

# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
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Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **July 'Wildart' will be held within the Visitor Centre at Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve for a fortnight until 27th July**
- **September 5th to 7th Western Roots weekend—see programme on back page.**

## Traffic Chaos

**The amount of traffic that trundled over the bridge on Main Street on Friday, July 18, has led many villagers to wonder why the weight limit is on the bridge is still in place.**

Lorries upwards of twenty tonnes crawled through the village on Friday.

At a recent Community Council meeting a police spokesperson said that there was a contingency plan to stop heavy lorries driving through Lochwinnoch in the event of the closure of the Howwood Road. It was clearly not put into operation on the 18th.

Also the police spokesperson said that if traffic was diverted through the village police officers would be posted to the village to monitor operations. That didn't appear to happen either.

As to what caused the closure of the road for twenty six hours, speculation is rife. It was variously said to be a canister of gas then an

oil-spillage.

Conspiracy theorists say it must have been something 'military', a weapon of mass destruction or an unidentified flying object. Take your pick, we may never know.

## St Joseph's Nursing Home

**Residents living around St Joseph's Nursing Home are alarmed at plans to build an extension to the home. They discussed their misgivings at the July Community Council meeting. They have written a letter to Chatterbox part of which is included below:**

'We are extremely concerned with many aspects of this proposal and have outlined these in this letter. As of 23 Jun 2003, Craegmoor Nursing Homes Ltd (CNH) have started to cut down the trees on the proposed site, and I quote the contractor Erskine Tree Surgeons "in case any local residents or the Council enforce a Tree Preservation Order" through objections to the build! How damn outrageous and arrogant is that?

Lochwinnoch has been deemed for many years to have outstanding greenbelt and wildlife areas. The council has told myself on numerous occasions that under no circumstances would greenbelt be allocated for building plots. If you make an exception once, you have set a precedent for another developer.

' One of the main objections residents is that CNH intend to site the entrance to the new development at the back of the nursing home on Corsefield Road. This picturesque road, used mainly by walkers as they set off to walk the circular route past Glenlora, is not suitable for additional traffic. It was built in the days of horse drawn traffic and has - as far as anyone knows not been expanded since.

If CNH go ahead with these plans additional traffic will use the road past the golf course and the school.

The residents end their letter with the plea: 'We sincerely hope that the Chatterbox and the Lochwinnoch Community Website will notify local residents of this proposed development and assist us to use our collective voices in informing Renfrewshire Council of the villagers objections.'

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## Auld Simon's Column

**If you were in this house you would hear what could loosely be called singing coming from Mrs. Simon's bedroom.**

All winter she studied singing with a big city voice coach. She learned some of the tricks of the singer's trade. Such as how to project her voice, open her mouth wide and let it rip - big mistake, at least from where I'm sitting.

No sooner has trilled the first notes of 'Where you Walk' the birds stop singing and Darcy and Wipey fly through the flap like a couple of cheetahs.

Without being too disparaging, Mrs. Simon has a singing voice that sounds like a hyena with a strangulated bowel. Maria Callas she ain't. Anyway, this month I thought I'd talk about the modern curse; the mobile phone.

In days gone by they were so big you had a job keeping them in your trouser pocket. Now they are as small as earrings you can hang them on your belt or whip them out and slap them on a table. They should not be allowed to be so cavalierly exposed in public.

Nowhere is free from them. I was in a public toilet the other day and I thought the cubicle next to me was occupied by more than one person. It was somebody doing two things at once; one of them was talking on a mobile phone.

What was he talking about? He was telling the person on the other end of the line what tariff he was on and how wonderful the phone was because it worked in a public toilet.

Of course, I Auld Simon have one. I use it to alert Mrs. Simon that I am on my way home so get the pultice ready. It's been a good couple of days. Mrs. Simon has been out in the garden tanning her well-honed body. Although I wouldn't dare say so, she still looks more walrus than Raquel.

Anyway, have a good couple of months; we're of on holiday till September.

Auld Simon

## Wild Art

**An exhibition of 'Wildart' will be held within the Visitor Centre at Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve for a fortnight until Sunday 27th July.**

Wildart is the annual art competition run for the Wildlife Explorers Club, the junior membership of the RSPB. Participation has risen to over 800 entrants this year alone. The Wildlife Explorers Club is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and as part of the celebrations this special touring art exhibition has been put together. Winners from the last five years have allowed us to borrow their artwork and Lochwinnoch Reserve is the first site in Scotland to show the exhibition.

'It's wonderful to see such original and colourful pictures of wildlife! They are all so inspiring and we're honoured to

have them hanging up at the reserve' said Jen Walker, Visitor and Publicity Officer.

## Ceilidh News

**The April ceilidh was, as with all the ceilidhs, well attended. The five hundred pounds raised at the ceilidh went to Alzheimer's, Paisley. A hundred and forty pounds was raised for the McMillan Nurses.**

The next ceilidh is on Saturday, November 22. Proceeds will go to Lochwinnoch Primary School PTA and the Amani Centre for disabled children in Tanzania. Tickets £6:00 from all the usual outlets.

## The Drumatic Decade

**Its ten years since a group of enthusiastic, enterprising young people got to**



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**gether to start playing carnival music.** With some generosity from Lochwinnoch Community Council, they bought various percussion instruments and formed, what has since become the very successful band, Drumatic.

They have played gigs at Hampden, Meadowbank, Crystal Palace, Ireland and Lochwinnoch Millineum Events.

Group were delighted when they led the Parade on the last night of the last century, through the streets down to the loch. Recently, the band plus pupils from the Primary School, played along with the RSNO at a sell out gig at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. LMEG would like to wish Drumatic well for the future and hope their next ten years will be as successful as their last. Its brilliant to see what Lochwinnoch can produce and we're sure that the whole village will join us in sending the band our **b e s t w i s h e s .** To celebrate their anniversary, Drumatic are holding a workshop in Lochwinnoch Annex on the Sat 2nd August. There will be a workshop from 10.30 till 11.15 for under ten years old (which parents are required to stay) followed by a workshop for 11yrs and above to which **ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!** If you fancy having a go, contact Jane 843 429 for details. Spaces will be limited and booking is suggested to avoid disappointment.

**See back page  
for Western  
Roots**

## A Drinking History

**In days gone by drunkenness, as in many other parts of the country, was a feature of life in Lochwinnoch.**

In a country where the diet, for men as well as horses, was based on oats and more oats, people looked to booze to add variety to their lives. Periods of sobriety were punctuated by periods of drunken revelry.

People drank beer for breakfast; children were given a brew known as small beer. It was relatively low in alcohol. Those who could afford it drank claret, exported by the French, our partners in the Auld Alliance.

Scattered around Lochwinnoch were sufficient alehouses too lubricate the moldiest of throats. At the dawn of the nineteenth century old people looked back to a time when on Communion Monday, drunkards crowded the inns and danced to the sound of the fiddle:

'It was said that parties, with their Bibles in their pockets, might have been seen dancing in the

inn - the Bibles that had been used but a few hours before in the house and worship of God, now bounding and rebounding against the persons of their owners as the 'capered, wheeled and reeled', in the mazes of the dance.'

One of the village ministers, the Rev James Steven, in 1795 railed against the number of alehouses dotted around the village: 'In this parish there are fourteen ale-houses, which should be considerably diminished. It is expected from some resolutions lately published, that the justices of the peace, to whose superintendent this material object of police is committed by the Legislator, will take this subject seriously into their consideration, and apply an effectual remedy to an evil, which is productive of the most pernicious consequences to the health, the morals, and the industry of people.'

He would reeled in his grave if he knew that by 1836 the number of pubs in the village had risen to twenty-four.

Nowadays, drinking and dancing in the street is definitely not encouraged.

This comes from a work in progress called a Brief History of Lochwinnoch. It is written by someone called 'Mac'.

## *Lochwinnoch* The Village Website

### Latest News

Keep up to date with local news by reading the 'Latest News' section on the village website. News headlines are listed on the front page.

### Photo Gallery

The photo gallery is constantly updated to give you fresh views from around the village. If you have any photos that may be of interest to others please e-mail them to me or send them to me.

### Local Walks

A local walks section will be online soon..... details will be posted on the home page

You can contact the team by

E-mail [barbara@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:barbara@lochwinnoch.info)

Or in writing, drop into website dropbox in the local library

# Western Roots

**Tickets for the Western Roots Festival are now available from The Junction, The Brown Bull, The Garthland and The Corner Bar. Tickets are like Gold dust, once they are gone, they are gone.**

Demand throughout the country has been great for tickets but the festival organiser has allocated tickets from the residents of Lochwinnoch. The festival is a musical journey of this fantastic music and it's history. Music that you may not have heard, and if not you are in for a treat. It is as seductive as a peep at Lilly Langtree's ankle.

Right here in Lochwinnoch we've got the best acts coming to perform. It's just so exciting.

We are also going to have vintage clothes stalls, record hops, and all sorts of merchandise for sale.

The entire Mckillop has been hired this means we can utilise all the back rooms for art displays and photography. If any local artists want to display their work - free of charge - contact the website. Now for the shows:

Tickets are for Gigs in the Mckillop Hall only.

**FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER**

Doors open at 7.30pm (Tickets only)

The one and Only Deborah and her Boys (The Lariats) Yee H a P a r t n e r s ! !  
The Smokey Mountain Boys (awesome Hillbilly Band)  
The Moonshiners (Glasgow's very own answer to the best in Local Bluegrass) They are great.

**SATURDAY 6th  
SEPTEMBER**

Doors open at 6.30 pm (Tickets only)

The amazing Ranch House Favorites from Holland (Cool, Retro Hillbilly/Bluegrass Cowboys)

The famous Rimshots from Wales ( NOT TO BE MISSED)  
The Headlining Act Wayne 'The Train' Hancock from Austin Texas - The best original artist on this planet.

Bar Gigs and Music Trail around the Village is FREE  
Friday night kicks off with Gavin Doole in the Brown Bull from 5-7pm. Excellent Acoustic Blues Pickin Guitarist from Ayrshire who specialises in blues from the 1920's, 30's & 40's

Saturday Day features a musical trail around the Village with local Bluegrass bands Appalachian Mist and John Hishelwood in the Garthland, and various Bluegrass Jam sessions in the Brown Bull and the Corner Bar.

Sunday Day - Bluegrass Jam sessions in all bars until tea time, when the festival ends.

The full programme will be made available a couple of weeks before the festival kicks off, outlining an hour by hour account of all that is going on.

## JP's

**Three Justices of the Peace are available in this area:**

Sir Ian Denholm, Newton of Beltrees. James Farquhar, 10 Newton of Barr. David Arthur, 17 Beechburn Crescent.

All three JPs are on the Supplemental List and are available for signing documents with the exception of Warrants or Place of Safety Orders .

## A Pedestrian's Plea

**Some of the hedges in certain parts of the village protrude so much onto the pavement it is difficult - if not impossible - to avoid having to walk onto the road.**

On busy Johnshill where the problem is acute, walking on the road is not a safe option. Occupants might like to trim their hedges to make life safer for those using the pavement.

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