

# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch.info

lochwinnoch no 105 April 2002

community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

• **Tuesday, April 2nd** - Lochwinnoch Community Council meeting McKillop 7.30pm

• **SATURDAY, April 27** - Coffee Morning in aid of Arthritis Research 10:00 - 12:00. Tickets £1:00.

## Be extra vigilant

**Residents at the Link Housing complex in Glenpark Road (Gap Houses) were left shocked when an intruder gained access and stole cash.**

They have been asked to take care in closing their doors and to question strangers as to why they are on the premises. This is indeed a shocking state of affairs in Lochwinnoch.

There will be talk in in Johnstone Town Hall on April 17th to warn residents of sneak-in thieves.

## Summer in the Park

The summer season starts at Muirshiel Regional Park in April, and

there is a packed programme of things to do.

Here's a look at some of the things you can do to pass the long lazy, and not-so lazy days of summer.

**Wed, April 3** - the Castle Semple Sailing Club nights on the loch get underway. They take place every Wednesday evening throughout the summer. New members are always welcome. 18:00 - 20:00. Contact club for further details.

**Fri, April 12** - Star Gazing Night. Get the stars in your eyes and find out all about the night sky at the Muirshiel Centre. 19:30

21:30. Booking appreciated, call 842882.

**Sun, April 14** - Aren't Birds Brilliant? RSPB staff will be on hand with bins and scopes (binoculars and telescopes to the uninitiated) to tell you more about the variety of birds booked to appear at Lochwinnoch's Nature Reserve. Anytime between 13:00 - 15:00 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Castle Semple.

**Sat, Sun, April 27, 28** - Adult RYA dinghy sailing course. Learn to sail a dinghy. Expert tuition pro-

vided. 10:30 12:30 and 13:30 - 16:00 each day. Booking essential, advanced payment required, call 842882.

**Sun, April 28** - Conservation Volunteer Day. Dig for victory, build a drystone dyke or take part in woodland management. Tasks and activities will vary throughout the year, but will always be useful in maintaining the good looks of the countryside. Full instructions, tools and hot drinks will be provided. 10:00 - 16:00 Muirshiel Centre.

**Sun, April 28** - The Druids return. Discover the myths and mysteries surrounding May Day and join in the celebration of the first day of summer with your local Druids. 14:00 16:00. Booking essential, call 842803

Anyone who thinks poli-

## Festival Thoughts

ticians are vain and eager for a photo opportunity are wrong. The politi-

cians in Paisley are not like that.

Last year's music festival in Lochwinnoch provided loads of opportunities for politicians to be shot (in the photographic sense) with one or more of the stars who appeared at the festival. Yet the politicians resolutely stayed a way.

This could be because Paisley's politicians are uncommonly coy. Or it could be they don't like travelling down to old, pothole scarred Lochwinnoch.

Anyway the point is, this year the politicians will have another excuse to stay away from Lochwinnoch when the village becomes the stage for another Festival.

It looks like being on a more modest scale than last year's festival. Music lovers, though, can salivate profusely at the prospect of hearing, once again, the brilliant pianist Kathryn Stott and the equally brilliant saxophonist Federico Mondelci.

Those who saw these artists last year were suitably impressed, or rather - knocked out. Don't miss them. Politicians from Paisley can come in disguise.

Dear Chatterbox,

## Letters

I think that instead of being left in the dark (no pun intended), you should let villagers know the reason for the 2 hour electricity cut on the 19th of March. It was a calm, mild, dry night. Rumours abound, but I get the feeling that there is a "couldn't care less" attitude

around - bred by the knowledge that the truth is never known in any case. Although it is probably a matter for the Community Council to raise the issue, not many people view the minutes of the CC meetings posted in the library. Indeed not many people know (or care) that they are there.

If the cause was an overloaded supply problem, you could discover whether anything was done to upgrade the electricity supply to meet the demands of the new houses in the village - particularly for those houses off Church Street and for those that may be built behind the Parish Church. If nothing is done to upgrade the supply can we expect more cuts?

I recall when I moved to the village five years ago there used to be more regular cuts. I also recall - with amusement - your own report some time later that a senior figure from Scottish Power visited the CC and replied to a question on ongoing power

cuts, saying that Scottish Power could not afford to upgrade our inadequate system. I thought at the time that perhaps if they ensured the street lights - particularly those at the west end of the Main street - were not burning twenty four hours a day, some cost might be defrayed. They have been on all the time since I moved in and they are still on.

J.Milne.

**'At the meeting with the representative from Scottish Power, I seem to remember it was said that if Lochwinnoch had more industrial premises the supply would be improved.**

I also remember that Scottish Power installed some gizmo to reduce the number of power cuts we experience. This is probably why we don't get as many as we did get in the past.

As to the lights on Main Street being on all the time, why complain? Twenty four hours street lighting is one of

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the few perks we get from the service industries.'

**Dear Editor,**  
Having read the **Planning Policy on page 3 of February's Chatterbox I was left somewhat confused.**

In Paragraph 2, we are told that the Green belt areas will be maintained and that no new buildings will be permitted. In Paragraph 5 it says that building on gap sites will not be discouraged. By gap sites I suppose they mean 'brown field' sites.

That being the case, why has the council given permission for a contractor to build 29 timber-framed houses at Mansfield Road/Braehead Rd. Six of these houses will be built on a green field site - namely 'our common'?

This common land has never had a structure built on it, and therefore should come under the green field criteria. PS: In a letter to me dated 22/02/02 Councillor Nimmo said 'I am fully confident that once the museum is up and running it will offer greater opportunity than ever before and still remain Lochwinnoch Community Museum' The museum it supposed to open in April. Does anyone know anything about this?

Alexander Lennox.

**Litter on the By-Pass**

**I received an interesting letter about the masses of litter strewn along the length and breadth of the A737 bypass.**

The story is there is confusion and legal arguments about

who is responsible for cleaning this section of road.

The Council claim it is not their responsibility. The responsibility now lies with Amey, the contractors who won the contract to maintain trunk roads.

While the to-ing and fro-ing goes on and the lawyers get richer and fatter, we, who ultimately pay to have the roads cleaned up, have to travel along a stretch of road that resembles a badly run amenity tip.

One solution might be to send the lawyers out with a brush.

**The following Learning Packages are now available to the public at Lochwinnoch Library.**

## PCs at Library

**Lochwinnoch Library.**  
If you are just beginning computing or updating existing skills there is a package suitable for you.  
AA Pass First Time  
Getwise Individual Training  
for Access 2000

Individual Training for Excel 2000  
Individual Training for Internet Explorer 5  
Individual Training for Outlook 2000  
Individual Training for PowerPoint 2000  
Individual Training for Windows 2000  
Individual Training for Word 2000  
Introduction to PC's  
Mavis Beacon 11 (Typing)  
Teach Yourself How to Type  
Webster's Exploring the Internet  
Webster's Exploring Windows 98

For further information please contact  
**Lochwinnoch Library**  
01505842305  
Monday ~ Wednesday ~ Friday  
2pm - 5pm 6pm - 8pm  
Tuesday & Saturday 10am-lpm  
2pm - 5pm

At the moment we do not have Internet access, however, this should be installed in the near future.

**Some villagers have expressed a wish to start a gardening club.**

## Gardening Club

**dening club. It would be a club where gardeners can meet and talk about all aspects of gardening.**

The hope is also to club together and arrange to have bulk supplies of plants and other gardening equipment at reduced prices. If you fancy the idea call Terry on 843704

**If you have a club make sure you update the details that are**

## Stop Press

**kept in the Library.** People do ask about clubs, it is no use if the information at the library is not up to date.

**Familiar Turf was a project involving pupils from**

## Teen Spot

**Castlehead and Johnstone High School. They worked with John Murray (head of landscape architecture at Edinburgh college of art) and Paul Grey (artist and lecturer at Napier University).**

The groups studied the built-up environment of Paisley and the recently landscaped town centre. They made pictures of certain parts of Paisley and added more modern things to them i.e. colourful lights and patterns.

Second year Johnstone High School pupil, Martin McKinnon's picture won first prize.

The work produced will form an exhibition at Paisley Museum and Art Gallery from

Chatterbox is independently produced for the Community Council of Lochwinnoch through financial assistance by Lochwinnoch Community Council, Renfrewshire Council and advertisements. The editor welcomes all items for possible inclusion but will reserve all rights over them. All views are of individuals. The editor accepts no liability for errors.

Saturday 16th March - Sunday 14th April. It will be included in a future publication focusing on the redevelopment of Paisley town centre.

**Girl's only netball team for primary 6 and 7 starts back on April 10th at the annex at the park, alternate Tuesday 3:30 - 4:30 And Wednesday 3:15 - 4:15 5 Op.**

There will be a Renfrewshire tournament in April, we wish the girls every success. For further details, contact Carolyn McIlroy, Netball Coach

**Teen Spot is now going to be a regular column in Chatterbox, if you would like to make a contribution to Teen Spot please do not be afraid to drop your information into the Chatterbox envelope at Lochwinnoch Public Library.**

**'Hi ya Liz from the museum here!** I've survived my first few weeks in Lochwinnoch. I must say it has been fantastic and I've met a lot of

people - and found out a lot about the village. April is going to be a bit hectic for me at the moment, as I will be out and about knocking on doors getting your views, so you are bound to see me on my rounds.

Alternatively, you can find me in the museum at the back of the library. Come along and speak to me about the project. I will be in the museum on Monday's 2-5 and 6-8 for a chat and a coffee, or give me a ring at the usual museum number 842615.

**P.S.** a note to young person who kindly wrote a letter to me.

Thanks - it was so nice to have heard from you and also to know that the young people of Lochwinnoch are eager to get involved. I will also be out asking young people what it is they would like to see in Lochwinnoch for their benefit of everyone. So please, be patient and look out for me or visit me in the museum.'

From Liz Nickerson.

Community Development Officer

The Pastoral Group of Calder Church

## Variety Concert

Local Artitsits perform in aid of St. Vincent's Hospice, Howwood.

McKillop Hall, Friday 10th May

7.30-10.30pm

Tickets £5

Tea and Sandwiches will be served - BYOB (bring your own bottle)

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