

issue 45  
july 2008  
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#### Deadline Dates

##### for submissions

issue 46 - 2 august  
issue 47 - 20 sep  
issue 48 - 22 nov  
(xmas issue)

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# STRATHARD NEWS

The Voice of your Community

www.strathardnews.com

## Aberfoyle Playpark Celebration

The sun shone for the Aberfoyle Playpark opening on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008. With Stirling Provost Fergus Wood and Councillor Paul Owens holding the ribbon, the Playpark was actually opened by the children of Aberfoyle, Gartmore, Port of Menteith and Inversnaid Primary schools.

A competition was held amongst the local primary schools to name the Playpark, with Megan Simpson and Stephen McIlvenny selecting 'Foylers Park' as the winning name.

Foylers Park took some time in the making. The vision for its refurbishment was originally conceived after the first Community Action Plan was published in 2004, with a

£250,000 project including a skate park being drawn up by Stirling Council. However, the project was beset by problems, the first of which was that 3 leading members of the Play and Recreation Action Group left the area in 2005 and the project stalled.



The Strathard Community Trust, led by Maureen Campbell took over the project in September 2005 and a slimmed down Playpark began to take shape; without a skate park. Ultimately John Paterson and then Diana Carmody oversaw the completion of Foylers Park. Final works were completed just days before the launch.

The £75,000 playpark was funded by: The Big Lottery's Awards For All Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Hugh Fraser Foundation, Stirling Council, CERS and the Strathard Community Trust.

A huge thank you must go to the team who organised the opening. Jackie Bell, Julie Glen and Lisa Smith arranged for the provision of the marquee, the bouncy castle, the presence of Active Stirling and the face-painting stand. It certainly looked as though everyone present had a great time considering that children were still waiting to have their faces painted after 6:00 pm. Now that Phase 1 of the Playpark is complete, the Strathard Community Trust are now gearing themselves up to commence Phase 2 – a hardstanding all weather facility for the older children of Strathard. As always, volunteers to help with Phase 2 are welcome to share their ideas for achieving it – hopefully much more quickly than Phase 1.

strathard community trust

local projects local people

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## Local Author launches New Book

'Aberfoyle Slate Quarries; fragments of an earlier world' is the title of a new book by local author, Louis Stott, and published by Stirling Council libraries. At its launch in St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 17th June, Mr. Stott spoke of the effect of the slate industries on the community and told the audience how more fragments of the wagonway that brought the slate down to the railway were still being found around the village. The book looks at all aspects of the industry and draws on local archive sources to give a flavour of the education of the children, the living conditions of the workers and the history of the business, which finally closed in the 1950s, ending a 400 year tradition. The book is illustrated throughout and as an added bonus, ends with a 'gallimaufrey' of miscellaneous quotations about the slate industry in Scotland. Louis has written several other books about Scotland in general and about the Trossachs area in particular, and the Library Service is very pleased to have published this one. It is available from Stirling Council Libraries and selected local shops at a price of £4.50



*Aberfoyle author Louis Stott shown at the launch of his new book 'Aberfoyle Slate Quarries; fragments of an earlier world'*

## The Poker Tree - A Follow On

Sometimes dreams can come true if you wish hard enough.

For nearly three years now, I have watched, with increasing dismay, the gradual decline of the Bailie Nicol Jarvie Gardens and the poker tree surrounds. Previous, the residents of the BNJC, by various means, sought to preserve the grounds, bound by the impression they were accountable through their title deeds. In recent times, however, maintenance came to a complete standstill, upon the notion the land had been privately purchased by the contractors responsible for renovating the hotel into flats some years ago. Regardless of the motives, or long-term plans behind this, the shocking neglect of the gardens suggested a moral obligation to make a difference, in the interim. On Monday 2 June, a group of like-minded volunteers from the community, the Forestry Commission, and the National Park ranger service gathered to do just so. The work undertaken on the day, amidst force ten midge factor, was extensive. The fact is, though, the more we dug in, the more we became aware of the beauteous composite of the site. The youngsters from the ETF squad, brought in by The Commission, in particular, appeared to draw extra inspiration upon learning of the attached history of the tree. The uncertainties surrounding ownership cast some obvious doubts as to how far we can go on this 'journey'. Despite this, periodical maintenance will continue and offers of help are still very welcome. As for

my dream, it seems already that the tree is standing prouder and, dare I say it, happier, than it's been for some time. This, to me, is worth more than any winning lottery ticket. For their efforts on the project so far, thanks are due to the following:

**The Community:** John Digny, Diane Carmody, Walter Milne, and most especially, David Coleman.

**The Golf Club:** Dougie Steele, Allan More, Chris Geddes, Stewart McGregor and for the use of their turf cutter.

**National Park Ranger Service:** Craig Walker.

**Forestry Commission:** James MacDonald, Jim Malcolm and for the use of equipment.

**ETF Squad:** Graham Kerr, Scott McPhee, Damien Davies.

*Postscript : As some "News" readers may have noticed from*

*an article in the Stirling Observer, a very important discovery was made in the gardens on the second day of 'excavations'. More on this to follow in the next issue. For information on the project please contact David Wilkie on 01877 382868 or David Coleman on 01877 389171*



*John Digny hedging his bets on the success of the Poker Tree project.*

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# Local Telephone Directory 2008 (the 'wee blue book')

**Last chance to advertise and correct your details!**

A new full-colour edition of this popular local guide will be issued in August 2008. As before it will cover all of Aberfoyle, Gartmore, Inversnaid, Kinlochard, Port of Menteith and Stronachlachar areas. The directory contains phone numbers for local individuals, businesses, clubs and organisations, plus lots of other useful information, including a categorised local business directory.



Business line listings are free, but colour adverts are also available starting at £30 for a quarter page. We are in the process of contacting all known businesses in the area, but if you would like to know more about taking out an advert, or to reserve your space, please make sure you get back to us as soon as possible in July by calling the directory team on **01877 387200** or e-mail **directory@strathard.org.uk**. We can help with your artwork at no extra charge.

For residential listings, the latest version will be available for public checking during most of July showing all of the changes we have been told about. Copies will be put in Aberfoyle, Gartmore and Kinlochard Post offices and also the Aberfoyle Surgery, for you to check your details and make sure they are correct. Margaret Neufeld will also hold a copy covering the Stronachlachar and Inversnaid areas, and we have a team of 'checkers' lined up elsewhere to help with their own village information.

Remember if you are normally 'ex-directory' in the public phonebook then you need to let us know if you wish to be included, even if you were in the local directory last time in 2004. We need permission to include your details again for Data Protection reasons. Or tell us if you wish your public BT details removed or changed. Please just get in touch using the contact details above if you want to check anything about your entry and this is more convenient for you.

Many thanks – and do buy a copy when these are available in August at the same £2 price as last edition!



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So hop on board at one of the stops and tell us what you think,  
or even how you would like to help!

**Watch the noticeboards for times and venues.**

**Strathard Community Council meets on the  
1st Thursday of the month, alternating be-  
tween Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard  
Village Hall and Inversnaid Primary  
School. The next meeting is the Annual  
General Meeting to be held in the Memorial Hall,  
Aberfoyle on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 7.30pm followed  
by the Community Council business meeting. Half an  
hour prior to the meetings a local District Councillor  
(Tony Ffinch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) will hold a  
surgery for residents who wish to raise issues and con-  
cerns.**



### **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 soon - one for each ward - watch out for information. Contact Ros Dingwall (382 668) for further information.

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# Kinlochard Shop

Early in 1952, when Walter Joynson was plucked from a hole on ice-bound Loch Ard by a group of forestry workers, the Laird of Ledard offered each of his rescuers a piece of his land on which to build a house. Donald MacDonald, who had actually pulled Walter out of the water, quickly bagged his site at the side of the B829 and put up a large wooden hut. Having previously been an apprentice baker in deepest Possil, each evening Donald would prepare and bake a batch of bread. Next day his wife, Margaret, would take the fresh loaves and some of her own baking to the hut and sell it. The Kinlochard shop had arrived.

Five further shop keepers came and went and, like Topsy, the building "grewed and grewed", added a post office and sometimes served snacks. Then, in April 2006, Rikke and John took over and things began to change. Opening hours stretched from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. The range of products seemed to expand beyond the capabilities of such a small shop.

Organic fruit and vegetables, and even organic wine, appeared on the shelves. Meanwhile, all through their first winter, John and Rikke froze in a caravan as they strove to completely rebuild Blairhoullichan Cottage. Always cheerful, along with their occasional helpers, the Kinlochard shop became a centre for information, well stocked with maps, guides and locally written books.

At the end of July the doors of the village shop will close, perhaps for the very last time. After 56 years, it will be sorely missed. It is hopeful that the post office will be re-located but nothing has yet been finalised. For the last two years the Kinlochard shop has been a haven where people could stand and chat, the welcome always warm and genuine. If the shop itself will be a loss to the community, saying goodbye to Rikke and John will be much more of a wrench. Maybe the shop will re-open but this team will be a hard act to follow. We wish them well.

## News from Kinlochard

### No Sax Please Request To Highland Games

A request received by Kinlochard Games Committee may put at risk one of the major events at Kinlochard's Rob Roy Highland Games on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Doreen Hutton, has asked that only single sex teams be allowed in the World Giant Sack race heats. "I'm a grandmother and I don't know if my grandson is ready to witness a mixed sex giant sack race" The race involves four-person sacks in a 50 metre dash and has become a very popular competitive sport locally. A games spokesman said "Teams take this event very seriously and mixed teams are already well advanced on their training schedules. It is difficult to see how we could disappoint them at this late stage after months of strenuous and committed preparation"

Other highlights include, traditional Heavy Events, Pipe Band, Highland Dance display, Bonniest Sheepdog in Scotland competition, children's races, a duck race, and loch side events. The arena events will culminate in a Tug-o-War competition at around 4pm. Roundabout, face painting, fun stalls and ceramic painting are on hand for kids. Teas and coffees, Bar and BBQ facilities are available throughout the afternoon. There will be a family ceilidh at night. Rob Roy Highland Games are sponsored by Delta Force Paintball and Forest Hills Hotel. The Games commence at midday

For further info

Bridget Lewis 01877 387 341

Katy Lamb 01877 387 264



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### Heavies For Kinlochard Games

Veteran heavy and former world-champion shot-putter will be leading the heavy events at Kinlochard Highland Games on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July at the village hall field commencing 12 noon.

There will be a march from Forest Hills to the Games Field at 11.30am, led by Callander Pipe Band. In addition to the heavy events there will be highland dancing, piping, tug-o-war, a duck race on the River Chon, the "Bonniest Collie in Strathard" competition, and the World Championship Giant Sack Race.

Side shows include a coconut shy, a guess the number of logs competition, a giant tombola and, weather permitting, a visit from Loch Lomond seaplanes who have generously donated two free flights for the raffle. The day will conclude with a family ceilidh in the village hall – bring your own bottle!

### Loch Ard Local History Group

The first meeting of the Lochard Local History Group will take place at 7.30pm in Kinlochard Village Hall on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September** with **Music and the Trossachs** as the topic and Jim Benson as the speaker. There will also be an AGM.

Further meetings will take place on:

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October:**

The History of Stirling University

**Monday 3 November:**

Stories of Stronachlachar with Duncan Ferguson  
*In the Spring the following will take place:*

*Aberfoyle Slate Quarries with Bill Richardson, the Waterworks Centenary, and Sheriffmuir with Bill Inglis (Joint Meeting with Gartmore in Aberfoyle)* The programme will close with The Textile Industry in the Vale of Leven with David Harvie in April. More details will be given in the next Strathard News.

# 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.*

### What's Happening?

How many people woke up one weekday just a couple of weeks ago to wonder what was happening in Aberfoyle? How many of us knew that the Microsoft Challenge Team had an event centred in Manse Road Aberfoyle involving around 700 people? Well it appears only a handful of people knew and they didn't think it necessary to pass it on. No consideration was given to the residents down Manse Road and surrounds, who were faced with hundreds of 4x4's, minibuses, walkers and cyclists descending on them. Given the attention required to safety on the bridge and it's limitations in terms of traffic we should at least have been informed. Getting home across that bridge as the Microsoft Team were leaving the area was hazardous and a nightmare with a total lack of courtesy from the visiting hoards. I am angry mostly because no-one considered the children that walk over that bridge and I can only hope that they were shown more consideration than I was in my small car!

But that is only part of my irritation about this event. What about the businesses in Aberfoyle, including the hotels (even the Forth and Inchrie Castle didn't know of this event virtually outside their doors). It had been yet another week of road closures and the village had been very quiet, most of the small individual traders were expecting another quiet day and were opening later that morning, some having taken advantage of the quiet day were out of the village at Cash and Carry's etc. So when hundreds of the participants walked up to the village from 8am onwards they were greeted with just the Post office, Co-op and Rainbow's End open. If the traders had been informed that 700 visitors were due early that day we would all have made a point of opening early. Most of all I feel sorry for the take-aways who would have been able to stock up ready to help feed to demand and may have missed out most. The co-op was open but then it was heaven help the locals trying to buy later that day as stocks ran short or out. Sadly, as a member of the media team involved in the event told me the following day, most of these visitors took away the impression that Aberfoyle was dead and closed and certainly didn't know what was happening!

Aberfoyle and surrounds rely heavily on visitors to feed into the local economy and sadly this is another example of how we are missing out. This village needs to prosper and good visitor experience is important for a sustainable future. I appeal to everyone, whether residents or business (including the National Park, Stirling Council and the Forestry), please, please let's have more holistic thinking and communication to help each other and promote a successful community for the future.

*Diana Carmody  
Manse Road  
Aberfoyle*

Dear Strathard News

Much as I'm loathe to killjoy your quirky wee reports ("Oops! They did it again") informing us of the latest endearing antics of escapee Drumlean "wild boar", I thought readers might like - in the interests of balance - to consider the following points:

- "Wild boar" present a potential danger - realised in a not inconsiderable number of instances - to public safety through physical attack, disease and road traffic accident.
- The keeping of these animals (the term "wild boar" appears to be more about these little piggies going to market than zoological accuracy) is intended to be covered by the Dangerous Wild Animals Act which places onus upon the owner to "ensure the animal will not escape".
- If "wild boar" are properly and responsibly kept (in a secure fenced area) they present no danger to the public.
- Irresponsible land-owners in some instances have been known to festoon gates and paths with "Danger Wild Boar!" signs in an attempt to deter the right of public access. A number of such land-owners are suspected of deliberately releasing, or allowing through neglect animals to escape, from secure areas in order to "beef" up this threat. In such instances blame may be conveniently placed upon acts of public irresponsibility or vandalism.

I trust this will affect future jolly coverage not a jot.

*Andy Manders  
Kinlochard*

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# Strathard Community Trust

Turnout at the AGM of Strathard Community Trust, held on Monday 2nd June in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, was to say the least, disappointing. The committee had prepared a beautiful spread and laid out the hall with display boards of the Trust's work over the last year. Despite poor public attendance the meeting went ahead with Lady Maureen Campbell giving a synopsis of the last year's efforts. Maureen announced her decision not to continue in the role of Chairman and Director, but to continue to support the Trust as a member. The 5 elected Directors stood down and nominations were received for new Directors. The newly elected Directors are Ian Marshall, *Chairman*; Ian Davison Porter, *Vice-chair*; Diana Carmody, *Treasurer*; Jimmy Quinn and Ros Dingwall. In addition John Clow and Richard Grosse are Directors representing the Community Council and the Strathard Churches.



In addition to the projects already in progress the Directors will be heavily involved in the forthcoming Community Action Plan. This document, which outlines the community's aspirations for the next 4 years, will shortly be delivered to every household in Strathard. It is based on the results of the community questionnaire sent out in May 2007, so hopefully you will recognise some actions that you, yourself asked for. If you feel passionately about any issues raised in the CAP you can do something positive about it by getting involved. You can head up a project or be part of a group working on a project. It will require some of your time and all of your dedication but the benefit to the community and the personal sense of achievement is well worth it.

In case you didn't know, the Community Trust can offer support to any community group who need help to access funding and/or expertise. The Trust Directors are local residents who receive no payment for their time and efforts, are often criticised, but never give up because they firmly believe they can improve things if it is the will of the community. On that note, if you are not already a member of the Trust, please join. It only cost £1 per year and by joining you will be supporting in principle, the work of the Trust.

The Trust has meetings every 4 or 5 weeks which are open to the membership. Admittedly, we have not been too good at publicising them in the past, but now the new committee has planned a schedule of meetings which will be advertised around the villages and in the Strathard News. We hope you will attend.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to all family and friends who were there to look after our children and help out on the day of the play park opening. A really big thank you to Gerant and Fiona. Gerant, thanks for fighting with the dreaded midge and Fiona, what a hidden talent!! A great day was had by all. Cheers from Jack and Jules

## Meetings:

Tuesday 22nd July 2008	Aberfoyle Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Tuesday 9th September 2008	Kinlochard Village Hall	7.30 pm
Tuesday 28th October 2008	Aberfoyle Memorial Hall	7.30 pm

## Membership:

To join or renew your membership please contact Diana at the Rade Shop or Ros at the Aberfoyle Post Office.

## Current Groups:

Play Park Group (phase 2)	Diana Carmody	382345
Railway Turntable (phase 2)	Ian Marshall	382211
Paths and Trails Group	John Digney	382636
Strathard News	Margaret Neufeld	386258

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Loch Lomond  
& The Trossachs  
National Park

by Owen McKee

# National Park News

We are striving to get better and there is no better way of doing so than listening to and acting on the advice of your customers. (There is always the proviso that the advice is practical and legal). The three main areas in which complaints abound are Planning, Litter and Anti - social Behaviour. In all three cases there is a national problem and since the National Park is a Special Place we must make a special effort to find solutions. The Scottish Government has for some time recognised the difficulties presented by the Planning System and is committed to streamlining and speeding up the procedure. A new Planning Act has been passed and consultation is currently taking place to ensure that the regulations to govern the new processes are as user friendly as possible. Some of the early discussions on the regulations have highlighted a number of potential hurdles to a streamlined and faster process but there is hope that most of the obstacles can be eliminated. As the Planning Authority for the Park we want to be as user friendly as possible and we need your input to achieve this. The plea

is that you let us know what your experience with our Planning Department has been whether that has been good, bad or indifferent. We would welcome suggestions as to how we can improve. For a survey form please contact the Planning Service Improvement Officer at Headquarters, 20 Carrochan Rd. Balloch or phone 01389 722620. Litter and Anti - social Behaviour are also being tackled. The main focus here is a joint effort in which The Police, the Forestry Commission Rangers and our own Countryside Rangers are engaging in Operation Ironworks. Don't ask me who chose this rather curious name for a countryside exercise but the important thing is that early indications are that it is proving successful. Time and time again I have been approached by visitors to our Park to say that the Police and Ranger patrols are resulting in a more enjoyable visit. Equally the complaints I am receiving from local communities about anti - social behaviour and litter are declining. We are not out of the woods yet but at least in this exercise we seem to be getting results.

Further evidence of improvement has just arrived in that The Park has just received the news that it has achieved Charter Mark status under the Europarc Charter for Sustainable Tourism In Protected Areas. The formal award will be made at the Europarc Conference in Romania in the autumn. And still on the good news theme. Our new Chief Executive, Fiona Logan, will take up her post on 14th July. In the background there is other activity taken place. Every five years or so non departmental bodies such as the Park Authority have to undergo an independent review to see if they are fit for purpose. That review for our Park and the Cairngorms has started and is being conducted by a team under the leadership of Dr Fiona Spencer. It is a root and branch review and will include interviews of all members of the Park Board. I am scheduled to see Dr Spencer on 14th and 15th July. Wish me luck. As always I can be contacted as follows:  
Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,  
Locheearnhead.  
Phone. 01567 830214  
owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

## New Chief Executive announced for Scotland's First National Park

Fiona Logan, was announced on 9 June 2008 as the new Chief Executive of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and will take over from Bill Morton the Interim Chief Executive on 14 July.

Fiona has a strong corporate marketing background having spent much of her working life in major blue chip industry including IBM and Unilever. She also brings a clear passion for environmental sustainability to the role having worked for Greenpeace in New Zealand. For the past three years, she has run her own business transformation consultancy in Scotland.

Speaking publicly for the first time following her appointment, Ms Logan said: "I am honoured and delighted to be joining Scotland's first National Park, and particularly at such a key stage in its evolution. I will be building on the excellent work already underway and will continue to drive forward the National Park aims of conserving and enhancing the special qualities of this unique landscape.



"This is not a wild place. What I'm most excited about is the fact that this is a thriving National Park with communities who make a real difference to the local area and economy. My aim is to ensure local people and the local economy continues to be at the forefront of all Park activity. "Having two young children myself, I recognise the importance of protecting this very special part of Scotland for future generations to enjoy and I appreciate the key role this Park Authority has in helping to deliver the Scottish Government Greener Scotland agenda.

I am looking forward to the challenge of being the new Chief Executive for a National Park that is so close to much of Scotland's population."

Announcing the appointment at the National Park Board meeting, Convener, Dr Mike Cantlay said: "I would like to congratulate Fiona on her appointment. Loch Lomond and The Trossachs is 'the People's Park'; a place which draws its power from the people who live, care and work in the Park and who want to protect this very special place. Most importantly, it is a place we as a Park Authority need to look after for the young people who will inherit it. Fiona shares this philosophy and brings to the role the vision, experience and determination necessary to do the very best for this iconic National Park and its communities in the years ahead."

The announcement comes less than a month after officially opening a new £5 million highly sustainable headquarters in Balloch signalling a new era for the Park Authority.

# Bruce Crawford MSP writes.....

## PRICE OF FUEL NEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED

High fuel costs are causing serious problems for people across the Stirling constituency and across the country, and many local businesses are paying the price. Immediate action by the UK Treasury is needed.

I believe that a fuel price regulator would protect hauliers, motorists and road users from the impact at the pumps of high fuel taxes and higher international oil prices. Fuel duties currently make up over 65 per cent of the price of petrol and diesel and the regulator would result in an automatic freeze on fuel duty increases and a reduction in duty to match any increases in VAT.

A fuel price regulator would see the introduction of a mechanism so that higher oil prices trigger lower fuel duties, which make up 65% of the price of petrol and diesel.

The Regulator would result in an automatic freeze on fuel duty increases and a reduction in duty to match any increases in VAT revenues from higher pump prices.

We support the introduction of a fuel price regulator which would create a system where higher oil prices trigger lower fuel duties.

A fuel price regulator will help keep the costs down, with the benefit felt by road users across Scotland.

Both motorists and businesses across Scotland need urgent government action to protect them from the worst effects of a soaring world oil price. Despite being one of the world's largest oil producers, Scotland has soaring fuel taxes, and the UK Treasury benefits from

greatly increased revenue from VAT on the rising price at the pumps. A fuel price regulator would see a double protection.

It's more than ironic that Scotland, as one of world's largest oil producers, is hit hardest as our haulage industry is most vulnerable to high pump prices and motorists in rural areas face longer journeys.

With the average price of petrol now in excess of £1 per litre, the case for a fuel price regulator is overwhelming, and the Chancellor must take urgent action to protect hard-pressed road users.

*Bruce Crawford*



## 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.



## 'Women in the Trossachs' Evening visit to David Marshall Lodge Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - 7.30pm

*Come along and meet other women who live or work in and around the Trossachs.*

*For more information see [www.witt.org.uk](http://www.witt.org.uk) or e-mail [alison@witt.org.uk](mailto:alison@witt.org.uk).*

*All welcome.*

women  
in  
the  
trossachs

## Park launches Planning Survey

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority has launched a Planning survey to find out what people think about the service it currently provides.

Speaking about the survey, Mike Hyde, Planning Service Improvement Officer said: "The Planning system in Scotland is undergoing the most significant modernisation in sixty years and the Park Authority is keen to know what people think of the service we provide. The feedback we get will be used to make further improvements to the way we work. I would encourage anyone who has been involved in a planning application or enforcement action to get in touch."

Details of how to access the survey online can be found on the National Park website [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org). Copies are available on request by calling 01389 722600. The survey runs until the end of August 2008, and all completed forms, both paper and online, will be entered into a prize draw to win a framed National Park poster.

Online survey link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=j84RwSSX50h7\\_2f29fXT\\_2bMFw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=j84RwSSX50h7_2f29fXT_2bMFw_3d_3d)

For more information contact Mike Hyde on 01389 722620



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## Traders go into Partnership

At their last meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May the Aberfoyle Traders Association agreed to change their name to the Trossachs Business Partnership. The members believe that the area they encompass now stretches much wider than Aberfoyle, and the market place and business community that is served deserves that recognition. Newly elected chairman, Phil Crowder, stated that he believed that this rebranding would be beneficial to both the membership and the local community. In addition, he stated that we needed to raise the profile of the organisation, not only in the local community, but on a national scale. As a result more visitors will come to the area, which will in itself, allow the local community to flourish.

### Mushroom Festival

As usual, the main event of the year will be the Mushroom Festival, which will have a Spanish theme. The opening concert will be held in the Forth Inn at 7.30pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October and will feature a display of music and dance. During the days that follow there will be Fungus Forays, Wine and Tapas tasting, a street market, Flamenco dancing and guitar workshops, candle lit guided tours of the waterfall at the David Marshall Lodge and cookery and butchery demonstrations. The sporting interest will involve a mini 5 a side football tournament, pike fishing and an open golf event. The festival will end with a special Songs of Praise at Gartmore house at 7.30pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Over the next weeks more details will be revealed and we will make sure that everyone will be kept up to date with developments.

### Community Fund

The new group wish to engage the local residents and to this end it is proposed that the Partnership set up an annual community fund for the benefit of 'not for profit' local groups such as the toddler group, village hall. This would be done on an 'application' basis. More details will be forthcoming.

*For further information, including how to join, call Mary Phillips on 01877 382696 or access us through the website on [visitaaberfoyle.com](http://visitaaberfoyle.com).*

## Stirling Hosts Flagship Event of Global Challenge



The Microsoft UK Challenge set off at full speed last week in the grounds of Stirling University. A night race throughout the campus saw the participants running to exhaustion in the early hours of the morning. Orienteering, rafting, night stages held in almost pitch black and 6-hour bike rides are just a few of the things that the thousand strong crowd of competitors will have to tackle.

The **Microsoft UK Challenge** - the flagship event of the Intelligent Sport (IS) World series, which is a global competition hosted over 14 events in nine countries - hit Stirling this week. The jewel in the crown of the IS World series, it will push the best UK business minds and bodies to their very limits and this year the course designers have been working overtime to design a challenge fitting for the location. There are several teams hoping to capitalise on "home" advantage this year including Registers of Scotland, BT, Halifax Bank of Scotland, Freescale Semiconductor, Scottish Widows and RAF Losiemouth. Hosted just once a year, the Microsoft UK Challenge comes to Stirling as the surroundings not only provide a tough test for the hardened adventure racer but also a beautiful and varied setting for this massive event. On top of the tiring events, the teams are also tasked with raising lots of money for charity. Last year the teams

raised over £500,000 and this year the event organisers have tasked the teams with breaking that record and securing over £600,000 for the NSPCC and its sister charity Childline.

With over 1,000 staff and participants taking over Stirling University for the next several days, Challenger World, the organisers of the event, feel that this year has a very special feeling to it. "Having hosted these events across the world from Pennsylvania to Nice, Donnegal and Mayrhofehen, coming to Stirling for the 2008 Microsoft UK Challenge is a real treat. With many of the stages and tasks set within the shadow of the imposing Wallace Memorial, a real sense of something special is in the air," comments

Challenger World Managing Director Andrew Finan. "It is a real pleasure to be able to hold this event in Stirling and even after all the years we have been running these events, I think this one is going to be the most awe inspiring."

With the first stage taking place underway on

Wednesday evening, starting at half past ten and finishing late into the night, the participants will have to be at the top of their mental and physical prowess just to cope.

With many more stages happening over the next several days, the entrants and the Stirling countryside are in for some real treats.

For full updates on the status of this four day competition, please visit [www.challengerworld.com](http://www.challengerworld.com)



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# ART IN THE FOREST AT LOCH ARD

An innovative arts project is set to capture the imagination of families as huge eye catching sculptures and sound posts are unveiled in Loch Ard, in the heart of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park on 24 June . The eight sculptures and five sound posts will feature along the 16 miles of forest road in Loch Ard. The road - which consists of five different cycle routes - runs through a wide variety of terrain and past many impressive sights, including Loch Ard itself, Loch Chon, Duchray Water and Keltay Water.

The arts project aims to create a family friendly experience in Loch Ard forest and is part of a wider tourism development project between local businesses, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and Stirling Council under the banner of 'Destination Trossachs' which aims to create a family friendly experience in Loch Ard forest.

Welcoming the project, Environment Minister, Michael Russell, said: "Scotland's forests are a fantastic resource for families, providing many physical and mental health benefits. "This is an excellent example of a project that aims to promote learning in a fun atmosphere and families to take part in some healthy exercise. The new features will provide a sensory experience, where families will be encouraged to look, listen, touch and even smell the forest, as they cycle through it to help provide a learning experience for all the family.

"Loch Ard Forest is also home to a wide variety of wildlife, and visitors might be able to catch a glimpse of red and roe deer, pine martens, red squirrels, crossbills and many more. Visitors will also be able to see ospreys which hunt over Loch Ard."

The five sound posts will help to provide interest and encouragement along the cycle routes. They contain the noises creatures make, and feature a toad, deer stag, great spotted woodpecker, jay and buzzard, along with narrative from Aberfoyle Primary School pupils.

A wildlife hide has also been established to allow visitors the chance to enjoy spotting Loch Ard's wildlife.



The eight sculptures have been made locally by Rob Mulholland and have taken three months to make. The material has been sourced from a variety of sources including the use of local timber and reclaimed metal.

Other work completed includes:

- The creation of unusual seats and shelters, which contain raised letters, symbols and listening tubes. Children are encouraged to find shapes, words or listen for sounds to reveal interesting facts about wildlife
- Easy to spot signposts have been placed at all junctions along the main cycle routes and a picnic place for families to rest and enjoy the view has been created. The tables have a number of word searches with a wildlife theme engraved on the top of the tables
- An orientation point and leaflet dispenser has been created at the Milton car park. This orientation point includes a map of the cycle routes, an introduction to the Living in the Forest story; the key highlights to look out for; and a colourful puzzle called 'It's a Wild Life' that includes a map of the routes to help users navigate the trails. Children are encouraged to identify the animals and place them in food chain order. Children will fill in the leaflet and hand it in to David Marshall Lodge to obtain a free badge.

The trails are suitable for cyclists for all abilities and can be started from three points: the main forest car park in Aberfoyle, the Commission car park one and a half miles west in Milton, or the car park in Kinlochard village five miles further along the Milton road.

## Calling All Community Groups And Charities

The CFSLA Payroll Lottery annually has over £8000 to donate to applicants.

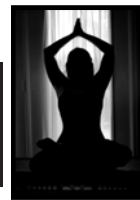
Any local organisations who needs equipment or resources for their organisation could be eligible to apply. The committee's funds come from the profits of a lottery run for employees and ex employees of Stirling Council, Falkirk Council and Clackmannanshire Council, Police, Fire and Assessors services. Participants can win up to £1250 each month. Eligible employees who want to participate can obtain forms from the payroll section of each council or from contact details below.

As applications to the committee are reducing, any ideas from community groups on how we can provide more help would be welcome.

For more information, an application forms or to submit your suggestion e.mail [lottery\\_russell@hotmail.com](mailto:lottery_russell@hotmail.com) or telephoning Russell on 01324-826073

David Marshall Lodge,  
Aberfoyle

# Yoga



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# Have you still got your vote?

That's the question from the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Brian Byrne.

Every autumn the ERO send voter registration forms to every address to obtain the names of all eligible resident electors. When forms are not returned electors can, and are, removed from the Register of Electors when the ERO cannot verify that they are still resident. If you move address you need to complete a new form to register to vote and electors who change their names should also re-register with their new names as soon as possible after the changes occur as the register is updated monthly from December to September). (NB-notifying the council of a change of address or name does not update the Register of Electors)

Failure to register will have the following consequences

- a) you will be unable to vote in any election or referendum
- b) your credit rating will be reduced by 10%
- c) you may have credit reference problems now or in the future as all major credit reference use the register to help verify residence and can ask for a number of years proof before granting any application.
- d) As it is a legal requirement to return registration forms when requested a maximum fine of £1000 can be imposed by the Procurator Fiscal

Every elector can has the option to apply to vote by post rather than in person at their polling station and can chose to withhold their name from the Edited Register of Electors (a version of the register which is sold to anyone who wishes to purchase it)

Should anyone require to register to vote or change their registration details then forms can be downloaded from [www.saa.gov.uk/central](http://www.saa.gov.uk/central) or collected from local libraries. More information on registration and postal voting is available on the website or can be requested from the contact detail below Anyone who wants to check if they are currently registered to vote can contact the ERO at Tel 01786-892289, Fax 01786-892255 or e.mail [stirling@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:stirling@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk)

# S.W.R.I.

I am writing this in the hope of promoting and saving our organisation as, after going for over 80 years, it is now in danger of closing down, mainly through lack of support and the lack of new members joining.

Occasionally we hear people say that there's not much goes on in Aberfoyle, so we felt we should let folk know.

Many of you will have heard of "The Rural", in other words the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, and have thought, "Oh, I couldn't go to that – it's just a lot of oldies who go". However, I now aim to tell you a little bit about our organisation. The Rural was always the place to go, especially if you had just moved to a new area, as you knew it was one way of making friends and beginning to "belong". We meet on the third Thursday of the month, from September to May, in the Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle at 7.30pm. On these evening we have a demonstration or other form of entertainment, then a cup of tea and a chat with friends. We always have a raffle with each person usually bringing along a small contribution towards this.


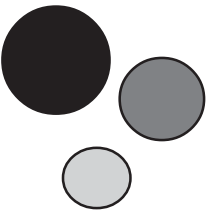
At the moment we are finalising the syllabus for the forthcoming session which begins in September and this will include various interesting topics such as talks, film shows, cookery, musical evenings, flower arranging and so forth. We always have a Christmas meal out with, perhaps, a visit to the panto and an outing in May, sometimes to the theatre with a meal beforehand. We try to arrange as varied a programme as possible to suit everyone. Our meetings are very informal and very friendly. We have heard people say, "Oh, I can't go to that: I can't bake, knit or sew," but I can assure you that this is not the case and none of these attributes is required – just yourself, looking for an enjoyable evening, some pleasant company and usually a laugh.

I thought that through the Strathard News I could perhaps let people know what actually goes on at the Rural and especially reach out to newcomers to the area who would like to meet local people who were perhaps "new" themselves at one time, and have an evening's enjoyment.

All are welcome, so please consider coming along to the first meeting and see for yourselves. Perhaps in the next News I can let you know the entertainment for September.

Margaret Cowan,  
Secretary





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# Ranger's Ramblings

## A View from the Lodge!

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



### Mr Mitchell Has Left The Building

By the time you read this article, one of our most favoured sons, Peter Mitchell, recreational ranger, will have departed these 'shores', seeking fame and fortune (well, fame anyway) in his new position with Scottish Lowlands District. Some will say "not before time", as it now gives the rest of us a chance to hog the limelight, as for over eight years, we have had to "suffer" his incessant good nature, his "unbearably" concise knowledge of all forestry operations, his "annoying" ability to help out at short notice, his "excruciating" special rapport with the visitors (especially the children) and his "irritatingly inventive" creative contributions to the events. More so, his undeniable honesty, his acute sense of humour and, above all, his overwhelming sense of belief in The Lodge left many of us in the shade. Peter has moved on for personal reasons and I can, with a certain amount of selfish reluctance, accept that. However, the loss of his presence here will have an immeasurable impact, and the District Office will do well in unearthing a replacement capable of reaching even half the standards he set.

*Peter: As a friend, and colleague, I would be hard pushed to think of few better. It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know you, and a privilege to have been afforded the opportunity to work with you and I hope you find what you are looking for. Meanwhile, the David Marshall Lodge will be a much smaller place without you.*



Good guy to the last, Peter captured and returned to it's owner, lost dog Amber by using his trouser belt as a lead!

### Rangers Corner

As we approach the long, hot, summer days  
Most of us will begin to seek out some 'rays'  
Whereby, the underlying plan  
Revolves around achieving the ultimate tan  
So, shorts and vests will be the order of the day  
For as long as the sun decides to stay  
Forgive me for thinking this does not entirely compute  
As the advance of the insects is anything but mute  
And the bearing of even a centimetre of skin  
Is meat and veg to the devil within  
The Forest Park offers all that you wish for  
But, at this time of year, I beg to implore  
As you seek to live out the dream  
You pack in your bag some repellent cream  
As for me, I have already made this 'trip'  
Seen the movie and read the script  
And would rather spend the summer hiding in the fridge  
Than face the all-consuming nightmare that is....the midge  
Good luck to you all



### DML Notice Board



#### Kids Summer Nature Club

SAT 5/12/19/26 JULY 11.00 am - 12.30 pm.

An absolute must for all budding forest rangers, between the ages of seven and twelve, who have an interest in nature. Places very limited.

Cost : £ 3.00 per session. Refreshments included.

#### Yoga Days

SAT 12 JULY & SAT 9 AUGUST 10 am-4 pm

Further opportunities to take part in our summer Yoga 'open days'

Cost : £ 30.00 per person. Lunch included.

#### Wild In The Woods

SAT 19 / SUN 20 JULY Check for times.

A wildlife themed weekend, with a variety of talks, walks, activities and displays on offer. On the Saturday, there is a very special chance to join a forest ranger on a BAT WATCH at 8.00 p.m. Cost for this will be £ 5.00 per adult (children under 14 go free, if accompanied) Places for this are limited, and booking is essential. The Sunday Fun Day is a free event, and open to everyone.

#### Heelster Gowdie

SUNDAY 20 JULY 2.30 pm

Third of a series of summer concerts This event is free, but donations are very welcome.

#### The Secret Commonwealth Of Faeries

SUN 27 JULY/SUN 10 AUGUST 12pm-4 pm

A unique happening, based on the Robert Kirk phenomena, designed to raise more than a few surprises. Open to all ages. Picnic included. Check for cost.

#### Wood And Forest Fair

SAT 2 / SUN 3 AUGUST 11 am - 4 pm

On this weekend, The Lodge celebrates, with hands-on demonstrations, all things wooden. Interpretation boards relating to forestry operations will be on display. There will also be a chance to acquire a wood sculpture in the prize raffle. Free, and open to all visitors.

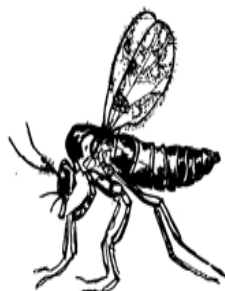
#### First Flight Splash!

SAT 9 AUGUST 4.30 pm - 7.30 pm

An unparalleled opportunity exists with this event to get up close and personal with our osprey chicks, in the company of a forest ranger, as they seek to fledge the nest.

Cost : £ 5.00 per person (under 14's go free, if accompanied). Light refreshments included.

**DML Hotline: 01877 382 258**



# DML PHOTO GALLERY



Newly-weds Valerie Williams and Ewan McNiece, stopped by on June 1st for a photo shoot, much to the delight of the visitors.



*Do we put on a show, or what? - A group of Morris dancers from Bedfordshire descended upon The Lodge recently as part of their Scottish tour*



*Who would have thought 'hens' could fly - Anne Leckie celebrates one of her last days of 'freedom' with friends, after their ordeal on the zip line*



*A clear example the Forestry Commission are willing to extend their employment policy to include the elderly*

## Heelster Gowdie

A sharp reminder that our resident band have been delighting our customers with their special brand of music and humour during the first half of the summer season, and will continue to appear at The Lodge on the third Sunday of every month, until September. In my opinion, there is no finer way to spend a lazy, hazy afternoon than in their company, and The David Marshall Lodge is indeed fortunate to be able to showcase their unique talent on a regular basis.





# School Report.....

## Aberfoyle Primary School

### Nursery Time Capsule

At the beginning of June the oldest child in school and the youngest child in nursery handed over a "Time capsule" to be placed under the concrete floor of the new nursery. The capsule contained a selection of items chosen by all the children, including a photo of all the children in school and nursery and a list of all their names and a school lunch menu. We hope that when this is discovered many years in the future it will give an insight into what things were like at Aberfoyle Primary in 2008.

**STOP PRESS!!**

1-Sophie Anderson P4 won second prize at Drymen show with a beautiful painting. Well done Sophie.

2-"NEPTUNE" won the school sports trophy, on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Well done everyone in Neptune House.

### The National Park Gala

Poppy Smith and Patrick Carranza got to visit the opening of the new home of the National Park in Balloch.

The children got to join in with games, experiments, and paint wildlife pictures on plates. There was a wood carver who carved amazing creatures including hawks, owls, squirrels and thistles. There were many great activities and we would like to thank the National Park rangers for a fantastic day out.

*Poppy Smith (P6)*

### Aberfoyle, Good Enough For The Championship

On the 4th June five boys and five girls from P6/7 took part in the Stirling Athletics championships. There were 26 other schools from around Stirling taking part in the event.

The events and participants were;

**80m run**-Michael O'Connell, Megan Garener

**150m run**-Connor Shearer, Megan Simpson

**600m run**-Stephen McIlvenny, Natasha Wilson

**Javelin** - Jordan Campbell, Kirsty Crawford

**Long Jump** - Lewis Simpson, Megan Patrick.

After all the events were complete the results showed that Aberfoyle came 18th out of the 26 schools. Unfortunately Aberfoyle were not good enough for the 1st prize this year, but next year after a little more training, we hope to go back and win that shield!

*Natasha Wilson (P6)*

## Inversnaid Primary School

### Sports Day with a Difference!

This year, with only four children, Sports Day was looking quite challenging but out of the blue came an invite from somewhere unexpected. Arrochar Primary School, across Loch Lomond at Tarbet, invited us to join their school for Sports Day.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June started quite cloudy but at least it was dry. Cruise Loch Lomond provided our transport for the day and as we waited at Inversnaid Pier the sun broke through.

It was a relaxing and very enjoyable cruise across the Loch, (thank you, Cruise Loch Lomond), far less stressful than travelling along a pot-holed single track road, dodging delivery vans!

The races were fun especially the 'Catch the Train' race. We had to pretend we were late for the train and we had to grab our clothes as we ran along. That sounds easy enough but the trouble was that the clothes were adult size and they didn't fit. That made it really tricky to run as the clothes kept falling off!

The children, staff and parents at Arrochar made us feel very welcome and it was great taking part in the races. We even got an ice lolly at the end of the day!



### Eco Committee Get A Helping Hand

On Wednesday 12th May, Aberfoyle Primary Schools Eco Committee went to visit Dun Dhu garden in Kinlochard. They met Wendy (who looks after the garden) and learnt what vegetables, fruit and herbs they can grow in their new Eco garden back at school. The committee also looked at growing plants in planters as they were made out of recycled wood and Aberfoyle school want to be Eco friendly. We have already started growing plants, fruits and vegetables in our garden and Mrs Crawford has been a great help showing us how to plant everything.

We would also like to thank Wendy for letting us look around Dun Dhu's garden.

*Emily Palau (P5)*

### Ospreys at the David Marshall Lodge

Our osprey chicks are getting their own flight feathers now at the David Marshall Lodge in Aberfoyle. Our resident pair of ospreys hatched out two chicks on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. This adult pair has been coming back to this nest since 2004. The female has a red ring but the male is unringed and we assume he is the same male, since ospreys pair for life. They arrived back from western Africa about 13<sup>th</sup> April and soon set to work repairing the dishevelled nest. They were so good at building the nest up (2ft in fact), that this year that they have managed to obscure the nest cam. This is the camera that allows us to see into the nest cup. So we were left guessing about how many eggs we had and only knew we had chicks, once the female appeared to be feeding something. Luckily we have another camera and now the chicks are easily seen above the rim of the nest and the live pictures can be seen on our plasma screen in the Wildlife Room. These show excellent images of things such as, the male arriving with a fish or the female feeding the two chicks. Come up to the David Marshall Lodge to see, entry to the centre is free (£2 for parking for the day) but please be quick as there are only about 4 weeks left until the chicks fledge. While in the wildlife room you can also see live footage of the Barn Owl chicks, our squirrel feeders where you may see Red Squirrel, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and the Jay. Highlights of the osprey year in 2007 are also shown.

# Welcome to the news from Glendrick Roost

Spring has well and truly sprung and all the animals [and us] are enjoying the wonderful weather we have been having over the last few weeks.

Our "Summer Season" has started at Briarlands, the Strawberry Farm near Stirling. We were offered grazing with shelter for some of the wee ponies and donkeys over the summer season to provide a new attraction at this wonderful Funyard and to give us much needed publicity. Hopefully with the many people that go to the funyard somebody will know somebody who has the necessary 25-30 acres we need to buy to allow us to relocate.

We do have backers to BUY THE LAND - cash is waiting - but as yet none has been found.

The other animals are all outside in their temporary accommodation and our sincere thanks go to all those wonderful people who have offered us grazing until we find our own.

Unfortunately we lost one of our Clydesdales at the beginning of May. Eilidh our beautiful fifteen year old mare died after a long fight against we know not what. After numerous tests all of which showed no problems, diseases or reasons for her huge weight loss she became too weak to carry on and was

found one morning in the field laid down unable to rise. Her whinny when she knew I had come to her will be with me for a long time. I stayed with her on her last journey and cried bucket fulls. I loved my beautiful mare.

On a happier note we have several new residents who have come to spend time with us. Wee Dinky Doo a miniature Shetland yearling filly has moved in with the Shetland ponies and donkeys at Briarlands. Lots of people think she is a new born foal she is so small. We have also taken in four Degus. These fascinating creatures from South America are like nothing I have seen before. We haven't decided what they look like:- they have Chinchilla ears; squirrel faces; gerbil feet and claws; a ratty tail but with hair at the end; chipmunk traits and the most endearing squeaks and whistles. One of our rescued chins has given birth to three babes - two boys and a girl; two of our rescued rabbits have given birth to between them twelve baby buns but two have since died. We have found homes for three

of them; we are keeping two of them as they are so friendly we can use them at the many shows and events we go to and we are looking for homes for the rest. These homes will of course be vetted as most people do not realise how buns should be treated.

We would love to see any of you at the events we will be at over the next few months. Some of these are:-

One weekend a month at Dobbies in Milngavie - the next ones 21/22nd June; 12/13th July.

Doune and Dunblane Show  
Callander Highland Games  
Bridge of Allan Highland Games  
Perth Highland Games  
A BIG THANK YOU for all the tombola items we get handed in on a regular basis.

We desperately need MORE tombola items PLEASE for all these events and more. Any

unwanted present, toiletries, stationary etc etc. Please ring me to collect on the number below.

Volunteers are always needed and experience is not required - just a love of animals and hardwork!!! Training will be given for the many tasks involved.

Please contact me : Mione at 07748 351287

Thank you



## NEW SERVICE FOR PATIENTS

From 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 we will offer an early morning surgery from 7.00am-8.00am once a week either in Aberfoyle OR Buchlyvie Surgery. Consultation will be by appointment only and should be booked in advance. This service is specifically aimed at patients who have difficulty accessing medical services during normal working hours. In addition we have modified existing surgery times in order to provide a service which we think will suit a greater proportion of our patients.

The new surgery times are as follows :-

### NEW FROM THE 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008 CONSULTING HOURS

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Tuesday:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm – 3.00pm	By Appointment
Wednesday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm – 5.30pm	By Appointment
Thursday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
Friday:	7.00am – 8.00am	By Appointment (Alternate Fridays)
	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm – 3.00pm	By Appointment

#### BUCHLYVIE – TEL – 01360 850237

Monday:	7.00am – 8.00am	By Appointment (Alternate Mondays)
	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Tuesday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.30pm – 5.30pm	By Appointment
Wednesday:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Thursday:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Friday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm – 5.00pm	By Appointment

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# Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

## From the Manse ...

In my last parish, they called me Dibley behind my back. They thought I didn't know, of course. Here, I discovered I've been described as a cross between the Vicar of Dibley and Delia Smith - an old Delia Smith, if you please.

Now Dibley I like. In the past vicars and ministers on television were either effete and useless like the one in Dad's Army, or gloomy and useless like the much missed Rev I M Jolly. Geraldine's ability was never in doubt at Dibley, though I have a sneaking suspicion that folk may have spotted another likeness.

But Delia? She's older than me, and they say I am an old Delia. Though someone did suggest that they probably mean it was Delia from a few years ago. Anyway, I am considering a diet (involving lots of prayers - see last month), a bottle of peroxide, and (hurrah) total abandonment of the kitchen.

I'm amused by the comparisons. At least I'm not being likened to Father Dougal, or even Father Ted, in whose bank account those funds were "just resting", but I suppose no one really likes to think they're like someone else. We all like to think we're a one off, an original. It's no different when we are in a group. We don't like being typecast. A group is always greater than the sum of its parts.

In our day churchgoers are an easy target for labels. We do not have a good image. We are seen as outdated, hopelessly naïve and hypocritical (and regarding that last criticism, I would say we come to church because we KNOW we are flawed, not because we think we are perfect!). I suppose you could say we're more doctors of sin, than spin!

Why not try it one Sunday? Churchgoing, I mean, not sin. Why not go to church? Any church. Your minister or priest will be very glad to see you. There you will discover a group of people like any other group of people - some lonely, wanting to make friends; some gregarious people looking for action; some quiet, longing for inspiration; but all will welcome you, but not want to overwhelm you.

We may not be able to lay on the beauty of the Sistine chapel, but the ceilings of our churches are adorned with the dreams and hopes of generations. Why not add yours? It sure would help the sermon pass!

Linda

Service times: Port of Menteith, 10 am  
Aberfoyle, 11.15 am

From the recent door-door collection, the amount raised in the Aberfoyle area was £2921.17. Thanks go to all the volunteers who made this possible.



The **Annual Guild Sale** will be held in Church House on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm**. There will be all the usual stalls including teas with home baking. Admission is £1 which includes tea. The hall will be open on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 7-9pm and on Saturday morning from 10-12. Please come along and give The Guild your support.

# St Mary's Episcopal Church

## A splendid read.....

*St Marys Vestry was delighted recently to host the launch of Louis Stott's new book 'Aberfoyle Slate Quarries'.*

The book provides a fascinating insight into an industry which was indirectly responsible for the rapid growth of Aberfoyle at the end of the nineteenth century. Although quarrying had taken place beforehand, the difficulty of transporting the slate to its market hampered production. Pack horses were used to transport the finished product. As the animals slipped and slid down the steep track from the quarry, many slates were broken. The railway reached the area in 1882, and shortly after a supplementary tramway system was built connecting the railway to the quarry. Incidentally, a portion of the original tramway track has recently been unearthed. The construction of both not only solved the problem of transportation, but enabled a growth in production. In turn, slate quarrymen and their families moved to Aberfoyle, many from Ballachulish on the West Coast, an area of strong Episcopal tradition.

About a hundred workers were involved in quarrying by the 1890s. The majority were accommodated in cottages built at the mouth of the quarry. It quickly became an established settlement that included a school and a church, but inconveniently no shops.

Alas by the 1950s, production at the quarry had dwindled and then ceased altogether. With the exception of the manager's house, the remainder of the quarry village was demolished, eradicating all trace of the quarrymen. This is not strictly true of course, for another building stands as a memorial to the quarry workers: this is of course St Mary's Church that opened in 1895.

Exactly how and why the workers should go to such lengths to build St Mary's remains a mystery. The quarry settlement after all included a church. Today, the walk from the village to the quarry is a steep and uncomfortable climb for anyone other than the fittest. The road that exists today, the Duke's Pass, was built by courtesy of the Duke of Montrose in the 1930s. The road it replaced was even steeper and more tortuous. Why then would the workers be so determined to build a place of worship so far from their homes? During the construction of St Mary's and for over half a century thereafter, worshippers from the quarry made the journey generally by foot and in all weathers: some commitment! Then there is the question of finance. The land for the building was given by the Duke, but how exactly were funds raised for construction? If the sum even in part was provided by quarry families, this was a remarkable gift. The men were paid on a modest piece rate; thus there would have been little money to spare. Much, if not all of the construction was undertaken by the men themselves: thus every moment of leisure would have been sacrificed for many months. No doubt generous benefactors defrayed some of the cost, but nevertheless St Mary's stands today as eloquent testimony to the faith and sheer industry of that generation of Episcopalians. Perhaps those responsible realised that even if the quarry might not last forever, an Episcopalian presence in the area should.

How sad it would be then if we the present generation failed to keep alight the flame kindled by those remarkable men. For this reason St Mary's congregation is embarking upon a renovation project to preserve and gently improve the fruits of their labours. More of this project, and our efforts to raise the monies required anon.

Louis Stott's book (ISBN 1-870542-56-8) is a fine, but inexpensive product of much painstaking research. It is available in the first instance through Stirling's Central Library.



# The Garden

I thought I'd write a bit about climbers this time, so I started jotting down a few notes. It didn't take long to realise what a lot of our garden plants come under this category, and also the benefits of growing them!

Climbers will cover scruffy walls and unsightly oil & gas tanks. They provide shelter for birds to nest, shade for other wildlife like slug-guzzling frogs and toads. Climbers help to add height in a flat garden. You can grow them over arches and pergolas or free standing trellis to separate the garden into 'rooms' thus hiding the vegetable patch, make a private seating area or just give more reason to wander 'round the corner' to see what lies behind. Before I talk about the various types of climbers, let me say one thing: please don't just put an expanding trellis on the wall by the door, plant clematis at it and expect the poor plant to be happy and look good. What happens when it reaches the top of the support and has nothing else to hold on to? I've seen many a sad climber waving about, clinging to itself just as the flowers open when it should be holding the heads up proudly to the sun. If you want something to climb up the house wall choose a self clinging climber like *Hydrangea petiolaris*, *Parthenocissus* (Virginia creeper) or a Boston Ivy: these will colour beautifully in the autumn. Or why not plant a good old evergreen ivy which will not, contrary to common belief, do the wall any harm.

By far, the best way to grow a climber like clematis is to let it grow through another plant. There are a large number of suitable 'wall' shrubs: strong woody shrubs that will stand alone or beside a wall or fence. *Escallonia*, *Pyracantha*, *Ceanothus*, *Camellia*, *Forsythia* and similar are wonderful flowering shrubs in their own right but they also make excellent hosts for climbing plants. These 'wall' shrubs are great if you don't have much of a fence for a boundary. Within two or three years of planting you'll have a shrubby border for honeysuckle and clematis to grow through.

I can't write about this subject without including climbing and rambling roses (rambling tend to have more flexible stems - easier to train). Climbing roses should not be pruned in their first or second year. Let them develop a strong leading stem or two first. What a huge choice we have when buying climbing/rambling roses. Some will flower for long periods so choose a few different varieties and you can have roses in flower from the beginning of June through till October. Climbing/rambling roses make an excellent framework to grow clematis and honeysuckle through. I'd like to point out that, when deciding what rose or honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) to buy, you should check the label. We expect these flowers to be scented. Unless it says fragrant or very fragrant you may find some hardly smell at all.

If you want to cover an eyesore quickly, a Russian Vine (*Polygonum*) is just the thing. It has lovely fresh foliage and in July and August produces 'tails' of white flowers. A common name for this is 'mile a minute' so beware - it does grow very fast.

Sweet peas and nasturtiums are the obvious annual climbers but why not try some of the more unusual, like Black Eyed Susan or Chilean Glory Flower.

One climbing plant that is really worth trying to grow is *Tropaeolum speciosum*. This is a unique beauty with tiny nasturtium-like flowers, followed by dark blue/purple berries that the birds will enjoy. *Tropaeolum* is sometimes tricky to establish: grown from a tiny corm, it should not be disturbed too much when transferring from the pot into the ground and never disturbed after that. Mark the place and don't hoe or rake near that spot. *Tropaeolum speciosum* really has to be grown through a shrub or tree (where the corm will be protected from accidental damage). I'd say there is nowhere better for this little gem to grow than through an evergreen conifer. So if you have a *Leylandii* hedge you're not fond of plant one or two of these and it may become a favourite spot in your garden.



...by Fleur

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# Life On Mars

by Dougie McPherson

The older you get, the more you tend to reminisce. It would seem to be a fact of life. Only the other day a friend and I were talking of singular events that had left lasting impressions in our lives, of recollecting what we had been doing, where we had been and the shock of realising what had happened. I'm not talking of personal or family tragedies of which everyone has sadly experienced, but rather the national or international incident that reaches across societies and leaves the world shocked. We all have one particular incident living on in our memories. My friend and I, perhaps being of the same age, have the same recollection of an event that left us shocked and which has stayed with us throughout our lives. On that fateful night we had been at the dancing....

In our younger days, my friends and I went dancing in Glasgow and it was so much different to what the youngsters have now. Even discos are old hat today, the word is 'clubbing' I believe. In those days of yore we had the dance halls, there were many of them and we went to nearly all at one time or another. So, like most conversations, that between my friend and I digressed into the subject of our teen years and the dance halls we had frequented. I recollect my first visit had been with work colleagues to a dance hall outside the city centre, the Flamingo, popularly called the 'Flaming O' in Paisley Road West at Halfway (so called because of its location equidistant between Glasgow city centre and Paisley). The dance floor proved to be a problem to me right away – it was circular! This was not how it was supposed to be. Let me explain.

In our schooldays we had been given dancing lessons, fairly basic, mind, but probably with an idea that it might improve our social skills in later life and make gentlemen of coarse young louts. So we were forced to dance with the girls in our class in the gym under the supervision of a teacher who tried to show us the steps. It was horrendous, it was embarrassing, and you always seemed to end up with the ugliest partner. Probably she thought

the same. 'You're a terrible dancer. I don't want to dance with you!' Then, in a loud screech, 'Miss, he's a terrible dancer! I don't want to dance with him!' Lord, it was hell, and it almost put me off girls for life – but I did persevere. The thing being the gym was rectangular so, whatever the dance, you had to take a right – angled turn when you reached the end of the gym. It meant that when you finally left school and into the world of dance halls, you still thought in squares and right angles. So, my one visit to the flamingo with its circular dance floor was not a success.

Before we finally decided to settle down and stick to the city centre halls, my friends and I made one brief foray, for whatever reason escapes me, to the Trocadero in Hamilton. Remembering, in those days we did not have access to cars, every trip was by public transport. All I recollect about the Trocadero was an island in the middle of the floor with tubs of plastic flowers and one song in particular, the Honeycombs playing 'Have I The Right'. I must admit to having had the 'hots' for the female drummer, she was a beauty. Otherwise, the place left us cold, and it was many miles from the hub of civilization, the east end of Glasgow, our neck of the woods. Thus, we left forever the girls of Lanarkshire, with the blue woad on their faces and the bones through their noses, deciding to return to civilization as we knew it, to Glasgow city centre dance venues. There were a few we never visited such as the Dennistoun Palais, a bit out of our way, the Plaza in Victoria Road, too far south, and the Albert which, to put it kindly, we considered might have suited our parents. This left us with the four city centre halls that were, each in its way, real 'humdingers'.

We took a couple of visits to the Barrowland, which could be lively. The establishment had a long flight of concrete – note the word 'concrete' – stairs leading from the entrance up to the dance floor. Frequently some individual, presumably out of order and displaying anti-social tendencies, would be quickly grabbed by several of the numerous bouncers, frog-marched to the top of the stairs and thrown or 'hurled' down them. Fortunately, these individuals did seem to survive this descent

to the extent of frequently exchanging hard-hitting banter with their assailants. Inconsequently, I often thought at the time – what about their coats in the cloakroom? How would they get them back? But with experience came the insight that many did not go to the dancing with coats, even in midwinter. They bred them tough in those days.

But finally, our parents discovered that we were going to the Barrowland and hit the roof. We were not to go again. In those days we did as we were told. So we went to the Locarno ballroom, situated at the Charing Cross end of Sauchiehall Street. Oh, what fun! It was a tad reminiscent of David Bowie's song, 'Life On Mars' about 'sailors, fighting on the dance floor...'. It did have a large dance floor but what was unusual about it was around three sides of the floor, was an upper balcony with bars and tables. Also, another unusual feature was that not only did you have some of the rougher elements in Glasgow there on a Saturday night, you invariably had a large contingent of American sailors from Holy Loch in attendance, Dunoon being a bit quiet on a Saturday night, one supposes. It made for a lively mixture. There you were, dancing with a young lady, a 'burd', while at the same time avoiding running fights between the two above groups whilst some tables and chairs were thrown from the balcony onto the dance floor. After a few visits, we decided it was a bit too 'lively' for our tastes and moved on and went to that legend that is the Highlanders.

Ah, the Highlanders' Institute – and on a Saturday night! Close by Charing Cross, it was a popular venue for those of the Highland Diaspora and others that liked a good 'knees up'. It could be strenuous and the girls, strapping girls from the north made sure they got you up and reeling with such genteel dances as 'Strip The Willow'. It was wild and lively, but also sociable and fairly carefree. I've seen men standing in the queue refused entry though stone cold sober and others, being propped up by their mates, allowed entry with not the flicker of an eyelid. Possibly they were looking for people who wanted to enjoy themselves, nothing more.

But the best is the last, the most refined – if such a word is possible for a Glasgow



dance hall – and one with the least aggro, was the Majestic – the ‘Magic Stick’ to its patrons. Yes, they had bouncers at the door, but there was no frisking, no heavy-handed tactics. If you were obviously under the weather, it was a polite, ‘Not tonight, son.’ Fair enough, you walked away. It was an excellent venue, the only problem being if and when you wanted to get a girl up to dance. The girls stood to one side of the dance floor, against the right hand wall and ten or fifteen deep. It was a daunting spectacle because invariably the girl you fancied was at the back. They did this to show disdain and unconcern and you had to push your way through the plainer girls at the front to reach these lovely creatures, asking them, whilst shouting above the music, if they wanted to dance, often only to get a bored shake of the head resulting in an embarrassed return through the crowds of curious girls and back to your mates. But the dancing did improve during these few years and away from school. A few of us took dancing lessons but kept quiet about it as it was still considered a bit sissy. Changed days! Thereafter we went back to the dance halls but in the press you could hardly execute a quickstep or a waltz and soon returned to the old crowded shuffle. The only difference was, although you still stood on your partner’s toes, you did not feel an apology was due as it was probably her fault. It was certainly not yours! But that was over half a lifetime away and though it might not have been Mars, it was certainly another world and, to return to the original conversation my friend and I had, it was at that time, on one particular Friday evening in November, returning home from a night at the dancing when my father told me president Kennedy had been assassinated. I still recollect how the news hit me, indeed everyone. Way back then assassination was uncommon, suicide bombers and aircraft hijackers a horror of the future, still to come. It is the one occasion, perhaps the only one, that I remembered where I was and what I had been doing, along with so many of my generation. From that one event all seemed to change. Sadly, we are in a different world now.



## Days Like This Project

I am writing to let you know about Days Like This, an exciting nationwide project run by Scottish Book Trust and BBC Radio Scotland, that may be of interest to you, your staff and other organisations you work with!

Days Like This will give people across Scotland the chance to be a part of the nation’s history by writing about a special day in their life which made a strong impression on them. The project aims to gather thousands of extraordinary tales, from born-and-bred Scots to newly-arrived immigrants, from Moffat to Orkney.

To take part in Days Like This, all people need to do is write about a day in their life that was a bit extraordinary: It could be the day they didn’t get married, or the day they got lost in a supermarket. It could be a childhood memory or something that happened yesterday. If the story is true and centres on a single day, we want to hear it!

Author Irvine Welsh, broadcaster Hardeep Singh Kohli, mountaineer Jamie Andrew, actress Siobhan Redmond, percussionist Evelyn Glennie and Idlewild frontman Roddy Woomble have joined the project as celebrity curators, writing and recording their own story as an inspiration for people to do the same.

Anyone can send a story - content is what matters! Stories should be no longer than 1,000 words and can be about anything as long as it’s true! All stories will appear on the BBC website for everyone to read. The celebrity panel will choose their favourites to be recorded and discussed in a series of radio programmes and published in a book in 2009. The deadline is: 1 November 2008

Submit your story via our website here or send us a typed copy by post to:

Days Like This,  
BBC Scotland,  
The Tun,  
111 Holyrood Road,  
Edinburgh.  
EH8 8PJ



Badger goes ‘nuts’ in Inversnaid



Wild Cat spotted in Inversnaid

## Milton

Hello Children,

School holidays are here at last. I really do like going to school and learning all sorts of new things but I like holidays even more.

There are so many games to play, places to see and adventures to be had, I hardly know where to begin. It is a good job that our summer days are so long that there is hardly any night-time. There are many new places to explore, even in Aberfoyle. A secret place, where nobody ever went, was the Bailey Nicol Jarvie gardens. Long neglected and overgrown, it was definitely great for playing hide-and-seek.

Once my sister, Braeval, was so well hidden that we didn't find her for hours. Not that the rest of us were looking too hard to find her!

Now the old gardens are getting a good clear-up, with people working hard to restore the river bank to its former glory. A great deal of the undergrowth has been cleared away and new footpaths have appeared, as if by magic. Now we can actually see the famous Poker Tree in all its glory, the iron poker hanging by a chain from one of the branches. This is said to be the weapon used by Bailey Nicol Jarvie in his fight with Rob Roy MacGregor, snatched from the fire when it was red-hot and almost setting Rob Roy's kilt on fire! Rob easily disarmed the Bailey and threw the glowing poker out of the door of the inn and it landed in the oak tree. I wonder if this is the same poker? If it is, it has been hanging there for a long time.

The poker is not the only bit of old iron that has been uncovered in the lost garden. David Coleman was busy opening up one of the new paths when he discovered a railway line, not the sort of thing you expect to find in any garden. This, it seems, is part of the track which carried trucks full of Aberfoyle slate from the quarry to the station in the village. Grandpa Otter can remember the time when trains could take people to the shops in Glasgow and Stirling. That must have been fun, sitting in a carriage behind a huge steam engine puffing out great big clouds of steam and smoke. Much more exciting than going by bus.

On the first day of the school holiday we got on the postbus to Inversnaid, to see how poor old George the Hare was getting on after his awful scare. A few weeks ago our friend was almost cooked alive in a huge fire that swept across the hillside, from Royal Cottage to the cross-roads at Stronachlachar. One minute George was nibbling newly sprouted heather shoots, the next moment his tail was on fire!

George bounded for the nearest water and dived in, normally he hates getting wet but this was an emergency. The fire brigade eventually put out the fire and George lived to tell the tale, slightly singed but otherwise quite unhurt. You will have seen the television advert, warning of the dangers of playing with matches. Be warned, fire can be extremely dangerous, just ask George!

Bye for now,  
Milton.



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### Sailability Day at Loch Venachar

Throughout the summer Active Stirling and Loch Venachar Sailing Club are hosting a Come and Try days for people with a disability.

Active Stirling Sports Development Officer Lauren MacTaggart, said: "Loch Venachar Sailing Club is situated at the heart of the Trossachs in central Scotland, and the clubs philosophy is to make sailing available to all and as such they pride themselves on being a real family club."

The dates of the programme are 5, 9, 19, 23 July and 9 August. The dates are a mixture of Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Everyone attending will have the opportunity to be taken out by a qualified RYA instructor. To register for the day please contact Active Stirling on 01786 432323 for an application form.



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## NOT HERE.... BUT NEAR!

### Church Bell Rings Out Again

Back in the summer of 2006, a wedding was being celebrated in St Andrew's Episcopal Church in Callander and when an usher asked if he could ring the church bell, there was a strange clunking sound and the bell rope came away in his hands! Local builder Stephen Macdonald, who had solved a bell problem at Trossachs Kirk, went up on the roof to investigate and was horrified to discover that the 'lug' of the bell had broken and the bell was sitting very precariously on the ledge of the bell turret. It could so very easily have fallen in through the (recently restored) roof and injured someone. Stephen was fortunately able to manoeuvre it into a safer position and take some photographs. These we sent by email to a bell founder in Loughborough. He confirmed that the breaking of the lug, possibly by metal fatigue, was quite a normal occurrence for that type of casting and a bell of that age (presumably contemporary with the church and therefore almost 150 years old!).

The next stage was to bring the bell down to ground level, using a "cherry-picker", and the muscle of some of Stephen's friends, including local joiner and fireman Keith Corrieri. It was sent down to Loughborough but Stephen was asked to go up on the roof several more times to take precise measurements for the new castings: he remarked that he felt like the Hunchback of Notre Dame!

Eventually the repaired bell arrived back and was rehung by Stephen and crew without charge in time for Christmas 2007. The cost of the repair was met by the Adie family in memory of local nursery man John "Jock" Adie, who passed away on 30 May 2007.

A rededication ceremony took place on Sunday 15 June 2008, at which Bishop David Chillingworth blessed the bell in the presence of all those who had seen through and contributed to its restoration. It is being rung each Sunday by Captain Neil Baillie Hamilton and Eliana Pywell.

### Callander kickers bring home the medals

Callander Taekwondo club again did us proud by bringing home no fewer than 9 medals at the recent 21st TTA championships held in Coatbridge against clubs from Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. This is a great achievement for all the students who entered the competition and another proud day for instructor Duncan Irvine, who said, "The club is really buzzing at the moment with enthusiasm at the future in front of us."

Alasdair Cox won gold and silver in the competition: only his second competition in the TTA and the 2nd time he has won Gold and Silver. He is currently training for international competitions. See below for information on Alasdair's 1st international competition in Malaysia. Danielle Kelly again won gold: this is her 7th gold medal in a row. Danielle is currently training for her black belt. This will be her biggest challenge in her Taekwondo life. Liam Muir won gold in the Children's category beating 3 opponents with decisive points victories in each bout winning 9-2 in all his fights - a great achievement for Liam, a blue belt who beat a black belt in the final.

Conan Irvine won 2 medals, Gold and Bronze. Conan is a black belt and has been training since he was 5 years old and became a black belt at 10. Now 14 he is turning into a fine young adult. Calum Glen won 3 fights all by a clear 7 points in each and won the final 7-0. This is gold to add to Calum's growing trophy haul of medals. Calum is currently training for his black belt which he plans to do early next year.

Michael Taylor won Silver in his weight category and Owen Horne won Bronze. These two will rise in the future and soon be bringing home the Golds again.

As mentioned Alasdair Cox will be going to his 1st international competition in July in Malaysia. As you can imagine this will be a great experience for a young 14 year old and also a great expense. If you would like to sponsor Alasdair for his trip or make any donations please let us know. You can contact me by email: [DuncanIrvine@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:DuncanIrvine@blueyonder.co.uk) or by phone: 07713 193 841 or Alasdair's mother, Hilary Robertson, by email: [hrobertson@lineone.net](mailto:hrobertson@lineone.net) or phone 01877 376 385. Alternatively, you could pass any donations into the McLaren Leisure Centre in a sealed envelope, cheques payable to Callander Taekwondo Club.

Thanks in advance to all who help this young man on his journey.

The Callander branch of the Traditional Taekwondo Association led by Grandmaster Loh continues to grow in stature within the TTA. Our training venue is at McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander. If you want to hear what our students are saying about us visit our website and check out their quotes on why they do Taekwondo as opposed to other sports.

If you would like further information on Taekwondo and the TTA call

01324 472635; 0771 3193841 or visit our website [www.callander-taekwondo.co.uk](http://www.callander-taekwondo.co.uk) and drop us an email. Make sure you check out our student quotes and see how much they enjoy Taekwondo.

Regards,

Duncan Irvine

Taekwondo Instructor

### Scribbler's Picnic changes

This year's Scribbler's Picnic has moved from its previous June date to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August at Stirling County Rugby Club grounds, Bridgehaugh, Causewayhead Road, Stirling..

This year as well as inviting local charities and community groups to participate in raising funds for themselves craft groups/individuals and commercial organisations are welcome to use the event for raising funds and awareness of their activities.

Anyone who wants to help the small committee's efforts in raising funds for its five cancer charities will be made most welcome. More information on the Scribbler's Picnic and our charities are on the website

[www.scribblerspicnic.com](http://www.scribblerspicnic.com) or can be obtained by telephoning the Treasurer at 01324-478213.



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#### Advertising Costs

40mm x 37mm	£5
40mm x 75mm	£10
75mm x 75mm	£20
152mm x 40mm	£20
190mm x 190mm	£30

## One Stop Shop for Farmers Launched

A ground-breaking new one-stop-shop which will cut red tape and bureaucratic burdens for farmers and other rural land managers was launched today at the Royal Highland Show. The new service – Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services (SEARS) – will result in:

- almost 2,000 fewer inspections to farms in the first year due to better co-ordination of visits between the nine public organisations involved
- a reduction in the burden of information provision on land managers as public bodies will share relevant data to avoid information having to be submitted more than once
- a 24/7 contact centre and web portal to ensure easy access to information

Launching the new service, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Richard Lochhead said: "We are committed to making government in Scotland more effective. And Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services (SEARS) will do just that.

"SEARS will reduce duplication, bureaucracy and overlap and in turn deliver greater efficiency, effectiveness and, importantly, speed of delivery. "The new service aims to improve the experience of rural land managers in dealing with the nine public bodies involved. By October next year SEARS organisations will have reduced the number of separate visits and inspections to rural land managers by 2,000. This should in turn reduce the burden the previous amount of visits placed on this vital sector.

Minister for Environment Michael Russell, who has chaired the project reference group and steered the project to today's launch, said: "SEARS will speed up delivery by reducing process delays. New procedures have been worked up to streamline internal consultation and joint guidance on specific activities, such as bracken spraying, where previously there was unnecessary overlap and duplication. "It is fantastic what has been achieved so far. The service will be more user-friendly. Access to information and advice will also be improved through a 24/7 contact centre and a web portal that brings together details of the main services provided by the SEARS bodies and relevant contacts."

Dr Campbell Gemmell, the Chief Executive of SEPA who chairs the SEARS frontline delivery project board said: "For the SEARS family, the past year has been both challenging and exciting. We have worked extremely well together and discovered new ways of co-operating in order to deliver both a better experience for our rural customers as well as our various environmental responsibilities. We have developed what I believe to be a strong and credible package of actions, based on a collective understanding of the issues facing customers and service providers. This has benefited increasingly from engagement with our customers and through regular continuing dialogue and using the customer research material we have now received, we are developing further ideas for implementation. "We have achieved a lot, but there remains, of course, much to be done. Our priority for the next few months will be to embed the SEARS philosophy throughout our nine organisations. We will also be looking for further opportunities to simplify our processes and combine our efforts, whilst maintaining the various specialist services that land managers, farmers and foresters continue to want and need."

## Search For Provost's Civic Award Nominations

NOMINATIONS are being sought for Stirling's 2008 prestigious Provost Civic Awards. The Provost's Civic Award is given to individuals or organisations who have made significant contributions to the life of local communities, or who have achieved national recognition in their field, over the last 24 months. Stirling Provost Fergus Wood is inviting local people to nominate Stirling's outstanding citizens under eight categories of award: Business (large or small), Arts and Culture, Sport, Academic, Community, Volunteer Sector, International Relations and Special Achievement. Both individuals and groups can be nominated for a Civic Award.

Provost Fergus Wood, who received an award himself in 2002 for 'International Relations', said: "These awards give me the chance to highlight the good work of fellow citizens; whether from the city or the rural area, for the outstanding contribution they make to Stirling. Our communities are enriched by their efforts and I am looking forward to honouring our unsung heroes for their sterling work."

Anyone can nominate someone for an award and the closing date for nominations is Monday July 14, 2008. Provost Wood will present the awards at a gala dinner in Stirling Castle on Friday November 7, 2008. This is the eighth year of the Provost's Awards Scheme, which was first established in 1998, and is held every two years.

Nomination Forms are available from The Provost's Office, Corporate Services, Stirling Council, Room 55 Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET, on (01786) 443380 or email [houstonj2@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:houstonj2@stirling.gov.uk)



### Trossachs Carpet Cleaning Services



Trossachs Carpet Cleaning Services is an upholstery and carpet cleaner service offering services throughout Aberfoyle and the Trossachs. The services we offer include:

**Special and contract cleaning services**  
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Spray extraction and spray cleaning are the most effective ways of carrying out upholstery and carpet cleaner services. This specialist style of cleaning consists of spraying a cleaning agent into the carpet or upholstery which is then instantly extracted again leaving it clean.

For more information on the services we have to offer please do not hesitate to contact us now on

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## FORTH VALLEY ADVOCACY

Volunteers needed – You can make a difference!

### What is Forth Valley Advocacy?

We provide an independent advocacy service for people living in the Forth Valley Area. We provide advocacy for older people and people with mental health issues.

### Who needs me?

Older people in NHS continuing care and other Community settings, i.e. Care Homes. They may not have regular contact with family or friends or may need extra support. By volunteering, you can help them to improve their quality of life.

### What would I need to do?

Spend an hour a week with your older person on a regular basis, ensuring that their views and opinions are listened to. We provide training, support and advice. Travel expenses will be paid and it doesn't affect your benefits.

### To find out more, please contact:

Lynn Gibson, Volunteer Co-ordinator,  
Forth Valley Advocacy,  
1 The Bungalows, Larbert, FK5 4SZ.  
Telephone: (01324) 557070  
Email: [lynn.gibson@nhs.net](mailto:lynn.gibson@nhs.net)

## Help Wanted Aberfoyle Area

Part-time help wanted for weekend home

1. **Housekeeper:** one day a week for cleaning and other domestic work. Opportunity for additional days when family is visiting.

2. **Maintenance/Handyman:** one day a week for routine house maintenance and odd jobs. Opportunity for additional days depending on skills and interest. Flexible on days worked. Salary depending on prior experience.

References preferred.

Please contact Susie on  
020 7 103 1608

## DIY/GRASS LIVERY AVAILABLE



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## Forth Inn Events Diary

### JULY

Sat 19th – Karaoke in The Wallace Bar Fun Starts 9pm

• • • • •

Sun 27th – Pub Quiz in The Wallace Bar Starts 9pm. Prize for winning team.

### AUGUST

Sat 16th – Karaoke in The Wallace Bar Fun Starts 9pm

• • • • •

Sun 31st – Pub quiz in The Wallace Bar, starts 9pm. Prize for winning team.

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

## flat to let

Newly renovated, good sized 2 double bedroomed flat in central Aberfoyle, close to amenities. Lots of storage space and with a small garden area. Lovely aspect, bright, sunny and south facing great views. £475 Furnished or part furnished negotiable.

Email [i.davisonporter@btopenworld.com](mailto:i.davisonporter@btopenworld.com) or phone 07931 161625

## Aberfoyle Toddlers

Every Wednesday from 10 -12pm  
Aberfoyle memorial hall  
The more the merrier!!

Julie Glen Tel 01877 382 296

## Happy Retirement

“Richard MacCallum (now more famously known as Bilko, as a result of the orders he has been dishing out) retired on Friday, 27 June after almost fifty years in the plumbing trade. We hope that he manages to keep his pipes and drains unchoked and has a long and healthy retirement.”

## Mixed Seafood Chowder

### INGREDIENTS:

1oz Butter  
1oz Flour  
½ Tablespoon Tomato Puree  
1 Pint Fish Stock  
1 Pint Milk  
½ Leek Chopped  
1 Carrot Diced  
1 Potato Diced  
¼ Onion Diced  
8 oz Mixed Seafood  
Salt and White Pepper



### METHOD:

Warm the milk and fish stock.  
Melt the butter, add the flour and stir together, add the tomato paste.  
Gradually add the milk stirring constantly to avoid lumps. When all the liquid is in add all the vegetables, salt and pepper.  
Allow to cook for approx 20 mins.  
Lastly add the fish and cook for 5 mins.  
Check seasoning and serve.  
Salmon, Smoked Haddock, Prawns, Mussels and Cod are suggestions of fish to use but you can use your own specific favourites.

sponsored by The Forth Inn

## Aberfoyle Golf Club

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October

A Gents Open Stroke Play competition will be held on **both** dates. Tee off times are available from 8.00am till 2.00pm  
Call the clubhouse on 01877 382497 to book your time, or e-mail [secretary@aberfoylegolf.co.uk](mailto:secretary@aberfoylegolf.co.uk)  
Entry Fee £10 each.

If you wish to take out an annual subscription please complete the information slip and post it to: The Treasurer, Strathard News, Garrison Cottage, Inversnaid, FK8 3TU.

Cheques for £12 made payable to *Strathard News*

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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**



Volkswagen Golf 1.6 FSi S 5 Door,  
(06/56) 6 Speed in Black. Air Con,  
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Nissan X-Trail 2.2 DCi Sport (05/05)  
18,900 Miles, As New **£12,895**



Volvo C30 2.0D SportPack (07/07)  
30,000 Miles in Metallic Silver/White  
**£14,750.00**



Range Rover Sport 2.7 HSE (07/07)  
4,500 Miles Rimini Red with  
Champagne Leather **£37,995.00**



Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5 door (05/05)  
A/C, CD, 26,000 Miles in Grey  
**£6,250.00**



Volvo V70 2.4 DSE (05/05) Manual in  
Ruby Pearl with Black Leather, 34,000  
Miles, FSH **£12,250.00**



Fiat Punto 1.2 (05/05) Silver, 32,000  
Miles **£3,750.00**



Toyota Hi-Lux VX 280 (05/05) in  
Dark Blue Metallic, 60,000 Miles  
**£7,995.00 + VAT**



Ford Focus C-Max TDCi Zetec (06/56)  
8,500 Miles in Grey Metallic  
**£8,750.00**



Peugeot 307 HDi SE 5 Door (04/54)  
73,000 Miles FSH **£4,500.00**

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

Images for illustration purpose only