

CHATTERBOX

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

What's On

● **Sunday April 18, St Winnoch Singers perform 'The Armed Man'** c/w twenty piece orchestra, Parish Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £5, £3.50 (conc) £12 Family.

● **Monday April 19, Historical Society, 'The Lieutenancy of Renfrewshire@.** The speaker is James Wardrop D.L. 7:30pm, in the Parish Church.

● **Saturday April 24, The Arthritis Research Campaign is holding a coffee morning in the McKillop Institute from 10:00am 12:00noon.** There will be the usual baking and nearly new stalls. Tickets cost £1:00 . All welcome.

● **Sunday May 2 Village Plant Sale,** Castle Semple Centre . Profits going to local groups.

New Bus Route

This letter comes from Paul Warnes, Customer Service Manager, ARRIVA Scotland West. He is discussing a proposed bus service from Largs to Glasgow calling at Lochwinnoch.

In recent weeks we have been working with the Local Authority in Ayrshire on ideas to improve the service provision in the area bearing in mind that it is operated by ARRIVA on a purely commercial basis. As a result of these discussions our Operations Manager has completed

some timetable revisions, which are to be introduced for the summer.

In essence the frequency will be increased to half-hourly from 10am. The second bus will operate via Lochwinnoch and therefore provide people there with a direct link between Largs, Paisley and Glasgow. A Sunday service will also be introduced; this will give concessionary travellers an alternative to weekdays and Saturdays only.

The anticipated commencement date for these changes is 19th April and the new arrangement is provisionally set to run until 26th September, by which time we should be able to make decisions regarding future operations.

We look forward to providing you with a better service.

Keep our Wall

Plans to demolish the wall around the cooperage in Main Street should be challenged most vigorously. As well as being a pleasing structure the wall will be the last physical reminder that on this site some of the furniture that graced the ill-fated Titanic was made right here in Lochwinnoch.

How many other villages can that be said of? Surely, any architect, no matter how humble, should have the wit to incorporate a historic wall in his or her plans for a new housing estate?

Let's be the opposite of Berliners and fight to keep our wall.

Final brief for cooperage site

The final development brief for the old cooperage site is now available online. As the document explains, the development brief seeks to provide prospective developers with guidance on the planning and design of development which would be acceptable to the Council.

The plans are not included in the document but I am trying to add them.

The Community Council has been working closely with the Planning Department for the past year to try to make sure that the village has it's say in what is done with the site and although this brief does not limit what planning applications can be lodged by prospective developers, it does show what sort of development would be acceptable to the Council planning bodies.

It gives the community the tools to limit what is put there as the Council planning department will be guided by this brief.

(Taken from www.Lochwinnoch.info website with thanks) to Barbara).

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Auld Simon Column

What a month. I recently visited a hairdresser in Paisley and lost my right ear. How was I to know there was such a thing as a topless hairdresser? If I did know I would have slipped a bottle of ether in my pocket.

I had my ear sown back on and once again could wear my baseball hat without losing the sight of my right eye.

The fact that my hearing is now back in stereo is a mixed fortune. I can now hear Mrs Simon practise her singing. She 'sings' in a big city choir. The term is used loosely.

She did not feel it fair to join the excellent local choir. Her fortissimo will break your glasses, your eardrums and your will to live.

She has, in the words of her conductor, an impressive pair of lungs and near perfect breath control. Pity she can't sing in tune. But, nobody's perfect.

I tried to play an obligatio on my recorder to her fluttery rendition of Nymphs and Shepherds. I was like a sparrow against a foghorn.

The nymphs and shepherds fled the village and I ended up with a hernia. All in the interests of art.

Incidentally, the Auld Simon who writes - eloquently enough, I have to say - on the Lochwinnoch.info website is not me. In a stunning display of originality someone has used my name as a nom di plume. Ah, nothing is sacred!

Anyway, have a good month

Auld Simon

St Winnoch Singers

A score of musicians for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra will arm themselves with their instruments and head to the village. They will visit to accompany the St Winnoch Singers in a performance of the superb Mass for Peace, 'The Armed Man' by the talented Welsh composer Karl Jenkins.

The mass is exciting and moving. It

is a plea for peace in this much troubled world. Although the best selling CD of the mass is excellent nothing can equal the experience of hearing the work live. Something you can do in the Parish Church on Sunday April 18 at 7:30pm.

Also on the bill will be the red hot Spice Racks a very talented singing group made up of girls from the village.

The Junior Choir will perform some songs that were popular during the wars of the last century.

The performance of the Mass is dedicated to the victims of Kosovo. The concert will launch the celebrations for the Quincentenary celebrations for the Collegiate Church.

Modern Cooking

Hello darlings. My cousin Fanny makes the best doughnuts in the world.

Crisp on the outside and soft almost runny on the inside. Oh, and just to clear up any misunderstandings before they arise, my cousin is Fanny Fishslice from Fort William, not Ms Craddock. (Who I am told also made a fabulous doughnut).

My doughnuts are only worth throwing at a hoopla board. They are either too soft or too hard and hollow in the middle; either under or over cooked.

The secret of the perfect doughnut lies in getting the fat at the right temperature before you cast the doughnut to the pan. It is an art that eludes me.

But it proves that cooks, like double glazing salesmen have different abilities.

However, put a few eggs before me and I will turn out a soufflé to die for. There is no particular art in making a perfect soufflé. Just beat the eggs and stick them in the over.

And darlings who am I to say how you should make a soufflé? If you have an ideal recipe, then stick to it. The only advice I can give about a soufflé is, that if it falls in the middle and looks like a pothole, shrug and have a gin. If it comes out looking like a Alpine peak, smile and have a gin.

Felicity Fishslice

A Bridge not Far Enough

The wee bridge at the end of Main Street may be rickety and on the last days of its life-span, however, it is showing no signs of giving up - a tribute to those who built it, surely.

Last week it manfully coped with the weight of an oil tanker (20 tonnes?); a couple of weeks ago it strained against the weight of a passing JCB.

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That it has a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes seems simply to be an eccentricity, as the limit is sometimes ignored. The plan to ease the situation by painting double yellow lines down Church Street and turn this narrow residential street into a mini-motorway should be vigorously resisted.

What is needed is for somebody, somewhere to find the money (a suggestion has been to appeal to the new house-builders in the village) to fix the bridge and stop poncing about. Incidentally, while we are on about repairs, why doesn't somebody, somewhere repair the wall at Engine Tees? It was supposed to have been built by Napoleonic prisoners of war, but they obviously didn't quite grasp the concept of how to build a wall.

Dumping

Some time ago we contacted you regarding the dumping of used motor car tyres on the ditch along Glenlora Road.

Despite reporting the matter to the police who in turn reported it to the council no action has been taken.

I think most of the tyres have been removed, but more tyres have appeared. So the problem may not be over.

Dumping rubbish in the countryside is one of the activities Mr and Mrs Wellbelowaverage don't really have any qualms about. Fridge freezers, old beds, odds and ends of furniture are all dumped in the countryside around the village.

Unless folk are caught in the act there is not really much anyone can do other than clean up after the b..... They appear to be oblivious to the fact that there are council dumps - one in Linwood, one on Kilbirnie - where anyone can dump their rubbish.

The council also provide a service whereby they will uplift large items of household rubbish. It costs £10:00 for owner occupiers, and it is free for council house tenants.

Letter

This is a sad letter that, unfortunately highlights events all too common in modern life.

'We used to stay in the Gap Housing. For some time we have had a variety of things thrown at our windows. Everything from eggs to cement.

Slogans have been painted on walls in ink. We spent all New Year's Day trying to clean off the mess with turps. We have stayed in the village nearly a year; we have, however, decided that enough is enough. The attacks of vandalism appear to be ongoing so we have decided to cut our losses and leave as soon as possible'.

Now and Then Summer Opening

It may not feel much like summer yet but Now and Then has moved onto summer opening times. Now work slaves and those with hectic weekday schedules can browse between 12 and 4pm on Sundays as well as the usual times.

Books—Books

Here are some new editions at the library:

Lin Anderson	Drifnet
E.B. Donald	A Rope of Sand
Pamela Evans	Second Chance of Sunshine
Linda Fairstein	The Kills
Katie Fford	Restoring Grace
Caroline Graham	A Ghost in the Machine
Lilian Harry	Under the Apple Tree
Stephen Leather	Hard Landing
Colleen McCullogh	The Touch
Santa Montefiore	The Swallow and the Humming Bird
James W Nichol	Midnight Cab
Maggie O'Farrell	The Distance Between Us
J.D. Robb	Vengeance in Death
Candace Robb	The Fire in the Flint
Andrew Rosenheim	Stillriver
Gerald Seymore	The Unknown Soldier
Peter Speigelman	Black Maps
Fiona Walker	Lots of Love

The library are still interested in your old mobile phones and printer cartridges. The pass them on to a children's charity. Please keep donating



RSPB

Pupils in their 3rd year at Linwood High School have been designing carrier bags for the RSPB as part of their Art and Design Standard Grade course.

An exhibition of all the designs and carrier bags will be on display at RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve until Sunday 25 April. Over the next couple of weeks why not come down and choose your favourite from the 29 colourful bags and prizes will be awarded on Tuesday 20 April.

'It's wonderful to see the ways that the drawings of birds have been incorporated into the designs of the carrier bags' says Jen Walker, Visitor and Publicity Officer at the reserve.

'It's been very interesting making my carrier bag! I've learnt a bit more about birds too by looking at them more closely' laughs Lara Whittaker, one of the pupils. Lochwinnoch RSPB Nature Reserve is situated within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, on Largs Road in Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire. It is one of the largest remaining wetlands in west Scotland. The reserve is ideal for all the family, as the trails and hides and the visitor centre are all easily accessible.

A program of events runs throughout the year. Email lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk for monthly events updates.

Opening times:

Reserve is open at all times. Visitor centre is open daily 10am-5pm (closed 25, 26 December and 1, 2 January).

How to find us:

The reserve is easy to get to, being south-west of Glasgow, off the A737 Irvine road between Paisley and Largs. There is free car parking adjacent to the centre. The National Cycle Track is only half a mile away and the railway station is immediately opposite the reserve with regular services.

Netball Success

Congratulations to the Renfrewshire netball team who

came in second in the finals in Perth a couple of weeks ago.

The team beat teams from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife, Ayrshire, Aberdeen and Lanarkshire. Unfortunately they were beaten in the final by Perth and Kinross.

Three of the girls in the Renfrewshire team come from Lochwinnoch: Rachel Holmes, Rebecca Colbron and Lauren McIlroy.

Arthritis Research

The Arthritis Research Campaign is holding a coffee morning in the McKillop Institute on Saturday, April 24 from 10:00am 12:00noon. There will be the usual baking and nearly new stalls. Tickets cost £1:00. All welcome.

Historical Society

The talk for the April meeting of the Historical Society is on the Lieutenancy of Renfrewshire.

The speaker is James Wardrop D.L. The talk is on April 19 from 7:30pm, in the Parish Church.

Plant Sale

The 7th village plant sale takes place on Sunday 2nd May. Torrential rain last year all day so hoping for some sunshine

this year. Nursery grown plants at reasonable prices.

Keep Fit Tutor Required

A keep fit tutor with experience in classes for the over 50's. The sustainable communities' project has been asked to start up a class on a Friday morning for anyone over the age of 50 yrs. This will be a paid position.

Thank you for your help Ruth Oldrey Sustainable Communities Development worker.

Police Surgery

Your local community police officers, PC Graham Barclay and PC Tracey Knox-McLean, will be holding a surgery at the McKillop Hall, between 7pm and 8pm on Tuesday 20th April 2004.

Chatterbox

If you want to write for Chatterbox - everyone is welcome - put your contribution in the Chatterbox envelope in the library. All subjects, within reason, considered.

If you don't supply your name, however, it will be spiked.

Chatterbox is produced in a garden shed by an old man and his dug. If you have any complaints about the spelling or punctuation, please make them and leave them, along with your name and address, in the Chatterbox envelop.

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