



# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
lochwinnoch no 121 December 2003

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **December 6th** Christmas Fayre , Parish Church 10am—12 noon
- **December 21st,** Sunday, St Winnoch Singers, Xmas Concert, Parish Church, Tickets £5 (£3) Family £12, on sale soon (Junction, Brown Bull and members)
- **January 1st** 'New Years Day Dance', McKillop, Dance to 'Freedom', bring your own bottle, tickets £8.50 on sale early Dec. (Junction and Brown Bull). Tel 07940915065

## Speed

Of almost constant concern to some members of the Community Council is the speed cars drive through the village. Although speeding mainly takes place early morning and night, some drivers can't resist putting the foot down when children are around.

A request was made for speed bumps to be sited in Main Street and High Street. However, the police and emergency services have a well-documented objection to these humps.

Councillor Nimmo suggests one solution would be to remove the double yellow lines on Main Street and High Street and allow parking on both sides of the road. This would hamper, all but serious challenged drivers, speeding through the village.

Incidentally, the 20 mph warnings

painted on many village roads are not, as someone suggested, to slow you down so you do not hit the potholes so hard, they are there to slow drivers down because children may be around.

## Winter Wonderland

A Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday, December 6 in the Parish Church 10:00am - 12 noon.

Look out for a variety of stalls including soft goods, home baking, nearly new, craft, sweets and grocery stalls. Santa will be in attendance. All welcome adults Â£1:00, children 50p.

## Open All Hours

Harassed Christmas shoppers can take advantage of some extra opening hours at the village gift shop Now and Then. Until Christmas the shop will open seven days a week. Sunday opening is from 12:00 4:00pm. The shop is open the usual hours at other days.



## Book Launch

**Congratulations to Rowena Murray who has just published her second book.** Called 'How to Survive your Viva', it follows hard on the heels of Rowena's last success 'How to Write a Thesis.

## Charity Calendar

Next year while you count the days you can admire some excellent photographs of the village. Local photographer Andrew Penny has produced a calendar with views of Lochwinnoch. All the proceeds from the sale of the calendars are split between Mothers and Toddlers and the Playgroup.

The calendars cost Â£4:99 and are available from the paper shop and the hairdressers in Church Street.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Jennifer Thomson who recently graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a B.A. in Politics and French. Family and friends would like to wish her all the best in her new job working for a Member of the European Parliament.

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# Modern Cookery

Hello darlings!

**I've just finished filming a late night show called 'Cookery in the Raw'. Get it?**

A lovely experience, that is, until I had to cook barbecued sausages. After one or two 'takes', as we say in the business, I looked as though I had a severe attack of chickenpox. But, my contribution to the show led to me being asked to appear in one of these charity nudie calendar thingies.

I was to be July. I was to be photographed holding two strategically placed knickerbocker glories. However, darlings, the photographer ate the cherries so the whole thing had to be abandoned. Doesn't Christmas come round quicker every year? No sooner is Burns Night over than you sashay into the festive season.

Of course, Christmas is a time for food, drink and fun. Though, not necessarily in that order. I love Christmas food: turkey, chipolatas, sprouts, and all manner of hearty puddings. But you can get too much of a good thing. After Christmas mummy, Lady Fishslice, used to say there was no better antidote to the rich platters of Christmas than a corn beef sandwich and a can of tea. In one's opinion she was right.

Anyway, darlings, I hope Santa fills your stocking with all manner of goodies and you have a lovely holiday. I'm off the stock up on the corn beef

*Feliciti Fishslice*

## Letters

Dear Editor

**I was given the wrong information by the planning department in Paisley. Instead of houses being built near the Bridesmill junction it is a Electric sub station.**

Nevertheless my conversation with the person from the planning office led me to believe that interest in the Johnshill area is being shown by developers. There is no brown field site that I know of in that area, therefore, any construction will have to be in agricultural land or wooded areas. Now is the time for the home owners of

Johnshill to contact the planning department and find out one way or the other if indeed there are plans to build.... if the answer is yes, where?  
Mr. Alex Lennox

### Information Please

**This letter comes from Dorothy Stewart of Canada. She is looking for information on her Lochwinnoch ancestors - can you help?**

'My husband's father Jack Stewart worked at Johnson Furniture in the village up until he moved to Canada in 1951. His mother was Christina Keith. His Aunt Margaret Keith lived in the village until her death in 1966. She also worked at Johnson Furniture.

He remembers his Hugh Jamieson did at one stage leave the village and lived in the United States but upon retiring return to Lochwinnoch and lived there until his death in 1963. His Stewart and Keith grandparents as well as his Jamieson, Stewart and Keith great grandparents lived and are buried in the Lochwinnoch Cemetery.

We hope to connect with people who might be able to assist us in our research into our family as well as any pictures that might be around. Thank you for all your help and we will keep our fingers crossed that some information and or pictures will come our way due to this.' You can contact Dorothy on [stewartdk@sympatico.ca](mailto:stewartdk@sympatico.ca) or through the Chatterbox envelope in the Library.

**I read in the Gazette that Renfrewshire Council have introduced a £40 spot fine if dog owners don't**

**pick up and bin any mess made by their dog I wonder if you could highlight this in the next Chatterbox newsletter and it might help to discourage those, particularly around the school area to take a bit more responsibility.**

Cheers Carol

'Hey,

**I'm sure someone here must know about this. I'm looking for a cable/adaptor to allow me to connect a PC to a TV to watch DVDs on the TV using the PC's DVD drive. A kit like the one at <http://www.svideo.com/svideocoax.html> would do the trick (but it's not available in the UK). I need something that will take audio from a soundcard line-out, and video from a video card s-video out, and output via coax to a TV (which doesn't have SCART connections).**

I've tried Maplin, RS, and Dabs with no luck. There are cables that will do S-video/audio to SCART, but I can't find a SCART-coax converter to go with them.

Cheers,

Michael'

Does anybody know what Michael is talking about? (Editor)

## Lochwinnoch Forum

**'Things you'll never read in Bearsden' The Lochwinnoch Forum on [Lochwinnoch.info](http://Lochwinnoch.info)**

## The Paper Shop

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**website is bursting with lively comment and gossip. Not everyone, however, has access to the internet so this section presents a sniff of what appears on the website.**

*Local wildlife website*

'Would appreciate feedback on developing a local countryside website. For details check out [www.members.lycos.co.uk/Wildlife2](http://www.members.lycos.co.uk/Wildlife2) - this includes Lochwinnoch. I am online and able to take the idea further if anyone is interested.'

*Car usage within the village* (this is from someone whose writing style has been influenced by the telegram) 'Cars + short journeys = bad. School run to village school especially bad! Why not walk with kids to school.

Small increase in time taken to walk in a village of this size, offset by the benefits to health, and car related money savings. Hope I haven't offended anyone, but sorry your noisy, smelly cars offend me.

*Ian C replied:*

'On the subject of the car I for one would like to see road bumps introduced to the High Street. The speed which some cars go through the High Street is alarming.'

*ABMW made this contribution to the debate:*

It's only a matter of time before someone steps out between parked cars and is hit.'

*Hairy Beast*

'I looked out of my window the other night. To my amazement I saw a large, hairy figure, not bear not man, but Yeti.

Did anyone else see anything strange near Crawford's View on 01/07/2003. I'm still in a state of shock and disbelief.'

Imrae adds:

*The interluper wrote:* 'Oddly enough, I was walking near the Lochlip Road when I noticed a number of these creatures swinging primitive clubs in the air at a spherical object.

Many of them were hairy; their language was confined to grunts and screams.

Who are these strange creatures? What were they doing? I think we should be told before their young destroy us all.'

(This looks like a case for the Men in Black - or somebody in a white coat.)  
'Auld Simon'

This letter reflects the writer's disgust at our esteemed Auld Simon: 'I wish to register my disapproval at the content of recent editions of Chatterbox. I recently moved to the village due to its magnificent location and appearance, best encapsulated in the phrase 'Bearsden by the Loch'

However, I have recently been embarrassed by 'a column in 'Chatterbox' by a writer named 'Auld Simon'. The article made reference to his wife enjoying v....., in a manner more suited to publications such as the Herald and the Scotsman' (Auld Simon has featured in the Herald - Ed)

We obtained back issues of this publication only to find that: in previous editions Auld Simon referred to v.....s and an e..... at the Cross.

Is this kind of content suitable for a family publication in a village such as Lochwinnoch? It would certainly be unacceptable in Bearsden.

No doubt encouraged by articles written by Auld Simon, elderly gentlemen can be seen loitering at the Cross waving their walking sticks at young ladies in a provocative manner'.

*Happy to be here replies:*

'Re 'elderly gentlemen loitering at the Cross waving their walking sticks

at young ladies in a provocative manner'. I for one will view these gentlemen with renewed interest! Just what the doctor ordered'.

*Hello Lochwinnoch*

*This comes from Denise of London:*

'I lived in the village for around three years in the late eighties. I helped to produce the Chatterbox and was a member of the Community Council. It's great to see that both of these are still in existence. I now live and work in London.'

**(Thanks Denise. Anyone can join the Community Council and anyone can join in the debates on the Lochwinnoch.info website. However, contributions to the website will not be accepted from anonymous writers.**

**Most of the latter are faceless critics who are afraid to stick their heads above the parapet.**

**So if you have something of interest to say, and it may be criticism, identify yourself. Don't be shy. Don't snipe from the shadows).**

**Merry Xmas**



The screenshot shows the Lochwinnoch Village Website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The page has a blue header with the site name and logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, News & Events, Information, Club & Activities, Sports, and Reviews. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Website Awards', 'Forum Guideleines', and 'New Sections'. The 'Website Awards' section mentions a Highly Commended award at the Community of the Year awards. The 'Forum Guideleines' section provides instructions for posting messages. The 'New Sections' section lists the Lochwinnoch Art Group and the Clyde Windsurfing Club. At the bottom of the page, there is an email address: [barbara@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:barbara@lochwinnoch.info).

# RSPB

**Local school pupils and community groups using the RSPB's Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve will be reaping the benefits of a 3M Environmental Award achieved by RSPB Education Officer Sharon Fraser.**

Sharon, a part-time as a primary school teacher, won the chance to join scientists from the environmental charity Earthwatch on a research project in Cameroon to save the endangered rock fowl. To mark her achievement, she has been presented with a new 3M overhead projector for use at the RSPB centre.

A 3M spokesperson commented: "3M has a long history of environmental stewardship and has been running this national award scheme to give teachers invaluable practical experience to share with their pupils. We're delighted that Sharon and her pupils will benefit so much from it and hope that the projector will be useful for many years to come." Sharon recently returned from the research trip, where she assisted scientists at the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS) in assessing the population status of the globally threatened, gray-necked picathartes.

"I will never forget my time in Cameroon or the friendly and welcoming people I met there," said Sharon. "I learned a great deal about the natural history and culture of the country and gained new skills in field research, all of which will prove invaluable in my work.

"I feel that I am now better able to foster in my pupils a love and respect for the environment and a passion to learn more. I'd like to thank Earthwatch and 3M for giving me this opportunity of a lifetime"

The RSPB environmental education programme at Lochwinnoch reserve is a valuable resource for local schools, with around 1500 pupils from all over the Greater Clyde area participating each year. Student teachers and local community groups also regularly use

the centre, one of 40 RSPB reserves in Scotland.

Reserve manager Zul Bhatia said the overhead projector will be well used during the indoor sessions for students. "It will be very helpful when introducing the subject and for more in-depth studies, particularly with older students and secondary school groups," he said. "We are very grateful both to 3M for donating the projector and to Sharon for suggesting that it be used at the Lochwinnoch reserve." 3M United Kingdom PLC is one of the world's largest innovative companies. It is a diversified international manufacturing company with products sold in more than 200 countries worldwide. 3M's innovation is driven by a global target to achieve 40% of sales from products less than four years old.

The 3M Environmental Awards are open to teachers working or living near 3M sites throughout the country. Teachers are chosen according to their ability to take what they have learnt back to their schools and communities. More than 200 3M-funded teachers have taken part in Earthwatch projects since the award started in 1993.

Earthwatch is a leading supporter of experiential environmental education. Almost 10,000 students and teachers have benefited from direct field research experience. Earthwatch also develops innovative education programmes for the corporate sector aimed at building awareness and understanding of cultural and environmental issues. <http://www.earthwatch.org.uk/europe>

## Sustainable

**This comes from Ruth Oldry our sustainable communities devel-**

**opment worker.** If you want to contact Ruth she is available every Monday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:00pm - 8:00pm. You can call her on 01505 842615 or on-line at [ruth@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:ruth@lochwinnoch.info) "The development of the sustainable garden behind the Parish Church is coming along nicely. The main pathway and basic outline of the garden are now almost complete. The basic shell of the polytunnel has been constructed.

There are 8 compost bins on site and 4 wooden worm boxes that will help with the community composting scheme.

The purpose of the sustainable garden is to encourage local people to work together and share their knowledge of gardening.

**Mini Book Festival**  
A couple of local people and myself have been working to organise a mini book festival in the village. The festival will show appreciation and encouragement to the many local authors who live in the village. The festival will be held in March 2004. The special guest speaker will be Scotland's top poet Liz Lochhead. Liz won the Scottish Arts Council Book Award in 1972. In 2001 she won the Saltire Society Scottish Book of the Year Award.

If you know of anyone in the village who has published works and would like to get involved in the festival please contact me.

**Merry Christmas  
to all our contributors,  
readers & advertisers.  
& a Happy New Year.**



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