

# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
lochwinnoch no 127 September 2004

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **September 24th** Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia are holding Tea Party in the Library from 2pm-4pm.
- **September 29th—October 23rd** The Lochwinnoch Art Society present their 2004 exhibition in the museum.
- **October 2nd.** RSPB Bird watch 10am-12noon Booking essential. Costs £2:00 and £3:00, children £1:50 and 50p. Call 01505 842633.
- **October 5th,** 3pm—5pm. To get help and support in applying for jobs, writing a CV etc. at the Museum.
- **October 5th** Lochwinnoch Community Council Meeting, Parish Church Small Hall, 7.30pm, all welcome
- **October 29th** The Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society will raise the roof in the Parish Church at 7:30pm

## Marathon Man

Lochwinnoch Resident to run in New York Marathon. Community Councillor Ronnie Williamson will be taking part in the New York marathon. This will fulfil a life long ambition and whilst raising money for Cancer Research—See inside story —**New York Runner**

## Unacceptable Crimes

**The same raider has attacked the Spar twice in one week in fact twice in three days. What is happening to policing in the village?**

It now seems like this village is an easy target for thieves. On Monday night, the first night of the Spar hold-up, two other premises were held up in the village.

It is time for the police to get a grip on things. It now looks like we should have a permanent police presence in the village.

If you want your say on policing in the village go to next month's Community Council meeting on the first Tuesday in October.

## Wheelie-Bin Race

**Who in their right mind would have thought a**

**wheelie-bin race could have worked in Lochwinnoch?**

Yet the normally conservative villagers turned out in their hundreds to watch grown men, some pillars of the community push each other around in a plastic dust-bin.

The day, one of the only dry days in an otherwise rain-lashed August, turned out to be a great success both in the enjoyment it provided and in raising money for local charities.

In spite of much research I have not been able to discover who if anyone won a race, but the day did provide lots of fun for those who managed along.

A photograph of two of the contestants, one of whom bore an uncanny resemblance to the late Donald Dewar, made it into The Herald. There are also some great pictures on the Lochwinnoch Forum.

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## Community Council

**The Community Council met on Tuesday, October 7. First on the agenda were the crime figures for August. Unfortunately, they were higher than usual. Mainly this is due to the August influx of outsiders to the village. In total 27 crimes were reported last month.**

One of these crimes was the breaking into the Catholic Church. One member of the Community Council was concerned that the crime was classified as house-breaking. He argued that breaking into a place of worship was, in fact, an act of sacrilege and carried a much higher penalty than house-breaking.

He requested that the police reconsider the classification of this crime from housebreaking to an act of sacrilege.

The police spokesperson said she would look into this.

The police are concerned at the number of recent fire-raising incidents in the village. Last month four incidents were recorded. Each of these incidents, thought to be the work of the same person, could have led to the loss of life.

The police appeal to anyone who knows anything about these incidents to contact them as soon as possible.

In answer to a question, the police-spokesperson, said she believed the drivers of the very noisy mini-motorbikes who run around the village are acting illegally driving these vehicles on the public highway.

Issues concerning the condition of the roads were raised. Foliage growth around the village is a problem, especially at the corner of Lochlip and St Winnoch Roads. Foliage growth is out of control. Someone asked why there is no footpath on the sewage works side of the road in this location. A foot-

path will make life easier if the foliage is to be allowed to grow unchecked on the other side of the road.

Mr. Hamilton, of the Renfrewshire Roads Department was asked to attend this meeting but declined the offer.

## Two Wheels Through the Country

**Congratulations to Community Council Chairperson Robert Neilson who cycled from Lands End to John O' Groats last month.**

He achieved the feat in record time cycling on through floods and all the other discomforts a British summer throws at us.

## More Charity Work

**While we are talking charity, a concert in the McKillop Institute a couple of weeks ago raised £1200.00 for stroke and breast cancer charities. One local businessman very generously matched the £1200.00 raised with a cheque for the same amount therefore the final amount on the night was £2400.00. A further £360 was raised with the silent auction of a Celtic**

**football jersey with the teams signatures including the now departed Henrik Larsson. Total amount raised approached £2800, a magnificent amount for a small village.**

The concert featured the music of Lochwinnoch's percussion band Drumatic and the piper Jimi McRae who, to me at least, sounded like a cross between Jimmy Shand and Jimi Hendrix.

## New York Runner

**On Sunday 7th Nov I will run the New York Marathon and fulfil 2 ambitions - to run in New York and raise cash for a very worthy cause the Macmillan Cancer Relief.**

I have a debt to repay the Macmillan Cancer Relief nurses who were in attendance during my mother's final days.

Cancer regrettably touches many families in various forms. When the Macmillan Charity asked me to represent them raising cash and fulfilling an ambition dear to my heart I jumped at the opportunity. It begs the question, though, where will I get £2,000 sponsorship?

This is where I call upon the help of friends and fellow villagers.

Cancer is the enemy of mankind. By supporting me you contribute directly to fighting a disease that respects no age or ethnic barriers.

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Dig deep and make a difference. Talk to your circle of friends and family, you will be pleasantly surprised at their willingness to support, ask your employer/company for corporate sponsorship/support.

I have until September 7th to raise the minimum sponsorship of £2,000.

I am not writing to you asking for sponsorship per mile, instead I will be grateful if you can find it in your hearts to make a straight donation, cash or cheque to **Macmillan Cancer Relief** or contribute using one of my sponsorship sheets in the Library, Post Office, The Junction or Brown Bull.

In the build up to the marathon I shall be running in several local events Paisley 10Km, Glasgow Half Marathon, etc. - and harassing the good people of Scotland with my collection bucket.

With your help, the New York Marathon will be completed and the work of a wonderful charity can go from strength to strength. I hope to hear from you soon and may I thank you in anticipation of your sincerest support.

Ronnie Williamson. 01505 843386 rtwloch@aol.com  
Minard, Mansfield Road Lochwinnoch

## Letters

Here is a letter from May Pratt

**I am curious to know if anyone has missed the most important man in this village while he enjoyed his summer holiday?**

Who is this man I hear you ask? Well, he is our very own, very special road sweeper, Mr. Mark McCabe. Mr. McCabe, one of the unsung heroes of life in this village, is a credit to the village. He should be recognized for the sterling work he carries out clearing up after us and keeping the village in tip-top condition.

When Mark was on holiday the roads and pavements deteriorated dramatically, they quickly became

a disgrace. Keep up the good work Mark.

May Pratt  
Here, here! I'd like to add that Mark is one of the most conscientious workers around. What people who indulge in a long lie at the weekend don't realize, is that Mark is up at the crack of dawn clearing up the mess inconsiderate revellers make at the Cross during Friday and Saturday night.

He also reaches parts of the village no other cleaner ever has. So, a big thank you is due from us all.

Ed.

## Donation

**Mamie Smith writes to say that she and her family have made a donation to the Lochwinnoch Day Centre on behalf of their mother Mrs. Mary Erskine who has now moved to Spicers Day Care Home in Beith.**

The donation made it possible to buy a bench for the day centre.

## Books Books

Here are the latest editions in the Library:

Lee Child	The Enemy
Jennifer Donnelly	A Gathering Light
Anne Douglas	A Highland Engagement
Sue Gee	Mysteries of Glass
Annie Groves	Connies Courage
Simon Kernick	The Crime Trade
Sophie Kinsella	Shopaholic and Sister
Lorna Landvik	Angry Housewives
Roisin McAuley	Singing Bird
David Morrell	Nightscape
Douglas Preston	The Codex
Rebecca Shaw	Country Passions
Rebecca Tope	A Cotswold Killing

If you enjoy reading and would like to share or discuss your favourite book with friends contact Ruth Oldrey at the museum for details of a book discussion group.

## Looking for a Job

**Go along to the Museum on Tuesday, October 5, 3:00pm - 5:00pm to get help and support in applying for jobs, writing a CV etc.**



## Art Exhibition

**The Lochwinnoch Art Society present their 2004 exhibition in the museum for four weeks.**

This is an exhibition always worth seeing. You can buy most of the pictures too.

The exhibition features the work of local artists. It's always a good destination if you want to feast your eyes or do some early Christmas shopping.

The exhibition opens on September and runs for four weeks.

## Paddy's Market

**The Calder Drama Group stage a version of Tony (The Steamie) Roper's new play Paddy's Market in the McKillop Institute at the end of November.** A date for your diary.

## St Winnoch Singers

**The ever ambitious St Winnoch Singers have a full calendar ahead of them. First off on October 2nd they will appear with a number of other Renfrewshire choirs in a programme of singing in Paisley. Details in the next Chatterbox.**

On February 5 the choir will sing the Karl Jenkins Mass The Armed Man in the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. The performance, conducted by Karl Jenkins himself, is in aid of the Hope for Homes charity, a charity that raises money for the children of Kosova.

Jenkins has enjoyed a wide and varied career ranging from playing with the Soft Machine to sideman in Ronnie Scott's smoky Soho jazz club. He has also written music for more TV ads than you could shake a conductor's baton at.

The choir will be joined by other choirs and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. No doubt, busloads of folks from the village will invade the capital that day.

## Things to Do

**Take regular exercise. Improve your health, live as long as a cat, the oldest in the country is 33, 33 multiplied by 7 that's err pretty old!**

Exercise helps reduce high blood pressure, controls cholesterol, reduces risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes to mention just a few of the advantages of fitness.

You can make a date to take part in regular exercise at the Annex ever Tuesday from 10:00am 11:00am.

## Watch Birds

**Join staff at the RSPB Visitor Centre on Saturday, October 2 10:00am 12:00am for a guided walk around the reserve. Tips will fly at newcomers faster than a swift to set them on the path to a life-long passion.**

Booking essential. Costs £2:00 and £3:00, children £1:50 and 50p. Call 01505 842633.

## Chatterbox Changes

**Some changes to note. The Chatterbox deadline will change from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month.** This will allow time to print an account of some of the goings on at the Community Council meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month.

It is hoped the newsletter will appear sometime around the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

If you want to include something in Chatterbox you can contact us through the envelope in the library or through the lochwinnoch.info website.

## Chatterbox Distribution

**We often get asked where can readers pick up a copy of Chatterbox. Well now you know.**

**The Corner Bar**

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**Garthland Arms**

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**To be added:**

**The Gap Housing**

**Any other places you'd like to see copies go, let us know!**

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