

Serving the communities of
Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid

Strathard News

Issue 90 June 2015

Suggested donation £1



Sponsored by

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

www.strathardnews.com www.facebook.com/strathardnews

*Photo courtesy of Craig Bunyan

inside

4 REGISTRAR

10 Letters to the Editor

31 SUDOKU

Strathard News

Editor: Marion Back (acting)
editor@strathardnews.com

Treasurer: Bridget MacPherson
treasurer@strathardnews.com
01877 382 564

Advertising: Margaret Hill
advertising@strathardnews.com

Design & Layout: Marion Back
newsdesk@strathardnews.com
01475 560 300

Secretary: Kerry Clow
secretary@strathardnews.com

Distribution: Arthur Jones
01877 382 682

Deadline Dates 2015

An email reminder is sent out one week prior to the deadline date. If you would like to be added to the list, please send your details to editor@strathardnews.com

Next Issue deadline - 19 July

Sponsorship

We are delighted to announce that we have sponsors for the next 3 issues. A huge thank you to those sponsors for your support and commitment. If you would like to sponsor an issue next year please get in touch to book your slot.

Advertising

When you place an advert with the Strathard News, we will continue to run it unless you stop or replace it. To place or cancel an advert, please contact Margaret Hill. To amend existing advert, please contact Marion Back.

www.strathardnews.com



Editorial

The Strathard News finds itself yet again without an editor. Our last editor, Lucy Tozer, has relocated to the south of England for her new job. We wish her well. I'm standing in for now, but if anyone out there wants to give it a go please get in touch.

Our small team of three were very happy to welcome Kerry Clow to the committee. Kerry is our new secretary, and is full of enthusiasm with great ideas and suggestions. Go Kerry!!

I want to say a huge thank you to Arthur Jones, whose help we couldn't do without. Arthur is not formally on the committee but is very much an integral part of the team. You will have seen him distributing the newsletter around the village and collecting the donations for banking. Great job, Arthur.

Despite all the changes in the last year we managed to secure 'runner-up' in Stirling Council's Community Newspaper of the Year 2014 awards. This award reflects not only design but content that is local to Strathard. So we thank all of you who contribute to the newspaper on a regular basis, and on an occasional basis, for your 'local' news.

We would like to hear from more of you; about your clubs, groups, letters, opinions. If anyone fancies doing a regular column (e.g. Agony Aunt, Recipes, Pet Profile, IT, Healthy living etc) please get in touch. We only produce six issues a year so it wouldn't be too onerous.

Hope to hear from you soon,
Marion



Please help us decide!

The community is to benefit from the proceeds of the sale of the Craigmore Centre. How are we going to do this?

Pop in to
Aberfoyle Memorial Hall
on **WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE**
from 7 - 9pm

Have some coffee & cake and swap ideas.

**Aberfoyle Parent Council &
Strathard Community Council**



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre do a little, do a lot...

15% off
The Lodge
café

15% off in The Lodge café with this voucher.

15% off GoApe! Book online at goape.com/aberfoyle using the code AB15FC or call 0845 6439215 (excludes Saturdays)

15% off
GoApe!
TREE TOP
ADVENTURE

10% off accommodation with Forest Holidays. Enter Lodge10 at forestholidays.co.uk or call 03330 110495 quoting code when you book. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

For more details, call 01877 382258 or e-mail: thelodge@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

www.forestry.gov.uk/qefp

Follow us on   @LodgeAberfoyle



What's on at the Lodge Forest Visitor Centre this summer?

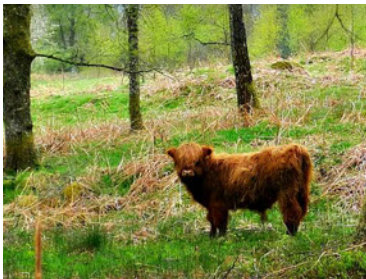
Alice in Wonderland Trail

Come and join the team at the Lodge Forest Visitor Centre in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland and Visit Scotland's Year of Food and Drink! Follow Alice on an adventure around our woodland version of Wonderland by taking a walk around our all-abilities trail. The trail takes you down the rabbit hole, through the door to Wonderland, passed the blue caterpillar to the woodland tea party, before finally joining the Queen of Hearts in her garden playing croquet. Pick up a map from the Lodge then all you need to bring is your imagination!

You can also visit the Lodge Shop where the talented Angela Ballard (of AB Crafts) has made Wonderland themed key rings and magnets and then enjoy an 'eat me' cake in the Lodge Café.



Hairy coos in the forest



The Lodge is also proud to welcome our newest residents: Laochan (which means 'little hero' in Gaelic) is a purebred Highland bull and Kinchie (named after the whisky 'Glen Kinchie') is a purebred Whitebred Shorthorn bull. The Whitebred Shorthorn cattle breed is on the critical list as there are fewer than 500 breeding females left so we are hoping Kinchie can help us preserve his kind.

The cattle are also in place to help to restore the woodland to a more natural state and enhance forest habitats for a range of wildlife. They will trample down and suppress the growth of bracken and allow an increase in biodiversity of flora and fauna within the enclosure.

Birds such as Black Grouse, Woodcock, Pied Fly-Catcher and Snipe benefit from low-density cattle grazing around woodland fringes. It can also be beneficial to rare species of butterfly such as the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary which thrives in lightly-grazed woodland. Owls and other raptors benefit from the greater opportunity to catch prey in open areas. Cattle dung is important for insects which are a food-source for many birds and mammals such as shrews, hedgehogs, foxes and bats. Cattle dung recycles nutrients, acting as a natural fertiliser.

Come to the Wildlife Room at the Lodge and find out more about our newest residents, as well as work that has been done as part of the Katrine Conservation Grazing Project.

Adventure for all

For the adventurers among you, we have our nature play features which are located along our accessible waterfall trail. These include a climbing tree, hobbit houses, hammocks, balance beams, and den building, as well as a water play feature so there are pieces to suit all abilities. There are also waymarked trails throughout the forest for the Adventurers and Wildlife Watchers alike, as well as a wildlife hide where you can sit and watch the red squirrels and bird life at our feeders.



<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/forest-parks/queen-elizabeth-forest-park/the-lodge-forest-visitor-centre>
<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/forest-parks/queen-elizabeth-forest-park/aberfoyle-ospreys>

Wildlife Watch

Spring got off to a flying start this year with two breeding pairs of ospreys spotted on our cameras. Drunkie, a male osprey who first made an appearance at Aberfoyle in 2013, returned to the nest over the Easter weekend and was soon joined by his long term mate Katrine. Two other ospreys were spotted at a second nest on our cameras and eggs were seen on both nests towards the end of April. Currently, both pairs are incubating their eggs to a captive audience on the screens at the Lodge Visitor Centre. Live webcams will also be beaming the drama of Katrine and Drunkie's nest to visitors throughout the season via the Forestry Commission Scotland website and you can keep up-to-date with the latest news via the Aberfoyle Ospreys Facebook and Twitter pages.

In addition to ospreys, you can also observe barn owls, peregrine falcons and catch all the action from bird feeders and red squirrel cameras located nearby through our viewing screens in the Wildlife Room at the Lodge. We will also have various craft activities and a wildlife quiz running throughout the summer in the Wildlife Room to keep the kids entertained on those rainy days!

Come and visit the Lodge Forest Visitor Centre today to enjoy the view and plan your adventure in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park!
For more details, call us on 01877 382258 or email thelodge@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Sadie Le Meilleur (1917 – 2015)
(A small appreciation)

With the passing of Sadie Le Meilleur, Strathard, and particularly the community of Kinlochard, has become so much the poorer. Before my time, Sadie had been long ensconced as head teacher at Kinlochard Primary School. My first close encounter with Sadie was at school council meetings, representatives from the five local primary schools gathering at Aberfoyle. During various discussions it soon became clear that her school and her pupils were Sadie's utmost priority – especially the Kinlochard catchment area. Passionate would be the best description. I am sure that every last one of the numerous pupils who passed through Sadie's care, will attest to the sheer vivacity and enthusiasm she brought to the classroom. This extended to life in general. A few years attending Kinlochard P S would have set a solid foundation for the future.

A long and happy marriage to René Le Meilleur saw the years pass at the last house in the village, wedged between loch and forest. These were the same trees that René, working for the Forestry Commission, had actually planted. The door at number 12 was always open, and the whole world and their auntie would be welcome to call.

Over the years I learned much about the land and people of Strathard, sipping tea and looking at framed photographs of their younger, extremely handsome, selves. That door is now closed and Sadie has gone to be with her René. I, and many others, will really miss her.

Sion Barrington



Andrew Anderson & Sons

Funeral Directors

Est.1969

**We are proud to offer a 24 hour caring
and professional service to the local community**

**We are pleased to offer
Golden Charter Pre-Paid Funeral Plans**

"Creating peace of mind for you and your family"

**A wide range of memorial stones are available.
We can also clean and add further inscription to
existing family memorials**

For all enquiries

Tel: 01877 330398

"Stand Sure we will look after you & your family"

Funeral Home, Glenartney Road, Callander, FK17 8EB
Email: info@anderson-funerals.co.uk • www.anderson-funerals.co.uk

The Registrar



At the time I last wrote, there had only been one birth registered in the area at that point ... now the babies have obliging caught up!

With the first three from Aberfoyle, baby boy, Lucas Kevin Steven Ward was welcomed by parents Hailey & Jackson; while another baby boy Lachlan Duncan Bruce was born to the delight of parents Cheryl and Grant; next, baby James Duncan Strachan-MacKay, a son for parents Mandy and Duncan.

We then moved on to Gartmore, where baby girl Daisy Thomson arrived to parents Amber & Stuart; the next, a boy, Barnaby William Poulter, was welcomed by parents Elita & John; and the sixth baby to be registered here in this period was Elizabeth Jane MacPhail, a daughter for parents Pamela & Colin. Such happy news ... Welcome babies!

We have certainly needed the above happy news, as our community has also continued to experience sadness through many losses among residents. Such losses included the death of Jimmy Campbell from Kirkton, who will be missed by his family, Moira, his children and his grandchildren, and by so many of us locally. Also sadly missed by all, is father, grandfather and D-Day Veteran, Peter McColl, who so recently was called upon to share his story in the Voices of Veterans campaign. This period also brought the sad news of the death of James Pittaway, husband of Jean, from Kinlochard. Missed by his family and so many people locally, is Stewart McLaren, who has served our community in so many ways, and will be remembered in particular by so many children and young people of the area, for whom he always had both time and a kind word. A sad period of time, for so many people, our condolences go to all families and friends who have experienced such loss.

It is fitting to now spend a moment or two on more happy events ... and what a number of events there have been! In fact, I sit here writing my column at the eleventh hour because there is, quite literally, never enough time and I seem to almost meet myself coming in as I go out ... if you see what I mean! Much of the reason for this busy time is very definitely the great number of weddings taking place throughout the area.

Among these (and naming just a few), Tim Spatzl and Nora Rutten who came, with their families, from Germany to the Lake Hotel, which had been visited over generations by family members.

Meantime, before another stunning stretch of water, Altskeith Country House has been busy with lots of celebrations, such as the weddings of Jaime Fernandez and Hazel Buchanan from Glasgow; Andrew Holland and Sonia Tindall who travelled down from the Shetland Isles; of Michael Hind to Nicola Edwardson from Airdre; and Darren McDowall and Claire Smith from Elgin, whose witnesses were proprietors of Altskeith, Alison and Yas.

Duchray Castle has provided the fairytale setting for many couples, including Gavin Smith and Joanna Chodorowska from Bathgate; Leino Doherty who wed Janice Brown from East Kilbride; Thomas Mylott and Sarah Bourke who travelled to our local castle from the Cayman Islands; while it was a local family who brought us their son Calum Murton and fiancée Haylay Outram, who now live in Tain.

As I am so fond of saying, for me, local weddings are particularly special, so it was undoubtedly a highlight to see Amy Anderson, escorted by sons Rory and Shaun, walk through sunlit woodland from her home all the way to the Waterfall, where Joe McDonald waited to marry his bride.

Our local churches and ministers have also been kept busy with weddings, throughout this period, including that of Aberfoyle couple Sarah Millar and Joseph Ghattas.

Congratulations to all couples who held their special event in our beautiful area.

Aberfoyle Registration Office continues to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon. Appointments can be made by telephone [01877 382 986] or by email [regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk], and I will look forward to assisting you in every way that I can.

*Sharon Johnston
Registrar*





Bruce Crawford MSP

It has been a busy few weeks across the constituency. In April I spoke in a Parliamentary debate about the future of dairy production across Scotland and what can be done to help our rural communities who are really suffering with the fall in milk prices. Over the past month I have met with local farmers from across the constituency to hear directly from them what changes they need to help them through this tough period. I have proposed the introduction of a 'Made in Scotland' brand for all Scottish produced products so that consumers are able to make the choice to buy local with the knowledge they are supporting our local farmers.

This month has also seen the General Election. No doubt many of you will be happy to see a break in the campaigning and the leaflets being stuck through your doors by all the parties. That said, the turn out across the constituency was 77.5% which was the highest we have seen in a general election for nearly 20 years. It has been great speaking to so many young and first time voters across the constituency who have been enthused by a new political climate across Scotland to get involved in politics and to turn out and vote.

The General Election was not the only election happening, we have also had the Scottish Youth Parliament Elections which saw Stirling Constituency have the highest increase in voters from all of the 32 local authority areas across Scotland. The number of young people who voted across the constituency was 4714, a 320% increase on the 2013 election.

Finally I would like to take a moment to congratulate our new MP Steven Paterson and to give my best wishes to Rt Hon Anne McGuire who after 18 years of service as the MP for the Stirling Constituency has stood down. While we may come from different parties, and have different views on how best to tackle some of the issues facing Scotland, Anne and I have always got on and worked well together to represent our constituents. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

As ever you can contact my office at; Unit 3.3 Wallace House, Maxwell Place, Stirling, FK7 9JS or by calling 01786 471899.



Iain Glen
Interior & Exterior Painting

Iain Glen
Tel: 01877 382 296
Mob: 0773 772 6338



National Park News

By Owen McKee



With the official opening of An Ceann Mor at Inveruglas on Wednesday 13th May we now have in place the four Scenic Routes viewpoints. The aim of these installations is to encourage those visiting the National Park to linger a little longer and enjoy what The Park has to offer. With stunning views down Loch Lomond - and , of course towards Inversnaid , - this facility will no doubt bring more visitors too.

But bringing visitors to The Park can present its problems which is why we have been keen to ensure that we have all the necessary tools to ensure that those who come have an enjoyable experience . The proposals outlined in YOUR PARK which I detailed in the last issue have now been submitted to the minister for consideration and we await the decision as to whether they can be put into place. There is still opposition to our proposals although the tone of some of that opposition is softening. However we have had overwhelming support from the communities in the Park for our proposals and hopefully that support will help carry the day.

We are progressing discussions with landowners so that agreements will allow us to start the process of putting in place the necessary facilities for managed camping if the ministerial decision is a positive one. Needless to say that in Strathard we are working with the Forestry Commission to ensure that the best possible use is made of public assets.

Another consultation in full swing at the moment is that for The Local Development Plan. Under the legislation we have to keep the Local Development Plan under constant review and to publish a revised Plan at least every five years. Over the past two years we have been working with communities to keep the Plan up to date and have published details of adjustments in a Main Issues Report. That work has now been consolidated into the proposed Local Development Plan and that is now what is being considered in this consultation which runs to the end of June. The Plan can be viewed at www.ourlivepark.com. May I please ask you to have a look. Remember that when the Planning Department is considering a planning application they make their decision on the basis of what is in the Plan. So if you have a view of what is in the proposed Plan now is the time to do it. It will be too late to influence the outcome of a planning otherwise.

We sometime forget that there a number of organisations working with the National Park Authority for the benefit of visitors and communities alike. Among these are The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs who give tremendous support and have recently helped many of our communities with donations towards Defibrillators. In addition they have been instrumental in clearing shrubs to give clearer views across Loch Lomond. Then there is the Community Partnership which gives support to the community trusts operating in the Park and has administered the very successful Apprenticeship Scheme and continues to promote apprenticeships throughout the Park. And we have The Countryside Trust which has been involved in considerable path maintenance and reconstruction. I for one am grateful that we have so many people who give so freely of their time for the benefit of our National Park.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post : Taigh Na Bhuth,
Locheearnhead.

Phone: 01567 830214

email: owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

MUSIC FOR THE HEART

A truly heart warming event!

On Saturday 16th May, people from all over the area flocked to Gartmore Hall to support an important fundraising initiative organised by the "Friends of Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres".

This patient group are on a mission! Their goal is to help raise funds to provide Cardiac Defibrillators for local villages. Several villages are already "up and running" but there are still gaps to be plugged!

For rural communities, remote from hospitals and ambulance support, ready access to a Defibrillator and importantly, training in its use, is vitally important and can save lives. The packed hall bore witness to the fact that our local communities are aware of this and keen to ensure that, in the event of a cardiac emergency, they have access to this important piece of equipment.

With Ian Turner at the helm, the evening got off to a flying start. The capacity audience sat back and enjoyed an evening of first class entertainment. The Trossachs Community Choirs, under the capable direction of Jim Lightbody, started the ball rolling with a lively selection of songs. This was followed by outstanding performances from Callum Cronin, Seona Glen and Ava Dinwoodie (accompanied by Walter Hall and Ian Dinwoodie). These three, who are pupils from McLaren High School, held the audience spellbound with their musical and vocal skills. Anne Stephen brought the first half to a close in fine style, with two haunting melodies on the clarsach.

After the interval, Gartmore's own Duncan McCrone, along with Cy Jack, gave us a

truly wonderful toe tapping start to the second half. A fabulous raffle followed with prizes donated by Dunblane Hydro, Blairdrummond Safari Park, Briarlands Farm, Dobbies, Nick Nairn's Cookschool, Fleur de Lis and Buchlyvie Pottery. We were then reminded of the reason we had all come together. Janet Billet, in her role as Chairman of the Community Council, was invited to come forward to accept a Defibrillator on behalf of the community. This was presented by Joanne Reid from Trossachs Search and Rescue team who had kindly come along with her colleague, Stuart to give us an insight into their role. The Choir made a welcome return to the stage delivering another fine performance with the whole hall joining them in their final song, a rousing rendition of "Sing a Song".

Isobel Madden, the chairman of "The Friends" had opened the proceedings, giving a humorous and informative account of the purpose behind the concert. It was Isobel who also drew the evening to a close with a hearty vote of thanks to everyone who had worked so hard to make the concert such a success paying tribute to the audience and other donors who had responded so generously.

A Defibrillator is like an insurance policy. We hope we never have to use it, but without a doubt it is reassuring to know it is there! The funds raised on Saturday will bring us a huge step closer to providing this reassurance to the communities of rural West Stirlingshire.

The amount raised from this event was a fantastic £3600 and there are still donations coming in.



andrew baird OPTOMETRIST

Optician & Contact Lens Practitioner

OPEN 5 DAYS

MONDAY 9AM – 5PM

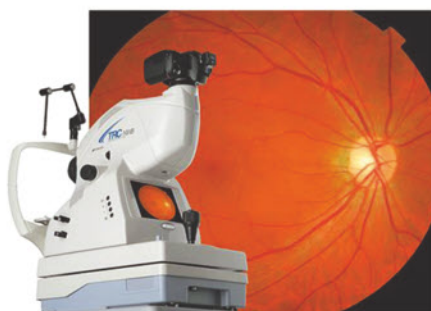
TUESDAY 9AM – 5PM

THURSDAY 9AM – 5PM

FRIDAY 9AM – 5PM

SATURDAY 9AM – 5PM

Closed Wednesday & Sunday



FREE Digital Retinal

Photography Available as part of your NHS eye examination

49 Main Street

CALLANDER

01877 330084

COMPLETE PAIRS

Single Vision from £59

Bifocals from £89

Varifocals from £129

Prescription

Sunglasses from £69

FREE

NHS EYE EXAMINATIONS
FOR UK RESIDENTS

Barbour
EYEWEAR



Walk in the Park News

June - July 2015

The walking group have been enjoying our program of spring walks over the last 8 weeks. Although we have battled with some wet, windy and at times snowy conditions, most of the walks have been in lovely sunshine with ever increasing glorious technicolour as spring blossoms into summer. Some of our walks have been in and around the village while others have been a bit further afield. The group took part in the Great Trossachs Forest Walk at Stronachlachar organised by The Woodland Trust in April. They also enjoyed a stroll around the grounds at Duchray Castle and enjoyed delicious tea and scones in the castle. In May they had a picnic at Flanders Moss and enjoyed a walk, followed by Strength and Balance and Tai Chi at the Spring Fling event in the Forth Inn. If all this makes you feel tired, then take a look at our new schedule for June and July – there's more!



Introducing Evening Walks

For those who are unable to come along on a Monday morning we now are introducing evening walks on a Wednesday during the summer months. These walks will be mainly around the village and will last between 30 – 45 minutes. Ending with refreshments at the Forth Inn, this will be an opportunity for both new walkers and existing members to enjoy an evening stroll.

Walker's stories – From time to time we ask people who walk with us to tell us how the walks and exercise sessions have helped them. Here is Linna's story:

It's a Walk in the Park!

Yes, it really is! You may see a group of people gathering in the car park in Aberfoyle on Monday mornings. And you may notice that they are dressed according to the weather and all wearing stout shoes. They are also smiling a lot and chatting.

They are getting ready to go out and about to walk in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

I learned about this group from a friend. I used to walk a lot, but had a couple of injuries which stopped me in my tracks. I was beginning to feel a bit better and thought these short walks would be good, then I heard about the coffee and scones, and the 'Strength and Balance Exercises'. I was hooked!

We have a two month programme and go for local walks around Aberfoyle, or further afield to places like David Marshall Lodge,

Stronachlachar, Flanders Moss, Lochan Spling or Loch Ruskie. Each walk lasts about three-quarters of an hour through this lovely countryside and we chat to each other, or bird watch, or stop to look at wildflowers. Today I saw a rare nuthatch and two red squirrels from the Lodge hide. Usually we return to the Forth Inn, who make excellent coffee and scones, and also kindly provide us with space for our exercises taken by our Project Co-ordinator, Cathy Scott.

I have found that these exercises have helped my injured knee greatly, easing it and strengthening it. I had also suffered from metatarsalgia (a very painful foot condition). The Otago exercise programme which we follow has gradually increased flexibility in this foot, and my walking has improved greatly. But one of the best things about the group is its friendliness. We share many interests and we make new friends. Who would not want to walk about this beautiful part of the world with nice people and the lure of a hot cuppa - and get to feel fitter and more active into the bargain? It's a Walk in the Park.

Linna Monteath.

If you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator, Cathy Scott 01877 330055 or send an email to: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org

trossachs physiotherapy

Back and neck pain,
Sports injuries,
Post-op rehabilitation,
Mobility issues,
Paediatric physiotherapy.

Home based or mobile
service

Cindy McLoughlin BSc (Hons) MCSP
07786 511894, Aberfoyle
trossachsphysiotherapy@gmail.com

Providing
skilled, local
therapy,
when you
need it.

Walk In the Park Aberfoyle

Time: Monday 10.20am

Wednesday 7pm

FREE, friendly and lots of fun - get fit or lose weight – make new friends

Coordinator – Cathy Scott

Tel 01877 330055 cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossach.org



Date	Meeting Place	Route
7pm Every Wednesday	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park	Village Walk
1/6/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Car Share)	Loch Ard
8/6/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Minibus)	Duchray Castle Grounds
15/6/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Car Share)	Loch Ruskie
22/6/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Car Share)	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre
29/6/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Car Share)	Lemahamish and Cobbleland
6/7/15	Scottish Woollen Mill	NCR7 to Rob Roy
13/7/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Car Share)	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre
20/7/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Car Share)	Loch Ard
27/7/15	Scottish Woollen Mill (Car Share)	Lochan Spling Road

National Park Local Development Plan Consultation

These proposals are now out for comment until 29th June. They will govern the Planning regime in the National Park in future and are therefore of some importance. We would encourage people to consider these – see www.ourlivepark.com. A copy is available also in Aberfoyle PO.

Although not within the Strathard area, the original proposals nearby for visitor accommodation between Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith generated a lot of interest and feedback when the original report was first released. These have now been removed 'to allow for further exploration of options in the area'.

Fairy Branding and Doon Hill

The Community Council has not been involved in this project although did pass on local feedback to the traders' organisation when asked, after carrying out consultation. This included the need for site and path improvements, and mixed local opinion from residents on the concept, including signage. We can still however receive any further comments people may have, in case local opinion is sought from us again.

Special report from Stirling Council on Flooding.

The below information from the Council Flooding Team details progress on the various aspects of the Flooding project as described at the last public meeting, and after the team reviewed all local input. If you have any queries at this stage do let us know and we will try to find out more.

As regards improvement works these have been the recent actions:

1. Investigation work including the assessment of 30+ culverts stretching along the B829 as a result of the information provided by the community about regular flooding problems.
2. **Dip near medical centre:** Major inlet improvement to culvert and a new grille. Large ditch improvement on downstream side of the road to prevent water building up in the dip. This work came at a cost of £20K, a fairly substantial amount. This was an area that the community has requested road raising but a drainage solution was identified as the best option.
3. **Telephone exchange:** Pipe replacement carried out through the field to allow gulleys to discharge and reduce regular flooding on the road.
4. **Primary School:** Ditch downstream of Loch Ard Road - CCTV works carried out and further work identified as a result. Work on the culvert will be programmed to reduce flooding on the road and through the school grounds.
5. **Lochside:** Major works on the loch wall to repair, heighten and extend the wall are ongoing. Flap valves have replaced the drainage holes. The combination of the two should prevent the road from flooding as regularly and to a lower depth. The work so far has been at a cost of £32K. Further repair works on the wall including tree work are currently being investigated in the vicinity of Forest Hills.
6. **Echo Rock:** A new inlet and culvert under the road have been installed as well as two grilles to catch drainage in preparation for road raising. Road raising that was recently cancelled will be rescheduled for after the summer in consultation with the community.
7. **Suisgill:** Section of road has been raised to reduce depth of flooding. The road raising here cost £17K.
8. **Forestry offices:** Currently investigating options of how to reduce the flooding instances.
9. **Tree felling and removal:** This has taken place downstream of the woollen mill where there was safe access to prevent blockages in the river.
10. **River and rain gauges:** These have been installed in the Duchray catchment in consultation with SEPA with the intention

of facilitating a flood warning scheme in future. This came at a cost of £11K.

11. **Flood Scheme in Aberfoyle:** The ground investigation contract has now been awarded. Notification should be coming to local residents from the consultants to make them aware of the works to be done in the near future. A start date should be known within the next month. Once the ground investigation has been completed the design drawings can be finalised. At this point a community meeting will be arranged to update everyone on progress of the proposed embankment. To date the scheme design has progressed and £90K of the budget has been spent so far.

12. **Telemetry facilities:** Investigations and consultations have been ongoing in relation to using these to provide a flood warning.

Community Information

- Our website is www.strathard.org.uk and can be accessed in Aberfoyle Post Office.
- We send out e-mailings on matters of general community interest. You can sign up for these e-mailings by contacting us via the website.
- Information is also placed on our 4 community noticeboards.

The names of your Community Councillors are shown below – please do get in touch with them on any relevant matter if you would like our help.

Fiona

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnair Hotel. The next meetings will be held in Kinlochard Village Hall on 4th June and Aberfoyle Memorial Hall on 2nd July. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councillor (Martin Earl, Alycia Hayes or Fergus Wood) normally will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns. If you are planning to come to one of these surgeries we suggest you check noticeboards or our website in advance, since there are sometimes dates when Councillors cannot attend.

Community Councillors by Ward

Aberfoyle

John Clow (vice-chair)
Michelle Colquhoun
Ros Dingwall (secretary)
Jimmy Quinn
Geraint Short
1 vacancy

Kinlochard

Fiona McEwan (chair)
Colin Smith (treasurer)
Stuart Stephen

Stronachlachar

Ralph Wolfe

Inversnair

Andre Goulancourt

Contact details:

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



ABERFOYLE POST OFFICE

WELCOME TO THE POSTIE'S OWN POUNDZONE

Check out how many items you can purchase for one pound (or less)

Includes hair gel, toothpaste, 2 x toothbrushes, soap.

Also 500ml Coke, Diet Coke, 2 x 500ml Volvic, Lucozade Sport

And Hallmark's value range of cards

plus BIG bars of Aero, Teasers and.....

Shop OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: Mon-Sat 8am - 5.30pm. Sun 10am - 5.30pm
P.O. OPEN: 9am Mon-Sat, Close 5.30pm, (Wed 4pm: Sat 1pm)

Outdoor Learning at Aberfoyle Primary

Since January P6/7, their teacher Mr Fielden and an SLA have been spending every Thursday morning, in the forest, taking part in outdoor learning. The class have thoroughly enjoyed this experience come rain, snow or shine.

During the first session, which took place during a snow storm, the class identified a base area and learned how to erect a tarpaulin shelter. They have also mastered the use of a Trangia stove and are now experts at making hot chocolate, which has proved to be very welcome on the cold, wet days. As well as learning bush craft skills, such as shelter building, outdoor first aid, navigation and respect for their local environment the class has covered all areas of the curriculum. Amongst other things they have had maths lessons using forest material and they have written poetry about their surroundings and reports on and instructions for the day's activities. They have even had violin lessons in the forest. Topic work surrounding disability had a practical application in the forest with half of the class spending part of the session wearing black out goggles, to simulate blindness, and the other half supporting them.

An invaluable tool on these outdoor learning days has been the iPad. All pupils in P6/7 have individual iPads for use in school and they have used them in the forest to take photographs, write notes and even make films. When they return to class they have their own individual record of the session which allows them to continue working on the day's subject.

On the last Friday before Easter P6/7 invited their parents to join them in the forest and to experience outdoor learning for themselves. This was a most enjoyable session.

This term the class have embarked on the John Muir Award, which encourages discovering, exploring, conserving and sharing. The following comments, which were made by the pupils, sum it all up.

"we're learning without realising it"

"I've found out that you can make boring things interesting"



Writing reports on our iPads



Hot Chocolate on a snowy day



Biology lesson skeleton



Violin lesson in the forest



Reading Burns' poetry

STRATHARD HOME IMPROVEMENTS

For all your home and garden improvement needs.

We provide a one-stop maintenance, building and landscaping service, including plant and digger hire.

Other services include:

All building work: plumbing, electrics, joinery, roofing, tiling, decorating, guttering.

Landscaping, estate services, log splitting, tree surgery and milling.

Small demolition and all types of drainage work.

Call 01877 389 333 or 07970 896 395

Or email info@strathardhomeimprovements.co.uk

Free Quotations VAT registered



Letters.....

Dear Rob Roy football club and spectators,



We are writing this letter to complain about the mess you have made after a football match. There is a bin in the field so can you please dispose of your litter. We understand that you own the field but the pupils at the school use the field for playing and P.E. We are an Eco friendly school and encourage the younger and older pupils to put their litter in the bin. We would love it if you could show a good example to the younger generation. We have noticed that you have need of the benches but once you are finished with them please put them back into the playground. We would be very grateful if you could please tidy away your litter and return the benches.

*Yours kindly,
P7 students
Aberfoyle Primary*

Ben A'an - Project Update

I am writing to you with regard to provide you with an update on the work that Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has been undertaking as part of the essential improvement programme on Ben A'an in the Trossachs, which will conserve the landscape for walkers and other users for years to come.

The programme, which got underway in Autumn 2014, is on course to be completed by December this year. Forestry Commission Scotland has successfully completed the first phase of the conservation project which has seen the removal of trees from around a power line and public road on the lower section of the hillside.

This has all been achieved despite challenging working conditions over the winter months which saw high winds, snow and freezing weather.

The next steps will be;

- Tree felling further up the hillside in Spring and Summer which will require that the popular Ben A'an hill path to be closed from 7th of April to the end of December. Access will be maintained using a temporary dedicated hill-path diversion that leads to the Ben A'an summit from the Ben Venue car park.
- The path will be reinstated once the work is completed in December and timber removed from the site.

The felling at Ben A'an is being undertaken as part of a wider Land Management Plan which aims to reshape the forest and reintroduce a greater range of native trees to the Ben A'an area such as oak, birch, aspen, rowan and hazel. This is part of The Great Trossachs Forest Project, launched in 2009 which aims to restore 16,500ha of Scotland's native woodland.

Further information on the improvements will be made available in due course. However if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Forestry Commission Scottish C&TFD office on 01877 382383 or on e-mail - forestrycommissionscotland@grayling.com

Dear Editor

With regard to the sudden flurry of fairy fanaticism in Aberfoyle, can I add a few thoughts? Whilst being well aware as a trader in the village, that we are in need of an increase in visitor numbers in order to preserve jobs and to help support a thriving community, I am disturbed by the current focus on Doon Hill, which is at risk of damage due to a lack of consultation and forward planning. Doon Hill is designated I believe, as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. As such, I trust that plans to increase the number of people walking there will have given consideration to the state of the paths, the possible need to upgrade them and whether this can be done without destroying the unique features of the area. Also, was any thought given to the number of visitors who will park their cars along Manse Road on their way to the Fairy Hill?

And when visitors finally manage to get to the Fairy tree what do they find? A rubbish tip, according to feedback I have been receiving! From what I understand from those brought up in the village, and for whom Doon Hill has always been a truly magical place, the phenomenon of leaving 'clouties' and other foreign objects, is a fairly recent one, and not something to be encouraged. Why are we telling our children that its ok to leave rubbish lying about in the forest? Do we really want feedback from visitors such as I received last week : 'its like something out of the Blair Witch Project - creepy'. I have suggested that the Forestry Commission should ask the fairies to put up a sign asking people not to leave litter in what is effectively, their garden. I think they should also leave a postbox where wishes and notes can be posted to them, thereby keeping the forest clean.

Yes, there is a wonderful story to be told about Rev Kirk, and more people should know about him, and about all the other things which make Aberfoyle special, but at the same time lets not spoil the precious memories for those who have grown up here. My impression is that Aberfoyle does not want to be the 'fairy capital' of Scotland, but it could lay claim to being its heart!

Ros Dingwall



At The Ward Toll
Balfron Station G63 0QZ
4 miles south of
Aberfoyle on the A81



Follow us on facebook

Garden Centre • Pet Shop • Farm Shop

Helping you get ready for Summer

- Locally grown shrubs and herbaceous plants
- Home-produced hanging baskets & containers
- Garden furniture and greenhouses
- Composts, bark, ornamental pots
- Pet food and accessories and dog ramps
- Farm shop with local jams, cheeses, fresh veg etc

Opening Hours:

Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 5pm
info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk **01360 850525**
www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk



50 years of Contact the Elderly celebrated at Kinlochard Village Hall

Saffrey Miller and Kinlochard Village Hall were host to Contact Elderly annual tea party on Sunday. This year is their Golden Jubilee and their CEO Mary Rance came all the way from London to attend - not to mention over 80 volunteers and members from Glasgow, Stirling and beyond! A great afternoon was had by all. Great musical entertainment added in with Donald MacLeod on vocals and Katherine Harrison our fantastic harpist for the afternoon. Also a massive 50th Birthday cake donated by Tunnocks - the draw to cut it was won by a mightily pleased Alex Dolan!



Loch Ard Sailing Club



Enjoy the delights of this beautiful, quiet loch situated on the south edge of the Trossachs. We are a friendly club, offering relaxed weekend racing, social sailing, and a number of social activities throughout the season, which began on 12th April.

Our aim is for members to enjoy the location, relax, and 'mess about in boats'. We have club boats to borrow for those who don't own boats. Some members bring their mountain bikes and use the club as a starting point for rides into the forest.

We cater for all ages and groups - solo sailors, families, couples - and are keen to develop members' basic handling and racing skills. Sailing visitors are also welcome to use the club's facilities.

The new season opened at Loch Ard Sailing club on Sunday 12th April with a good NW wind to blow away the winter cobwebs. We will sail through to mid-October with racing and other club events mainly on Sundays, and one Saturday racing day per month.

Our long-established club site at Kinlochard has ample boat space. Access to the club for members is unrestricted, although safety-boat cover is only provided on the main club days and during training sessions. Apart from sailing the club provides a great base for canoeing, cycling, walking, swimming, photography and all manner of outdoor activities - as well as quiet picnics and relaxation by the loch shore. Visit us any Sunday afternoon in person, or on-line at www.lochardsc.org.uk. We will be pleased to meet you.

McLaren Community Leisure Centre

Leisure Facilities:

- Swimming Pool
- Climbing Wall
- Fitness Suite
- Indoor Courts
- 3G Pitch
- Café
- Soft Play Zone
- Classes
- Birthday Parties
- SQA Courses
- Laser Tag
- Holiday Camps

McLaren Community Leisure Centre,
Mollands Road,
Callander,
FK17 8JP

Tel: 01877 330000

www.mclarenleisure.com

MUSIC ON THE LOCH

Making Sundays special at Loch Katrine

The sounds of summer at beautiful Loch Katrine will be more enchanting than ever this year – as the classic steamship Sir Walter Scott sets sail on Sundays during July and August for a special early evening jazz cruise, a great way to celebrate a special occasion, or a truly memorable highlight of a perfect day out.

The combination of the beautiful scenery which surrounds Loch Katrine, wonderful jazz and blues music from well-known local and Scottish bands, and the opportunity to enjoy sailing on the ship which has been part and parcel of the landscape of The Trossachs for 115 years is sure to be a special experience for visitors from near and far.

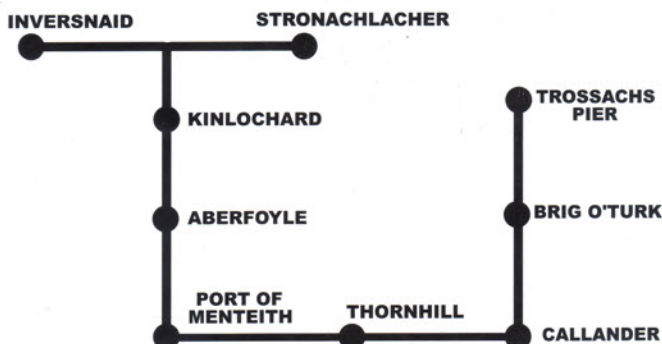
As the views across the loch slip gently by, visitors can relax and enjoy the fully accessible facilities on board the steamship, which include a fully-licensed bar and servery, and comfortable lounges.

Jazz Cruises will depart from Trossachs Pier (where facilities include The Brenachoile Cafe Bar and Restaurant) every Sunday at 4:00pm (from the 28th June until the 30th of August) arriving back at 6:00pm.

The Loch Katrine Jazz Cruises are sure to be popular, so advance reservations are recommended, and tickets (from £22.00) can be purchased online at www.lochkatrine.com, or from the Information Office at Loch Katrine (Tel. 01877 376315 or 376316).

CRESCENT CABS

Demand Response Transport



0800 756 3069

**ADVANCED BOOKING REQUIRED
(UP TO 24hrs)**

Sponsored by STIRLING COUNCIL



MUSIC ON THE LOCH

Making Sundays special at Loch Katrine

28th June - 30th August 2015 • Tickets from £22.50

The sounds of summer at beautiful Loch Katrine will be more enchanting than ever this year as the classic steamship Sir Walter Scott sets sail every Sunday during July & August for a special early evening jazz cruise, with wonderful jazz & blues music performed by a host of well-known local Scottish bands. It's a great way to celebrate a special occasion, or a truly memorable highlight of a perfect day out.

The Sunday Jazz Cruises will depart from Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine at 4pm arriving back at 6pm.



28th June – Jazz Mark Five
5th July – Last Tango in Memphis
12th July – The Jazz Pack
19th July – The Rosy Blue Blues Band
26th July – Hoochie Coo
2nd August – The South River Blues Band
9th August – Moodswing
16th August – Jazz Mark Five
23rd August – The Linda Jaxson Band
30th August – The Jazz Pack

The Loch Katrine Jazz Cruises are sure to be popular, so advance reservations are recommended to avoid disappointment.

Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine, by Callander, Stirling FK17 8HZ

Tel: 01877 376315/6 Email: enquiries@lochkatrine.com www.lochkatrine.com

Trossachs Search and Rescue Team

Scottish Charity no SC028266

Spring in to Action



It's been yet another busy and productive period for the Trossachs Search and Rescue team as they continue to assist in the deployment of Public Access Defibrillators.

Following the fantastic choral concert in Gartmore Village Hall in partnership with The Friends of Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres, further funds have now been generated to locate more defibrillators within the Trossachs community.

Sufficient monies are already in place to a defib within the Gartmore Village's reconditioned telephone box, while Buchlyvie will see their defib situated on the side of the village hall.

Matthew Mitchell Chairman of TSAR commented, "One can never but fail to be impressed by the hard work, dedication and generosity of the local community in raising funds for such important equipment, not only for the benefit of local residents but also their visitors to the area. We are soon to reach 30 defibs within the Loch Lomond and Trossachs area which is an amazing milestone for everyone to be proud of."

HOKA Highland Fling Race

In addition to the ongoing defib programme, the TSAR team were again involved in providing safety and medical cover for the annual HOKA Highland Fling Race. The team attended a total of 14 incidents, many occurring in the Inversnaid area with 3 requiring evacuation by TSAR boat personnel to awaiting medical teams.

Heartstart Training

As part of the ongoing defibrillator staff training programme, the TSAR team carried out their annual sessions for both Loch Achray and Inversnaid hotels. Indeed should anyone from Aberfoyle, Buchlyvie and Port Menteith be interested in attending free Heartstart training then please email Paul Brooks on trossachs.cpr@btinternet.com

Trossachs Search and Rescue Facelift

A new logo has been created for TSAR to acknowledge the charity's three main areas of work they provide:

1. Search and Rescue spearheaded by the highland trained search dogs and their handlers.
2. Providing First Responder cover for the Scottish Ambulance.
3. The growing Public Defibrillator programme coupled with the invaluable Heartstart training.



**TROSSACHS
SEARCH + RESCUE**
PUBLIC ACCESS
DEFIBRILLATOR

Aberfoyle Primary School

Nursery News

Welcome back everyone and we hope you had a happy Easter break. Due to the alterations to the Nursery School garden we have been busy moving shrubs and trees in order to create an exploratory environment for the children. We have been enjoying the lovely weather outdoors where the children have enjoyed investigating the mud kitchen, water play, den making and creating ramps and tracks using the guttering and tubes. We are hoping to develop this area further by making planters to grow vegetables and flowers, if you are able to give us any help with this it would be greatly appreciated. We also would appreciate any parental volunteers to come along and help to move small shrubs and create a cobbled path along-side our trees.

The children are still very interested in learning all about planets and space. We are developing this further through consultations and group discussions. We are moving on to investigate the planets in the solar system in more detail learning about the differences and similarities between them. As the weather is beginning to improve can I please remind everyone it is very important to apply sun cream to your children and a loose white long sleeved shirt is cool on a hot day preventing sun burn.

The pre-school children have been enjoying sharing their learning with Primary one during planned transitions. Here are some of the children's comments when they were asked what music lesson was like in Primary one:

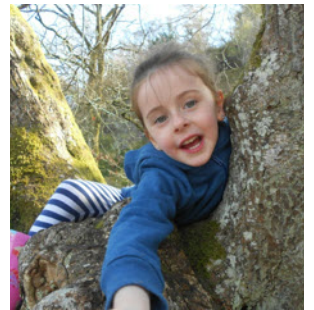
Elias: "We were singing and dancing, Miss Brown was the music teacher's name."
Connor McGregor: "Pea Pod Press was my favourite song."
Allana: "She had Teddy Bears, they popped out and Five Little Monkeys is so funny."



Primary 1 News

Primary 1 Inchailloch trip

Primary 1 from Aberfoyle Primary School visited Inchailloch on Tuesday 21st April as part of their social studies topic. The children had been busy learning about Katie Morag and the children were really keen to visit an island and explore the beach just like Katie Morag. It was a glorious day and the children thoroughly enjoyed walking along the pier and boarding the boat across Loch Lomond before arriving on the island. We walked through the woodland and once we arrived at Port Bawn we played on the beach, paddled in the water and enjoyed a picnic lunch. Some of us tried skimming stones and we even tasted our scones which we had made the day before. A fantastic day out enjoyed by everyone especially Miss Brown, Mrs Butler and our parent helpers.



Primary 2/3

Our new topic is 'Awesome Orchestras' and we have been learning about Peter and the Wolf. We drew the characters and the instruments. The duck was the oboe, the bird was the flute, the cat was the clarinet, the wolf was the French horns and Peter was the strings, the hunters were the drums and the grandfather was the bassoon.

In maths we have been learning to add amounts of money in chimney sums. We have been learning to work out change and playing shops. In science and health we are learning about relationships and we matched up lifecycles of different animals.

In music we have been learning about different instruments in an orchestra and using maracas, drums and bells to play along to pieces the William Tell Overture. It was exciting and dramatic and we felt that we were actually inside the story!

Primary 4/5

On the 20th March, Primary 4/5 began their weekly swimming sessions at McLaren leisure centre. Everyone is really enjoying the sessions. We have learned to use floats to swim across the pool and some of us are learning to pencil jump into the pool. Our class teacher Mrs Lambert is now on maternity leave. We wish her all the best and the whole school is looking forward to Mrs Lambert visiting with her new baby after the summer holidays.

Primary 6/7

This term, Primary 6/7 are focusing their learning around the topic 'Disabilities'. So far the children have discussed the main types of disabilities and they have took part in activities to experience what it is like to be blind. The children were blindfolded and they were expected to follow directions using their sense of sound and touch.

Their weekly outdoor learning sessions continue on a Thursday. The class walked up part of the bogey line and looked at the leftover ruins of the slate quarry from the 1950's. They really enjoyed learning outdoors and using their iPads to take pictures so they could write about them in their online blog.



McLaren High School

Dance Competition

Well done to McLaren High School Dancers who were absolutely fantastic at the Forth Valley Dance Competition. Congratulations to our S4 trio of Emme Knowles, Amy Simpson and India Newton (pictured left to right) who won the small group category. All groups should be extremely proud of their efforts- you have all been a credit to McLaren High School.



Battle of the Bands

On Tuesday 24 March McLaren High School held its Battle Of The Bands heat. With doors open at 7pm and a 7:30pm start the first band was introduced as 'Burn Away'. They started the night off with some great songs. Other bands such as Kirsty and Austin, Sex Bomom, Saving Emily and Deep As Grass (to name a few) were fantastic and the crowd supported them in what they did.

The night went really well with help from senior pupils and Gregor Flynn who helped out with sound for the night. A big thanks to the judges – Mr Allan, Mr Carrol and Mr Wood, and to Mr Smith for their involvement. The effort that went into this certainly

paid off. As each of the seven bands performed one by one it was just a waiting game before the winner was announced. The judges combined their scores over a short intermission and then announced the winner as 'Deep As Grass'. Good job to them, well done!

Deep As Grass will go through to the Battle of the Bands final which will be held at Stirling's Tolbooth on 13 June.

Cameron Roxburgh S6



Hockey Tournament

Since December last year, McLaren High pupils have been taking part in the Stirling/Clackmannan High Schools Field Hockey Tournament which was organised by parent volunteers and teachers to help promote inclusion and participation in mixed hockey by both junior and senior pupils. Pupils from McLaren have been practicing every Monday evening after school in all weathers and have regularly had in excess of 40 pupils taking part in these sessions. We travelled to Wallace High in December and Stirling High in February and played hosts to Alva Academy and Dunblane High on 18 and 19 March. McLaren have won the majority of their matches so far, a great result for such new players, and are looking forward to matches in Balfron and Dunblane before the end of year tournament in June. The pupils have thoroughly embraced the hockey challenge and have enjoyed every minute – as can be seen from the team photos! The pupils would like to thank Jim Frail (coach) and Susan Gibson (assistant coach/organiser) for all their efforts in helping to get the McLaren Hockey Team off the ground.



Music Festival and Concert

On 31 March and 1 April McLaren High School held its annual Music Festival Competition. Pupils in all years were invited to enter and competition was fierce in all 3 categories. We were delighted to welcome world famous pianist Angela Brownridge as adjudicator for this year's festival. Ms Brownridge has appeared in recital and concerto performances throughout Britain, Western and Eastern Europe, the United States, Canada and the Far East. She has played in all of the major London concert halls, has appeared at the Edinburgh Festival and broadcasts regularly for the BBC. As well as choosing the top three in each category of the competition Ms Brownridge found time to hold a piano masterclass and pupils were delighted to be in attendance at this unique event.

By the end of Wednesday the winners had been decided as follows:

Junior Section –

- 1st – Charlotte Scott S2 (voice and ukulele)
- 2nd – Cameron McLay S2 (bagpipes)
- 3rd – Mhairi Stewart S2 (saxophone)

Intermediate Section –

- 1st – Callum Hall S4 (bagpipes)
- 2nd – Finn Manders S4 (fiddle)
- 3rd – Ailish Duthie S3 (voice)

Senior Section –

- 1st – Craig Russell S6 (voice)
- 2nd – Ava Dinwoodie S6 (voice)
- 3rd – Callum Bain S6 (cornet)



On the Wednesday evening family and friends were welcomed to the Music Festival Concert to enjoy not only performances by each of the winners, but also pieces from the orchestra and various ensembles, and an amazing piano recital from Ms Brownridge.

A wonderful evening was had by all and thanks must go to Ms Brownridge for attending both days and helping to make the concert one to remember. Congratulations again to all the prize winners.

Duke of Edinburgh Report

Over the past few weeks all bronze DofE participants have been attending their training weekends. The weekends involved two days of training which will help when pupils embark on their practice and final expeditions which will take place in May/June. On the first day the groups went out navigating, despite the awful weather! The catch up weekend fared better as you can see from the photos! Pupils learnt basic navigating skills and put them into practice out and about around Coilhallan Woods. The second day involved learning about what equipment we should and should not use on our expeditions, this entailed finding out about the most suitable clothing and footwear and the best foods to eat. We even got to make hot drinks on the stoves outside and after enjoying a cuppa we learnt how to put up our tents. The weekend was really enjoyable and will help us all in our actual expeditions. Thanks to all the adult volunteers who helped out.

Laura King S3

Central Schools Under - 16 Cup Final



Group photo left to right: Aarron Hibbert, Laura King, Annie Chisholm, Eve Scott, Rebecca Geddes, Hazel Lafferty (all S3)



Senior Ski Course 2015 – Austria

THE Steamship Sir Walter Scott

Named after Scotland's much loved poet and author Sir Walter Scott, our iconic 115 year old steamship is one of Scotland's major visitor attractions.

Built by Denny Bros at Dumbarton, the steamship's journey to Loch Katrine was not easy. She was meticulously dismantled before being transported by barge to Inversnaid on Loch Lomond and then by horse drawn carts to Stronnachlachar where she was rebuilt and first sailed on the 1st April 1900.

The steamship has undergone a number of changes over the years, including a new passenger saloon, and although still powered by her original 1898 Mathew Paul triple expansion steam engine, her new boilers, replaced in 2007 use environmentally friendly bio-fuel.

Season after season, the Steamship Sir Walter Scott, which provides full disabled access and facilities, continues to welcome cyclists, hikers, families and international tourists on board, to enjoy the stunning scenery of Loch Katrine. Relax on board with a drink and snack while listening to the tales and legends of the loch narrated by our knowledgeable and experienced crew.

Sailings depart daily from Trossachs Pier, please check our web-site or leaflet for sailing times and prices. Should you be planning to cycle back along the loch shore road from Stronnachlachar, we recommend you book in advance.



Kinlochard Gathering Kinlochard Village Field and Hall

Kinlochard Gathering

Sunday 19th July 2015

Grand Pipe Band Parade at 11:30 am from Forest Hills

A special invitation to the Clan Teddy Bear's Picnic, please bring your best dressed teddies along

Free Shuttle Bus from Aberfoyle Starting 11am

Free entry

Clanranald Jacobite Re-enactment

Junior Solo Piping Championship sponsored by LLTNP

Opening & Story Telling by Paraig MacNeil

World Giant Sack Race Championship

Heavy Events for all

Highland Dancing

Tug O'War

Kids events

Search and Rescue

Duck race

Licenced Bar

Fun on the loch

Teas & Coffee

Barbeque

Wear a bit of tartan, your own clan or one most akin to you.

In aid of Kinlochard Village Hall

www.kinlochard.org

As well as The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers, new this year is an under 18s piping competition. There will be Story Telling by Paraig MacNeil with Clanranald Jacobean Re-enactment as the main Arena Event along with the ever popular Trossachs Search & Rescue Demos. A tartan theme this year with a Clan Teddy Bear's picnic -dress your wee ones' Teddy in Tartan and bring it along, wear a bit of tartan of your clan.

Heavy events, kids events, side shows, stalls, fun on the water and the usual brilliant food and drink in the form of local burgers, home baking with teas and coffee and a licensed bar, A great day out for all ages, local, not so local and abroad. Beautiful loch side setting in the heart of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

Entry free. Sunday 19th July. Games open midday. Nearby parking off B829, for a donation. Mini bus running from Aberfoyle TIC All proceeds to Kinlochard Village Hall.



A special invitation to the Clan Teddy Bear's picnic, please bring your best dressed Teddies along

The Clan Teddy Bear's Picnic will take place in the afternoon of The Kinlochard Gathering on **Sunday 19th July**. All younger children are welcome to join in.

Please ask older brothers or sisters, your mum or dad or your grandparents to help you dress a teddy in clan costume to bring along.

There will be a prize for the best dressed clan teddy bear and lots of tasty nibbles to eat at the picnic.

**Sunday Jazz Cruises
start 28th June - 30th Aug.
Depart from Trossachs Pier
at 4pm arriving
back at 6pm.**

*Steeped in history and legend,
Loch Katrine is the perfect place to
start your Trossachs adventure.*

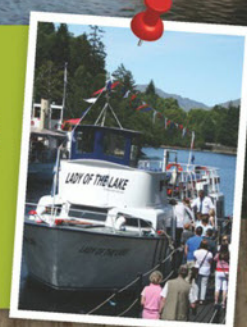


The Steamship Sir Walter Scott
is fully wheelchair friendly



A SPECIAL* 20% DISCOUNT TO READERS OF STRATHARD NEWS

There has never been a better time to enjoy a cruise on
Loch Katrine - just bring this advert along to receive this
special 20% discount offer on a standard cruise.



- Classic Steamship Cruises on Sir Walter Scott
- Legends of the Loch Cruise on the Lady of the Lake
- Walking and Cycling on the shores of Loch Katrine
- Lochside Dining in the Brenachoile Restaurant
- Katrine Gifts - Souvenirs & Crafts
- Katrinewheelz - Cycle hire • Borg Grech Photography



Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine, By Callander, Stirling FK17 8HZ
Tel: 01877 376315/6 • Email: enquiries@lochkatrine.com
www.lochkatrine.com

* 20% Discount offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer and does not include the Sunday Jazz Cruise.
Valid until 03-01-16.

St Mary's Episcopal Church

Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's

In memorium

During the last weeks, a number of deaths have occurred in the area not least those of Jimmy Campbell and Peter McColl. Jimmy died at a distressingly young age following a prolonged illness. He was greatly loved and respected throughout his life by family and friends alike as the numbers attending his funeral testified.

Jimmy lived here and indeed in the same house all his life. His father farmed and there was little doubt that Jimmy would follow his footsteps. A black and white photo of Jimmy aged four sitting behind the wheel of a Massey Fergusson says it all. He was born last into a family of three sisters. The eldest was over a decade ahead of Jimmy and so when she married and had children of her own, Jimmy was uncle to nephews and nieces barely removed in age from himself. As a boy Jimmy was a keen member of the Boy's Brigade but don't believe Jimmy to have always been angelic. Aberfoyle in the early sixties was a boy's paradise. Much of the military's legacy of occupation from the last war was still in evidence and Jimmy and his best friend Gordon Bell took full advantage of it.

After schooling in the village, Jimmy was soon thrown into the deep end of the farm as his father didn't keep good health. He took steps to diversify the business and the blue Bedford truck used for log delivery soon became a common sight. The same vehicle was later adapted to carry an animal float.

Fish and Chips were two lambs. Chips suffered meningitis and became blind. Rather than being discarded, she was kept as a pet. Jimmy's beasts were not income but friends to be nurtured. He did though draw the line at cats. These creatures it seems always make a beeline for those who like them least. In Jimmy's closing days, a ginger tom came and made his home in the cab of his beloved tractor. Fortunately Jimmy's humour remained in tune with this doughty feline.

At one time Jimmy considered the purchase of a larger farm in Aberdeenshire. The upheaval of family would though have been too great, so Jimmy stayed put, but took up a post as a National Park Ranger. The Park soon came to appreciate the range of skills Jimmy brought with him not least his encyclopaedic local knowledge. Farming though always remained his first love.

Jimmy's funeral service closed with the hymn 'He would true valour see'. The hymn's author, John Bunyan, was determined throughout the course of a lengthy imprisonment at Bedford jail, that adverse circumstances would not overwhelm him. It admirably summed up Jimmy's courage and fortitude in the face of his illness.

Peter McColl lived to become the elder statesman of the village having been here since the age of two. The McColl family already had strong links with the village notably in the construction of St Mary's Church during the days of slate quarrying. Schooled in the village, Peter's first job was in Balfour where he was placed in charge of an ancient steam stationary engine that powered a saw mill. It was possibly here that his love of machinery was first kindled.

War came and Peter was called up into the REME. He served the nation with distinction and but for his death would have been honoured by a medal given by the French Government for his part in the D day landings.

After the war he met and married Agnes who had spent much of the war years at Dounan's Camp: it proved an extremely happy union. He worked first at the Welfare Garage in Main Street when the Coach House was then a garage for, amongst other vehicles, the local ambulance. Later he worked for Lilley's the civil engineering contractors. At a time when Glasgow regarded its tramway system as a liability, Peter was employed lifting the courses or tracks. Lilley's later were contracted by the Forestry to create roads through its estate and thus Peter was able to work on his doorstep again. He finished his working life in the Forestry workshops. He always regarded his work as a hobby rather than a chore.

His eldest daughter Helen's unexpected death naturally set Agnes and Peter back a great deal. Peter bore the loss with dignity and it is fortunate that his interest in politics and his part in the D Day anniversary celebrations allowed him to regain some equilibrium. Sadly he was never to recover from a fall in his shower towards the end of last year.

Both families have paid fulsome testimony to the skill and care of our Medical Centre. Our sympathy and prayers are with all who mourn the loss of two greatly loved and respected men: may both rest in God's peace.

cookroom - for great tasting, award winning food for everyone

Catering for dinner parties, weddings, and other celebrations we make canapes, finger, fork, hot and cold buffets, desserts, afternoon tea treats, three course meals, celebration cakes and more.

Beautiful catering for all tastes handmade for your special occasion with love and local ingredients.

cookroom

Kinlochard FK8 3TP

01877 387236 or email : contact@cookroom.co.uk



Awarded Gold in the UK Great Taste Awards 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Firewood for Sale



Forthvale Contractors

Tel: 01360 440294

Mobile: 07890 331 702

drew@forthvale.co.uk

Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Parish Church

Rev. Terry Taylor

Simple things and small moments

Living in Aberfoyle has been quite an experience for me, born and raised in the tenements of Glasgow. And I am always in awe of the beauty that surrounds us, those things we can enjoy that cost nothing. A sunset on Ben Lomond, the stillness of the lake and the loch - the silhouette of small boats fishing, watching the water sparkle in the sunlight. Beautiful starry nights that we can enjoy because there is little light pollution to spoil them. It is really quite awesome. These are small moments in my days and my nights, and sometimes I want to capture them in a photograph and sometimes I wish I could be an artist and paint or draw what I see, that it might be somehow kept for longer than that small moment.

Now, my mind often jumps from one thing to another, and I know this sometimes frustrates people, I console myself by convincing this is one of God's gifts to me!

Thinking about small moments I was remembering how children can, despite all the toys and games they have, quite easily be taken to a lochside, or a beach or for a walk in the forest, and find something to amuse them, broken branches, stones, flowers, anything that is lying around becomes for them their plaything, for a wee while. I remember taking our eldest grandson and my niece to the beach at Portobello, it was a spur of the moment decision. We'd been out and just decided to take them. On that beach, with no buckets or spades, they had a wonderful time, they used bits of stone and shells and other bits and pieces lying around and using their imagination had a wonderful time. At the Lake Hotel our granddaughter spent time picking daisies to make a daisy chain, she chatted with another wee girl, a stranger to her, just having fun. Simple things.

As adults we may take for granted the beauty around us. The beauty of trees and shrubs that have been bare all winter now budding - the promise of fruit from the apple trees and plum tree in the manse garden, signaled by blossom. Over the past few weeks there have been flowers appearing in the garden, they all have names, many of them I don't know. I particularly like the 'welsh poppies', the delicate yellow flowers, appearing, it would seem out of nowhere, for last year we watched them die and disappear.

Simple things and small moments are there to be enjoyed, yes we can capture them on camera, perhaps you can even paint them, draw them, but the one thing I am reminded of is that God has gifted us with so many simple things, so many small moments, and He will continue to do so. So, when we miss that photo opportunity, remember, God will continue to provide simple things and small moments for us to enjoy.

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth,
over and around us lies,
Lord of all to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of Praise

Cèilidhean air chuairt
Cèilidh Trail



St Mary's Church - Aberfoyle

Concert

Talented local, young musicians playing the best
Scottish traditional music
Friday 31st July - 7.30 pm
Tickets £10, available from 01786870710
or concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk

The Cèilidh Trail allows young musicians to form a band and tour their local area. Don't miss your chance to hear them in Aberfoyle!

Find out more at our website
feisfhoirt.org.uk





The Cèilidh Trail project, established by Fèis Rois in 1999, was designed to help teenage musicians develop their performance skills and to create a vibrant traditional music entertainment programme in the Highlands. Over the years, the project has been replicated in other areas and has proved to be an overwhelming success. Now run every year, the trail runs somewhat like a summer camp, with young musicians playing at venues from Killin to Falkirk over the July period. Last years concert at St Mary's was a resounding success. Please support young Musicians. They are the future !!

AIRS & PHRASES

**Richard Chester (flute), Rhona MacKay (harp)
and Joanna Tope (reciter)**

An Evening of Words and Music at
Port of Menteith Kirk
Saturday 1st August 2015 at 7.00pm
Tickets including refreshments £15 per person
Children £7.50

Contact Jan Simpson 01877 385630 or
arntomic@btinternet.com

Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Guild

The Annual Guild Sale will be held on
Saturday 8 August 2015
in the Village Car Park
From 10 am until 2pm.

There will be Baking Stall, Produce Stall,
Book Stall, Craft Stall and Bottle Stall.
For donations or any further information
please contact Anne Ralston (382847)

ABERFOYLE - a way with The Faeries...

The village of Aberfoyle, in the heart of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, renewed its association with the Faeries with the launch of a new publication on the Fairy Hill, Aberfoyle at 3.30pm on Monday 11 May.

Local legend believes that fairies kidnapped the Rev. Kirk, the local minister and that he may return from fairyland at any moment. Rev. Kirk was the seventh son of James Kirk, minister of Aberfoyle. In November 1664 he became the minister of Balquhiddy, and in June 1685 he was appointed to his father's old charge. In both parishes he studied his parishioners' beliefs, particularly about second sight supposedly possessed by seventh sons, and about fairies.

The Rev. Robert Kirk wrote "The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Faunes and Faeries" in 1691 shortly before his disappearance and supposed capture by the faeries in 1692.

Aberfoyle is situated on the Highland Geographical Fault—where it is said the Celtic Supernatural is at its strongest. The village and its nearby Doon Hill with its ancient Faerie Tree, the gateway to the Faerie Kingdom is very much the locus of the Sith, the Celtic faeries. Children are much involved in the story—local children and visitors leave written messages for the faeries on branches round the Tree and pupils from Aberfoyle Primary School formed a fairy circle round the tree to see if the Rev. Kirk might make an appearance.

To celebrate its Faerie history the local Inn has been renamed the Faerie Tree Inn and visitors can also visit the Faerie Shop in the Main Street.

It is planned to have a village entrance sign designed to welcome visitors to "Aberfoyle—Faerie Capital of Scotland" as well as a mural at the entrance to the village and an annual Faerie Festival.



ABERFOYLE ROOFING

FLAT ROOF SPECIALISTS

20 BARLIE NICOL JARVE COURT, LOCHARD ROAD,
STIRLING, FK8 3SZ

• **INSURANCE APPROVED CONTRACTOR** •

• **EMERGENCY REPAIRS • GUTTERS REPAIRED/REPLACED •**

• **SLATING & TILING • UPVC CLADDING • CEMENT WORK •**

EXTENSIVE LIST OF REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SLATING/TILING

BEFORE AFTER

FLAT ROOFS

NEW ROOFS

CALL NOW ON: 01877 382 645

24/7 EMERGENCY: 07739 690 196

SEE OUR ADVERT IN THE YELLOW PAGES, THE WEE BLUE BOOK AND LOCAL PRESS

Rural Stirling
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Do you need an affordable home ?

Rural Stirling Housing Association aims to support local communities by providing quality homes at affordable rents for families, couples and single people in housing need.

We currently have over 550 rented houses and flats. Around 50 of these become available for rent each year. We hope to have new properties in Strathblane and Balmaha soon and currently have properties in the following communities

Aberfoyle	Deanston	Gartmore	Lochearnhead
Balfron	Doune	Killin	Strathyre
Buchlyvie	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Callander	Gargunnock	Kippen	Tyndrum

We may be able to build in other communities in the future – please let us know to if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future.

If you are interested in renting one of our properties when they become available please contact us:

Rural Stirling Housing Association
Stirling Road, Doune
FK16 6AA
Telephone: 01786 841101
Email: enquiries@rsha.org.uk
www.rsha.org.uk

Registered as a Scottish Charity No SC037849



Barbecue Safety

Nothing quite says summer like firing up the barbecue and cooking outdoors – but did you know that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service firefighters attend incidents every year where barbecues have gotten out-of-hand? Whether you are in the garden or out camping, follow our simple tips to barbecue safely and avoid injuries, damage to property and having Scottish Fire and Rescue Service crews gate-crashing your party:

- Make sure your barbecue site is flat and away from fences, trees and sheds.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby, in case of emergencies.
- Use only enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about five centimetres (two inches).
- Never use petrol or paraffin to start, or revive, your barbecue – use only barbecue fire lighters or starter fuel on cold coals.
- Keep children and pets away from the cooking area.
- Don't leave the barbecue unattended.
- After cooking, make sure the barbecue is cool before trying to move it.
- Hot ashes can melt a plastic wheelie bin and can also cause a fire.
- After cooking, make sure the barbecue is cool before moving it.
- Avoid alcohol if you are in charge of a barbecue

Do you have a gas barbecue?

Follow these extra tips if you are using a gas barbecue:

- Make sure your barbecue is in good working order.
- Make sure the tap is off before changing the gas cylinder and do it outdoors or in a well ventilated area.
- Make sure all joints are safely and securely tightened.
- After cooking, turn the gas supply off first and then the barbecue control. This will stop any gas from leaking.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions about how to check for leaks in the cylinder or pipework, e.g. brushing soapy water around all joints and looking for bubbles.

Storing gas cylinders

Don't ever keep more cylinders than you need. Gas cylinders should be kept outside, away from direct sunlight and frost. If you need to keep them inside your house make sure you don't store them under the stairs. If there is a fire, they could explode and the stairs are likely to be your best escape route.

Spring is finally under way, not that a lot of the birds seem to realise. It has felt subdued in the woodland, especially with the pied flycatcher not arriving back until the first week in May. However, they are settling in nicely and our volunteer has already identified seven pied fly catcher nests. Our nest boxes seem especially popular this year with about three quarters occupied by one bird or another. The most exciting discovery so far has been a pair of breeding nuthatch, which is a first for us. A common sight down south, we are seeing these birds stretch their feathers further and further north. If you want to look out for them, they can usually be found flitting around the first 100 metres of the RSPB woodland trail.

To give some closure to the continuing saga of the Visitor Gateway – we had our opening in mid-April. There are a few snagging issues before we take possession of the keys, but these should be sorted any day now. I am really looking forward to being able to spend some more time out on site, meeting visitors and getting volunteer parties to help with some of the bigger projects. The Gateway will allow us to do all of this. Pop in some time to say hello!

If you would like more info about the gateway, or anything else, you can contact me at fraser.lamont@rspb.org.uk.

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

Police report on anti-crime kit in Killearn

Stirling Council has heard how a special crimefighting kit delivered to hundreds of local homes may have helped prevent housebreakings in the area.

At the end of September last year police delivered 236 SmartWater kits to homes in the Killearn area.

Produced by SmartWater Technology Ltd each kit contains a solution that is brushed onto a homeowner's possessions.

Almost impossible to remove but only detectable under UV light it then retains DNA evidence from anyone who touches it, providing a definite link between a criminal and a crime scene in the event of a burglary.

At the end of January an evaluation of the system in Killearn showed no housebreakings in any of the areas where the system had been delivered or offered. Two housebreakings had taken place in nearby streets.

A previous study of convicted criminals saw 74% of them claim that the presence of SmartWater technology would deter them committing a crime.

The evaluation of the Killearn scheme was presented to the Council's Public Safety Committee yesterday (Tuesday 12th May) and Convenor, Councillor Martin Earl, said: "A housebreaking is one of the most upsetting crimes any of us can suffer and anything that deters such activities has to be welcomed.

"I'm pleased that this trial seems to have been a success and hope that continues into the future."

The SmartWater kits were provided to homes free of charge, having been bought by Police Scotland at a reduced rate through a Home Office approved supply scheme.

Assistant Chief Constable Wayne Mawson said: "Following a successful pilot of SmartWater Technology Ltd in Edinburgh back in February 2014, where the test area observed more than a 50% decrease in housebreaking, Police Scotland commenced a roll-out of the campaign across other areas of the country, including Killearn.

"The region was selected following detailed engagement with the local community who had identified housebreaking as a policing priority.



POLICE
Scotland



Police Scotland

CALL YOUR
LOCAL
POLICE



101

IN AN
EMERGENCY
ALWAYS
CALL 999

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Report Wildlife Crime - What is Wildlife Crime?

Wildlife Crime is any act that is made illegal in Scotland under legislation with regard to certain birds, animals and plants including their habitats, both on land and at sea.

It includes the illegal disturbance, destruction, theft and sale of animals and plants both in the countryside and urban areas, and includes the destruction of and damage to protected habitats. Wildlife Crime poses significant harm to the species targeted by the criminals, as well as the communities who rely on wildlife for employment and tourism.

Wildlife Crime covers a huge spectrum of criminal activity from damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest to the disturbance of cetaceans; from the illegal use of traps and snares to illegal taxidermy; and from illegal cockle picking to the removal of birds nests from the eaves of houses at certain times of year.



Whilst common birds are protected under law, offences against rare species are arrestable and can result in custodial sentence or fines.

Freshwater Pearl Mussels

Freshwater Pearl Mussels are an endangered species found in rivers in the north of Scotland, the last stronghold of them in the world.

The penalties for this crime can be severe. For every Fresh Water Pearl Mussel killed, taken or injured, a fine not exceeding £5,000 or 6 months in custody may apply. The crime is most likely to occur in low water during the summer months on rivers in the north with good pedestrian and vehicle access.

It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a place which mussels use for shelter or protection. Shoddy or unauthorised river engineering, mini hydro-electric schemes or fishing proprietors can all result in alterations to the river bed or bank that can lead to large scale killing or injuring.



What are the Wildlife Crime Priorities in Scotland?

There are currently six specific Wildlife Crime Priorities in Scotland and in the UK:

Bat persecution

ALL Bat species in UK (and their roosts) are legally protected, by both domestic and international legislation. It is illegal to kill, injure, harass or disturb bats or damage their roosting place, whether this is deliberate, reckless or even done through a lack of awareness. It is also an offence to possess, sell or advertise a bat or any part of a bat.

Who needs to take particular note of the legislation?

1. Property owners/householders who have a bat roost in their property,
2. Woodland owners, agriculturists and foresters,
3. Pest controllers,
4. Planning officers and building surveyors,
5. Architect, property developers, demolition companies, builders and roofers.

Licenses to permit illegal activities relating to bats and their roosts can be issued for specific purposes. For more information visit the Scottish Natural Heritage website.



Badger persecution

Badgers and their setts are fully protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, and anyone who takes, kills or injures a badger, or who interferes with a badger sett, can be sent to prison or fined. Snaring, poisoning and the activities of badger baiters are illegal, meaning that any activity which causes harm to a badger is outlawed.

Badger baiting is extremely cruel and the badgers suffer severe injuries before they are killed. Badger diggers use dogs and digging equipment to take badgers from their setts and these dogs are often badly injured as well.

If you see anyone with digging equipment and dogs in an area where badgers do live, don't approach them but take a note of the registration numbers and call the police straightaway.

Badgers are also victims of other forms of illegal persecution including instances of disturbance, damage and destruction of setts.

This is likely to be as a result of badger digging or badger baiting for sport, but may be by someone damaging the sett or trying to get rid of the badgers as their presence is inconvenient. The latter can include badgers being killed for game management, farming or development

Licences can be granted for certain purposes which may otherwise be illegal. For more information visit the Scottish Natural Heritage website.

Birds of Prey (Raptor) persecution

All raptors are protected by law and to intentionally kill or injure a wild bird is an offence, including shooting, trapping, poisoning or interfering with their nest site.

Wild birds, including their eggs, nests and chicks, are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) issues

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) regulates the legal trade in species of birds, animals and plants whose wild populations are threatened.

CITES currently regulates the trade in 30,000 species. The 6 current priorities are the illegal trade in:

- raptors,
- ivory,
- medicinal & health products (including rhino horn),
- reptiles,
- sturgeon derivatives & extracts,
- timber.

The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations creates offences and allows CITES legislation to be enforced in the UK.

Poaching and coursing

Hare coursing is illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The persons involved in this activity will usually use lurchers, greyhounds and whippet dogs to chase the hares, but the motive is rarely to take the hare but to treat it as a sport.

It is predominantly a seasonal crime occurring during the Spring as crops emerge into fields and during late Summer and early Autumn when the crops have been harvested. However it can occur at any time of the year.

Deer poaching is also illegal under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, meaning it is a crime to wilfully kill or injure deer.

It is a crime that is usually committed during the night and poachers often trespass on private land to get to the deer. Apart from the cruelty inflicted on the animals hunted there is also a question of food preparation hygiene when animals are taken for human consumption.

Salmon poaching is illegal under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003. The activity is usually done for commercial purposes.

Other offences under the Act tend to be committed by individuals or small groups who wish to fish for free, or catch coarse fish for their own consumption.

The only legal methods of fishing for salmon and freshwater fish likely to be encountered in Scotland are the use of rod and line and a small number of legitimate netting stations.



Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer

Although any officer can investigate wildlife crime, every Division in Police Scotland has a Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer and there are also a network of part time Wildlife Crime Officers across the force.

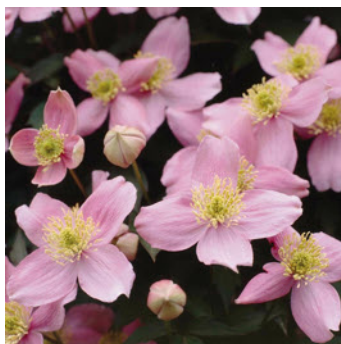
These officers can be contacted to report crime or to seek advice on wildlife crime matters. **Call Police Scotland on 101 to report a wildlife crime or email us at Contactus@scotland.pnn.police.uk**

The Garden in early summer

At this time last year I wrote "What a great time of year to be a gardener! Winter is well behind us..." As I write this in mid-May with the wind blowing, all too frequent showers and temperatures struggling to get into double figures it feels like summer is a long way off. Let's hope that by the time you're reading this the weather has taken a big turn for the better. With the last frosts behind us (we have to assume) it should be safe to put out all the tender annuals and hanging baskets, which will be a big relief to all of us and especially here at Benview where the greenhouses have been full to bursting point! Whether in the borders or in containers make sure they're well watered in. Throughout the summer keep deadheading annual flowers to keep a succession of blooms, and feed your hanging baskets and planted containers every few weeks.

In the ornamental garden - a time for pruning and weeding;

- Keep on top of weeds now to save a lot of back-ache later.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as *Philadelphus* and *Deutzia*; if you leave it till later in the year you risk losing next year's flowers. Deciduous *Magnolias* can also be pruned to keep them to a certain size or shape.
- Prune spring-flowering clematis such as *C. montana* and *C. alpina* after flowering if you need to control their size.
- Perennials will be growing rapidly and putting on a great show; support taller ones with canes or on a large scale letting them grow through netting is very effective.
- Cut back spring flowering perennials such as *Alchemilla mollis*, *Dicentra spectabilis* to promote fresh basal growth and maybe a second flush of flowers.
- Prune later flowering perennials to produce lower, later flowers eg. *Echinacea*, *Phlox paniculata*, or to maintain a more compact plant eg *Sedum* and *Asters*.
- Deadhead Delphiniums and Lupins to encourage a second flush of flowers.
- Watch out for a build up in aphid populations and other pest and diseases such as mildew and black spot on roses.
- Hellebore seed can be harvested once the seed heads have ripened (i.e. when squeezing the pod causes it to split and release seeds). Seed needs to be sown immediately, while fresh, and need a winter's cold season in order to break their dormancy in order for germination to occur. Do remember that seed grown plants will differ from the parent plant.



When mowing the **lawn** the height of cut should now be down to the minimum you want for the year, and if you haven't done so already apply a granular feed/weed. If you want to get rid of moss scarifying the lawn to remove thatch is a good starting point but only AFTER you've used a moss killer, otherwise you'll just spread the moss even further!

The vegetable plot should be a hive of industry over the summer.

In general keep the vegetable beds well weeded and watered particularly the potatoes and especially if you are growing in containers; lack of water reduces the crop and increases the potential for diseases.

Keep earthing up potatoes, plant out all the veg you've started in pots and sow salad crops little and often. When you're planting your tomatoes plant deeply enough to cover the stems up to the bottom leaves which will encourage more roots to develop; except for the bush varieties such as Tumbling Tom keep pinching out the side shoots. Water and feed regularly especially when the fruits start to grow as irregular watering leads to splitting of the fruit.

Spur fruiting **fruit trees** should be summer-pruned now to maintain the shape of the tree, pruning back to a pair of leaves above the spur. When fruits are developing do not be afraid to thin out the crop.

Bird care: Keep feeding the birds to encourage them into the garden; you may spend a bit on bird food but they'll repay you by eating plenty of unwanted bugs and beasties.

Whatever you do in the garden, make the most of the long evenings and take time to appreciate your work when it's done.

Benview Garden Centre
Ward Toll

Balfour Station G63 0QZ

Tel: 01360 850525

www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk

info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk

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



Milton

Hello Children,

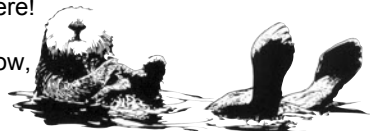
School holidays will soon be here. Long days, hopefully filled with sunshine, and plenty of free time to explore the whole length of Strathard. There are so many things to do and places to see, not to mention old friends to catch up with. This is quite easy if you use Demand Responsive Transport, even Inversnaid is only half an hour from Aberfoyle. While Bert Comrie drives his Crescent Cab, passengers can relax and enjoy the magnificent scenery. Taking advantage of DRT, the Otter family decided to have a day out, planning to meet Flame and Fury, our Golden Eagle friends, at the newly opened RSPB visitor centre at the old Garrison Farm, Inversnaid. It was closed!

Back at the hole, Duke has been having fun with my telescope, looking for the man-in-the-moon. With two full moons in June, the second one known as a Blue Moon, he will have plenty of opportunity to see if the man-in-the-moon is at home. However, the jewel in the sky at the moment is the brilliant evening star, Venus. After sunset, look up to the western sky and you cannot miss it, unless it is clouded over. Through a telescope or binoculars you will notice Venus has a pearl yellow colour, and a dark shadow over one side, a bit like our own moon. As the night darkens, Jupiter appears near by. They will gently edge closer and closer together, almost touching on 30th June.

Coming back down to earth, the bees are really as busy as they should be, flying out and about to collect nectar and pollen from all sorts of flowers. Inside the bees hive, the pollen and nectar will be used to make honey combs, stacks of eight-sided wax boxes to store the sweet, delicious honey. A single bee, flying about five miles a day, visiting hundreds of flowers, will only make about half a teaspoonful of honey in its lifetime. During the summer a whole hive of bees will produce enough honey to fill 40 jars, their food for the winter months. If you find an exhausted bumble bee on the ground, dissolve a teaspoonful of sugar with a little water and let the bee feed from the spoon.

As the oak leaves opened before those on the ash tree, Grandpa Otter says we'll only get a splash of summer rain. Ash before oak, an old poem tells us, we are in for a soak. Either way you will get wet, it is only a matter of degree! Beneath the trees, right up the B829, massed scented bluebells are making a beautiful sight. Amongst the branches, newly fledged young birds flit through the foliage, demanding food from their overworked parents. Birds, like bees, fly through every daylight hour and, with midsummer arriving on the 21st, there is very little darkness. And remember, June 21st is also Fathers' Day. July is the month for Kinlochard to host its annual Gathering. See you all there!

Bye for now,
Milton.



In **'Moths of the Trossachs'** Arthur Jones' photographs clearly showed that moths are not all small, brown, jumper-eaters but can be as attractive as butterflies. While Scotland has only 35 species of butterfly, moths are far more numerous, notionally categorised as macro >20mm wingspan (800) and micro moths <20mm (1500).

Between March and September a wide range of species emerges, mostly seen at night but some are day-flying. Monthly highlights included; red-green carpet, emperor (day), hooktips, beautiful carpet, northern eggar (day), poplar hawk, garden tiger, beautiful snout – check them out!

Paul McDonald, Project Officer with SWT's **Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels**, gave a project update. N American grey squirrels easily out-compete our smaller native reds for food and territory. They also carry squirrel pox virus (SPV) to which they are resistant but infected reds die within 2 weeks. Worryingly, it has now been found in Glasgow and Plean Country Park.

Control of grey squirrels is controversial but effective although soon undone once stopped. While a vaccine for reds is feasible, it is unaffordable and difficult to deliver. The majority of the UK's red squirrels are in Scotland, mainly north of the Highland Boundary Fault, making Callander an important frontier. Everyone can help by reporting grey and red squirrel sightings on the new

website, posting squirrel-related articles on Paul's blog, or by offering practical help like making wooden feeder boxes. Would anyone be interested in setting up a local red squirrel group to co-ordinate such activities?

Report sightings on <http://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/squirrel-sightings> and/or contact Paul on pmcdonald@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Barn owls are one of the most easily recognised and popular British birds but, unfortunately, prone to large variations in population due to weather and fluctuating populations of field voles, their principle food source. Mike Steward has been putting up nest boxes and monitoring barn owl populations in Central Scotland since 1990, starting with just 4 breeding pairs and reaching a peak of 74 pairs in 2010.

The winter of 2009/10 was the coldest for 20 years but with little snow so owls could continue to feed plus a peak in voles allowed good broods to be raised. In contrast, 2010/11's winter was not as cold but had prolonged periods of deep snow that protected what voles remained after numbers had crashed. This was disastrous with a huge number of owls starving to death, leaving only 24 breeding pairs in Mike's boxes and none in FCS's 35-40 boxes. Since then there has been a slow recovery; from 24 to 33 breeding pairs between 2012 & '13, to 58 in 2014 plus over 168 chicks due to high vole numbers. Mike is predicting owl

numbers will dip in 2015 as voles crash but both will increase again in 2016 to a record high in 2017, IF we don't get severe winters with long-lying snow!

Kevin Duffy's talk on his recent **Mountain Hare** surveys coincided with a press announcement that 10 conservation organisations had issued a joint petition for a 3-year ban on culling of mountain hares. This would stop local extinctions and allow a scientific assessment of the impact of ticks, known to affect grouse chicks but with unknown impact on final grouse bags. These ticks are known to be carried by hares but also by co-located sheep and deer.

This was a rare opportunity to see how hares are caught in apple-baited cage traps spread over a wide moorland area. 100 traps spread over 4 grids of 25 meant an 8 mile route over difficult terrain to check them once every 24 hours. If conditions like heavy snow would be detrimental to trapped animals, the traps are locked open. Caught hares are weighed, measured, sex determined and a small, numbered metal tag fitted on the ear. At the start in October the hares were largely brown but became whiter as days got shorter and temperatures fell. By recording the number of tagged hares returning to traps, a statistical method is used to assess to the size of the local hare population and future surveys will provide trends.

Lesley Hawkins



guyana

**main street
aberfoyle**

plants, art and crafts

unique range of
arts and crafts

extensive plant
area for all your
gardening needs

open seven days
10 am to 6 pm

tel. 01877 382 308
enquiries@guyana.ltd.uk
www.guyana.ltd.uk







MOT's SERVICING TYRES EXHAUSTS EXHAUSTS TYRES SERVICING MOT's

DVO specialise in the servicing and repair of cars and light commercials. We can deal with any make or model, petrol and deisel.

**Did you realise that if your vehicle is still under warranty
WE CAN SERVICE IT**

whilst keeping IT WITHIN the warranty for ANY MAKE of vehicle!

WE NOW OFFER A FULL BODYWORK REPAIR SERVICE
IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT GIVE US A CALL



08/58 Volvo V70 2.4 SE Lux Auto/Tip Estate in Blue With Black Leather and Walnut Finish, EM Seats, Sat Nav and Winter Pack. This car has covered 79K and has FSH £9,250



15/15 Renault Master MM33 DCi 110, Delivery Miles £15,750 + VAT



08/58 V/W Golf Match TDi 1.9, done 133K miles with a FSH £3,600



14/64 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Titanium Navigator in Silver with Convenience & Comfort Pack, done just 6,500 miles and as New £14,250



04/04 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 5 Door in Black, 54K, Good Service History £1500



12/62 Vauxhall Vivaro LL29 CDTi 115 in White, lined and with a roof rack, done 52K and in excellent condition £8,250 + VAT

**** Photos for illustrative purposes only****

Call 01786 850500 / directvehicleopt@aol.com

We are open Mon to Sat 8am – 8pm. Sun by appointment

Janefield, Ruskie, Stirling FK8 3LG - All major cards accepted, Vat registered





May is probably our very busiest month! Lots of young plants are beginning to be ready for bedding in borders and tubs and we have lots of planter and hanging baskets orders to fulfil.

Perennial plants have become a large focus too, and each poly-tunnel is full to bursting with young plants – especially at night when we are still anxious about the possibility of frost. We sow lots of vegetable seeds, many for sale and lots more for our rotational beds. It is important for our students to learn the four main vegetable families and the reasons for crop rotation, and the four beds at the entrance to the Garden, the eight in the poly-tunnel and the others in the lower garden are all planted to meet these aims.

Three of our students have been busy on work placements: in the kitchen at Gartmore House, and working at both Benview and Guyana Nurseries. We very much appreciate the opportunities given to our students and they really benefit from these experiences.

But most of all, May is the month we work long hours getting our pallet gardens and planters ready for Scotland's Gardens in Edinburgh. This year we have a wide variety of themes, all of which need interesting flower combinations (there are probably no blue flowers left in Stirlingshire) and an assortment of resources including bicycle wheels, wooden structures and a lovely wee flower-pot girl. We will put lots of photographs on the Green Routes website for you to enjoy. As you can imagine, all of this work is supported by our team of adult volunteers, and their contribution is highly valued. If you have some time to spare and would like to join our enthusiastic group, do contact Development Manager, Gillian Forster on 01877 389082.

Our next Open Day will be on Sunday, 28th June, between 10.30am and 3.30pm when tasks are organised to suit all present including those for accompanied children.

Green Routes

SINCE 1931
**SCOTLAND'S
GARDENS**
GROWING AND GIVING

**Stirlingshire
Openings 2015**

THORNHILL VILLAGE

Thornhill, Stirling FK8 3QD

Opening Times: Sunday 7 June 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Disabled Access: Partial

Admission: £5.00, children free

Charities: SSAFA receives 10%, MacMillan Cancer Support receives 10%, Norrieston Parish Church receives 10%, British Heart Foundation, Scottish Branch receives 10%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries

Thornhill village rests on a raised beach with outstanding views in all directions. Charming, small village gardens packed with interest and variety contrast well with the open, natural gardens outside the village. Full details of the gardens will be on the website, www.scotlandsgardens.org, nearer the time.

Other Details: Tickets and maps available from all the gardens. Homemade teas to be served in the church hall. Plant stall

Directions: On A873, 10 miles west of Stirling.

LANRICK

Doune FK16 6HJ

Opening Times: Sunday 14 June 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Disabled Access: Full

Admission: £4.00, children free

Charities: The Sandpiper Trust receives 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries.

Mature policies with lovely woodland walks along the River Teith; a rural oasis where you can enjoy the peace and tranquillity of Scotland. Magnificent rhododendrons. Many interesting sights and features in the grounds. The Walled Garden (two acres) is the original walled garden of Lanrick Castle (now demolished) but now a substantial work in progress. Planting began seven years ago with ornamental shrubs, climbing roses, and many varieties of espalier fruit trees. There are many interesting sights and features.

Other Details: Teas in Indian tent on the site of the original castle. Plant stall. Dogs on leads.

Directions: Turn off the A84 at Doune onto the B8032 and after about a mile the entrance is on the right.

DOUNE VILLAGE GARDENS

FK16 6DE

Opening Times: Sunday 21 June 2:00pm - 5:30pm

Disabled Access: Partial

Admission: £5.00, children free

Charities: St Modoc's Church Fund receives 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries

A variety of creative gardens in Doune Village and Wood of Doune, most of which have never opened before. An opportunity to see behind the hedges and be inspired!

Other Details: All gardens will be clearly signposted. Maps and tickets available at all the gardens. Teas at St. Modoc's Church. Plant stall. Dogs on leads.

Further details about the gardens will be available on the website nearer the time.

Directions: Doune is situated at junction of A820 from Dunblane and A84 Stirling to Callander main road.

THORNTREE WITH WOODSTONE HOUSE

Arnprior FK8 3EY

Opening Times: 28th June 2.00p. 5.00pm

By Arrangement 1 April – 15 October

Disabled Access: Full

Admission: £6.00 for both gardens on 28 June £4.00 on other dates, children free

Charities: Stirling RDA Carriage Driving Group receives 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries.

Charming country garden with flower beds around courtyard. Apple walk, Saltire garden and new mecanopsis bed. Lovely views from Ben Lomond to Ben Ledi. A bank of primroses at the end of April beginning of May.

Other Details: Teas at Woodstone House and Plant stall at Thorntree - 28 June only.

Directions: A811. In Arnprior take Fintry Road, Thorntree is second on the right.

WOODSTONE HOUSE WITH THORNTREE NEW

Cauldhame, Kippen FK8 3JB

Opening Times: Sunday 28 June 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Disabled Access: Partial

Charities: Stirling RDA Carriage Driving Group receives 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries

Bounded to the south by the old Kippen Vinery wall, this is a relatively new garden of around one acre, with some species trees (including a Mulberry), shrubs, rockeries and vegetables. Wonderful views to the Trossachs.

Other Details: Teas are at Woodstone House and plant sales at Thorntree.

Directions: Woodstone House is at the top end of Kippen off the Fintry Road.

For further information please contact:
Gillie Drapper (publicity) for Scotland's
Gardens Stirlingshire
email: drapper@kilewnan.org.uk
Tel: 01360 860 243 Mobile: 07748183239

Durashield Windows

01877 389 389

Why choose DURASHIELD WINDOWS
to install your pvcu windows and doors

Local Knowledge,
we are fully experienced fitting high
security pvcu windows and doors.

Local Showroom,
you can talk to us face to face and see
all of our products in BEARSDEN.

Quality Installations,
We care about your installation our
reputation relies on it.

www.durashield-windows.co.uk



Commission's Loch Lomond campsite open for the season

Forestry Commission Scotland's Sallochy campsite on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond has opened for the summer season.

Popular with walkers as well as holiday makers, the campsite now also benefits from the installation of a new foot bridge, which is part of the recently completed upgrade of the West Highland Way between Balmaha and Rowardennan.

David Robertson, the Commission's Recreation Forester in Argyll Forest Park, said;

"Thousands of people walk these paths every year, either as part of a long trek or just as part of their stay at the campsite so it's important that we keep the long distance route in in good condition.

"The bridge has had new hand rails added and has been upgraded to all-abilities standard and it pretty much rounds off a significant amount of path upgrade work - including sections near Sallochy that had been eroded.

"We're finishing off work on other sections of the path – the Ptarmigan section will be finished later this year – but the overall effect will be great for visitors who come here to experience the magnificent views of the stunning landscape."

The path work is part of a larger, £750,000 programme to upgrade paths that are on the national forest estate within the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

The campsite is open until 30th October and bookings can be made through the Sallochy Woodland Camping.



Port of Menteith Village Hall

We had a community day on Sunday the 8th March incorporating the Port of Menteith Hall Blethers, the Annual litter pick, a wee tidy at the school garden and finally the instructions on how to use the New defibrillator donated through Irene Riache's fundraising marathon. The training was delivered by the Trossachs Search and Rescue Team.

On the day there were boards around the hall asking those who attended what they would like to see in their community with a mind to see if we could get some things going. There were lots of suggestions some we would like to take forward as a hall committee and others we would be happy to support if someone wants to take it on.

What we plan to do

Make everyone aware that there is help around our community, via Facebook, Hall website, word of mouth at our Blethers and local press.

Do you need help to do things around the house or garden? Are you willing to put your name forward into a pot to help those around our community? From light gardening for those who cannot manage, taking a dog for a walk if you are unable, moving furniture or heavy objects, car sharing, pick up medicines, lift to Doctors or Dentist. Our thoughts here would be to use the hall email & website, facebook, direct contact with the hall or even a note through the hall letterbox to ask for help. So if you are available at any time let us know.

IT and Sustainability within our community.

Would like to do hold open evening for all to drop into, possibly in April. For IT think about tips to get onto wifi, how to make it work better for you, help with basic skills, so go on give us some dates for the diary.

For sustainability eco lights, car sharing network for school run/work/general help, free home energy checks, insulation grants, best fuel to use in rural areas, excess fruit and veg can we share it around, unwanted furniture, group purchase scheme for buying fuel for the home.

So if you have some experience you can share let us know, let's have another evening for all to participate. What do you think?

Events we will pursue this year.

Family Beetle Drive, BBQ incorporating some kind of flower/veg competition and if possible a Family New Year Ceildh.

Look at reclaiming Tobairt na Reil a well with supposed magical properties on the track to Loch Venacher, a possible community project getting all involved.

See if we can get together to make the hall grounds look better as there are very few of us so we need help.

Look into Orchard Windfalls Fund where grants are available to plant orchards.

Over the last few years we have looked to sourcing funds to open up a car park at the back of the hall, this is a costly project so suggestions and any help would be great.

What we will support if someone would like to organise.

We had a large list of events where that you have said you would like to see at the Hall, and whilst we would like some of this to happen our limited time and resources does not allow at the moment although if you wish to organise we will gladly help. Christmas Fayre, Sewing/knitting Bee, Whist Drive, Community Fireworks Display, Honey/Apple/Plum Festival, Craft Fair, Pet Show, Safety and /or Maintenance Courses, Community Gala, Annual Bike Ride, Swim across/in the Lake, Football Tournament, Loom Band Making, The Big Lunch, Port Recipe Book, identify access routes/ footpaths around our community, Music sessions at the hall or Fisheries.

What we cannot do

Provide footpaths or cycle paths.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Our Hall is not a council run facility it is owned and managed by the community for the benefit of the community. Whilst we would like to do more there are only 4 members on the hall committee who work full time with the help from one other. So if you are interested in coming along to help – pull some weeds, put out the bins or want us to help you start something let us know. We would love your support and to support you, it's a great wee hall.

Many thanks, Jill



New architecturally designed viewpoint launched on the “bonnie banks”

A new iconic landmark has been added to the Scottish landscape.

‘An Ceann Mòr’, Gaelic meaning large headland was unveiled today by Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment, at Inveruglas on the banks of Loch Lomond.

The eight metre high, pyramid shaped structure is the fourth and final installation in the first pilot project for Scottish Scenic Routes – a Scottish Government initiative designed to encourage visitors travelling along scenic tourist routes to stop and see much loved views in a new way, helping to boost the local economy.

Designs for ‘An Ceann Mòr’ were amongst 100 entries submitted to an architectural competition in 2013 to find young architects (practising for up to five years) to create four distinct installations in four geographically spread locations around Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

Three were realised last year at the Falls of Falloch, Balquhidder and Loch Lubnaig near Strathyre. The fourth occupies a secluded spot at Inveruglas on the west bank of Loch Lomond with spectacular views down the loch and over to the Arrochar Alps and Ben Lomond in the middle distance. ‘An Ceann Mòr’ was designed by Daniel Bär, Stephane Toussaint and Sean Edwards who formed BTE Architects after winning the architectural competition. The striking structure is clad in sustainable timber which, over time, will fade to a silver-grey to blend in with the landscape.

With 31 steps, the iconic landmark offers elevated views, or, for those with limited mobility, a tunnel through the centre of the ‘pyramid’ opens up to reveal the same stunning vista.

Tom Lewis, whose Monachyle Mhor hotel and restaurant overlooks one of the National Park's other Scenic Routes installations, ‘LookOut’ near Balquhidder, commented on visitor reaction to the project:

“Since opening last summer, ‘LookOut’ has become an attraction and a talking point that has gone down a storm with locals and visitors alike. Affectionately known as ‘the shiny box’, it has drawn people from Scotland and from around the world, increasing visitor numbers to the hotel and the surrounding area. ‘An Ceann Mòr’ is a stunning addition to the other Scenic Routes installations in the National Park and we hope people will now want to visit all four.”

For more information on Scottish Scenic Routes visit: <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/scenicroutes>



Trossachs Treks



***Guided Walks
off the Beaten Track***

Arthur Jones
01877 382 682
arthur@trossachstreks.co.uk
www.trossachstreks.co.uk

**Highland & Scottish Smallpipes
for Weddings or Functions**
01877 382 682
www.cuilvona.plus.com



R&C LUKE




01324 625624

T/a J. Brown
Coal Merchant & Contractor
12-14 Slamannon Road
Falkirk FK1 1LG



**DIY/GRASS
LIVERY
Available**



**Kirkton Farm
Aberfoyle**
Tel. 01877 382316

**Forthvale
CONTRACTORS**



Tree Surgeons

Firewood Suppliers

Fencing

Chemical Spraying

tel: 01360 440 294
mobile: 07890 331702
drew@forthvale.co.uk

The Great Trossachs Path opens a new world of access for outdoor enthusiasts right across Central Scotland



A new long-distance path that offers a gateway to the wildlife, scenery and history of the Trossachs received its official opening on April 17.

The Great Trossachs Path is a 30-mile long route running from Callander in the east to Inversnaid at Loch Lomond in the west, passing through landscapes that have put Scottish tourism on the map for over 200 years.

Mike Cantlay, Chair of VisitScotland, announced that The Great Trossachs Path has been named as one of Scotland's Great Trails, joining existing routes including the West Highland Way, the Catean Trail and the Fife Coastal Path.

The Great Trossachs Path, is part of The Great Trossachs Forest Project (TGTF), one of the UK's most significant native woodland regeneration ventures. The project is a partnership between RSPB Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, and the Woodland Trust Scotland.

Sue Morris, TGTF project manager said: "The path connects the Rob Roy Way with the West Highland Way, so long-distance walkers will now be able to undertake an extraordinary journey across the centre of Scotland. But it's also accessible to cyclists, and has numerous smaller walks, which should appeal to families, or those just looking for an amazing place to take a weekend stroll."

The path links two new Visitor Gateways built with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund: one at Glen Finglas, Brig o' Turk, the other

at Inversnaid. These will provide facilities and information for visitors. A new Great Trossachs Forest App has also been launched, giving smart phone users a wealth of information about the area's wildlife, geography and history. Or for those who prefer something more traditional, local firm Harveys have produced a map.

The TGTF began in 2009 and has created an area of woodland the size of Glasgow through planting and natural regeneration. The project has also undertaken the construction of new paths, the installation of an art and literature trail, outreach work with local schools, and improvements to visitor facilities, including new play areas and leaflets.

The woodland, which will take many years to grow to maturity, will create new habitats and nature corridors, benefiting wildlife such as black grouse, otters, water voles, golden eagles, red squirrels and pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies. Scotland's Great Trails are nationally promoted trails for people-powered journeys. Each is distinctively way marked, largely off-road and has a range of visitor services. At least 25 miles in length, they are suitable for multi-day outings as well as day trips.

Collectively the 26 different routes provide over 1,700 miles of well managed paths from the Borders to the Highlands, offering great opportunities to explore the best of Scotland's nature and landscapes, and to experience our mazing history and culture.



One of the Trossachs's most well-known historical sites will re-opened its doors in April.

Inchmahome Priory, in the Lake of Menteith, is one of over 30 Historic Scotland properties across Scotland that reopened to the public after the winter months.

The priory, which dates from 1238 was an Augustinian monastery and much of the 13th century church remains. Famously, it sheltered the infant Mary, Queen of Scots in 1547.

Across the country, Historic Scotland's seasonal staff are back at their posts and ready to welcome visitors, from Kisimul Castle in the Western Isles, known as the 'Castle on the Sea', to Smailholm Tower in the Borders.

Properties opened in April include:

- Lochleven Castle, near Kinross, where Mary Queen of Scots had the most traumatic year of her life – imprisoned and forced to abdicate, she managed to escape after a year of being held there
- Hermitage Castle in the Borders, with its history of intrigue, murders, trysts, torture, and treason.
- Cambuskenneth Abbey, near Stirling, once where Robert the Bruce held his parliament, now accessed across a field (watch out for roaming cattle)
- Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse and Museum, Fraserburgh, which is still in working order and offers a challenging climb

For further information on opening hours, access and locations, visit: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Glasgow Society of Women Artists Exhibition Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum 1 May – 14 June 2015

The annual summer exhibition of the Glasgow Society of Women Artists is featured at the Stirling Smith. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious societies in Britain, with its origins in the Glasgow Society of Lady Artists, established in 1882.

Among the Stirlingshire – based residents of the GSWA is Kippen resident Dronma, whose work as a colourist has been compared to that of Peplow. Iona Leishman is very well known as a Stirling – based artist. GSWA member Fiona Munn's work celebrates the Stirling landscape. Rosanne Barr, who is now Vice President of the Glasgow Society of Women Artists, was educated at Balfron High School and is a Jolomo Award Laureate.

The exhibition features sculptures, ceramics, textiles and jewellery, as well as the more traditional works in oil, watercolour and acrylics. All of the work is for sale, providing a good opportunity to acquire a very special piece of Scottish art.

The Stirling Smith is open Tuesday – Saturday 10.30 – 5 and on Sundays 2 – 5. Admission and parking are free.



Not here....but near

Callander Ramblers' Diary 2015

June

Sat 13 June 08:30 Ramble: Killearn to Fintry via the Campsies (8miles) *Contact 01877 382803*

Sat 20 June 08:30 Hill: Ben Dubhcairg (978m) *Contact 01877 330059*

Sat 27 June 08:30 LDP: CT(2) Bridge of Cally to Kirkmichael (8miles) *Contact 01877 330032*

July

Wed 1 July 09:30 Stroll: Leannoch Loop (5 miles) *Contact 01877 376236*

Sat 11 July 08:30 Ramble: Loch Katrine Pier to Stronachlachar (13miles) *Contact 01786-825198*

Wed 15 July 09:30 Stroll: The Kelpies (5 miles) *Contact 01877 330446*

Sat 18 July 08:30 Hill: Stob Gabhar (1090m) *Contact 01877 331067*

Sat 25 July 08:30 LDP: CT(3) Kirkmichael to Spittal of Glenshee (9miles) *Contact 01877 330032*

August

Sat 1 August 08:30 Ramble: Water of Leith: Balerno to Leith (12miles) *Contact 01786-825198*

Wed 5 August 09:30 Stroll: Banknock to the Wheel (6.5miles) *Contact 01786 825249*

Callander & West Perthshire U3A

Guardian writer Andrew Brown saw fit to include the U3A in the newspaper's regular column entitled "In Praise of....." by comparing U3A with other universities and he recognises the fact that Third Agers come together "for the delight of learning alongside other people driven by the same need". He notes: "It (the U3A) neither gives nor recognises any qualifications. No one has to pretend that it adds anything at all to Britain's economic competitiveness. There is no campus. It has no place in league tables. The price of attendance is time and commitment. No wonder it is growing: the U3A is, in some senses, the only real university left in Britain". The social side of U3A is as important as the learning side in that new friendships are forged very quickly when shared interests are pursued and medical research points to a happier and a longer life if you can find a circle of acquaintances with whom you enjoy spending time.

Our instrumental group 'Imperfect Pitch' is now well established and the 'Mahjong' group has found a leader. A very successful visit to Pompeii and Herculaneum took place recently, arranged by Peter Ireland as the climax to his Classical History course.

We are now looking forward to our musical event at Venachar Lochside when members will be entertained by three groups: 'Callander Chimes' from Forth Valley U3A, the Ukelele Band from Perth U3A and our own 'Singing for Pleasure' group.

The U3A year will come to a close in July and our AGM will be held in late August prior to courses starting again in September. Anyone interested in finding out more about our group please Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.

Marguerite Kobs



Scottish Wildlife Trust Callander Local Group

Talks start at 7:30pm, Kirk Hall, South Church Street, Callander.

5 July SWT Balsam Bash: 10-13:00, meet Geisher Road Surgery Car Park.

25 July 10-16:00, Ancaster Square : Bottle, plant and SWT stall fund-raising event for Callander SWT group.

The new season of talks will start in September 2015. £2 members, £2:50 non-members free to full-time students, includes tea/coffee and biscuits. .Everyone Welcome

Callander Summerfest 2015

Callander Summerfest is back! This year we'll be open every day from 11 to 26 July, based in St Kessog's, the former church in Ancaster Square that is now the HQ for the Clanranald Trust.

We have a packed programme with free exhibitions with a focus on wildlife every day and a mix of workshops, music and films. And featuring on our opening weekend the acclaimed Stirling-based nature writer and musician **Jim Crumley** in two separate sessions.

The full brochure will be available from the middle of June – look out for the bright pink booklet! From early June it will also be posted on www.callandercdt.org.uk and Facebook (**CallanderSummerfest**) and we'll be tweeting (@stkessogs) about what's coming up too.

Tickets will be on sale in Creative in Callander, 28 Main Street, Callander from 15 June; then in St Kessog's, Ancaster Square from 11 July. You can also reserve tickets by texting or calling 07852 106605 or emailing stkessogs@hotmail.com.

Callander Summerfest 2015 is organised by Callander Community Development Trust (www.callandercdt.org.uk) and Creative in Callander (www.creativeincallander.co.uk), with funding support from Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs and from Stirling Council.

The RYDER Cup.

The Ryder Cup has run it's Course
Here at Gleneagles was the Source
The Yanks and Euro's set for Battle
The Papers and Media foo o' Tittle Tattle

Foo o' Tittle Tattle did a hear yeh say
Aye the Euros Wan on the Final Day
An the Sight o that Cup on Scottish Soil
Put the Yanks Blood up and did it Boil

Poor Watson had his team in a Fray
An the Euro's ran ovr them every day.
They were Birdied Battered on their Knees
An a tell yeh Watson no an easy man tae please

McGilvres team on the other hand
had every player tuned and in Command
they hit that wee baw richt doon the Middle
As the Yanks and Players, ran for a Piddle

It Didnae rain but they wet themselves
on that Final day of the famous Twelves
The Euros Pressured, on Scottish Greens
Seen on Fairways, Tees and Big Wide Screens

The Yanks Collapsed Doon on Their Hunkers
They could nae Handle Scottish Bunkers
Many a Shot went aft a Glay
The Euro's Easily Won The day

They Won the Hour, The day, The Year
Nae hard tae understand the Yankee fear
We seem tae Spank them Every Time
It helps tae make oor Poems Rhyme

Tae Sum it up Then That 'RYDER' Cup
The Euros oot o that Cup Did Sup
But we will see you all soon on American Soil
An am Afraid, once Again Yer Blood Will Boil

D Coleman
Gleneagles 2014.

Useful numbers

Book Club

James Kennedy 01877 387 201

Brownies

Jane Jackson

jane@jacko.org.uk

Jackie Bell

Community Choir

Jim Lightbody

aaultwhur@hotmail.co.uk

recycling balfron + callander

Monday - Friday 17:00 - 20:00

Saturday 10:00 - 14:00

mobile bank RBS

Stop arrive depart

Gartocharn 09:45 10:05

Aberfoyle 10:45 11:05

Buchlyvie 11:30 12:10

Balloch 12:30 12:50

Catholic Church

St Joseph's Callander & Doune

Daily masses 10am

Contact: Fr Jim McCrudden:

01877 330 702

NHS 24 111

Aberfoyle Fire Brigade 01877 382 969

Post Office 01877 382 231

Library Service 01786 237553

Health

Dentist (Callander) 01877 330703

Dentist (Drymen) 01360 661097

Schools

Aberfoyle School 01877 382 278

Gartmore School 01877 382 343

Port of Menteith School 01877 385 225

McLaren High School 01877 330 156

Vets

Callander 01877 381213

Doune 01786 841 304

Dunblane 01786 842 400

Killearn 01360 550 131



Gartmore After School Club

15:30 - 17:30

gartmore primary school

starting with a snack & juice to restore energy after a hard day at school, we offer a whole range of activities for children including arts/crafts, baking & sports in a 'home from home' environment. £6.00 per child per 2 x hour session. Pre-school children over age 4 now eligible to join.

Taxi subsidy available for 2 or more children travelling from surrounding schools

For more info or a registration form, please contact:
gspschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk



Elected Councillors Ward 1 Trossachs & Teith



Councillor Martin Earl, Conservative.
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET,
tel 01786 443497, mob 07881 310 922,
e-mail earlm@stirling.gov.uk



Councillor Alycia Hayes, SNP
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET
tel 01786 443497, mob 07881 310 924,
e-mail hayesa@stirling.gov.uk



Councillor Fergus Wood, SNP
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET
tel 01786 443497, mob 07824 496 019,
e-mail woodf@stirling.gov.uk

Advertising Rates

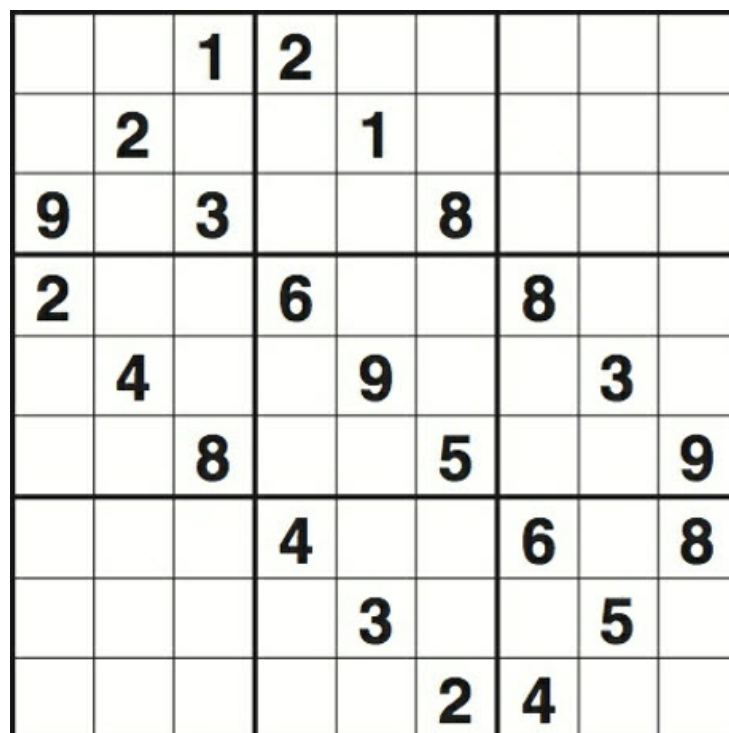
Full page advert £100

£25

£12

Half page advert £50

1/3rd page £35



SUDOKU
Hard

Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Mon	Lochside Yoga	7.30pm-9.00pm	Gillian 07738 225996 01877 387201
Tues	Aberfoyle Fitness	9.30am-10.30am	Alison Woods 07548 677540
Wed	Toddler Group	10.00am-12pm	Cindy 07886 511894
	French Lessons	3.30pm-4.30pm	Frances Bigwood frances@duchraycastle.com
	Country Dancing	7.30pm-9.30pm	Allan Shepherd 01877 385236
Thur	Karate For All ages	6.30pm-9.00pm	Julie Glen 01877 382 296
Sun	Abtrad Music Group	5.00pm-6.00pm	Cindy McLoughlin 07786 511894

Never miss an issue!

Why not have the newsletter delivered
to you for the next year for only £12.

If you wish to take out an annual subscription please complete the information below.

The completed form should be posted to The Treasurer, Strathard News,
Innis Ard, Manse Road, Aberfoyle FK8 3XF along with a cheque for £12 made
payable to Strathard News. Alternatively, hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Sign: _____

Tel No: _____ Date: _____

Your subscription will start with Issue 91

Aberfoyle & Buchlyvie Medical Practice



ABERFOYLE - 01877 382421

Monday	4.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Tuesday	07.30am-08.00am	By Appointment (Alt Tues)
	8.15am-11.00am	By Appointment
Wed	3.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Thursday	9.00am-11.30am	By Appointment
Friday	8.15am-11.00am	By Appointment

BUCHLYVIE - 01360 850237

Monday	07.30am-08.00am	By Appointment (Alt. Mon)
	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm-3.00pm	By Appointment
Tuesday	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Wed	9.00am-10.15am	Open Surgery
	2.30pm-3.30pm	By Appointment
Thursday	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
Friday	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
	3.00pm-5.00pm	By Appointment

Remember You Can Book Appointments on Line
Please Ask at Reception

Black Bull

HOTEL, GARTMORE



Contact us on 01877 382 225
or info@blackbullhotel.net
www.blackbullhotel.net

RESTAURANT Opening Times:
Monday to Friday: 5pm – 9pm
Saturday / Sunday: 1:30pm – 9pm



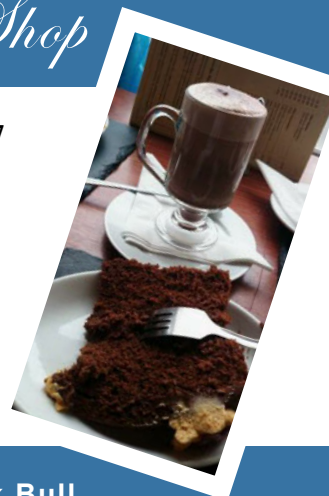
BAR Opening Times:
Monday to Friday: 4pm - 11pm
Saturday: 12:30pm – midnight
Sunday: 1:30pm – 11pm



Liz MacGregor's Coffee Shop



Aberfoyle's Coffee Shop since 1987
Real home baking.
Traditional Farmhouse Recipes
Delicious snacks
Fresh ground coffee.
Take away or Sit in.



Pick up your Money off voucher for the Black Bull



Black Bull

HOTEL, GARTMORE

10% off food
with this voucher

Aberfoyle Golf Club

Non-members are very welcome. Catering available for booked parties at any time.
To book a table phone the clubhouse on 01877 382493 or 07881 568379
info@blackbullhotel.net

