

CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info
lochwinnoch no 116 June 2003

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

● See articles throughout Chatterbox for dates and details.

Community Council

In June Community Council were informed that, overall, during 2002/2003 crime figures have fallen.

However, there are exceptions, drug offences, serious violence, the carrying of dangerous weapons and drink driving are all up on the year before. Councillor Alistair Nimmo, while praising the work of individual police officers, painted a bleak picture of policing in the village.

He said the complaints he received on crime and disorder in the village were soaring. Councillor Nimmo said the problem is, police are not on the scene during the time the disorder takes place.

He added, that the belief in surrounding areas is that Lochwinnoch has no effective police force, this acts as a magnet to trouble makers who believe they operate here without fear of caution.

Councillor Nimmo, made a

plea for more police in the village. He said the number of community police - one full time and one part-time officer - is totally inadequate for the area (Lochwinnoch to Neilston) they are expected to cover.

Lost Harrier

Last Month RSPB staff were horrified to discover that the Hen Harrier nest near Lochwinnoch had been raided over the weekend.

The eggs were probable removed by a mink. The fate of the female bird is not yet known.

If the eggs had hatched thousands of bird watchers from all over the country would have been attracted to the village. Hen Harriers are as beautiful as they are rare. For years they have been a persecuted species. Although the hen harrier dines mainly on mice and voles it occasionally kills game birds. The loss of the Hen Harrier and her eggs is a great loss to the wildlife of Lochwinnoch.

Police Notice

The community police officers have fixed a post box in the foyer of the McKillop Institute.

If any local resident wants to contact PC Barclay or PC Pryde they can leave their name, address and contact number in the box. The police officers will contact you whenever they are on duty.

The box is kept locked and the police officers are the only ones who have the key. Anyone who wants to pass on information to the police can do so using the post box. If you want you can post a note without leaving your name address or phone number.

Now & Then Summer Opening

Now & Then, your local gift shop, will be open from 12 noon to 4 pm each Sunday until the end of September.

MATTHEW NEW & SONS

SLATER - PLASTERERS - GENERAL BUILDERS

Emergency Repairs, Storm Damage
Insurance Work, New Roofs, Flat Roofs
Roughcasting & General Building

Tel No 01505 843400

FMB Certificate No 26366

Auld Simons Column

No time for a column this month. I've spent too much time considering David Beckham's numerous hair styles and his widely publicised, mortally boring, transfer to somewhere abroad.

I have also spent a lot of time on top of the wardrobe. Why? Because the Simon household welcomed a new cat as a companion to our existing cat Darcy de Bum. We call the cat Wipey.

Wipey is the most timid cat I've ever seen. In two weeks he's hardly ventured off the top of the wardrobe. I'm been acting as a negotiator.

A friend suggested I carry out the negotiations in a fire officer's uniform. Fire officers are great coaxing cats down from tall trees, so it is said. I'll try anything once, so not only am I on top of the wardrobe, I'm on top of the wardrobe dressed as a fire officer.

It's all fuel for Mrs. Simon. Her usual gripe is to chastise me for the amount of time I spend 'locked in the bedroom fiddling around with my column'. Now she complains about the amount of time I spend on top of the wardrobe dressed as a fire officer.

But back to Beckham. I heard someone on the wireless say that his passion for ever increasingly comic haircuts shows he is a creative person! I thought if you wrote a novel or composed a symphony or even a rap song, this was a sign of creativity. Getting a haircut, well, maybe not.

But, that's modern life for you. Incidentally, if you have any moans or anything you want to get off your chest - especially about modern life - send it here. All moans gratefully accepted.

Have a good month,
Fire Officer Simon

Auld Simon

Letters

Dear Sir,
Would it be possible for the Community Council to put forward a request to the District Council to have a robust sign erected at the entrance to the

soft play area at the annex to the effect of 'Strictly No Dogs Allowed'.

I have had trouble persuading children and adults that taking their dogs into the play area is wrong.

Prohibiting bikes in the area would also be useful, but stopping dogs comes first.

RW

Gardens Galore,

During June three gardens will be open to the public under Scotland's Garden Scheme.

Details are: Sunday, June 22 23 Main Street. The garden belongs to Zul and Jenny Bhatia. Anne and Gordon Nicholl of Cathcart Cottage, 36 Calder Street open their garden on the same day.

Both gardens will be open from 11:00am - 4:00pm. A charge of £3:00 will allow you to visit all three gardens taking part in the scheme. Money will be donated to Chest, heart and stroke, Scotland, the Amani Centre for children in Tanzania, Scotland's Garden Scheme and the RNLI.

On Sunday, June 29 Janet and Ross Anderson will open East Lochhead. You will also be able to enjoy teas, plant stall and an art exhibition. The garden will be open from 2:00 - 5:00pm. If you only visit this garden the charge is £2:00.

Dear sir/Madam.

I'm sure there must be a lot of internet "freaks" in Lochwinnoch, and if there anything like me, they must be completely frustrated with the lack of broadband access in the village.

I believe there was an article in Chatterbox a few weeks back on the subject, unfortunately I missed it. I don't know if it was mentioned in the article that anyone with an interest in receiving broadband can register

there interest with BT. How it works is, log on to www.bt.com search for the link to the registration page and submit your interest. You only have to visit the page and click on submit, it's that easy.

BT has a trigger level of registrations, and when the level is reached they will upgrade the local exchange. the only example I have is from an article in the Evening Times, where they stated the trigger level for Drumchapel in Glasgow was 400.

Last time I checked there were 80 registrations of interest from Lochwinnoch. so it's up to you folks get registering and you could have broadband sooner than you think. Gus. Frustrated web user. Lochwinnoch.

The adult learners event on

Adult Learners

Thursday, May 15 was a great success. Those who attended found it a stimulating and informative session.

If you couldn't manage to the event and want more information on adult learning, contact Susan Stewart on 01505 320573.

If you are a parent perplexed with the responsibilities of this challenging role you can attend a four week course called Parenting Matters.

If this four week taster course proves a success, it is the intention to run a thirteen week course some time in the future.

A community led project which will enable the villagers of Loch-

TUNA

Corporate Web Managers & Strategists

Proud to be from Lochwinnoch

(as well as Glasgow!)

a. Mid Lochhead

t. 01505 843 823 f. 01505 843 923

e. info@tunaweb.com

w. www.tunaweb.com

Lochwinnoch CLAN - Rural Broadband Internet Access

winnoch to access broadband internet connections through the innovative use of wireless and satellite technology is on its way to success, thanks to financial support from Scottish Enterprise.

The Lochwinnoch CLAN project (*Community Local Area Network*) has been made possible by seed funding of £15,000 from Scottish Enterprise National and Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire as part of their Broadband for Business Programme, and technical expertise volunteered by Webwise Systems, a locally based IT solutions provider. For villages wanting to access the internet at home or for business use, Broadband will mean they are able to do this faster. Having broadband will reduce the time to download information from the net and providing an always-on internet and e-mail connection, freeing up the phone-line, while keeping costs at a fixed rate.

Lochwinnoch is a small rural village that currently has no access to any type of broadband connection. There are no cable TV franchises piped in the area and the local BT exchange is not enabled for ADSL. With no trigger level set it is unlikely that the exchange will be converted in the near future. This prompted the members of LMEG, a local community group, to look for their own solution and the CLAN project is the result.

The project is now being implemented and with 80% coverage of the village expected, over 30 businesses / homes should be brought online in the first phase. Users will connect their PC's to the network using a wireless adaptor card and a small desktop aerial.

Commenting on the scheme, Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire said, "This is a terrific example of community action.
www.lochwinnoch.info and www.scottish-enterprise.com/broadband

The people of Lochwinnoch want access to fast connections to the internet and this wireless solution offers a way to do it."

LMEG director, Kate Bird, said "This project will help to address the business needs of the village and will complement our other endeavours which focus on youth, health and sustainable community living." For further information contact:

Barbara Brown, LMEG on 07932 620232 or barbara@lochwinnoch.info
David Whitton, press desk SE Renfrewshire on 0141 8423507 or 07771 941170
www.lochwinnoch.info and www.scottish-enterprise.com/broadband

River Calder dredging / SRANI

Keen eyed locals may have noticed the dredging works along the River Calder near Lochlip Road, undertaken as part of a flood alleviation programme.

You may also have noticed that the material removed from the river is being deposited nearby - parallel to the A760 and Lochlip Road itself.

This may look like it is being dumped, however, the positioning of

the deposit has been carefully considered as a result of discussions with a number of people including Clyde Muirshiel, Scottish Natural Heritage and the RSPB.

The material is being placed along the probable line of a new path in anticipation of the results of the current feasibility study, mentioned in a recent edition of Chatterbox, becoming a reality. This is recycling at its best!

Crèche Workers

Community Learning Services needs part-time/sessional crèche workers to in Lochwinnoch.

If you are interested and are registered/qualified - or have relevant experience working with children please contact CLS for an application form or speak to Susan Stewart on 01505 320573

Community Learning Services needs part-time/sessional crèche workers to in Lochwinnoch. If you are interested and are registered/qualified - or have relevant experience working with children please contact CLS for an application form or speak to Susan Stewart on 01505 320573 .

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

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

Sustainable Community Development Worker

As some of you will know, **Liz Nickerson, who was the Lochwinnoch Sustainable Community Worker, left the village in February, having been in post for just one year.** She has moved onto another job nearer her home and LMEG wishes her well for the future.

However, this meant that the project had another 2 years' of funding but no worker. We advertised the post and interviewed a number of applicants in March.

The result, we are delighted to announce we have a new worker - Ruth Oldrey. Ruth can be contacted via e-mail (ruth@lochwinnoch.info) or at the museum (01505 842615) messages regularly. Ruth will be out and about the village continuing to develop projects already started as well as helping new projects get off the ground.

We are Sailing

The Castle Semple Sailing Club meet on alternation Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30pm. They also meet on Wednesdays at 7:30pm until the 31st October.

If you would like to join the club and take to the waves in safe inshore waters why not join the club. The entry/joining fee is a one-off payment of £50:00. Family membership is a also a one-off payment of £50:00.

For further details contact Allen Seymour on 01505 842100. If you log onto the Lochwinnoch.info site you can download an application form.

Gardening Group

After a successful inauguration year the Lochwinnoch Gardening Group will begin its 2004/04 season with informal visits to member's gardens around the village. This was a very popular event last year. Dates are: Monday, June 30 - both at 7:00pm. If you'd like to attend either or both of these evening either call Anne Nicholl on 842632 or Suzanne Crosson on 842352.

During the winter we welcomed guests speakers and enjoyed talks on roses, sweet peas and various methods of propagation.

Our next meeting is on Monday, July 14 at 7:30pm in the museum. Why not come along and get into gardening.

Get into Nature

Did you get a chance during May to see live pictures of nesting Blue Tits? Here is a diary telling how the birds fared during this important time in their lives:

18th Apr A video camera was installed in the nestbox by the centre. The nest was partly built with moss and other vegetation.
21st Apr The first egg was probably laid.

6th May Ten eggs in nest.
13th May Eggs hatched with 9 chicks. Estimated date of fledging is 3rd June. Well this date was spot-on. This is now June 4 and all the

chicks have left the nest to do their own thing.

Of the live pictures beamed into the Nature Reserve Jen Walker, Visitor and Publicity Officer said: 'These live pictures are really popular with everyone who visits the reserve. It's amazing to get such intimate views and the chicks are so cute! You really realise how busy birds are at this time of year, constantly searching for food for themselves and their young.'

No doubt the video link to the blue tit's nest will be up and running next year. If you missed it this year, try not to miss it next year.

We have ways of making you Compute

Join the absolute beginners computing course in the library and take the first step on a fascinating journey to find out how to make the computer work for you.

The course is on Wednesdays from 9:45am. If you want more information call 842615 or 843780.

Woman Joggers

On Tuesday's, from June 10, Linda McIntyre will be organising a women's outdoor jogging class.

Designed for beginners the course starts outside Scotlind's Gym at 7:00pm.

Sales and marketing Consultancy

Calder Marketing

Tel: 01505 842 681

Mobile: 07764 236 822

Email: cfraser@fsmail.net

Business Plans, Funding, Market Research, PR, Company Newsletters