

CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch.info

lochwinnoch no 108 September 2002

community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

- **Monday, September 2nd – St Win-noc Singers** – Parish Church 8 pm, and every Monday until the Spring concert.
- **Monday, September 9th -Gardening Club,** Museum Room, Library 7.30 pm
- **Thursday, September 19th – Historical Society,** Guild Room, Parish Church
- **Monday, September 24th – Scottish Country Dancing,** McKillop Institute 7.30 pm

Councillor Complains

Councillor Alistair Nimmo has been busy on our behalf writing complaints to Bernard Forteith, who as Director of Environmental Services is charged with keeping the village ships happy.

But, does he? What do you think? Comments please in the Chatterbox envelope in the library. Here's what Councillor Nimmo thinks. 'Dear Mr. Forteith, It is with total frustration, anger, humiliation and embarrassment that I find myself having to write such a damning report about your department.

The McKillop Institute is the

showpiece - or should be - of the village.

At present I am totally embarrassed - I receive verbal abuse every day - about the state of the weeds, lack of maintenance and shabby appearance of the hall.

I found out the Halls Department pay maintenance costs for the upkeep of the grounds around the hall. Do they get value for money? I'd say, not.

The local football team, Calderglen FC, pay the Parks Department £800:00 a year ground maintenance. The grass is never cut to a length suitable for football. It receives a run over with a tractor.

I have held a number of meetings with your staff, but frankly, their attitude was deplorable. The meetings did not result in any improvement to the service offered to the football club.

Paying customers should receive a better service than this. Last year I complained bitterly about the weed problem. I even put a motion to Council and was informed that matters would improve this year.

I phoned you and was told that two sprays would be made in Lochwinnoch this year. So far, only one spray has taken place on the Main Road from Johnshill to Main Street. I asked why this was all that was sprayed and

was told the remainder would be sprayed in the autumn. That amounts to one spray throughout the village a year - not two.

Five trees were blown over in Lochwinnoch Park seven months ago. I asked when they would be re-bedded, I was told 'some time, we are far too busy and have more important work than that to deal with'.

I could write for days about the poor service Lochwinnoch is receiving from the Parks Department. As high Council Tax payers - in a higher band than similar stock in other areas - why are we treated as second class citizens.

I ask for your assistance to improve the appearance of this potentially beautiful village. Yours sincerely,
Alistair Nimmo.
August 1 2002.

Film Show

Relive Lochwinnoch's past in film at the film show in the Masonic Hall on Friday, September 6 at 7:30pm. You might see yourself caught unawares walking along the High Street. Tickets cost £3:00. Call Pat 01505

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Auld Simons Column

Well, it wasn't much of a summer. For me it was a disaster. Mrs. Simon travelled to the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in the hope of getting something in the snatch - she's a weightlifter. But all she got was two broken feet. She dropped a weight. It meant, of course, she had to lie in bed all summer with her feet in the air. It also meant I, Auld Simon, had to attend the gardening chores. Something I hate.

As far as I'm concerned the garden is a theatre of war. Man against an enemy and an enemy he can never defeat.

Lets look them. First, weeds. You spend a fortune on peat and miracle growing compounds; no plants grow. Put a teaspoonful of earth on the ground it'll sprout a magnificent crop of weeds within hours. Weeds grow faster than human hair - or some human hairs at any rate.

Then there is the greenfly. The greenfly can eat more in a hour than Luciano Pavarotti - they don't sing as well - but they can eat some. I've seen greenflies that looked like jumbo jets. My worst garden nightmare is the slug. Who thought up a slug? It doesn't even have a bum you can kick.

Can you imagine the typical slug's day? Gets up, showers, looks in the mirror.

'Looking good, I'll slide down to Auld Simon's, slither over his sprouts, and depending on how I feel, wipe out his cauliflower's. But I could tuck into his cabbages'.

So that was my summer, squelching around in the rain swatting, pulling and trying to hit the slugs with these wee pellets. Now there's a funny thing. Who thought of killing slugs by hitting them with pellets?

Finally, to cap a miserable summer Mrs. Simon, now on her feet and in full critical stream, tells me I've got blight on my plums. Oh dear. Anyway, have a nice month.

Auld Simon

New Zebra Crossing Rules

We have been asked to let the residents of Lochwinnoch know the penalties for parking on the new zebra crossing zig-zag lines.

3 Penalty points and a sixty £60 fine.

Reprint of Lochwinnoch Address Book

The Lochwinnoch Millennium Address Book is being reprinted. This highly successful and welcome local address book complete with telephone numbers will be reprinted in time for Christmas.

If you require a change or to be included please call 01505 842652

Country Dancing

Hoots! The Scottish Country Dancing classes start again in Lochwinnoch on Tuesday, September 24.

Classes are on in the McKillop Institute every Tuesday at 7 : 3 0 p m .

This is the club's 25th year. One or two of us have actually danced our way through all 25 years.

We hope to celebrate our jubilee at the end of March 2003 by holding a reunion with as many past members as possible. As our records for past years are not all available, would anyone who was once a member please contact the secretary, Isabel Templeton (01505 843316) with their name and address.

We'll notify you of the details of the reunion early in the new year.

New members are, of course, always welcome. Why not join and enjoy laughter, friendship as well as mental and physical exercise. This special anniversary year is the year to join.

Historical Society

Lochwinnoch Historical Society has changed the regular monthly meeting date to the third Thursday of each month.

The first meeting of the new session is Thursday, September 19. The meeting - like all the meetings - will be held in the guild room of the Parish

The Chatterbox needs business support

Advertisements start at £30 (this size)

1000 copies distributed every month and read by everyone in Lochwinnoch

Tel 017764 236 822 or email :cfraser@fsmail.net

Copy deadline for next issue - Tuesday 24th Sept.

C h u r c h .

For the first meeting the guest speaker is John Gallacher MA. John's illustrated talk is on the subject of Thomas Lipton 1850 - 1931. Lipton was a grocer and entrepreneur.

John Gallacher is an interesting and well-informed speaker, his talks on a variety of popular subjects have been enjoyed over the past few years by the group. We look forward to his latest talk. If you are interested in joining the Historical society why not go along to one of the talks or call Anne Nicholl on 01505 842632.

Gardening Club

The next meeting of this recently formed group is on Monday, September 9 in the museum room of the library 7.30pm. If you are interested in gardening whatever your ability, this is for you.

Meetings are relaxed and enjoyable. They include a raffle of plants or other garden items.

Members exchange ideas and benefit from each other's skills and results. Experts on a variety of gardening topics will visit over the coming months.

Eight visits to members' gardens have taken place and, these have been much enjoyed.

What a wide diversity of garden design and planning styles there is in Lochwinnoch. So many good ideas with lots of hard work in evidence. Two more visits are

planned at the time of writing. This is when you spot plants growing you'd like to grow in your own garden only here you get them free!

If you are interested in joining the club contact Liz Nickerson at the museum 01504 842615, or Anne Nicholl at 36 Calder Street 01505 842632 or come along to the next meeting.

Garden Gongs

The village gardening awards were recently announced. Congratulations go to the winners:

Unit 30 Section
1st prize - Mr & Mrs A Stewart, 27 Braehead
2nd prize - Mr & Mrs R Matthews, 60 Crookhill Gdns

Owner/Occupier Section:
3rd prize - Ms M Smith, 51 Semple Ave
Alistair Nimmo Trophy for the best garden in Lochwinnoch:
 Mr & Mrs Stewart, 27 Braehead.

Books – Books

The latest additions to the library stock are:
Fiction:

- Neil Astley - End of my Tether
- Jon Cleary - Yesterday's Shadow
- Harlan Coben - Gone for Good
- Paul Eddy - Mandrake
- Linda Fairstein - The Dead House
- Lisa Gardiner - The Survivors
- Lillian Harry - A Girl Called Thursday
- Richard Herdman - The Last Phoenix
- Carl Hiaasen - Basket Case
- Philip Jolowicz - Walls of Silence
- Judith Lennox - Written on Glass
- Robert Ludlum - The Paris Option
- Jill Mantel - Staying at Daisy's
- Jill McGowan - Births, Deaths and
- M a r r i a g e s
- Glenn Meade - Resurrection Day
- R. J. Price - A Boy in Summer
- Terri Prone-Dancing with the Angel
- Chris Ryan - Land of Fire
- Lisa Scottoline - Courting Trouble
- Kevin Wignall - Among the
- D e a d .

This is a small selection of the new stock that arrives on a regular basis. If any item you want is not available, our request system gives access to stock held in libraries throughout Renfrewshire. The ordering service costs 2

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Lochwinnoch Village Website. The page has a header with the site name and logo, and a navigation menu. The main content area contains the following text:

Internet Access
 The library computer cluster now offers free internet access as well as a range of online learning packages. For more information and to book time on a computer please contact the library.

Looking for a Grant?
 The 'Directory of Grant Making Trusts' is now available on the Library computers. This is an invaluable resource for any community group looking to raise funds. The Playground Group made extensive use of the older versions for their fundraising efforts. Just enter the details of your group and the details of the fundraising project. The system will try to match your project with some of the thousands of possible funding sources.

You can contact the team by
 e-mail barbara@lochwinnoch.info
 or in writing and put into website dropbox in the local library

Teen Spot

Air Gun Affair

One Saturday night in July two teenagers were shot by an air gun, one was shot in the arm the other one was shot in the head. The teenagers were walking along the street in a crowd and someone shot them from the top window of a house on the opposite side of the road from where they were walking.

They were not seriously injured, just shocked and cut where the bullet had hit them. The police were called and a paramedic checked them out.

The person who shot them has not been caught yet but hopefully will be soon. If you have any information about this offence please get in touch with Johnstone Police Station.

Air Gun Facts

It is dangerous to carry an air gun, it is even more dangerous to carry an air gun without a license. It could have been you who got shot and it could have also been a lot worse. Think about it.

Youth Club News! Community Radio

Six local boys went to Ferguslie Park radio station and made an hour-long live show about Lochwinnoch. As this was the second time three of the boys had made a radio show they new exactly what to do. Listeners said the show was excellent and explained a lot about the village.

On August 1st seventeen members of the youth club and four youth club leaders went a trip to M and Ds. As it was such a big success with everyone who went, we organised another trip for the 15th August.

Camping Cancelled

A camping trip to Barnbrock Farm was cancelled due to the lack of people but hopefully it will be rescheduled for some time in September.

Raft Building

The youth club would like to say a big thank you to Clyde Muirsheil for allowing us to do raft building at Castle Semple free of charge. Come along to the youth club on a Thursday night at 7:30pm until 10:00pm. You have to be over 13 to join, it costs £1:00 to get in. There's lots of stuff to do such as football, table tennis, snooker and arts and crafts equipment, or you can just come along and have a chat to your friends or

meet new people. The youth leaders are Leona, Liz, Ruth and Jim.

And remember if you have any information or achievements that you would like to be added in this column or any other column in Chatterbox just drop it into the Chatterbox envelope behind the desk at the local library

I can't believe our summer



Lochwinnoch
Millennium
Events
Group

has gone, did it ever arrive? I hope you managed to soak up what little sunshine we had.

As we enter the dark and gloomy months of winter, I have a little ray of light that might just brighten up the long evenings for the folks of Lochwinnoch.

As part of the environment issues that the project is designed to address - we have over 300 energy efficiency light bulbs to give away throughout the village.

Energy efficiency bulbs [Eeb] have much more benefits than regular incandescent bulbs [normal bulbs].

Although they are more expensive initially, the total cost of electricity used is about half that of traditional bulbs. They also last approximately 5 times longer and by simply turning on to a single Eeb, it saves half a tonne of carbon dioxide being thrust into the air. This, therefore, brings about a reduction in the impact of global warming.

If you would like a bulb, you can enter the energy saving competition below. Pop your answers into an envelope in the library, email me or drop by the museum. REMEMBER to put down your name, address and telephone numbers good luck

Questions:

Why use energy efficiency light bulbs?

1. They use less energy than standard bulbs.
2. They save you money on your electric bill.
3. They produce just as much light as standard bulbs.

4. They last longer and don't have to be replaced as often as standard bulbs.

5. All of the above
The gardening group are having a blooming good time at their meetings. They have arranged a whole host of guest speakers to keep them occupied throughout the winter. For further info call myself or look out for the eye-catching posters springing up throughout the village.

Over the summer the walking group have been busy stomping all over the land. They've had successful walks throughout Lochwinnoch and as far as a field as the 'Greenock Cut'.

The group are keen to attract new members and locals who know favourite walks in and around Lochwinnoch.

If you are interested in walking with the group, keep an eye out for their bright posters displayed throughout the village in the Library, the McKillop, or pop in and speak to me.

Recycling paper will soon be an activity you can do in Lochwinnoch. The return of the infamous paper bank is almost upon us. Look out for it down at the Annexe - it should arrive in the near future. Recycle these old Chatterboxes.

For those who are a bit confused about where the recycle bins have gone - they have a new home down at the annexe. For information on youth activities, please read the Teenspot section of the Chatterbox. We have our very own young reporter here in the village who keeps us up to date with the Lochwinnoch Youth Team and activities around the village.

If you have any ideas or projects you wish to discuss, pop into the museum or call me anytime

See Ya

Community Development Worker

How to contact

Liz Nickerson

Tel No: 01505 842 615

Mobile: 07776 123 950

Email: liz@lochwinnoch.info

Drop into museum on

Mondays : 2-5pm and 6-8pm

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