

Aberfoyle International Mushroom Festival

Thursday 18th - Sunday 21st October 2007

Now in its Seventh Year, this is a Food, Music and Cultural Festival based on the humble Mushroom. Wild varieties are abundant at this time of year throughout the Queen Elizabeth Forest and other woodland which surround Aberfoyle. Each year we welcome chefs, musicians and other representatives from another country. In the past Ireland, Czech Republic, Finland and New Zealand have been the 'International Flavour' of the Festival. This year the Land of Fire and Ice, Iceland is 'coming to town'.

'Painting Fungi in Watercolour' is a most welcome addition to this year's Festival programme, and with Isobel's experience and expertise both as a Botanical Artist and in Tutoring and the guidance of Mycologist Liz Holden, it is sure to become a regular and popular event! The class is small and places are very limited (14 max.) so register an interest as soon as possible!

As well as great food the Festival Programme includes fungus forays, cookery demonstrations, ceilidhs, concerts, fishing and golf competitions and a special children's programme, the highlight of which is a Viking Camp in the village hall. Something for everyone - throughout the day and in the evenings! Participants on Isobel's course are invited to the Festival Opening Concert in the Scottish Wool Centre and will be free on Saturday afternoon, and each evening, to visit the village to enjoy more of the Festival. We look forward to welcoming you too to this year's festival!

(The Aberfoyle International Mushroom Festival is organised by Aberfoyle Traders' Association representing more than 40 local businesses)

Mushroom Festival Programme (abridged)

Thursday 18th Oct

10am - 4pm	"Painting Fungi in Watercolour"	Gartmore House
7.30pm	ATA Festival Opening Concert	SWC and after at the Forth Inn

Friday 19th Oct

9 am	Charity Golf Match	Aberfoyle Golf Club
10am - 4pm	"Painting Fungi in Watercolour"	Gartmore House
10am - 4pm	Iceland House	Trossachs discovery Centre
10am - 12	Fungus Forays with Liz Holden	Various Locations
1.30 - 3.30pm	Fungus Forays with Liz Holden	Various Locations
7pm	Kate's Icelandic Dinner	The Coach House
8pm to late	Family Festival Ceilidh	Kinlochard Village Hall

Saturday 20th Oct

10.00 - 17.00	Viking Living History Encampment	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
10am - 4pm	Iceland House	Trossachs Discovery Centre TIC
10am - 1 pm	"Painting Fungi in Watercolour"	Gartmore House
11am to 1pm	Fungus Forays with a Ranger	Trossachs Discovery Centre
10am - 12 noon	Fungus forays with Liz Holden	Various Locations
12 - 12.20pm	Viking Skirmish 1	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
1.30 - 3.30pm	Fungus Forays with Liz Holden	Various Locations
1.30 - 1.50pm	Viking Skirmish 2	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
2 to 4pm	Story telling	Guyana
15.00 - 15.20	Fungus Forays	Trossachs Discovery Centre
7.30pm	Viking Weapons Demonstration	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
7pm	Liz McGregor's Fungi Fiesta	Gartmore Village Hall
6pm - 11pm	Medieval Viking Feast	The Forth Inn
	Star Party	David Marshall Lodge

Sunday 21st Oct

10.00 - 17.00	Viking Living History Encampment	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
10am - 4pm	Iceland House	TDC
10am - 1 pm	"Painting Fungi in Watercolour"	Gartmore House
10am - 12 noon	Fungus Forays with Liz Holden	Trossachs Discovery Centre
11am to 1pm	Viking Skirmish 3	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
12.00 - 12.20	Story telling	Guyana
1.30 - 3.30 pm	Fungus Forays with Liz Holden	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
1.30 - 1.50pm	Viking Skirmish 4	The Forth Inn
2 pm	Cookery & Butchery Demo.	Easterhill Farm, by Gartmore
2pm onwards	Action Adventure Activities	Scottish Wool Centre Paddock
15.00 - 15.20	Viking Weapons Demonstration	The Forth Inn
4 pm	Cookery & Butchery Demo.	Gartmore House
6pm	Trossachs Songs of Praise	Easterhill Farm
5pm onwards	The Fiery Finale	

Macmillan Nurses Cancer Relief

The annual coffee morning in aid of the above will be held in the Aberfoyle Medical Centre on

Friday 28th September from 11am – 12.30pm

No entry fee will be charged but a small donation for refreshments will be much appreciated. Gifts for the baking table can be handed in to the Medical Centre on the day of the coffee morning.

As in previous years, there will also be a raffle and gifts for this, which raises a large sum of money due to the generosity of all who support this worthy cause, may be given to the Surgery ladies. They will be selling raffle tickets a week before and a week after the event. The total sum raised last year was £680 and we look forward to your usual generous support.

Strathard Community Trust Workshop

Remember the survey of community opinion that you helped us with in May? The results of this have been collated and will help with the new Action Plan for the area. To ensure that as many people as possible have their views heard, we are running a Workshop on

Saturday 27th October from 11am to 3pm in Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle. A light lunch will be provided. There will be information and displays by many local organisations. Transport is also available from the outlying areas of Strathard. For further details, please contact Ros Dingwall at the Post Office. Please try to come. We need to hear your views!

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Deadline Dates for submissions

- 28 October
- 25th November (xmas issue)

Isobel Bartholomew



Isobel is a botanical artist who has exhibited and sold work in the U.K. and abroad, and has been awarded many medals from the Royal Horticultural Society. She has contributed to illustrations in the Royal Horticultural Society's "New Dictionary of Gardening" and has work in the R.H.S. Lindley Library Collection. Her paintings are included in several publications including Dr. Shirley Sherwood's book "A Passion for Plants – Contemporary Botanical Masterworks" which emphasises the renaissance of botanical art today.

She has also exhibited and worked closely with several specialist flower Societies. In October 2005 she had a solo botanical exhibition in Thetford, and will be exhibiting in Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral this Autumn. Most recently she has had two paintings accepted for the "Highgrove Florilegium", an initiative of The Prince's Trust. She has been a teacher in Further and Adult Education for over 35 years and taught Botanical Illustration since 1991. She has taught on residential courses in Hedfordshire, set up workshops for art groups in Norfolk and now runs short courses from home as well as teaching at West Norfolk Arts centre. She greatly enjoys teaching and enthusiastically encourages her students to share her love of the plant world.

Aberfoyle Golf Club Mushroom Festival of Golf

Saturday 20th October

Open Texas Scramble - 18 holes

Teams of four

Shotgun start - 9.00am

Entry Fee £10 per team

All monies to charity

To enter either event call the Clubhouse on 01877 382493

Sunday 21st October

Adult and child Texas Scramble

Team of two - 9 Holes

Tee off from 10.00am

No entry fee

Failte! Welcome!

A warm welcome to this our seventh Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival at which the "International Flavour" is Iceland. Our Icelandic guests include the Country and Western Band, Baggalútur and two of the top Icelandic Chefs. We also welcome Anna Magnusson, the B.B.C. producer and author, daughter of the late and much-loved Magnus Magnusson.

Children are an important part of our Festival and we are delighted to welcome the Glasgow Vikings, whose Viking Camp will be a must for a visit by the young ones.

Our sponsors this year are mostly local: Allied Vehicles (Michael Facenna is a Kinlochard man); Aberfoyle Motors and Bertinas who are generously providing the transport for the Icelandic visitors; and Gartmore House who are generously providing their accommodation free-of-charge. We thank you all for your generosity!

Icelandair have kindly supplied complimentary air tickets for the visitors and Reyka Vodka will be dispensing their product throughout the Festival.

The ever-popular fungus forays continue and, this year, a 4 day mushroom painting course has been added to the offer.

It will be difficult to follow last year's "New Zealand" Festival – thanks to the Maoris - but we are confident you and visiting Icelanders will enjoy the best of good food, drink and entertainment during this year's Mushroom Festival.

Fergus Wood,
Chairman,

The Festival Committee



Thurs 18th - Sun 21st October
"Painting Fungi in Watercolour"



Four fun filled days of painting

Tutored by Botanical Artist

ISOBEL BARTHOLOMEW

in the splendour of

GARTMORE HOUSE

and working with fresh, wild specimens
collected with the help of Fungi Expert

LIZ HOLDEN

Previous Watercolour Experience Recommended

For Further Info. Contact Isobel or Mary

t: 01842 819969 or 01877 382 696

e: r.bartholomew@freeuk.com

www.VisitAberfoyle.com

**Icelandic C&W Band,
Baggalútur**

**Guðmundur Kristinn Jónsson,
Karl Sigurðsson,
Guðmundur Þalsson
Bragi Valdimar Skulason**

Bruce Crawford MSP writes.....

I'm immensely grateful to the people of the Stirling Constituency for placing their trust in me to work as their MSP, and I'm determined to repay that trust. The Scottish Parliament may have been in recess but there has been much to do in the Stirling constituency.

One of the principle complaints I heard on the doorsteps regarded the poor state of Stirling's roads. It is an especially acute problem in rural Stirling, where the condition of some roads is frankly disgraceful. It is true that this is a national problem in that, across the country, local road maintenance has not been prioritised as it should have been in recent decades. But the fact that Stirling is consistently at or near the top of tables detailing Scotland's worst roads indicates that serious action is necessary. It is for Stirling Council to determine its spending priorities, but I will continue to work on behalf of my constituents to push for additional funding to be found for this.

The recent announcement by the Scottish Government that the future of the S.S. Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine had been safeguarded is great news for the area. It is almost 200 years since Scott himself holidayed in the Trossachs, writing *The Lady of the Lake* in 1809 on the shores of

the loch around which the steamship that bears his name now slowly meanders. It is to be hoped that this vessel will provide the means for tourists to enjoy the breathtaking scenery to be found in the Trossachs for many years to come.

In nearby Aberfoyle, an application to open a new pharmacy is causing concern to many, as currently the law would require the dispensing of drugs by the health centre to end if a pharmacy opened. I have visited the health centre and spoken to locals who use the excellent services provided there, and will seek to ensure that when the application is considered by Forth Valley Health Board this month, the implications of granting approval are fully realised.

In addition, I have made representations to the Health Secretary to have legislation that requires dispensing chemists to cease operations in such circumstances reviewed, as the quality of service provided to the community must be paramount.

Finally, I will push Stirling Council to respect the wishes of the local community in Aberfoyle with regard to the proposed extension to the local Primary School. This follows the decision



by Stirling Council to appeal to the Scottish Executive against the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park over its refusal of planning permission. This matter must be resolved forthwith, in order to stop wasting time and taxpayers' money.

As always, I am happy to take on cases on behalf of my constituents, and can be contacted at my Constituency Office at 51 Cowane Street, Stirling, by telephone on 01786 471899 or by email at bruce.crawford.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Mushroom Festival 2007

Liz MacGregors Coffee Shop & Heelster Gowdie



Join Liz MacGregor and Heelster Gowdie for an evening of good food and live music at Gartmore Village Hall on Saturday October 20th from 7:30.

Tickets £12.00 per person

Available from Liz MacGregors Coffee Shop at the David Marshall Lodge or phone to book on 01877 382 900.

There are a limited number of tickets available.

BYOB (or two!)

Elvis lives

- well at least in the form of Dave Leonard, a tribute singer with the voice of The King himself. He performed last Saturday evening at Aberfoyle Golf Club which, by the way, has never seen the likes before, crooning to Love Me Tender, hip shaking to Jail House Rock and shuffling to Blue Suede Shoes, all in the aid of Cancer Research. Dave at the younger age of twenty and realising that he could actually sing like The King, started on a career now lasting some twenty five years. Also, having spent some time in Las Vegas singing in the casinos frequented by Elvis himself, Dave won the world renowned 2003 Best Elvis Voice award, kicking into touch some twenty thousand Elvis impersonators from around the globe. Well done, and thanks to Dave for his contribution to making it a great night at the Aberfoyle Golf Club. Special thanks must go to Campbell and Fiona McKenzie for their efforts in organizing such a popular night; also a big thanks to the bar staff who tirelessly supplied the refreshments; also the catering staff for the excellent buffet supplied by Bells kitchen. Over one hundred tickets were sold and a fantastic night was had by all, with £1200 raised for such a good cause.



Charles Stewart

Letters to the Editor...have your say!

Get it off your chest with a letter to the editor. Send to Editor, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid FK8 3TU or email editor@strathardnews.com or hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office.

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the letter printed in the last issue of the Strathard News which criticized the author of the poem that appeared in 'Rangers' Corner'. The critic concerned stated that the poem was unduly harsh on the Americans and could, by implication, have an adverse effect on the tourist industry if read by American holidaymakers. But would such a poem, had it been printed in the national press say, the Herald or even the Stirling Observer, have elicited such a response? Somehow, I don't think so.

While I agree that our local newsletter is hardly on the same level as the national press, I would argue that the same principles do apply: that is, you should be able to write what you want, within reason, without fear or favour. Yes, as a local newsletter, we should report on local matters such as fêtes or socials, but at the same time we should be able to write on matters which might affect the individual in our community, their fears and their aspirations. In other words, we should not only inform but entertain and, perhaps, provoke. After all, we are writing primarily for our community, not the tourists.

And, as the saying goes, while I may or may not agree with what is written on any specific topic, I defend that writer's right to state it. An old fashioned ideal, I admit, but I think it is one which still holds true. Anything else, alas, smacks of censorship.

Dougie MacPherson

Dear Friends & Colleagues

Are you a smallholder who wants to get together with fellow-smallholders for advice, sharing ideas or socialising, or have you ever wanted to set up a smallholding but didn't know how to go about it? Help is on its way, with the proposal to set up a new Smallholders Association for Forth Valley (covering Stirling, Falkirk & Clackmannanshire) and West Fife. The focus would be on these areas but anyone would be welcome to join. Smallholders' associations operate throughout the UK, but it is thought that there are none in the local area.

The idea has come from a Clackmannanshire smallholder, Rosemary Champion (the Accidental Smallholder - www.accidentalsmallholder.net), who is keen to set up a group for smallholders to share their interest in growing and rearing food as naturally as possible. Suggested activities include: advice and support, social meetings / events with guest speakers, seed / plant exchange, for sale/ wanted, an equipment pool, a stall at Farmers' Markets to sell surplus produce, members' discounts at suppliers. Other ideas would be very welcome.

Once interest is known, there will be an inaugural meeting before Christmas - date and venue to be set to suit most people. To register your interest, please contact Rosemary at: rosemary@accidentalsmallholder.net or phone 01259 729889 or if you know of anyone else who might be interested in finding out more, then please forward this on to them. This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in growing and rearing their own food to share their interest, experiences and resources with like-minded people.

Thank you and Best Wishes

Diane Alderdice, Project Officer, Forth Valley Food Links, The Lodge, Earlsgate House
St Ninian's Road, Stirling, FK8 2DZ
Tel: 0870 4711 750 Fax: 0560 0010 530 Email: diane@fvfl.org.uk

Foot and Mouth Disease Helpline

A new text alert service had been launched by the Scottish Government to help people on the move keep in touch with latest developments in the foot and mouth outbreak. After registering, subscribers will receive text alerts with information updates such as relaxation of movement restrictions. To sign up people should text FMD to 07781 482146 (note that FMD must be in uppercase). Subscribers will incur a one off charge at their mobile network provider's standard text message rate to sign up to this service. There is no charge to receive FMD texts. The Scottish Government Foot and Mouth helpline number is 0845 155 3366

Strathard Community Council meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnaid Primary School. The next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Thursday 4th October in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall.

Community Councillors

Ward 1 Aberfoyle

Ros Dingwall
John Clow
John Fraser
(1 vacancy)

Ward 2 Kinlochard

Fiona McEwan
Maureen Campbell
Sue Russell
Mike Campbell

Ward 3 Inversnaid

Scott Provan
Andre Goulancourt
Ralph Wolfe

Fundraising By Ebay Can You Help?

The Community Council has been looking at ways to raise funds to support the various projects it carries out, such as the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner and the Local Phone Directory. We are going to try out Ebay which seems to be the modern replacement for a good old-fashioned jumble sale, and are looking for donations of unused or unwanted items. Almost anything seems to be saleable on Ebay, but items should be in good, working condition and ideally easy to post i.e. not too bulky, heavy or fragile. Also we would appreciate some more volunteers to help get the initiative up and running - splitting the tasks will hopefully lighten the load.

- Ebay 'experts' who can advise us, and help others to learn to use Ebay effectively.
- Someone to take charge of donated items, agree descriptions and generally oversee the selling.
- People with both computer and digital camera, who can put the items online for us.
- Help with packing and posting items (all costs are paid by the buyers).

Any items you wish to donate can be left with Ros Dingwall in Aberfoyle Post Office, or if you are interested in helping out please just let her know.

**DIY/GRASS
LIVERY
AVAILABLE**



**Kirkton Farm
Aberfoyle**

01877 382316



Paths Group

The long-awaited walks leaflet for Aberfoyle has now been produced, and copies have been distributed to the Discovery Centre, the Post Office and many other outlets in the area. The leaflet is free of charge and describes seven walks, all starting and finishing in the main car park and ranging from easy circuits in the vicinity of the village to more strenuous hill-walks.

The leaflet is compact and colourful, and was produced in conjunction with the National Park who provided the design and funding. The route descriptions were written by members of the Paths Group who also supplied most of the many photographs.

Members of the group will be accompanying National Park volunteers on a working party later in the autumn to improve the path and clear bracken on the Monievreckie Hills, led by Craig Walker, one of our local National Park Ranger team. This is one of the routes on the leaflet and in recent years the path has become quite overgrown. If anyone wishes to join in, please contact me on 382636. The date is expected to be 20th November.

Historic Route

The aim of the Historic Route project is to create a traffic-free link from Aberfoyle to Stronachlachar and Inversnaid. The route will use existing forest roads and tracks as far as a point just beyond Loch Chon, and then continue on sections of old road that have long been disused and will need major reconstruction.

Early last year a feasibility study was completed, involving a detailed survey of the old roads and giving metre-by-metre specifications for the construction work. After discussions with the Forestry Commission we decided to incorporate the project into their proposed native woodland regeneration scheme in the Loch Katrine/Arklet catchment area, and make a combined bid for funding.

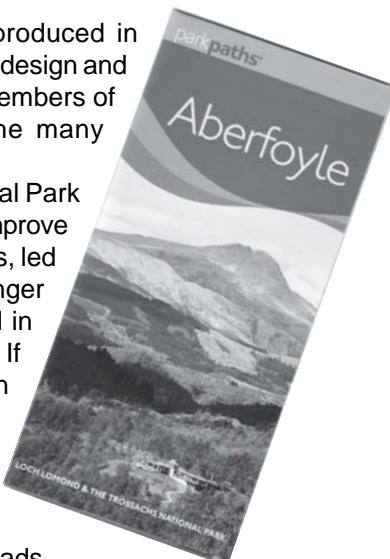
The Historic Route project has now duly been included in the Forestry Commission's plan and a funding bid will be made early next year. We shall have to seek match funding for our part of the project, but we shall have support from National Park staff in this. The overall project will be split into two phases, with the Historic Route to be part of Phase 1.

John Digney

DID YOU KNOW?

.....that only last month representatives for a market research company were conducting interviews with passersby regarding naming the proposed new forest. This forest, which will stretch from Callander, through Loch Katrine, to Loch Lomond, will be planted with native hardwood trees, not coniferous, and will take many years to complete. We will certainly not see the full results in our lifetime. The interviewers have concentrated in one particular part of Strathard and have been quizzing tourists in the main. When asked, they did say that others would be speaking to locals. To date, as far as is known, that hasn't happened. Yet, the forest's name should be discussed at a local level, surely? Anyway, the names (which someone, somewhere else, thought up) are as follows: Coille Chridhe, Forest Of Alba, Coille Mhor Trossachs, The Great Forest,

The New Forest Of Scotland, Loch Katrine Forest, The Great Trossachs Forest. That's the list, them's the titles, now where are the interviewers?



Crawford Calls For Council To Resolve School Impasse

Bruce Crawford, MSP for Stirling, has called on Stirling Council to respect the wishes of the local community in Aberfoyle with regard to the proposed extension to the local Primary School. This follows the decision by Stirling Council to appeal to the Scottish Executive against the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park over its refusal of planning permission.

Commenting, Mr. Crawford said: "The local community in Aberfoyle have made their views known on these proposals, which have also been rejected as inappropriate by a host of government agencies including Historic Scotland and the National Park committee.

It beggars belief that in the face of such overwhelming opposition Stirling Council has decided to appeal this matter to the Scottish government. Locals have been clear that an alternative proposal that was more sympathetic to the character of the area, including the current A-listed school building and which maximised the available playground would meet with their approval.

"I call on both these public bodies to respect the views of the community, resolve this matter forthwith, and stop wasting time and taxpayers' money."

MSP and Councillor Support Aberfoyle Dispensary

Stirling MSP Bruce Crawford and local Councillor Fergus Wood have given their support to the campaign to ensure the continued sustainability of dispensing services in Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie. Fears have been raised that the opening of a pharmacy in the village would adversely affect the services currently provided as current legislation would force the health centre to cease any drug dispensing.

Commenting, Mr. Crawford said: "Following concerns raised with me by representatives of the health centre and members of the community, I have written to the Health Minister and Forth Valley Health Board seeking assurances that the vital services currently provided will not be threatened. "Dispensing drugs assists in keeping this business viable, and being forced to withdraw this service will clearly have an adverse impact."

Councillor Wood added: "It is of particular concern that the panel deciding on the application to open a pharmacy in Aberfoyle will have no General Practitioners amongst its members, and that dispensing chemists, unlike pharmacies, do not have the right to make direct representations to the panel. Given the vital services in question, the views of the community must be fully represented and considered."

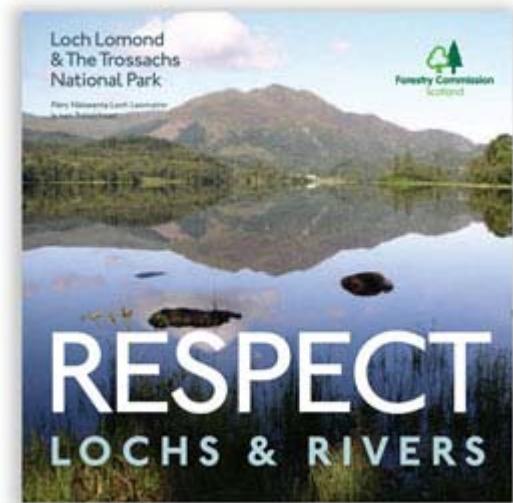
RESPECT our Lochs and Rivers

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and Forestry Commission Scotland have launched a new leaflet asking loch and river users to be responsible in the National Park. RESPECT, our Lochs and Rivers gives advice on how to behave when out in the countryside including how to manage campfires, taking your litter away with you, keeping a tidy campsite, noise control and how to dispose of fishing line responsibly. The leaflets will be available from all visitor centres and fishing permit outlets in the National Park.

Speaking about the new leaflet, Dr Tim Edwards, Director of Visitor and Operational Services said, "We want people to come to the National Park and enjoy themselves but that means respecting the surrounding countryside and the people around you. This is a National Park and we all have a duty to look after it. The new leaflet is a gentle reminder of how we can all do our bit to look after the Park generations to come."

Biodegradable bags will also be available to encourage people to take their litter home with them. This initiative is part of

an ongoing campaign by the National Park Community Partnership. The group launched a successful litter poster campaign last year which helped raise awareness of litter issues throughout the National Park. Members include representatives from Forestry Commission Scotland, the National Park Authority, local communities and Stirling Council. Fiona Kennedy, Chair of the Community Partnership Litter Group said, "Since the Community Partnership launched the litter campaign last year we feel we have made a small difference to the litter problem. However, there is still a long way to go and with the help of agencies and local communities involved in the campaign we hope to have a litter free Park where everyone can enjoy the environment." The group has also recruited local litter champions who help identify problem litter spots and distribute bags and posters within their local community. There are litter champions in seven communities within



the National Park and the community partnership would like to encourage more litter champions to volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Marion McCahon, Sustainable Development Officer on 01389 722003.

Copies of the leaflet are available from www.lochlomond-trossachs.org or email info@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Helping You to Help the National Park

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park this week launched a new grant scheme to help deliver natural heritage projects.

The Natural Heritage Grant Scheme has been developed through the National Park's Land Use Initiative and is funded by the National Park Authority and Scottish Natural Heritage. Open to land managers, organisations and community or voluntary groups, the main aims of the scheme are to conserve and enhance the rich natural heritage of the Park and to promote understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. A wide range of projects that progress these twin aims will be considered, including restoring traditional field boundaries, such as hedges and dykes, monitoring or survey work, paths or signs to manage and enhance public access, organising training events, conserving archaeological or historic sites. The Natural Heritage Grant Scheme will be managed by the Park Authority's Land Management Officer, Scott Nisbet. Scott's post is jointly funded by the National Park Authority, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Speaking at the launch, Janet Beveridge, National Park Board Member and local farmer, said: "This is an important day for the Park as we look to support farmers in their role as stewards of the land. We all have a joint responsibility to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy the natural heritage assets of the National Park."

Representing Strathfillan Community Development Trust, which developed and manages Crianlarich Community Woodland in partnership with Forest Enterprise, Dr John Holland commented: "This is a major opportunity for local communities throughout the Park to undertake projects that will benefit their local environment and I welcome the commitment to community development shown by the National Park Authority and Scottish Natural Heritage."

To find out more about the Natural Heritage Grant Scheme, please contact Scott Nisbet, Land Management Officer, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority on 01389 722025 or email scott.nisbet@lochlomond-trossachs.org. Application packs are also available on the National Park's website at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org.

New National Park Appointments

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority welcomes the 10 appointments to its board announced today (12 September 2007) by Mike Russell, Minister for the Environment. These appointments were made on the nomination of the four local authorities in the area and include five new members, Councillors Fergus Wood and David Goss (Stirling Council), Craig McLaughlin (West Dunbartonshire), Ron Simon (Argyll and Bute) and Bob Ellis (Perth and Kinross). Councillors Colin O'Brien and Tony Finch (Stirling Council), Denis Agnew (West Dunbartonshire) and Billie Petrie and Bruce Marshall (Argyll and Bute) all return to the board. The appointments will run for four years until 31 August 2011. The Park Authority also announced the appointment of Bill Morton as interim Chief Executive for a period of seven months until the end of March 2008.



It's a time of change. The Park's Chief

Executive has retired and since a number of the Local Authority nominated members of the Board did not stand for re-election to their respective councils there has had to be a number of new appointments to the Park Board. Gillie Thomson and Alister Beaton ex-Stirling Council and Colin Crabbie ex-Perth and Kinross all stand down.

Stirling Council have renominated Cllrs Ffinch and Colin O'Brien and joining them will be Cllrs Wood (Kinlochard) and Goss (Bridge of Allan). Perth and Kinross have nominated Cllr Begg (Blairgowrie) to replace Colin Crabbie. The opportunity was taken at Bill's "Retiral Do" to say farewell to the old and to welcome the new. I would just like to take this opportunity to record a special "Thank You" to Bill and Gillie. When the Park came into existence five years ago it was a completely new organisation. It had no staff and no Board. It didn't even have premises so a considerable burden fell on the shoulders of Bill and Gillie to get things up and running. No one in the organisation would claim that it is anything near the finished article but it is fair to say that it is now on a solid base from which it can and will progress. It is with a firm eye on the future of the Park that the search is now on for a new Chief Executive and with fortune on our side the new Chief (I wonder if it will be a woman) will come into post roughly at the same as the new Headquarters building is ready. On the new HQ, I would mention that, remarkably, for a building embracing a number of innovative design features it is a mere 10 days behind schedule and,

much more importantly, is well within budget.

And while on the subject of money. It is nice to be in a position to say that on the 15th August the Park Authority launched a new Grant Scheme. Yes it is true. £150,000 will be available between now and March 2010 under the scheme. The idea is a joint venture between the Park Authority and Scottish Natural Heritage and is being put in place to encourage and support measures which will conserve and enhance the natural heritage of our National Park and promote understanding of the special qualities of the National Park. The scheme is designed to help either individuals or community groups with projects which respect these aims. Projects could range from the eradication of alien species like Japanese Knotweed at St Fillans, restoring dykes and hedges, modifying deer fences to minimise risks to black grouse or capercaillie or even the simple task of erecting bird and bat boxes. All that is asked is that the applicant is in a position to progress the project either by being the owner of the land or having the necessary permission to do so. The monies available are for capital purposes only. Ongoing maintenance of the project will not be funded under this scheme. The limits are a minimum of £250 and maximum of £20,000. Projects with a capital spend of less than £250 will not be considered. If the capital spend is over £20,000 the project will still be considered but the grant will not exceed £20,000. How do you get your hands on the money? In the first instance get in touch with Scott Nesbit or Grant (there's a happy coincidental name) Moir at Park HQ on 01389 722025. Application packs can also

be downloaded from the Park's website at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org And you don't have to go to Balloch. Interviews can be arranged at our Callander Office. I now revert to the old topic of Planning. I just want to clarify a couple of points that continually get raised on the granting of permission for development. Other than in very exceptional circumstances planning permission is NOT granted to or restricted to a particular person. The permission attaches itself to the property to be developed. Anyone can apply for planning permission even for land over which they have no legal title or control. And from that follows the point that it is not a planning consideration as to what the applicant intends to do once permission has been granted. It is no part of the process to establish whether the applicant intends to utilise the permission personally or merely to put it up for sale.

And finally it is litter. I had the occasion recently to visit Balloch Castle Country Park and go for a stroll. On the way I noticed a number of designated Dog Waste bins but was disappointed to find not that the path was littered with dog s*** but that periodically I saw at the base of trees neatly tied filled poo bags. Clearly only half the message is getting across. Oh that we had the ability to get the full message across. And my bet is that the guilty parties were locals.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead,
FK19 8PR

Phone: 01567830214
owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

National Park to Carry Out Trossachs Milestones Project

The traditional Victorian milestones which can be seen around the Trossachs area are due to be refurbished and brightened by firstly wire brushing and then painted white with black writing, by National Park Volunteers and Countryside Rangers Craig Walker and Graeme Auty.

They are cherished as part of the cultural heritage of the area and will have a real visual impact when they are finished, it is also great to involve NP volunteers working in local community projects enriching the countryside as a whole. The milestones mark distances from one place to another usually in two mile intervals, the project will initially concentrate on eight stones from Aberfoyle to Stronachlachar, with scope to broaden out to Loch Venachar and Port of Menteith.

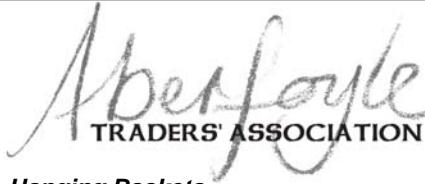
The milestones project will be taking place over two days in October and early November with the possibility of further days in spring 2008. Craig Walker states "The Milestones project is really worthwhile, in order to keep the cultural heritage of the area, over the year some stones are lost due to development and road route changes and it is so important to preserve those that are left. We have sought expert advice from Historic Scotland and are happy that the results will be very similar to how they looked originally."

Craig Walker and Graeme Auty are newly appointed Countryside Rangers with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, based at Aberfoyle, and look forward to working within the local community for the benefit of the cultural and natural heritage.

Community Sentences To Help Tackle Litter

Offenders serving community sentences in the Stirling Council area will soon be picking up litter as part of a new scheme.

The initiative, run by Stirling Council in collaboration with Central Scotland Police, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority and the Forestry Commission, will last until October. The litter collection will take place at areas identified by the various partner agencies, and will mainly be carried out over the weekends.



Hanging Baskets

Thanks to Sean Caranza's daily watering the hanging baskets supplied by ATA are looking great. Sean is doing the watering to help him raise funds for a school trip to Mongolia next year. If you think he's done a great job make a donation at Aberfoyle PO or The Forth Inn.

Business Directories - Print & Web

ATA is going to produce a printed classified directory of businesses for use by local residents and visitors. Members have free entry in this and are listed on www.VisitAberfoyle.com. If you're not a member and would like to be included in these directories contact Bruce Wallace, Fergus Wood, Tris Crowder or Mary Phillips e:enquiries@VisitAberfoyle.com

Raffle

Look out for your chance to win some excellent prizes in the Traders Mushroom Festival Prize Draw. The star prize - 2 flights to Iceland donated by Icelandair, and spending money.

The Vikings are Coming!!!

Programme on www.VisitAberfoyle.com The Mushroom Festival will soon be upon us! Mark your diary! It opens with a flourish on Thursday 18th October with a concert and buffet to welcome our Icelandic visitors. Anne Magnusson, a BBC Producer and author will officially open the Festival and Baggalutur, an Icelandic Country & Western band will be there to entertain supported by KCB. Glasgow Vikings are invading and setting up camp in the Wool Centre paddock - skirmishing and weapons aplenty. School kids at Inversnaid, Aberfoyle, Thornhill, Gartmore and Port of Menteith are getting into Viking mode ready to participate!

An exciting new activity, an art class 'Painting Fungi in Watercolour' takes place (Thurs to Sun) in Gartmore House tutored by Botanical Artist Isobel Bartholomew. She painted the Yellow Russula is on the festival flyer! If you have experience of watercolour painting then this course is a must. Book now! Places are limited. For info. T: 01877 382 696 or www.VisitAberfoyle.com for brochure pdf. As usual the 3 day programme is full of events for one and all. Look out for Iceland House, cookery demos, marauding Vikings and more. Book soon for the very popular fungal forays, Viking feasts, Star party and Liz McGregor's Fungi Fiesta. Don't be disappointed!

And the grande finale Up Helly Aa with barbecue and music at Easterhill Farm on Sunday evening will bring this year's festival to a fiery finish. See you there!



RSPB Inversnaid

Golden eagles have been showing well on the reserve again. In blustery but bright conditions a

female eagle and her recently fledged youngster (also a female) were flying training, the youngster getting the feel of what her wings could do. I first spotted them high near the summit of Stob an Fhainne and the young eagle took the opportunity for a rest on a large grassy knoll. Landing was not perfect, actually it looked quite precarious from my position but as she walked forward, ungainly in comparison to her flying, to face into the wind she showed her magnificent colouring with the golden head shawl and white wing patches. The adult female was continuing to fly around the immediate area ensuring no ground predator would put her daughter at risk. Having rested, the youngster took off and she and the adult female circled and soared up into the clouds about 900 metres (approximately 3000 feet in old money) where I lost sight of them. A week later the more able youngster was seen again circling over the reserve. Her white tail quite ragged when splayed and a inner primary or outer secondary feather missing from both wings. This time both adults joined her, the adult male took out over Loch Lomond and the young eagle and adult female climbed together where they tried unsuccessfully to talon lock (youngster above) before the young eagle took off for a mile glide with a couple of stoops (dropping very steeply) in the shape of the French military eagle standard. Now at the north end of the reserve, the male rejoined them and another pair of adult eagles came into view as well, five golden eagles at the one time! Interestingly the male circled quite amicably with the new adult pair whilst the adult female and young eagle came back towards the Garrison car park. Then they climbed over Stob an Fhainne and

were lost to view, a search for the other eagles had shown they had also moved on. Superb viewing and they pay me to work here! The good news continues with the black grouse as well. Reports from three persons indicate that at least two broods of almost fledged young numbering six and eight have been recorded on the reserve. Very few sightings of blackcock (male black grouse) at present as they go through the moult process, but in October, they will be lekking (males displaying together) once again.

The majority of the feral goats continue to graze out on the moorland below Castle Rock; reports of young kids are still to be ratified, as this is the second year of unconfirmed and unseasonable births. Badgers have been leaving their calling card (scats) on the Sheep Fank track and the West Highland Way.

The oystercatchers that nested on the remains of the Garrisons wall managed to fledge two of their three chicks. Other highlights have been three broods of twite with a late family feeding their young at the Garrison car park on the 22nd August. In addition, there was a small flock of thirty twite around the car park area at the same time. A stonechat family and a juvenile whinchat, willow warbler, dunnock, robin, blackbird, hooded and carrion crows, pair of ravens barrel rolling, juvenile kestrels, four soaring buzzards and darting swallows and house martins made work at the car park much more interesting. The swallows have fledged eight young from the last two nests in the workshop, leaving a calling card on my shoulder when I was last in! By the time you read this the majority will be away to Africa and I can get the covers removed from the equipment and the workshop back to normal.

Duncan Cameron
Conservation Assistant

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ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL.....

As many of you will now know, the Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre which has been located at its present site between Gartmore and Aberfoyle for the past 12 months, will have to move out by the end of October when the current lease expires. Already Mione Morrison, who runs the refuge, has managed to find some alternative, though temporary, sites in which to house some of her waifs and strays but she does need a larger site, if possible, and certainly a more long term arrangement than she has at present. The present situation is unsettling for the animals and obviously a permanent home would be of benefit to these creatures.

And these animals do need a place in which to settle and be happy for many of them have had a pretty rough start to life. Take the example of Molach, the hairy Highland Moo cow. When first born, she did not have the ability to suck and for her first 6 weeks in the world had to be fed by stomach tube. Her future did not look good but Mione took on the challenge and took Molach into her care, bottle feeding her 1 litre of milk twice a day. It was slow work. Each feed took one hour. Although the calf should have been feeding more, the 2 hours of patient dedication Mione gave to the wee hairy moo was enough: Molach not only survived, she thrived and is now a regular sight at the refuge and is now over 2 years old. But that was not enough. Feeling that Molach might be a tad lonesome, Mione brought in company for her in the shape of 2 Jersey bullocks, originally at 5 days old. Jerseys are bred for their milk; therefore, the bullocks have no use, apparently, and are usually put down. These 2, named Monarchyle and Mingulay (no rubbish names like 'Joe' or 'Fred' here!) have also done well in their new home and are friendly and welcoming to all comers.

All the animals in the sanctuary, well over a 100 of all shapes and definitely all sizes, are friendly thanks, no doubt, to Mione's handling and treatment of them. From the gentle giants that are the Clydesdales, mother and son, Eilidh and Sonny, to the smallest which are the 33 chinchillas all, well most, are welcoming and looking for affection. However, there is Tonto the piebald pony who would, like Greta Garbo, rather be alone. Perhaps he should be renamed the Lone Ranger? But of the many other creatures, big and maybe not so big, it is a children's paradise. There

are the donkeys, Patches and her daughter Pumpkin Pie, the latter an affectionate wee soul. But that could be said of the many others in this wonderful place: the pigs Miss Piggy and Tiggywinkle, always looking for some human company and the

with them. It has been found that people who may have problems dealing with factors in the everyday world find working and handling these animals to have a calming effect.

Although the Centre does not normally take in dogs but refers them to the respective canine charities, Mione does have a few dogs such as Kizzy and Yodi who also help by being a part of the Pets As Therapy and visiting hospitals to bring happiness to patients. Yet these dogs have their own problems, alas, one having only 3 legs and the other having a deformed paw. There is also Frodo Baggins, a black Labrador born blind but who is an affectionate and loving dog – also - he doesn't think he is blind.

There are many more, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, all housed in spacious pens and even cats, such as Mr. Rochester, the feral cat which Mione took in and which curled up quite happily on our laps. You can't say that often of a feral cat!

Now Mione and the Refuge need our help. There has been a lot of aid by good people. There has been some help in rehousing, and many individuals, both young and old, who continue to volunteer their services in feeding and cleaning up after the animals. But the time has come to go that extra mile. The assistance need is threefold: firstly, the need for volunteers, though there are quite a few helping even now and as keen as mustard; secondly, a new home is required, ideally to home all the waifs and strays of Glendrick Roost in one location, which would mean a 20 acre site possibly with outbuildings; lastly, funding, that is the cash to continue the good fight and to let the Welfare Centre continue to be not only a refuge for animals but a place where people can visit and provide a place where they are able to handle and understand the different animals in their home surroundings.

Dougie and Bridget MacPherson



irrepressible Heidi, the pygmy goat who literally has 'free range' to wander about and meet up with her friends: a walk over to chat with her buddy Pumpkin Pie or to the far end of the field to say hello to her big pal, Sonny the Clydesdale. Heidi's 'playful' method of saying hello is to rear up on her hind legs (she's hardly 3 feet tall) and head butt Sonny in the stomach. Sonny, being the size he is, shrugs it off as he would a fly and probably with a horsey grunt of: 'And your point is?'

There are other benefits to Mione's rescue centre. For instance, there is at the Centre, an Eriskay pony from Wales called Gwerthfwar which Miona hopes will aid a conservation breeding programme for this rare breed. She also has an arrangement with a bird sanctuary in Beith, Ayrshire, for the rehoming of and introducing into the wild, young chicks. But above all, the idea behind the Centre is not only to rescue animals but to be a benefit to us all, to enable people who have not come up close to such wonderful animals to interact

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The Garden



Autumn is now upon us, and it is time to put the garden to bed, tidy up and wait for spring ... but, hold on just a minute! This is one of the most gratifying times of the year for the gardener: harvest for the fruit and vegetables we have looked after for the last few months, tomatoes apples and carrots to be stored and there are still so many plants to enjoy e.g. Sedums, Dahlias, Michaelmas Daisies and some Heathers. There are also lovely rich berries that birds will feed on over the winter: red orange or yellow berries of Pyracantha Cotoneaster, bright blue and purple berries of the climbing Tropaeolum Speciosum and Callicarpa (the 'beauty bush').

We all know the wonderful colours leaves turn in autumn before they drop - not just trees but climbing plants like Virginia Creeper and Boston Ivy. We are very lucky to live in this area where we have acid soil giving us more striking autumn colour than most other areas. Azaleas and Acer produce scarlet and sunshine yellow foliage brighter than some summer flowers! Don't be too eager to tidy up: some seed heads and stems will look wonderful on frosty mornings. Think of the spiders' webs when they sparkle with the frost. Also - remember that the wildlife needs homes to overwinter. Gardeners' friends like hedgehogs, frogs and toads (all slug eaters) will need somewhere to shelter so leave the undergrowth. Ladybirds will overwinter in hollow stems of herbaceous plants. Cutting dead stems to about 6 to 8 inches above ground will not only support new growth in the spring but you are less likely to 'lose' the plant over the winter and

trample on the new shoots. You may want to plant something new and forget where things are.

Bulbs are now in the shops: the earlier they are planted the earlier they will start to establish roots, especially daffodils and crocuses. If, like me, you buy and don't get around to planting until the end of November they will grow and flower anyway. Tulips can be left until November or even December. This is not a recommendation - just to let you know not to feel guilty. If you are organised or, more likely, you don't wish to disturb the summer flowering containers that may still be beautiful ... why don't you plant some bulbs in used plastic pots? So when you are ready and are replanting your containers for winter your bulbs can be put straight into position. Anyway, most bulbs can be bought in pots when in flower in the spring, so you'll have another chance then.

Traditionally autumn is the best time to move and plant shrubs and trees: but these days, most things are container grown so we don't need to wait for them to be 'sleeping' for fear of disturbing them. Over the next few months bare-rooted roses, hedging and shrubs will be available for you to plant.

When moving a large shrub to a different part of the garden - or perhaps giving it away to a neighbour so you have room for something more exciting, here is a good way not to upset it too much: prune back the top branches and take a sharp spade to the roots. Visualising the roots under the ground will extend it to an equal size to the plant above the ground. Cut a circle

around the base of the plant a spade's depth at an inward angle. Leave the plant in that situation until spring. By then, it will have started some new root growth. When it wakes up in its new position in spring it may be a bit puzzled or confused but not too disturbed.

So - if you're planting something this autumn that has been grown in a pot dig a large hole twice the size of the pot, if possible, sprinkle bonemeal over the disturbed soil, discard the pot and tease out the roots to encourage them to spread, fill in the soil back around and firm it in. Teasing out the roots when planting is very important: it will encourage them to go in search of nutrition and anchor the plant into its new position. If left in the shape of the pot the roots may carry on growing round and round, and the plant will not thrive. Often when investigating why a plant is not happy we find it's because the roots have not spread out. At the risk of confusing new gardeners there are a few exceptions to this rule: Heathers do not like their roots teased out. Rhododendrons and other plants with fine dense fibrous roots are best planted undisturbed.

Finally, thanks to Stewart MacLaren & Shawn Coranza for their constant watering. Stewart has kept the baskets and window boxes at the Forth Inn looking wonderful again this year. Shawn took on the immense task of watering the hanging baskets on the posts in the main street.

by *Fleur*

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YOUR HALL NEEDS YOU!

Aberfoyle Memorial Hall was built as a memorial to those who fell in the Second World War. In 1947 an association was formed to promote "physical and mental training and recreation and social moral and intellectual development through the medium for reading and recreation rooms, library, lectures, classes, recreations and entertainments or otherwise as may be found expedient for the inhabitants of the Parish of Aberfoyle". Importantly, there was to

be no distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions. The Association was called "The Aberfoyle Welcome Home and Memorial Fund Association". The Trustees are The Church of Scotland Minister, the Manager of the Bank of Scotland Aberfoyle, the Medical Practitioner longest resident in the village, The County Councillor for the Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith division of the County of Perth and the Senior School Master with a Management Committee from local associations such as the WRI. The Hall is still run under the original constitution although changes in village life mean it struggles to find any volunteers at all for the Committee.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Aberfoyle of the age of eighteen years or upwards was held in March 1947. As the Hall is still run under the constitution approved at that meeting you can see that the hall genuinely belongs to everyone living in the Parish of Aberfoyle.

The good news is that the hall is widely used by the inhabitants of Aberfoyle for recreational pursuits such as dancing, parties, meetings and toddler and youth groups are held there regularly. However, although the Hall was extensively renovated at the end of the millennium, it now needs further expensive care and attention which is why some of the current volunteers decided to reinstate the Aberfoyle Gala in the form of The Gathering which was held on 25th August. The aims of fostering a feeling of being part of a community whilst raising funds for this important community asset were achieved on this very successful occasion. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success. **HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR HALL**

You Can:

1. **Support clubs and events held in the hall, which provide the income for the hall.** Current hall users are: **The Dance Connection** – Ballet, Tap and Jazz classes for all ages: **Aberfoyle Toddler Group** – a weekly get together for parents and carers of pre-school children – enjoy a coffee and a chat while the children play: **Aberfoyle Activity Group** – A weekly Youth Club for young people: **Country Dancing Group**: **WRI: Highland Dancing Classes: The Masonic Society**.

2. **Give your time to help improve/maintain the extensive grounds** – at present we can only just afford to pay for the grass cutting.

3. **Give your time to help complete the redecorating of the hall.**

4. **Come along to our meetings and give your ideas for fundraising and improvements**

5. **Join the 100 Club** – this costs £2 per month - £1 goes to Hall Funds and the other £1 is handed out as prize money in a monthly draw. We need another 12 members to reach the 100 mark and there is no limit to the number permitted. Why not join today? The 100 Club is a year old this month and has raised almost £700 for the hall so far. The month's winner was Peggy MacMillan who wins £88.

6. **Join our Committee**

If you think you can help in any way please speak to the Committee Members Janet Stewart 382736, Ros Dingwall 382668 or Jackie Bell 382142.

Thank you to everyone who already supports this important local asset.

THE ALTERNATIVE RANGERS CORNER

When walking through the forest, I listen for the call
From all creatures great and small
Always with an ear for the hedgehog snoring
And though you may suppose this task to be boring
My life is enlightened by such a noise
Which brings to me a delicate poise
Reflecting also, for an instant, on the chaffinch chitter
Twitter,twitter,twitter,twitter
The butterflies fluttering by
Again are pleasing to my eye I also like to see,
The tiny little bumble-bee



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Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!

Contributions welcome. Contact David Wilkie on 01877 382258 or email david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



(photo courtesy of John McKinlay)

OCTOBER BOOKINGS RUSH

As Autumn edges ever closer, The Forest will offer up new sensations in the form of a stunning display of ever-changing colours. For the 'battle-weary' staff, this fantastic backdrop represents all the inspiration we need to deal with the beehive of activity that is The Lodge in October. The two deer rut mini-bus tours in mid-month will take in the awesome splendour of Loch Katrine, followed sharply by the clamour for places on the fungi forays and Star Party during The Festival. All this will be dwarfed, however, by the virtual stampede for Halloween tickets, our traditional end-of-season blast. Miss out if you dare!

THE THREE LOCHS FOREST DRIVE

An important message for our customers to note is that the Forest Drive is now closed to all vehicles until July 2008. Access is still available to pedestrians and fisher folk, and the No.7 Sustrans cycle route will also remain open. Caution should be observed, however, as major forest operations will be taking place during this time.

THE GATHERING

After ten months of planning, and no short amount of endeavour, Aberfoyle's first major outdoor event in almost ten years finally came to be on a drizzly day in late August. The effect of the early morning, and mid-day showers on the field proved to be troublesome, and we had to rely on Davie McCall and his trusty tractor, on more than one occasion, to pull some of the larger stall-holder vehicles into place. The rain did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the estimated eight hundred people who turned up to enjoy, and take part in, the fantastic array of stalls, games and activities on offer. Thankfully, the sun eventually showed its face and, by the end of the day, no-one seemed in any particular hurry to go home! The organising committee of Jackie Bell, Julie Glen, Kit Neufeld and David Wilkie wish to extend heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who tendered their free time and services before, during, and after the event, the stall-holders who took part, and, of course, for all the donations of gifts, prizes and money received (the wonderful sum of over two thousand pounds was raised for the Memorial Hall funds). Will 'The Gathering' take place next year?... One thing is for certain - nothing can ever change this moment!



DML Notice Board



Deer Rut

SATURDAY 13 /SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2.00-6.00 P.M.
Places for this event are extremely limited, so early booking is advised. Adult - £10.00, Children under 14 - £5.00

MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

Fungi Forays
FRIDAY 19 /SATURDAY 20 /SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER
10.30 A.M. and 1.00 P.M.
Details of starting locations are still to be confirmed.
Booking is essential.

Star Party

SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 6.00 P.M. - 10.00 P.M.
Interested in astronomy? A night of stargazing, with related themes. Refreshments included.
Adult - £5.00, Child - £2.50, Family Ticket - £12.00 (2 adults, 2 children)

HALLOWEEN

SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 4.30 P.M. - 7.30 P.M.
Tickets are on sale NOW. (The theme this year is zombies).
Pre-booking means you avoid the queue.
There is NO limit to numbers for this event.
Cost £5.00. Food and BBQ is extra.

Rangers Corner

This is a formal application to all the living dead
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To the party of all parties which will never end
At the David Marshall Lodge you should attend
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And an undead inclination to scare
In order that we create the right type of mood
Other specific requirements include
The ability to slink, slope, slaver, and slither
Shake, shamble, shock, and shiver
Hobble, hiss, hamper, and hustle
Babble, bully, brawl, and bustle
Creep, cower, crawl, and creak
Retch, rage, repulse, and reek (A decomposed body is also statutory)
In return we offer innocent victims galore
And an earnest spattering of 'gore'
Of course there will be no offer of pay
As, let's face it, at the end of the day
How will you get credit or 'make plans to save'
When you list your address at the bank as a grave?



PS A word of warning- there is danger to be found when the music ends!

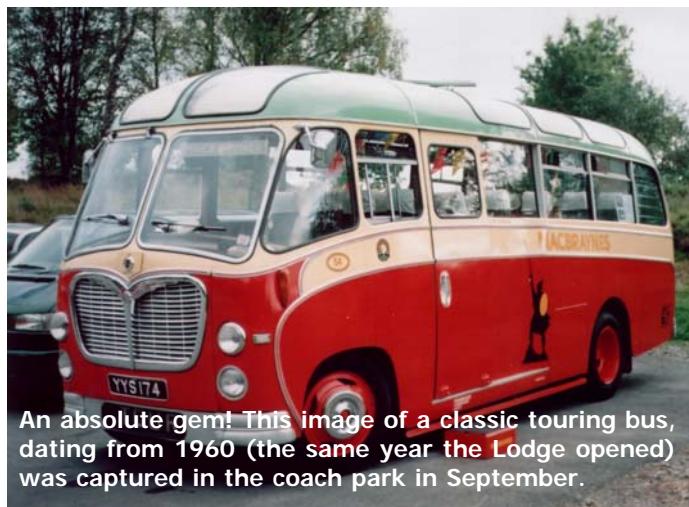
DML PHOTO GALLERY



Go Ape staff go wild after a days work.



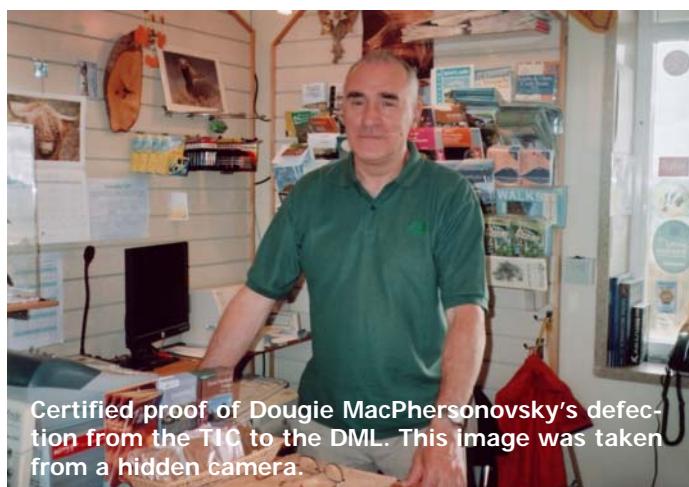
Another day, another delegation of Elvis impersonators turn up for a photo call.



An absolute gem! This image of a classic touring bus, dating from 1960 (the same year the Lodge opened) was captured in the coach park in September.



Peter & Annie oversee the completion of the base for the WTC sculpture. (full report in the next issue)



Certified proof of Dougie MacPhersonovsky's defec-tion from the TIC to the DML. This image was taken from a hidden camera.



Our dedicated band of RSPB volunteers strike a classic pose. Have you ever seen such a bunch of twitchers!





Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

As I drive into Aberfoyle, from Callander, I see the notice board intimating the forthcoming 'Mushroom Festival'. I know that it is an important event in the community, but as I have only lived in the area for two years, I must admit my ignorance about it. So, when I pass the board, situated beside the Forestry Commission Offices, there are a number of questions in my mind. 'Why is there a mushroom festival? Is this a productive locality for native fungi?' 'How did the festival originate?' 'How many events take place during it?'

I'm sure that someone will answer my questions or direct me to the Tourist Information Office where I should be able to pick up a leaflet, but I'm intrigued by the festival, and by the notion that we often pass by signs or buildings that momentarily present us with some questions.

Some of the signs and the buildings sometimes appear to be obvious – but that doesn't stop us asking questions about them. Take our Kirk for example. 'How much do you know about it?' 'Why do people attend it?' 'Is it a good thing to have in the community?' 'Would we miss it, if it wasn't there? Of course, you know that the Kirk and St Mary's Church are visible reminders of the folk in our community who are motivated by Christian love.

And you know, too, that if you want answers to any question it is best when you seek informed opinion, so speak to someone who knows the answer, or better still, do what I will do for this year's Mushroom Festival. Enjoy the experience for yourself.

Jim Brown
Locum Minister

Service Details:

Sunday 30th September

11.15 a.m. Morning Worship

7.00 p.m. Six Churches Worship in Aberfoyle Kirk

Sunday 7th October

11.15 a.m. Morning Worship

Saturday 13th / Sunday 14th October

Flower Festival

Sunday 14th October

11.15 a.m. Harvest Service

Sunday 21st October

11.15 a.m. Mushroom Festival Family Worship

Sunday 28th October

11.15 a.m. Morning Worship



St Mary's Episcopal Church

Memories of two women

A time capsule is a container filled with information and souvenirs of the era in which the time capsule is made. Almost always the capsule will include the then current newspapers. The capsule having been filled is buried. Its position though will be carefully marked, for at some point in the future, it will be recovered again. When a capsule is opened, its contents give a valuable insight about the people who buried it and indeed the attitudes of society at the time. Just occasionally things go wrong. Just over half a century ago, a small town council in the United States commissioned and buried a time capsule. The capsule was especially notable for, unusually one item contained was a brand new saloon car. To protect the car from rust in the ground, the capsule was made of concrete into which the car was driven. The concrete was then sealed against moisture before being lowered into a hole by crane and buried. Just a few months ago the Town Council decided that the time had come for the capsule to be raised and the car and its contents displayed at a town festival. Local historians and car fanatics eagerly awaited the discovery of the capsule. Alas, when it was raised and broken open, all that remained was a rusting hulk, and the newspapers a sodden mass. Somehow, the concrete capsule had absorbed water.

So imagine that ten years ago in September 1997 you yourself buried a time capsule in your own garden. Today, with fingers crossed, you recover and open the capsule, and scan the newspapers deposited inside that contain the news and events of that month. What then would the newspaper headlines read? The headlines would not read: instead they would positively shout. They would sob and cry as well. They would contain words such as angel, queen of hearts, the people's princess. These would refer of course to Princess Diana who that month lost her life in a Paris car accident. In the days following over two billion people would watch the memorial services around the globe. But as the world wept over Diana, news arrived that Mother Teresa of Calcutta had died of a cardiac arrest. So you will scan the newspapers again to find public reaction to the news of the death of an equally remarkable lady. You will find mention of Mother Teresa though squeezed only onto the inside pages of the newspaper. Her funeral was not televised and in the aftermath of a far greater one was virtually ignored and forgotten.

Of course the women were different in many ways. One was thirty-six at the time of her death and beautiful, the other fifty-one years her senior, withered and bent. One wore clothes that when later discarded were auctioned for thousands of pounds. The other habitually was wrapped in a sari costing one dollar. One lived in a palace and expensive hotels and the other dwelt in the slums of Calcutta. But one thing they did have in common. Both showed love and concern for those less fortunate than themselves: the princess for those dying with AIDS and maimed by landmines, and Mother Teresa for the poor of the world.

So why ten years ago was the world captivated by Diana and not Mother Teresa? Was it that the physical beauty of one person coupled with the glamour of a princess's life was simply more compelling than the life of an elderly lady with bunions on her feet, and wearing cheap and simple clothing? Was it that castles and luxury hotels enthrall us more than Calcutta slums? Didn't Mother Teresa's life of service to others and her vast spiritual stature count for nothing in the eyes of the world: apparently not.

It might be said that in a decade, attitudes and values have not greatly changed. Today, concerts and media profiles continue to honour the princess's life. Little though is remembered or venerated today about Mother Teresa. Of course we are not all called or able to undertake the work that Mother Teresa set herself to do. But nevertheless the differing attitudes of contemporary society remembering the death of two women say much for the values that we hold dear, and those we cast aside.

Once when Mother Teresa came to London she gave a press conference. She told assembled reporters that there was more poverty in London than in her home city, Calcutta. The majority of the journalists present thought that the long journey had befuddled the mind of the elderly lady, or that age was beginning to dull her wits. But Mother Teresa, unknown to most, had in a few words delivered a powerful message to the late twentieth century world. When Mother Teresa referred to poverty, she was observing that as well as lack of material wealth there can be great poverty of spirit. Few present understood or bothered to listen to what she was saying. Looking back over the past decade however, what Mother Teresa said has proved perhaps to be a prophetic statement. But what do you think?

Richard Grosse
Rector



The Guild

A very sincere thank you to all who helped in any way at our recent summer sale. The sum raised was over £800 and this will be ploughed back into the work of the Guild and the Church. Now we look forward to our meetings for the coming session. At our meeting on 15th October we have a speaker from Braendam House telling us about the work that goes on there. We will also have guests from Callander, Thornhill and Buchlyvie joining us.

All our meetings are held at 2pm Church House. Please come along and join us – if transport is a problem, contact Anne Ralston 382847, Marion Fleming 382448 or Isobel McGuire 385253. You will be made very welcome at any of our meetings.

Stirling Executive To Consult On Children's Social Work Charges

Stirling Council's Executive considered a report on the introduction of a charging scheme for children and family social work services, residential care and community-based respite care.

Parents will be assessed on the basis of their net income minus a range of allowances currently applied to individuals paying for community care services.

Families in receipt of various benefits – including income support, income-based jobseekers' allowance, and family credit – will be exempt from charges. Families will be offered advice from the Council's Advice Service on maximising their income with benefits they may not be aware they're entitled to. Where a family is likely to suffer hardship as a result of the charges, the Director of Children's Services will be allowed to waive the charge or part of it. Social work services for children have seen a great increase in demand in recent years. In a growing number of cases it is necessary for the Council to accommodate children in specialist facilities. In the most complex of these the cost can be as much as £200,000 per child per year.

David Cameron, Stirling Council's Director of Children's Services, said: "In establishing

a charge for services we are following the relevant legislation that says parents should make a contribution towards the costs of services, not to meet the whole cost unless they have the means to do so. The system is transparent, simple to understand and consistent with the charges applied in community care."

The proposed scheme will levy a charge of 50% of earned disposable income, after allowances including rent / mortgage, council tax, house insurance, life insurance and a personal allowance are deducted. Where the service seeks legal remedy to remove parental rights, and is successful in doing so, a financial charge will not apply.

Stirling Council recently announced that it expects to spend £3,500,000 on external residential placements for children this year, around £1m over budget. A variety of factors outwith the control of the Council have been identified for the overspend, including increased numbers of referrals and charges for care placements increasing at a rate in excess of the average rate of inflation.

Schools Want Parents As Partners

Stirling Council's Children Services held its official launch of the New Parent Councils on Wednesday 29 August in the Council Chambers. Most of Stirling's schools were represented by either parents, Headteachers or Community members, there were also pupils from both Stirling High School and St Modan's High School. The Primary and Secondary Headteachers Network Chairs both attended as did the Chair of Children's Critical Partnership. Director of Children Services David Cameron spoke at the launch on the new era of Parent Councils within schools. He emphasised that he needs and wants to hear parents' views to be able to feed into policy and service developments. The structure of Stirling's new Parent Councils varies from school to school where they have been set up in consultation with the parents in each school. This varies from the old School Boards who were all bound by the same format and guidelines.

Parent Council Networks have been set up to support and provide training and sharing of practice. These will be held each term for the schools in the areas of Balfron, Callander and Stirling. All parents are encouraged to become involved in their Parent Council in a way that suits them and their circumstances. For some parents this will be serving on the organising committee, for others it will be joining in with specific areas of work such as fundraising, helping with the school fete, developing the website or working on the school garden. There are lots of ways that parents can contribute and Parent Council representatives or head-teachers in schools will be happy to discuss this with parents.

The Parental Involvement Act introduced Parent Councils as the new representative body for parents in schools. As of August 2007 School Boards no longer exist. The Scottish Executive has issued a set of Starter Kit Leaflets for the New Parent Councils. Parent Councils are there to represent the views of all parents in the school. Consultations in all schools took place over the first half of 2007 to find out from parents how they wanted to be involved.



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MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN RESCUE

One group of walkers had an experience I'm sure they would never want to repeat when a series of accidents happened to them on the slopes of Ben Venue in the Trossachs.

On Wednesday 7th September, a party of 22 ramblers, who were on an organised trek under the auspices of the Scottish rights of way group Scotways, had alighted from the Steamship Sir Walter Scott at Stronachlachar to walk the route along the south side of Loch Katrine back to the car park at the east end of the loch. About 5.30pm one walker aged 80 collapsed with a minor stroke. Central Scotland Police were contacted and 8 members of the party waited with the injured party whilst the remaining 13 continued on their walk.

HMS Gannet at Prestwick scrambled a helicopter which airlifted the man to the Southern General Hospital along with 4 of the 8 who had stayed by him and who were now suffering from exhaustion.

At about the same time, of the remaining 13 who had forged ahead, a 58 year old woman slipped and fell, sustaining head injuries and had to be stretchered off the hill, subsequently conveyed to Stirling Royal Infirmary. The last of the party was finally taken off the mountain at about 12.15 am. The 80 year old man was said to be in a stable condition and recovering. The woman with head injuries was admitted to hospital as a precaution. As well as the RAF being involved in this operation, teams from Lomond Mountain Rescue and Killin Mountain Rescue were involved in the operation and, according to Scotways, the Scottish Rights of Way Society, handled the situation with the greatest efficiency.



WHAT'S AFOOT?

THE CASE FOR AUDIBLE FOOTWEAR

Nowadays fashion is all and shoes are not excluded from the stylists' agenda. They are, in certain circumstances, a fashion statement in themselves. You have Jimmy Choo who designs footwear for the ladies and there is the 'novelty' or sports footwear as with the 'wheelies' which the youngsters now have. Recently there has arrived a new trend, this time, surprisingly, in men's shoe design and it is, believe it or not, the 'Squeaky Shoe'. We kid you not! Apparently imported from the good ol' US of A, they are selling like hot cakes and, would you believe it, the majority of buyers are women! The ladies are buying these shoes for their men as a way of keeping tabs on them, would you believe. It is even advertised as such on American television and it is coming to a store near you! Marketed as 'Toot 'n' Boot' in the States, a recently opened outlet in London is branding them as 'Shoes Wot Squeek'.

The idea, simple as it is, is that with your man wearing these 'audible' shoes, he cannot make a move without the little lady of the house knowing what he's up to. Make a move to the fridge, lads, for a cold beer, or to the drinks cabinet, and you can be guaranteed to hear a female scream from the other end of the house: 'Get your nose out of that fridge!' or 'Put that bottle down, now!'

Even a return from a late night out with the boys wearing these shoes is to forewarn your nearest (and dearest!) before you've even set your foot on the stairs with the awesome bellow of 'What time do you call this?' which would be a rhetorical question one can only suppose for if the man were to cheekily reply with something along the lines of 'Probably the same time as you've got, oh light of my life' then his jaijet would surely be on a slack nail.

This revolutionary footwear is, according to the manufacturers, fairly easy to maintain. To retain their 'squeak', all the proud(?) owner has to do is to immerse them in water at least once a week. Not too difficult in Scotland, then! Some owners, we are told, are merely stepping into the shower wearing nothing but their squeaky shoes, thus killing two birds with one stone, as it were. It certainly brings a whole new meaning to the expression, 'squeaky clean'.

We have been told that this does occur and although we do not know of any man who has been given such shoes in this area, we have been assured that outlets for this merchandise have already opened in Stirling and Glasgow - not in Edinburgh, however, possibly because the penchant there is for the open toed sandal; also, perhaps, because the men of Edinburgh are more 'biddable' and their wives do not need such devices to check up on them. We have taken this in good faith. Some, however, may see it as a load of old cobblers.

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Local Names in the Parish of Aberfoyle

by Louis Stott

...continued from issue 38

However, such translations must be treated with care. For example, locals for long knew the waterfall at David Marshall Lodge as either 'the grey mare's tail' or 'MacGregor's leap', the first a common enough name throughout Scotland for a waterfall, the second a further celebration, if one were needed, of Rob Roy's connection with the district. However, Allt Mhangan or Allt Vingen can be translated as 'the burn of the young kid' or as the Forestry Commission have dubbed it 'of the little fawn', but it could just as easily be 'the burn of the overhanging boughs' as other sources suggest. Equally Altskeith may be *allt skaith*, roof-tree burn, or flower burn or, a meaning to be kept to oneself, *allt skeith*, burn of the vomit. Other minor streams include Allt a Cham-ruidhe, the crooked red burn, which tumbles into Loch Achray from the Duke's Pass, Allt a Chleibh, the creel burn, Allt na Seilcheig, the snail burn (probably referring to its course), Allt na Speirag, sparrowhawk burn and Allt nan Seanganan, ant burn.

Hill Names

Apart from Ben Lomond, the highest peak, there are comparatively few 'bens' in the district. Often these high hills have rather uninteresting names, which may seem altogether more romantic in the Gaelic. For example, there is a black ben, a white ben, a red ben and at least two speckled bens. However, in addition to Ben Lomond, already referred to, there are two or three other puzzles. Ben Venue is a *beinn mheanbh*, the little ben, so-called, it is said in comparison with Ben Ledi. Watson suggests a variation on this, 'the insignificant hill'. It is, indeed, a rather retiring hill (except from the Loch Achray side) in comparison with the two bold, upstanding bens (Ledi and Lomond) nearby. Others suggest that it might be the middle (*mheadhonach*) hill. Yet other derivations include the hill of the little stinks, and the hill of milk, possibly connecting the word with *buaile* which can mean 'kine' or 'a place where cows are milked'. A rather wilder suggestion includes 'the hill of the caves'. Indeed, Ben Venue illustrates perfectly the perils of seeking explanations for place names. Ben Chochan, nearby, may constitute a mystery as well; but perhaps it is the hill of the breasts (*ciochan*). It certainly has the appearance of a breast from some angles. Beinn an Fhogaraidh, the rather monotonous-looking ben above Loch Ard, appears on some old maps as Benogrie, which approximates to the way in which it is pronounced. It is a name that is little known and infrequently used. In this instance it might well be better to translate it as 'ben of the harvesters' or 'the harvest ben'.

Binnean is an interesting diminutive, generally referring to a high pointed hill. Sir Walter Scott dubbed the most notable local example, above Loch Katrine, Ben An. There is another such hill above Inversnaid and, east of Ben Lomond, there is a delightful little hill visible from throughout the district called *binnean nan gobhar*, the pinnacle of the goats. By far the commonest element among

hill names in the district is *creag*, sometimes a rock, but usually a crag or cliff. There are 55 occurrences, of which Craigmore, which overlooks the village, is a prototype. Other elements include *druim*, a ridge, of which there are ten instances. It is anglicised as drum or drym (as in Drymen). There are also the rather local *maol*, a bare hill or rounded summit, and *meall*, a rounded hill or fell (to use a term common in the English Lake District). A highly local name, concentrated between Lochs Katrine and Lomond, for a slab or a spur is *sgiat* a wing, a shoulder or a shield. There are 12 occurrences including *sgiat an righe*, marked on old maps above Rob Roy's Cave, to indicate where Robert the Bruce probably hid after his defeat at Dalrigh. Other generic hill names found include *mallach*, a top, which occurs once in Caile Mullach, just outside Aberfoyle, *mullan*, a stack or a summit of which there are two. *Sron*, a nose, *stob*, a sharp-pointed hill, and *cnoc*, a knoll, or an eminence, also occur. Of lower hills there are seventeen occurrences of *tom*, a rounded knoll, while *dun* is widely used to denote a 'hillock' often, or supposedly, a fortified site. The best known locally is Doon Hill, the supposed 'fairy hill' in the neighbourhood of Aberfoyle. This may also have been the cathar or seat of the early Celtic King of Scots, Aedan mac Gabran, prince of Forth. In Irish the word *sidh*, means a fairy hill, hence *sithean*, a green knoll, or fairy knoll, of which there is an example near Ben Lomond. Similarly *brugh* means a tumulus, but also a fairy residence. Scott has the following note in *Lady of the Lake*: "The Daoine Shi", or Men of Peace, of the Highlanders, though not absolutely malevolent, are believed to be a peevish, repining race of beings, who, possessing themselves but a scanty portion of happiness, are supposed to envy mankind their more complete and substantial enjoyments. They are supposed to enjoy, in their subterraneous recesses, a sort of shadowy happiness... They are believed to inhabit certain round grassy eminences, where they celebrate their nocturnal festivities by the light of the moon. About a mile beyond the source of the Forth, above Loch Chon, there is a place called Coirshi'an, or the Cove of the Men of Peace, which is still supposed to be a favourite place of their residence. In the neighbourhood are to be seen many round conical eminences, particularly one near the head of the lake, by the skirts of which many are still afraid to pass after sunset."

Another topographical feature connected with fairies is the Peace Stone just outside the parish of Aberfoyle, near the Lake of Menteith. From the name one might suppose that it was the site of the end of a battle, but the name is a reference to the prehistoric rock art with which the stone is adorned. It was locally supposed to be the work of 'the men of peace', hence a *chlach shithe*, the fairy stone. And this being the parish of Aberfoyle there can be no better place to end this brief survey of local names than with the fairies.

Alphabetical Listing of Local Names

Place Name

Place Name	English Meaning
St Mallo Chapel on Eilean Gorm	see Dail Malio
Sgiath an Eoin	spur of the birds
Sgiath an Iubhair	yew tree shoulder
Patrick Graham suggests the Forth rises here	
Sgiath Bhan	white spur
Sgiath Caisg	stopping-place spur
Name connected with Easter	
Sgiath Challtuinne	hazel spur
Sgiath Ghorm	green shoulder
Sgiath Mhor	big shoulder
Shore of Ard	self-evident
Sidheag	fairy knoll
Sidheag Biorach	sharp little fairy hill
Slioch	the spear
Slochd	deep hollow
<i>Deserted settlement; corn mill and lime kiln.</i>	
Smithy Croft	self-evident
Sput Ban	white spout
Sput Dubh	black spout
Strath Buidhe	yellow strath
Stob a' Bhlair Bhan	peak of the white flat
Stob an Lochain	peak of the loch
Stob Chaorainn	rowan peak
Stron Lochie	loch nose or loch peak
Strone Burn	neb burn
Stùc Gille Chonnuill	n peak of Conall's lad
Suisgill	from the place name
Taobh an Abhainn	river side
Teapot Bridge	evident
The Corn Mill[?]	self-evident
The Glassert	green enclosure
The Laggan	low lying hollow
The Manse	self evident
The Ministrie	[?] evident
The Narrows	self-evident
The Old Granary	self-evident
The Old Kirk	self-evident
The Pass	self-evident
The Pow	*the sluggish burn
The Teapot	self-evident
<i>Connected with illicit whisky distilling</i>	
Tigh Beag	little house
Tigh na Crannaig	pulpit house
Tigh na Cruinn	(stone) circle house
Tigh na Greine	sunny house
Tigh-na-traigh	shore house
<i>Residence of the Chief Engineer of Glasgow</i>	
Waterworks in 1859	
Tom an Dubhain	n fish-hook knoll
Tom an t-Sealiadh	watch knoll
<i>Now a "viewpoint"</i>	
Tom Ard	high knoll
Tom Buidhe	yellow knoll
Tom Dhu or Dubh	black knoll
Tom Dubh nan Caorach	black knoll of the sheep
Tom Guail	shoulder knoll
Tom Liath-mor	big blue hillock
Tom na-h-Olann	wool knoll
Tom nan Broigheag	n blaeberry knoll
Tom nan Saighdearan	knoll of soldiers
Uamh Mhòr	big cave (hill)
Water of Chon	river of the dogs
Waterfall of the Little Fawn	from the burn
<i>Also Macgregor's Leap or Grey Mare's Tail</i>	
Woodend ‡‡	self-evident



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Callander Farmers' Market

Halloween Farmers' Market

28th October

Put a note in your diary and be sure to head for Station Road Car Park where the Halloween Farmers' Market is being held on Sunday 28th October from 11.00am to 4.00pm

This is an ideal opportunity to choose from a variety of local Scottish fresh produce on offer. You can indulge in a range of succulent Highland beef, wild venison, game, chicken, pork and bacon. For those looking for seafood there will be plenty of fresh fish, shellfish and smoked varieties. Added to the list will be Scottish cheeses, free range eggs, speciality bread, home baking, chutneys, jams, preserves, artisan beverages, olives and deli items. To complete the picture there will be colourful plants and flowers to complement the selection of unique hand-crafted objects on sale.

The market is a showcase of local and Scottish wide fresh produce. It helps generate sustainable employment by providing a venue for growers and producers to sell their goods directly to the public. This type of market not only offers tasty tempting items that are not found in more usual retail outlets, but benefits the environment by reducing the distance food travels from farm to plate.

The market is run by Stirling Farmers' Market on behalf of 'Callander 2000 & Beyond Community Development Trust'. Come and support this community initiative and make it a thriving success for shopper and trader. Come and support this local initiative by shopping for quality produce on Sunday 28th October.

Scottish & locally sourced quality produce: A different choice of foods: Sustainable shopping – fewer food miles: A sociable event for locals and visitors: A scenic place to shop: Community action that helps sustain the environment: Crafts and gifts with a difference.

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Callander 2000 & Beyond Community Development Trust

Forth Valley U3A (University of the Third Age)

Have you just retired? Are you already retired or semi-retired? If so, Forth Valley U3A offers you many ways to stretch your mind or body and to socialise with like-minded older people. You do not need qualifications, just the motivation to learn in small informal interest groups that run from September to April/May in Stirling, Callander and surrounding areas. The groups cover topics and activities such as art, current affairs, healthy walks, languages, line dancing, literature, music, philosophy and many more. They are led by group leaders who share their skills or knowledge with the rest of the group. Open meetings are also held during the year, usually with a speaker. During the summer months a programme of visits and activities is arranged.

Interested? Then this is just the time to join Forth Valley U3A! The annual subscription is £15 and runs from September to September. This will entitle you to attend interest groups and meetings and to receive a monthly *Update* on groups and activities, a quarterly Forth Valley U3A *Newsletter* and the quarterly national magazine *U3A News*. The first Open Meetings will be held on Friday 7 September when you will be able to enrol for interest groups and meet informally with other members over tea or coffee. These meetings will be held at St Andrew's Church Hall, Callander at 10 a.m. and Cambusbarron Community Centre at 2 p.m., so you can choose the time and venue most convenient for you. We look forward to welcoming you to Forth Valley U3A.

For further information please contact Membership Secretary on 01786 841564 or Interest Groups Co-ordinator on 01786 475554.

Excellent report card for Port of Menteith Primary School

Inspectors have praised Port of Menteith Primary School's many strengths in a new report. HMIE inspectors visited the school, which has a roll of 25, in May. They identified the school's greatest strengths as performance in English language, care of pupils and the positive environment created by staff and the overall leadership of new headteacher David Scott. Inspector Jacqueline Horsburgh said the school provided pupils with a good curriculum, and made "very effective use of the school grounds to support pupils' learning". Teaching was interactive, generally very good and sometimes excellent, she noted.

Pupils' learning was rated as "very good", with almost all pupils having positive attitudes to learning and responding very well in lessons. Pupils had achieved a lot in a wider sense – for example, with the pupil council and by providing a buddy scheme for younger pupils, and by winning a green flag from the Eco Schools initiative.

Standards in English language were rated "very good", with almost all pupils reaching the appropriate national levels in listening, talking, reading and writing – many at a younger age than would be expected. Pupils were also seen to be doing well in maths. Overall, the school met pupils' needs very well, and "provided an appropriate balance of support and challenge for all pupils." Teachers had also promptly identified pupils in need of support, and met their needs "very effectively", and dealt very well with incidents concerning behaviour and bullying.

The inspectors also praised the school's efforts in building strong relationships with parents and the Port of Menteith community, noting that "the quality of teamwork and morale among staff and pupils was particularly high" and that pupils, parents and staff "identified strongly with the school and were proud to be associated with it." Pupils "spoke with pride about their school" and were "extremely positive, enthusiastic, friendly and helpful". Headteacher David Scott was singled out for his "very good leadership". His own teaching was described as "a model of good practice" and the inspectors praised the impressive initiatives he had taken in his short time in the post.

David Scott said: "The team at Port of Menteith are delighted with this report and the progress made so far. It is a testimony to the hard work of all who are associated with the school, from teaching and support for learning staff, to administrative and specialist support teachers, health professionals, parents and community members. Teachers Jenny Whitehead and Margaret Young deserve special mention for their commitment to leading learning initiatives, and the very high standard of their classroom practice is commended in this report.

"The school is in a very strong position to maintain high standards and focus on areas for improvement, in order to provide the best for every child in Port of Menteith Primary School." The main points for action suggested by the report were to develop aspects of drama and science programmes, work on pupils' systematic problem-solving, and revise some procedures of monitoring work. The school will now come up with an action plan to address these issues and share the plan with parents within the next two years.

Confit Duck Leg

Ingredients:

4 Duck Legs
1 lemon
1 Lime
4 Cloves of Garlic
Salt & Pepper
Veg Oil
Mixed Salad
Raspberry Coulis
Olive Oil
Balsamic Vinegar



Method:

Trim any excess fat off the duck leg. Cut the knuckle bone at the end of the leg. Place in an oven proof dish, add the garlic, salt & pepper, lemon and lime. Cover with vegetable oil, cover the dish with foil and cook in the oven for approx 3 hrs. Whisk the raspberry coulis, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar together. Take the duck out of the oil and drain for a couple of minutes to release any excess oil serve on a salad and drizzle with raspberry dressing - serve

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The Sandy Stewart Memorial Committee for Cancer Research and The Port Kirk

Invite you to

An evening of music in the Port Hall
7.30pm Fri. 19th Oct. 2007

Admission £5 (£2 for children)

This includes supper and raffle

Featuring

Chairman Ken Roberts

Musicians: Thornhill Accordionists

Gemma Thompson – fiddler

Robbie Oman - singer

Aberfoyle Toddler

group meet on Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. The group is a good opportunity for mums (or dads) to get together and for the kids to play. We are open to anyone with pre school children. We arrange a few events throughout the year and are looking forward to our Hallo'ween party coming up on the 31st October. As the chairperson I am available for further information.

Julie Glen Tel: 01877 382 296

Forth Inn Events Diary

30th September - Pub Quiz, Prize for Winning Team! starts 9pm



13 October - Karaoke in The Wallace Bar Fun, starts 9pm



18 October - Opening Night Buffet of Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival 2007 (tickets Only)



20 October - Viking Banquet (Tickets Only Price tbc)



21 October - Cooking Demonstrations in The gathering (times tbc)



28 October - Pub Quiz, Prize for Winning Team! starts 9pm

Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UQ

Tel: 01877 382 372

E-mail: Phil@ForthInn.com

Forth Inn News

August 25th saw the first Aberfoyle gala in about 10 years, and what a day!!! FANTASTIC Well done to all the committee and helpers without whom it would never of got off the ground. We are proud to announce our donation to the memorial hall funds is a huge £400. Roll on next year!!!

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Scottish Country Dancing

Dancing resumes on Wednesday 3rd October at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Come along and keep fit!

Milton

Hello Children,

Who said that summer was over? The weather over the past few weeks has been absolutely lovely. This, of course, always happens when we go back to school for the new term. If you don't believe me, just look and see how low the loch levels are. Talking about lochs, on a couple of very calm mornings, I have noticed some strange slicks with flecks of creamy foam floating on the waters of Loch Ard. I have no idea what could be causing it, but the slicks stretch from The Glassert to Kinlochard School. I think that the last rain we had fell on Aberfoyle Gathering Day, and that did not amount to much. David and his little band of helpers put on a wonderful programme of events and, once the dampness cleared away, everybody had a great time. With McLellan's Field being right next to the river, the whole Otter family could just swim up from our holt, hardly any distance at all. And after all that hard work, the organisers raised about £2,000; pretty good for a small village. The funds will be used to support the Memorial Hall.

Grandpa Otter says that, a long time ago, Aberfoyle held a large annual fair at which cattle and sheep were sold. Many of the animals sold at Aberfoyle would arrive at London six weeks later, taken the whole way by hardy highland drovers. This works out at 18 or 20 miles a day. The old Aberfoyle fair was held on the Feast of St Bartholomew, 24th August, so this year we were only one day out! St Bartholomew was one of the original apostles and is the patron saint of tanners, perhaps because his own fate was to be flayed alive. When the railway came to Aberfoyle in 1884, the transporting of livestock became much easier, and quicker, too. This was the time when many wealthy families could leave the grime of industrial Glasgow and move to beautiful Strathard, building magnificent new homes. It was now possible to go back and forth to the city by train.

The problem was that you would have to change trains three times on each journey, travelling via four different railway companies. I hope our cattle didn't have to change trains as often! The railway has long gone, but the old track has been converted into a section of National Cycle Route 7. It is also a very fine walk, past the back of the Rob Roy Hotel. George the Hare and I strolled along as far as the path put in by the Forestry Commission, taking us across the wooden bridge over the River Forth. Below the bridge the twins, Duke and Katrine were ducking and diving in the very dark water. George and I walked on towards the Faerie Hill, where many of our faerie friends live. We haven't seen the faeries for quite a while, perhaps it is time for another visit to their magical world.

But not today because there is school tomorrow. Our local ospreys, stars of stage, screen and television - well CCTV, have departed for a warmer climate. It was very handy popping up to the David Marshall Lodge to watch the progress of the three young chicks on the monitors, in colour, too. And with the trees beginning to turn to autumn colours, the nights definitely getting much darker and early morning mists, I know that Hallowe'en is not too far away! The twins are already eyeing up the two biggest turnips in dad's garden, just itching to turn them into Hallowe'en lanterns!

Bye for now,
Milton.





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INTERESTING!!!

Motorists in the UK could save more than £100 million a year if they switch to independent garages for servicing, new Government figures show. But the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) says 86% per cent of business still goes to franchised dealers, despite new rules letting owners get work done outside the network without invalidating the warranty. A new OFT report says the average bill is 40 per cent cheaper at an independent garage but only 14% of owners took advantage of this. Those who left the dealer network in the two years after the warranty servicing rules were changed in 2003 collectively saved £30 million. But if every driver had followed suit, this could have been £214 million - or £107 million a year.

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If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Keni or Sheena



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Some restrictions apply: minimum age 10 years, minimum height 1.4m/4ft 7", maximum weight 20.5 stn. Under 18 year-olds must be accompanied by a participating adult. One adult can supervise either up to two children (where one or both is under 16) or up to five 16-17 year-old participants.

Prices: Gorillas (18yrs+) £25.00
Baboons (10-17yrs) £20.00
www.goape.co.uk

MAKING BOGLES

By "Nick Auld"

*Noo Hallowe'en night's no for safties
Wi ghosties an ghouls on the go;
An funeral work's no for dafties,
As this little story will show.*

For Willie and Dan was departed.
The pair of them both was stonie deid.
Their mother was a' broken-hearted,
As new clothes for both she decreed.

They lay ben the room by the coffin,
The man from the Co had been called,
He hadn't been there all that often,
But he knew it was Willie was bald.

"I think he'd be best in the blazer,
And Dan would look braw in the suit,
I'll trim them up first wi a razor,
So they baith look dead nice when laid oot."

Their mother went off to the kitchen,
While the man from the Co got stuck in;
To get the lads dressed he was itchin,
For he'd dumped their old gear in the bin.

At last they were blazered and suited.
And their ma had a tear in her ee.
Her voice when she spoke was fair muted,
"Aw the nice, they're a pleasure to see."

"But mebbes, just mebbes," she wunnert,
"Could Ah see them the other way roon?
Wid ye mind, wid it no mak ye scunnert
If ye combed Willie's hair ower his croon?"

While he worked she was boiling the kettle,
And fetching out bread, ham and stuff.
Then she sat down to eat in fine fettle,
For the Co-man had said, "Fair enough."

She'd finished her tea and was smoking,
When she went through to see how he'd done.
She took a big draw then said, choking,
"Naw, change it a' back, will ye, son?"

Eight times they was changed a'thegither,
Shirts, trousers and jackets and ties.
At the end, he'd of murdered the mother,
But he'd got quite good pals with the guys!

He'd gone for a fag tae the kitchen,
In the hope it might shorten his life,
All his nerve ends was jangly and twitchin,
When he noticed the big carving knife.

So the next time she wanted them changing
He brought out the knife, then he smiled.
All it took was a bit re-arranging,
But his eyes, when he'd done, was pure wild.

"How'd you manage to get it done quicker?"
She asked, fair impressed by his speed.
But her sickly grin quickly got sicker,
When he told her, "Ah jist changed thur heid!"

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