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# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
lochwinnoch no 129 November 2004

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **November 25th Senior Forum AGM McKillop 1.30pm**
- **November 25th & 26th, 'Paddy's Market' Calder Drama, McKillop, 7.30pm Tickets: £5 Concession £2.50**
- **November 27th Playgroup Christmas Fayre, Parish Church Hall 10am-12.30 Tickets Adults £1 Children 50p**
- **December 4th Christmas Cracker Fayre, Parish Church, 10am-12noon Adults £1 Children 50p**
- **December 19th St Winnoch Singers, Christmas Concert, Parish Church, 7.30pm Tickets on sale soon usual venues.**

## Community Council

At the November Community Council the police reported 14 crimes committed in October with one detection. During the month 25 calls were made to the police.

Councillor Alistair Nimmo said the objections to the mobile-phone mast were growing. He added; if you wish to protest about the mast you should send your letter to the Renfrewshire Planning Department.

Next spring the all homes in the village with a garden will be supplied with a brown wheelie-bin for garden refuse.

It was proposed that a village buy-out of the site at St Joseph's should be organized (see below). The 72 acre site is currently up for sale. But who will buy it, and what will they do with it? At least if villagers buy the site we will have control over what happens.

More news of this will, of course, appear in the future. If you have any ideas on this or want to get involved why not come along to the December Community Council meeting?

Faces in the Council have changed recently. David Arthur is Chairperson, David Mellor, Secretary and Ron Williamson Treasurer.

The CC wish to thank the Flower Pot in Johnstone for their kind donation of the poppy wreath for the Armistice Day Service.

## St Joseph's Community Land Buy-Out

**The site of St Joseph's nursing home has recently come onto the market. There are local concerns about the future of the mansion house and surroundings.**

Although the land is currently

zoned as greenbelt, it is likely that it will be bought by a housing developer with a view to developing the site.

The idea of a community land-buy out was raised at the last Community Council meeting.

This action is now possible under new land reform legislation. The CC supported the idea in principle and a working group has been established to investigate the possibilities of a buy-out.

By registering interest in the site, and with the approval of the Scottish Executive, the community has first refusal on the site, with the price set by an independent valuation. Some lottery funding may be available through the Scottish Land Fund.

This could be a massive opportunity for the community to take control of a significant piece of land. The working group will hold a public meeting shortly to seek the support of the community; crucial if approval is to be given.

This will also be an opportunity for people to have their say on preferred uses for the site. Detailed proposals for the site must be submitted in the application for registering interest.

If anyone would like more information or would like to join the group contact Peter Livingstone on 01505 844 827 or 07968

## **MATTHEW NEW & SONS**

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## Progress on Path

Work will shortly start on the footpath to the station. It is hoped to have the work complete before the end of March. Not before time, an Olympic-sized swimming pool appears on the road to the station every time it rains. **Not good if you are walking.**

Chris Gould of the Community Council wrote this in a report on the path:

The proposal is to move the RSPB entrance to opposite the station entrance, thus creating a cross-road, with measures to slow traffic and allow a safe pedestrian crossing.

The path will continue roughly parallel with the main road. The new bridge across the Calder will be approximately 25m downstream of the existing Calder Bridge.

The path will be of tarmac but will not be lit. It will join Lochlip Road opposite the playing fields.

**Community Chairman,  
David Arthur adds:**

SRANI posted a booklet around the village at the end of September. The booklet sets out the current project plans for the area around Castle Semple Loch.

Feedback, suggestions and offers of help are sought by the SRANI group, why not fill in the reply card today and send it off or alternatively call Charlie Woodward of Clyde Muirshiel on 01505 614791 or email him at charles.woodward@clydemuirshiel.c.k.uk

## Christmas Cracker Fayre

On Saturday, December 4 you can enjoy all the fun of Christmas at the Parish Church Christmas Cracker Fayre 10:00am - 12:00noon.

Stalls with heave with baking, soft goods gifts, flowers, grocery, toys and sweets.

There will also be a bran tub, tombola, face painting and a visit from that distinguished old gent, Santa Claus.

Adults £1:00, kids 50p.

## Senior's Forum

Lochwinnoch Seniors forum will be holding their AGM in the McKillop on Thursday November 25 at 1.30 Councillor Tommy Williams from Renfrewshire Council will speak about his role as Champion for older people. Tea and coffee available. All interested residents are welcome.

There are 14 Seniors forums throughout Renfrewshire dealing with the issues of older people, including transport, health, care pensions etc.

They have regular speakers and take part in conferences and campaigning with other older peoples organizations.

Lochwinnoch forum hopes to be revitalized after this AGM! So if you are over 55 and interested in the above issues and improving the lives of older people please come along to our regular meetings. Last Thursday of every month 1.30 at the McKillop Your local contacts are: John and Sheila on 843162

## Renfrewshire Housing

Here is an excerpt from a report on the Housing Transfer in Renfrewshire:

A decision to investigate further stock transfer of council housing will have many implications for both council tenants and those who have purchased former council properties.

What these implications are will be explored during further meeting of the Tenants Association. The Association will provide a platform where council and ex-council house tenants can have their say on future moves in the housing transfer.

If you want more information look out for future meetings of the Tenants Association. The next public meeting is scheduled for January 2005.

## Paddy's Market

"Why not come along for some laughs at 'PADDY'S MARKET'

Calder Drama Club will be staging 'Paddy's Market' a comedy written by Tony Roper, set in Glasgow's most famous market.

## Tutoring Available

- Maths and Physics
- Standard Grade, Higher and Higher Still
- £12 / Hour
- Available weekdays after 6pm, all day weekends
- Call Euan on 07903 560 333 after 6pm or Email: ecf82@hotmail.com for further info.

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Production dates are :Thurs 25 and Friday 26 November in the McKillop hall, doors open 7pm , play starts at 7.30 pm.

Tickets priced at £5 ADULTS , £2.50 OAPS/Children can be purchased at Wilson Bakers in Main St , Cut N Care Hairdressers in Church Street or at the hall on the production nights."

## Playgroup Christmas

**The Playgroup Christmas Fayre will be held in the Parish Church Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November from 10am till 12.30 pm. Look out for Santa! Entry £1 adults, 50p children. Tea/coffee juice and a mince pie included.**

Lots of great stalls, including Craft Materials, Christmas Cards, Ceramics, Home Baking, and lots more.

Lochwinnoch Playgroup requires a relief playgroup leader to cover play leader holidays, sickness and busy periods. Experience with children and available at short notice are essential.

The playgroup meets in the small hall at the McKillop Institute on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week during school term time.

The relief playgroup leader would work between 9am and 12pm on these days, when required during the year.

Completion of a Disclosure Scotland form is required.

If you would like further information please speak to one of the playgroup leaders or a member of the playgroup committee.

## Exercise "The Way to Youth and Happiness"

**Lochwinnoch Over Sixties Exercise Class is held every Friday in the McKillop from 11:30am 12:30pm. Why not join and stay ahead of the game?**

## Books for Christmas

**Anna Selwood, local mother of Hector and Louis,** has become a Stallholder for **Barefoot Books Outstanding Art and Story for Children.** For those of you looking for original and beautiful books for Christmas, or other occasions, do get in touch and arrange to view a selection of books from the Barefoot range.

Anna can be contacted on 01505 842572 or email [annaselwood@yahoo.com](mailto:annaselwood@yahoo.com). You can also view the entire range at [www.barefootbooks.com](http://www.barefootbooks.com) but if you decide to order online quote Anna's stallholder ID: UK-1002532.

'Barefoot Books celebrates art and story with books that open the hearts and minds of children from all walks of life, inspiring them to read deeper, search further, and explore their own creative gifts.

## Books-Books

Here are just some of the new books on the library shelves this month:

Virginia Andrews:	Into the Woods
Zoe Barnes	Split Ends
Bernard Cornwell	Fallen Angels
Margaret T Davies	The New Breadmakers
Ed McBain	Hark
Joyce Carol Oates	The Falls
Kate Atkinson	Case Histories
Bernard Cornwell	The Last Kingdom
Sue Grafton	R is for Ricochet
Erica James	Love and Devotion
Robert Ludlum	The Lazarus Vendetta
Ruth Rendell	Thirteen Steps Down
Alexander McCall Smith	In the Company of Cheerful Ladies
Danielle Steele	Second Chance

Happy reading!

**NuNails**

**Have you booked your NuNails Christmas Appointment Yet?**

**Christmas Special Offers for the Party Season**

A lovely relaxing **Mini Facial**, a **Mini Manicure**, to make fingers sparkle, and a deeply beneficial **Spa Pedicure**, so our feet are ready for dancing the nights away through out Christmas and Hogmany

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**NuNail Gift Tokens Available (01505) 842550**

All Christmas Gift Tokens can be redeemed from January 1st 2005

Nail Extension, Nail Art, Manicures, Pedicures, Waxing, Facials

**Broadband**

The day is fast approaching. The village telephone exchange is scheduled to be enabled for broadband internet on November 24th. After this date you will be able to sign up with one of the many ISP's to take advantage of *always on* internet access. Look out for the broadband dummies guide being posted on the website.

**Community of the Year 2004**

Lochwinnoch has reached the finals of the Community Enhancement through the Internet category and so members of the community will be heading through to Edinburgh for the awards ceremony on November 26th. Congratulations to TT and Moonflower who are representing the village online Forum at the ceremony.

**Pictures & News**

If you have any bits of local news then register on the online forum and post to the News & Events section and share it with the rest of us. You can also e-mail pictures to me and I'll add them to the online gallery. Historical images would be of particular interest.

e-mail [barbara@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:barbara@lochwinnoch.info)

## Nature Reserve News

**Winter is a busy time at the RSPB Nature Reserve! Lots of ducks swim around the Loch and the feeding station. The visitor centre is popular with finches and other garden/woodland birds.**

Inside, the shop is especially popular. We sell lots of Christmas gifts (we're open 10-5pm every day). If you are debating what to give people for Christmas, how about membership of the RSPB (or for children, the RSPB Wildlife Explorers Club)? An excellent present for someone you know who enjoys birds and wildlife.

And as well as supporting an important conservation charity, membership is a gift that can be used all year round, with free entry to Lochwinnoch reserve (and over 150 more throughout the UK), award-winning magazines, and a bird book as a free gift!

Pop into the reserve or give us a phone (01505 842663)-we can post all the items to any address if required along with a Christmas card. Anyway, we'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who supports us and we hope you have a very Merry Christmas when it comes!

December events: **Sat 4th Dec** 10am-12 noon Introduction to Bird watching A guided walk around the reserve with tips for newcomers to bird watching. Please book in advance. **NON-RSPB/WILDLIFE EXPLORERS MEMBERS:** Adults £3.00/Children (under 16) £1.50 **RSPB/WILDLIFE EXPLORERS MEMBERS:** Adults £2.00/Children 50p. **Sun 5th Dec** 2-4pm Festive fun! Visit Santa and take part in our festive activities. (£2 a child) **Sun 12th Dec** 1-3pm Aren't Birds Brilliant? View birds alongside RSPB staff looking at the water birds at Castle Semple Loch, (Lochwinnoch). Joint event with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

This free event is particularly suitable for beginners to bird watching, binoculars and telescopes will be available. No need to book.

**Wed 15th Dec** 7.30-9pm Talk-time: Uluguru Mountains Biodiversity Project By popular demand, our manager Zul Bhatia talks about Tanzania, on a project that helps people and wildlife to survive hand in hand. Please book in advance. **NON-RSPB/WILDLIFE EXPLORERS MEMBERS:** Adults £3.00/Children (under 16) £1.50 **RSPB/WILDLIFE EXPLORERS MEMBERS:** Adults £2.00/Children 50p

**Sun 19th Dec** 10-4pm Optics Demonstration On the third Sunday of every month, from 10-4pm, try out our comprehensive range of binoculars and telescopes in the comfort of the visitor centre. Free expert advice on hand.

## Autumn Gold turns to Winter Wonderland

**All 3 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Visitor Centres will be Open every day this winter**

Global warming might be bad for the Scottish Ski Industry but it is one reason why Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and its various centres will remain open daily throughout the winter.

Due to successful summer seasons Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will introduce a trial opening of all its Centres all year round.

Successful activities included live CCTV pictures of the rare Hen Harrier at Muirshiel Centre in the spring and early summer.

The expansion of the gift shops and attractive stock at each Centre has proved popular especially during the Christmas season.

Reinvestment in some of the path networks means better maintained paths and puddle free walking.

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is one of the few rural tourist attractions open every day throughout the winter.

Staff at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park pride themselves in customer care skills. Visitor surveys confirm users of the Park approve of the facilities provided by the Park and welcome the additional service provision.

Charlie Woodward, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Manger said *"The daily winter opening of Muirshiel and Cornalees mean we can now open longer hours than ever before, providing additional service to the public.*

Growth in water and land based activities outwith the summer season shows outdoor recreation throughout the year is growing in popularity".

Councillor McGerty Chair of The Park Authority said *"We are delighted at the successful visitor service provision at the Regional Park.*

Cornalees Visitor Centre at Loch Thom and Muirshiel Centre near Lochwinnoch are a real asset to the community, I hope many locals and visitors alike take full advantage of the winter opening and so ensure winter opening for many years to come"

Current opening hours at each Centre are:  
**Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park: Muirshiel Visitor Centre** Calder Glen Road, near Lochwinnoch tel 01505 842 803 Centre Open Nov to March everyday 11:00 to 15:00 hours Easter to Oct every day 11:00 to 16:00 hours and 18:00 at weekends.. 'Great Walking Country' FREE entry and Parking. Walks and Wildlife. Refreshments. Gift Shop. Highlights of 2004 CCTV pictures of Hen Harriers nesting and flying over the moor.

Winter events and exhibitions programme includes Autumn Poetry by Betty McKellar, Illustrated Talks on the Hen Harrier each month, Woods at Work Exhibition 23 Jan to 28 Feb, monthly Volunteer Sessions, map and compass courses and Druid Festivals.

**Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park: Castle Semple Centre Lochwinnoch** tel 01505 842 882. Open every day Nov to March 10:00 - 16:00 and Easter to October 10:00 to 18:00 and 19:00 in summer. FREE entry and Parking. Walks and Wildlife. Parkhill Challenge Treasure Hunt ideal for all the family. Cafe. Gift Shop. Winter Events programme includes a Craft Fair and Festive Farmer's Market on 5 Dec and Art in the Park Exhibition in February. Outdoor Activity Courses ' advanced booking required.

Heaven Scent  


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