humbly with God'. All interested will be made very welcome.

The following meeting will be on **Monday, 17th October** when a speaker from Guild Office will speak about HIV/Aids.

A warm invitation is extended to all interested. All of our meetings are held in the afternoon and you are assured of a warm welcome to our fellowship and friendship.

New to You Shop Forth Inn, Aberfoyle

Late October – watch out for our signs
Come and find a vintage bargain!
China, bric a brac, accessories, books

In aid of Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Churches
(Reg Scottish Charity Nos SC001308 & SC001864)

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Your subscription will start with Issue 68.

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

Callander Ramblers' Diary

September

Wed 28th:

9:30am Ramble: The Braes of Doune Windmills (7 miles) contact 01786 850237

October

Sat 8th:

8:30am Hill: Beinn Chochan & Beinn Bhreac (703m) contact 01877 387201

Strathendrick Singers

Christmas Concert Friday 16th December Killearn Kirk

Strathendrick Singers' annual Christmas Concert will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 16th December and will feature Venezuelan carols, works by Chilcott, Lauridsen, and Britten's Ceremony of Carols as well as the usual favourites for all to sing along. Wine, soft drinks, mince pies and shortbread will be served at the interval. Tickets will be on sale at the Kirk door or from choir members. For more information e-mail drashworth@aol.com or phone Pat on 01360 550074

Coffee Morning Saturday 18th February 2012 Killearn Kirk Hall

Strathendrick Singers' annual Coffee Morning runs from 10.00 until 12.00. As well as a selection of musical entertainment you can have a blether while enjoying wonderful home baking with a cup of tea or coffee. The ever popular bottle stall, raffle, book stall etc will add to the fun.

Scottish Wildlife Trust Callander Member's Centre

The new programme of talks from September to April has been finalised. The first two are;

Tuesday 13 September

Red Squirrels: the Callander Frontier by Lewis Pate, SWT Project Officer

Tuesday 11th October

Honey Bees: breeding challenges in Scotland by Magnus Peterson, local beekeeper.

All meetings are open to members and non-members and are held in St Andrew's Church Hall, Leny Road, Callander at 7:30pm. Cost £2 includes refreshments, free for full-time students.

Come along and join us in learning more about what is around us in this beautiful part of the world. More details on the organisation can be found at www.swt.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.

Balfron & 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 Balfron and Callander. Excess waste and bulky household items, including fridges and freezers and furniture, can also be disposed of at the HWRCs.

Ealain Gallery

art | whisky | gifts

36/42 Main Street, Drymen,

Deluge by Dot Walker

11 September - 08 October

Returning for her second solo show at Ealain Gallery, Dot Walker's exhibition of new works has been inspired by her Summer visits to Skye and Lismore where it has been, at times, rather wet.



That said the inclement weather has created atmospheric skies and depths of colour characteristic of the Scottish landscape which only serves

to remind us that sometimes, just sometimes, the rain can be an important part of the beauty of Scotland.

DAVE ARCARI

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GARTMORE COMMUNITY CINEMA

2011 / 2012 FILM SEASON

Gartmore Village Hall

2011

October 8th	Evening 8pm	Inception [12A]
November 12th	Matinee 4pm	How To Train Your Dragon [PG]
	Evening 8pm	Apocalypto [18]
December 10th	Evening 8pm	It's A Wonderful Life [U]
December 28th	Matinee 4pm	Happy Feet [U]
	Evening 8pm	Where Eagles Dare [PG]

2012

January 7th	Evening 8pm	Kick Ass [15]
February 4th	Matinee 4pm	Megamind [PG]
	Evening 8pm	Paul [15]
March 10th	Evening 8pm	Three Colours Blue [15]
April 21st	Matinee 4pm	Flushed Away [PG]
	Evening 8pm	True Grit [15]
May 2012	To Be Confirmed	

Membership £10 – which entitles you to reduced entry to each film and a free drink for every three films attended.

Door fee:

£4.00 – Adults

£3.00 – Members and concessions

Door and bar open 1 hour before each showing.

Callander Jazz & Blues Festival 2011

Friday 30th September

(H) indicates Headline performances

(FB) indicates free bus service between Callander and venue

* Indicates purchase of food is required at these performances; also booking is advisable – please contact the venue directly.

Performances will last 90 minutes to 2 hours unless otherwise stated.

Every effort has been made to ensure this programme is as accurate as possible prior to printing. The Festival Company has the right to alter venues, performers and times if and when required.

Time	Venue	Performers	Style
6 pm	Deli Ecosse	Howlin Mat	Guitar Blues
6 pm	The Dreadnought Hotel	Moodswing	Mainstream Jazz
7 pm	Mhor Fish*(t 01877330213)	Al Hughes	Guitar Blues
7.30 pm	The Bridgend House Hotel	The High Society Jazz Band	Traditional Jazz
8 pm	The Crown Hotel	Sidewinder	Blues
8 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	The Cosmopolitan Big Band	Big Band Jazz
9 pm	The Waverley Hotel	Glebe Street Blues	Blues
9.30 pm	The Dreadnought Hotel	The Ness River Rhythm Kings	Traditional Jazz
9.30 pm	The Riverside Inn	Used Blues	Blues
10 pm	The Dalgair House Hotel	Red State Blues	Blues
10 pm	The Bridgend House Hotel	Main Street Blues	Blues

Saturday 1 October

Time	Venue	Performers	Style
11 am	Ancaster Square	McLaren High School Jazz Band	Big Band Jazz
12 noon	Festival Yurt	Fife Youth Jazz Orchestra	Big Band Jazz
1 pm	The Dreadnought Hotel	Moodswing	Jazz Open Mic
2 pm	Ancaster Squar	e Knox & Ion	Latin Jazz
2 pm	The Bridgend House Hotel	Havana Swing Jazz	Swing
2.30 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	Brass Impact	Big Band Jazz
4pm	The Dreadnought Hotel	Kent Duchaine	Guitar Blues
4 pm	The Crown Hotel	Lewis Hamilton and the Boogie Brothers	Blues
5 pm	Deli Ecosse	Jim Crumley	Guitar Jazz
5 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	The Revolutionaires	Blues
6.30 pm	The Bridgend House Hotel	The Iain Ewing Sextet	Mainstream Jazz
7 pm	Deli Ecosse	The Scott Madden Trio	Mainstream Jazz
7 pm	Mhor Fish* (t 01877 330213)	The Rosy Blue Duo	Blues
7 pm	Ciro's Italian Restaurant *(t 01877 331070)	The City Duo	Guitar Jazz
7 pm (H)	The Dreadnought Hotel	The Larry Miller Band	Blues Rock
7.30 pm	CCW Atrium Restaurant *(t 01877 331610)	Winston's Pennine Jazz	Traditional Jazz
7.30 pm	Poppies Hotel	The Honky Tonics	Caribbean Jazz
7.30 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	Pervoe Solnce	Russian Jazz
8 pm (H)(FB)	Callander Golf Club (A20Free shuttle bus from Ancaster Sq)	The Slammers	Jump-Jive Jazz
9 pm	The Crown Hotel	The Pentatonics	Blues
9.30 pm	The Riverside Inn	Sidewinder	Blues
10 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	The Jiveoholics	Jump-Jive Jazz
10 pm	The Waverley Hotel	Cynthia Gentle & the Truetones	Blues
10.30 pm	The Dalgair House Hotel	Rosy Blue Blues Band	Blues
11 pm	The Bridgend House Hotel	The Buick 55s	Rockabilly / Rock n'Roll
Out of Town Gig – Saturday 1 October			
3 pm (FB)	Loch Katrine Jazz Cruise	Ness River Rhythm Kings	Traditional Jazz
(Free Bus Service from Callander to Loch Katrine Pier and Back)			

Sunday 2 October

Time	Venue	Performers	Style
12 noon	South Church St to Ancaster Square	Winston's Pennine Jazz	Traditional Jazz/Jazz Parade
1 pm	Ancaster Square	Oompa Band	Carnival Band
1 pm	Poppies Hotel * (t 01877330329)	The Jess Abrams Quartet	Mainstream Jazz
1 pm	The Dreadnought Hotel	The Sax Box Quartet	Jazz Open Mic
1.30 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	The Sound of Seventeen Big Band	Big Band Jazz
2 pm	Ancaster Square	The Ashfield Sax Quartet	Multistyle Saxophonists
2 pm	The Riverside Inn	Minnie and the Victors	Blues
3 pm	The Bridgend House Hotel	Penman's Jazzmen	Traditional Jazz
3 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	The Revolutionaires	Blues
4 pm	The Crown Hotel	Baby Isaac	Blues
4 pm	The Dreadnought Hotel	The Pygmies of Jazz	Jazz
5.30 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	Pervoe Solnce	Russian Jazz
7.30 pm (H)	Festival Yurt	Brass Impact Big Band	Jazz
9 pm	The Waverley Hotel	Wolftrain	Blues
Out of Town Gig – Sunday 2 October			
3 pm (FB)	Loch Katrine Jazz Cruise	Winston's Pennine Jazz	Traditional Jazz
(Free Bus Service from Callander to Loch Katrine Pier and Back)			

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