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CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info
 lochwinnoch no 137 July 2005

Gala Day - August 27th

ASIST
 Anti-Social Investigation Team
 Office 8:45am – 4:45pm
 Ask for David McLaren or
 Sheila McFarlane
 01505 325 030

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

- **July 16th, Weed Talk, Community Garden, 2pm-3.30pm by Liz Parsons, local gardener, naturalist and environmental educator.**
- **July 18th until Aug 31st A760 closed—see 'Road Works' on this page.**
- **July 31st, Car Boot Sale, Viewfield Football Park, 12-4pm in aid of Erskine Hospital—See back page for details.**
- **August 27th - Lochwinnoch Gala Day.**

Community Council

The July Community Council heard how alien weeds are overrunning Lochwinnoch. Two weeds pose a threat to native wildflowers and wildlife, the Himalayan Balsam, an 8-foot monster with a purple flower and the Japanese Knotweed; a heart shaped green leaf on a stringy stem.

Neither of these weeds is native to this country. They are very invasive and extremely difficult to remove.

If they become established these weeds stifle the growth of native wildflowers and grasses. They will also pose a significant threat to any wild life that relies on native plants.

The presence of both these weeds should be reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the equivalent in the Scottish Parlia-

ment.

On Saturday, July 16 at 2:00 in the Community Garden local gardener, naturalist and environmental educator, Liz Parsons, will give a talk on how to get rid of weeds without weed killer. The talk also offers advice on how to cook with weeds.

There was a discussion about whether or not the sewage works can cope with the new houses built around the village. Officials said in the past that the sewage work operates well below capacity and will be capable of dealing with the sewage from more houses than could be built in the village.

What may be doubtful is if the sewage pipes taking the sewage to the works can cope with the increased capacity. The CC will write to Scottish Water to seek clarification.

Preparations for the Gala Day are well in advance. More stalls have been promised and, more importantly, more people have offered to help organise the event. On the Thursday night (August 25) before the Gala Day a folk concert will be held in the McKillop Institute to raise funds for Lochwinnoch International Aid. The concert will feature local bands and solo folk singers.

**Gala Day - Lochwinnoch
 27th August**

Road Works

The road from the Nature Reserve to the farm road just beyond the Hungry Monk will close for an estimated four weeks from July 18 until August 31.

Access to the village will be seriously disrupted. All traffic going into and out of the village will have to use either Bridesmill Road or the road from Kilbirnie.

Renfrew Council say that because the road at the station is badly subsided the only way to carry out repairs is to close the road entirely. However, the road may not be closed completely throughout the four weeks, when appropriate traffic control will be used and only half of the road will close.

Vehicle access to the Hungry Monk will be from the A737, the station and the Nature Reserve will be accessed from Lochlip Road

Villagers are bracing themselves for an increase in traffic through the village, though the police hope drivers going to Largs will use the route through Kilbirnie.

Villagers can expect higher amounts of traffic travelling through the village during these four weeks. As some of this traffic will be long vehicles it is important not to park close to the corners of Church Street.

The new bus service from Largs to Braehead will also be affected.

The council have, incidentally, no plan to repair the footpath from the station to the A737, possibly because it is currently so overgrown with weeds it is difficult to find.

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CC In Brief

Ms Trish Godman MSP has been sent two letters about the condition of the Main Street Bridge, as yet she had not replied.

The IT department at the Renfrew Council HQs will now intercept all e-mails sent to councillors.

The police overtime remains in force. Three youths were charge for breaking a window in The Junction; one of the youths is on the first stage of being issued with an ASBO.

Two noisy neighbours have been reported to the ASSIST team.

Questions were raised about Calderglen Road, most locals call the road Glen Road, but the official name that dates back to the nineteenth century is Caldermill Road. The CC suggested the name Glen Road should be made official.

CC Elections

The election of Community Council Members will take place sometime in September.

Twenty-one places will be available, if you would like to do something for your village and would like to be a member of the CC look out for nomination forms around the beginning of August.

The next Community Council is in the Parish Church Hall on Tuesday, August 2 at 7:30pm.

**Gala Day
Lochwinnoch
Saturday
27th August
Public Park**

Bumpy Footpaths

Before it vanishes into the ether, along with thousands of other historic buildings, it might be of interest to learn that the cooperage building, shortly to be demolished to make way for houses, has an interesting history.

The cooperage was originally a furniture factory; Joseph Johnstone set it up in 1891. In 1894 the original works collapsed during a storm, the building was re-opened in 1895; unluckily it burned down in 1908 but was quickly rebuilt.

In its heyday the factory produced some of the best furniture in Scotland, much of it made for the highly successful Clyde ship-building industry. Furniture for the great liners, including the Titanic, was manufactured here in Lochwinnoch.

Being too closely linked to ship-building, though, had a major disadvantage; when shipbuilding declined so did furniture making in the village.

The Lochwinnoch firm was taken over by the West of Scotland Manufacturing Company who eventually moved to Beith and sold the factory to the Clyde

Cooperage Company.

Now the site is to be demolished and turned into a housing estate.

Letters

Traffic

When the A760 is closed later this month, between Mossend and the Bird Sanctuary traffic through Main Street, High Street and Johnshill is going to increase dramatically.

Are provisions being made by the police and council traffic department to make sure speed limits are observed for the comfort and safety of our villagers?

D Gilmour.

You can add Lochlip Road, Church Street and St Winnoc Road to the above Ed.

Choral Society

Lochwinnoch Choral Society (formerly St Winnoch Singers). Gave life membership to Sally and Ian Kennedy. Sally and Ian would like to thank the society for this kind gesture.

The society were delighted to honour Sally and Ian for the great work they have done over the years for the choir.

Whilst on the subject of the

KIERAN TURNER

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choir.

They are performing 'The Armed Man', with the RSNO, conducted by Karl Jenkins (the composer) of this beautiful 'Mass for Peace', at The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on September the 11th. Tickets are on sale via the theatre's box office. If you are intending going and the numbers justify it the Society would like to organise a coach or two, to take you to and from the Concert Hall.

If you are interested please either let a choir member know as soon as possible or telephone 01505 842 681 (leave name and telephone number and number of seats required).

The more who travel the lower the cost per seat.

Lochwinnoch News

Back in 1980 some enterprising villagers got together to produce a newsletter that gave a lot of gen about goings on in the village. As far as I can see only four editions of the newsletter were produced between 1980 and 1985, the 1980 edition cost 5p the other three editions cost 10p.

The newsletter featured reports of the proceedings at the monthly Community Council meetings. What follows is a snippet from the CC meeting in the spring of 1985.

'The campaign to have the resident beat policeman returned to the village has not succeeded, but hopefully the authorities concerned realise that this Community Council has the tenacity of a bulldog.'

The spring 1985 edition also contained this report on the opening of the bowling club:

'The Bowling Green was opened on Saturday afternoon of April 1985 by the president Mr Robert L Connell who called upon Mrs McQueen (wife of the local bank agent) to throw the first bowl and jack. Thereafter a game of eight ends was played.

It was a cold and blustery day,

and about half way through a game a shower of hail came on that turned the green white.

It became an effort to get the bowls the length of the jack with the hailstones sticking to the bowls. The scene resembled a winter sports rather than a summer one.'

Gold Fishing

The Fleming family are proud to let their friends know of their son Ralph's achievements wielding the fishing rod for his country.

Ralph took part in the Home International fishing contest against England, Ireland and Wales at Grafham Waters.

Scotland landed the gold medal. Ralph and his team were presented with the trophy, individual medals and caps at a dinner on Friday, June 10.

Well done to Ralph and his team from a very proud Mum and Dad.

R.N.L.I.

The Lochwinnoch branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute want to give a huge thank to generous resi-

dents of the village and surrounding areas for raising the wonderful total of £1084.69 at recent house to house collections.

Gardening Group

The gardening group meet on Wednesday evenings between 6:30 and 8:00pm and on Saturday mornings between 10:30am and 12:00noon in the Community Garden.

Why not call in and find out more?

Library On-Line

If you are a member of the library and have access to the Internet you can: search the Renfrew Library catalogue, renew items you have borrowed, reserve books and CDs, access on-line learning packages and use the library reference material.

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WHAT'S NEW ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

WWW.LOCHWINNOCH.INFO

Road Faults – you can now report potholes, roads and lighting faults to Renfrewshire Council from the village website. Just fill in the online form which you will find linked on the front page or from the CC pages and click submit.

New search – a new search tool has been added to the village website. Google can be used from the home page to search either the village website or the entire world wide web. It should make finding things on the village website easier and quicker.

And finally, for a bit of fun, the Village Forum now offers readers the chance to award **karma points** to posters. Both good and bad karma can be awarded depending on what you think of the posters tone, message content etc.

contact barbara@lochwinnoch.info

RSPB News

Here are some forthcoming event at the RSPB Nature Reserve.

Sun 17 July 10-4pm
Optics Demonstration.

August

Tues 9 Aug 10-11 or 11.30-12.30 or 1-2pm.

* **Wildlife Gardening**

A special event for children to get their hands dirty and have a go at gardening with plants especially good for wildlife. Please book in advance. (£1 members, £2 non-members).

Thurs 26 Aug 7.30pm-late
Bat Night.

An informative slide show, followed by a walk around the nature trails using specialised detectors to look for bats. In association with the Clyde Bat Group. Please book in advance.

Sun 21 Aug 10-4pm
Optics Demonstration.

Castle Semple Timetable

Tuesday, July 12 & 19:
Fun in the Sun

Check out an event with an environmental theme at the Muirshiel Visitor Centre 2:00 – 3:00pm. Call 842803 to book.

Saturday, July 23: Green Hen Harriers.

An opportunity to be green and use public transport to see how the magnificent hen harriers are getting on this season.

Free transport provided from the station, the nature reserve,

the Castle Semple Centre to the Muirshiel Visitor Centre from mid morning to mid afternoon.

To pre-book a place in the mini bus call 01505 842803.

Saturday, July 23: Single Handed Sailing Clinic.

Improve your solo sailing skills on a Pico, Topper or Feva. No certificate but lots of help on improving your skill levels. Cost £40:00, 10:00am – 4:00pm. Booking essential at least seven days in advance.

New Village Calendars

The Paper Shop in Church Street, has commissioned a new calendar of Lochwinnoch.

'Manny' the owner, explained that he has decided to produce a limited edition of 'Lochwinnoch Calendars'

There will be six pictures, two months per picture.

If successful he may well develop the calendars for 2007. Meanwhile the new 2006 calendars are in production, so if you do not wish to loose out, you had-

better order your copy as soon as possible.

Car Boot Sale

The Glue Pot Social Club are holding a Car Boot Sale in aid of the Erskine Hospital on Sunday 31st July at Viewfield Football Ground in the village.

Starting at 12 noon it will run until 4pm. The entrance charge is £5 per car and you can book via Val Stewart on 07719765996

Gala Day

Remember Gala Day will take place on Saturday August 27th. Public Park, Lochlip Road

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