

issue 47  
october 2008  
**FREE**  
donations  
welcome

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#### Deadline Dates for submissions

issue 48 - 23 nov  
(XMAS issue)

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When you place an advert with the Strathard News we will continue to run it unless you tell us to stop or replace it.

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on 01877 382211**

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# STRATHARD NEWS

The Voice of your Community  
www.strathardnews.com

## Aberfoyle Motors – Big Lottery Fund Bid Underway!



Retaining garage and fuel facilities in Aberfoyle is still a matter of concern for many local people, and the abandonment of the lottery grant application in 2007, when it seemed impossible to go forward despite much hard work, caused huge disappointment at the time.

However in the background the possibility of buying Aberfoyle Motors has continued to be explored by members of the community, and the good news is that Strathard Community Trust, which still holds some funding to assist with lottery bid preparation, has recently agreed to back a further full lottery bid by the community. This would involve a grant of up to £750,000, primarily to buy the garage and all its assets including the buses. We are applying under the *Growing Community Assets* category, and our initial outline application has recently been approved by the Big Lottery Fund. This is the green light to proceed with a full lottery bid, which we need to do as soon as possible. The reasons for retaining the garage and buses within the community have been well-recognised, and continuation of garage services and improving public transport are both main priorities identified in the recent Community Action Plan.

- Loss of fuelling facilities doesn't help local people or visitors, and would threaten services based in or near Aberfoyle which need a fuel supply.
- Aberfoyle Coaches has recently been developing more local bus routes, which is excellent news, particularly with the loss of all our Postbuses now confirmed.
- With garage and buses centrally located in Aberfoyle and owned by the community, other related services of benefit to the whole local area could be introduced.

A lot of issues outstanding after the previous bid attempt have now been resolved, but from the Big Lottery Fund's point of view a significant element missing the last time was the full involvement and support of the local community. We cannot go ahead with this project, no matter how promising it seems, unless there is a lot more evidence of community backing. Based on the feedback received on questionnaires back in 2007, this support does seem to exist, but we need to be able to prove that.

So we are running a **BIG Garage Open Day** on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October from 12noon to 5pm, and drop-in sessions during the following weeks in various locations. Those will give you the opportunity to support the bid in whatever way you feel you can, and to have a say and involvement in what the community could do if it were to own the garage and bus fleet.

The Big Lottery Fund will be interested to see if there is indeed local support, and may even pay us a visit on the 26<sup>th</sup>, when we are planning a lively event really worth attending. We're hoping it will be a real community day with music, refreshments, activities and competitions for children, so if you have any offers or ideas for stalls or activities, donations of raffle prizes, help with children's activities etc., we would be really pleased to hear from you as soon as possible (see contact details at the end).

So do please come along and:

- **find out more** about the Big Lottery bid.
- **tell us what you would like** to see happening with the garage and coaches.
- **volunteer your help and support** – we have a big task ahead and everybody will be welcome to join in.

continued on page 2.....

• **have a look at the assets** we want to buy – we have chosen that day since most of the bus fleet can be on show, and you can also have a good look at the premises, including the workshop.

• **help to name the project** - the Big Lottery bid title is 'Aberfoyle Transport Resources Community Initiative' but we really need a better long-term name for the community company which would run the garage and coach business.

• **take advantage of some 'special deals'** on offer just for the 26<sup>th</sup> - we are working on these with Aberfoyle Motors, which has offered this as a contribution to our campaign, as well as opening its doors to host the event.

More details will be delivered to every household in the area before the 26<sup>th</sup>; but here are answers to some of the questions that have been raised most often recently.



**Is a bid viable this time?** Yes – the plan is now to buy both garage and buses and to run both for the benefit of the community. We have worked out a way to access more lottery funding compared to the last bid attempt.

**Will the petrol be any cheaper?** That will be one of our main targets – to get fuel prices down and quantities sold up, and to help stop unnecessary refuelling trips. How much would we have to put the petrol price down to make it more attractive to local people? Do please do come along on 26<sup>th</sup> October and tell us!

**Why would we want a coach business?** Many people may not be aware that Aberfoyle Coaches, as well as school runs, now also has three scheduled local bus runs, with a weekend evening service due to start shortly, and also provides various other community buses in the wider Stirling area. A community business would focus on continuing to meet local transport needs.

**Why do you want me to be involved?** The bid will go no further if there is not enough broad-based community support, so every expression of interest and offer of help by local individuals or businesses is

really important. That could just be telling us you support the idea of buying the garage, or offering your help with the Open Day or bid process, or by fund-raising. We need to raise 5% of the funding from within the community by way of loans, donations or contributions in kind.

**Want to know more?** Come along to the **BIG Garage Open Day** or one of the drop-in sessions, or get in touch about any aspect of the bid by phoning 387200 or emailing [transport@strathard.org.uk](mailto:transport@strathard.org.uk). Or talk to Ian Marshall (chairman of Strathard Community Trust), Ros Dingwall in the Post Office, or bid co-ordinator Fiona McEwan from Strathard Community Council.

**And finally .....** This will be your lottery bid, your garage, your buses. If local people don't back the bid it will not go forward. So if you are interested at all in retaining the garage, providing local employment and further developing useful community services, please do give your support to this last possible attempt.

**'BIG Garage Open Day'**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**  
**from 12noon to 5pm**

### FLU CLINIC DATES

#### Aberfoyle

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2 - 4pm  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2 - 4pm

#### Buchlyvie

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2 - 4pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2 - 4pm

For patients who are:

- Over 65
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Or suffer from one or more of the following conditions:

- Asthma
- Copd
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Coronary heart disease



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## Police Community Website

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



### Drugs Warrant

17th, September 2008

On Friday 12th September 2008 a drugs warrant was executed by police in Aberfoyle where a quantity of drugs were recovered. The warrant was issued by Stirling Sheriff Court after numerous amounts of intelligence were received regarding a male being involved in drug dealing. As this warrant was community intelligence based it demonstrates the strong local feeling against drug dealers and users. This will not be tolerated and any person involved in such activity should be aware that they will be a targeted by police.

### Bike Security

27th, September 2008

With over 150, 000 bikes stolen each year in the United Kingdom (Home Office Figures), I would like to offer any resident the opportunity to have their bicycle security marked. It involves having some information printed on your bike in special invisible ink which would allow the Police to trace the rightful owner in the event that the bike was lost or stolen. If you would like to take up this offer, call (01786) 456000.

STOP THE THIEVES TAKING YOUR BIKE FOR A RIDE!!

## Free Competition

Every month Trossachs.co.uk are running a competition from their website, with fabulous prizes for the lucky winners. This month's prize is a family ticket for the Hire Wire Adventure Go Ape located at the David Marshall Lodge in Aberfoyle. The prize is valid for one year so there's plenty of time to decide what to do with it, if you are the lucky winner. Entry is FREE, and don't worry if you get the answers wrong, you get another chance. To increase your chances of winning why not get your family and friends to enter as well. Just log on to [trossachs.co.uk](http://trossachs.co.uk) and click on Free Competition to start. Good Luck!

**Strathard Community Council meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnaid Primary School. The next meeting will be held in Kinlochard on Thursday 6th November at 7.30pm.**



**Half an hour prior to the meetings a local District Councillor (Tony Finch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues and concerns. Community Councillors**

<u>Ward 1 Aberfoyle</u>	<u>Ward 2 Kinlochard</u>	<u>Ward 3 Inversnaid</u>
Ros Dingwall	Fiona McEwan	Scott Provan
John Clow	Maureen Campbell	Andre Goulancourt
Geraint Short	Sue Russell	Ralph Wolfe
(1 vacancy)	(1 vacancy)	

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.

## Strathard Community Trust

local projects local people

### 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

### Directors:

Ian Marshall	Chair/Director
Ian Davison Porter	Vice-chair/Director
Diana Carmody	Treasurer/Director
John Clow	Director
Ros Dingwall	Director
Rev Richard Grosse	Director
Jimmy Quinn	Director

### Meetings:

Open to members. Check notice boards for dates.

**Contact:** [info@strathard-ct.org.uk](mailto:info@strathard-ct.org.uk) [www.strathard-ct.org.uk](http://www.strathard-ct.org.uk)

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## RSPB Inversnaid

Autumn has started but with the dreich August weather, it appeared to start even earlier than usual. However, in a dry spell our moth and butterfly man Nick Cooke managed to discover dark green fritillary on the reserve and add this species to our already impressive list. A superbly marked butterfly, it is identified by the dark green underside wing.

The golden eagles have been showing well yet again. One Saturday, just as I was leaving the reserve, I spotted a pair opposite the Garrison. Following them on my homeward journey I managed to get great views through the telescope of the male when he landed on a rock, and then they continued up the length of Loch Arklet and went out of view over the hills. Having had the opportunity to view them for ten minutes, I travelled on only to find them coming down the hill east of the Arklet corner, the male leading the female and they were only 50 metres up and about 200 metres away from me. They crossed the road towards Loch Katrine when suddenly

the male took a quick turn and stoop to the right and the flash of the underside of his wings showed that he was on to something. Suddenly, there were a few feathers flying and I could not make out exactly what was happening against the bracken-covered hillside. Then a blackcock (male black grouse) came flying hard out of the area flying low against the hillside, crested the ridge, and disappeared. The male golden eagle then reappeared and flying slowly, flew up and turned with the female and they both nonchalantly followed in the direction of the blackcock. The following Tuesday it was the turn of the reserve stalker to have great views of TWO pairs of golden eagles over Beinn a Choin (he always has to go one better!).

The feral goats continue to stay high up on Stob an Fhainne, cresting the skyline now and again. The cooler autumn weather will bring them down and back to the woodland and in November it will be time to start monitoring them again. It will be interesting to see how many of the kids have survived the first few months of their lives.

Meadow pipits and chaffinches have started

to flock together, mistle thrush and blackbirds are already eating the rowanberries and an interesting observation was a fox scat full of rowanberries. It appears that like the pine marten, their digestive system is unable to cope with the fruit and am still wondering how a fox managed to harvest them in the first place! The swallows and house martens are gathering for their return journey south to Africa, some of the recently fledged young looking very bedraggled for such a long trip. As the hirundines (collective species name for swallows, swifts and martens) go south skeins of greylag, pink foot and Greenland white front geese will be coming down Loch Lomond to over winter in the area. Another of nature's superb displays will be the forthcoming red deer rut. If you wish to view the rut, pick a sunny still autumn day, park in the Garrison car park and listen – the roaring of the stags is truly fantastic, and with luck they should not be too far away. Who knows, you may be lucky enough to spot the stags and the golden eagles on the same day.

*Duncan Cameron  
Conservation Assistant*

## The Poker Tree Project...update

Since the last issue, the team have continued to make significant progress, despite the inclement weather. The 'brashing' work on the dead trees along the riverside stretch is finally beginning to bear fruit as we seek to open up new and exciting views toward Ben Lomond and The Forth Bridge from within the gardens. Great strides have also been made through discussions with a variety of contractors which has offered a clearer understanding of costing required for possible tree surgery, path work, stone and metalwork and bench/seating construction. If sanctioned, this would enable us to approach funding organisations with a degree of confidence, having a design plan, and projected figures, fully in place. Alongside this work behind the scenes, there have been major contributions from the community of late: to Charles Stewart jnr., of Bracken Hill Cottage, who offered the provision of his metal detector. This unusual (and expensive) instrument enabled us to confirm, and map out, the existence of the tramway track across the full length of the garden. Although this proved to be a highly rewarding exercise, sadly, there appeared evidence that the root system of the group of Lawson Cypress conifers in the north corner have distorted the line somewhat and

there is no way of telling the extent of the damage, as we have no thought to uncover, and restore the track at this stage of planning; to Duncan Mackay, of D. and D. Forestry, who, by an absurd piece

of coincidence, stopped by carrying a mini-digger on a trailer at the precise moment we were setting about the nightmare conglomeration of azalea, bramble and sycamore roots in the central area. Duncan gave of his time freely - and a problem that may have taken a couple of weeks to resolve, with our borrowed and rusted tools, was taken care of within a matter of half an hour; to John Clow, showing admirable use of a chainsaw, and Diana Carmody, working some magic with a set of pruners; to Katy Freeman and Andy Malcolm, from the Forestry Commission, who presented valuable advice on wildlife habitation and path construction. Many thanks to all of these people who rolled up their sleeves and turned up at the site to help make a



difference.

The most important breakthrough in the last month, though, was confirmation that ownership of the grounds is now officially attributed to The McLellans at Kirkton Farm. This knowledge clearly means a

more tactile approach is now required from the team, and consent will now be sought before any considered major alterations take place. It will come as no surprise to those who know Toto McLellan, that she has given her blessing to the project, and that she shares our hopes that not only will the gardens become a central feature of the village, but that they will also offer an area of great beauty, designed for the enjoyment of all the community. As the season draws to a close, we are still seeking contributions of unwanted tools, in order to tidy up the grass areas and hedgerows before winter sets in.

For further information, please contact David Wilkie on 01877 382 868 or David Coleman on 01877 389 171



## A Forest Tail

Douglas MacPherson

Ah, you've noticed the misspelling so I'll have to explain. The 'tail' referred to in the title refers to that of a dog, or dogs plural or, more literally, dozens of dogs, huskies to be precise. Every winter there used to be two, sometimes three, husky rallies in Aberfoyle Forest. It was a popular venue partly due to its central position and easy accessibility for many dog teams and their owners. Contestants were also made to feel welcome by the village shops, pubs and cafes, not forgetting the accommodation providers, all of which received a bit of a financial boost at what was always a quiet time of the year.

Sadly, all this came to an end some 4 years ago when widespread harvesting in the forest park took place and event organizers had to look elsewhere. It all changed, however, last winter when the Forestry kindly resurfaced one of the 'Dedicated' husky trails and there was a husky rally held over a February weekend in 2008. It was successful and enjoyed by all. It was hoped that this would continue into this winter but, unfortunately, it was not to be. The Dedicated trail will now be closed from sometime in the late autumn, due to tree thinning.

One husky event organizer (not me, I hasten to add) contacted the Forestry with a view to running a similar event this winter only to be told that there were no trails suitable. She said that this surprised her as there must be in the region of 70 miles of trails in the forest park, so now the organizers are now looking elsewhere.

Hopefully, this will just be a small break in the history of husky events in the Queen Elizabeth Forest and we can look forward to them starting up again by next winter.



## Guides trip to Switzerland

Hazel MacLennan and Grace Roberts (plus her Mother) joined Rutherglen Guides on their trip to Switzerland in July. You may remember them frantically bag packing in the Co-op earlier in the year. Well they made it to the top of the Jungfrau and found it a fantastic experience to be standing at over 11000 feet (although one Guide did not remain standing because of the lack of oxygen!). Grace was presented with her BP Challenge Certificate which her mother 'smuggled' out. It should have been presented earlier in the year but since that had not happened it was really exciting that she got it at that very special location.



Girlguiding UK

## S.W.R.I.



Scottish Womens Rural Institute meets 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.

## 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

## Braeval Antiques



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**Ask for Andrew**

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2. I buy individual items.

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- Old war medals
- Old coins and banknotes
- Old silver and plated items, including old cutlery
- Old bagpipes, Dirks and skean dhus
- Old swords, knives, pistols and rifles
- Old musical boxes
- Old toys
- General antiques

## Aberfoyle – an invasion hotspot!

For the second time in two years Aberfoyle has been put on the map for sightings of a rare bird. A nuthatch, a plump, sparrow sized woodpecker like bird, was caught recently in an Aberfoyle garden by local bird ringer Andy Simkins. Andy said, "I had set up mist nets in the garden, which is the standard way to catch birds so that they can be ringed then released, when I noticed an unusual bird fly into the net. I was tremendously excited to discover that it was a nuthatch."

Nuthatches at one time bred only in England and Wales, but in the early 1990s sightings were recorded for the first time north of the border. In 2005 breeding was confirmed for the first time in southern Scotland and sightings of this normally sedentary bird had spread northwards towards the central belt. Some experts have suggested that climate change is responsible for the invasion, with less severe winters resulting in more birds surviving, fuelling their invasion north into Scotland.

Andy continued, "When I checked my records I found that I caught my first nuthatch in an Aberfoyle garden almost two years ago to the day. To catch one of these birds this far north and west is highly unusual. As I have now caught two, it is quite possible we have at least one breeding pair in this area."

The British Trust for Ornithology has welcomed this invasion and is keen to discover how many of these birds are being seen in Scotland. A black eye stripe, long pointed bill, buff underparts, chestnut on flanks and blue-grey back and wings make it unmistakable. They welcome reports of sightings of this distinctive bird – email [gbw@bto.org](mailto:gbw@bto.org) or telephone 01786 466560.



## Scam warning for mobile phone customers

Stirling & Clackmannanshire Trading Standards Service is advising consumers to be on the alert for a scam involving insurance for mobile phones.

The scam starts when a consumer enters into a new contract for a mobile phone with many retailers now offer insurance contracts with their mobile phones. Fraudsters are targeting these customers by phoning up and claiming to be from the insurance company. They pretend to be offering additional cover at a heavily discounted rate, or else they will simply state that they are preparing the necessary paperwork, and need to confirm some details. They go on to ask for personal information, including credit card and bank account details. Needless to say, these fraudsters have no connection with the mobile phone retailers or any legitimate insurance companies. Customers in the Stirling Council area who have recently been taken in by these fraudsters have found that they subsequently remove significant sums

of money from their bank accounts, typically between £80 and £120.

Ewan McCormack, Trading Standards Officer explained: "Mobile phone retailers do not pass on personal information about their customers. Instead, these fraudsters rely on the fact that the airtime providers often release mobile phone numbers to retailers in blocks. If the fraudsters can identify a genuine number from a particular retailer, they can then dial a range of consecutive numbers using the same prefix, and hope that they will eventually get through to somebody. They will be able to make false claims about working in association with the retailer concerned."

Ewan McCormack, warned consumers not to be taken in by these fraudsters. He added: "Consumers should never give out any personal information, especially credit card and bank details, to anybody who makes an unsolicited telephone call. If the caller claims to be from a legitimate

organisation that you are already dealing with, take appropriate steps to verify that they really are who they say they are. Check your paperwork, and call them back using a number that you have already been given or which has been publicly advertised, for example on television or in a reputable telephone directory. Better still; ask them to confirm their request in writing. Legitimate organisations will rarely ask you to disclose personal information over the telephone, so be wary if you receive such a request."

Any person who receives a suspicious telephone call should contact the police or their local Trading Standards Service. Members of the public can contact the Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils joint Trading Standards Service on 0845 277 7000 or by visiting them at Municipal Buildings, 8-10 Corn Exchange Road, Stirling, FK8 2HU during normal office hours.

## Something For The Ladies (!!??)

One day my housework challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me: 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?' 'It depends,' I replied, 'What does it say on your shirt?' There was a pause and then he yelled back 'Celtic'. And they say blondes are dumb.....

Dear Lord, I pray for wisdom to understand my man, love to forgive him and patience for his moods because, Lord, if I pray for strength I'll beat him to death.

A couple are lying in bed and the man turns to the woman and says: 'I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world.' The woman replies: 'I'll miss you.'

'It's too hot to wear clothes today,' Jack says as he steps naked out of the shower. 'Honey, what do you think the neighbours would think if I mowed the lawn like this?' The woman replies; 'Probably that I married you for your money!'

What does it mean when is in your bed gasping for breath and calling your name? You did not hold the pillow down long enough!





Loch Lomond  
& The Trossachs  
National Park

by Owen McKee

# National Park News

Isn't it strange?  
The big topic this  
month is a  
Public Toilet.

Time and time again I get the grumble that there is a complete lack of toilet facilities around our lochs. We are hoping that at long last there is a solution in sight. As some of you will know, the Park Authority is working in collaboration with Glasgow Caledonia University in a project called "Kit out the Park". During a discussion concerning the availability of shipping containers someone queried whether these could be converted to toilets. And so thoughts ran to solving the toilet problem. Knowing only too well that Local Authorities throughout the land are trying to close public toilets we knew that maintenance/cleaning were bound to be problems; so in deciding to trial a couple of toilets we focused minds on how we could reduce these. First we had to find suitable sites where there would be a need - that was the easy bit - and thankfully the landowners were very co-operative. Site one is at the head of Balquhider Glen at the Inverlochlarig Car Park used extensively by hillwalkers. The other is at Strachur where divers at Loch Fyne will be the main users.

With sites arranged the next stage is costings so that we can start the search for the necessary funding. The funding task

is being taken up by the Community Development Trusts. There are ongoing discussions as to the maintenance and cleaning requirements. We think we have a solution for the trial period but only time will tell whether it will work in the long term.

What's involved and how does it work? It is a composting system. A chamber is positioned below ground level, all encased in concrete and therein will be placed two removable toilets. The unit, constructed from a disused metal shipping container, is bolted on top. Once a year the unit will be unbolted and lifted off. The used toilets will be extracted and new ones inserted. The toilet block will then be replaced and bolted down. The overall unit will be Disability Discrimination Act compliant and flooring will be anti-slip. A rain water collecting tank will be built into the roof for cleaning purposes and gel will be available for hand cleaning. I can already hear the cries of anguish. We don't want the beauty of the area spoiled by ugly shipping containers even if they are to serve a much needed service. Fear not they will be clad in wood and the designs I have seen are very attractive indeed. Another feature is that they will have solar panels - possibly remotely positioned on a pole - to provide lighting.

If all goes well we hope to have the trial toilets in place for Easter 2009. Wish us

luck. It would be a major success if we could roll them out throughout the Park The Local Plan. Yes it is progressing and we are on target to issue the Draft Plan in November. You may recall that throughout the Park we had a series of Local Plan Open Days where the Park communities had the opportunity to say what they would like to see in - or excluded from - the Park Local Plan. We gathered together everything raised at those meetings and summarised them in an Issues Report which we forwarded to each of the Community Councils in the Park for comment. Of the 21 Councils in the Park 7 replied. To make sure that there is as much community input as possible to the Local Plan we will be having a special meeting to which every single community councillor in the Park is to be invited so that they can see what is being proposed prior to the issue of the Draft Plan. The official consultation period for the Local Plan will run from the date of issue in November and EVERYONE will be entitled to make comment thereon.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,  
Lochearnhead.

Phone: 01567 830214

e. owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

## Have Your Say on National Park Nature Conservation Plan

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority has launched a Biodiversity Action Plan that aims to conserve and enhance the wildlife in Scotland's first National Park. The draft National Park Biodiversity Action Plan launched today (Monday 15 September) will be available at National Park offices and in all local libraries as part of the six week consultation for people to read and offer their opinion on the proposals. It has been produced by the Park Authority working in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, SEPA, Woodland Trust Scotland, Scottish Rural Property Business Association, Scottish Agricultural College, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and local authorities.

The plan is the first of its kind covering the whole of the National Park and aims to make Loch Lomond and The Trossachs the location of choice for leading edge work to conserve and enhance Scotland's biodiversity. It brings all the partners together to deliver significant conservation initiatives including otter monitoring, golden

eagle viewing sites, sub-montane scrub restoration, the control of invasive plants, actions to protect threatened populations of red squirrels and native woodland work including the Great Trossachs Forest project which will eventually create 4,400 hectares of new native woodland.

Speaking about the Biodiversity Action Plan, Fiona Logan, Chief Executive, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority said: "This Biodiversity Action Plan is fundamental to the National Park making a difference to our environment. The plan is a core part of delivering on the Scottish Government's strategic priorities for the nation, in particular the commitment to a Greener Scotland and our own National Park Plan.

Anyone with an interest in wildlife and habitats in the National Park should get involved in this consultation and have their say about conserving this truly stunning part of Scotland for future generations to enjoy."

As part of the consultation, Alan Bell, Ecologist with the Park Authority will hold four surgeries at Carrochan, the National

Park HQ in Balloch on Tuesday 7 October; the National Park office in Callander on Thursday 9 October, the National Park Visitor Centre in Luss on Tuesday 14 October and the National Park office in Lochearnhead on Thursday 16 October.

The Plan, accompanying Environmental Report and consultation response are available from the National Park website [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org).

### FUNGUS FORAYS

Join a National Park Ranger for a lighter look at the forest floor as we separate fungi fact from fungi fiction.

**When:** Sat 18th and Sun 19th October

**Where:** Meet at Aberfoyle Discovery Centre.

**Time:** 11am to 1pm and 2 to 4pm on Saturday and 11am to 1pm on Sunday

**Cost:** FREE EVENT

Contact for booking: 01389 722110

## Patient Transport Service

*New Arrangements in Forth Valley for Booking  
Non-Emergency Patient Transport*

The Patient Transport Service is for patients who have a medical or mobility need, and it is important that patients only use this service if they have no other means of getting to hospital or if their medical condition determines it.

### Am I Eligible?

- Do you require the skills of the Patient Transport Service Ambulance Care Assistant during your journey?
- Do you have a condition such that there is a reasonable possibility of an event which could occur during transport that could require skilled assistance?
- Do you have a condition or disability that makes it difficult or undesirable to travel by any other means?

If you believe you meet the criteria, you may be entitled to Ambulance Transport. Please contact our call centre as soon as you have been notified of your appointment by the hospital/treatment centre, to book your transport. (if possible no later than 4 working days before your appointment)

**Patient Transport Request**  
tel. 0131 446 2760



## CROSSROADS - CARING FOR CARERS

For over twenty-seven years, Crossroads (West Stirlingshire) has been providing respite care for carers in the large rural area of West Stirlingshire.

This service was started by a group of volunteers. The group developed into a Board of Directors who until recently managed the service, employing a co-ordinator, office staff and care attendants. However, difficulty in recruiting volunteer Board members willing to take on this responsibility led to the Directors opting to transfer management to the national parent body, Crossroads Caring Scotland.

It is important to emphasise that the service to carers will remain unchanged; the employment of care attendants will continue; the local office will still be based in Balforn and co-ordinated from there. The sources of funding will be as before: part from Stirling Council, part by grants from charitable trusts and part from donations and fundraising.

In order to provide support to the local service, and also to influence the wider work of Crossroads Caring Scotland, a Crossroads Forum has been set up locally. A key element of this is fundraising, which has been so successfully coordinated in West Stirlingshire in the past. Additional activities might include recommending how to use locally raised monies, liaising with local organisations to stimulate donations, applying for grants, receiving feedback from the local service and assisting with the recruitment of staff.

The Forum is actively looking for supporters of Crossroads who have knowledge and expertise in any of these areas of activity. Please, if you feel you have something to offer, contact Liz Urquhart - 01360 850 378 - who has been elected Chair of the Forum.

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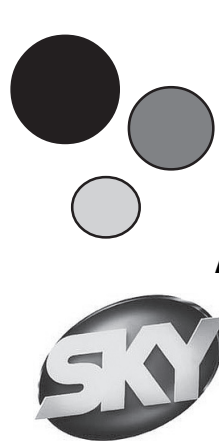
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# Contamination Costs Council



The contents of Stirling's brown bins are causing concern as some residents are filling them with an array of rogue items that are not compostable.

Black bags of rubbish, plastic sheeting, extension leads, plastic wading pools and cement blocks were clearly evident in a recent analysis of items removed from household brown bins. The contents of Brown bins are composted at Lower Polmaise, and the presence of these rogue items could endanger employees, cause damage to expensive equipment and lower the quality of compost produced. Brown bins, collected fortnightly, are only to be used for "green waste" like grass, leaves, small branches and cardboard with tape and staples removed.

Sandy Murphy, Compost Controller at Lower Polmaise, explained: "Residents need to be more vigilant when putting items into their brown bins. Dangerous items are finding their way into brown bins which could get caught in a conveyor belt during processing and could ultimately cause an injury to the operators or damage the shredder."

Due to residents placing non-compostable items into their Brown bins, two large skips

of rejects picked from the contents of Brown bins have to be sent to landfill every week. This costs Stirling Council taxpayers money.

In the months from April 2008, Stirling Council has paid over £17,000 to landfill the 255 tonnes of contaminants from residents' brown bins rejected from the composting process. These costs will continue to rise unless action is taken. David Hopper, Waste Services Manager said: "People who put the wrong items into the Brown bins are responsible for increasing health and safety concerns and potentially endangering operators at the Polmaise. People also need to be aware that recycling incorrectly is costing the Council money to dispose of the items under current environmental legislation. I would like to thank all of the Stirling Council residents who correctly recycle and would urge them to carry on their efforts and spread the word among their neighbours, friends and family on the importance of this message."

Every load of incoming Brown bin material is graded for quality on its arrival at Lower Polmaise. Towns, neighbourhoods and even streets where loads with high levels of

contaminants originate can be identified. These areas are being targeted for increased attention from Waste Awareness and Compliance Officers. If contamination is spotted, bins have a sticker placed on them and subsequently not emptied. Residents are required to remove the contaminants before the next collection to have their bin emptied. Under current legislation, persistent offenders could face a fixed penalty of at least £50 and/or a summary conviction of up to £1,000. For more information please see [www.stirling.gov.uk/waste](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/waste)



Two skips per week of costly contaminants are removed from the contents of residential Brown bins at the Lower Polmaise compost facility.

The compost produced as result of Brown bin recycling meets the national quality standard for soil improving compost (PAS 100). This allows the Council to bag the compost as a product (Castle Compost) and make it available to local householders free of charge. To get your free compost, please visit the Lower Polmaise Household Waste Recycling Centre Monday - Sunday - 8.30am - 6.30 pm (last entry at 6.15 pm) until 30 September. There is a limit of two bags Castle Compost available per visit.

## TABLE TOP SALE

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Gartmore Village Hall**

**10.30am - 12.30pm**



Help raise funds for Gartmore Village Hall and take a table to sell your unwanted goods. £10 per table. Must be booked and paid in advance.

**As there are only 10 tables available, book now to avoid disappointment, please contact Maggi Thomson, 01877 382782**

Admission £1.50 per adult, 50p per child includes filter coffee, builder's tea, speciality teas and home baking

## Rural Plastic Bottle Recycling – Rinse & Squash

Residents in all Stirling Council rural areas will be able to recycle any type of plastic bottle in their weekly kerbside recycling collection from Monday 15 September.

The main advice for residents presenting bottles for collection is to give them a quick rinse in cold water, then compress the bottle. When it's squashed, put the lid back on if possible to keep the air out. This makes a very big difference in the amounts that can be collected at one time; this is especially relevant for 1-litre and larger plastic bottles.

"This is a welcome expansion of the kerbside recycling opportunities available for Stirling Council residents," said Environment portfolio holder, Cllr Jim Thomson. "Last year we recycled around 40% of our municipal waste, but we still have a long way to go to reach the Scottish Government's new targets of 50% by 2013 increasing to 70% by 2025. Everyone is encouraged to recycle as much as possible, and to use their brown bins for clean cardboard and compostable garden waste." Since 2003, HDPE (high-density polyethylene) milk bottles have been accepted at the kerbside. However, when clear PET (polyethylene terephthalate) juice and water bottles are added to a recycling collection route, it doubles the amount of plastic the crews collect. When squashed, many more plastic bottles will fit in the vehicle.

This collection is only for plastic bottles; other plastics such food packaging, fruit punnets, yoghurt pots, bubble wrap, microwave trays and so on, are not included in this collection and will be left in the box. They may be added to collections at some point in the future.

# Ranger's Ramblings

## A View from the Lodge!

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



(photo courtesy of John McKinlay)

### DML Notice Board

A fantastic range of events this month means  
The David Marshall Lodge is THE place to be.

#### Sat 4 October: Claire Daly Trio 2pm - 5pm Cost £5 pp

This classic jazz combo will be appearing as part of the 3rd annual Callander Jazz and Blues Festival. Tickets should be purchased through the organiser's website, [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk), or by telephoning the Tourist Information Centre, Callander on 01877 330342 or Aberfoyle on 01877 382 352.

#### Sun 5 October: Nuts About Squirrels 11am-4pm

Free Guided Walks at 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. Find out more about our bushy-tailed friends and take part in related activities designed for all the family as we celebrate National Squirrel Week

#### Sat 11 October/Sat 18 October: Deer Rut 2pm-6pm

Cost £10 pp. A rare opportunity to join a Forest Ranger for an Autumn afternoon in the beautiful Loch Katrine area listening to roaring stags. Booking is essential, as places are extremely limited.

#### Mushroom Festival

Fungi Forays: Cost £5 Adult, £2.50 Child. £12 Family (4)

**Frid 17 October:** 10am -12pm / 1.30pm -3.30 pm

\*Leaving from Milton car park.

**Sat 18 October:** 10am -12pm / 1.30pm -3.30 pm

\*Leaving from the David Marshall Lodge

**Sun 19 October:** 10am -12pm / 1.30pm -3.30 pm

\*Leaving from Braeval Car Park

The D.M.L. is proud to welcome back the very popular, and enthusiastic Liz Holden, who will be delighting our visitors with her knowledge on these six separate fungi forays.

**Sat 18 October: Lodge Gathering 7pm -10pm**

Cost £15 Adult, £7.50 Child. £40 Family (4)

Well known Scottish folk band, Gaberlunzie, will be playing 2 forty five minute sets. A buffet is also served, with bar facilities open for the evening. This promises to be a fine night.

**Sun 19 October: Spanish Master Class 3pm.**

Cost £8 Adult, £4 Child / Concession

Peter Argondizza, Dr.of Music at Strathclyde University will be showcasing his special guitar talents.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All Mushroom Festival events must be booked through the central booking system at [www.visitthetrossachs.com](http://www.visitthetrossachs.com) or by telephone on 077920 440 400.

**Friday 31 October: Halloween 4.30pm - 8pm**

Cost £8 pp. BBQ and drink are included in the ticket price.

The legendary party is THE highlight of the season: story teller, entertainers, traditional activities and, of course, the nightmare that is the candlelit ghost walk, for which a torch is advisable. Fancy dress is highly encouraged as there will be prizes available for the most inventive costumes. Pre-booking is essential, and children must be accompanied. DO NOT MISS OUT.

### Staff Merry Go Round

The departure of Peter Mitchell has recently resulted in Susan Nash, our Visitor Services Ranger, taking a 'sideways' step to take on many of Peter's tasks, which, among other things, will include enhancing the Forestry education profile. Although Susan will now be based at the District Office, she will still be heavily involved in activities at The Lodge. Taking over the reins at the D.M.L., under the slightly different title of Visitor Centre Supervisor, is Anne Gilchrist. Anne moves 'upstairs' to the 'castle in the sky' already familiar with many of the systems in place through almost two years of experience gathered at the D.O. The staff at The Lodge are delighted at the appointment, and are looking forward to working with her. There is an element of culture shock attached to the acceptance of her application, of course, as, within a matter of weeks, she will be required to take on the role of a 'creature of the night' during our fabled Halloween party!

### RANGERS CORNER

#### HALLOWEEN

Our biggest event of the year

A time to present all manner of fear

And, as we've always said in the past

Your nightmares from this party will continue to last

So you should not even consider approaching this site

If you are at all sensitive to any kind of fright

The very young amongst you should be particularly aware

As we make no apologies for our intent to scare

And though you may seek company to be beside

Ultimately, there is no place to hide

For no matter where you put yourself about

Our zombies and spooks will search you out

The choice is yours, if you seek to dare

But be warned - the candlelit walk is a place to take care

For there all manner of horrors await

In the shape of ghouls searching for victims, like a piece of bait

So along the way, if a vampire bites your neck - be wise

Get in a coffin before the sun begins to rise



### DML PHOTO GALLERY

Apologies. Due to a 'technical' fault,  
there is no Photo Gallery in this issue.



# Have you got what it takes to be a Retained Firefighter?

There is a shortage, at the moment, of people who will turn out and help in an emergency. This is particularly true in villages like Aberfoyle and Doune because nowadays there are fewer people who live and work locally. You might be just the person to fill the gap.

In more rural areas such as Aberfoyle, the station is staffed by people who live in the village and have other jobs such as builders, shopkeepers, farmers or plumbers. When the call comes to attend an incident in the area, they become part of a dedicated team ready to face any emergency.

To apply to join the service you don't need any paper qualifications. You must be at least eighteen at the time of appointment, with good all-round fitness and good eyesight. You will be asked to take a straightforward written, fitness and practical test and undergo a medical.

On average, you will be called out one or two times for a couple of hours. If you cannot be available all the time, that's not a problem. You can be paid for being 'on call' only part of the day or week. There is a shortage of people who are available during midweek working hours, so you could have weekends or evenings free and still do a worthwhile job. If you really can't be on call, for example due to holidays, you can 'sign off'. In addition you will be required to attend a training night once a week.

As well as job satisfaction, you will be trained in the use of equipment. You are paid a basic retainer, a fee for call-outs and another for turning out to a fire or another type of emergency. You are paid for drill nights and duties like equipment maintenance.

Application forms can be collected from the local fire station or by contacting Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Services Headquarters on 01324 716996



Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service  
Protecting the Heart of Scotland



## Would you like to be able to:

- ☐ Provide a vital service to the Aberfoyle Community?
- ☐ Deal with emergency incidents and Community Safety?
- ☐ Develop your skills and team working ability?

## Retained Firefighters

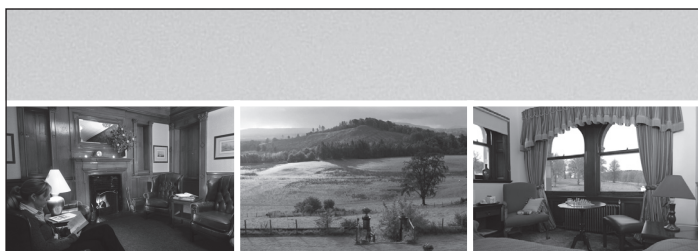
If so, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service have opportunities for Retained Firefighters (part-time) at Aberfoyle Fire Station

Please Contact:

Tel. No. (01324) 716996 or visit our website

[www.centralscotlandfire.gov.uk](http://www.centralscotlandfire.gov.uk)

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# 2008 Trossachs Mushroom Festival

Thurs. 16 - Sun. 19 October

OnLine: [www.VisitTheTrossachs.com](http://www.VisitTheTrossachs.com)

Booking Office: 07920 440 400

Ticket Desk:

Aberfoyle 10am-4pm Mon 13 - Sun 19

## BEFORE!

**Aberfoyle Cup. Spanish 5-a-Side Football Tournament**  
**Thurs 9th Oct. 4pm Aberfoyle Primary School**  
Watch our local primary schools compete in a mini 5 a side tournament, with a Spanish twist. A fun fiesta of football. Prize giving for the local Primary Schools Art Competition. A FREE event run by activestirling

### Fungi Photography Competition

**Closing Date: Wed 15th 12 noon**

Fungi of all shapes, sizes and colours are prolific in the Trossachs forests!

This photographic competition is open to all so get snapping! Categories: Adult - 16 and Over. Youth - 15 and under. Entries will be displayed at the opening Concert on 16th Oct when Winners will be announced.

Submissions to Forth Inn by 12 noon WEDNESDAY 15th Oct.

## THURSDAY 16th Oct.

### Trossachs Business Partnership Festival Opening Concert

**THURSDAY 7.30 pm Forth Inn**

TBP welcomes visitors and locals alike. The festival will be officially opened with a display of Music & Dance. Flamenco Dancing from Sandra La Espuelita, Spanish Guitar from Peter Argondizza, Folk Songs from Philmari, Piping from Arthur Jones and finishing the evening with the Traditional Scottish Music and dancing with the Kinlochard Ceilidh Band.

Buffet is provided after the entertainment. £12.50/£7.50/£35

Tickets from Festival Office :Tel: 07920 440 400

Booking Code: AMF 001

## FRIDAY 17th Oct.

### La Casa Española

**10 am - 4 pm Trossachs Discovery Centre**

See displays from the Spanish Tourist Board that'll temp you to plan your next holiday to this wonderful area. FREE ENTRY

### Fungus Forays with Liz Holden

**10 am - 12 noon Various Locations**

## SATURDAY 18th Oct continued

### Pike Fishing Competition & Open Day

**10 am - 4 pm On Loch Ard at Ledard Farm.**

Organized by the Pike Anglers Association, this two-day competition is also an Open Day to show you the very high tech equipment they use. The 2006 Scottish record was a 35 lb pike caught on Loch Ard! All fish caught are returned to the Loch alive! FREE ENTRY

### Street Market Stalls

**10 am - 4 pm Various Locations around Aberfoyle**

Crafts and food stalls. Charity stalls with "fun fair" games.

### Fungus Forays with a National Park Ranger

**11 am - 1 pm From Trossachs Discovery Centre**

A light hearted look at the Forest Floor. Ideally suitable for families with young children. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Please note that these walks are NOT designed to inform people of which fungi species are edible. FREE

**Booking essential. To book please call 01389 722 110**

### Fungus forays with Liz Holden

**10 am - 12 noon Various Locations**

Is a fungus really the largest organism on the Earth? If you are interested in finding out more about fungi - why they are important and how to identify them - these forays are for you. Call the Festival Desk to confirm the start point of this walk.

£5/£2.50/£12 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400

Booking Code: AMF 007

### Fungus Forays with Liz Holden

**1.30 - 3.30 pm Various Locations**

Is a fungus really the largest organism on the Earth? If you are interested in finding out more about fungi - why they are important and how to identify them - these forays are for you. Call the Festival Desk to confirm the start point of this walk.

£5/£2.50/£12 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400

Booking Code: AMF 008

### Fungus Forays with a National Park Ranger

**2 - 4 pm From Trossachs Discovery Centre**

A light hearted look at the Forest Floor. Ideally suitable for families with young children. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Please note that these

## SUNDAY 19th Oct.

### La Casa Española

**10 am - 4 pm Trossachs Discovery Centre**

See displays from the Spanish Tourist Board that'll temp you to plan your next holiday to this wonderful area. FREE

### Pike Fishing Competition & Open Day

**10 am - 4 pm On Loch Ard at Ledard Farm.**

Organized by the Pike Anglers Association, this two-day competition is also an Open Day to show you the very high tech equipment they use. All fish caught are returned to the Loch alive! FREE.

### Fungus Forays with Liz Holden

**10 am - 12 noon Various Locations**

Is a fungus really the largest organism on the Earth? If you are interested in finding out more about fungi - why they are important and how to identify them - these forays are for you. Call the Festival Desk to confirm the start point of this walk.

£5/£2.50/£12 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400

Booking Code: AMF 014

### Sunday Family Service

**11.15 am Aberfoyle Parish Church**

### Fungus Forays with a National Park Ranger

**11 am - 1 pm From Trossachs Discovery Centre**

A light hearted look at the Forest Floor. Ideally suitable for families with young children.

Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Please note that these walks are NOT designed to inform people of which fungi species are edible.

**Booking essential. FREE To book please call 01389 722 110**

### Cookery & Butchery Demo.

**1.30 pm Forth Inn**

Master Butcher, Jonathan Honeyman explains how to choose and make the most from cuts of meat. Forth Inn Chef Mike Clayton, demonstrates the best way to cook them. FREE

### Cookery Competition

**3 pm Forth Inn**

Show off your culinary skills in our cookery competition. Categories : Mushroom Soup: a Mushroom based Starter.



**10 am – 12 noon Various Locations**  
Is a fungus really the largest organism on the Earth? If you are interested in finding out more about fungi – why they are important and how to identify them – these forays are for you. Call the Festival Desk to confirm the start point of this walk. £5/£2.50/£12 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 002

**Fungus Forays with Liz Holden**

**1.30 – 3.30 pm Various Locations**

Is a fungus really the largest organism on the Earth? If you are interested in finding out more about fungi – why they are important and how to identify them – these forays are for you. Call the Festival Desk to confirm the start point of this walk. £5/£2.50/£12 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 003

**Kate's Cocina Española**

**7 pm The Coach House**

A mouthwatering menu of Spanish dishes and delicious wines, accompanied by a Spanish Guitar Recital from Peter Argondizza. £30/£15 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 004

**Family Festival Ceilidh**

**8 pm to late Kinlochard Village Hall**

Get on down to Kinlochard! Kinlochard Ceilidh Band play Traditional Scottish Music. Book early and BYOB  
All money raised will go toward the Kinlochard Village Hall  
£7/£5 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 005.

**SATURDAY 18th Oct.**

**Charity Golf Competition**

**9 am Aberfoyle Golf Club**

Shotgun start from 9am followed by a buffet & entertainment. All money raised will go toward Motor Neuron Disease charity  
£10 Tickets from Aberfoyle Golf Club Tel: 01877 382 493

**Guided Hill Walk**

**9.30 am Trossachs Treks A traverse of Ben Venue from Achray to Kinlochard. Meeting at Ledard carpark.**

Walking boots & warm clothes must be worn. Lunch & waterproofs essential. Limited spaces available. Book early to avoid disappointment.£20/£10 (minimum age 12yrs) Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 006

**La Casa Española**

**10 am – 4 pm Trossachs Discovery Centre TIC**

See displays from the Spanish Tourist Board that'll tempt you to plan your ext holiday to this wonderful area. FREE ENTRY

walks are NOT designed to inform people of which fungi species are edible.

**Booking essential. FREE To book please call 01389 722 110**

**Children's Flamenco Workshop**

**4 pm Harbour Café Venachar Lochside**

Learn some new moves. A chance to strut your stuff Spanish Style. This Flamenco Workshop is aimed at our younger visitors, with aspirations to Strictly Come Dancing  
£5 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 009

**Guitar Workshop**

**5 pm Harbour Café Venachar Lochside**

Expand your musical talents. A workshop for local musicians and visitors to try their hand at Guitar skills. This class will be lead by Peter Argondizza Dr. of Music at the Royal Scottish Academy for Music & Drama.  
£20 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 010

**Tapas & Wine Tasting, & Dinner**

**6.30PM PROMPT pm Harbour Café Venachar Lochside**

Wine Tasting with Tapas followed by a meal of Spanish Cuisine. With Flamenco Dancing display by Sandra La Espuelita at 6.30pm, and Spanish Guitar from Peter Argondizza .  
£25 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 011

**Liz McGregor's Fungi Fiesta**

**7 pm PROMPT Aberfoyle Memorial Hall**

Liz McGregors Spanish Family Fiesta. A feast of Spanish & Scottish food. At 7pm Sandra La Espuelita will be performing Flamenco Dancing and later listen to Spanish Guitar with Peter Argondizza .

Try your skill riding our wild bull (NOT IN TICKET PRICE)

£8/£5 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400

Booking Code: AMF 012

**Lodge Gathering**

**7 – 10pm David Marshall Lodge**

Fungi & Folk. Scottish Folk Band Gaberlunzie, play two 45 minute sets. A buffet is also served, with bar facilities open for the evening.

£15/£7.50/£40 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400

Booking Code: AMF 013

**To arrange Accommodation**

**click: [www.VisitTheTrossachs.com](http://www.VisitTheTrossachs.com) or call**

**John and Ann on 01877 382 276**

This programme may be subject to change.

Judging will be by both a panel & members of the audience.  
ENTRY FORM from Festival Office Tel: 07920 440 400

**Fungus Forays with Liz Holden**

**1.30 – 3.30 pm Various Locations**

Is a fungus really the largest organism on the Earth? If you are interested in finding out more about fungi – why they are important and how to identify them – these forays are for you. Call the Festival Desk to confirm the start point of this walk. £5/£2.50/£12 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 015

**Adult Flamenco Workshop**

**2 pm David Marshall Lodge**

Learn some new moves. A chance to strut your stuff Spanish Style. This Flamenco Workshop is aimed at our adult visitors, with aspirations to Strictly Come Dancing.  
£8 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 016

**Spanish Guitar Masterclass**

**3 pm David Marshall Lodge**

Expand your musical horizons. A Spanish Guitar Masterclass showcasing the talents of Peter Argondizza , Dr. of Music at Strathclyde University. £8/£4 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400 Booking Code: AMF 017

**Fiery Fiesta & BBQ**

**3 – 7 pm Easterhill Farm, by Gartmore**

Try our very own Bull Run & Tomatina Festival. Watch the roaring flames of our campfire as Folk Musicians and a Piper Play. BBQ included.

£10/£5/£25 Tickets from Festival Office 07920 440 400

Booking Code: AMF 018

**Cookery & Butchery Demo.**

**3.30 pm (Following Cookery Competition) Forth Inn**

Master Butcher, Jonathan Honeyman explains how to choose and make the most from cuts of meat. Forth Inn Chef Michael Clayton demonstrates the best way to cook them. FREE

**Trossachs Songs of Praise**

**7.30 pm Gartmore House**

Everyone is welcome. DONATIONS

**'Lock In' at Ledard**

**8 pm – Late Ledard Farm**

A Jam Session by candlelight for Locals & visitors alike. Stables Bar facility at Ledard Farm for a mushroom Festival sessions gig with the artists local and festival performers including any local children who like a jam to come along. BYOB  
DONATION to Kinlochard Village Hall Fund



# School Report.....

## Aberfoyle Primary School

### N.H.S. Poster Competition

In the Summer term N.H.S. Forth Valley held a competition for primary school children which invited them to design a poster with a health message. There were 1060 entries from 25 schools across the Forth Valley region. 27 winners were chosen, of which 13 of the posters will make up the 2009 NHS Forth Valley calendar. The others will appear as posters in hospitals, health centres and schools.

We were absolutely delighted to have **two Aberfoyle pupils** chosen to have their posters included in the calendar. Bethan Peddle and Megan Simpson were presented with their prizes, in Stirling last week and Bethan has written a short account of the afternoon.



### Girls toilets

During the Summer break the girls toilets were given a much needed makeover. This was a pleasant surprise for the girls on their return to school and here are a few of the comments:-

"I really like the bright new colours and the pictures on the doors"

"The new toilet seats are really CLEAN!!!"

The mirror is cool"

"The mirror the best thing"

"The mirror is so cool"

### Inversnaid Primary School



#### Our Awesome Orchard

Yummy, scrumptious, delicious, juicy and huge apples! This year has been the best crop in four years. We have lots of shiny bright red apples almost ready to

come off! We have eleven apple trees and we have had about ten apples so far but we will have more soon. We have two Libertys, two Discoverys, two Monarchs, two Charles Ross, two Keswick Codlin and one James Grieve. First we weigh them so that we can record them on a chart. Then we can eat them! Our favourites so far are the Discovery and Liberty apples.

by the Green Team

### NHS Award

Me, my mum and my friend Kirsty went to Stirling Royal because previously we did a competition and you had to design a health poster and I won. We went into this huge room with rows of seats and everyone else who won was there too. I had to stand up in front of everyone and receive an award which was a gift card for Waterstones, a calendar with my picture in it and a certificate.

After I got the award I got my picture taken with all the other people who won. The picture was in the Stirling observer and at the end me and Kirsty and my mum got juice, cakes and tea. There was something around 1600 entries and only 12 were picked to go in the calendar and other people got an award too but didn't get theirs in the calendar so I was really pleased and so was my mum. I think I was lucky to get mine in the calendar and I was happy for Megan Simpson because hers was very good too.

### The Olympics

P1/2 and P3/4 are studying the Olympics as their topic this term and Natalie Klaes has written this story about the ancient Greeks.

#### Natalie's Ancient Greece story

Once upon a time there was a land called Ancient Greece. In Ancient Greece there lived lots of people who started the Olympics. 'When the ancient Greeks had the Olympics there was only running. Probably that would be pretty boring, maybe it wasn't. At least they had fun. The Olympics to them was a festival and it spread all over the World. The other parts of the world thought that it was boring with only running so they thought that they should think of other sports. And they did think of other sports. Now they do jumping and sailing and diving.

### P5-7 World War 2

P5-7 are learning all about World War 2 and we would like to know if you or anyone you know has been in the war. We would also like to find more books or artefacts from the War. If you have anything please contact Aberfoyle Primary School.

Thank you  
Scott McCoull

### School Log

I have recently been reading through the old school log books, researching the war years in school for P5-7. In the process of doing this I have uncovered some interesting facts which I thought I might share with you, at random, over the next few editions.

October 17<sup>th</sup> 1913-Attendance very poor this week. Four boys absent due to the grouse driving at Alt Skeith. High floods on Tuesday meant that only three boys from the slate quarry were present.

January 7<sup>th</sup> 1925-Miss Christenson-Instructress of Physical Exercises-did not turn up this afternoon. Miss Christenson's bicycle had broken down between here and Thornhill. She arrived in school just as it was being dismissed!

### Starting School

We were looking forward to coming to school. I met Molly, Lucy and Hannah on the way. We went to the park before, because we were early. The bell went and we came into school. 'I like playing on the computer and reading books' said Beth.

'I like colouring in and drawing and playing 'duck, duck, goose' in gym.

We like playing with the hoops in the field at breaktime.'

'We made Olympic crowns, torches, sport pictures Olympic rings and Chinese flags. We all like bringing things to show and tell with the class.'

'I like learning my letters' said Deon.

By Deon McNab and Beth Dunlop, P1, Aberfoyle PS



Drawings by Eilidh Jackson and Molly Jennings P1

### Aberfoyle Eco Schools

Aberfoyle primary school's eco committee are having a gardening day on Saturday Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at the primary school. Everybody is welcome to come along and help. We are planning to dig up the back garden in preparation for winter. If you have your own spades or gardening tools please bring them along. If children wish to come along they need a parent or guardian with them. We look forward to seeing you there.

Emily Palau

**Having a clear out?** On the 27/11/08 the School will be holding a RagaBag Collection. All types of clothing and textiles in any condition are welcome - please bring them along (in bin bags) on the morning of the collection. All money raised will benefit the children of Aberfoyle Primary.



# Shanni's Story

I would like to introduce you to our new arrivals in the front field, Jilly and little thin Shanni.

Jilly and Shanni are Arab mares, and they belong to Kath Lyon, the lady who does the duck show at the Scottish Woollen Mill. They arrived here in mid-August, but poor little Shanni had had a very rough time.

Kath had been working here for the summer, and had left her horses in what she thought were capable hands, but word came from a friend who had visited them to say that Shanni was in a sorry state: she had damaged a tendon, and had been kept in a loose box for weeks, separated from her mother and the other horses, without proper care, and without the extra hay needed to replace grass. The stress and lack of nutrition had caused her weight to drop to frightening levels.

Kath immediately came and asked me if I could give her grazing for two horses for five weeks - when I agreed she burst into tears! Transporting horses is expensive; it is to her credit that she brought them here when she will shortly be moving again, at the end of the season.

But now, every time you see her Shanni has great wedges of grass sticking out both sides of her mouth, so she is taking her weight-gain program very seriously! The grass is ideal - not too rich, which would be dangerous for her, and she is hand-fed with concentrates several times a day. We already see a difference in her outline. She won't wear a rug, which would help, she just runs herself ragged trying to shake it off, so the race is on to get her back to condition with a nice thick coat before winter sets in.

I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Kath the best of luck both for herself and her horses in the future. Jilly and Shanni are beautiful creatures, and they will always be welcome here.

*Toto McLellan*

*...and finally, to all the children who ask me every time they see me! - Jilly is the dark one, and she is the mum. Shanni, the beautiful golden one, is her daughter and she is three years old.*

## ALL SET FOR MUSHROOM FESTIVAL CEILIDH

Kinlochard Hall is the venue for the Festival Family Ceilidh on Friday, 17 October, commencing 8 p.m. Local band, the Kinlochard Ceilidh band will be providing the music. Tickets are on sale at the Festival Ticket Office. Bring your own booze.

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## Aberfoyle Playpark

I have really enjoyed watching the children enjoy the new facilities but feel that what is missing is a net for the goal. The footballers seem to spend a lot of time retrieving the ball and have tried unsuccessfully all sorts of "Heath Robinson" ways of forming a net. The cost would be £71+VAT (including delivery) for two sturdy nets which should last for some time (another goal would be nice as well but probably unlikely). I would therefore like to appeal for generous benefactors who would like to contribute to the cost to come forward. The School Football Team also need some nets so if possible I would like to raise double this amount - please contact Janet Stewart 4 Trossachs Road, 382736 if you feel you can help.

*With kind regards, Janet*

### Response to above:

We are delighted to hear your very positive comments about the play park and we agree that we need a net; however the Strathard Community Trust has already approached Stirling Council to provide a net for the goal posts. Our request has been vetoed as it is considered by them to be too dangerous on health and safety grounds. The Trust is looking at other alternatives.

*Ian Marshall, Chair Strathard Community Trust*

## A CRY FOR HELP

In the year 2010, The Trossachs can look forward to two major celebratory events in the shape of the 50th anniversary of The David Marshall Lodge Visitor Centre and, at the shores of Loch Katrine, the 200th anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's timeless poem, *The Lady Of The Lake*, will be recognised with special events. Much closer to those proceedings, our humble newsletter has a landmark of its own to consider since, in the early part of next season, The Strathard News will publish the 50th edition of its current run. The 'News' has grown in stature over the last few years, and remains a vital link to the community. Like a cat, however, "The News" has had several "lives", dating back over twenty years and, whilst the current committee intends to produce a commemorative edition in any event, we are also anxious to make contact with the many individuals who have been involved along the way during its conceptual years. Any offers of personal memories, anecdotes or photographs would be most welcome as we attempt to piece together the overall history. We are especially interested in obtaining a copy of the very first Strathard News, produced around the summer of 1986. If anyone has this issue gathering dust in their attic, this writer would be only too happy to exchange it for a bottle of the finest malt available on the shelves (as long as it's a miniature!)

*DAVID WILKIE*



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# Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

## From the Manse

Autumn is a poignant time despite its beauty, and this year particularly so, with summer such a fleeting visitor. The harvest is now, I hope, safely gathered in, so it's a time to be thankful, and to remember our oft-forgotten dependence on the land.

At my school harvest assembly, we would lustily sing "We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land", though in London we did little ploughing and even less scattering, at least not the seed variety. We would bring in produce for the service: apples, carrots, plums. One girl brought bananas. Our teacher went bananas, saying icily to her, "Are you, girl, you, who are so hopeless at biology, trying to tell me that you grew these at home?" The rest of us, I remember, scattered in giggles.

There was an article in the papers recently about a woman who can remember every day of her life from the age of six. So, on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, she will remember exactly what she was doing on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1975, 76, 77, etc. The poor woman is tormented by her memories - she cannot let them go to live her life now.

Then at the other end of the scale are those we weep for, who lose their memory with some form of dementia. Memory is so much part of our humanity. When we remember past events, we re-member them, recreate them, put them together again. Memory makes us who we are now. Sometimes societies have too much memory and cannot forget old feuds and hatreds. Sometimes societies have too little memory, and forget to remember - and learn from - their history.

Soon it will be Remembrance Sunday. Like Harvest Thanksgiving, it's a time to remind us where we come from. Remembrance Sunday has become very real for all of us, with terrifying numbers of young men and women lost in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our ecumenical act of remembrance at the war memorial will be AFTER worship, so that we can remember with dignity, rather than rush to be there on time. It's not the time for remembrance that matters, but that we remember. And in our own lives, we might also

Look to this day  
for it is life,  
the very life of life.  
In its brief course lie all  
the realities and truths of existence:  
the joy of growth  
the splendour of action  
the glory of power.  
For yesterday is but a memory  
and tomorrow is only a vision,  
but today well lived  
makes every yesterday a memory of happiness  
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore, to this day.

(Sanskrit poem)

## Forthcoming events in the Church:

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October:** The first of our Gatherings over the winter months. Come and enjoy COFFEE (or Tea!), CHAT and COMPANY. Transport can be arranged if required. Church House 10.30-12noon

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October:** Harvest Thanksgiving. We will not be collecting or distributing local produce this year. Instead there will be a Retiring Collection for Water Aid who strive to give clean fresh water to those in developing countries. (Isn't it a pity we can't export some of ours!!!)

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November:** Remembrance Sunday. Church Service at 11.15am followed by Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November:** Another Clamjampherie .....really just a raffle with a difference and lots of fun Venue to be confirmed. Keep a look-out for more information.



# St Mary's Episcopal Church

## Two pilgrimages for one purpose.

Mark Seymour is the Lay Chair of St Mary's Vestry and Nick Cooke its Treasurer. Both have been heavily involved for some time now in the planning and the even larger task of fundraising for the £150,000 Renovation Appeal of St Mary's. The hope is that the works planned will preserve the beauty of this place of worship for another generation. Thus far, response to the appeal has been most encouraging, not only because of a large Heritage Lottery Fund grant, but also the singular generosity of St Mary's congregation.

Nick and Mark's contribution to the Appeal has though been far more than administration from a desk. To help raise awareness of the project and hopefully some of the outstanding monies, Mark and Nick recently completed a remarkable and poignant sponsored pilgrimage undertaken solely by foot and ferry to Iona. Following a short service of blessing, the two left St Mary's on the 14<sup>th</sup> September heading for Inversnaid. Not surprisingly they were accompanied by steady rain, a constant companion throughout the week. Leaving Inversnaid the next morning, the two joined the West Highland Way, and followed it as far as Inverarnan, before a gruelling trek to reach Dalnally before dark. This leg of the journey was some twenty miles. The next day the pair followed the shore of Loch Awe to Taynuilt and by Wednesday had reached Oban to catch the ferry to Cragganure on Mull. Having disembarked on Mull, the day finished at Lochdon. The final leg of the journey was completed by crossing the island to Carsaig and thence by ferry to Iona. By the end of the journey nearly a hundred miles had been covered on foot.

So what is a pilgrimage? It is traditionally a journey to a holy place undertaken by the faithful to obtain help or as an act of thanksgiving. In travelling to Iona, Mark and Nick have followed the steps of many faithful over the centuries. It was St Columba who first landed on the Island in 563AD, and shortly after founded a monastery that in time was to become the centre of Celtic Christianity. It was from Iona that missionaries were first sent to Scotland and Northern England.

It is most appropriate that part of the fund raising campaign should be centred on this walk to Iona. However beautiful St Mary's undoubtedly is, we are not striving only to preserve bricks and fabric for the future. Rather we are attempting to play a small part with many others, in the continuation of a faith first brought to this area by the toil and sacrifice of those on Iona.

Once sugar levels have been restored and blisters healed, Nick and Mark plan a second pilgrimage during the first half of next year. They plan this time to strike south from Aberfoyle to eventually reach Whithorn Church on the Galloway Coast, another centre of faith founded by St Ninian. This walk will total some 120 miles.

Should any reader wish to sponsor Mark and Nick for one or both pilgrimages, they may do so via the St Mary's Website. Sponsors can choose to give an amount per mile or a fixed sum per pilgrimage. If the donation can be made by Gift Aid, then that would be of additional benefit to the Appeal. St Mary's is most grateful for all the support given thus far.

Website: [www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk](http://www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk)





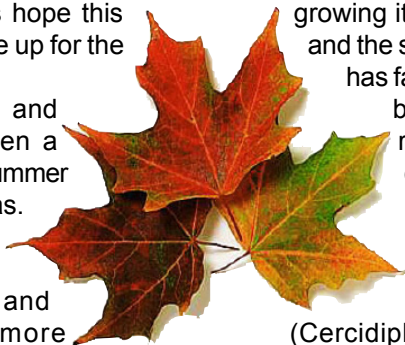
# The Garden

**Autumn;** We may not have had summer weather since May but, like it or not, autumn is here now. Ask anyone, even a small child, what autumn means. Their first thought will be of leaves changing colour. From bronze, yellow through to the brightest scarlet. Some years we have spectacular displays. Let's hope this is one of those. It may make up for the lack of bright weather.

If you want to plant trees and shrubs to give your garden a firework finale at the end of summer there is no shortage of ideas.

Berberis, Amelanchier, Blueberry, Deciduous Azalia, Chesnut, Beech and Oak. Here are some more suggestions:

For the small garden the Rowan ( Sorbus) is the ideal tree. You will have flowers in spring, berries for the birds and vivid colours before the leaves fall. Often overlooked is Sorbus Reducta - good for ground cover.



Japanese Maples (Acer Palmatum ) have lovely foliage from spring many turning brilliant colours in autumn. There are a lot of types of Acers to suit different situations. If you have room for a specimen tree a good choice would be Acer Griseum, the Paper

Barked Maple. Although slow growing it can reach 30ft in height and the same in spread. This tree has facinating peeling orange brown bark and will have rich hues of plum and orange to draw the eye at the end of summer.

Something I've just discovered is the Katsura tree (Cercidiphyllum), a tall elegant bush with small heart shaped leaves that change to gold and pink at this time of year. An extra surprise is the scent of honey or burnt sugar, 'candyfloss' is the way the books discribe this wonderful fragrance that hovers around the whole area where it is grown.

Euonymus Alatus is a shrub that should be planted more often. Unlike most other Euonymus this one is deciduous. A few weeks before the leaves drop they turn a brilliant scarlet. The Winged Spindal is another name for this dense shrub. This refers to the branches which have strange ridges along them. On close inspection they remind me of the spines on a crocodile or dragon!

Over the next few weeks, look around this beautiful countryside of ours. See the spectacular autumn displays. You don't have to seek out the unusual or expensive plants to appreciate the rich opulent foliage. Just look at the common Bramble for example !



...by Fleur

## Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Guild

The first meeting of the new session was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September when we had the pleasure of welcoming some new members. Rev. Linda Stewart guided us through the theme "He restores my soul" and illustrated her talk with appropriate music.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm in Church House when Dorothy Kinloch will tell us about her year as Moderator of Stirling Presbytery. Ladies from Callander and Thornhill Guilds will be guests on this occasion and, of course, anyone else interested will be made very welcome. Guild Week is being held again throughout Scotland from Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a Service of Dedication in Aberfoyle Church at 11.15am which all Guild members are invited to attend. At our meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November we will have a speaker from The Bluebell Project – helping mothers who are suffering from Post-natal Depression.

All our meetings are held in Church House at 2.00pm. Do come along; we would love to see you.

Anne Ralston.

## Forthvale



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# Chill Out

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Hello... we hope you are enjoying the changing colours and the yummy berries!

The Faeries and Pixies have been getting together to decide on next year's adventures, and at the moment are still discussing and contemplating, in-between all their revelling – so as soon as they share their decisions with us, we will share them with you! Sometimes the mischievous Pixies muddle up all the dates so they have to start all over again! BUT in the meantime look out for our WeeWinterWonderland Corner in the shop in November (it will be wee, but well worth a visit!)

## Yoga

Yoga classes are going strong, and everyone who comes along are seeing improvements in their strength and flexibility. The good thing about yoga is that it's never too late to start, and contrary to popular belief – you do NOT need to be bendy and flexible! You just have to be yourself and enjoy the journey! We have had some wonderful guest teachers visit – Ellen MacKenzie gave a session on Dru Yoga, and June Mercer a session on Scaravelli-inspired yoga. If you would like to receive the regular yoga newsletter, please email us and we will send it through to you. This way you can keep up to date on what's happening when!

We are looking forward to the weekend workshop on **25 & 26 October** with Salvatore Zambito (author of *The Unadorned Thread of Yoga: The Yoga-Sûtra of Patañjali* in English) and Swami Saradananda (meditation and Chakra meditation). The Sutras may sound confusing, but they are the Yogic 8-fold path on life, and Salvatore gives some insightful and fun ways to incorporate them into our everyday life. Meditation is a great way to de-stress and calm the mind, something we can all do with, and this weekend will show us some practical ways to introduce meditation into our busy lives. The pair have presented workshops worldwide, and we have only heard good reports from attendees, so if you want to come, let us know!! Is it too early to start mentioning New Year resolutions, new starts and less stress for 2009? Hmmmm, prehaps – so will have to mention that next time! Till then, enjoy autumn and pop in to say hi!



### Regular drop-in Yoga classes

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**Fridays 9.30 - 11am**

**Saturdays 10.00 - 11am**

*(not every week, please check dates)*

**Sundays 9.30 - 11am**

*(not every week, please check dates)*

**Open to all!**

Hello Children,

**Milton**

I am really looking forward to the Mushroom Festival and all the fun things that will be happening in and around Aberfoyle. At this time of year there are always lots and lots of toadstools growing in Strathard. As if by magic, they seem to spring-up overnight. I like the big, red ones that are covered in tiny white dots. If you keep extremely quiet, and look very carefully, you might just see a faerie sitting on one. It is one of their favourite places to sit and think.

But, if you make the slightest sound, they vanish in an instant.

Other mushrooms are so small you can hardly see them. Last year I went on a Fungus Foray at the David Marshall Lodge, which is a good way to learn about the mushrooms you can eat – and those you must leave alone!! Grandpa Otter has been out picking edible toadstools in the forest with my sister, Braeval and the twins. I usually go, too. But this year George the Hare came with some exciting news, a horse chestnut tree with lots of conkers: big conkers. Most of the conkers this year are rather on the small side so to come across a tree with big conkers was a bit of good fortune, indeed. I like to find the biggest possible conker for the conker championship. Dad had to show the twins, Duke and Katrine, how to thread a conker onto a piece of string about 30cm long. Remember to tie a knot at the end to stop the conker falling off. And take care when drilling the hole from the top to the bottom of your conker. Then two people take turns in trying to smash their opponent's conker with their own. Yes, knuckles do get bashed, but it is a lot of fun.

When the leaves on the trees begin to change colour, taking on shades of gold, orange and red, the nights become suddenly darker and the stars shine much more brightly. Providing it is not too cloudy. If you gaze up into the heavens, it will not be long before you will see what looks like a bright star moving slowly across the sky. No, it is not a spaceship from another planet, it is not even a star, it is a satellite fired from earth and circling high in the sky. With a lot more patience, and a great deal of luck, you may see something rather special – the Northern Lights. These are strange coloured lights which appear from time to time in the northern sky, shimmering and dancing in shafts of green, blue and red rays. Sometimes they can form a whole curtain across the night sky. An awful lot of people have never seen the Northern Lights, so you will have to keep looking.

Dark, cold nights also mean that Hallowe'en is not far away. This is the time of year when we all love sitting around the fireside in the holt, listening to Grandpa Otter telling spooky stories. It is strange to think that the very last witch to be tried for witchcraft was actually born just outside Callander. And that was not so very long ago!!

Bye for now,  
Milton.



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# Places to Visit Before You Die (4)

## The Oran Mor

By Dougie MacPherson

No, we are not being maudlin here, merely by use of exaggeration describing venues or places which our readers might find enjoyable, away from bonny Strathard. With that target in mind, yet again your team from the Strathard News has been on the march, by car, searching out the places best to visit, sights best to see. I could go on, but I'm sure you have the drift. On this occasion we are going away from the countryside to visit the big city, to wit, Glasgow, and to the theatre. Nowt like a bit o' culture, I can hear you say!

So in search of this elusive thing called 'culture' I took 'Er Indoors' to Glasgow's West End. Now this area of the big city could not be considered as one of my favourite haunts by any means being what I consider to be a bit 'ponsyified', though to be fair the area does have some great second hand book shops and record stores. So it was that I swallowed my east end pride and arrived in this Gomorrah which I found, surprisingly, to be not too painful. We were going to Byres Road, to the Oran Mor to be precise. Once a church and

situated at the corner of Byres Road and Great Western Road, this venue has, for the past few years, been transformed into a theatre-cum-pub-cum-concert hall, though of a smaller scale than other similar venues. However, the Oran Mor takes a novel approach, offering a short (45 minutes) play at lunchtime accompanied by a bite to eat and a drink, entitled 'A Play A Pie And A Pint', to be taken either before or during the play, depending on when you arrive and for £10 it is not bad value at all. Although we had heard nothing but good of it, it was not until September there that we decided to go, and it was certainly worth it. What caught our eye initially was a review of that week's play (each play runs for a full 6 days) which had the intriguing – and local – title of *Sweet Home Balmaha*. It was billed as a comedy and got rave reviews, so we went.

The small theatre was mobbed and all the punters friendly and chatty. You took your choice of food, pie or quiche, a pint or glass of wine. I can only assume the idea was the men had the pie and pint, the ladies

the other, or am I being sexist here? I don't think so because some of the ladies helped themselves to the pint. I, for one, certainly mixed my choice although I won't say what for fear of losing my credibility. All I'm saying is that the pie was good. Oops.

You took the food and drink and sat at long tables facing the stage. At this point I have to admit to one, the only one, gripe and that was that the seats were uncomfortable and sore on the bum and you couldn't wriggle about without nudging someone else and perhaps spilling their drink. Also, playing footsie might be fun at times, but not particularly with your wife.

As well as A Play A Pie And A Pint the Oran Mor is also now doing evening concert performances entitled, catchily enough, 'A Concert A Cocktail And A Canape'. I would imagine that also should pull in the crowds. I suppose what drew me to the Oran Mor, initially, was already being an ardent admirer of awesome alliteration. What more can I say but visit? You will enjoy the experience.



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## SRDP Green Light For IT & Web Training Initiative To Help Forth Valley Farmers

Stirling Enterprise (STEP) has been given the green light by Scottish Government to deliver a year-long IT and Web Outreach initiative, aimed specifically at farmers in the Forth Valley area.

The local enterprise trust, which also deliver Business Gateway services in the Stirling District area, has secured £18,450 of funding from the Skills Development Scheme (SDS) which falls under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) umbrella.

STEP itself will contribute a percentage to the total running cost of the programme, with participants contributing a small nominal fee to secure a workshop place. The first of a series of ten planned mobile workshops will hit the road in late November in Drymen, equipping local farmers and their families with the IT know-how and web provision to access and negotiate the SRDP website and confidently tackle the on-line application process.

More crucially, the outreach workshops will allow local farmers access to two-hours worth of IT and Broadband provision and an IT professional.

The workshops will be held in local hotels in the Stirling, Clackmannan and Falkirk area in an evening format and participants will be have the option of a one-hour individual follow-up support session to consolidate or refresh their knowledge.

Caroline Brown, Rural & Farm Support Officer for Stirling Enterprise (STEP) commented:

"We are delighted to have secured this funding and are keen to get out on the road and meet with local farmers and start

delivering the training as opposed to talking about it. Through our Business Gateway activity, we already have good links with farm businesses in the area and we have been working closely with NFU Scotland and SAC to extend and develop that.

"As an addendum to our current Business Gateway contract, we were awarded funding to raise awareness of SRDP and the opportunities within it for farms and rural businesses across Forth Valley. We have been actively doing this and have seen first hand the difficulties that applicants are encountering along the way. We will now also be able to link clients attending this new web training into relevant Business Gateway services so as to maximise benefits."

Stirling Enterprise (STEP) has a joint event with NFU Scotland and SAC Stirling planned for the evening of Wed, 22nd October at Stirling Enterprise Park, Stirling. The event will look at the overall picture of SRDP and how applicants can best tackle the online application process. Information on the scoring system used by Case Workers to process applications will also be available.

Caroline continued: "This event will provide the ideal platform to roll out the first half of our planned schedule of IT & Web outreach workshops."

To attend the SRDP briefing event at 7pm on Wed 22nd October at Stirling Enterprise Park, or to find out more about outreach workshop dates and venues, contact Caroline Brown, Rural & Farm Support on Tel: 01786 463416 or E-mail [cbrown@stirling-enterprise.co.uk](mailto:cbrown@stirling-enterprise.co.uk)

## SRDP Workshops

**FREE SRDP Joint Information Workshop**

**STEP, NFU Scotland & SAC Stirling**

**Where:** Stirling Enterprise Park, Stirling

**When:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008

**Time:** 7pm – 9pm

### IT & Web Rural Outreach Events; WORKSHOP 1

**Where:** Buchanan Arms, Drymen

**When:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Time:** 7-9pm

### WORKSHOP 2

**Where:** Harviestoun Hotel, Tillicoultry

**When:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

**Time:** 7-9pm

### WORKSHOP 3

**Where:** Glenskirrie House, Banknock

**When:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**Time:** 7-9pm

### WORKSHOP 4

**Where:** Bridge of Lochay Hotel, Killin

**When:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**Time:** 7-9pm

## The Pier Tearoom Stronachlachar

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## Charles Allan MacIntyre – Almac

21 June 1948 -18 July 2008

The jam jars lie empty on the windowsill. No car in the Main Street flies the saltire. No solitary drinker huddles against the weather on the terrace of the Forth Inn. Aberfoyle has lost one of its originals. Patriot, philosopher, poet, raconteur, mine host, mountaineer and jam maker extraordinaire, Almac had an even wider field of knowledge. I was proud to be his friend. When Allan exchanged computers for a career as a publican, he transformed the Trossachs Inn into a thriving, entertaining pub. His Trossachs Olympics were legendary, and raised funds for Lomond Mountain Rescue. 'Young Turks' boasting of their climbing exploits would be invited to attempt the ceiling level obstacle course or the greasy poll. Few succeeded and Mountain Rescue Funds benefited.

On one occasion, Almac invited Hamish the famous Highland bull into the pub for a pint. Startled by flash photography, Hamish promptly deposited a large contribution of steaming manure on the pub floor. The Trossachs Inn's proximity to the River Forth, led Almac to become an expert at predicting water levels during floods by consulting the tide charts. He didn't always get it right!

Almac was his own man. He did not hesitate to risk the wrath of officials by breaking rules if his generosity deemed it appropriate. When, for example, a scout troop arrived late and found the gates of a campsite shut, Almac invited them to camp overnight in the grounds of the pub. A complaint ensued.

For such an active man, ill health was a ball and chain, heavy to bear. To add insult to injury, the smoking ban left him feeling like a pariah as he stubbornly braved Aberfoyle weather on the terrace of the Forth Inn.

Almac, I miss you. Marion, my thoughts are with you, Ross and the family.

*Paul F Owens*



**KIDS  
GO FREE**

Great family days  
out in October 2008

For the month of October, Historic Scotland is inspiring children in the Central and West regions to discover over 5,000 years of history without having to pay a single penny. The cartoon trails that proved so popular last year return with an expanded programme. Over 70 Historic Scotland attractions will host 6 cartoon trails, with 36 different child friendly illustrated historical characters along the way. And this year, there will be 8 properties in the Central and West regions joining in the fun. From Jon the Jester to Mungo the Monk to Mary Queen of Scots, kids can hunt down their favourite historical legends, hiding throughout the properties. On completion of the trail, including a specially developed quiz sheet, all children will receive a small gift for their efforts. With a number of different trails to choose from, based on the range of properties to visit, visitors can tour a few attractions to clock up their historical character hunt. There will also be a grand prize draw to win a family VIP trip to Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle or Urquhart Castle.

So whether it's the world famous Stirling Castle, the beautiful Iona Abbey or magical Doune Castle... it's time to let your kids' imaginations run wild with Historic Scotland's Kids Go Free October promotion. Historic Scotland is providing an information service by SMS text for the event. By texting **TRAIL** to **84118**, you will receive information to your nearest attraction to visit with child's admission being absolutely free. The Historic Scotland Kids Go Free campaign runs from 1 – 31 October 2008. From castles to abbeys to cathedrals to prehistoric settlements to palaces to the mightiest artillery fortification in Europe, there's something to delight the imagination of children and adult alike.

For further information and opening times, please visit [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/kidsgofree](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/kidsgofree) or text '**TRAIL**' to 84118, or call 0131 668 8926.

## Provost Ploughs A Straight Furrow In Canada

Stirling Provost, Fergus Wood of Ledard Farm, Kinlochard won the guest section of the Tractor Ploughing Competition at the Hastings County Fair, Ontario, Canada last month. Fergus was over representing Stirling at the 150th anniversary of the town of Stirling, Ontario, population 1200. Stirling, Ontario has seven churches and two licensed premises - Aberfoyle has two churches and seven licensed premises - so who has got the balance right! While in Stirling, Fergus saw the town break the World Record for the biggest tractor parade, previously held by a town in Ohio, U.S.A. with a parade of 281 tractors. Stirling managed 602 tractors to get into the Guinness Book of Records!



## ESOL – English for Speakers of Other Languages

Do you know someone whose first language is not English and who would like to improve his or her language skills?

Stirling Council's Adult Learning Team run **free** classes in Callander, Inversnaid, Balfon and Strathard, which are open to anyone who would like to improve their English, whether it be for work, leisure or to help with other studies.

Classes are at Beginner and Intermediate levels and take place during the day and in the evening. Specialist ESOL tutors are provided by the Adult Learning Team.

Anyone interested in these or other ESOL classes in the Stirling area should contact Duncan Carmichael on 01786 432360.

## Aberfoyle Post Shop

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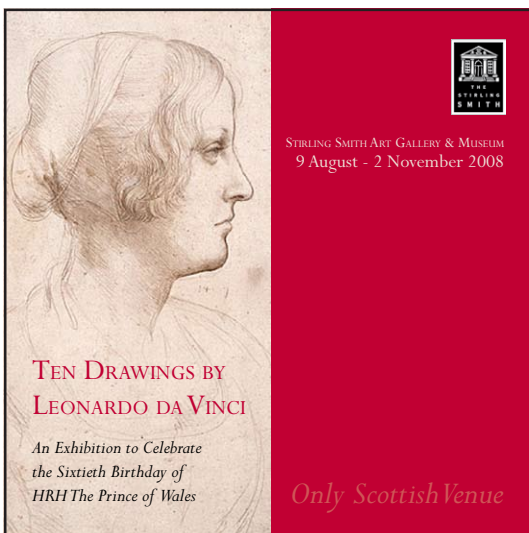
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11am-5.30pm Sun

P.O. 9am-1pm, 2pm-5.30pm Mon-Frid  
(Wed - close at 4pm)  
9am-1pm Saturday

# NOT HERE.... BUT NEAR!



## Events Programme

### 8 October

A Cartographic Renaissance? The European context to mapping Scotland during the sixteenth century  
*Christopher Fleet, Deputy Map Curator, National Library of Scotland*

### 15 October

Sir Robert Drummond of Carnock,  
Master of Work 1579-1583  
*Michael Pearce, Historic Scotland*

### 22 October

How successful was Leonardo as a painter?  
*Peter Russell, Artist and Art Historian*

### 29 October

Equestrian sculpture in Edinburgh as related to Leonardo's Sketches for Equestrian monument, 1508-10  
*Shannon Hunter Hurtado*

*Shannon Hunter Hurtado*

### 31 October, Friday

Leonardo da Vinci and the Reform of Drawing  
*Professor Martin Kemp, University of Oxford*

## The Big Draw

Throughout October. Join in and create some 21st century Stirling Heads. Free materials available.

## Life Drawing Classes,

Saturdays - advance booking essential.

Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum  
Dumbarton Road Stirling, FK8 2RQ  
Tel: 01786 471917  
[www.smithartgallery.demon.co.uk](http://www.smithartgallery.demon.co.uk)

## Balfron Heritage Group.

Please note change of date for the 'Printing in Stirling' talk. It will now be on Thursday October 16 (instead of October 9) in the Mc Lintock Hall at 7.30pm. Dr Elspeth King of the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum. This event is to mark 500 years of Scottish Printing.

## W.R.I.

Monday October 13 Vegetarian Cookery Demonstration by Mrs Anne Muirhead. Visitors and new members welcome Contact Sheena Marshall on 01360 440987 for further details.

Strathendrick Film Society  
[www.film-society.org](http://www.film-society.org)

## T.A.G.S. (Third Age Group Strathendrick)

Due to requests for more advance notice of next year's holidays we have put together three of next year's trips with Glenton (ABTA).

**May Holiday:** Edgebaston. Friday 15th May '09. DB&B Price: £179 per person, 20 single rooms available. 4 days 3 nights staying at Menzies Strathallan Hotel Insurance included, NO Single Supplement. Black country Museum £10, Cadbury World £10, Birmingham Botanical gardens £4.50, National Arboretum Memorial free.

**End of August trip to the Rhine Valley.** German Rhineland - Hotel Lamm Assmannshausen: Saturday 29th August '09, 8 days. Cost £499, Single supp: £ 115 per person (Sole occupancy throughout). Subject to 35 booking. Saturday 29th August travel to the Rhineland, travel by boat to Rüdesheim, see Drosselgasse, take the cable car to the Monument or perhaps book a ride on the WinderExpress to Seigfields Musical Museum. Wine tasting evening St.Goar, (possibility to book a small train to visit the castle above the town). Depart at 12.20 with the paddle steamer to Bacharach. Sail downstream on the Rhine, via the Lorelei rock and St Goar with Castle Rheinfels, passing wine-growing towns and the steep vineyards, the Rhine Gorge. Coach to Koblenz (the German Corner) at the meeting of the Rhine & Moselle. After free time continue south along the Moselle to Moselkern, cruise into Cochem, coach over the Hunsrück to Bingen and excursion to Heidelberg and the Neckar.

**October trip to Nottingham.** Friday 23rd October for 3 nights, to co-inside with the Robin Hood Pageant. £165. Single supplement £30.

## Doyle's Friday night Pizza's.

A new venture from Doyle's cafe & Deli in Buchanan Street Balfron will be their Pizza specials. On Friday nights from 4.30 - 7.30 pm fresh home-made pizzas will be available, children's pizza £5.95 menu includes a soft drink and ice cream. Adult special, and a 10" pizza and glass of wine £7.50. Phone 01360 449444 if you wish to book.

## The Rob Roy in Buchlyvie.

Winter specials on offer every Tuesday to Friday - 12 noon till 7.00 pm. Sept/Oct/Nov/Jan/Feb/March - 2 main courses for £10. Choose from: scampi served with salad & chips, chilli con carne served with rice, chicken kiev served with salad & chips, macaroni served with salad & chips, chicken burger served with salad & chips, 1 sizzling steak for £10, served with tomato, mushrooms, & chips. No booking necessary.

## Balfron Church.

There is a new venture for young people at high school from S1-S6 on Fridays from 5.30-7pm during term time in the church rooms. It is a drop in style cafe where young people can have a cup of coffee, chocolate or juice, chat, play music or chill-out in the quiet room and ask questions. They are asked to make a donation of £1 each night, and they will decide at the end of term which charity the money is to go to. More information from Rebecca Jamieson 440410 or Rae Gordon 440835.

## THREE IN A ROW AND EXPANDING

The third annual Callander Jazz and Blues Festival will take place in the town on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008 and for the first time our Trossachs neighbour Aberfoyle will be part of the festival activity. Once again a host of Jazz and Blues musicians from all over the UK, Europe and beyond will entertain our festival visitors to a fantastic programme of live music. A lively and enjoyable weekend is certainly in prospect with big bands to solo artistes and everything in between. Over 50 live gigs staged in 24 venues makes the 2008 Festival a major musical event not to be missed.

Printed festival programmes are currently available from all the festival venues and from both the Aberfoyle and Callander Tourist Information Offices.

Tickets are available from both tourist information offices Callander 01877-330342 Aberfoyle 01877-382352 or online from [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk) They will also be available from our festival sales kiosk located in South Ancaster Square from 3pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2008. Festival Helpline numbers are 01877-339399 and 01877-339455 Please visit [www.callanderjazz.com](http://www.callanderjazz.com) for all things festival and for any news or updates.





## Forth Inn Events Diary

### OCTOBER

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup>** - Opening Night of Aberfoyle Mushroom Festival 2008. Music, Buffet & Spanish Wines for purchase on the night! Tickets available from central Ticket Office Telephone Number 07920440400 or Online at [www.VisitTheTrossachs.com](http://www.VisitTheTrossachs.com)

• • • • •

**Frid 17<sup>th</sup>** - Karaoke Fun Start's 9pm in the Wallace Bar- No theme just a great night out!

• • • • •

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** - Cookery Demonstration with the Forth Inn Chef, Mike Clayton & Aberfoyle Butcher, Jonathan Honeyman @ 1.30pm & 3.30pm. Plus cookery competition.

• • • • •

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup>** - Pub Quiz. Prize for winning Team.

• • • • •

### NOVEMBER

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** - Karaoke Fun Starts 9pm in the Wallace Bar- a great night out!

• • • • •

**16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>** - Steak Week Not just Beef!

• • • • •

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Pub Quiz. Prize for winning Team!

• • • • •

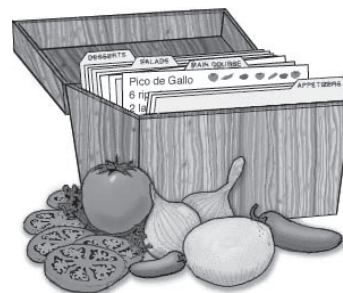
**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>** - St. Andrews Day

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

## Cannon of Pork topped with Mushroom and Smoked Bacon Mousse

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Small chicken breast
- 1 egg white
- ½ pint double cream
- 1 rasher bacon
- 2 small mushrooms
- 2 portion pork cannon



### METHOD:

Put the chicken in a food processor and blend. Add the egg white and blend again. Take out and place in a bowl, season with salt and white pepper. Trim the fat off the bacon and cut into thin strips, slice the mushrooms and fry together. Place in a strainer until cool. Slowly add a little cream to the chicken and stir in (do not over beat), when almost all the cream is added. Add the bacon and mushrooms and mix. Drop a little of the mix in a pan of boiling water, take out when cooked and check for seasoning. Lie the pork on its side and top with the mix. Wrap tightly in cling film and then in tin foil. Place in a hot oven and cook for approx 20 mins. Take out of the cling film and serve. Pork is best served a little pink, but ensure the mousse is fully cooked! ENJOY!!!!

sponsored by The Forth Inn

### Aberfoyle Golf Club

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Gents Open Stroke Play Competition

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

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### Aberfoyle Toddlers

Every Wednesday from 10 -12pm  
Aberfoyle memorial hall  
The more the merrier!!  
**Julie Glen Tel 01877 382 296**

### Scottish Country Dancing

Aberfoyle Memorial Hall  
Every Wednesday  
7.30pm - 9.30pm  
A good way to keep fit and active

### Aberfoyle Memorial Hall 100 Club

The winners of the August & September draws were Peter Barclay & Margaret MacKeand who won £96 and £93 respectively. The 100 Club has raised £1867 for the hall since its inception two years ago. The Committee would like to extend their thanks to all their members who have made this possible.

## Antiques Valuation Day

In aid of The Lilies Graham Trust & The Sandpiper Trust  
in association with



Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers

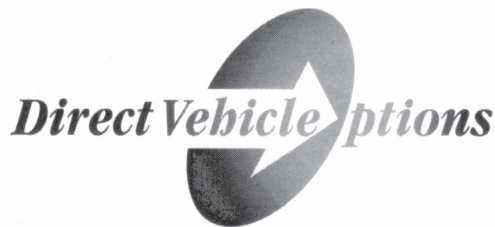
To be held in

Blairdrummond Community Hall,  
Blairdrummond, Stirling, FK9 4UX

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008**  
**From 10am until 3pm**

TICKETS £10 - soup, cheese, coffee & cake  
To include valuation of up to 3 items

**Enquiries to: Penny Dickson**  
**Tel 01786 842575 email [penny@lanrick.co.uk](mailto:penny@lanrick.co.uk)**



Janefield, Ruskie, Stirlingshire, FK8 3LG  
**Tel: 01786 850500 Fax: 01786 850555**

**Email: directvehicleopt@aol.com**

**We are pleased to announce that we now offer a full mechanical Service and Repair facility. If your vehicle is still within the manufacturer's warranty we can service it within the manufacturer's schedule using their parts whilst continuing their warranties for the full period. Of course we will offer this service at considerably less cost than the main dealer. We also offer an uplift and courtesy car service.**

**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,  
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Volvo C30 2.0D SportPack (07/07)  
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Toyota Hi-Lux HL2 2.5D D/Cab (08/  
 08) Delivery Miles **£12,500.00 + VAT**



Vauxhall Combo CDTi Van (05/55)  
 39,800 Miles, FSH. Immaculate  
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Volvo XC90 (07/56) 2.4 185 DSE Auto  
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Smart Pulse (04/04) in Blue/  
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 heated seats, 45,000 miles, Good  
 service history, 60 MPG+  
**£4,550.00**



Ford Focus TDCi Style (08/08) 3,500  
 Miles in Black **£11,750.00**



Renault Clio 1.2 Expression (02/  
 52) 5dr 60,000 Miles, FSH  
**£2,650.00**



Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDi 4x4 Estate Car (05/55) 1 owner, FSH, 39,000 Miles  
**£9,750.00**

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

Images for illustration purpose only