

CHATTERBOX

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lochwinnoch no 114 April 2003

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

- **Sunday 6th April, Plant Sale, Castle Semple.** Playground Group.
- **Tuesday 8th April, Public Meeting, McKillop Institute 7.30pm,** New Housing Building Debate, Your support is much welcomed.
- **Friday 11th April, The Blitz Ball, McKillop Institute.** Support 'Hope and Homes for Children'.
- **Wednesday 16th April SWRI Celebrate their 50th Anniversary** with a dinner in the Bowling Club Former friends and current members are welcome.
- **Saturday 26th April Arthritis Research, Coffee Morning.** 10am till 12 Noon. Entrance £1.00

No Entry

At the April CC meeting one speaker spoke about the fact that entrance to the Collegiate Church - an important part of Scots heritage - is restricted to one side only and an entrance gate is permanently locked.

Apparently, new legislation has made it illegal to bar public entrance to sites as important as the Collegiate Church.

Lets hope the gate is thrown

open to all in the near future.

Incidentally, one of the functions of the old Collegiate Church was to teach music. Perhaps the music of one of Scotland's great early composers Robert Carver once rang sweetly over the loch.

Public Meeting

A reminder to those who missed last months edition of Chatterbox that an important Public Meeting will be held in the McKillop Institute this coming Tuesday the 8th of April at 7.30pm.

The future growth of housing in Lochwinnoch will be discussed and in particular the soon to be developed main Clyde Cooperage site.

Growing concern in the village at the lack of started homes will no doubt be aired plus what effect will such a development have on the environment, the local school, additional vehicles in an already busy part of the village. An interesting debate in store.

Blitz Ball

On Friday, April 11 you can turn the hands of the clock back to the forties and dance to the sound of the Lauder's Big Band in the McKillop Institute.

The last time this dance was held it was a spiffing success. Dancers dug out their demob suits and immersed themselves in the glorious past.

The Blitz Ball in Lochwinnoch is a companion dance to a further Blitz Ball to be held in Milngavie Town Hall on the 21st June. This dance will raise money for Hope and Homes for Children, a charity that raises money to house orphaned kids whose parents have been victims of war.

Tickets for the Biltz Ball are selling like Willie Woodbines, so if you want to enjoy a great night be quick. Tickets on sale at The Junction, The Corner Bar and The Brown Bull.

Incidentally, one of the singers featured with the band is Lochwinnoch's own Leon Graham. A singer not to miss.

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Auld Simons Column

A couple of weeks ago while Mrs. Simon was on her winter sports holiday I was awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of running water in the bathroom. It was a crazy, wild splashing like the gushing waters of the Calder.

I immediately thought, 'Mrs. Simon must be home early'. I got up to greet her only to find the bathroom floor under an inch (or centy-something) of water. Horrors, I had a burst pipe.

I turned the water off and went back to bed. The next day I tried to get a plumber. These days they are a scarce as the capercalpie. However, after much wandering in the Yellow Pages I got one. He turned out to be a personable young man in a designer suit.

He told me that at a recent plumber's conference he attended the chairman shouted 'stopcock' to get long-winded speakers to shut up.

Mrs. Simon returned from her holiday in a sorry state. She said she tried something on the first day of her holiday and two weeks later her bum was still sore. She tried ice skating.

Not advisable in someone of Mrs. Simon's less than tender years. She said she tried the peach schnapps cure but it didn't work. 'You are supposed to rub it on', I said, 'not drink it'.

Serves her right for going on a winter holiday. For me, Auld Simon, sunshine holidays win every time. I like to lie out in

the sun and expose myself so that by the end of the holiday I'm as brown as a German sausage.

Dance On

On Tuesday, March 25 Lochwinnoch Country Dance Club held a reunion to celebrate the club's silver jubilee.

The club started in 1978 in the primary school with Eileen Fernie, who attended the anniversary celebration, as first teacher.

Several other who were at that first night also attended the reunion, three of them are in their nineties.

Councillor Alistair Nimmo congratulated the club before the evenings celebrations got underway. Music for the dancing was provided by local accordionist Billy Gray. The evening also included fine singing from Barbra Milligan and the Lochwinnoch Butcher Shop Quartet.

All the club members are looking forward to September and the start of another twenty five years of country dancing

Watch your Weight

If you are interested in joining a Weight Watcher's Club, contact Anita in the McKillop Institute, 842261. Fifteen people are needed to start the club off.

Fifty Years - Still Going Strong

On Wednesday 16 April the SWRI celebrate their fiftieth anniversary. A reunion dinner will take place in the bowling club. Former friends and cur-

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rent members are, of course, welcome to attend.

At the March meeting of the SWRI members heard a fascination talk by Mrs. Hamilton from the Spinning Wheel in Kilmarnock. She brought along examples of silk painted scarves, she also demonstrated silk painting techniques.

The competition results were:
Needle case - any craft:
1st Mrs Matthews
2nd Mrs Benzie
3rd Mrs Rimmer
Vegetarian Open Sandwich
1st Mrs Milligan
2nd Mrs Matthews
3rd Mrs Brunton

The next session of the SWRI will start on September 17 at 7:30pm in the McKillop Institute.

Arthritis Research

The Arthritis Research Campaign are holding a Coffee Morning in the McKillop Institute on Saturday, April 26 from 10:00am till 12 noon.

You can enjoy a nice cup of coffee and buy something from the baking and bric-a-brac stalls. All proceeds go to the Arthritis Research Campaign. Entrance costs £1:00.

No DAB

Someone asked if we can get DAB - or digital radio - in Lochwinnoch. Silly question, most of don't get Channel Five on TV and radio broadcast are dodgy at times. What

Drug Store Classics

This letter arrived from an unnamed music fan. I think it is worth printing here as it does offer some good advice. I have heard some of the CDs and I have to agree with the writer they are very good.

'I hope you classical music buffs don't consider this advertising. But I'd like to point you in the direction of some incredible bargain CD's you can get your hands in any of the Superdrugs stores.

They seem to be the outlet for a series of CD boxed sets. I've heard some of them and they are very good.

There is a five CD set of Handel Concerti including the Water and Fireworks Music and the Op3 & 6 Concerti Grossi. The works are played

by St. Martin's in the Field and the recording from the early 1993/4 are excellent. What's even better is the set only cost's £4:99.

Dvorak's Piano Concerto is not among his most popular works and who knows why. It is easily as good as the violin and cello concertos.

You can get all these concertos, plus the Romance for Violin in a two boxed set for £1:99. Both records contain good playing from Rudolph Firkusny, Ruggerio Ricci and Zara Nelsova. Water Susskind conducts the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

If you like English Baroque music £1:99 will get you a well sung and performed two CD set of music by one of the great writers of English music, Henry Purcell.

As with the other sets recording and performances are first class.

Finally, if you like your music as hefty as a T-bone steak, you can get a 14 CD set of Wagner's mighty 'Ring Cycle'. It's performed by second rank singers but is still well worth the cost, an incredible £12:99'.

Last Post

This is the last article from Liz Nickerson the sustainable lifestyle worker.

In the few months Liz was here she got a lot done; the Thursday youth club, the gardening club, the sustainable lifestyle garden - see below - and many other smaller projects too numerous to mention. We wish her luck for the future in her now job in Saltcoats: 'Well looking out of the window at the pouring rain it's hard to imagine that spring is around the corner. Already the first buds have appeared and the snowdrops are littered around our gardens.

Which brings me neatly to the Sustainable Garden soon to be seen behind the Parish Church. Over the winter the management group have been getting the views of villagers on how the garden should look. They have had a good response, the suggestions have been collated and will feature in the garden.

If you want to brush up your gardening skills before you drag the lawnmower out of the garage why not join the gardening club and perhaps broaden your knowledge of this fascinating activity. The gardening club meeting the museum every second Monday in the month. Speakers have been booked to give interesting and informative talks.

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In previous editions of Chatterbox I mentioned the possibility of a path round the loch with a safe route to the station.

A multi agency group have been meeting over recent weeks to raise money to finance a feasibility study into the project. I can announce that enough has been raised to instruct a consultant to carry out the study.

Local businessman Mr. Ross Anderson and his team will be out and about the village and surrounding area gathering information. They will, in time, consult with groups in the village about the project.

Liz Nickerson

A replacement for Liz Nickerson will soon be in place and all the good work that has been done to date will carry on.

Good Vibes

The mention of Mr Ross Anderson gives me a chance to show a press release from an organisation called VIBES in other words the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland.

Mr Ross Anderson won high praise from VIBES. 'East Lochhead was short listed in the Small Company section of the West Region category for

the 2002 VIBES Awards, although the business was not ultimately a regional winner, the competition judges were so impressed by the high level of commitment to the environment evident within the company that they wished to recognise it formally.

Stewart Prodger, VIBES Steering Group Member said: 'It's tremendous to see such enthusiasm and commitment from Ross Anderson. The judges were generally impressed by his company's commitment to the environment and his recognition of its value to their future. We look forward to them reapplying and would encourage other local companies to apply for a VIBES award when the 2003 competition opens this spring'.

Ken Collins, chairman of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and a member of the VIBES judging panel added: 'Effective environmental management is not only good for business, the economy and competitiveness it also benefits the surroundings in which we work, live and relax.

VIBES aims not only to reward those who display a high degree of environmental awareness but also encourages others to follow their example.' You can get more info on VIBES from their website at www.vibes.org.uk

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