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Issue 97 | July/August 2016

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# EDITORIAL

Dear Readership,

The Strathard News is in difficulty.

As a fully volunteer based enterprise, the newsletter relies on members of the community giving up their time to source, edit and put together everything that goes to print.

Over the last few years, the team has thinned for various reasons and we are now at a point which is unsustainable.

So, with that in mind, we are looking for fresh volunteers to bolster the team.

Specifically, we are looking for people to take on the following tasks:

Content management - sending out reminders to content providers, gathering emails and putting together a content list for each issue.

Local reporter - putting a finger on the pulse of local goings on. Writing copy and taking pictures. (After all

this is why we have a local news letter!)

Layout - at the moment this a single handed task, but there is no reason the work could not be shared. We use Adobe InDesign to produce the newsletter.

Editing - we need someone to take responsibility for what goes in the paper, and to proof read before print. We have a restricted amount of space each issue, and have to abridge some content to fit. Editing is also a crucial task to make sure nothing gets missed (something I've been struggling with in the last couple of issues!)

If you think you would like to get involved in producing a much loved and well read local asset, please get in touch with one of us. Our contact details are in the next column.

Hopefully, with some renewed vigor and new blood, we can re-boot the Strathard News.

I hope many of you feel, like me that if it were to disappear, we would be poorer as a result.

Thank you. Craig.

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# PISTOL FIRED IN ANGER BY THE MARQUESS OF MONTROSE AND HIS COUSIN JOHN GRAHAM (OR GRAEME) OF DUCHRAY, BELIEVED FOUNDER OF THE BLACK WATCH

AN ACCOUNT OF LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY BY A. GAYDON , DESCENDANT OF J.G.DUCHRAY

A long left-handed brass and silver pistol, part of the collection of National Museums Scotland, on display in the Museum at Edinburgh Castle (Acc.No. M.1932.217) was I believe one of the 1st Marquess of Montrose's principal weapons in his defence of the Crown against the Covenanters in the 1600's.

The Marquess in 1641 had been imprisoned in the Castle as had his heir James in 1645 so the Castle is an appropriate final resting place for the pistol. It had originally belonged to the 4th Earl of Montrose, the Marquess' father however evidence suggests it was used by the Marquess himself during his famous battles.

In The Chiefs of Colquhoun and their country, Sir William Fraser recorded that in their final interview a pistol matching its description was presented by the great Marquess to his cousin John Graham/Graeme of Duchray ('Highland Hector') as a token of gratitude for his military support in those memorable exploits.

Thereafter the pistol was so treasured by him that he would never part from it and slept with it always under his pillow. What it did to his neck muscles one can only imagine! If proven this knowledge would transform its status and give it a significantly more important place in the story of Scotland than has until now been released.

'Duchray' providentially shared the same name and near identical Arms which had been engraved on the pistol by John Graham/Graeme the 4th Earl. Termed 'the Tetrarch of Aberfoyle' he was known to have been left-handed because his castle staircase goes anti-clockwise and it seems likely he adapted the pistol for his own use.

He allegedly lived for another 50 years until the age of 100 c.1700 but the pistol was undoubtedly his weapon of choice during his remaining lifetime and it would have seen similar dramatic action during his many soldierly escapades and actions around Menteith and the Trossachs, where Duchray Castle still stands today. In its day the pistol likely claimed many casualties. Its exceptional length would have made it particularly lethal as the last Earl of Menteith, Duchray's distant and fractious kinsman discovered to

his expense one day during a fracas on the bridge at Aberfoyle. This illustrious weapon is undoubtedly the one depicted by the family in their Eagle Crest in 1680.

Duchray castle was said to have been burnt and destroyed by Cromwell's troops but that almost certainly was untrue and it was in fact Dounans Castle, now the outdoor centre in Aberfoyle which suffered that fate, p.59 Three Nights in Perthshire: With a Description of the Festival of a Scotch Hairst Kirn, 1887 by Thomas Atkinson.

In what is believed to be his own narrative account, Duchray was said to have been the first to join the Earl of Glencairn's expedition in 1653 with his 40 footmen and this explicit contemporary reference is I believe strong evidence of them being the original 'Forty-Twa', the legendary Black Watch Regiment. It is an historically compelling and in my mind more factually credible explanation of their 'origin' from the official one given by the Black Watch Regiment themselves who make it circa 1725, 72 years later, which I would dispute. The pattern and darker hue of both the 'Graham' & Black Watch Tartans as distinct from that of the lighter shade 'Campbell' partly adds to my above feeling.

Duchray was said to have been the most honest, stout and wise of the rebel lairds and he was the last to submit to Cromwell. In 1655 he drew up a treaty with Monck which allowed Eleven men including himself to carry arms in defense of his lands as protection against thieves and broken men.

According to Louisa Graeme's Or and Sable, 1903, he obeyed the command of his wife's chief the last Earl of Menteith, to raise a guard for the pass of Aberfoyle for which he drafted 42 Graham's from his own lands whom he positioned as desired, the group never being disbanded.

Over time the name stuck and according to Miss Graeme it formed the nucleus of what became the 42nd Highlanders, 'Forty-twa' or Black Watch.

A parallel sounding account had earlier appeared in the Stirling Observer in 1879 by Peter Dun (see p.318 Or & Sable) a local historian and stationmaster from Menteith which

stated that in 1679 in response to a request to the last Earl of Menteith from the privy council to guard the waters of the forth an assembly of 42 men again all surnamed Graham, Eleven under Sir William Graham of Gartmore and the remaining thirty one retainers of the Earl himself were recruited for this purpose and they became known locally as the 'Forty-twa'. The ongoing dispute between Duchray & this Earl possibly centred on this matter.

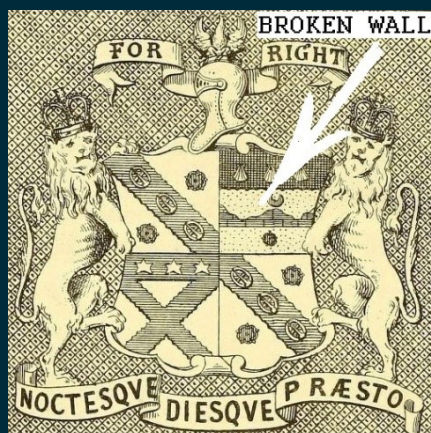
According to Mr Dun after the Earl's death this group were employed by the government and formed the core of the ensuing Black Watch. In Montrose's funeral procession Duchray carried the Great Pincel with the Marquess' Arms and later, during Glencairn's expedition he had personal guardianship of Montrose's son, later known as 'the good Marquess' whilst the latter was in his minority. Likewise, according to 'The memoirs of James, marquis of Montrose' 1639-1650' Patrick the 'elder' 3rd of Inchbrakie (Duchray's father in my judgement), had been guardian to the young Marquess after the death of James's own father about 30 years earlier. The two were also closely related through Montrose's sister Dorothea's marriage into Duchray's grandmother family, the Rollo's of Duncrub.

In a bizarre twist of fate Dorothea's widower James Rollo afterwards married Mary Campbell the half sister of Montrose's nemesis & arch enemy the Marquess of Argyll. Unfortunately the passage of time has played an unkind trick on the genealogy of John Graham of Duchray (highland hector) and his descendants.

The Graham's of Duchray had variously made a point of shedding light on their own ancestry despite the fact that others have since succeeded in wrongly re-inventing it. The Rev. John Anderson in f/n 11, page 148 of Sir Robert Douglas' Scots Peerage (ed. By Sir James Balfour Paul) Volume V1, 1909, stated, "It was this John, son of Thomas in Inchrie, who married Marion Graham of Rednock {p.161}" and by way of cross reference on p.161 i. "Marion, married to John Graham of Duchray, known as the 'Highland Hector', son of Thomas Graham of Inchrie, as on p. 148, ante, and had issue".

Unfortunately the Rev. Anderson did





not provide the necessary evidence in support of his assumption that John Graham of Duchray/Highland Hector whom he rightly quotes as marrying Marion, was identical with the personage of 'John, son of Thomas in Inchrie'. The chronology was indicative of this possibility but in fact these John's were two completely different people and Anderson's mistaken presumption above was the source for this confusion, in my opinion. Happily the actual family members in each generation right down to my own 400 years later knew where they had come from and took the precaution of recording this in certain records. They were right to have been wary and were prudent to have

done so. After a lifetime searching in vain for some decisive additional evidence of their precise origin though never really imagining it might exist, it was coincidentally whilst researching the above pistol that I suddenly struck lucky. The crucial missing piece in the jigsaw was an on-line book uploaded in 2014 which refers to a document in the handwriting of Alexander Graham, the then Laird of Duchray written in the early 1700's in which he made a point of backdating his genealogy to 1680. The document was designed for insertion in 'Nisbets'. By way of heraldic definition he gives a clear statement of his family's descent in the male line from the family of MONTROSE see 'Notes and Queries: A Medium of Intercommunication for Literary Men, General Readers, etc' 4th series, Vol 8, July-Dec 1871' p.385

Thanks to this amazing piece of good fortune there is now no doubting the family's paternal ancestry. It is unequivocally Montrose not Menteith. The body of proof is incontrovertible. Highland Hector and his male descendants in three generations including his above grandson Alexander were frequently recorded in records spelled 'Graeme'. This spelling was used by 'Inchbrakie' Graeme descendants and other offshoots of the 1st Earl of Montrose as opposed to the wider

Graham family which included Menteith Graham descendants.

The Duchray Grahams Coat of Arms of 1798 shows the broken wall of 'Inchbrakie' which verifies their paternal line of descent from that house and from the 1st Earl of Montrose. Louisa Graeme of Inchbrakie descent herself, in her meticulously researched book p.90 & 553 said she considered John Graham of Duchray was the second son of Patrick Graeme 3rd of Inchbrakie. Her own blood connection I believe motivated her interest in seeking the truth and accuracy about these things rather than a desire to fabricate it.

People generally don't invent their family histories if they have doubts about its authenticity for fear of later contradiction. I for one believe she was accurate in all of her above history of the family.

*Genealogical Magazine* Vol. 3, May, 1899-April, 1900 p. 33, 185, 301 -308 & 340-1

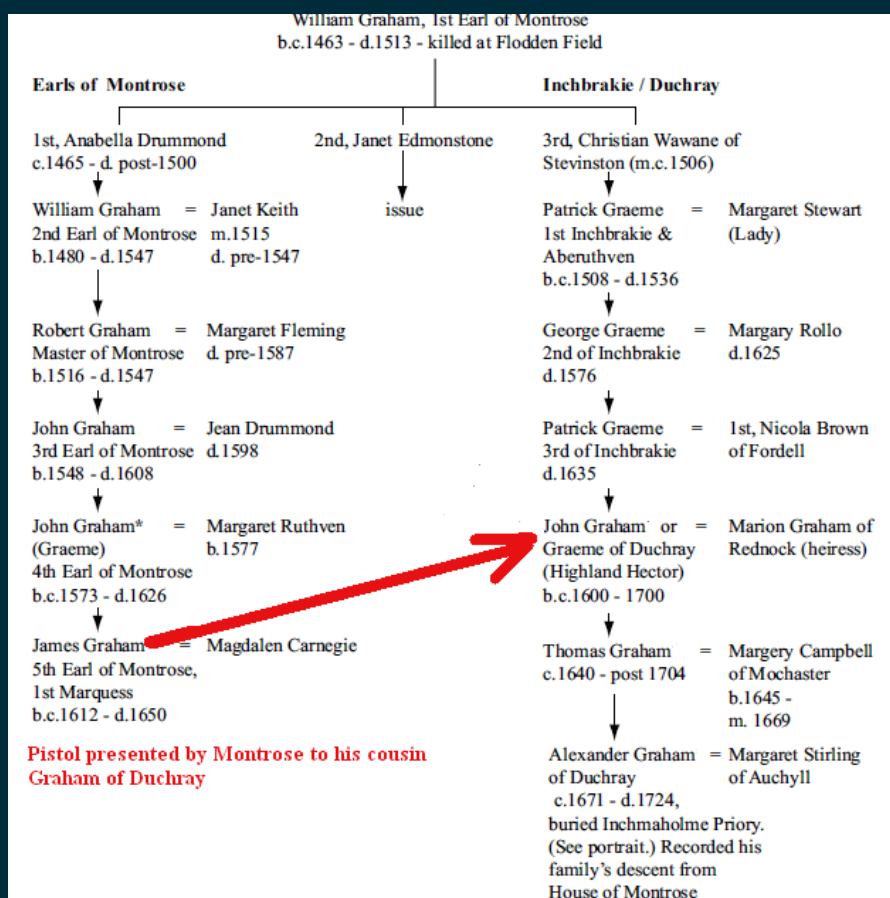
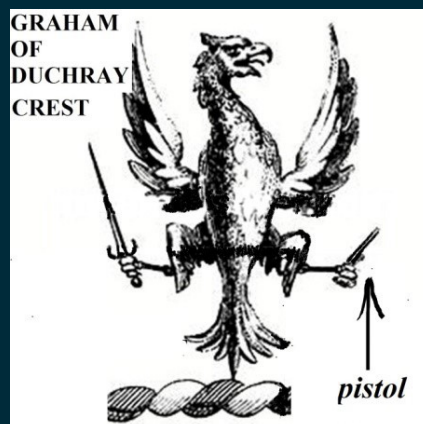
*Genealogical Magazine* Vol. 4, May, 1900-April, 1901, p.252-255

*Genealogical Magazine* Vol.1, May 1897-Apr 1898, p.68, p.73

*The Stirling Antiquary* reprinted from the *Stirling Sentinel* 1900-1903 Vol.3, p.319-24 *The Scottish Antiquary or Northern Notes & Queries* edited by J.H.Stevenson, Vol.13, July 1898, p.69

*genealogicalmaga1189unse#page/66/mode/2up*

*The Stirling Antiquary* reprinted from the *Stirling Sentinel* 1900-1903 Vol.3, p.319-24 <https://archive.org/stream/stirlingantiqua01unkngoog#page/n331/mode/2up>





# WALK IN THE PARK ABERFOYLE

**WALK  
IN THE  
PARK**

On Wednesday 6th July. The Walk in the Park groups from Aberfoyle, Callander, Balloch and

Killin joined together for a joint walk with Callander Ramblers around the Glen Lochay Loop in Killin. Over 50 walkers walked either a short 45 minute health walk or the 4 mile loop visiting Moiralanich Longhouse on the way. Snacks and a well-earned rest was enjoyed at the Bridge of Lochay Hotel. Thanks to all who participated or helped in any way to make this a very enjoyable day out.

Walk in the Park have recently introduced award badges for a target number of walks taken over the last 3 years. Bronze for 50 walks, silver for 100 walks and gold for 200 walks. Many of the walkers have been awarded bronze and silver badges however, up until now the target of gold had not been reached. The photo shows Tony Beaman being presented with the first gold award badge and certificate. Tony walks with the Aberfoyle, Callander and Balloch groups and is also a member of the Callander Ramblers. It was

therefore the perfect event to present Tony with his award. The photo shows Natalie Stevenson, the manager of The Loch Lomond and Trossachs Countryside Trust, who presented the award, Tony and his wife outside the Bridge of Lochay Hotel in Killin. Congratulations and well done!

Walks are held on Monday mornings in Aberfoyle at 10.20am meeting at the Woollen Mill Car Park - check schedule for details. Strength and Balance sessions are held on Mondays from 12.15 -1pm in the Forth Inn.

If you have any questions regarding joining any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Project Coordinator- Cathy Scott on 01877 330055 or email: [cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org)



## COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN

*Meeting at the Woollen Mill Car Park at 10.20am*

*All Routes: Walk from 10min - 1hour*

1/8/16	Car share	Loch Ruskie
8/8/16	Car share	Loch Ard
15/8/15	Car share	Burnside Wood Kippen
22/8/16	Car share	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre
29/8/16	Car share	Lemahamish
5/9/16		NCR7 to Rob Roy
12/9/16	Car share	Lochan Spling
19/9/16		Ballaich
26/9/16	Car share	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre

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KILBRYDE CASTLE Dunblane FK15 9NF

Opening Times: Sunday 18 September 2:00pm - 5:00pm  
By arrangement 1 April - 30 September

Disabled Access: Partial

Admission: £4.00, children free

Charities: Leighton Library 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries

The Kilbryde Castle gardens cover some 12 acres and are situated above the Ardoch Burn and below the castle. The gardens are split into 3 parts: formal, woodland and wild. Natural planting (azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias) is found in the woodland garden. There are glorious spring bulbs and autumn colour provided by clematis and acers.

Other Details: Cream teas are available on 18 September only. Plant stall; Dogs on leads

Directions: Three miles from Dunblane and Doune, off the A820 between Dunblane and Doune. On Scotland's Gardens' day the garden is signposted from A820.

LITTLE BROICH Kippen FK8 3DT

Opening Times: Sunday 2 October 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Disabled Access: Partial

Admission: £4.00, children free

Charities: Strathcarron Hospice receives 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries

A tree lover's heaven! A hidden arboretum of about eight acres, planted over the last twenty years, with an extensive collection of native and non-native conifers and broad-leaf specimens. Fern leaf oaks, Hungarian oaks, Cercidiphyllum and Glyptostrobus amongst many others around wide, slightly sloping grass paths (can be slippery when wet). Stunning views across the Carse of Stirling and the autumn colours should be outstanding. The garden featured in an October 2014 issue of Scotland on Sunday and on The Beechgrove Garden.

Other Details: No dogs except guide dogs; Cream teas.

Directions: Will be signposted off the B8037. Parking on the road, disabled badge holders can park at the bottom of the lane.



# SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

We may have passed the longest day but the good news is that brings us closer to the new season of Wildlife talks; the excellent programme is on our page of the SWT website <http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/local-member-group/callander/>. On 13 September we have Emma Sheehy, a Research Fellow at Aberdeen University talking on 'Interactions between Pine Martens and Squirrels' given by. This includes setting up survey sites to record the number of visits to feeder boxes by squirrels and pine martens, using camera traps and sticky pads on feeder boxes. One of the tetrads is in Callander Woods where a very cute trio of young pine martens was filmed. The Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Project also completed spring surveys in Callander and Coihallan Woods, results available later in the year. Everyone can help by reporting sightings of any red or grey squirrels on <http://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/squirrel-sightings/>.



Between May 2008 and August 2009 1000+ water voles were re-introduced into Loch Ard Forest in a project involving FCS, RZSS and SNH. Annual surveys have shown good expansion outside the original introduction area and this season a new colony has been discovered just to the South of Loch Venachar, an impressive 8km away from the nearest release site. The project aim was to counter a 90% reduction in water vole populations partly due to loss of habitat but principally due to predation by North American mink, misguidedly released from fur farms in the 1990's. The female mink is the only predator that can follow the water voles into their burrows, leaving no escape route. Unfortunately, mink footprints are still seen in some of the voles' areas, emphasising the need to maintain mink control efforts to enable water voles to reach new areas and create stable future populations.

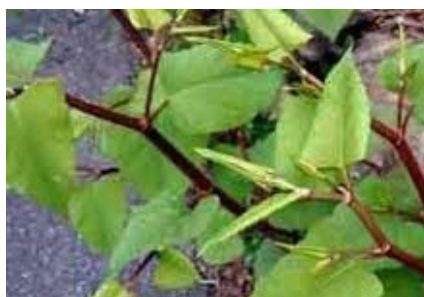
This project relies on the voluntary effort of individuals and local organisations. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact



TWVP Project Officer Ryan Greenwood on [ryan.greenwood@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ryan.greenwood@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or 07909892460. Ryan would also be interested in hearing of any local mink sightings.

Talking of invasive non-natives, this year's first Balsam Bash on the River Teith was in July with another opportunity on 21 August, meet outside Callander Medical Centre at 10am. This is our fourth year and there is definitely much less than in the past but new patches still need attention. It is a pity to remove such an attractive flower, especially one enjoyed by bees and making good honey. However, it seeds prolifically, crowds out our native plants and diverts the bees from pollinating them. This is one of the easy ones to remove with no nasty side-effects but if you encounter giant hogweed do not handle it as the sap can lead to nasty burns in sunlight. Also if you come across Japanese Knotweed do not chop it down as any small pieces root and spread it further: it is best tackled by spraying with herbicide. It is actually illegal to allow any invasive non-native flora and fauna to escape into the wild. Please help to control them by reporting sightings of these and many other invasives on [http://isweb.esdm.co.uk/ISWeb\\_RAFTS/MyPublic.aspx?OrgID=RAFTS](http://isweb.esdm.co.uk/ISWeb_RAFTS/MyPublic.aspx?OrgID=RAFTS) that includes identification guides.

*Lesley Hawkins*



## CALLANDER PHOTO CLUB

CALLANDER PHOTO CLUB ANNOUNCES ITS FIFTH SEASON

Callander Photo Club offers members opportunities to learn more about their cameras and photography and to share their progress in a relaxed setting. The program below, while not complete, offers what we hope will be an exciting fifth season. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm in the back room of the Waverly Hotel on Callander Main Street. and schedule extra field trip dates as weather permits.

Please join us or come along for an evening or two. Membership is £12.00 per year with dues of £1 per meeting for members and £3 per meeting for guests. For more information contact us at [callanderphotoclub@gmail.com](mailto:callanderphotoclub@gmail.com) or call Susan O'Boyle at 01877 339 323.

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## ABERFOYLE BROWNIES

After our big hike and sleepover earlier in the term, we were delighted to welcome two new Brownies to our pack after they completed their Brownie Promise. Hopefully there will be even more girls joining us after the summer holidays. We would like to say thank-you to Balfron Guide Lucy More who came along one evening and ran a games evening. It was great fun and we love having Guides come back to visit us! This term our older Brownies also had the opportunity to visit Balfron Guides and find out more about what Guides get up to during their meetings. It was a really interesting session and ended with a quiz with sweetie prizes. A big thank-you to Nicola from Balfron guides for letting us come along.

On the 5th June some of the Brownies, along with Aberfoyle Rainbows, took part in the Senior Section Picnic in the Park in Falkirk. We had all made mad hatter hats to wear and it was great to see all the design ideas from Brownies around Forth Valley. It was a great day with the sun shining down on Callander House where the event was held. We enjoyed a bunny trail with lots of really tricky questions to answer along the way, ate ice cream and joined in a sing song. A big thanks to Buchanan Cabs for getting us there and back safely! The transport for this trip was funded by our Co-op Local Fund Award which is helping us have more adventures away from our meeting place.

Sadly, the end of the term meant that we had to say a few goodbyes. We held our final meeting amongst the midgies at Aberfoyle Play Park. After a game of rounders, a bit of cricket and a quick biscuit break it was time for three of our Brownies to jump over the toadstool. It was great to have Rebecca, Mara and Poppy as part of our Brownie family and they will be missed. The end of term also meant the end of Blondie

Owl's time with us. Lindsey has been volunteering with us as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Thank-you Lindsey and good luck with your Award! We also sadly have to say cheerio to Spotty Owl a.k.a Esther Valencia. Crafty and Snowy Owl would like to say a HUGE thank-you for all her support and hard work. We will certainly miss you as part of our Brownie team but hope you enjoy your "retirement".

Brownies resumes on Wednesday 31 August and we look forward to welcoming everyone back after their summer holidays.

Brownies gives girls an opportunity to explore new ideas and activities. If you feel you might have a particular skill which you would be interested in sharing with us please get in touch. We love welcoming visitors to our unit and while the Owls try their best, they can't be good at everything!

1st Aberfoyle Brownies meet Wednesday evenings (term time) from 6 - 7:30pm at the Aberfoyle Church Hall. Most of the Brownies attend Aberfoyle Primary School together, but we are especially glad to welcome Brownies from the surrounding area. The girls are very keen to make new friends and wider connections. If you are between seven and ten and would be

interested in joining us you would be most welcome. When you start, you will have your own Brownie Buddy to support you through the first few weeks of Brownies.

You can make an initial enquiry on the Girl Guiding website at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk> or to make an informal enquiry you can contact us directly on [aberfoylebrownies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aberfoylebrownies@hotmail.co.uk).



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# THE REGISTRAR AT ABERFOYLE

SHARON JOHNSTON

I can hardly believe that we are half way through the summer, and certainly couldn't tell you where the time has gone! The Registry Office has been hugely busy and, I am delighted to say that, most of our news has been 'happy' news!

More babies have arrived in recent months. Aberfoyle couple Jenny and John were delighted by the birth of a new baby son, John Joe Mulgrew; as were the parents of baby Hamish Wallace Ritchie, Susan and Michael from Port of Menteith. With a strong local connection, Lesley and Robert (now from Doune) chose to register in Aberfoyle, following the birth of their baby daughter, Jura Elizabeth McGregor. A huge big 'welcome' babies!

Our fantastic wedding season continues, with a year that we hope will rival last year, and we are so busy that will hopefully go some way towards excusing the shortness of my column this issue! To name just a few ...

Busy in places such as the Registry Office, where Thomas Houston and Kristin Ritchie, from the United Arab Emirates, chose to be married, before going on to spread their celebration across many other establishments in the area!

Couples such as Melville Berwick and Nicola Stevenson, from Glenrothes, who opted for a woodland setting, when they chose Duchray Castle for their big day.

Busy, too, Altskeith Country House, where couples such as Anthony Carolan and Elizabeth Martin from Ireland stood with their children, within sight of the loch, to be married; as did Kane Warren and Katie Tierney from Liverpool, and so many other couples.

The path to Kinlochard also wore well with weddings such as the fantastic day of Joe Smithyman and Laura Cooksey from Livingston, who were married at Forest Hills Hotel.

My warmest congratulations to the many, many couples who have been married in our area, as I look forward to the many weddings the coming months have still to bring!

Meanwhile, Aberfoyle Registration Office continues to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am until 1pm, and I am here hoping to help you in every way that I can. Appointments can be made by telephone [01877 382 986] or by email [regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk].

## SHELTER SCOTLAND


Free housing advice to Private Tenants.

If you are a private tenant in the Stirling Council area, Shelter Scotland can offer free confidential, independent help and advice on a range of housing issues including rent queries, rent arrears, eviction, tenancy rights, unlawful fees, deposits, repairs and shared accommodation.

If you need to know your rights, if you need some help to resolve a housing issue or you just need some information, you can speak to our dedicated adviser on 0344 515 2483 or email us at [stirlingprsproject@shelter.org.uk](mailto:stirlingprsproject@shelter.org.uk) quoting the name of this publication. Further advice and information can be accessed at our website [www.shelterscotland.org](http://www.shelterscotland.org).

*The service is a partnership between Stirling Council & Shelter Scotland.*

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## TROSSACHS SEARCH + RESCUE

**Scottish Charity No SC028266**

**Contacts:**

**Team Chairman – Stuart Ballantyne**  
**07525 357 947 [trossachs.sar@](mailto:trossachs.sar@btinternet.com)**  
**[btinternet.com](mailto:btinternet.com)**

**Team Secretary – Heather Hunter**  
**07900 911 547 [tsarheather@yahoo.](mailto:tsarheather@yahoo.co.uk)**  
**[co.uk](mailto:co.uk)**

Hearstart Training & Public Access  
Defibrillators

A joint initiative with the British Heart Foundation, this was created to teach valuable lifesaving skills such as the recovery position, CPR and dealing with severe bleeding and choking. TSAR started these classes some 18 years ago and we regularly train for free, over 300 people each year throughout our rural communities.

So far in 2016 though we have trained 374 people and have trained all 100 pupils from Drymen Primary School, 50 pupils from Fintry Primary School and 100 pupils from Kippen Primary School. Additionally, we have assisted the Save A Life for Scotland campaign with training of 527 pupils and staff at the Community School of Auchterarder and 350 staff from NHS Scotland

at their national conference at the SECC with partners from the Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue and voluntary organisations. We have trained staff at several local businesses, including hotels.

In 2013 TSAR extended our CPR programme to Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) with a mission to raise funds for and place public access defibrillators in every village and at key tourist sites in our area. This programme has received critical acclaim and we are proud to now have 87 PADs in place, with 5 successful resuscitations.

In April 2016 we launched our Defib Locator App which provides information on the location of public access defibs in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and surrounding communities. People can download the link to the app onto their phone FREE OF CHARGE. This potentially lifesaving app has been necessary as the Scottish Ambulance Service does not have a mapping system for defibs.

It can be downloaded at [www.trossachsdefibrillator.co.uk](http://www.trossachsdefibrillator.co.uk)

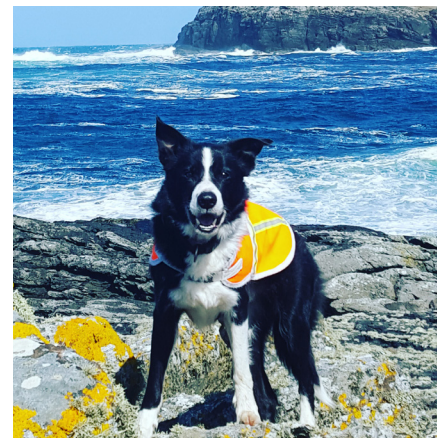
In June 2016, at the Scottish Cardiac

Arrest Symposium, the charity was awarded Runner Up in the inaugural national Newton Award 2016 which celebrates commitment to tackling Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest in Scotland.

Search and Rescue

So far in 2016, at the request of HM Coastguard & Police Scotland, we have been on two extended missions to the Outer Hebrides to search for the missing skipper from the fishing vessel MV Louisa. We undertook searches for several days over mostly rocky terrain on the islands of South Uist, Eriskay, Barra and Vatersay as well as several uninhabited islands including Sandray, Fuday, Lingay and Fiaraidh. Unfortunately, despite multi agency searches Paul remains missing.

Early in July, we were deployed to Cumbernauld to assist in searches of dense woodland for an elderly missing man



*Trossachs Search and Rescue is a community based charity whose primary area of operation covers the geographical rural expanse from Loch Lomond to Strathyre, Stirling to Balloch. However, we do support the emergency services and communities across Scotland with practical assistance or advice when asked.*

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## COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS BY WARD

### **Aberfoyle**

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

### **Inversnaid**

Andre Goulancourt

### **Stronachlachar**

1 vacancy

### **Kinlochard**

Fiona McEwan  
Colin Smith  
Stuart Stephen

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnaid Hotel. The next meeting will be held on 4th August at Inversnaid Hotel, then 1st Sept in Kinlochard Village hall. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councilor (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 Councilors cannot attend.

### **Contact details:**

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

We would like to remind people to secure their property, in particular sheds and garages. There have been no thefts reported within the Starthard area however there has been a number of thefts from premises in the surrounding areas.

Police Scotland are currently conducting a public consultation survey. It is continuing until March 2017. This is an opportunity for locals to tell us what is important to them in their community. The survey can be accessed via [www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts](http://www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts).

A Police surgery is being held on Wednesday 27th July 2016 within the Tourist Information Centre at Aberfoyle.

The Air Weapon amnesty has now finished, although anyone who still has an air weapon and wish-

## POLICE NEWS

es to relinquish it prior to the new Licensing regulations coming into force, can do so at their local Police Office. Details of Air Weapon Licensing can be found on the Police Scotland website.

Speeding within the Strathard area has been highlighted to Colin and I. We, along with other local officers, will be carrying out speed checks within the area. Please be mindful of the speed limits in force.

PC 048 Deans & PC 237 McKerracher.



POLICE SCOTLAND

## ABERFOYLE TODDLERS

ABERFOYLE TODDLERS - MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY 9.30AM-11:30AM (TERM TIME).

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# STIRLING CASTLE SHORTLISTED

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

*Stirling residents asked to put their castle on the map by voting in the 2016 British Travel Awards*

Stirling Castle has beaten the competition to become the only Scottish attraction on the shortlist for this year's British Travel Awards. Members of the public now have until 30th September 2016 to vote for their favourite UK Heritage Attraction on the BTA website.

The British Travel Awards are the largest consumer voted awards programme in the UK. In 2015, over 254,000 members of the public voted for their favourite destinations, holiday providers and heritage attractions.

The castle faces stiff competition from Beamish Living Museum in Durham, the Giant's Causeway, Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire, Titanic Belfast and the Tower of London, so staff are appealing to locals and visitors alike to help put Stirling on the map.

Liz Grant, Executive Manager of Stirling Castle, said: "It's wonderful that Stirling Castle has been recognised once again by the British Travel Awards. Just being shortlisted is testament to the hard work of all our staff, but of course we'd love it if it was third time lucky with a win for the castle in 2016.

"It would be great if the people of Scotland could show support for the castle by voting online, and I'd encourage the many visitors we've welcomed through Stirling Castle's gates to show their support too."

It has been a busy year at the castle, which launched a new website and a brand new fashion event, In Vogue, as well as beginning a programme of conservation works on the James IV arch, and hosting cultural events from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to Dunblane High School's Shakespeare festival. Still to come this summer, Stirling Castle will host its popular outdoor theatrical performances, as well

as running a range of activities for school children to enjoy over the holidays.

To vote for Stirling Castle to win the Best UK Heritage Attraction Award at the 2016 British Travel Awards, visit [www.britishtravelawards.com](http://www.britishtravelawards.com)

Winners will be announced in November 2016.



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA



## MILTON

Hello Children,

Yippee, long, school holidays are here! The gang have been out and about in Strathard, from one end to the other, finding all sorts of things to do. George the Hare is changing colour again, his brown spring coat turning almost blue, as it does every summer. Olivia and Oliver are growing fast and will soon be as big as Duke and Katrine. Every new place the kits discover, they love to leave their five-toed webbed footprints and lines drawn by their powerful tails. Just for good measure, spraints, droppings used as scent markers, are left everywhere they go. See if you can spot some.

Aberfoyle seems to have become the art centre of the world. A splendid indoor exhibition of paintings by local artists was complemented by some magnificent outside "Street Art". For more than a mile, white, blue, red, orange and green paint has been daubed from one end of the village to the other, along the road and pavements. Mysterious indeed. Even more baffling is the white outline of a large man, spread-eagled in the middle of the C68, just west of Corriearklet.

Suffice to say, this particular character has his hands full. Perhaps it depicts Gartney, a local chieftain who fought the invading Scots at this place, in AD711, a battle that raged as far down the strath as Kinlochard.

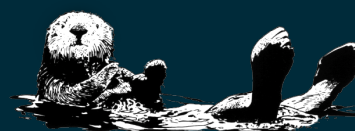
On the lush summer grazing alongside Loch Arklet, a massive, white bull stands amongst the cows and heifers in his fold of Highland cattle, surveying some of the finest scenery in Scotland. A Whitebred Shorthorn bull is all muscle and temperament, two of the greatest assets of any bull. The spring born calves are really growing well, fairly putting on the weight. In another couple of months the cross shorthorn calves will be 20% heavier than the pure bred highlanders. Blue and the other calves love chasing about, kicking their heels in the air, as the cows look on, happily chewing the cud. Now Kinchie the bull has to make sure that new calves will be born next springtime.

You may have noticed that it is beginning to grow dark earlier in the evening, even though there is still a lot of summer to come. If, over the next few weeks, as the sky darkens, you look upwards, you might just see a very unusual sight. Clouds that actually shine with a quite spectacular electric blue colour. Braeval, my brainbox of a sister, says they are noctilucent

clouds, Latin for "shining night". Miles high in the atmosphere, a thin layer of the tiniest imaginable ice crystals form a ragged veil of luminous cloud, something that most people will never see, but well worth looking out for. It is a heavenly version of the beautiful summer coats being worn by Blue and George!

There is so much to do and look forward to over the next couple of months. Kinlochard have already held their table tennis tournament and put on the annual Highland Gathering, with the greatest sack-race in the whole world. Then came a fully-fledged Highland Games, at the Kirkton, Aberfoyle. Next up will be Callander Highland Games. And remember, rain is just liquid sunshine!

Bye for now,  
Milton.





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# WHEN DID YOU DECIDE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF YOUR CARED-FOR PERSON WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR OWN?

*Janet is a local woman from rural Stirling. She struggled looking after her husband's mental health problems, and decided to give the Time and Space peer-mentoring service a try. This is her story (names have been changed).*

I looked at the advert again. Time and Space: for carers by carers - that's what grabbed my attention. I never thought of myself as a 'carer' - it sounded too formal, too distant. All I did was look after Paul when he needed me. I knew he experienced mental health problems when we married, but back then it didn't seem to affect him really. Things were different now; he needed me more than ever, especially when he was made redundant after 20 years with the same company. It's enough to make anyone depressed, but it hit him hard. Paul was a proud person, liked to look after his family. Now he'd no job, no money and was unable to get out of the depression that gripped him.

The advert said get support for yourself from someone who understands. I knew I needed support; things were starting to get really on top of me. I was anxious about money, the roof over our heads, and trying to keep some semblance of normality for our kids.

Paul's admission to Larbert Hospital was the final straw and the next morning I called Time and Space and arranged to meet them. I was nervous but I'm glad I did it, as it opened a new chapter in our lives.

Within a couple of weeks I met Sarah, my peer-mentor. I was worried we wouldn't get along but as it turned out we have a lot in common - both of us have kids of similar age and support husbands with mental health problems. Sarah has been a massive help. I could talk frankly to her about my life and the feelings of guilt and resentment I was having. She didn't judge me. Instead Sarah encouraged me to think 'what do I want for my own life?' and what areas of it I wanted to improve on. It was quite difficult because it made me realise how much I had let slip, especially my friendship with my oldest friend. However, this gave me a fresh start and some personal goals to work towards. They wouldn't sound like much to other people, but they were really

important to me.

As Sarah works with Action in Mind they are also able to offer support to Paul on his discharge from hospital. I now volunteer on the project's steering group and really enjoy it. I'm surprised how much value others in the meetings place on my views as a mental health carer. I think our society as a whole need to realise just how valuable lived experience is.

Life is improving. Paul is getting the support he needs now, but a large part of the change is within myself. Having someone to talk things over and who is interested in me (rather than Paul or my kids) was comforting. Through the service I got to meet new and interesting people who have similar stories to share. I even got back in touch with my old friend - something I would never had thought possible a year before. Things aren't perfect, whose life is? My life is getting better and the black clouds are lifting.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING PEER SUPPORT, OR WISH TO BECOME A PEER MENTOR YOURSELF, CONTACT IAIN MACDONALD ON 01786 451 203 OR EMAIL [PEERMENTOR@ACTIONINMIND.ORG.UK](mailto:PEERMENTOR@ACTIONINMIND.ORG.UK)**



## WATER SAFETY

Staff and volunteers at SwimVibe in Aberfoyle made a splash last weekend to help prevent drowning, by hosting free water safety sessions at the Macdonald Forest Hills Resort.

Using activities and resources provided by the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS - the UK's national water safety and drowning prevention charity), SwimVibe offered fun and practical water safety activities for children aged 3-11 years. This was run in support of the Drowning Prevention Week campaign, run by The RLSS UK who aims to ensure everyone knows how to have fun and stay safe near water.



Tanya Fraser, Director and SwimVibe Instructor from SwimVibe Limited, said: "Around 400 people drown in the UK each year, and thousands suffer life changing injuries due to near-drowning experiences. Shockingly drowning is the third highest cause of accidental death in children in the UK. We are happy to support RLSS UK to reduce these numbers by educating swimmers about how to be safe near water in a fun and interactive way. SwimVibe continually reinforces water safety in our swimming lessons".

Sessions included various dry and wet side activities, including water safety at beaches, inland water, swimming pools and at home as well as learning how to handle emergency situations. Children enjoyed swimming in their clothes whilst having the opportunity to learn and practice survival skills and various rescue techniques.

Drowning Prevention Week



- Drowning Prevention Week was launched by the Royal Life Saving Society UK in 2012 to promote water safety and reduce incidences of drowning.

- Visit our website at [www.drowningpreventionweek.org.uk](http://www.drowningpreventionweek.org.uk)

- Follow us on Twitter - @dpw\_RLSSUK

- Visit our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/drowningpreventionweek](https://www.facebook.com/drowningpreventionweek)

SwimVibe Limited

- Swim School in Central Scotland promoting water safety and offering swimming lessons to children of all ages and abilities.

- SwimVibe's swimming lessons provide the necessary skills to be confident and safe and to be able to participate in and enjoy a wide range of aquatic activities.

- Visit our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/SwimVibeRLSSUK>

- The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is the drowning prevention charity.

- Around 400 people drown in the UK every year and the RLSS UK aims to prevent drowning through water safety education.

- The RLSS UK is the governing body and leading provider of training and education in lifesaving, lifeguarding, water safety and life support skills in the UK.



# HERBS GALORE OPEN DAY

At Green Routes in the Walled Garden, Gartmore House on

**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016**  
between 10.30am and 3.30pm

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**between 10.30am and 3.30pm**

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# GREEN ROUTES

*building a positive learning environment where people with additional support needs can realise their potential and become equipped to make positive contributions to their communities.*

Each year, the last week of May is perhaps our busiest, as we prepare entries for the pallet and planter competition at Gardening Scotland. Students begin to plan weeks before, seeds are sown and plants brought on, and indeed garden centres are scoured if our red and blue flowers are not quite in bloom!

students were delighted and some have already begun to think of ideas for next year!

Now our work is to make the planters in Aberfoyle, Kinlochard and Gartmore look as colourful as we can, to keep our vegetable beds in good order

Sunday 31st July – HERBS

Sunday 28th August – SEASONAL GARDEN ACTIVITIES

Sunday 25th September – APPLE DAY

Sunday 30th October – A HALLOWE'EN THEME

*We ask that you contact us on*



We had an immensely varied set of ideas this year: an international football match, a dartboard, Boy Bands, The Pineapple, a Garden for Wildlife, Upcycling, the Rio Olympics, a fairy garden, The Kelpies and a garden reflecting the ethos of Green Routes. You can imagine the hard work which went into the creation of these eight pallets and two planters, but the results were worth all the hard work.

Four of the pallets were awarded gold, with the Upcycling one being awarded second best out of all the pallets entered. Three were awarded silver/gilt and one, silver. The two planters were awarded gold and silver. Our

and inevitably to do lots of weeding. Students learn to summer-prune our apple trees and the fruiting hedge and to continue with the learning required towards their RHS 'Grow and Learn' levels one or two.

We continue to hold our end of the month Open Sundays with a very special one at the end of July, when Margaret Lear, of Plants with Purpose will run two free workshops for us on the planting and care of herbs and their uses. The dates and themes of these days, held in the Walled Garden of Gartmore House and which run from 10.30am to 3.30pm with refreshments and a buffet lunch are:

01877389082 (daytime) or [tracey.storr@hotmail.com](mailto:tracey.storr@hotmail.com) (evening) for catering purposes.





## NEWS FROM THE LODGE



### The Lodge House Activity Hub

The history of the Lodge House Activity Hub, formerly called "Bracken hill cottage", was built in the 1960's as part of the David Marshall Lodge visitor centre and leased to the site warden as a residential property.

During the site planning to refurbish The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre, the old cottage was identified as a building which could be developed to deliver group activities.

Since October last year, Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) has been carrying out a programme of refurbishment and internal changes to this listed building. The project has been partially funded by SportScotland through the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Legacy fund.

The Activity Hub now has a meeting room seating up to 20 people, a smaller meeting room/ catering area seating 10+ people, secure bag storage, fully accessible toilets, shower and a kitchenette area. The building will also have wi-fi access and equipment to deliver media presentations.

The Activity Hub is available to book for education, community, corporate and outdoor activity groups, for events, and by other interested parties.

Key partners in this project have been Forest Enterprise Scotland, SportScotland, local community / business groups and the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park's education and planning teams.

The new Lodge House Activity Hub will



be open for business by early August 2016 and you can get more details on how to book, costs and access from the FES team on site at The Lodge, phone 0300 067 6615.

### Wildlife Viewing at the Lodge

There has been a flurry of activity in the Wildlife Room at The Lodge as we have been watching the birds spring into action.

#### Ospreys

The ospreys have three chicks, which will hopefully be ringed by mid-July before they are due to fledge. All are well fed with trout and pike which are caught by the male bird in local lochs.

Neither of this year's adults are ringed so we do not know exactly which birds they are but they are certainly doing a good job of parenting, having endured snow, gales and intruding ospreys whilst incubating the eggs.

We may never know what happened to the "resident" pair Katrine and Drunkie - perhaps they are just taking a year off!

The osprey chicks are still too young to fledge, but you can already see them moving around the nest begging for food. All going well, they should fledge soon and may be seen around the nest well into August. After that it's their long migration to North and West Africa where, if they make it, they shall spend the next two years.

#### Peregrines

The peregrines laid four beautiful brown eggs which hatched into four male peregrines. They have been ringed and are now taking their first tentative flights.

Since learning to shuffle and flap about the ledge on which they nest, we have seen less of them on camera but there is often a flurry of activity when the female brings in lunch.

The peregrines have been really interesting this summer, showing us that it is not just the biggest and strongest who get fed all the time but that the female ensures all the chicks

get a share. On one occasion, a dead tree sparrow was grabbed by the largest chick but in a flash the female adult returned and re-allocated it to the two smaller chicks that were then spotted tearing hungrily away at their lunch at the back of the scrape.

### Barn Owls

A barn owl nest box camera has been showing us two white, fluffy chicks too, but we are yet to learn how successful they will be as many of our owls are struggling this year. On some days the parent owl roosts in the nest box with the chicks, showing up closely their beautiful feathers.

### Highland Cattle

If you visit The Lodge over the summer there's a chance to meet our young highland cows each morning when they are fed at 11am. "The girls" Luna and Lisa are here to help manage the bracken and improve the habitat for bluebells, other wildflowers and insects, and therefore the birds that feed on them.

### Forthcoming events

During July we will be running the Junior Nature Club on every Thursday, 10am - 12.30pm, booking essential. Further activities and events will be available as the summer progresses, such as an evening Bat Walk at the end of August, with experts on hand to help us in our bat detecting and Light Up the Forest in October. More details are available on the Lodge webpage at [www.forestry.gov.uk/qefp](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/qefp)

Volunteering activities within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park

### Ben Ledi

As part of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) Europarc Junior ranger programme, some pupils from McLaren High school joined Forest Enterprise Scotland staff at Cowal and Trossachs Forest District to carry out path maintenance; clearing out stone cross drains and cutting back encroaching vegetation from the sides of the Ben Ledi hill path. The day was organised by Rosie Winch, the Activity Project Officer for the Mountains & the People project. There were also representatives from the LLTNP, Lomond Mountain rescue team and McLaren High school.

The day's activities were linked to the Mountains & the People volunteering



and education programme that will be operating over the next four years to provide training for young people in conjunction with schools and local communities to preserve and protect some of Scotland's most outstanding natural landscapes.

If you enjoy getting out into the

Mountains then why not give something back.

A range of volunteer work parties will be developed to support hill access. The first of these has already taken place with adult volunteers taking up where the pupils left off to complete the drain clearance at Ben Ledi. Activities will range from basic path and vegetation maintenance to more advanced technical path construction. Where necessary they will be assisted by a technical specialist and include building new features such as cross drains and stone pitching.

Loch Katrine

Volunteers from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and the Mountains & the People project joined Forest Enterprise Scotland staff to

carry out improving way marking and essential trail repairs at Loch Katrine, braving downpours and midges but still having fun, satisfied with a job well done. Further partnership volunteer days are planned over the coming months.



## STRATHENDRICK CLASSIC CAR CLUB

The club was established some thirteen years ago with the intention to bring together fellow classic car enthusiasts to enjoy events, meetings, each other's company, and exchanging ideas and technical information. It currently has over forty members owning a wide range of cars dating from the early thirties to current models.

The oldest car in the Club is a 1932 Austin 7. The rolling chassis was built at the Austin works at Longbridge and then despatched to Arrow Coachworks in Hanwell, London to have a very attractive touring body fitted. This car takes part in most of the club runs and activities and probably one of the most recognisable classic cars in the area. One of newest cars in the club is one of the last Jaguar XK convertibles built in 2014, and in between is a very varied collection of cars of all types. Many of these interesting cars appear at local events such as the Drymen Show, Drymen Gala, Killearn Hoolie and the Balfron Bash.

Any type of classic car or interesting model can join the runs and events that are primarily fun events of a non-competitive nature. These vary from a pub run and lunch, or easy-to-follow

map reading events, to the annual two-day Spring Run. This year this was held in the West of Scotland with a two night stay in Kentallen at the Holly Tree Hotel. This was a most enjoyable mid-week event and Kentallen provided the ideal base for driving in the most picturesque scenery with fabulous roads. All these runs offer a great opportunity to explore the countryside and experience roads that you never knew existed! Also the Club have been well represented on the Rotary Club of Strathendrick Classic Car Tour which takes place in April on "Drive It Day".

In the winter months, evening meetings are held with a meal followed by an interesting speaker with a motoring theme or a film covering rallying, racing, or historic marques. At these meetings the Club also hold a magazine exchange which has proved to be very successful giving members an opportunity to swap their motoring journals.

The Club publish a twice yearly e-magazine "Overdrive" to which all members can contribute. Articles range from the adventures that members have experienced out with the Club, offering helpful advice for

a spares source, problem solving, or the recommendation of a paint / body repair shop, to those featuring classics from the past and their development history plus current topics.

Our most recent meeting was a BBQ where a great selection of cars was on display. Members enjoyed some manoeuvrability tests including a slalom where cars had to quickly weave in and out of traffic cones without touching them. This proved entertaining on a wet grass field! Members then enjoyed a superb BBQ - a thoroughly enjoyable day. A collection was made on the day with the proceeds going to Strathcarron Hospice.

Membership costs just £10 and you do not need an old car to join but just an interest in cars and motoring.

If you would like further details of how to join or details of our forthcoming events please email the Secretary, Robin Johnston at [robertjohnston432@btinternet.com](mailto:robertjohnston432@btinternet.com)





## ABERFOYLE RUNNING GROUP

DO YOU RUN?  
FEEL LIKE HAVING A GO?

Aberfoyle is without doubt one of the best places in the UK to go running. We've got literally hundreds of miles of traffic free forest roads, hills, single track trails and stunning scenery right on our doorstep.

Meeting every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Car Park behind the tourist information office, the Aberfoyle running group is a great way to get motivated and into the forest.

There is a mix of speedy and slower, and normally a longer and shorter route each week, averaging between 4 and 7 miles in an hour. We would also love to run a beginners group with shorter route options if we get the numbers!

So, if you are a regular runner, or fancy a go, come along on a Tuesday night for a sociable trot.

For more information, contact either Angela Mudge (mudgemassage@googlemail.com)

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES: GARTMORE VILLAGE HALL

Active Stirling Sessions:

Multi-sport coaching at Gartmore Village Hall

Wednesday 27 July, Wednesday 3 August & 10 August 2016

9.15am - 10.00am Age 3-5yrs

10.00am - 12.00pm Age 5-12yrs

To book contact Active Stirling on 01786 448308 or see website <http://bit.ly/28Wf1Oz>

The Horticultural Society Flower Show will take place on Sat 27th August at Gartmore Village Hall.

Regular classes at the hall include Kickboxing, Yoga, Dancing, Pilates, Sewing and Quilting and Circuit Training.

To book Gartmore Village Hall please contact: [gartmore-hall@outlook.com](mailto:gartmore-hall@outlook.com) or visit our website [www.gartmorevillagehall.co.uk/](http://www.gartmorevillagehall.co.uk/)



### Callander & West Perthshire U3A

ENROLMENT DAY AND AGM – Tuesday 23 August at 3.00pm in Callander Kirk Hall

A warm welcome at the start of our 5th year to all our members and especially to anybody who would like to join our U3A!

Come and meet the existing members and group leaders, have a look at our timetables and see what we have to offer. After the AGM there will be tea, coffee and homemade scones to enjoy while you mingle round the hall and afterwards visit the tables where you can see which

groups are represented, sign up and have a chat about the courses.

Most of our groups meet in Callander but some take place in outlying villages – some in members' homes and some in rented halls, depending on space and equipment required. The membership fee for 2016-17 remains at £10 per head unless you are already a member of another U3A, in which case the fee is only £5.

We begin our courses in September and offer a large variety of subjects, some new to our U3A. Have a look at our website for other news and photos of our activities – just Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.



## LOCAL BUTCHER SHOP UP FOR SALE

The Aberfoyle Butcher, centrally located on the Main Street of the popular village of Aberfoyle, is being marketed as a going concern by the commercial department of DM Hall, one of Scotland's leading independent firms of Chartered Surveyors.

The butcher has been established for 26 years, and was one of the first to offer real wild boar. The business is part of the Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) scheme, and both the beef and lamb supplied have Protected Geographical Indicator (PGI) status and Specially Selected Pork. It is being offered for sale due to the owner retiring from the trade.

Suzanne Lawrie of DM Hall said: "This is an excellent opportunity to obtain a business with a superb reputation based almost entirely on word of mouth. The butcher has supplied some of the best eateries

in Scotland with top quality meat.

"The business has achieved longevity in a competitive market with almost no marketing, and this is an undeveloped opportunity for growth. It represents a rarely-available business prospect with clear potential for expansion above the current turnover of £400 - 450,000."

For further information about the property please contact:

Suzanne Lawrie at DM Hall

0131 477 6000





Lochill Industrial Estate

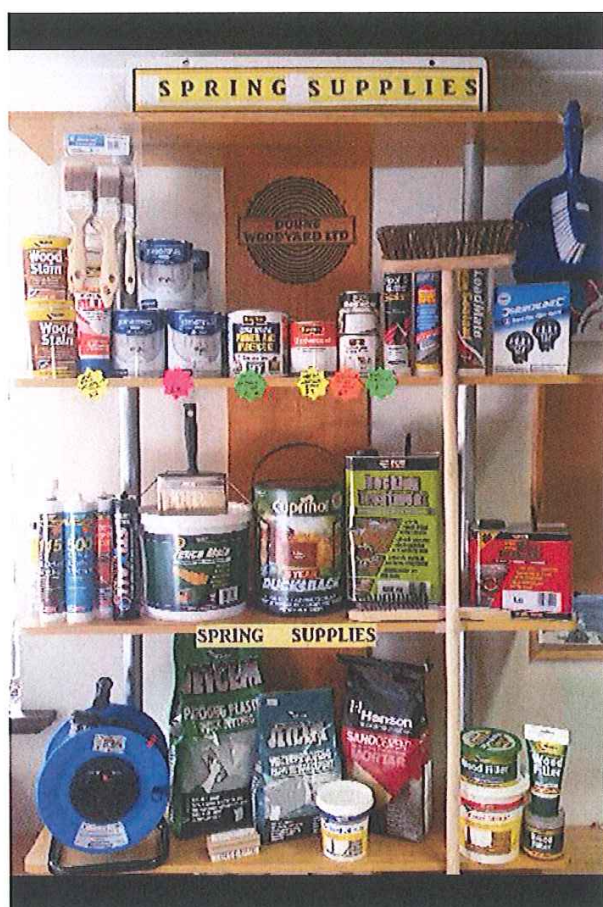
Doune

Perthshire

FK16 6AD

Tel: 01786841204

E-mail: [sales@dounewoodyard.co.uk](mailto:sales@dounewoodyard.co.uk)

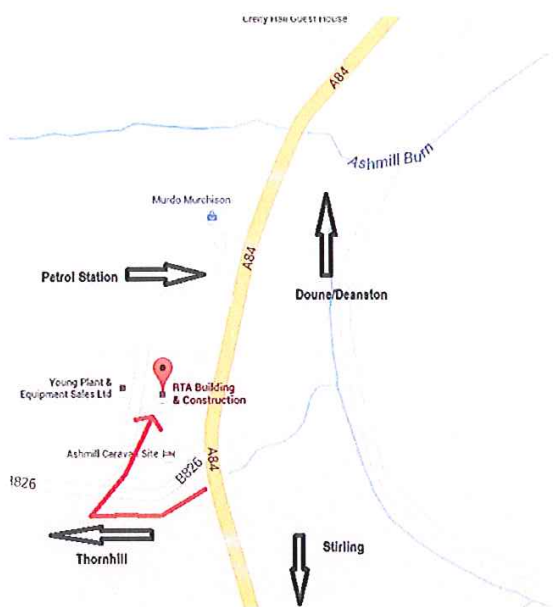


We carry a range of Fencing, Decking, Mouldings, Finishing's and Sheet Materials. For a small charge all timber and sheet materials can be cut to customers required measurements.

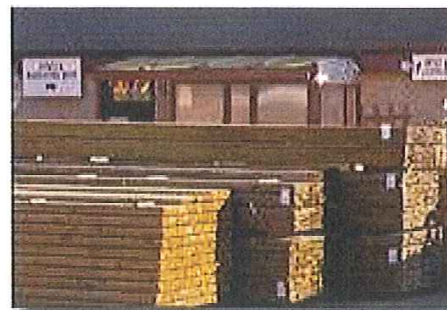
**Delivery:** Any timber can be delivered for a small delivery charge. (Local Delivery – Doune & Deanston Free of Charge).

**Prices:** Are competitive and quotes available on request.

**Hardware Shop:** We carry a wide range of products from basic decorating items to building products. We supply products from Everbuild, Silverline, Spax and Toolstream.



You are welcome to come and visit our premises and have a look around. Our friendly staff will help and advise you on your DIY projects. Map on left for directions! Shared area with RTA Building and Construction.





# ABERFOYLE AND PORT OF MENTIETH PARISH CHURCH

REV TERRY TAYLOR

A remarkable influx of enthusiastic visitors to Aberfoyle, On 28th May a group of church organ enthusiasts all belonging to the Scottish Historic Organs Trust, gathered from all over Scotland, in the village church largely to pay homage to the wonderful Bryceson Bros. pipe organ, built in 1887 by



this well established London firm of Organ Builders. Henry Bryceson, born in Perth 1775, died 1870, was father to Henry [b.1832] and John [b.1839] who built approximately 270 instruments, some as barrel organs, also the more traditional organs with keyboards and stop knobs as seen in the parish church. This instrument is believed to be their last installation in Scotland and by a quirk of events the only remaining in original playable condition.

This fine two manuals and pedal instrument with fifteen speaking stops, was presented and endowed by the Dalziel family of Tigh na Traigh, administered by solicitors in London. It resides in a large chamber probably not

realised by those seated close by in the pews. The small curtained door beside the organ, accesses this chamber ostensibly for lads sent to pump the organ by hand long, before electricity took over this task. All were amazed at how pleasant and versatile it is to play, considering the organist sits behind the upper case facade one imagines the sound would go over your head but here the cleverly designed casework has a pierced ceiling allowing immediate contact with what the congregation hears, a tremendous advantage!

Transmission between both manuals and pipes has tracker action, meaning mechanically, many thin wooden rods, levers, small leather buttons [nuts in effect] collectively link the organists fingers and feet with 770 pipes completing the cycle. Laymen probably in difficulty comprehending such phenomena when visually, a few decorated case pipes becomes 'The Organ'.

Tonally this instrument is so beautifully tempered to suit its surroundings, tucked away in delightful countryside both complimenting each equally. By this visit the villagers should appreciate what they inherited. This Gothic Revival building by John Honeyman in 1870 replaces the original 1744 church now ruined. In 1987 the local Stirling and District Society of Organists in conjunction with the Lanarkshire Society, held a meeting to celebrate its centenary taking the

form of Choral Evensong played by several organists and conducted by The Very Rev Dr David Smith, Moderator of the General Assembly, also a member of the Stirling club, made a really joyful noise from a full church, included many parishioners one random Saturday sunny afternoon.

Bryceson organs are rare in Scotland in their original form, almost 'hens teeth category' the next nearest to Aberfoyle is at Fort William which unfortunately has suffered severe water ingress several times that it's now unplayable. Incredible though it seems there was a single manual Bryceson in Lerwick, Shetland unfortunately due to ill informed persuasion, chose destruction despite a new home offered in clean bracing countryside of Stirlingshire. Having seen it myself and played it only a few days before its demise.

Prised away from the parish church the S.H.O.T. group moved along the road to St Mary's Episcopal Church where we gave the third degree to the rebuilt J.J. Binns instrument installed by Henry Willis 1957. Carefully adapted for its new home this instrument compliments the musical requirements in this delightful well appointed building by James Miller 1894.

There is another Bryceson in Perth St Leonards & Trinity Church relocated from Holy Corner, Morningside, Edinburgh. c1950 it had been rebuilt with pneumatic action in situ with strange tonal additions. Rebuilt again c1990 plus new electric action, with new Ash casework to suit the new situation. *Photograph by D W Loosley. Stirling. 2016*

## Upcoming events.

*The Six Churches in the Carse invite you to a Big Messy Picnic @ Kinlochard Village Hall, Sunday 21st August 2.30pm. BBQ, parachute games, stories and songs. ALL ARE WELCOME - free of charge!*

*Monday 29th August - Baking Stall @ The Forth Inn 10.30am - 2pm*

*The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 4 September, 10.00am at Port of Menteith, 11.15 am at Aberfoyle*

# ST MARY'S

## RECTOR RICHARD GROSSE

### The Polar Gentleman

On the 20th May this year a centenary service was held at Westminster Abbey. It marked the conclusion of the failed 1914 Imperial Trans-Atlantic Expedition. A century before, the explorer Ernest Shackleton with two others reached a whaling station on South Georgia Island having endured a journey of the greatest difficulty imaginable. It success eventually enabled a rescue plan that would bring the remainder of his team of men back to safety.

The race to the South Pole was won in December 1911 when Roald Amundsen's expedition arrived ahead of Captain Robert Scott's team. Shackleton, by then a seasoned explorer, thus turned his attention to the crossing of Antarctica from sea to sea, via the pole. The expedition was financed largely by private donation with the Scottish jute magnate James Caird gifting the then considerable figure of £24,000. The expedition's ship 'Endurance' left Plymouth for Antarctica just days after the outbreak of the First Great War in August 1914. By January the following year, the vessel had become stuck fast in pack-ice and was drifting helplessly northward. Eventually, Endurance's hull began to weaken against the pressure of the ice and the ship was abandoned on the 27th October 1915. Fortunately, four life boats were salvaged. Camp was struck on an ice-floe within sight of the stricken ship. Time hung heavily for the crew who lived on seal and penguin meat. A dog-eared cook book was passed time and again from one crewman to another: each would conjure up the meal to be eaten if they ever reached dry land again.

After six months the ice began to break and with it the risk that the party might be separated. Thus the crew took to the lifeboats and rowed for days in conditions where the thermometer was registering -30 degrees Celsius. Eventually camp was struck on Elephant Island utilising two of the lifeboats as a make-shift shelter. In such circumstances, Shackleton proved himself to be an excellent expedition leader. Some observers believe, perhaps unfairly, Captain Robert Scott to have been largely indifferent to the wellbeing of his men. Shackleton by contrast showed

great consideration and respect to those with him. The expedition photographer Frank Hurley had the misfortune to lose his mittens. Shackleton immediately gave his pair to Hurley and suffered frostbitten fingers as a result.

Shackleton was determined to save the lives of those with him. He thus planned a rescue which involved himself and five others travelling some 800 miles to South Georgia Island in one of the remaining lifeboats to summon help. On this journey Shackleton and his men battled against enormous waves before reaching South Georgia. Alas, the lack of a proper chart meant that they landed on the wrong side of the Island. A large glacier stood between them and their goal. The party drove screws through the leather soles of their boots in order to ascend it. The descent proved too steep to walk down so the party sat on a tarpaulin and tobogganed down the glacier risking life and limb in the process. However, a remote whaling station was reached where help was found.

In the meanwhile, the remaining members of the party firmly believed their leader and his men to have perished such was the time taken to raise the alarm. A desperate plan was hatched, involving six of the least frost-bitten members of the party stocking the last lifeboat with hard boiled penguins eggs and making for a deserted whale station on Deception Island. It was known that beside the station was a wooden church. The church would be taken apart and the salvaged timber fashioned into a boat that would be sailed to South America. Mercifully, the rescue party appeared before this fanciful plan needed to be tested.

Some of the expedition party, having survived against all odds returned to civilisation only to meet death as servicemen in the trenches of the Western Front.

When Shackleton returned to England in May 1917, Europe was in the midst of the First World War. Suffering from a heart condition made worse by the fatigue of his arduous journeys, and too old to be conscripted, he nevertheless volunteered for the army. In October 1917, he was sent to Buenos Aires to boost British propaganda in South America. Unqualified as a diplomat, he was unsuccessful in persuading Argentina and Chile to enter the war on the Allied side. He returned home in April 1918.

In 1920, Shackleton began to

consider the possibility of another expedition; the destination was again the Antarctic. By September 1921, Shackleton, having recorded a farewell address on one of the first "talking pictures" ever made, left Britain on 24 September 1921.

Although some of his former crew members had not received all their pay from the 'Endurance' expedition, many of them signed on with their former leader. When the party arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Shackleton suffered a suspected heart attack. He refused a proper medical examination, and the expedition continued south, arriving in South Georgia early in the New Year.

Shortly after, Shackleton summoned the expedition's physician to his cabin complaining of back pains and other discomfort. A few moments later on the 5th January 1922, he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Shackleton's widow, Emily, requested that her husband's body should remain in South Georgia and thus he was buried in Grytviken cemetery after a short service in the Lutheran church. One of Shackleton's team observed in his diary: "I think this is as 'the Boss' would have had it himself, lonely in an island far from civilization, surrounded by stormy tempestuous seas, & in the vicinity of one of his greatest exploits." Thus ended the life of a gallant Christian gentleman.

## ST. MARY'S CONCERTS

Sunday 21 August 2016 at 3pm

### Pure Brass

Andrew Connell-Smith	Trumpet
Iain Archibald	Trumpet
Chris Gough	French Horn
Chris Mansfield	Trombone
Danielle Price	Tuba

Pure Brass are one of the UK's most established brass quintets and will entertain with a kaleidoscopic programme covering music from the Baroque to the contemporary.

Sunday 18 Sep 2016 at 3 pm

### Music for Trumpet, Soprano and Organ.

Featuring former Scottish Opera members.

Ann Archibald	Soprano
Iain Muirhead	Trumpet
Liam Devlin	Organist

Programme will include music by Handel, Bach and Scarlatti.



## RAMBLERS DIARY

### August

Wed 3rd 09:30 Ramble: Three Ochil Ridges (10miles) contact 01786 825877

Sat 6th 08:30 LDP: RRW(4) Ardeonaig to Glen Ogle (10 miles) contact 01877 330032

Wed 10th 09:30 Ramble: Corstorphine Hill & Cramond Island ( 11 miles) contact 01786 850209

Sat 20th 08:30 Hill: Ben Cruachan (1126m) contact 01877 3390880

Wed 24th Stroll: Banknock to the Wheel (6.5 miles) contact 01786 825249

Sat 27th 08:30 LDP: RRW(5) Glen Ogle to Strathyre (10miles) contact 01877 330032

### September

Sat 10th 08:30 LDP: RRW(6) - Strathyre to Callander (9 miles) contact 01877 330032

Wed 14th 09:30 Stroll: The Lots (5 miles ) contact 01877 330446

Wed 21st 09:30 Ramble: Coire Grogain, Arrochar (10 miles) contact 01877 339080

Sat 24th 08:30 Hill: Ben Venue (727m) contact 01877 382924

### October

Sat 1st 09:30 Stroll: Carron Glen, Denny (5 miles) contact 01786 825682

## BARID OPTICIANS, CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

On 11th June 2016 we held an open day celebrating 5 years since opening the doors at Andrew Baird Optometrist in Callander. On the day we had free gifts, prosecco and a free prize draw.

In 2011, we started our practice, providing free NHS eye examinations, spectacle dispensing and contact lens fitting as well as a spectacle repair service. We invested in high quality equipment and a professional shop fit to reflect the level of service that we aim to provide to every patient. New visitors still comment on the bright and open feel of the practice.

After a successful first year, I decided to move full time to the practice and we started opening 5 days per week as I felt it was important to have more presence in the town as we moved forward. At this time, Mary joined us on reception and we also added a retinal camera to our equipment list.

Over the next few years, the business grew steadily, increasing to around 3000 patients from Callander, Killin, Aberfoyle and beyond. We added new spectacle ranges, improved our sunglasses selection and introduced character frames for children.

Dawn joined our reception team over 2 years ago and as the workload has increased we have also recently taken on dispensing optician, Greg to work with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Thanks to the support of our patients, the business continues to exceed my expectations. We look forward to many more years providing professional eye care services in Callander.

Andrew Baird

### Gartmore Breakfast Club

8.00am - 9.00am Monday to Friday

**Coming Soon!** Gartmore School Partnership have been successful in securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Communities and Families Fund to support a new breakfast club, starting in August 2016.

Each session will cost £3.00 per child and includes breakfast.

If you are interested in finding out a little more about our new service please email: [gartmoreps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gartmoreps@glow.sch.uk) specifying the days your child/children may be interested in attending.

### Gartmore After School Club

3.15pm - 5.15pm Monday to Friday

Gartmore After School Club currently has spaces available. Each afternoon begins with a snack and juice to restore energy after a hard day at school. The club offers a whole range of activities - including arts/crafts, baking and sports in a friendly 'home from home' environment.

**The cost of regular sessions is £6.00 per child per 2 hour session.**

**Pre-school children aged over 4 years are now welcome to join the club.**

**Taxi service from Port of Mentieth and Aberfoyle Schools.**

**For more information please email: [gpschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gpschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk)**

# andrew baird OPTOMETRIST

## Optician & Contact Lens Practitioner

### OPEN 5 DAYS

MONDAY 9AM – 5PM

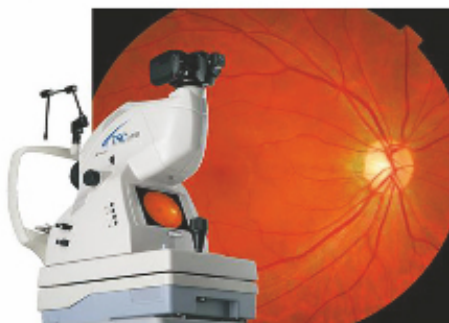
TUESDAY 9AM – 5PM

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

## ABERFOYLE AND BUCHLYVIE MEDICAL PRACTICE: OPENING TIMES

ABERFOYLE : 01877 382421

Monday	4.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Tuesday	7.30am-8.00am	By Appointment
(alt Tues)	8.15am-11.00am	By Appointment
Wednesday	3.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Thursday	9.00am-11.30am	By Appointment
Friday	8.15am-11.00am	By Appointment

BUCHLYVIE : 01360 850237

Monday	7.30am-8.00am	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
Wednesday	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

## PURE BRASS - SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST 3PM

We are delighted to announce that Pure Brass, one of the UK's most established brass quintets, are coming to give a concert in St Mary's.

We do hope you can come and hear these exciting young musicians, perform their kaleidoscopic mix of a programme:

from Handel to MacMillan

via Mahler and Irving Berlin

including a tuba solo along the way.

Pure Brass are one of UK's most established brass quintets. Formed in 2006 they quickly built a reputation for their musicianship and entertaining approach to the concert platform. Pure Brass's energetic performances, presented in their own individual style, promote the diverse repertoire available to brass ensembles, making their concerts accessible to a wide range of audiences. 2013 saw a refreshing of their lineup, bringing in three of Scotland's most in demand young Brass musicians to move them forward. This new impetus took Pure Brass in to a busy and exciting 2014/2015 with some of their most rewarding and prestigious work taking place including a live performance on BBC Radio Scotland's Classics Unwrapped and a recital in the premier year of James MacMillan's Cumnock Tryst

Andrew Connell-Smith Trumpet

Iain Archibald Trumpet

Chris Gough French Horn

Chris Mansfield Trombone

Danielle Price Tuba

Tickets will be £10

Further details from Mark Seymour or book at [concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk)



# ABERFOYLE PRIMARY



## Summer Fayre

On Saturday 30th May, our annual summer fayre was held at the school. The morning of the fayre, the Primary 6/7's held a car wash and we thank everyone for coming along to support this event. At 1 o'clock the fayre was open with a variety of stalls from cakes, bric-a-brac, face paint, raffle, lucky dip, hook-a-duck, 100 square, plant stall to splat the rat. There was also the coffee shop in the hall which was supported by The Wee Blether Tearoom and organised by staff from the school. The delicious cakes were very much appreciated by all – thank you very much to Shona from the tearoom for her extremely generous baking. A particular thanks to Mr Fleming, head teacher from McLaren HS, who assisted very well in the tea room. Thank you also to our local businesses for their support with our school fayre.

## End of term Awards Ceremony

On Monday 27th June, we held our annual awards ceremony in the school hall. The whole school and nursery class performed a song or musical piece linked with The Olympics and its host country of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Awards and certificates were issued to the children and the Primary 7's concluded with their memories of their time at Aberfoyle Primary. It was a fantastic ceremony albeit emotional. The awards presented are detailed below:

Winning House for 2016-17: Saturn

Sports Day award: Earth

Dux: Fiona Klaes

Citizenship Award:

P1 – Struan Dean

P2 – Spencer Ferguson

P3 – Alicia Clow

P4 – Alfie Aitken

P5 – Ryan Glen

P6 – Grace Boyd

P7 – Zoe Bell

## Farewell to our Primary 7's

Primary 7 have had a busy few weeks in the countdown to their transition to McLaren High School. Transition days at McLaren HS were on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th May and the children completed work experience at Forest Hills on Tuesday 24th May. It was a great opportunity for the children to work in the hotel, cleaning the rooms and working in the leisure centre. We are very grateful to Forest Hills for allowing our Primary 7's to work up at the hotel for the day.

On Wednesday 15th June, McLaren HS held their annual P7 ceilidh and our Primary 7's attended looking glamorous! Everyone danced with their friends or Miss Ramsay or Mr Fielden and there was a short break for a drink and snack – the P7's particularly liked the ice lollies! It was a great night and the P7's especially liked seeing everyone from their residential trip.

Our annual camping trip was at Loch Venachar from Thursday 23rd to Friday 24th June with Mr Fielden, Miss Ramsay, Mrs Crawford and Mrs Butler accompanying the children. The children had a great time preparing their meals, pitching their tents, paddling in the loch, having a campfire on the beach and walking back all the way to Aberfoyle on the Friday morning.

The children were also very lucky to go along to Go Country on Monday 20th June with the Primary 7's from Gartmore PS and Port of Menteith PS. Once the children had their wet suits on and were given a safety briefing, everyone headed into the water and took part in lots of different activities, for example a trampoline, slides, inflatable ball and a see-saw. Everyone had a brilliant morning but they did find it very challenging! Thank you to Go Country for inviting the children again this year.

## McLaren HS Athletics Event

On Thursday 9th June at McLaren High School, children from P4-7 represented our school in an athletics events for the cluster schools, organised by McLaren High School. Everyone competed well

## SCHOOL NEWS

and we were delighted that Joshua won silver medal for boys 600m, Megan won bronze for 100m, Finlay made it into the final of the 200m, Caitlin received silver for standing long jump and Fiona received silver medal for long jump. It was a really fun event and we hope it continues next year. Again, thank you to our parents for supporting the children at this event.

## Soccer Sevens

On Wednesday 25th May and 8th June, children from P4-7 took part in the Soccer Sevens event at McLaren High School. Aberfoyle played well and they enjoyed playing against other schools in the cluster. We lost one match, won one match and drew the remainder of the games. Thank you to our parents for supporting the children at this event.

## Active Stirling's Track and Field Event

Many congratulations to the children who competed in the track and field event on Wednesday 25th May. Everyone did really well competing in running, javelin and long jump events. A special mention to Megan Dunlop for achieving 3rd place in the 100m race, being awarded a bronze medal for her achievement. Thank you to Miss Ramsay and Mrs Wright for supporting the children at this event.

## Football Festival

On Tuesday 7th June, Active Stirling organised a football festival in the school playing field, welcoming girls and boys teams from Callander, Buchlyvie, Kippen and Strathblane. The boys enjoyed playing against other schools despite not managing to score any goals. The girls also enjoyed playing against our visiting teams and a couple of goals were scored which was great! Thank you to Claire Peebles for organising this event along with her colleagues from the Balfron learning community.

## Road to Rio Success!

We did it! The whole school worked together to run, skip, walk, jog around the school grounds in order to achieve our goal of travelling 9612.17 km's to arrive at the host city for the Olympics, Rio de Janeiro. Well done to the children and staff for all of their hard work every day and to celebrate we held a Rio party on Monday 27th June. We ate a wide selection of foods, wore our Brazilian carnival masks and wore brightly coloured clothes. We listened and danced away to Brazilian music as well. It was great fun!

## Our annual Sports Day

On Tuesday 14th June, the children took part in potted sports throughout the morning and unfortunately our sports afternoon had to be rescheduled for Friday 17th June due to the weather. Despite

some rain on the Friday afternoon, the event went ahead. Each house paraded around the field passing on the Olympic torch made by P6/7 and Miss Ramsay. The children did extremely well competing in the different races, cheering on their houses well. On Tuesday 21st June, it was announced that Earth won Sports Day and therefore won the treat for this term. A pyjama party with chocolate fountain was organised for Wednesday 22nd June. Well done to everyone for their effort and hard work

#### Staffing

We said farewell to Miss Ramsay on the last day of school and wish her all the best in her new teaching post within the Balfron learning cluster. She has worked extremely hard at Aberfoyle over the past year and staff, pupils and parents will miss

her dearly.

We also said an emotional farewell to Miss Brown who is leaving to take on a new teaching post at Balfron Primary School. During her 5 years at Aberfoyle Miss Brown has been an asset to the team and her commitment to the children, parents and staff will be a huge miss. She would like to say a huge thank you to the staff, parents and children for their continued support and generous gifts - she will miss everyone dearly.

With thanks

Thank you to all of parents for their support this year as always and to the staff at Aberfoyle PS and Nursery for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. Have a fantastic summer break everyone and see you all in August!



## ABERFOYLE AND PORT OF MENTIETH GUILD

*The Guild Sale will be held on Saturday 13th August 2016 in the Car Park next to the Burger Bar from 10.00 am.*

*There will be the usual stalls, home baking, produce, bottles and crafts.*

*Any donations to the stalls can be handed in after 9.00 am before the sale opens.*



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