

CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info
lochwinnoch no 122 March 2004

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

- **Monday, March 8** in the Museum Room at 7:30pm. Gardening Club. Visitors welcome. Cost £2.
- **Friday March 12** Jim Sheridan MP : surgery 3:30 to 4:30 for people in Lochwinnoch, at the McKillop.
- **Saturday March 13** Nearly new sale, Lochwinnoch Outdoor Bowling Club 10am in clubhouse.
- **Tuesday March 16** between 7pm and 8pm. Police surgery in the McKillop Hall. Everything treated confidentially. The police surgery will be repeated monthly.
- **Thursday, March 18** in the Parish Church at 7:30pm. Historical Society. New members and visitors welcome
- **Thursday, March 18** 1:00 - 3:00pm, Thursday, March 25 1:00 - 3:00pm and Thursday, April 1 9:30 - 11:30am Health Taster in the McKillop Halls.
- **Friday March 19** Dafodil Tea Parish Church, between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. Sandwiches, scones, cakes - eat as much as you like. Tickets £2:50 and £1:50
- **Sunday March 21** Optics Demonstration 10:00 AM 4:00 pm. Contact: Jen Walker Phone: 01505 842663
- **Saturday April 3** Muirshiel "April Fool" MTB Duathlon... 2 km trail run plus a 12 km bike race at Muirshiel Country Park,
- **Sunday, April 4** Castle Semple, Lochside Crafts from 12:00 -3:00pm you can go along to the newly formed Craft Group's first Craft Fair. On sale will be a wide range of beautifully handcrafted products, including: paintings, sewing crafts, jewellery and much more.

Bridge Over the River Calder

The disadvantages of having half a bridge at the start of the village in Main Street were discussed at the March meeting of the Community Council.

Weight restriction warning are flaunted; vehicles of well over 7.5 tonnes continue to use the bridge. More importantly the huge trucks that pass through the village on a regular basis have to trundle along the totally unsuitable Church Street to get in and out of the village. And is the bridge at the end of Lochlip Road any less liable to collapse under the weight of heavy traffic than the one on Main Street?

The feeling at the meeting was that the council are dragging their feet over repairing or replacing the bridge. It was felt that if a similar thing happened to a bridge in Paisley repairs would not be put off for years, as has happened here in Lochwinnoch.

It was also questioned that if the bridge is not suitable to cope with twenty first century traffic it should be closed altogether.

Lochwinnoch Book Festival

The Lochwinnoch Book Festival starts at 10:00am, March 20 in the McKillop Halls. We look forward to a visit from one of this country's greatest contemporary writers 10am-1pm Liz Lochhead.

Liz will open the festival. Local authors will also be on hand. For more details contact Dr Rowena Murray, Ruth Oldry, Dr Morag Thow Phone: 01505 843 183. Email: M.Thow@gcal.ac.uk

Otters

Recently two adult otters have been killed on the roads around Lochwinnoch. A reminder that people should drive carefully in this area.

Otters are a rare visitor. It would be a pity if careless driving were to result in otters being lost to this part of the country.

The first otter killed was a suckling mother. Fortunately, the dedicated Andy and Gay Christie managed to find the young otters and save their lives.

The young otters were taken to the Christie's animal sanctuary at Hessilhead just outside Beith. They will be nursed for six months until they are ready to be released into the wild.

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We all owe a considerable debt to Andy and Gay Christie who have devoted their lives to saving animals - many of them saving animals - many of them injured as a result of the activities of man.

If you would like to help Andy and Christine in their work you can pop a few coins in the collections boxes around the village or send a donation to: Hesselhead Wildlife Centre Gateside, Beith KA15 1HT Phone 01505 502415

Letters

Anybody interested in some practical conservation work around the Lochwinnoch area is invited to contact Renfrewshire Conservation Volunteers.

Plans are being drawn up for some pond creation work to make homes for newts and other aquatic wildlife. There will also be tree planting opportunities as well as a variety of other projects to enhance wildlife.

Meetings are usually fortnightly and for a few hours each time. Our motto is 'enjoying ourselves- helping nature' so you can expect to have an enjoyable time meeting and talking with like-minded people as well as doing a bit of work. Contact is by , mail to RCV c/o 29 High St, Lochwinnoch; phone 843099 or e-mail to david@mellor34. freeserve.co.uk. Dave Mellor

'I read in the February issue of the Chatter Box about the so called new "Dog Fouling Act". Can you tell me who is going to enforce this new law? What!... the dog wardens?... don't make me laugh, or perhaps the police?... I don't think so..when has any of your readers ever saw a regular police presence in our village?

Admittedly there are some responsible dog owners but for the most, it is a case of letting their dogs empty themselves on pavements, roads, short grass areas etc and it is done openly and with im-

punity.

As for the author of "Mindless Decorations" an article which deals with graffiti in the village over the past few months. Might I add that graffiti has been rife for the sixteen years that I have lived here, if you don't believe me try asking the people who own the house next to the Library who have been victims for years, Ask the people who work in the Library.

Sticking your head in the sand will not make the dog foulers or the Graffiti Vandals go away. If the people of this village want such crimes to stop they must play a more active role.

Ahhhh Wedding Bells

On Saturday the 14th of February , Janet Archibald proposed to Kevin McCallion in the Corner Bar .

There wasn't a dry eye in the house when Kevin said yes . We would like to wish them both all the best for the future . Love All at the Corner.

St Winnoch Singers

The St Winnoch Singers will be performing their most ambitious concert yet in the Spring. The date to be announced shortly.

The choir will perform Karl Jenkins's 'The Armed Man' complete with a twenty piece orchestra in the Parish Church.

This will be a production to match the choirs much acclaimed Carmina Burana.

Tickets will be available in the usual places. Look out for the posters and get your tickets as soon as possible.

Nineteenth Century Forum

Ask most people what the Cairn of Lochwinnoch is, they'll probably look blank, point vaguely and ask 'is it a rock or something?' No it's not. The Cairn of Lochwinnoch is a 45 volume journal of the goings on long ago in Lochwinnoch.

The Cairn was written during the nineteenth century by a local doctor, Andrew Crawford.

Crawford was born in the village. When he was fifteen he started work in the office of a local bleacher.

By 1810 Crawford gave up commerce for the shady groves of academia. He set out on what was to be an 8 years period of study at Glasgow College studying Classics and medicine.

In 1816 he was awarded a diploma from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow. For a while he practised medicine in Rothesay.

However, he was forced to abandon his medical career when he contracted typhus fever, an illness that was to lead ultimately to the loss of his leg. In 1819 Crawford returned to Lochwinnoch.

Although ill, Crawford was no retiring invalid. He steeped himself in serious study and writing. In 1826 he was elected and honorary member of the Chemical Society.

Crawford studied philosophy and divinity and wrote copiously for The Scotsman, the Paisley Magazine and countless other publications.

Crawford's great work, though, was

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the massive Cairn of Lochwinnoch. This 45 volume journal, begun in 1837, brims with observations on the lives and loves of the people of nineteenth century Lochwinnoch.

It also contains poems, legal documents, scraps from newspapers and juicy anecdotes. It was a kind of nineteenth century equivalent of today's Lochwinnoch Forum on the internet.

Until recently the volumes were stored in the museum in Lochwinnoch. But their fragility meant they had to be transferred to the much bigger museum in nearby Paisley. A cause of some regret as the books are no longer available to the people of the village.

At one time it was hoped to transfer the volumes onto CD-rom, (they are available on microfilm) to make them available to all. Nothing came of this.

Most requests for information on the Cairn come from Australia and America.

In future months, throughout this year, Chatterbox will uncover a stone or two from the complete Cairn.

21st Century Forum

This is a debate that (unlike the buses) is currently running in the Lochwinnoch Forum.

Is the bus link to the station convenient or not (frequency, connecting with trains leaving and trains arriving)? Is there a need for more bus routes and services to other villages, or not? Are the bus fares good value or not?

Missing Bus

The bus back from the station on most weekday evenings is fine, but the Friday one hardly ever turns up. Don't know who the driver is cos I've never seen him. By the time I got home last Friday I was totally soaked, along with about a dozen others. Message to any drivers who use that stretch of road: when it's wet and you're passing a pedestrian, please try to avoid those big puddles... Or at least slow down a bit.

Drowned Villager

I am one of those often afflicted by the lack of a Friday night bus. I nearly drowned on the walk back to the village. The point is, on that night the train was early by a couple of minutes. The driver did not have to dash off to keep to the timetable (insane thought the timetable undoubtedly is). He clearly thought "Well, it absolutely battering down, about twenty people are about to get off this train that's due in two minutes. I'm off!"

Who are we Talking About?

Trains for sardines. Trains home in the rush hour are pretty busy, but get to Central in plenty of time and you'll get a seat. Trains going in aren't too bad from 8.39 onwards, but earlier can be pretty hectic.

Problem Solved

The Friday night bus problem might've solved itself - there was a different driver last week, he actually waited for the train to arrive.

Complain

Why do people put up with this nonsense? Complain, complain and then complain again. If I failed to provide the service I'm employed to provide I'd be sacked. Bus drivers are under the same obligation.

What Shop?

Forum users were asked what type of shop would you most like to see open in Lochwinnoch?

The results so far with 29Votes cast

Butcher	51% [15]
Christian bookstore	6% [2]
Computer sales and repairs	0% [0]
Escort agency / adult entertainment	
	13% [4]
Fishmongers	6% [2]
Hardware / DIY	6% [2]
Music, videos and DVDs	6% [2]
Shoes and clothes	0% [0]
Sportswear, hiking and fishing equipment	6% [2]
Tanning salon	0% [0]

Books—Books

Here are some of the new books on the library shelves:

James Barclay	Aggie's Anniversary
Emma Blair	Twilight Time
Tom Clancy	Teeth of the Tiger
Martina Cole	The Know
Jess Foley	Saddle the Wind
John Grisham	Bleachers
Una Home	Child of Sorrow
Iles Greg	Dark Matter
Quintin Jardine	Fallen Gods
	and Unnatural Justice
Faye Kellerman	Sweet Dreams
Bernadine Kennedy	Taken
Bill Knox	Man in the Bottle
Robert Ludlum	Tristan Betrayal
James Patterson	Lake House
Jenny Pitman	Dilemma
Nora Roberts	Key of Light
Wendy Robertson	Honesty's Daughter
Patricia Shaw	Five Winds

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Lochwinnoch Village Website. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, News & Events, Information, Clubs & Societies, Sport & Business. The main content area includes a 'Website Awards' section announcing that the site won a Highly Commended award at the Community of the Year awards for its forums, calendar, and broadband initiative. Below this is a 'Forum Guideleines' section with instructions on posting and a warning about invalid email addresses. At the bottom, there are links to 'New Sections' such as the Lochwinnoch Art Group and Clyde Windsurfing Club, along with an email address: barbara@lochwinnoch.info.

Collegiate Church 500th Birthday

Celebrations take shape to celebrate 500 years of the Collegiate Church.

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park hosted a meeting of those interested in planning events to celebrate the 500 years of the Collegiate Church. The Church is located not far from the Regional Park's Castle Semple Centre in Lochwinnoch.

The actual date of foundation is the 21 April 1504. It is hoped therefore to have a variety of events taking place throughout the year starting on Wednesday the 21 April 2004.

Representatives from Historic Scotland, Renfrewshire Council and ministers from Lochwinnoch and Howwood attended the meeting. Ideas produced include an ecumenical church service and possibly a Lochwinnoch Primary School project, story panels, various guided walks and the possibility of historical re-enactments in the summer months.

Also up for consideration is a one-day conference. This would bring together everyone with an interest or knowledge on the history of the Collegiate Church and the Semple Estate during the 15th and 16th centuries. Paisley Abbey Choir is considering a concert in Lochwinnoch that will focus on musical and choral works of this period.

Any organisation or individual who wishes to contribute to a programme of events to commemorate the 500th anniversary should contact Fiona Carswell at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park HQ tel 01505 614 791.

It is hoped that a commemorative leaflet of events or a booklet might also be produced if the funds can be found.

Sustainable Garden

The Lochwinnoch Sustainable Garden is progressing by leaps and bounds thanks to the efforts of a handful of volunteers.

The following are in place or will be soon: landscaping, large polytunnel, seating areas, wildlife pond, wormery

bins, raised beds and large compost bins.

More plants are always needed. If you are clearing your garden why not donate any plants, trees or shrubs you don't need to the community garden? The garden is a facility for all the people of the village. For further details contact Gordon Nicholl on 842632

Insulation Giveaway

The LMEG group are giving away a selection of insulation materials to anyone in the village to promote energy efficiency. Available are rolls of loft insulation, pipe lagging, radiator reflector panels, letterbox draft excluders, door draft excluders and other items.

Please contact Ruth Oldrey at the museum for further details or e-mail ruth@lochwinnoch.info.

Muirshiel "April Fool" MTB

Mountain Bike Duathlon

Duathlon... more info

Why not get on your bike and join a 2 km trail run plus a 12 km bike race at Muirshiel Country Park, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire on Saturday 3 April 2004 at 10am.

The running course (~2 km) begins close to the transition area and follows trails through mixed wood and conifer plantations on forest tracks, paths and short sections of cross country. The course is reversed for the second run.

The bike course (~12 km) is actually on roads, but the quality of the surface in places make it only suitable for mountain bikes.

The emphasis is on fun whilst still providing a challenge!

To enter you can go direct to EntryCentral.net and pay online using credit/debit cards with an additional surcharge or download the entry form and send with cheque payment and 2 A5 Stamped addressed envelopes to the address shown on the form.

Kid's Painting

Are you looking for something creative to keep your children busy on a Saturday afternoon? Does your family live in Lochwinnoch and/or attend the Primary School?

Come along to the Junior Arts & Crafts activities in the Parish Church on the last Saturday of each month until April.

Places will be given on a first come first served basis. Saturday March 27th, 2004 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM in the Parish Church/Church Street For more details contact Ruth Oldrey at the museum. Phone: 842615. Email: ruth@lochwinnoch.info (These classes are run by parent volunteers and supported by LMEG.

A Celtic Adventure

**Wednesday March 10th, 2004
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Contact: Jen Walker Phone: 01505 842663**

As part of our winter 'Talk-Time' program, North Ayrshire's RSPB local group leader and artist, Duncan Watt, will once again inspire us with his work. This time discussing how his work promotes our heritage and the importance of conserving Scottish wildlife. Please book in advance. RSPB Visitor Centre. Email: lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk Web: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/scotland>

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