

CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info
lochwinnoch no 115 May 2003

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

- **Sunday 11th May, St Winnoch Singers, 'Great Opera Choruses', plus Junior Choir, Parish Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £5, £3 (Conc) £12 Family.**
- **Friday 23rd May, Race Night & Disco, Calder side Football Club in Lochwinnoch Bowling Club Tickets 843507.**
- **Saturday 31st May Calder Church Summer Fete 2pm-4pm Church Grounds (McKillop Institute if wet).**
- **Saturday 31st May, Rowing Regatta, Castle Semple Loch.**

BB

The battalion x-country race was held at the Ardgowan Estate, Inverkip. Our two boys were on top form. Alistair McGhee won the intermediate race, Daniel Shankland followed him home in the fourth place spot. Both boys went on to compete in the Scottish Championships at Tollcross. Plans are now well underway for the 21st Lochwinnoch Open Race. The race was started in 1983 by Ron McDermott as part of the BB Centenary celebrations.

This year's race takes place on

Saturday, June 14. The first local man, woman boy and girl past the post ours will lift a medal. The BB team compete for the Waterson Trophy. The top athletes compete for the Ron McDermitt and the Ian Connell Rosebowl. We hope all the trusty band of stewards and volunteers will be on hand to help with the event.

Spring Concert

On Sunday, May 11 the St. Winnoch Singers perform their spring concert. The theme is opera. The concert is full of pieces you must know if you have ever watched TV. Lots of opera choruses have been used in the most popular TV adverts. One of the main features in the concert is a new composition by the choir's conductor Gordon Rigby. The piece is a setting of Silver Slip, a poem written by well known village poet Betty McKellar. The piece features the fine

oboe playing of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's Rosie Staniforth. The concert-takes place in the Parish Church, on Sunday May 11 at 7:30pm.

Adult Learners Week

Community Learning Services, Renfrewshire Council, are staging an Adult Learners Event. This is a chance for adults to enjoy a cup of tea and an informal chat about their learning needs with different organisations, regarding formal/informal education. The organisations will include Community Education, Careers, College, University etc. McKillop Hall 15th May 10am 12:00 Susan Stewart 01505 320573.

Drop any copy you require printed into box in Library. All village events should be submitted for publication.

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Auld Simons Column

If you were sitting where I am right now you would hear the rhythmic clanging of heavy machinery battering away above your head. Mrs. Simon has taken up exercise.

She said she wants to improve her pecs and abs before summer. Don't ask what pecs or abs are, no one knows. They're probably American. I expect Mrs. Simon will look like Arnold Swartzenegger before long.

This could be a problem for me as, right now, Mrs. Simon and I are not in the best of speaking terms. The fall-out happened like this.

A week ago Mrs. Simon rushed into the study yelling 'the washing machine is spewing out water like Niagara Falls'.

Sure enough the kitchen was deluged with water and suds. So what do you do in such a situation? I went back to the study and sat down.

Mrs. Simon followed me and yelled: 'what are you going to do about the machine?' By way of a joke to ease the fragile situation, I said in an adopted pompous voice: 'the great German philosopher Immanuel Kant once said all the great problems in life can be solved if you sit on your bum and think about them. I'm going to sit down and sort the washing machine'. It did not go down well. I came within an inch of being crushed between Mrs. Simon's perfect pecs.

Eventually the young man from the farm next door popped in and saved the day; he fixed the machine. As he left the kitchen he turned to Mrs. Simon and said: 'love your pecs' the cheeky thing! Have a good month.

Auld Simon

Letters

Dab Radio

Dear Chatterbox, Re last month's Chatterbox: Digital Audio Broadcast [DAB] for BBC National programmes is patchy for Lochwinnoch and many other areas.

Work is under way by the BBC to provide DAB from the Sergeantlaw transmitter on the Gleniffer Braes above Paisley and this should provide greater coverage for the area later this year.

In all cases, especially home

based DAB radios it is wise to 'try before you buy'.

Listeners and Viewers should visit the BBC website reception page at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/>

George Fawcett

Cooperage Site

Dear Chatterbox, Responding to the article regarding the cooperage yard becoming flats, I would like to suggest another option and I would be interested in any comments.

The cooperage yard is an interesting building and part of the village's dwindling history. I think we should hold onto it and allow it to play an important attraction to all those who live here whilst attracting tourism.

With the consistent congestion of the cross and without a mini roundabout, all those who try to cross, drivers take their lives in their hands each time we dare to dart from one street to

10% off...10% off... 10% off... 10% off... 10% off... 10% off...

Now and Then is one year old.

As a special birthday celebration Colin and Sue would like to extend an offer to all Chatterbox Readers. Bring in a copy of this advertisement during May and we'll give you ten per cent off all purchases over £10.

If you are a regular, use it as a thank you for supporting a local venture. If you haven't been in, why not have a browse and save money? You might be surprised at the choice, quality and prices available on your doorstep.

*Offer excludes works by local artists

Now and Then

**Gifts, Crafts and Home Accessories
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the other. I suggest that the cooorage yard becomes our shopping centre. The increasing housing within it's borders is wonderful, but it also means more traffic and parking difficulties.

I think it should be run by the local people and we should encourage the residents to set up a small business. I for one, would love an art studio and I am sure there are many out there who have an idea of their own, if only we could get started. We should keep the rent cheap, and I mean cheap, as this will help fill it up rapidly and attract more people to spend in the village.

A store should be allocated to the youths and run by them. So that they can organise their own cafe, sell items to fund raise such as, bird houses that the RSPB could help with in teaching. To set up programs and go about recycling compost and selling it on, working with the Church of Scotland and the gardening club. Let them run their own newspaper - they need a say - and it would help bring community awareness to all the youths of the village.

It is an ideal building for many business who require an office and the local mini-marts can have all the space they desire. No problem for parking and it can be closed at night. This building has great potential and if we use it to encourage self-employment, then what better incentive do you need.

I would appreciate any and all comments. Jacquie Dougan
01505 842885.

Dogs v Man

Dear Chatterbox I would like to make a point about the attacks made on dog

the attacks made on dog owners - unlike chewing gum - the offering left by dogs washes away quite easily.

Also, in defense of dogs, none of my dogs have ever broken windows, smashed wing mirrors and windscreens, ridden bicycles on the pavement or scratched car paint work.

Nor have they ever spat chewing gum on the pavement or on the roads.

Yours, A Skelly

Thanks

Dear Chatterbox, Kathryn McNab would like to thank the residents of Braehead, Breahed Ave, Ewing Road, Semple Ave, who generously gave to the collection on the 3 - 8th March to the Royal Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

The sum of £59:99 was raised.

Thank You, K McNab

Books, Books

Here are some of the new editions to the library. They are all fiction:

Virginia Andrews	Into the Garden
Jeffrey Archer	Sons of Fortune
Rita Bradshaw	Candles in the Storm
Martina Cole	Maura's Game
Stephen Coonts	Liberty
Robert Crais	Last Detective
Barbara Delinsky	An Accidental
W o m a n	
Linda Fairstein	The Bone Vault
Julie Garwood	Mercy
Sue Grafton	Q is for Quarry
John Grisham	King of Torts
Alexandra Raife	A Question of Trust
Wilbur Smith	Blue Horizon
Danielle Steel	Dating Game
Janet MacLeod Trotter	A Child of Jarrow

If any company is disposing of fax, laser and inkjet printers - or mobile phones - why not donate them to a good cause.

The charity CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland) collect these items and turn them into money.

CHAS is a charity that helps families with children suffering from progressive illness. The charity opened a hospice in 1996 but they constantly need funds to maintain their valuable work. Several companies are now involved in this initiative (Bank of Scotland, Scottish Widows, KPMG, Kwik Fit, Halifax plus.....) We would dearly like to welcome your company onto the list. The donation point is the local library.

RSPB in May

Saturday 10 Birdwatching by-cycle challenge. (12 - 2pm) What better way to see birds and wildlife than by bike! Join us for a leisurely cycle, starting at Castle Semple Visitor Centre, following part of the cycle route and stopping off at the RSPB reserve for a walk around.

Bikes are available for hire if required at Castle Semple Centre. Tel 01505 842 882 for prices and for booking the bikes. Otherwise: event is free (includes free entry to the reserve). Advance booking essential.

Sunday 18 Aren't Birds Brilliant! (1-3pm, Lunderston Bay) Join RSPB staff for a look at wildlife in the Firth of Clyde at Lunderston Bay, north of Inverkip. Expect eiders, cormorants and possibly seals and porpoise. Binoculars and telescopes will be provided. Joint event with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. Free.

Saturday 24 - Saturday 31 Wake up to Birds Week Saturday 24 Birdsong before breakfast (4.30 am - 6.30 am) Why not make the effort to rise early to walk around the reserve at its most tranquil. Listen out for the calling of summer visiting warblers amongst many other resident species in the dawn chorus. Advance booking essential.

Sunday 25 Seawatching at Saltcoats harbour (12 - 2pm) Come along and enjoy the sea breeze whilst looking out for resident and passing seabirds.

We may be lucky and see a passing arctic skua! Ensure you wear warm clothing. Advance booking essential.

Wild day

Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve was a popular place to be on Thursday 17th April. About 50 children and 70 adults came along to enjoy a fun-packed day in the sunshine. Faces were painted, bird badges made, games played like hook-a-duck, design a bird, wetland trail quiz and those who felt artistic took part in the duck drawing competition and modeled their own clay birds to take home.

'It was great to see so many children really getting into these activities. It made it so much fun for all the staff and volunteers who helped on the day!' said Jen Walker, Visitor and Publicity Officer at the reserve.

There will be more wild days out happening throughout the year as part of the reserve's events program (Saturday 28th June, Saturday 2nd August and Wednesday 15th October).....do come along and join in the fun.

For more information about events please telephone 01505 842663

or email Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk <mailto:Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk>

Netball News

The Johnstone High School Netball team have celebrated a number of recent successes. The team won the Secondary Schools Renfrewshire League and the Schools Tournament Final.

Most of the girls who make up the team come from Lochwinnoch: Rachel Holmes, Lauren McIlroy, Sophie Curran, Vicki Waddel, Rebecca Colbron, and Helen Turner. The remaining two members, Eilidh Campbell and Laura McLeod both come from Kilbarchan.

The Lochwinnoch P7 team were runners-up in the Renfrewshire Spring Tournament. Congratulations to all our netball players.

Chatterbox email address

You can now contact Chatterbox by e-mail at this address chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info.

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