

# STRATHARD NEWS

Issue 41

December 2007

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
to all our readers from the Committee



**Dogie**



**Margaret**



**David**



**Marion**



**Ian**



**Gwenda**



**Lesley**



## Who's Who

Margaret Neufeld: Editor  
Ian Marshall: Advertising  
Gwenda Naylor: Treasurer  
David Wilkie: Reporter  
Doug MacPherson: Reporter  
Marion Back: Layout  
Lesley Quirk: Adviser

There was a committee in Strathard  
Who worked so bloomin' hard  
To make your newsletter  
Get better 'n' better  
That they surely  
deserve an award!

*(So, okay, folks, it  
doesn't rhyme, but after  
all, it's Christmas!)*



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## Aberfoyle Junior Golf

On Sunday 7th October 14 juniors competed in a Putting Competition at the golf club. The result was a win for Stuart Buchanan from Buchlyvie, who narrowly defeated Alexander Russell in the final. Two weeks later an adult and junior Texas Scramble was held, and this generated a lot of interest among the juniors and parents! In a closely fought competition, club captain David Hollinsworth paired with Cameron Phillips from Gartmore edged out secretary Ernest Barnard and Stuart Buchanan from Buchlyvie, and Cameron and Craig MacCallum from Aberfoyle. With the continuing involvement of Allan Martin, the professional from Callander, 2008 looks like being a good year for junior golf at Aberfoyle.



## Aberfoyle Toddlers

Aberfoyle Toddlers enjoyed their annual Halloween party with lots of spooky fun! The party was well attended and the fancy dress was excellent. During the party Campbell McAllister, representing the Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West, presented Toddlers with a donation of 100 pounds. This was greatly appreciated and will be put to good use to help fund the Christmas Party on the 12th of December. The spooky fun continued with the Halloween Disco in which £300 was raised for the Memorial Hall and £90 raised for Toddlers.

Well done Lindsay and Linda!!

Aberfoyle Toddlers meets Wednesdays 10 -12 am in the Memorial Hall.

Contact Julie 01877 382 296



## ABERFOYLE MEMORIAL HALL 100 CLUB



*The winner of the winners of the 100 Club October & November draw were Neil McLean and Martin Brown respectively they both won £91.*

*If you would like to help this local charity and have the chance of winning a cash prize please contact Janet Stewart on 382736 or Ros in the Post Office. It costs £2 per month £1 goes to the Hall and the other £1 towards the cash prize.*

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS  
AND SUPPORTERS**

## THANKS

Ewen, Isobel and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone in the village for their help, support and words of comfort on the loss of Lesley-Ann. A special thanks to our immediate neighbours, whose kindness is immense. We would like to say thank you to the Reverend Jim Brown for such a special service and Andy and Ronnie Anderson for their support. Your generous donations collected in the church amounted to £1055 which has been passed on to the Fire Brigade, to whom we pass on our sincere gratitude.

*Ewen and Isobel Fenwick and family,  
2d Old Kirkloan, Aberfoyle*

## Halloween at DML



# "David Against Goliath" ....first Round Aberfoyle

The news that Forth Valley Pharmacy Practices Committee has rejected the application to site a Pharmacy in Aberfoyle has been greeted with overwhelming relief and joy by the local community. The potential negative impact on current medical and nursing services was widely recognised and the community showed massive support for maintaining the status quo. The Pharmacy Committee had the unenviable task of applying regulations appropriate to towns and cities to our small village and it is to their credit that they recognised that for Aberfoyle, a pharmacy was neither necessary nor desirable.

Following the public meeting the SOS campaign under the able chairmanship of Bill Mclean was quickly underway. Local people responded to the threat by signing a petition and writing directly to the Committee giving their views. The doctors were barred from any active participation in the hearing, but the sight of the petition and a huge pile of letters in front of the chairman did much to lift the spirits.

Under the current Pharmaceutical Regulations there is no right of public consultation. It is to this community's credit that they made their voice heard

so effectively. The 2004 NHS Reform (Scotland) Act guarantees public consultation where there are proposals to change local service delivery. Surely small rural communities have the same rights to comment on local issues, as do larger centres of population.

The Pharmacist had decided to appeal against the decision of our Health Board. It is now up to the National Appeal Panel to decide whether they will reconsider this decision.

Aberfoyle's case has captured the public imagination and has been highlighted in the local, national and medical press. We have been featured on Landward, the BBC rural affairs programme. Local councillors, our MSP and MP have joined with us to campaign for a change in regulations which are widely recognised as inappropriate for rural communities. We acknowledge the support shown for rural medical services by Forth Valley Health Board. We are proud to be part of this vibrant committed community. We must keep fighting not just for Aberfoyle but for small dispensing practices throughout Scotland.

Editor's footnote: for more information visit the Save our Surgery website <http://www.sos-fk8.co.uk/>

## ABERFOYLE MEDICAL CENTRE

Would you like to be part of the Group that focuses on Health Promotion as well as discussing future ideas and ways forward for the practice and the community? Meetings are held four times a year.

For more information please contact Rowena Boome, Practice Manager Telephone **01877 382421**

## War Memorial Refaced

The War Memorial at Aberfoyle Parish Church has been refaced to highlight the names of those who died thanks to the generosity of ex-serviceman, Bill MacDonald of Forget Me Not Memorials, Stirling who carried out the work free-of-charge.

The work was done in time for the Armistice Day Service on Sunday, 11 November when a wreath from Stirling Council was laid by Gregor Wood (ex Corporal, Royal Military Police) while his father, Councillor Fergus Wood, T.D.(ex Major) laid a wreath on behalf of the Council at a similar service at Thornhill Parish Church.

## STOP PRESS.....NEWS JUST IN!

The appeal has been turned down. There will be no pharmacy sited in Aberfoyle.



## Macmillan Nurses Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held in the Medical Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> September in aid of the Macmillan Nurses Cancer Relief raised £704.

The Medical Garden Committee would like to thank all those who so generously donated gifts of baking, raffle prizes and money and who came along to support us on the day. Our special thanks to the Surgery ladies who sold raffle tickets for two weeks and it is due to their efforts that such a large sum of money will be sent to the Macmillan nurses, who bring care and comfort to the homes of the seriously ill.

*The Medical Garden Committee.*

## Orchids Hold Key To Transformation Of Local Nursery



Two local businessmen are behind an ambitious business venture that could help put Stirling on the horticultural map.

From Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, Ben View Nursery at Ward Toll

will boast a dedicated Orchid House offering one of the largest selections of orchids for retail sale in Scotland.

Keith Harvey and Graham Scott have taken over the lease of the original garden centre on the site and - despite working to an ambitious timescale - have wasted no time in transforming the appearance and direction of the business.

To signify the nursery being under new management, the business will officially open to the public on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, just in time to capture the busy festive period.

As well as quality orchids, the nursery will offer a wide range of stock including winter baskets and planters, winter bedding plants, hardy shrubs, alpines, specimen plants, ornamental trees, garden sundries, compost, gravel, bark, pet supplies as well as Christmas trees and wreaths.

Business Partner, Graham Scott commented: "We're delighted to have taken over the lease of the nursery and have really gone back to basics and started with a clean sheet. In considering this joint venture Keith and I could clearly see the opportunity. Ward Toll lies in a favourable location with no shortage of passing traffic. Having other businesses on-site as a draw is also going to be extremely helpful in attracting custom through the door. Above and beyond that though, Keith and I are fortunate in that we both have strong horticultural backgrounds. "With our combined experience, contacts and drive, we are confident of being able to make a real go of the business. We want Ben View Nursery Ltd to be a 'must visit' for garden enthusiasts far and wide."

Ben View Nursery is open from 9am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday and from 10am to 5pm on a Sunday. For further information contact Ben View Nursery Ltd on Tel: 01360 850525.





# 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](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com) or hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office.

The problem of the hedgerow height opposite the Baillie Nicol has been a long-standing issue, as it presents a dangerous blind spot to both traffic and pedestrians, schoolchildren included. I was pleasantly surprised therefore, to witness a local taking it upon himself to attend to the problem armed only with a pair of secateurs and a rake, in lieu of the continuing neglect of Stirling Council, who apparently only have a remit to trim a four metre section at the junction corner, a couple of times a year, in order that the mileage signpost is easily distinguishable. A curious aside to this, however, is the placement of a no-parking sign on the opposite side of the hedge which, given its restricted size of a metre, is only visible to the likes of a field mouse, or at best, a 'hedge' hog. If I owned a hat, I would certainly take it off to David Coleman, of Manse Road, who did the duty, and at once typified the spirit of the Aberfoyle community.

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

The inaugural meeting of the Forth Valley and West Fife Smallholders Association will take place on Thursday 29th November in the Theatre Bar, Alloa Town Hall at 7pm. Light refreshments will be available.

For catering purposes, it would be helpful if you would let Rosemary Champion know if you will be attending, (Tel: 01259 729889, email: [rosemary@accidentalsmallholder.net](mailto:rosemary@accidentalsmallholder.net)), and also the names of those attending in your party, so that name badges can be prepared. There is a forum devoted to the Association on the Accidental Smallholder website at [www.accidentalsmallholder.net](http://www.accidentalsmallholder.net) in the Forums section.

The event is a must for anyone interested in sharing an interest in growing and rearing food as naturally as possible.

Best wishes,

Diane Alderdice, Project Officer, Forth Valley Food Links

Tel: 0870 4711 750

Fax: 0560 0010 530

Email: [diane@fvfl.org.uk](mailto:diane@fvfl.org.uk)

Web: [www.fvfl.org.uk](http://www.fvfl.org.uk) or [www.forthvalleyfoodlinks.org.uk](http://www.forthvalleyfoodlinks.org.uk)

## TERMS supporting communities in Business

TERMS (Trossachs Enterprise Rural Mentoring Scheme) kick started the first of its Young People into Business initiatives with McLaren High School pupils through a course of monthly sessions called 'Working Lunch'. The sessions aim to bring young people into contact with the right information and agencies to enable them to make informed decisions about their future, especially if they want to stay in the Trossachs area. They also encourage them to think about starting their own business as an option that will help them to continue living in the area and contribute to the local economy.

The second initiative for Young People is being driven by local lass Jen Jordan who is assisting Alison Wilde on the TERMS project. Having just left McLaren High and wanting to enter the Police, Jen is working part-time on the project to gain a different experience. Her first project is to organise an evening workshop for young people aged 18-35 years to learn more about the options available to

them if they don't know what to do with their future.

This evening will be held at the Callander National Park Office on Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.



Young People into Business 1st Group

The other big news that will support rural businesses is the launch of the TERMS website, a forum based site that enables members of the project to communicate with one another, either confidentially or as a group. There are links to relevant agencies that can help your business and a knowledge hub of useful documents for specific needs. Please visit [www.ruralmentoring.com](http://www.ruralmentoring.com) for more information.

If you would like to know more about how TERMS can support you as a young person, or you want to start your own business in the Trossachs area, or you would like to know more about the mentoring scheme please contact Alison Wilde on 07912 853396 or via email [alison.wilde@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:alison.wilde@lochlomond-trossachs.org).



## Girlguiding

## Gartmore

*Guides (age 10 upwards) meet on Wednesday evenings in the upstairs room of the Village Hall in Gartmore from 7.30 to 9.15pm. Any girls wishing to join should contact Mary Sheldon – see details below. Families who have girls who go to Guides in Gartmore or to Brownies in Aberfoyle should have received a letter to let them know that, as it is no longer possible for me to run the Guides on a regular basis during school term time, I will be leaving Gartmore Guides in March next year. The letter also explains that our two assistant Guiders, Jessie Hamilton & Margaret Carmichael, have decided that they too will be leaving next March. We have all enjoyed the time we have spent running the Guides in Gartmore & very much hope that the unit will continue under new leadership.*

*If you know of anyone who would be interested in being a Guider and running 1<sup>st</sup> Gartmore Guides, then please do ask them to get in touch with me. I will be very happy to explain what is involved and to work with them over the coming months.*

**Mary Sheldon**

**Tel 01877 382388**

**e-mail [mary@sheldon.plus.com](mailto:mary@sheldon.plus.com)**



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# Bridge Over The River Forth

The bridge over the River Forth (now called Gartrenich Bridge), along the old Buchlyvie Railway track is a now in place and open for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. It looks good. A lot of people are already using it or going along to have a look – so many, that we found a circular walk via Gartmore Station, over the bridge and back by Easterhill took twice as long as expected because of the frequent stops to chat with friends and meet new people.

The Army team (39 Engineer Regiment Workshop REME from Waterbeach), worked very hard and overcame all the problems that inevitably arise in a project of this kind. They were still putting finishing touches in place the morning of the official opening! For the opening there was a good turnout from Gartmore and other local villages with Provost Margaret Brisley, Willie Nisbett from the National Park, our local Councillors and representatives from the funding bodies all attending the event. The Convener of the Gartmore Community Trust cut the tape and said a few words before the Army (already changed into their parade uniforms) staged a mass cycle over the bridge (on bikes provided by Trossachs Holiday Park).

The bulk of the funding for the project (applied for by Gartmore Community Trust) came from Scottish Natural Heritage and Sustrans with important contributions from the National Park, Stirling Council and Trossachs Holiday Park. Kenny Auld (National Park) and Andy Malcolm (Forestry Commission) managed the project with Army engineers Marty Hall and Vince May. Without their skills and commitment the project would not have gone ahead.


The bridge is the first step towards opening the whole of the old railway track from Gartmore Station to Buchlyvie, as a puddle-free, mud-free, properly surfaced, recreational route. Discussions this week indicate that further funding is available to finish the job by next spring, if a number of administrative hurdles can be overcome. Plans include: (1) a new, hard surfaced path under the A81 at Gartmore Station (to provide a link to National Cycle Route 7 along the already upgraded old railway track into Aberfoyle), (2) upgrading the route to forest track standards from there to 300 m north of the new bridge, (3) finishing the track from there to the bridge, (4) upgrading the section from the bridge to near Barbados (the first 50 m or so have been finished as a trial and the rest of this section will be done the same way), (5) removing the mud and creating a dry track past Barbados (with suitable crossing points for agricultural machinery as required) to where it joins the quite adequate forest track which leads to Buchlyvie and (5) putting in appropriate user friendly gates and barriers (for example, to stop vehicles trying to cross the bridge).

The whole of the track from Gartmore Station to Buchlyvie has now been proposed by the Local Authorities as a Core Path along with the track from Barbados past Easterhill to the A81. Unfortunately there is no underpass there but, with care, it is possible to cross the A81 and follow a quieter road back to Gartmore. The Gartrenich bridge opens up this circular route from Gartmore, as well as a through route (with no hills and almost entirely off-road) from Aberfoyle to Buchlyvie and, in the longer term (we hope) from there to Stirling and Croftamie to join other parts of the National Cycle Route Network.


As a by-product of the bridge project, the Army provided free labour and gave the Village Hall a timely face-lift. They did a great job – make sure you look around next time you are there.



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## Stirling Gets Festive

This year the City of Stirling will officially switch on the Christmas lights on the evening of Thursday 22 November, which will kick off Stirling's Get

Festive Campaign. The Get Festive Campaign continues throughout November and December bringing festive cheer to Stirling. Why not join Santa's Christmas procession in a Pied Piper style? The fun starts at 11.30am from the Corn Exchange travelling down King Street into The Thistles on Saturday 24 November for the opening of Santa's grotto at 12 noon with the Cast of Cinderella from the Macrobert Centre singing songs from their show.

You will also have the chance to meet real reindeer and sit in Santa's sleigh after the procession outside Costa Coffee from 12.15pm to 2pm, remember to bring your camera with you. In Port Street, the Stirling Farmers' Market takes place from 10am – 3pm with festive fare and gifts using the best of local and gourmet food.

On Friday 30 November – St Andrews Day and National Winter Festival begins with an open-air performance in Port Street by the Stirling & District School's Pipe Band between 6pm and 7pm. The Albert Halls are also hosting a family Ceilidh featuring the Brian McAlpine Ceilidh Band at 7.30pm. Tickets are free from the Albert Halls and include a taste of traditional Scottish stovies.

The Tolbooth is hosting a special St Andrew's Day concert featuring Andy Irvine and Alison McMorland & Friends starting at 8pm. Tickets from Tolbooth and Albert Halls.

Out and about, the Brig O' Turk Village Hall will be the setting for a family Ceilidh on Friday 30 November, and on Saturday 1 December the Killearn Village Hall will also host a family Ceilidh both featuring the hugely popular Ceilidh Minogue Band. There will also be a series of traditional music workshops and Ceilidhs in Stirling schools and nurseries.

There will be the chance to meet Rudolf and friends again in Port Street on Sunday 2 December from 12 – 2pm when the real reindeer return to Stirling for a final visit before Christmas. Christmas cheer continues with Carol Singers and festive street theatre entertaining shoppers.

The Proclaimers are set to rock Stirling as they headline the city's Hogmanay party and fireworks spectacular on Monday December 31, 2007. Stirling's annual Hogmanay celebrations have become a hot favourite for partygoers around Scotland. Set against the dramatic backdrop of Stirling Castle, this year's Hogmanay celebrations headlined by the Proclaimers will begin with a warm welcome by Stirling's Royal Burgh Pipe Band.

The whole evening will be wrapped up by the most glittering fireworks display around. The sale of tickets for this year's Hogmanay event has surpassed all expectations and anyone interested in attending the castle on New Years Eve are advised to purchase their tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets can be obtained from SECxtra on 08700 13 26 52 (subject to booking fee) or from the Tolbooth on 01786 27 4000, Macrobert Arts Centre on 01786 46 6666 or the Albert Halls Booking Office on 01786 473544.

For further information on Stirling's Hogmanay view the website at [www.stirlinghogmanay.com](http://www.stirlinghogmanay.com)

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## NP Countryside Ranger Update

The recent fungal forays held as part of the Mushroom Festival proved to be very popular again this year, with 48 people taking part in 3 ranger led walks over the weekend.

The latest volunteer tasks at the Aberfoyle Wildlife site were also well attended by National Park volunteers from the local area. Several long sections of old redundant fencing have now been removed. Invasive Himalayan Balsam along the river bank was also removed, along with several bags of litter collected from the stream along the western edge of the site. We are always keen to meet new volunteers so why not come along and help out. Volunteering with the National Park is a great way to meet new people, enjoy the great outdoors as well as helping to enhance your local environment.

The Ranger Service, in conjunction with Stirling Council Adult Learning team, are hoping to run a John Muir Award programme in the not too distant future for people who wish to "discover" the wild place that is Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park. The award is all about discovering wild places, and the four criteria of the award are that you must, discover, explore, conserve and share your wild place. If anyone is interested in getting involved, or would simply like any more information about the award, please contact Graeme Auty, or pop into the office on Main St. You can also get more info at [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org) Many thanks for the wildlife sightings that people have reported in to me; it's all really useful information. As well as the Squirrel sightings (red and grey), we are very keen to get any Otter or Water Vole sightings as well. The main information we need is location of sighting, time of day, number of animals seen, type of activity and your name and telephone number. Please use the details below to contact me, or pop into the office.

*Graeme Auty, Countryside Ranger, Tel: 01389 722 115*

*E-mail [graeme.auty@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:graeme.auty@lochlomond-trossachs.org)*

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Loch Lomond  
& The Trossachs  
National Park

by Owen McKee

## National Park News

Up and down  
the country

three little letters are putting the fear of death into publicly funded bodies. The CSR (Comprehensive Spending Review) determines what monies are available and needless to say everyone wants a slice of the cake but equally everyone knows that the review this year will be a particularly tight one. What happens under this review will set the basic allocations for the next three years.

Naturally each and every publicly funded body believes that it is a special case and deserves that little bit extra. With Climate Change in the ascendancy on the political agenda and the Scottish Government not slow in acknowledging that man made contaminants play a significant part in the problem, the National park authority is equally keen to show that it can make a considerable contribution in the fight.

As mankind - what is the current PC term? - is a major cause of the problem it is surely in our power to look at what we can do to take the pressure off. We all know that there are some home comforts that are sacrosanct. The flick of a switch and we have it but at what costs. Although the floods in Strathard were relatively minor in comparison with those that occurred in Central England can we be confident that they will not now become a regular feature here. If anything, because we have a relatively high rainfall, we are more at risk. Flood Prevention and Alleviation Schemes

feature high on the agenda of Strathard Community Council with Fiona McEwen taking a lead role in researching the problem and liaising with the Flood Team at Stirling Council. Alongside this there are the general mantras of "Renewables" and "Cut CO2 emissions". As a Planning Authority we must encourage renewable energy schemes in the Park such as small scale Hydro generation. We must encourage developers, where it is economically viable, to introduce community heating schemes into their developments. The Park authority has been working with the Forestry Commission to establish wood chip heating supplies and we have put our money where our mouth is by ensuring that our new HQ at Balloch has a wood chip heating system (Yes we did look at the downside of CO2 producing transport to get the woodchip delivered. That is why we have been working with the forestry industry to have a local supply of wood chip.) We must insist on design specifications that capture as much passive solar heating as possible. Insulation has progressed considerably over the last decade. We must encourage the developers to incorporate the highest standards into their buildings.

And can you help. Of course you can. Not only can you pay heed to the many national initiatives but you can have your say in what measures are included in the National Park's own Local Development Plan. You may recall that in the summer (you may not recall that we had a summer this year

but you will remember that there is a season called summer) we had a Local Plan Open Day when you were encouraged to put forward your views. The Authority has now completed the Open Days in all the communities in the Park. We are now analysing those views and will be preparing a schedule of Issues which we will bring back to the communities in a couple of months time. You will be given the chance to comment and then we will prepare the Draft Park Plan. So it is not too late to have your say. If there are any points you feel are of particular need of attention in the Local Plan you can let me know or send your views to Susan Brooks at National Park HQ, The Old Station, Balloch.

And what kicked all this off? Ah yes, it was the Comprehensive Spending Review. Yes the Park Authority has submitted its case for funding and it is pleading that it is a special case. After all, the National Park (Scotland) Act effectively says so and it was the Scottish Parliament that instituted us (I nearly said "set us up" but then that has an entirely different connotation which would not be helpful). The bid is in and there has been some early sparring. We must wait to see how good a case we have made.

*As always I can be contacted as follows:*

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,  
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## A Unique Tribute To Britain's Lumberjills

Britain's first memorial to 5,000 members of the Women's Timber Corps was unveiled on Wednesday October 10 at Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, Aberfoyle, in the heart of central Scotland. Environment Minister, Michael Russell unveiled a life-size bronze sculpture of a 'Lumberjill' which will provide a lasting tribute to the women who stepped up to the mark to manage the country's forests during the war.

Women were recruited to the Women's Timber Corps (WTC) - part of the Women's Land Army - during World War Two and posted throughout Britain. Many were sent to remote areas of Scotland, where they lived for months in spartan conditions, whilst they ensured that timber supplies were kept in steady supply, felling trees, loading lorries and sawmilling timber.

After the war, the WTC was disbanded in August 1946, and each member handed back her uniform and received a letter from HRH, Queen Elizabeth. The sculpture is an official recognition of their hard work and efforts during the war.

Environment Minister, Michael Russell said: "I am delighted to help commemorate the hard working women of the Women's Timber Corps whose valiant, behind the scenes effort helped Britain in the war effort.

"The women become affectionately known as 'Lumberjills', replacing men who had answered the call to war. The work the women did was hard, physical labour that helped keep the industry afloat, and it helped shape the forests we see around us today. "I am pleased that the Commission has taken steps to help remember the group and instigate the creation of the statue, which represents an unnamed heroine of the Women's Timber Corps. This will be a lasting tribute to these brave women."



The memorial is located at Forestry Commission Scotland's David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle. Fife-based artist, Malcolm Robertson, was commissioned to create the memorial.

The surviving members of the corps attending the unveiling were welcomed with music from the 1940s. The women were also taken on a tour of a modern day harvesting site to see how forestry techniques have changed over the years.

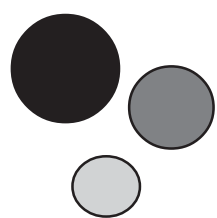
Rosalind Elder, who worked in the Women's Timber Corps and who now lives in Canada said: "It is commendable that Forestry

Commission Scotland has co-funded and commissioned this excellent statue to be dedicated to the members of the Women's Timber Corps. Two men in particular, John Scott and John McIntyre have pushed for some symbol of recognition for us, and Forestry Commission Scotland heard the call and responded. Without their assistance it would never have come to pass, and we shall be forever grateful to them for answering our pleas for something of substance other than a 'Thank you'."

"This statue will be a suitable memorial to the young women who worked long and

hard during World War II to supply the much-needed timber for the war effort. Our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren on their visits from Canada and the USA will appreciate this beautiful site, a fitting forest background for the girls of the Women's Timber Corps."

The memorial has been funded through donations from Forestry Commission Scotland, the Scottish Forestry Trust and the Royal Scottish Forestry Society. For more information visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/womenstimbercorps](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/womenstimbercorps)



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## RSPB Inversnaid

How often do we look at common birds but never actually *observe* what we are seeing, dismissing what we are watching because we see it all too often? The wood pigeon is well known to all, yet close up, the colouring is superb, not just the grey and white wing bars that make identification so easy when flying. There is the white neck slash with the glossy green patch above that, the pinkish (almost purple in poor light) breast and the black terminal band of the tail. The male's attentive behaviour during courtship would put Casanova to shame and the strength of the wings astonishing, as I discovered during a ringing session. The flocking behaviour to thwart raptor predation is another joy to watch. A peregrine falcon going through a flock scatters the pigeons to every point of the compass often emerging without prey due to the confusion caused by such large numbers. In ten minutes at Inversnaid Hotel car park, I counted six hundred and eighty nine wood pigeon flying north dropping into the wooded area around the Woodland Walk. This behaviour is



due to the woodland harvest, mainly from the oak trees on the reserve. Wherever you walked, acorns were scattered all around and the pigeons were feasting on the ground. As I walked to the top of the Woodland walk, pigeons were lifting off and wheeling away and now at the top of the walk I was above the majority of the pigeons in the flock. Small groups of twenty to fifty pigeons were continuously lifting from amongst the trees, wheeling and then dropping into new patches of woodland. Fifty landed on one large oak still holding its leaves, whilst another twenty circled around them looking for a space to land, and then about three hundred rose out of the trees and shifted north towards the hotel dropping into the area of woodland before the car park. The woodland harvest also provides for the wood mice; they leave a small hole in the shell of hazel nut and looking in hollows at the base of trees you will normally find a stash of nuts that have been gnawed. Red deer are another mammal that indulges in the woodland harvest, 'hoovering' up acorns as they wander past and the feral goats do not pass

up such a feast either. Indeed ROBH (right one broken horn) and another feral goat male were at the bottom of the Woodland walk, brushing and clearing through the carpet of fallen leaves to reveal the acorns and readily gulping them down.

The red deer rut was a superb wildlife spectacle as usual. Thankfully, programmes such as the BBC's Autumnwatch allow us to understand some aspects of wild life behaviour that we may witness but not fully comprehend. The roaring of the stags is truly emotive to any country person, proclaiming another autumn season has started. This year I watched a stag roaring about 300 metres from the Garrison car park up on Stob an Fhainne, the effort of his roar expelling a mist of hot air in the cold of the early morning.

Skins of geese and whooper swans have also passed over the reserve. Redwing and fieldfares (winter thrushes from Scandinavia) are still in small numbers. The resident birds are in flocks now with twite, chaffinch, goldfinch and greenfinch all being seen. Tit flocks (blue, great, coal, long tail tit) with treecreeper and goldcrest in attendance, pass over you as you walk along the West Highland Way.

*Duncan Cameron  
Conservation Assistant*

## CRAWFORD CALLS FOR ACTION ON DANGEROUS ROAD

Bruce Crawford, MSP for Stirling constituency, has called for action to be taken to improve the safety on the A81 between Dumgoyne and Strathblane. This follows several accidents on the road over the past year, including one fatal accident.

Commenting, Mr. Crawford said: "Following recent discussion with the police and local residents in the locality of the A81, it is clear to me that action must be urgently taken to improve the safety of this dangerous stretch of road.

"Over the past twelve months, there have been seven accidents on this road, which included two serious crashes and, regrettably, one fatality. The safety of the A81 near Kippen was clearly improved over recent years by the installation of a roundabout at a previously dangerous junction.

"I hope that this and other measures such as the introduction of vehicle activated speed signs, the resurfacing of the road with non-skid

materials and perhaps the re-engineering of some of the bends on this road will be considered. I have written to Stirling Council requesting that they consider these approaches.

"Every death on our roads is one too many, and we must ensure every reasonable step is taken to reduce the incidences of road traffic accidents."

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## St Mary's Aberfoyle Eco-Congregation *'Climate change – Why Bother?'*

Last month saw the start of St Mary's Eco-Congregation activities with the screening in the Church of Al Gore's film on climate change entitled 'An Inconvenient Truth'. Recently Mr Gore has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with members of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has just released new scientific data on trends over the past 20 years collated by 400 scientists (all experts in their fields) and peer reviewed by a further 1,000 of their colleagues. Their conclusion is that if the current scale of mankind's carbon footprint goes unchecked our very survival as a species will be at risk.

Since we screened the film, we have had comments back from some in the Church and the wider local community who are sceptical about the human impacts that lie behind climate change and consider it and other environmental issues beyond the scope of Christian worship.

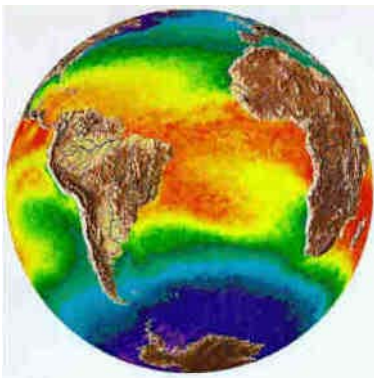
Climate change is a moral and a spiritual issue. If we believe that God created this planet and all the living things within it, then we have a duty of stewardship. Even if one does not believe in Creation, then we still have an overwhelming duty to stop three-quarters of a billion people losing their land and homes to rising sea levels. Stewardship rests on the idea that humanity's relationship to the natural world we live in is not one of ownership but interdependence.

I am a scientist and am absolutely convinced about the reality of climate change. Since learning about the concentration of gases in the atmosphere at school, long before we knew about climate change, I have realised that the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is going up at an alarming rate. The science of climate change is well understood. The sun's radiation hitting the earth is reflected back out into the atmosphere which then escapes into space. With higher levels of carbon dioxide, the escape of the sun's radiation is reduced, resulting in warming of the planet.

Why is there so much scepticism when the IPCC has over 2,000 scientists world-wide working on climate change, when the scientific evidence is clear, and when even

our politicians are sounding convinced? Why also are we not doing more about this? Is it the 'inconvenience' of having to admit that every one of us needs to take personal responsibility for what we are doing to our planet?

Certainly, the tendency of the press and media to seek a counter-argument does not help. They portray all too frequently the sceptic's view. Channel 4's screening of 'The Great Global Warming Swindle' was a swindle in every sense of the word - to doctor scientific charts to make a



c o m p e l l i n g programme is irresponsible and creates so many difficulties for the rest of us. In case you didn't see it, there was a public apology for what was untruthful.

The top 10 hottest years since systematic weather records began have

occurred in the last 12 years. Escalating global warming is a reality. Our lives in the 'developed' world have become totally dependent on fossil fuels, which are wrecking the planet. Thus, we rely on heavily industrialised agriculture, motorway transport networks, and reliance on imported food from overseas in order to sustain the convenience of supermarket shopping in the UK - just one way in which our consumer led values are driving this process.

Climate change is bad enough, but we are changing planet Earth in many other ways. Human-induced habitat destruction and pollution is directly causing the loss of animal and plant species at levels between 50 and 10,000 times the natural rate of extinction (IUCN). We are totally dependent on soil for the production of our food, yet across the globe 10 million hectares (10 times the area of the UK) is being lost each year (The Guardian, 2004). Pollution from toxic chemicals is everywhere - in our bodies, our babies' breast milk, oceans, atmosphere and soil (WWF).

We live in a largely consumerist, materialistic society that encourages the idea that more is better, when the gap between rich and poor is ever widening. Life for many has become hectic and has

lost its link with nature and God. Small wonder that social problems linked to sex, alcohol and drugs are blamed on a continuing decline in moral values and creating an ever increasing prison population.

All too often it is our unconsidered everyday habits that are the root cause of our polluted atmosphere and oceans, vast mountains of waste, and the destruction of our most important natural resources - our forests and our soil. Yet within local communities, there is life, exuberance and a fantastic wealth of spirit and culture. Communities have to use this to change and to thrive.

One powerful way of creating change is through linking practical action to Christian worship. The Eco-Congregation programme is about doing just this - reconnecting lives with God, His creation and each other in ways that demonstrate good stewardship. It is a growing inter-denominational movement which now involves several hundred Church congregations across Scotland. You can visit [www.ecocongregation.org/scotland](http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland) for more information.

In his foreword to a new book entitled 'Christianity, Climate Change and Sustainable Living', Sir John Houghton FRS, the chair of the UK Committee of the IPCC, writes:

"With regard to action to combat climate change, Christians have a particular contribution to make. Of all the world's major religions, Christianity emphasizes most strongly the connections between the material and the spiritual..... In our stewardship of creation, we are called upon to follow Jesus especially in his concern for the poor and the disadvantaged who will be the most adversely affected by climate change."

We are destroying God's Creation. As those of us in St Mary's develop our own Eco-Congregation programme, I pray that we have the strength to recognise what we are doing to our planet and change our ways so that our grandchildren may inherit a world at least as beautiful and vibrant as we have known.

Anne Winther  
November 2007





### Aberfoyle Railway Turntable Project

local projects local people

The Strathard Community Trust are currently working with various government departments and the land owners of the site adjacent to the rear car park and the National Cycle Route 7 on which the old railway turntable remains can be found. The aim is to excavate the site to display what is left, including the buffers adjacent to the burn. The work would involve tidying up the site, sympathetically thinning out the trees and general landscaping. A replica railway signal will also replace the existing pole and sign at the start of the cycle track. The Trust would welcome the views of the house owners overlooking the site. If you have views please contact Ian Marshall on 01877382211



Photo] Former North British Railway "C16" class 4-4-2 tank locomotive, No. 67482, on the turntable outside Aberfoyle shed, waiting to take a train to Glasgow [R. A. Perkins

**Strathard Community Trust Open Day**, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September has been hailed a great success by the organisers and exhibitors. About 70 people turned out to make their views known and participate in what turned out to be, a social occasion. The results from this and the Community Survey have not yet been collated but we should have more news for you in the next edition.



## What's With Our Cash Machine, Dude?

Hi, and lo, it came to pass that the good people awoke from their slumbers. And arose and went forth unto the market place and saw that great desecration had been done unto that which they held most sacred. Thus there was a great wailing and lamentation thereof. For that wondrous thing called *Ye-Olde-Machine-Which-Spews-Out Money* (Sometimes) had now suffered muchly. Having been wrenched from its sacred place of habitation, and in so doing hath denied its people from their place of worship. Where they prayed to it, (*Ye-Olde-Machine-Which-Spews-Out-Money* (Sometimes) and receiveth its blessings and its riches, Verily the gods who hold the secrets of the *Ye-Olde-Machine*, etc., etc., have doth turned their faces against the good people of this land. And so have favoured the forces of darkness, "*The Little People*"

For they have set that wondrous object of desire on the other side of the temple, Yea, on the very slopes of hebron, In doing so, at a height of two feet off the ground. What else to serve but the "*Little People*"? Thus the people brought tribulations to the servants of the temple who passed it on to their god on high. He, of wondrous wisdom, then frowned and pondered deeply before saying unto them 'Am I bovvered?'

## Braeval Antiques Aberfoyle



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# Welcome to the news from Glendrick Roost

We are still looking for new premises. The animals are now scattered to the four winds. Still loved, cared for and wanted, just not altogether anymore. What we need is out there we just have to find it. Ideally we need a minimum of 20 acres of ROUGH grazing. Our animals do not need to be fattened up or produce meat or milk so unproductive land on a hill farm would be ideal - though we will consider anything.

Even during this worrying time animals continue to need our help. In the past month four rabbits arrived one with a torn ear] from a breeder. This happens on a regular basis. Rabbits are used as breeding machines and when unfit for this task are thrown out. This happens when they are only 3 or 4 meaning they can have several more years of life. As they are not able for the task intended they need to be rehomed. Unfortunately rehoming an adult rabbit [guinea pig or chinchilla] is not as easy as most people want a cute cuddly baby ... and so they come to us. We try to find good homes for the better tempered animals but it isn't easy and many will remain with us till they die. A further two rabbits were taken to a local vets to be put down because the 'owner' didn't want them any more and couldn't find homes for them. The vet offered to castrate the male free if we could take them as they couldn't happily put down healthy animals.....so they came to us. If anyone would like an adult rabbit or chinchilla please get in touch.

A highlight of the summer has to be " the TAWNY OWLS" Over the spring Hessilhead [the wildlife hospital we deal with] had 33 tawny owl chicks handed in from different locations. These fluffy bundles were hand reared and once fledged had to find suitable homes. I was asked if I could

find any suitable people and buildings to rehabilitate these wonderful creatures. So the search was on ... Very quickly I found 5 what I thought were suitable 'homes' for the owls and these then had to be inspected by Andy and Gay Christy from Hessilhead . .... Hoorah .. with a few minor adjustments the facilities were adequate and we all to a man waited impatiently for these wonderful birds to arrive. Would we get two or three birds each? The day arrived when the birds were transported to Fintry where two ' lots ' were going to be housed. On last inspection both homes were considered suitable for FOUR birds each!! Then on to the centre - would we be suitable for four birds ? .... We too had facilities and surroundings conducive to accommodate four birds. This happened in Cashel on the banks of Loch Lomond and in Cambusbarron. All in all as an organisation we were able to help rehabilitate a total of 20 birds!!! AMAZING.

The owls had to be kept confined for anything between one and two weeks to get them used to the area. Whilst in confinement they were fed on dead chicks [a waste product of chicken breeders as sex linked cockerels are humanely destroyed at birth] Then they were allowed to fly free when they were given access to chicks for the first few days to help feed them till they were able to fend for themselves.

This was without doubt an amazing experience and we all enjoyed helping these beautiful birds .

The show / games season is at an end and we will have to find alternative ways to raise the much needed funds to continue to feed and house the many animals in our care. We ,with several Pets as Therapy cats and dogs,are available to give illustrated talks throughout the winter months and any club, group or school wanting a visit please get in touch.

## Winter Fundraisers

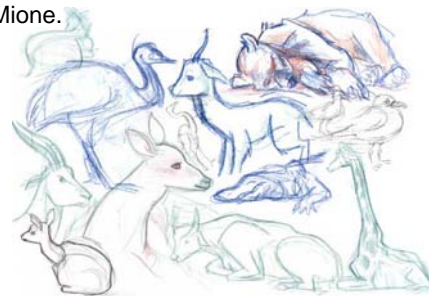
A Wild West Ho down has been organised to be held in the Menzies Hall in Fintry on the 17th November. Tickets to include a buffet supper are £6 obtainable from Mione 07748 351287 or Helen 07901677846 [wild west fancy dress optional] Some of the rescued animals will be there to meet you.

Christmas Raffle - tickets can be obtained from Mione and Helen as above. 1st prize £100; 2nd prize Christmas Hamper; 3rd prize bottle of Malt and many other prizes. Two Christmas markets to be held in Kippen on Saturday 3rd November and Saturday 1st December .

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EVENTS AND COME AND HAVE A GOOD TIME .**

We continue to attend the coffee mornings/ markets at Gartocharn on a Friday morning. Please take a run out to Gartocharn Millennium Hall and enjoy a morning in the market and try your luck on our tombola. Tombola items are constantly needed as this is our main fundraiser and we have at least one tombola EVERY week. Please contact me if you have one, two or more items we could use. Thank you.

We welcome the partnership we have with the Volunteer Centre in Stirling and have had many visits from people involved with the Open Doors Project who have all gained an insight into the care needed of all the animals and the tasks to be completed to keep the centre running smoothly. As has been proven many times caring for animals relieves stress and gives one a sense of wellbeing. If you would like to help with the running of the centre please get in touch. You will be very welcome and training will be given for the many tasks involved. Thank you, Mione.



## Trossachs Carpet Cleaning Services



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## Outdoor Drinking Ban

The Community Council would like to encourage you to comment on a proposal to impose a ban on outdoor drinking in the Strathard area.

This bye-law has been introduced in nearly every other local community, and it allows the police to confiscate alcohol outwith the permitted areas of authorised licensed premises. Pubs and hotels with beer gardens licensed for the consumption of alcohol will not be affected by the proposal. Having drinks within the curtilage of your own house and garden are obviously also exempt. It would mean that the problems experienced recently at camp sites beside local lochs, where groups of people have been more intent on getting drunk than on fishing, could be dealt with immediately by the police, before they cause a nuisance. People causing a disturbance by drinking in the streets could also be dealt with more effectively.

Special occasions such as Gala Days, or Hogmanay celebrations, where alcohol might be consumed outdoors, would be able to apply for a special licence to cover the specific event.

The introduction of a ban would follow a specific process including plenty of time for public consultation and would need to show that there was backing within the community, so your comments are important. We would also need to decide whether we wanted a blanket ban throughout the whole Community Council area, or just in specified places. Since the whole process takes some time to complete it would be appreciated if you could have a think about this and then send comments, either to this paper, or by dropping a note in at one of the local Post Offices. The Community Council meetings would also be a good place to air your views! Inversnaid Primary on 6<sup>th</sup> December, or Aberfoyle Memorial Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> January both at 7.30pm.

**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 6th December in Inversnaid Primary School**



### Community Councillors

#### Ward 1 Aberfoyle

Ros Dingwall  
John Clow  
Geraint Short  
(1 vacancy)

#### Ward 2 Kinlochard

Fiona McEwan  
Maureen Campbell  
Sue Russell  
(1 vacancy)

#### Ward 3 Inversnaid

Scott Provan  
Andre Goulancourt  
Ralph Wolfe

We have two vacancies. There will be elections in Jan/Feb - one for each ward - watch out for information. Contact Ros Dingwall (382 668) for further information.

## Police Community Website

Constables Jo McDowall and Ricky Govan are the two locally based Police Officers covering the village of Aberfoyle and the surrounding communities. They carry out community liaison duties in Aberfoyle and can be contacted at Aberfoyle Police Office. Tel 01877 382 222. They can also be contacted by email through the Central Scotland Police website **[www.centralscotland.police.uk](http://www.centralscotland.police.uk)**. There is a community page for Aberfoyle on the website which can be accessed by going to *My Area, Dunblane Sac, Aberfoyle*. There you will find community news regarding crime updates and police surgery dates.



## Drugs Warrant In Aberfoyle

1st October 2007

Drugs worth more than £8,600 have been taken off the streets in a series of Safer Central policing operations in Stirling, Grangemouth and Falkirk. Seven people in total have been charged with dealing offences following the day of activity in the Stirling Area Command on Thursday September 27.

Raids were carried out in Strathblane, Aberfoyle, Fallin, Cowie, St Ninians and Whins of Milton. Two significant recoveries of drugs were made in Strathblane and Aberfoyle. The search of a house in Strathblane revealed a number of ecstasy tablets and a 22-year-old man was charged with a number of drug offences. In Aberfoyle, more than £800 of amphetamine and cannabis resin was seized and £440 cash recovered. A 38-year-old man was charged. Heroin was also recovered at a house in Cowie and a 32-year-old man was charged.

Community officers joined forces with specialist officers from the Drugs Unit to carry out the activity. They were joined at a briefing at Police HQ by partner agencies including Signpost. Chief Constable Andrew Cameron also went out on the raids and spoke with members of the community. He said: "The response from them has been very positive. They are pleased to see officers targeting dealers and this gives out a strong message that we will not tolerate this kind of behaviour.

"It takes time for us to gather sufficient information to carry out raids such as these. The public should be safe in the knowledge that any information they give to us is valued and will be acted on. The results are evident for all to see."

"Our message is simple: drugs and the people who deal them have no place in our communities. We will root them out whenever and wherever we can."

Heading the operation Detective Inspector Gordon Crossan, who is also head of the drug's unit, said: "We are committed to stemming the flow of drugs into our communities and this requires intensive investigation involving many officers. Yesterday's activity was aimed at those who are distributing drugs in our area causing untold misery.

"However, these operations are not just about focusing on the amount of drugs recovered but are also aimed at disrupting the supply to those in our communities."

Safer Central drug operations will continue unabated over the coming weeks and months. In the past 12 months the force has seized £1.45 million of drugs and disrupted a number of dealing networks spanning the UK.

## Appeal for Information

### **Vandalism at Rob Roy**

15th, September 2007

*Between 2330hrs, Wednesday 12th September 2007 and 0800hrs, Thursday 13th September 2007 a vandalism occurred at the Rob Roy hotel, Aberfoyle. This involved lighting being removed, causing damage to same.*

*If you have any information regarding this please contact police on 01786456000.*

### **Theft at Forest Hills**

25th, October 2007

*Between 1900hrs, Sunday 14th October 2007 and 0930hrs, Monday 15th October 2007 a theft occurred at Forest hills water sports, Kinlochard. The theft's value was in excess of £8000 and included a quad bike, outboard engines and trailer. If you have any information please contact Aberfoyle police office, 01786456000.*

# Ranger's Ramblings

## A View from the Lodge!

Contributions welcome. Contact David Wilkie on 01877 382258 or email [david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)



## THE WOMENS TIMBER CORP

The long-awaited unveiling of Malcolm Robertson's bronze statue of the "Lumberjill" finally came to pass on Wednesday October 11th. On a glorious, sun-kissed day, over a hundred ex-patriots flocked to attend this monumental occasion. Lunches were provided on the day and there was also an opportunity to enjoy a mini-bus tour to a harvesting area in the forest. It is hard to imagine what was going through the minds of these wonderful old ladies as they witnessed the modern day methods of giant machines cutting through the timber like butter. Previously, they would have dealt with similar situations, forced upon them through circumstance, with only a basic selection of hand tools. Cast into such unfamiliar territory, with little training, the W.T.C. more than held their own, achieving their objectives with overwhelming spirit and determination. On the day, I was struck by two things. Firstly, the ladies, most of whom had congregated in their finery, were clearly

enjoying the attention given them by the assembled press. Secondly, there was an irresistible feeling of calm to the gathering. Although this may have, in part, been down to the fine weather, I am more inclined the reason was due to a collective sense of satisfaction, and relief, that a line was finally drawn under their magnificent contribution to the war effort, finally recognised through this marvellous statue. Perhaps I'll leave the last word to Hilton Wood, lumberjill.

### THE OTHER WAY

*There is a land, or so I'm told  
Where timber girls ne'er feel the cold  
Where trees come down all sned and peeled  
And there's no need an axe to wield  
The transport's never broken down  
And Jill's go every night to town  
How different here in snow and sleet  
Shivering with wet and frozen feet  
But wait, the sun's come out at last  
And summer's here and winter's past  
The limberjills work all day- Who'd have  
it round that other way ?*

*Hilton Wood, Lumberjill*



## STAR PARTY

An important aspect of this event was an obvious dependence on clear weather in the night skies. Initial concerns were sadly, confirmed, as the day wore on and heavy cloud formations gathered, thereby negating the stargazing activities. Frustrating as this situation was, it is to the eternal credit of the assembled members of Stirling Astronomical Society, who were hosting the evening, that they had devised a lengthy alternative plan, which included a superb array of informative slide-shows and workshop



demonstrations, laced with a spattering of humour, which held the attention of the audience throughout. The evening was finished off with a very people-friendly gesture on the part of the group, as the children were treated to free 'mars' bars and 'milky ways'. One of the best.

## FUNGI FRENZY

It could be argued that Liz Holden's highly informative and enjoyable mushroom forays during the festival, present it's main attraction, given her growing reputation. As ever, all six guided walks were fully booked, and the numbers of people disappointed stretched to twice the one hundred and eighty places available. As if to confirm, we are already taking bookings for NEXT year !





## DML Notice Board



*Winter in The Forest presents a time of contrasts for us all, as we slip into a mild form of hibernation. Despite the home comforts of coal fires, warm duvets and hot soup, we still crave a fall of the white stuff, in order we test our sledging and snowman making skills in the cold outdoors. Throughout the month of December, the David Marshall Lodge offers a wide variety of activities on a traditional theme to suit all ages, with the added opportunity of purchasing a real Christmas tree, or purchasing last minute seasonal gifts in the Forest Crafts and Chill Out shops. Make a day of it and take in the fantastic fayre available in Liz McGregor's coffee shop. Opening hours December 1 - December 24, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.*

### Saturday December 1

12.00am-3.00pm: Children's Treasure Hunt

### Sunday December 2

12.00am-3.00pm: Children's Craft Activities

### Saturday December 8

12.30pm-2.30pm: "12 days of Christmas" Adult carol singers

12.00am-3.00pm: Children's Craft Activities

### Sunday December 9

10.00am-4.00pm: Family Fun Day

Lomond Mountain Rescue Team, RSPB Winter Birds Day

Chainsaw Carving Demonstration

### Saturday 15 / Sunday 16 December

10.00am-4.00pm: Lomond Craft Association

### Saturday 22 / Sunday 23 December

12.00am-3.00pm: Children's Treasure Hunt

**Every Weekend 12.00am-3.00pm: Dry Sledging Run**

*Please note that The Lodge will be closed from Christmas eve until the end of January and will be open on Friday's, Saturday's, and Sunday's ONLY in February. Open full time from March 1st.*

**Telephone 01877 382 258**

## Rangers Corner



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And every single vampire scare  
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Of this ultimate of shows  
Designed to bring a 'sense of fear'  
On this one particular day of the year  
Twelve months planning in preparation  
Two weeks prior organising decoration  
Four hours on the night taking part in the occasion  
One week after the event spent on clean-up operation.

*This is Halloween night at The David Marshall Lodge  
Six hundred and forty came and we received no complaints  
Despite the spoiling efforts of a few who could not quite be  
regarded as saints  
And for those who could not make the party and are feeling 'left  
out'  
There is always next year when without a doubt  
It will be BIGGER and BETTER !!*

## A VERY NIFTY FIFTY!

On Wednesday 17th October at the David Marshall Lodge a Surprise Birthday Lunch was held when the great and the good, well definitely the good, gathered to celebrate the first Half Century of David 'Gower' Wilkie; and the 'surprise' did, in fact, work as David had no inkling whatsoever what was afoot, having been sent out on a wild goose chase whilst everyone assembled to wish him well. Along with the many Forestry staff were those from Chill Out, Liz McGregor's Coffee Shop and Go Ape.

The day was beautiful and sunny, the setting was grand and the homecooking from several sources was to die for! With such in mind, it would have been no wonder if our David had not got a tad emotional but he handled it well with the aid of a box of tissues and his shirt sleeve, trading insults with the best of them! 'Ten years I have been here' he said, 'and I've enjoyed every minute of it.' David, we are all looking forward to your next ten. Here's to you!

## DML PHOTO GALLERY



Ginny Avery from Fife and her cluck of 'hens' Go Ape



Andy Malcolm was clearly pacing himself by bringing up the rear of the recent fun run.



Tom Davies from the district office, comes out of the closet for the zip line.



Andy Simkins attempting to bribe young Kyle into taking up an RSPB membership.

# Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church



You've probably visited the Christmas Shop in Callander. It is a shop packed with festive frivolity – a cornucopia of celebration!

Step inside and you will find Santas and snowmen; penguins, presents and party-poppers; musical bells and snow-filled bubbles; tree trimmings and table-top accessories. Spend some time there and you might think that the shop provides everything you need to make the perfect Christmas, but you would be wrong. Search the shop for as long as you like, but you will never find the Christmas centrepiece.

If you ask yourself, "why?", you will soon come to the realization that the shop only provides the glitter and the gloss – it misses out on the reality that lies behind the decorations – a starlit sky filled with singing angels, a smelly stable visited by shepherds and wise men ... and a newborn child! This child is the centrepiece of Christmas, for he is Jesus the Christ, whom Christians worship as Lord and Redeemer. He is the reason for the season!

So why don't you make your Christmas complete this year, by taking time to come to church for one of the Christmas services. You can join in the celebration, singing carols and listening again to the story of the first Christmas, releasing hope, peace and love into the world.

By the way, one of the things I like about the Christmas shop in Callander is that it is open all the year through. Christmas isn't for one day, but for every day.

May God bless you, this Christmastide, and every day of the New Year.

*Jim Brown*  
*Locum Minister*

## Service Details

### Sun 18<sup>th</sup> November

*11.15 a.m. Morning Worship. Global Poverty Sunday. Guild Dedication.*

### Sun 25<sup>th</sup> November

*11.15 a.m. Morning Worship*

### Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> December

*11.15 a.m. Morning Worship – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*  
*7.00 p.m. Six Churches Advent Worship at Thornhill*

### Sat 9<sup>th</sup> December

*11.15 a.m. Morning Worship*

*7.00 p.m. Six Churches Advent Worship at Buchlyvie*

### Sun 16<sup>th</sup> December

*11.15 a.m. Morning Worship*

*7.00 p.m. Six Churches Advent Worship – Festival of Trees at Port of Menteith*

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

*11.15 a.m. Christmas Family Worship*

*7.00 p.m. Six Churches Advent Worship at Kippen*

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December

*11.15 p.m. Christmas Eve Watchnight Service*

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

*10.30 a.m. United Christmas Day Service at Port of Menteith*

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December

*11.15 a.m. Service of Carols and Christmas Readings*

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January

*11.15 a.m. Worship for a New Year*

# St Mary's Episcopal Church



*Richard writes*

Jottings from the past....

All churches are obliged to keep parish records. These records or registers document marriages burials and baptisms. As a bonus, a service register recording church services and the numbers attending might also have survived. Some such registers still exist at St Mary's. They can reveal much about the way of life at the time in the parish. This article is compiled by reference to a service register kept during a five-year period leading up to 1914 and beyond.

The effortless copperplate script in any register of that period is immediately noticeable. This was long before the invention of the ballpoint pen that, it is said, started the slow strangulation of elegant handwriting. The laptop has now completed the process. The fountain pen was not in wide use during this particular period, and so italic nibs in wooden holders dipped into an inkpot were the order of the day. A Minister or Rector would be well accustomed to the vagaries of a dip ink pen. It is obvious though that brides, grooms and witnesses to marriages often found writing in ink a tricky process, as numerous blots and smudges in marriage registers testify.

It is often alleged that worshippers of yesteryear queued two abreast on the church path to attend the early communion service or evensong. Parish registers offer present day incumbents a degree of comfort. In fact numbers in congregations a hundred years ago were patently no better than they are now. Single figure attendance at St Mary's appeared to be common. On Easter Day 1909 there were just twenty communicants, but 25 others attended matins on the same day. Attendance slipped back to six the Sunday after though.

Four services were held each Sunday in this period, an 8.30 Communion Service, Matins at 11.30, a Children's Service at 3.00pm and Evensong at 6.30. It seems that by 1911 the Rector had been persuaded to trudge up to the Aberfoyle quarry village to conduct evensong for a period. The register records these services were held in 'a quarry cottage', possibly that of the manager in which case it will still be standing. St Mary's of course was built and patronised for many years by the Quarry workers: its history in this regard has been well documented in this column.

The Rector also kept other observations in the Register. A 'great snowstorm' occurred in March 1909, and a month earlier 'a great storm with floods' Later in the year it was noted 'great rain - no sermon'; perhaps this being evidence of the hand of the Almighty at work. All this inclement weather before our present preoccupation with global warming, it might be noted!

Upon Easter Day 1911 the Rector noted grimly that after matins he was attacked by influenza, and compelled to cancel all services for a time thereafter. It was obviously a difficult time for this cleric, for earlier that same month he was obliged to record that services had to be cancelled owing to family bereavement.

Then as now the church noted service collections. On the same Easter Day as the Rector fell ill, there was nevertheless the remarkable sum of £82.00 in the collection plate. To give some idea of its worth, £125.00 would have purchased a new Ford car at about the same time. Not all the monies collected were retained however. Hospitals were not state funded, and thus Stirling Infirmary benefited from church donation from time to time, as did various missionary societies.

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914, the Rector called a special evening service of prayer 'in regard of the war with Germany'. Over the next four years upon every Friday at 11.30 prayers were faithfully said for peace. It was not until the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1918 however, that the Register records a 'Service of Thanksgiving for Peace'. An ominous note appears shortly thereafter however: 'outbreak of flu and choir laid low'. This probably was caused by the flu epidemic that swept the western world at the time and inflicted as many casualties as four years of war. The year concluded with the installation of 'a window donated by Mrs Fanshawe'. This window survives, but was subsequently hidden by the installation of an organ.



# SEX AND THE CITY

Having been born and brought up in the city, I reckoned that I'd always be at home there, but ten years living in Aberfoyle and I'm afraid that I've definitely lost it. Certainly, my wife has insisted that has been the case for years! Things really are different in the country, though. A crowd of trees is quite different from a crowd of people. The one you can either talk to or avoid - the other is people. Or perhaps you just become more anti social as regards large numbers of humans when you live in the 'sticks'.

I love Glasgow (in short doses, now) and its native sons - and daughters - in small numbers, and I enjoy the famous banter, like nothing else you'll get in any other city, and I've lived in a few, yet I cannot take the crowds any longer. I suppose its being a countryman with a countryman's ways. Take just going for a stroll in town, for example. Your good lady and you are walking down the city street and you stop, naively, to exclaim at a particular sight only to find that at least two other pedestrians have shunted into the back of you - and you cannot walk in a straight line in town. In the country you can march with little hindrance along well defined paths and forest trails and the only time you might have to deviate is when you want to walk in amongst the trees. Even then you decide the path, but in town, forget it! Walking in a straight line whilst simultaneously striding out is well nigh impossible in our city streets. You come up against ditherers, jaywalkers, window shoppers looking at anywhere other than

the path ahead of them and, of course, the dreaded brace of prams - the two women, side by side, pushing their kids in prams and marching straight on as you want to do but they have the weaponry! You're mincemeat!

The new age also brings new hazards to the unwary. In days of yore you might have to avoid the occasional drunk bumping into you, with his muttered curses and his drunkenly courteous 'Sorry pal', if you should collide. Not any more. Now you have the mobile texters, also in another world, but who, unlike the old-time drunks, rarely connect with the present. They bump into you, look up blankly, work they're way around you and return to their phone.

So you go into a coffee shop for a bit of piece and quiet away from the bub and the hub. Changed days, eh lads? In the old days it would be a flat pint and a sweaty pie. Not now! Alas, we're all upwardly mobile now. A cappuccino and a portion of carrot cake are de rigueur these days. Oh, how the mighty have fallen! Yet still you cannot get it right as your wife frowns at your stubborn refusal after years of training to use a fork and grab the cake in your fist and wolf it down in a 'oner'. However, the sad point I'm trying to make is that even in oh-so-refined coffee shops, you still cannot get away from the noise, though now it's that of the mobile 'phone users. Texting is bad enough, but it is a solitary pastime, relatively inoffensive and engaged in by whey-faced individuals who are incapable of talking to another person face to face. The mobile 'phone user is something entirely different. As I say, you are in a quiet space and relaxing, when

next door to you, or even across a crowded room, a mobile 'phone sounds (and what sounds!). The next minute the 'phone user near to you is shouting, yes, shouting, through the 'phone at what one assumes is a totally deaf person, and

you are being subjected to this idiot's quite banal conversation at full blast. We've all heard it: 'Hi, there! Guess where I am? Yes! And I'm having a *latte*, would you *believe* it?' Actually, we would. You have just told the whole coffee shop, you eejit!

Ah, but, let's not forget the jaywalkers, a species peculiar to Glasgow's fair city. They cross the street in droves, prams and old ladies too, against the lights and with one bus and several cars coming at them, the drivers of which have no intention whatsoever of stopping, let alone slowing down, and there you have an art form in itself. The pedestrians gain the other side safely and with some aplomb it has to be said, the traffic roars by mercilessly, having lost none of its speed and its only you (well, me, actually) who, straight from the country, has made a prat of himself by having to make an undignified and ill-timed dash for the safety of the pavement.

But here in the country, things are so much different. Here in the forest you meet very few: only hounds, horses, huskies; (the three aitches?) and, of course their owners and nice, friendly people they are, too. Sometimes, however, you do meet teams (yes, teams) of rambles. I do not have anything against such groups of gentle people except to note one, no two, peculiarities concerning them: they rarely, if ever, have dogs with them which I would have thought to be a prerequisite for a country walk, and they are always talking and chattering. Nothing wrong with that I hear you say, but surely one would want to soak up the quiet and peace of the forest? Well, perhaps not. Maybe they are city dwellers accustomed to background noise. Maybe the silence of the fields and forests makes them uneasy. Who knows?

Thus ends my diatribe on the City. I have not got around to discussing the 'Sex' side of the title for which I offer my fairly abject apologies. In the next issue I will go on at length on 'Sex'. It is a good number, a safe number, the number after 'Five'. In the meantime, do enjoy your walks in the country. It's the only quiet we'll ever have.

Dougie



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## MUSHROOM FESTIVAL ENDS IN A BLAZE!

Fittingly, this year's Mushroom Festival with its Icelandic theme ended in a blaze when the Viking longship which had been sitting outside the Forestry Offices was sent to Valhalla on fire at Easterhill Farm on the Sunday night. At the closing ceilidh the Aberfoyle Traders Raffle was drawn with Jean Woodburn winning the top prize, a trip for two to Iceland courtesy of Icelandair.

Over 3000 visitors went through "Iceland House" (the Discovery Centre) over the weekend -somewhat down on last year's which we knew would be hard to beat, thanks to the Maoris, but still very respectable. The Fungus Forays were all oversubscribed and the cookery demos well supported. All the functions were well attended by visitors and local children - the latter were very active at the opening concert, the Kinlochard ceilidh and the Viking Camp! But where were the local adults? By bringing folk from other countries, Aberfoyle Traders Association has tried to present something of interest to locals with a chance to meet the visitors -it worked brilliantly last year. But there are many local people who don't support our efforts -maybe "East Enders" has more to offer!

The Traders Association has run this Festival for seven years to bring business to the village at the end of the main tourist

season. None of the committee charge for their services or claim expenses -the only remuneration is for the programme designer. Yes, some of us get some business from the event -whether its accommodation provision, taxi services, shop sales or band provision (at the opening concert and ceilidh) - but basically we do it for the good of our community, which we think is a worthwhile cause. Others obviously think otherwise!

Special thanks are due to the following for their generous support this year:

Gartmore House -for providing free accommodation for the Icelanders.

Aberfoyle Motors -for Airport duties for the Icelandic party.

Allied Vehicles/ Michael Facenna, Kinlochard -for sponsoring the Opening Concert.

Crescent Cabs/Bert Comrie for local transport provision for the Icelanders.

Trevor and the deli for taking on-board 500 kgs of Icelandic Skyr (not yoghurt!)

After seven years, I am standing down as Festival Chairperson. Ross from Easterhill is to take over. He made a major contribution to the Festival this year and I hope you will support him and the Festival

## Mushroom Festival Knitters and Spinners

MANY THANKS to the team who offered to knit and spin for the delight of festival-goers, without whom the excellent display of Icelandic Knitting could never have been brought to fruition; also to Guyana for helping with our wool display and to Icelandic Wool company Istex for providing spinning wool and samples. The visitors from Iceland simply loved our Trossachs Discovery Centre woollens exhibition, commenting that handmade items cost at least twice as much in Iceland! Rumour has it that the International element of the next Mushfest will be somewhere warm so the local skills could be directed towards something entirely new!

Special thanks again to our volunteers!

*Ann Epps*

as we look forward to next year. I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for their support over the years.

*Fergus Wood,  
Festival Chairperson 2007*



Mushroom Festival at the Forth Inn

*Photos courtesy of Phil Crowder*



## Callander Farmers' Market

Sunday December 16th

11am – 4 pm

Station Road Car Park

(BEHIND THE DREADNOUGHT HOTEL)

COME AND CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF  
QUALITY FRESH PRODUCE AND  
HAND MADE CRAFTS





## Preparing For Flooding

You will no doubt have seen the images in the news showing the terrible damage to property and lives caused by flooding in England and Wales over the summer. We all hope that this will never happen to us; however, flooding is becoming increasingly common in Scotland, and unfortunately many have seen at first hand the effects of flooding on their homes and businesses in the local area in recent years. As part of their annual flood awareness campaign, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is urging people who live and work in flood risk areas to use their free national flooding advice service, Floodline, if they are concerned about flooding.

Floodline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing useful information and guidance on what you can do before, during and after a flood, as well as up-to-the-minute flood alerts. The Floodline service can be contacted by telephoning **0845 988 1188** or logging on to the SEPA website at **[www.sepa.org.uk/flooding](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding)**.

Being prepared in advance can help reduce the damage and distress that flooding can cause. For example, if you're unsure if your home or business may be at risk of flooding then the SEPA online flood map at [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk), can provide you with an indication of the risk of flooding in your area.

Although we cannot totally prevent flooding there are some small actions that we can all do to reduce the impact. Preparing a family flood kit may seem strange, but in the unfortunate situation of being flooded, having a torch, first aid kit, important contact numbers and insurance details in one place will be essential. It's important to know where to turn off the electricity, gas and water and check whether your insurance policy covers you for flood damage.

Knowing where water may enter your home or business, for example through doors or air vents is also important. There are a range of household flood protection products that can be purchased to help keep water out. Many of these can be bought from DIY stores and information on these can be obtained through Floodline.



### Would you know what to do during a flood?

Floodline is Scotland's free national flooding information service, providing advice and guidance on flooding issues, as well as live flood alerts.

Call Floodline today on **0845 988 1188** or log on to **[www.sepa.org.uk/flooding](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding)** to request your free flood information pack.

**24 hour flooding advice, only a call or a click away**

**Floodline**  
**0845 988 1188**  
SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT  
PROTECTION AGENCY  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

## Winter Roads Maintenance – Ready To Go

STIRLING Council's launched its Winter Maintenance Service recently, which runs until mid April 2008.

The maintenance teams, who ensure all roads and pathways, are clear of snow and ice, met to go through their annual service checks before the start of winter.

A fleet of 16 gritting vehicles, which can carry from 6 to 13 tonnes of salt, is maintained at constant readiness. Eleven defined routes covering around 400 kilometres of roads are treated at the

highest level of priority, with precautionary salting carried out in the evening and again before dawn, where necessary. This amounts to almost 40% of the overall length of public road within Stirling Council's area, amongst the highest proportion in the country. The remainder of the network is treated on a sliding scale of priority as weather conditions deteriorate.



Councillor Graham Reed, with responsibility for Environment portfolio, said: "The teams working on this put in a tremendous effort to keep our roads clear during winter, which means that transport services can operate, business keeps going, children get to school and the emergency services can continue to operate safely. We cannot keep all roads free from snow

and ice at all times – our resources are limited, but using a very clear criteria we do prioritise and treat the most important roads and pavements first."

Stirling Council's Head of Roads, Transport & Streetscape, Les Goodfellow added: "The salt we use is mined in Northern Ireland and shipped to storage in Glasgow. Stocks of salt are held in Springkerse Depot

in Stirling and at Callander Depot. Around 1000 tonnes is available at any time at each depot, with regular replenishment by the supplier.

Typically, we use approximately 5,500 tonnes of salt each winter, but only about half of that was used last year due to the exceptionally mild winter. Treatment is also provided on the footpath network using a fleet of miniature tractors and manually operated spreaders."

The 24-hour monitoring of weather conditions is carried out during the winter at the

Control Centre based at the Council's Springkerse depot. The Centre is run in partnership with Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Council and receives direct weather forecast information from the Meteorological Office. This is supplemented by information received from sensors embedded in the road surfaces called 'IceAlert Stations'.

# 16 Days of Action in Stirling

November 25 sees the start of the 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence against Women campaign.

Stirling will host a number of different initiatives throughout the area as part of a Forth Valley, national and international campaign.

The **104 Pairs of Shoes Exhibition**, which highlights the issue of violence against women, is coming to Stirling and will be in Stirling Council offices at Viewforth on the morning of Monday November 26 and Stirling's Sainsburys store on morning of Tuesday November 27.

It is being shown as part of the international campaign of 16 Days of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women and Children, which runs from November 25 (International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women) until December 10 (International Human Rights Day). Stirling Council, Central Scotland Police and Forth Valley N.H.S are partners in the campaign. There is also support from Stirling Action for Change, Stirling Child Protection Committee, Stirling Community Safety Partnership, Stirling Substance Misuse Forum, Stirling Womens Aid, Open Secret, Central Scotland Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre and other voluntary sector partners.

The exhibition highlights the fact that on average in the U.K. there are two women killed each week by a partner or ex-partner – one hundred and four women each year. The YWCA in Scotland invited 104 Scottish women to donate a pair of their shoes to represent women who die unnecessarily. They have been donated by women from many areas of Scottish society, including the writer J.K.Rowling, the comedian Elaine C. Smith, M.S.P. Susan Deacon and the actor Daniela Nardini, as well as by the families of some of the women who have died. A statement accompanies each pair of shoes on why the owner felt it was important to support the exhibition.

Stirling Council is also running a White Ribbon campaign as part of its commitment to the 16 Days of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women and Children, which will run from November 25 until December 10. The White Ribbon Campaign is a global campaign, started in Canada in 1991, to ensure men take more responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women.

Anne Salter, Stirling Council's Violence Against Women Policy Co-ordinator, said: "A man wearing a white ribbon is making a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. By participating in the white ribbon campaign men can help create a culture where the behaviour of a minority, who treat women and girls with contempt or violence, becomes unacceptable. Men can help to create a world based upon gender equality."

Executive member with responsibility for Community Planning, Cllr Ian Brown added: "The issue of violence against women is something that we all have a responsibility to remove from our society. This event is an opportunity for men to demonstrate that true respect for women is the only acceptable behaviour in our world."

Central Scotland Police are running Keep Yourself Safe classes, as part of the 16 Days of Action, which will give women advice on how to keep safe, on Wednesday 5 December at the Rock Centre, Murray Place, Stirling at 11.00am. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day. This is a free event and is only open to females. Other events to mark the campaign include bookmarks raising the awareness of the campaign being given out free in Stirling libraries during the 16 Days. There will be an event marking the start of the start of 16 Days of action at Stirling University on Monday 26 November when various organisations will be manning stalls and giving information to students on the issue of violence against women.

On Tuesday 4 December, there will be a day of training for staff and information for inmates - various local and national organisations involved - at Cornton Vale, which will incorporate the Eliminate Violence against Women and Children message. Stirling Council will also be supporting the showing of Amnesty International's Slave Britain campaign, about trafficking, prostitution and forced labour, in local schools and libraries.

*For more information about the wider campaign in Stirling, contact Anne Salter, Violence Against Women Policy Co-ordinator, Stirling Council [saltera@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:saltera@stirling.gov.uk) or 01786 443379.*



**1 in 4 women** will experience **domestic abuse** at some point in their lives.

It is estimated that **100,000 children** in Scotland live with **domestic abuse**.

Currently the global **sex industry** is estimated to make **US\$ 52 billion** a year.

Every year **1.2 million children** are the **victims** of trafficking worldwide.

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline **0800 027 1234**  
Childline **0800 1111**

**Don't suffer in silence - tell somebody**

Stirling Council  
**01786 442000**

Central Scotland Police Domestic Abuse Unit  
**01324 678830**

Central Scotland Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre - Helpline  
**01786 471771**

Open Secret  
**01786 448504**

Stirling Womens Aid  
**01786 470897**

Supported by:  
Stirling Action for Change  
Stirling Child Protection Committee  
Stirling Community Safety Partnership  
Stirling Substance Misuse Forum  
Stirling Council



For more info email Anne Salter: [saltera@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:saltera@stirling.gov.uk)







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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.

### **Vehicles for Sale**



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04/04 VW Passat 4 Motion Estate 1.9 TDi SE, Blue/Grey, 40,000 Miles FSH, Immaculate Car. **£10,750.00**



03/53 Nissan Navara D/Cab in Black, Canopy, 100,000 Miles FSH **£5,750.00 + VAT**

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

Images for illustration purpose only

## PLACES TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE – (3)

by *Dougie MacPherson*

Although the above title might sound a tad depressing, rest assured, for we are speaking figuratively, not literally, here. We are attempting to describe a place in Scotland well worth a visit, comparing its attractions with other areas that are perhaps better known to Scots, hence it being numbered '3' on the list, the first and second being Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, respectively (not that we're displaying any bias here).

No, the place we are talking of is the county of Dumfries and Galloway, more particularly the town of Wigtown, Scotland's Book Town, and its neighbourhood. It is a delightful area and one which, although we had heard of it for some years, we had never visited until last September, when the Book Fair was on. (Incidentally, you do not have to wait until the autumn as Wigtown runs two further book fairs in the spring and summer).

So we headed down last autumn to stay with friends who had a holiday house in Creetown, stopping in the delightful market town of Newton Stewart to ask directions. Incidentally, this town still has one of these old hardware shops of the type you rarely see now, smelling of paraffin and soap and creaky wooden flooring. Lovely! Anyway, we had stopped to ask this nice gentleman in smart tweed suit the road to Creetown, adding that we were told it was past Kirroughtree Forest. 'You mean Kिरruchtree,' he said. The Scottish glottal stop really can be anti-social at times. Fortunately, we had the windscreen wipers going. He then asked, 'Where have you come from?' which I thought was uncommonly sociable of him. I was tempted to reply, 'Aberfoyle – but is it relevant?' but my Better Half nudged me and whispered, 'Don't be nasty. The gentleman is being nice.' Then she added, 'It's just the question that's crazy.'

And so we found ourselves in Creetown, a quiet wee burgh, consisting of a long narrow main street of blank faced terrace houses. Not the most attractive village in that area but the few people we saw seemed friendly. And eccentric. In fact

the whole area, Creetown, Wigtown and Newton Stewart appeared to be populated by a race of genial, quiet-spoken but amicable, quirky people, not all local, some incomers, but definitely of an age before Margaret Thatcher when there was still life on Mars. Then again, it could be due to their close proximity to Ireland.

Creetown's main street has little through traffic, motorists using the by-pass to the town. It certainly isn't the liveliest place in Galloway if you're looking to 'party'. The only thing to be careful of is getting knocked over by the tumbleweed blowing down the street at midnight. But that is being unkind. As we already found, the residents are friendly and there are attractions: there is the Creetown Gem Museum which, although we had no time to visit, is extremely popular. There is an hotel where you can get a good meal and an Italian café dating back to the 50s where the proprietor, in his 80s, sits in front of his fire in the back room and comes out to serve you when the doorbell rings. His homemade ice cream is to die for! A double Q for Creetown, then: Quiet and Quaint. But the Book Fair in Wigtown is what we came for and it was to Wigtown we went next day. It is a lovely little town and, if you are 'into' books then this is the place to be! There are seminars and bookshops to allow for all tastes: outdoor pursuits, history, art and even one book store catering for feminist literature. I must confess to going into that one by mistake! I should have guessed when I saw the back room coffee shop full of elegant ladies sipping daintily – ah, god bless the Steel Magnolias of Galloway! And the name of that bookshop was 'Readinglasses' Geddit? I didn't, at first.

We went into another shop to look around their shelves and found it devoid of staff. (Staffless in Gaza?) We browsed around then walked through several interconnecting rooms to find one room at the back filled to capacity with a standing audience listening to a lecture on – wait for it – The Butterflies of Southwest Scotland. Surely not to be missed! (The

overall winner of the 1996 'Haud Me Back' award apparently!)

Over and above all this, there was also a street market in progress. One stall sold plants from a local nursery called Cotland, advertising his wares as 'Flowers Of Cotland'. They do so like their puns down here. Fine by me! My Better Half immediately made for a stall selling handmade cushions - and we had only just arrived in the town. I did remark, admittedly in a rather loud voice, that we did not come all the way to Wigtown to look at bl\*\*\*y cushions, whereupon this genteel and prim older lady at the next stall called out, 'These are my bl\*\*\*y cushions and there is nothing wrong with them!' The wife finally bought one and the pert wee woman wrapped it and handed it over, saying to me, 'Now have a nice bl\*\*\*y day!' Certainly the cushions of southwest Scotland provoked a livelier discussion amongst us than the Butterflies.

It isn't just an area to visit if you love books. There is much to offer the holidaymaker, particularly those with children. There are forest walks and miles of beaches and coastal paths. At Kirroughtree (of immortal fame) there is an adventure playground for the youngsters located two miles outside of Creetown. Some miles from Wigtown is located the working farm where the Cream of Galloway ice cream is made, and it is delicious! They have a restaurant, outdoor adventure trail and also an indoor play area for the kids. They certainly cater for the tourist in Galloway and we found it, on this our first visit, to be a delightful area with lovely people living a gentler way of life.

My Better Half says Scotland is beautiful and we have visited widely across the Highlands and the Lowlands but she has stated that for our next long weekend she really would love to return to Paris. I am trying to push the idea of a retail therapy weekend in Portree but there seems to be a lack of enthusiasm on her part. I can't quite understand it.



# NOT HERE.... BUT NEAR!

## Stirling Pupils Go Bird Watching

Pupils from Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School have taken part in the filming of BBC2's 'See You, See Me' programme about rural birds.

The episode will be one of three to be broadcast early next year, with two

other shows dealing with urban and sea birds. Jane McDonald, Headteacher at Kincardine-in-Menteith, said: "The children were set the challenge of finding out why certain birds are disappearing and how to attract them back to our gardens and countryside. "Each of our six P7 pupils researched and produced a fact file and delivered a presentation about robins, song thrushes, great tits, greater spotted woodpeckers and birds of prey which we found around the school. Two of the children made a digital video diary. All in all it was a great project which really engaged the children, who made a superb job of their tasks, and we were delighted to be part of it."

The pupils themselves were very enthusiastic about the filming. Rowan Watt called it a "great experience", Jack Brisbane said it was "something I'll remember forever about my time at Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary" and John Graham described it as "two action-packed, fun days." Sean McBeath said: "It was fun and I enjoyed seeing all the camera gear."

The filming took place on 19 September at the David Marshall Lodge near Aberfoyle, and at the school on 20 September. The programme will be shown on BBC2 on 31 January 2008, from 11.30-11.50am.



## Dog Owners Warned To Clean Up Their Mess

Britain is a nation of dog lovers with over seven million people owning one and they provide a great remedy for getting out and enjoying the fresh air. But some owners in Callander are failing to take their responsibility of dog ownership seriously.

Callander Primary School's Eco group and the pupils' council contacted the Stirling Council's Streetscape office with grave concerns about the dog mess, on and near the paths around the school. Streetscape officers visited the path close to the school to investigate further and encountered a landscape covered with dog faeces.

To highlight the problem Streetscape organised a survey placing a flag at each instance of dog fouling documenting this irresponsible behaviour with photographs. Streetscape officer Jim Fisher said: "I was disgusted at the state of the area caused by dog owners who are either too lazy or irresponsible to clean up after their own pets and placing others at risk. Dog faeces can contain toxocara canis which is a major health hazard especially on a path so close to a route used by primary and secondary schoolchildren.

"Stirling Council is in the process of erecting two dog bins which it will regularly service, Streetscape Officers and the Animal Control Officers will also be patrolling the area and issue £40 fines to owners who do not clean up after their dogs."

Previous studies in Scotland concerning waste and litter have consistently placed dog fouling near the top of the public's most despised culprits.

Dog mess can contain a number of things, which can make people ill - best known of which is infection with toxocara canis, which is a roundworm. If the eggs of this worm are swallowed this can result in a range of symptoms from aches and pains to bronchial conditions. In rare cases, eyesight can be damaged.

Dog owners can reduce risk to others by worming their dog regularly, and adopting a good hygiene practice of always clearing up after their dog. They

are also reminded to use dog waste bins and if there are no bins around, take the dog mess home and dispose of it. If that is not possible, then as a last resort wrap the dog mess in a plastic bag and dispose of it in a litter bin.



## Proposed Wind Farm at Ballindalloch Muir

Npower-renewables is proposing to build nine 406' wind turbines at Ballindalloch Muir, between Balfron and Buchlyvie, and has stated its intention to submit an application to Stirling Council in November.

EVAG (Endrick Valley Action Group) was formed in August 2007 to give information to the communities and to act as the focal point for objections to the proposal. The turbines, some of the biggest ever seen in Scotland, and which are 100+ feet higher than those at the Braes of Doune, would be seen for miles, from a 360° radius. They would be built with huge concrete foundations deep into, and above, the ground and require miles of roads, substation and pits.

A helicopter chartered by EVAG, hovering over the position of each of the proposed turbines, enabled the area of visibility to be fully appreciated. (Npower's mapping shows the zone of theoretical visibility only from 300' turbines). In addition, the topography

could be seen and it was recognised that some of the turbines will be on ground higher than previously known, one at 950/1000 feet above mean sea level being one third the height of Ben Lomond's 3195 amsl. The visual impact, therefore, devastating and irrevocable, would have far-reaching consequences in terms of amenity, conservation and tourism.

EVAG has grave concerns, in the light of research by eminent scientific and medical experts, for the immediate locale with regard to noise, in particular low frequency, and its effects on the health not only of local people, but the 1200 schoolchildren at the nursery, primary and high schools which adjoin the proposed site.

We have significant disquiet, too, that the damage caused by the construction of the Braes of Doune windfarm to the River Teith and its Special Area of Conservation will be replicated at the River Endrick and impact upon its own SAC.

But we are also aware that areas further afield will be greatly affected, particularly with regard to their tourist trade and do

not appear to have been informed of, or consulted about, the proposal.

The wonderful views across the Endrick Valley from the David Marshall Lodge would be a thing of the past – the telescope would zoom in on giant turbines instead!

Another proposal by a different company has recently been made for wind turbines at Loaninghead, just past Balfron Station, bringing the total windfarms, operational or in process, in the Stirlingshire area, to 8. Balfron, Drymen and Fintry Community Councils will support EVAG in opposing the application

**A public meeting, with presentations, will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in the lecture theatre of Balfron High School. We invite all who care for this part of Scotland to come and hear why objections should be made. If you wish to know more, log on to the EVAG website, [www.evag.co.uk](http://www.evag.co.uk) or phone 01360 441068.**



# School Report.....

## Aberfoyle Primary School News

The children of P3/4 have been studying Ancient Egypt as their topic. The following poem was written by Lauren Donnelly and the fantastic illustration is by Jamie Tawse.

Archaeologists dig for treasure  
Nile for washing clothes  
Coffins are for mummies to be in  
Incredible Osiris  
Everlasting mummies  
Never die in Ancient Egypt  
Temples are everywhere

Egypt is incredible  
Great big pyramids  
Yellow dusty sand  
Pyramids with gold tops  
Tutankhamun is dead  
Isis is the god of love  
Anubis the god of mummy making  
Nile floods every year  
Sun is shining.



## Flower Festival

A small group of children from P2-7 created these beautiful paper flower arrangements for the Flower Festival which was held in Aberfoyle Parish Church on the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> October.



## Foylers For All

Seven schools took part in an athletics festival on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. Each school took their primary fives to compete in lots of different indoor events, including the javelin, speed bounce, standing triple jump, long jump and relay races.

Louis Stewart and Scott McCoull had a trip in the middle of the 2+2 relay but they got back up and kept running. They won that race for the 'Foylers' and then got ready for the next race. In an interview Louis Stewart said, "I had a little trip but I kept running and we won."

Next event was throwing the javelin. Scott McCoull and Paul Gordon were throwing for Aberfoyle. They thought it was all over when a guy from Crianlarich threw the javelin 13m but then it was Paul's turn and he threw it 15m. In an interview Paul Gordon said, "I never knew I could throw a javelin that far." At the end, Aberfoyle won with 596 points. In future Aberfoyle would like to enter more athletics festivals and maybe enter the Olympics later on in life.

## Inversnaid Primary School Autumn News

### Paper-Making

As part of our Materials topic we have been investigating how to make paper. We had a special visit from Charmian who showed us how to make paper. We made paper with nettles, petals, lavender, bark, banana skins and onion skins with Charmian but now we are making pink paper for our 'Think Pink' sale for Breast Cancer Research. Charmian also showed us how to make shapes on a wet piece of paper. Making paper is really fun.

by Eilidh Walker

### Think Pink

This month we are fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness. It is all about being able to buy new equipment to help cure people. We have made Special Edition Pink Loggies (for use on stoves and fires), special handmade pink paper and pink envelopes. We are selling them at Thornhill market on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

by Eleanor Thwaites

### Eco Schools Project

This term Mrs Miller has been coming to Inversnaid to help us with our Eco-Schools Work. The first time she came we made Wildlife Hotels. We made these out of oranges. First we cut the oranges in half then we squeezed them to make the inside of the Hotel. Next we stuck a pin in the top of each one and then we put the Wildlife Hotels in the ground held down with the pins. After a week we lifted the oranges to see which creatures were living in them. We found out that ants, slugs and beetles were living in the Hotels.

A few weeks later she came again to do some apple work with us. We explored where different apples came from on a World Map. The Pink Lady came from South Africa, the Braeburn came from Italy, the Golden Delicious came from France, the Cox came from England and the Liberty came from Scotland. This taught us that we should try not to eat apples that have come from far away because they have been kept for longer and it uses up more fuel transporting them.

by Jamie Carter

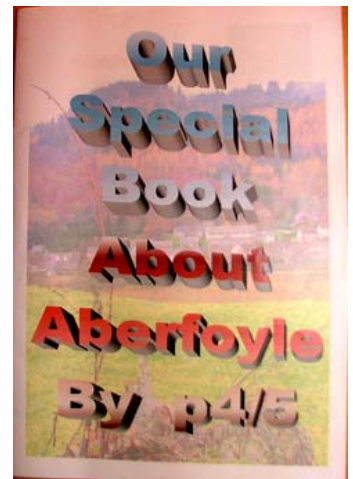
Mrs Miller has been coming up to our school to help us with our Eco work. We made orange hotels for the minibeasts. We found a baby slug, ants, a beetle, a millipede and other creepy crawlies. We have been looking at apples and which countries they come from.

by Morgan-Leigha McPheat and Annie Carter

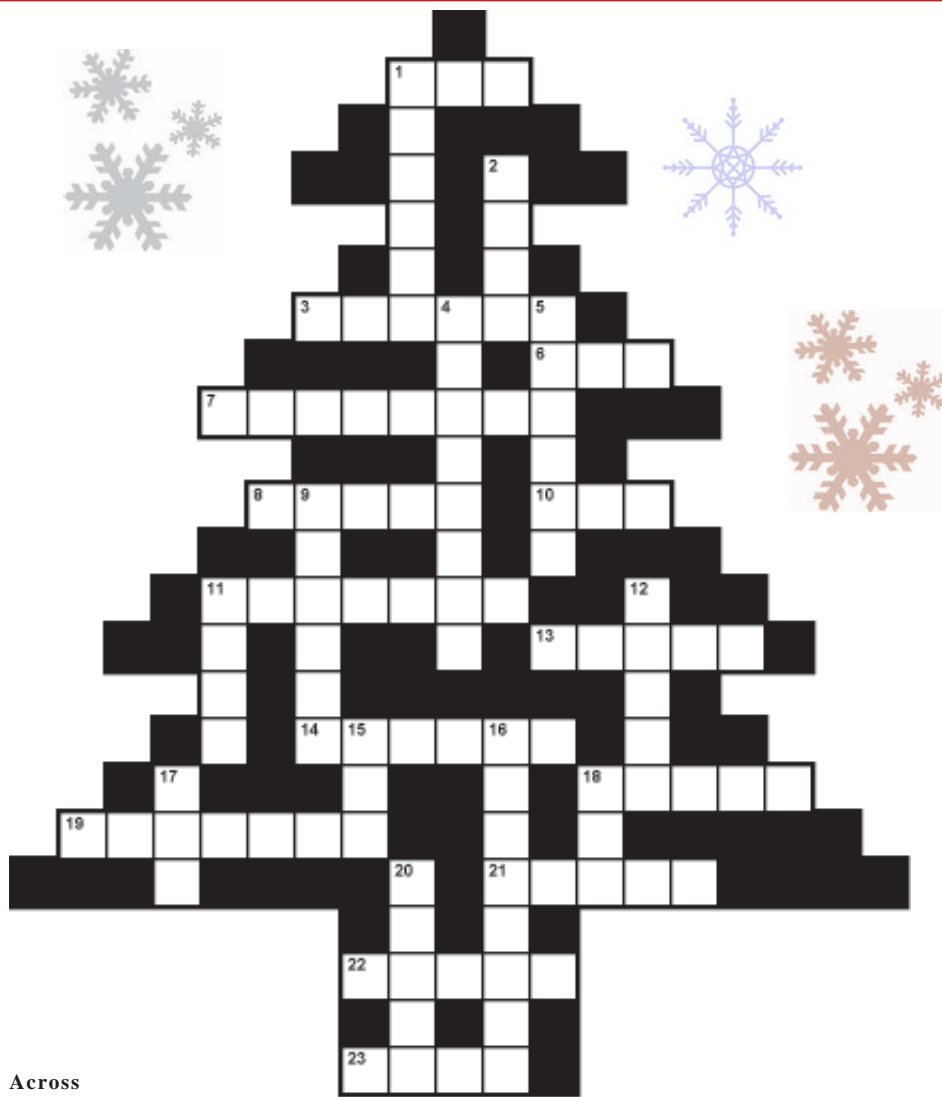
## Our Book: All About Aberfoyle

In our P4/5 class, we were learning about our local area in Aberfoyle. We got into groups that were interesting to us e.g. wildlife, history, geography, places of interest, local people and businesses. We found out lots of facts, interviewed people and even organised a walk where we met up with Louis' granddad and Stewart's mum to give us a guided tour. With all our research and information, we decided to make a book. We wanted to set up a committee and had to choose who would be chairperson, secretary, treasurer, marketing staff, artists, photographer and editor. When we knew our book would be published, we worked very hard on it, even on weekends! It took a long time for our book to be ready and when we saw it we were really pleased. It didn't look like this at the start, it was much bigger, but the publisher made a mistake and made it A5 size which we liked much better! We had business meetings with people, wrote emails, telephoned and wrote letters. We also learned a lot about ICT. It's nearly a year later and we are still talking about it and thinking how many books to order. If you would like to find out more about our book, please contact Megan or Michael (P6) at Aberfoyle Primary School, tel: 01877382278. To buy a copy you can telephone the school. The books cost only £3.50 each.

Article written by Kirsty and Stewart.







#### Across

- 1 Participate in a winter sport (3)  
 3 Christmas tree decoration (6)  
 6 'No room at the —' (3)  
 7 Family gathering around the piano (8)  
 8 See 17 down (5)  
 10 — turtle doves, given by my true love on the second day of Christmas (3)  
 11 Essential part of Christmas dinner, served with brandy butter or cream (7)  
 13 See 12 down (5)  
 14 'Three ——— 23 across', brought by my true love on the third day of Christmas (6)  
 18 Traditionally sits atop the tree (5)  
 19 The best way to serve turkey (7)  
 21 Hymn sung at Christmas time (5)  
 22 One of these sang 'Hark' in the 21 across (5)  
 23 See 14 across (4)

#### Down

- 1 The Festive ———, Christmas time (6)  
 2 Served at tea time on Christmas day, covered with marzipan and icing (4)  
 4 What 12 down will fill with presents, if you've been good! (8)  
 5 Bright decorations for the tree (6)  
 9 One of the deer pulling 12 down's sleigh (6)  
 11 20 down ———, a Christmas treat (4)  
 12 and 13 across - brings children (and hopefully adults!) presents (5)  
 15 The colour of 9 down's nose (3)  
 16 Pulled during Christmas dinner (8)  
 17 —, 8 across, and be merry! (3)  
 18 Popular choice for the Christmas tree (3)  
 20 See 11 down

	8	6		2		4	5	
	1						3	
	4	7		3		6	1	
		9		6		5		
6								7
			9		4			
			5		7			
1								6
		8		1		2		

		5					1	
7	3						4	6
		6	7				3	8
2				4	9		5	
				7				
	9		8	1				3
	5	4			8	2		
1	7						6	5
	6					1		

#### Christmas Anagrams

A dozen festive anagrams for you to solve. They are all the titles of Christmas songs or carols.

- YAA GERMAN WAIN
- IFAHOT CELLO MAYFUEL
- THE WINGS REEK
- ONLYATHREE DOCK
- RELAX SHOUTS SEC
- SWISH TIRE SHAPE
- JILL BEGS LEN
- FRATS WET MOONSHINE
- WRIST SEAM HITCH
- SOFTER THE NIL
- JOELY DOT WROTH
- TEDSHELL HACK

Can you find the hidden sports? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

G	N	I	L	I	A	S	S	E	G	N	I	K	S	S	V	S	R
S	I	N	N	E	T	K	V	S	V	I	V	W	L	Q	L	C	W
E	W	I	J	V	A	G	S	S	N	O	P	V	U	J	X	T	I
T	V	M	V	T	Y	R	T	O	A	N	L	A	V	B	W	I	M
B	E	L	I	E	S	V	R	U	R	S	L	A	A	F	M	M	V
T	A	N	L	D	L	R	I	C	A	H	C	D	E	E	C	H	I
D	G	S	N	A	E	I	N	A	I	E	M	H	N	Y	A	G	N
A	Z	U	E	C	B	M	T	L	T	I	G	C	E	N	B	V	G
V	O	B	C	B	V	T	V	E	N	Y	I	N	D	R	B	A	G
R	T	O	E	D	A	U	E	T	K	N	T	B	I	M	Y	N	L
O	S	V	I	V	I	L	O	K	G	C	A	L	E	L	I	G	C
M	O	D	U	J	W	N	L	L	S	L	I	B	R	X	R	V	C
G	N	I	L	T	S	E	R	W	L	A	J	R	O	B	A	U	P
I	S	C	I	T	E	L	H	T	A	G	B	B	C	N	C	B	C
G	N	I	V	I	D	Q	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	G	J	V
S	C	I	T	S	A	N	M	Y	G	T	Y	E	K	C	O	H	A
G	N	I	C	A	R	E	S	R	O	H	I	S	P	R	L	P	M
G	N	I	C	A	R	R	O	T	O	M	I	R	W	V	F	V	H
Z	L	L	A	B	T	E	N	O	L	O	P	G	N	I	W	O	R

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## Recycling Facility Is One Of The Best In Uk

Stirling Council's Lower Polmaise Recycling Centre was one of three finalists shortlisted for the UK Civic Amenity of the Year Award at this year's Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management. The Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management, were presented at a prestigious lunchtime ceremony at London's Savoy Hotel on Wednesday 17 October.

More than 300 senior industry representatives attended the awards with over 200 entries entered for this year's awards. The awards are aimed at showcasing innovation, dedication and success in recycling and sustainable waste management and supported by DEFRA, Environmental Services Association, Environment Agency and National Association of Waste Disposal Officers.

The UK Civic Amenity of the Year award went to South Tyneside Council, with Stirling Council coming in second place for the Lower Polmaise Household Waste Recycling Centre for the site upgrade into a modern split-level household waste recycling centre, which was designed by Atkins Consultant Ltd., and constructed by the Council's in-house Road Maintenance service, who won the work in competitive tender.

Councillor Graham Reed, with responsibility for Environment portfolio, said: "For Stirling Council to be nominated as a finalist for such a prestigious national award is a tremendous accolade for all who manage and operate the new facility.

"It is proving to be a successful asset, enabling the effective separation and recycling of a high proportion of household waste materials. The citizens of Stirling are continuing to play their part in reducing waste and increasing recycling, bringing wider environmental benefits."

Kevin Robertson, Head of Performance, Resources & Waste, added: "The new household waste recycling centre, coupled with the success of the kerbside recycling and green waste / cardboard collection for composting, has enabled the Council to reach an overall recycling rate of 45%, the highest in the country. With the City Centre recycling pilot and phased rollout of collection of all types of plastic bottles, this recycling figure will increase further." The out-dated Civic Amenity site at the former Lower Polmaise Landfill site near

Stirling recently was fully modernised as part of Stirling Council's commitment under the Forth Valley Area Waste Plan. This radically altered the way, in which material brought to the site by householders was both handled, separated and this effectively doubled the previous site's capacity.

Access to the split-level bays is arranged via a one-way system that encourages householders to recycle as much as possible before arriving at the mixed waste recycled. This approach minimises the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) being landfilled whilst increasing

the volume of materials that can be recycled.

The new state-of-the-art Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) was designed to be user friendly, aesthetically pleasing and accessible to all sectors of the community. Total construction cost was approximately

£862,000, which was completed on time and within budget.

The works were programmed to minimise disruption at the old Civic Amenity site, which involved building 12 split-level bays for bulky recycled waste streams and general household waste, and effectively doubled the previous site's capacity.

Access to the split-level bays is arranged via a one-way system that encourages householders to recycle as much as possible before arriving at the mixed waste bay. Since opening the HWRC, Stirling Council has experienced a vast improvement in the tonnage of wastes being diverted with only 37% of the total tonnage processed being sent to landfill. To maximise operational efficiency, a mechanical crusher (roll-packer) was purchased, which optimises skip capacity, enabling up to 200% more material to be processed per container.

This results in fewer trips being made with the materials for recycling, therefore reducing the overall operational carbon footprint. The number of people visiting the facility has doubled since April with over 200 cars per weekday, increasing to around 500 cars per day on the weekend. Local communities have also embraced the site as a key component in Stirling Council's waste reduction strategy.

For more information please contact Waste Services, Stirling Council, Room 310, Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET. Tel: 0845 277 7000. Email: [waste@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:waste@stirling.gov.uk)



## Milton

Hello Children,

What a busy time we have been having, one thing after another with hardly any time to draw breath. First there was all the fright and fun of Hallowe'en, the spooky walk to the waterfall at David Marshall Lodge on the Sunday night was scary enough, but the Ghostwalk to Stronmacnair on All Hallow's Eve was really terrifying. I saw a lot of children guising around Aberfoyle, not that I could recognise any of you because of your costumes and disguises. Hopefully, all the ghosts and spirits flying about on Hallowe'en have gone back to where they came from.....until next year! Hardly had the candles gone out in our turnip and pumpkin lanterns than it was time to light the bonfire and set off the fireworks.

Grandpa Otter always recites a poem at this time of year, "Remember, remember the fifth of November, Gunpowder, treason and plot." All about a man called Guy Fawkes and his friends who tried to blow-up the Houses of Parliament in London. That would have killed King James VI and everyone else in the building, they would have all been blown into tiny pieces. Luckily, the soldiers guarding the king discovered the plot and arrested all the villains, just in the nick of time. For more than a hundred years it was the law of the land that, all over the country, bonfires were to be lit on November 5th, so that people could remember how close to death the king had been. And just for good measure, a stuffed "Guy Fawkes" was put on top of the fire and burned.

Another thing we remember every year is the end of the First World War, which came to an end at eleven o'clock in the morning, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. It is difficult to believe that 20 million people were killed in that terrible war, fought throughout Europe between 1914 and 1918. That is why we all buy and wear poppies in November, to remember all those people who died long ago. On Sunday 11th November, at precisely 11 o'clock, four wreaths of poppies were laid at the war memorial, at Aberfoyle church, one from the council, one from the legion and one each from the brownies and anchor boys. There were lots of people at the short, outdoor service, as well as a little robin redbreast, two jays and most of the Otter family. It was a great pity that passing traffic made so much noise during the two minute silence, held to remember the dead. Pipe major Tam played "Flowers O' The Forest," a tune that remembers the dead from a battle fought even longer ago — the 15th century.

I really enjoy these dark winter nights, especially when the sky is clear and the stars shine bright. This month has been brilliant for spotting shooting stars. If you are out at night, don't forget to look up into the heavens, you may well be surprised by what you can see. Not only are there stars and shooting stars above your head, but sometimes strange, coloured lights appear, always in the northern sky, which is why they are known as the Northern Lights. Some people call them Heavenly Dancers, because the lights do seem to shimmer and dance in the sky. The next full moon will be on November 24th, just a week before Saint Andrew's Night and one month until Christmas! There's a lot more excitement in store.

The twins have already written their Christmas list to Santa. There is no chimney in our holt, because otters don't need a fire to keep warm, so Duke and Katrine have left Santa's letter for the faeries on Doon Hill to collect. When I write my letter, I shall give it to Hamish the Highlander, at Kilmahog. Every year, on Christmas Eve, Hamish takes over from Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer for Santa's run through the Highlands of Scotland. Well, poor Rudolph is getting quite old and the Scottish mountains are very steep. Not only is Hamish extremely strong and knows his way across the Highlands, he knows where everyone lives — and that is very important!

Bye for now,  
Milton.





## for sale

**Piano**, German upright, over-strung, metal frame, beautiful walnut casing. £100 or near offer. Buyer collects.

**Office Furniture, black.**

Rectangular desk, Smaller side desk, 3-drawer desk-side cabinet, Small metal cabinet, 4' high shelf unit, 6' high bookcase, Trolley. Prices negotiable.

**Office desks x 2**, beech, L-shaped. Cost £250 each, sell for £75 each

**Executive chair**, black leather, adjustable. £40

**Executive chairs x 2**, black fabric, high back, adjustable, with arms. £30 each

**Table** mahogany, drop-leaf £50

**3-piece suite** with loose covers £200

**Bedroom Suite**, walnut. Wardrobe, Tallboy, Dressing table and stool. £200

**Dining Table**, 1m round, blue. Extends to approx 8' £50

Ring 01877 387210 or email  
lesley@quirk.co.uk

## Scottish Country Dancing

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

## 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

## Third Age Group Strathendrick.

The next day trip is to Edinburgh on Wednesday 28th November to coincide with the German Christmas Market and the new Musical White Christmas. There are still a few seats available on the coach which picks up: Callander 8.50am, Aberfoyle 9.10am, Gartmore 9.25am, Drymen 9.40 am, Killearn 10am, Balfron Registry Office 10.10am, Cotton St 10.15am Buchlyvie 10.25am.

Book with Balfron Library 440407, or with Joan on 449253 noon-7pm, weekdays only please.

## Braised Lamb Shank in Honey & Red Wine

### Ingredients:

Lamb Shank  
150ml of Red Wine  
2 Tbspn of Honey  
Salt and Pepper  
1 x Carrot  
1/2 Leek  
2 Cloves of Garlic  
1/2 Med Onion



### Method:

Place the Lamb in a pan add All the ingredients, cover with water bring to the boil and simmer for approx 3hrs. Take the lamb out, keep warm in the oven. Strain the cooking liquor. Discard the vegetables and reduce the liquid by half. Pour the sauce over the lamb to serve

sponsored by *The Forth Inn*

## Christmas Football Courses

Active Stirling in conjunction with the Scottish Football Association is running a 2-day coaching course for children during the Christmas holidays.

The football courses are aimed at children between the ages of 5 to 16 years and will take place on 27 & 28 December at Forthbank Stadium from 1pm to 3pm. Cost is £12.

The courses will be staffed by SFA vetted coaches, and all children attending will receive a SFA certificate.

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

To receive an application form please contact Active Stirling on 01786 432323 or email askus@activestirling.org.uk

## Celebrate Saint Andrew's night in Killearn

A family music session on Saturday 1st December from 6pm and Ceilidh from 7.30pm. Stirling Council in co-operation with Get Reel are holding a celebration in Scottish style and its Free. The night begins at 6pm. with an informal music session led by experienced top tutors Mick Vass and Mark Duff. The session is open to anyone who wants to join in, just bring your instrument along on the night. The evening continues with the mischievously named Ceilidh Minogue, one of Scotland's best known popular Ceilidh bands, leading the dancing. The event is free but tickets need to be booked in advance from either Killearn Pharmacy or the box office at the Tolbooth on 01786 27 4000.



## HGV Driver (Class 2) Required

for busy local Haulier

Previous Tipper Experience essential  
Mechanical background desirable  
Part-time considered

Applications to:

Iain Campbell

John Campbell Tipper Haulage Ltd

Caithness, Montrose Road

Aberfoyle FK8 3UL

Tel: 01877 382250

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

SPORT, YOUTH AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE

YOUTH WORK TEAM, YOUTH SERVICES

## Youth Worker

7 hours per week

November 2007 – March 2008

Gartmore Village Hall

6.30pm to 10.30 pm (7-10 contact time)

Fridays and other times TBA

Ref: Coms 676

AP1 - SCP15

£8.70 per hour

Stirling Council's Youth Work Team is looking to recruit a part-time Youth Worker in the Gartmore area area, to work with the Gartmore youth group on Friday evenings. The successful applicant will become part of the Youth Worker Pool that supports existing groups and develops new youth work initiatives within the Stirling Council area. It is desirable that you will have experience of working with young people and an understanding of the issues affecting them. You will also have effective communication skills that will enable you to build relationships and work positively with young people. Stirling Council is committed to ensuring the safety of vulnerable people and our recruitment process is designed to support this. Successful applicants for this post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

For an informal discussion regarding this position, please contact Gary Worrall, Senior Community Worker (Youth) on 01786 818410, worrallg@stirling.gov.uk

Recruitment packs (quoting application reference) are available from and returnable to: Community Services Youth Work Team, 33 Main Street, Bannockburn FK7 8LZ. Telephone 01786 818410. CV's not accepted.

# The Forth Inn

December	3rd - 9th Steak Week More than just Beef!
	10th - 24th Christmas Menu
	16th Quiz Night
	22nd Christmas Karaoke
	31st Hogmany Karaoke (Ticket Only- no admin on Door)
January	20th Quiz Night
	26th Karaoke
	26th - 10th Feb Wild in the Winter Food and Drink from this area
February	1st Gourmet Evening Food & Wine from Spain
	14th - 17th Valentines Menu
	16th Valentines Karaoke
	23rd - 29th National Pub Week including Food with Beer Week
March	2nd Mothers Day Menu
	2nd Quiz Night
	15th St Patricks Karaoke
	17th - 23rd Irish Week Food & Beers from Ireland
	28th Gourmet Evening Food & Wine from New Zealand

The Forth Inn  
Main St, Aberfoyle. FK8 3UQ  
Telephone: 01877 382 372  
Email: reception@ForthInn.com  
Web: www.ForthInn.com

Tris, Phil & all the staff at The Forth Inn would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & A Happy Healthy New Year

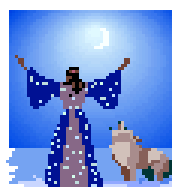


Over the Christmas Period we will have available both a Festive Lunch and Dinner Menu. To have a look at the menus' please check out our web site @ [www.ForthInn.com](http://www.ForthInn.com)

The Forth Inn will be open as usual over the Festive period except for Christmas day (12 - 3 Bar Only) and New Years Day (Closed!)

The Forth Inn, Main Street, Aberfoyle 01877 382 372

for more info: [www.ForthInn.com](http://www.ForthInn.com)



## Reiki Way

### Mobile Reiki Healing

June Symmons

Tel: 01877 389309 Mobile: 07768 687475

**Please telephone for Brochure and costs / quotation**

Costs based on location and requirements –  
reduced rates for Senior Citizens, offers available

**'Reiki for you and your family ~ at your location'**



Hours Of Opening Changing For The Winter  
November

Open Thursday Friday Saturday And Sunday  
10 Am - 4pm

Closing For The Winter Dec/Jan/Feb  
Opening For Easter In March

Thanks For All The Support Over The Past Year.  
Looking Forward To Seeing You All Next Spring.

Kinlochard Lochside, Kinlochard, Aberfoyle



01877 382473

### Aberfoyle Post Office



Baby its cold outside!  
But you won't be, if you remember  
to re-charge your new  
electricity key at the shop counter  
Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas!  
Check out our Games & Toys  
to keep the whole family entertained.  
I'll Be Home for Christmas!



But if you can't be with your family, keep in touch with  
Post Office Phonecards; or why not try Post Office Broadband?  
Pick up a leaflet now.

We would like to wish all our customers a  
very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year!

Shop OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
Mon-Sat: 8am - 5.30 Sun: 11.00 - 5.30  
CLOSED 25th & 26th DEC, 1st & 2nd JAN

#### Anagram Answers

1. Away In A Manger 2. O Come All Ye Faithful 3. We Three Kings  
4. The Donkey Carol 5. The Sussex Carol 6. I Saw Three Ships 7.  
Jingle Bells 8. Frostie The Snowman 9. White Christmas 10. The  
First Noel 11. Joy To The World 12. Deck The Halls

#### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**ACROSS** 1. ski 3. tinsel 6. inn 7. singsong 8. drink 10. two 11.  
pudding 13. claus 14. french 18. fairy 19. roasted 21. carol 22.  
angel 23. hens

**DOWN** 1. season 2. cake 4. stocking 5. lights 9. rudolph 11. pies  
12. santa 15. red 16. crackers 17. eat 18. fur 20. mince

#### WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Cricket,  
Curling, Cycling, Diving, Fencing, Football, Golf, Gymnastics,  
Handball, Hockey, Horse Racing, Judo, Lacrosse, Motor Racing,  
Netball, Polo, Rounders, Rowing, Rugby, Sailing, Skating, Skiing,  
Soccer, Squash, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling.

iain  
painting  
glen

Iain Glen

Tel: 01877 382 296

Mob: 07737726338