

# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
lochwinnoch no 118 September 2003

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **Sept 5th, 6th and 7th.** Western Roots Weekend, McKillop and local pubs.
- **Sept 9th.** Between 10 am and 12 noon Pension Service at Library to answer question and every Tuesday thereafter
- **Sept 8th.** Gardening Club at 7.30pm. Talk by Zul Bhatia on Alpines, in the wild and in cultivation.
- **Sept 18th.** 7:30pm Lochwinnoch Historical Society, History's and Mysteries in Lochwinnoch—talk with photographs by Tom Begg the Parish Church.
- **Sept 23rd.** Scottish Dancing restarts, at 7:30pm in the McKillop Institute.
- **Oct 3rd.** Fashion Show, Lochwinnoch Parish Church at 7:30pm.

## Western Roots

[www.koolsville.co.uk](http://www.koolsville.co.uk)

**Hope you have all got your cowboy boots, skirts, shirts and hats ready for the big Western Roots weekend.**

Very few tickets are left . Lets wish the organisers and bands a great weekend.

## Weak Bridge - Who Knows?

**The Community Council intend to write to Renfrewshire Council to complain about the confusing status of the bridge at the end of the village.**

Is the bridge weak or not? Heavy lorry drivers seemingly ignore the signs saying the bridge is in poor shape. Although there are signs dotted around saying the bridge is weak, the only sign indicating a weight limit is on the bridge. By the time drivers see it, it is too late.

A giant lorry could not turn and go back. The decision by the police to ignore the 'contingency plan' to veer traffic away from the village when the Howwood Road is closed adds to the mystery of the weak bridge.

Or it as weak as we are led to believe, or is it as strong as Samson but only pretending to be weak? Who knows.

## Drug Alert

**Five drug offences were reported in the village during August.**

The increase is naturally a worry though the police have stated they are undertaking an initiative to stamp out drug offences in the village.

## New restaurant

**Lochwinnoch has been chosen by the Cawley Hotels as the latest location for expansion of Hungry Monk hotels & restaurants.**

This can only add to Lochwinnoch's reputation for good food and will compliment the three restaurant already in the village.

The Hungry Monk (formerly The Mossend) will be opening soon. Watch the Chatterbox for further details.

## **MATTHEW NEW & SONS**

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# Auld Simon's Column

**It's been not a bad summer, but at times too hot for Mrs. Simon. Much of the time she was forced to sit with her feet in the freezer.**

I spent the long, hot days of summer trying to get my fingers around Barbara Strozzi's little Baroque cantata.

Alas the old technique is not what it used to be, the piece proved too great a challenge to my basic recorder technique.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Simon, when she took feet were out of the freezer, stuck her nose into a tome as big and as heavy as a breeze block. It was called The History of Sculpture in Western Art.

What with the heat and the weight of the book Mrs. Simon did hatch some weird ideas.

'What we need,' she said one sultry night, 'Is an erection at the Cross. A spectacular piece of sculpture that would put Lochwinnoch on the world map. A Venus di Milo with arms or a Michelangelo's David.' 'Who do we hire to make this? I asked, 'I thought Michelangelo was dead.' 'We can make it ourselves.' By implication this meant me, Auld Simon, a man troubled when he has to stick a stamp on an envelop.' 'We can make it from old bits of scrap metal welded together,' Mrs. Simon frothed.

'And what would be the subject of the statue?' I asked. She thought for a second then said: 'A handbag.' 'A handbag!' I said. 'Yes, said Mrs. Simon, 'A

handbag with interesting bits and pieces spilling out of the top.'

Fortunately, the weather turned cool and the idea of a statue slipped quietly from Mrs. Simon's mind.

Next year if the weather is warm I'll suggest Mrs. Simon puts her head, not her feet, in the freezer.

Have a good month.

Auld Simon

## Walk On

**Congratulations to 13 year old Gemma Lawrie who undertook a sponsored walk on 28th July to raise funds for Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve.**

On the walk from her home in Kilbirnie to Lochwinnoch, a total of 8 miles, Gemma raised a grand total of £80.

'I decided to do the sponsored walk to raise money to get new binoculars for the school groups that visit the reserve. It was a

lovely day and I really enjoyed the walk (although I was glad of the rest in the visitor centre at the reserve at the finish).' said Gemma.

Jen Walker, Visitor and Publicity Officer at the reserve added: 'We are very grateful for Gemma raising this money for us. We get over 100 school groups a year so I'm sure all those children who use the new binoculars will feel the same!'

## Fashion Show

**Lochwinnoch Parish Church is holding a fashion show in the church hall on Friday, October 3rd at 7:30pm.**

The show will feature ladies casual, evening and sports wear. Children's clothes will also be on show. All the clothes, supplied by Mackays of Largs, will be modeled by members of the congregation. Tickets £3:00 adults, £1:00 children.

## Improving with Age

## Piano/Flute Tuition

**Miss Pauline Beattie BA, DRSAMD, LRAM**

**Tel 01505 843159**

# TUNA

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**New branch office now opened in Zurich!**

a. Mid Lochhead

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e. [info@tunaweb.com](mailto:info@tunaweb.com)

w. [www.tunaweb.com](http://www.tunaweb.com)

Keep fit classes for the young at heart are now on in the Annex on Tuesdays from 10:00am. The exercises, for all levels are suitable for cardiac rehab referrals. For more information call 843393.

## Gardening Club

On Monday, September 8 at 7:30pm in the museum, Zul Bhatia, well known manager of the RSPB Nature Reserve, will give a talk on Alpines in the Wild and in Cultivation.

Zul is well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of alpine plants. Entry £1:00.

If you go to the talk you may want to enroll as a member of the popular Lochwinnoch Gardening Club.

## Get in Shape

Aerobic classes have started in the McKillop on Monday (7:00pm - 8:30pm) and Tuesday nights (7:00pm - 8:00pm). Get along and knock your abs and pecs into shape for next summer.

## New Year Dance

Remember and keep 1st January 2004 free and come and dance the night away to the ever popular band 'Freedom'.

What would make this evening even better would be more support from the village—so get the date in your diaries.

Ticket prices and availability to be announced in the near future—watch this space.

## History in the Village

The Lochwinnoch Historical Society opens its 2003/4 proceedings with a talk called History's Mysteries in Lochwinnoch.

The speaker is Tom Begg whose splendid photographs of the village are featured in the Lochwinnoch.info website.

The talk is on Thursday, September 18th, 7:30pm in the Parish Church.

## Weeds

The 'gardens' in front of the McKillop Institute are looking rather ragged this summer. It looks as though they may have escaped the dedicated hoe of the Renfrewshire Council gardeners.

In former years the gardens have been particularly attractive this year they look as tidy as Albert Einstein's much discussed haircut.

## Books—Books

Library latest arrivals, fiction

Bingham, Charlotte	The moon at midnight
Clayton, Victoria	Clouds among the stars
Connor, Alexander	Face in the locket
Cook, Robin	Seizure
Deaver, Jeffrey	The vanished man
Forrester, Helen	A cuppa tea and an aspirin
Forsyth, Frederick	Avenger
Fyfield, Frances	Seeking sanctuary
Gower, Iris	Rowan tree
Higgins, Jack	Bad company
Morrell, David	The Protector
Moyes, Jo Jo	Foreign fruit
Patterson, James & Gross,	Andrew The Jester
Rankin, Ian	Question of blood
Ryan, Chris	Greed
Steel, Danielle	Dating game
Stirling, Jessica	Wives at war

This is only a small selection of the new stock arriving on a regular basis.

If any item you require is not available, our request system gives access to stock held in all public libraries within Renfrewshire.

There is a 20p charge per item for this service Lochwinnoch Library High Street Lochwinnoch 01505 842305

Opening Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 2pm ~ 5pm, 6pm~8pm Tuesday & Saturday 10am ~ 1pm, 2pm ~ 5pm

## 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

## Bat Event

**A Bat walk (and talk) was held at Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve on the evening of the 28th August, with members of the Clyde Bat Group giving an informative slide presentation in the centre before leading around 30 visitors out onto the reserve to search for any signs of bats.**

Two species of bat were seen - Pipistrelle and Daubenton's - and they were also heard with the aid of specialised bat detectors.

In addition to the bats, a water rail was heard calling in the marshland and a tawny owl heard calling close to the Aird Meadow wood.

Our thanks to Len, Pat and Catriona of the Clyde Bat Group for their knowledge (and enthusiasm) for this much misunderstood, yet fascinating creature of our countryside. If you wish to get involved in bat activities, please phone the Countryside Ranger Service at Strathclyde Country Park on 01698 266155 or see their website [www.clydebatgroup.co.uk](http://www.clydebatgroup.co.uk)

## RSPB Sept. Events

### Introduction to Bird Watching. Guided Walk

From 12-2pm on Saturday 13th September there will be

another chance to join in with others for a guided walk around Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve and get some tips on how to recognise different birds. Please book in advance, Tel 01505 842663 or email [Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk)  
Charges apply: Telephone for details.

### Optics Demonstration

On Sunday 14th September there will be a demonstration of the wide range of binoculars and telescopes that are sold at the reserve. It will be a chance to try them out and ask as many questions as you like! Free advice with no need to buy.

### Second Hand Natural History Book Sale

Come along and pick up some bargain books from Sunday 14th-Sunday 21st September (10-5pm). We are still looking for natural history books to be donated or to sell on your behalf (we only ask for 10% commission to cover administration costs). A local expert will price them if you wish. There will also be an auction for rarer books-please contact us for a list of these books in advance.

"There are a wide variety of books that have been handed in already. There is something for everyone!" said Jen Walker, Visitor and Publicity Officer at the reserve.

## Hi

**Ruth Oldrey has taken over from Liz Nickerson as the community events organiser. Like Liz, Ruth is based in the museum.**

Also like Liz Ruth is brimmed full of ideas to make our lives that little bit better. She managed to secure money to offer worthwhile activities for the village young people this summer: water sports, indoor wall climbing, ice skating - among other things.

She is hoping to organize an employment drop-in facility that will include a jobs-club.

If you are looking for a job why not call into the museum on Saturday, September 20th for a Job Fare event.

Ruth is also hoping to set up a village notice board where visitors can browse all that is happening in the village.

## Pension Service

**Members of staff from the Pension Service will be on hand in the library every Tuesday between 10:00am and 12:00pm to answer any questions you may have on pensions.**

The advice is face to face and confidential - and is free.

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