

# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
lochwinnoch no 132 February 2005

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

### ● February 9th–23rd

Lochwinnoch Arts Club exhibition, Castle Semple Park 10am-4pm

● February 18th A Celtic Concert, Parish Church 7.30pm Tickets £5 Family £12.

● February 19th 'Step- we- Gaily Ceilidh, McKillop 8.30pm Tickets £7

● February 22nd Teddy Bear Space Camp event 1st meeting LMEG office behind Library 8pm

● February 24th LCC Public Meeting Parish Church Main Hall, 'Policing in Lochwinnoch' 7.30pm all welcome

● February 26th Burns Supper, St Winnoch Singers, McKillop 7.30 tickets £10.

● March 6th Farmers Market, Castle Semple 11am-3pm

● March 19th and 20th Parish Church, Lochwinnoch Music Society present Kathryn Stott (Internationally renowned concert pianist) and Federico Mondelci (Internationally acclaimed Saxophonist) Tickets £10 per night £18 for weekend

## Community Council

**There was no doubt policing in the village would come under the spotlight during the February Community Council meeting.**

One committee member described policing in the village as inadequate, incompetent and well below what residents expect. He added, confidence in the police have reached an all-time low.

What is needed to try to address the situation was a letter of complaint to the Assistant Chief Con-

stable of the Division.

Residents of Lochhead Avenue who came along to the meeting described a Saturday morning of severe disruption when a gang of drunken youths rampaged through the area drinking, shouting and causing damage to trees.

Several residents phoned the police who responded an hour later. By this time the youths had moved on along the cycle track.

The residents complained that the police did not make a follow up visit the next day to see if anyone could identify any of the youths involved in the disturbances.

This is a note from the newly inaugurated crime committee that works within the Community Council:

The Community Council is currently addressing the lack of a police presence in the village. The instances of crime, particularly vandalism, are increasing. It is understood many incidences of vandalism, damage to cars for example, are not being reported as people feel what's the point, the police can't do anything about it anyway, or I don't want to waste police time.

Under the current lack of policing it may be true that the police can't do a lot, not blight on our community cops who work conscientiously and do what they can.

The problem is it is not only Lochwinnoch they have to deal with and it is often a thankless task.

However, it is important that

crime figures can be assessed accurately, so it is imperative that all crimes are reported, no matter how pointless this may sometimes seem.

It's wrong to think police can detect all crimes committed but it does no harm to report any crime if only for statistical reasons, or insurance purposes.

This will make sure all crime figures are precisely recorded. When you phone the police always ask for an incident number.

The Community Council have arranged a public meeting to be held in the Church Main Hall on Thursday, February 24 at 7:30pm. We encourage all the community to support this as a first step to return proper policing to within the village. This is your opportunity to do your bit for your community. Why not attend the meeting and shape the future of our community?

Councillor Alistair Nimmo in his report to the Community Council said there were some meaningful discussions on the bridge in Main Street. The Scottish Executive asked Renfrewshire Council to present a business plan to the Executive.

When questioned about the quality of road patching in the area Councillor Nimmo agreed that patching potholes with a shovelful of tar is not ideal but it is about all that can be done with the resources available.

If you want to report roads and lighting faults to the council a link to the council is now available on the on the village website.

## **MATTHEW NEW & SONS**

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## Community Council cont'd

The crime figures for January were:

- 5 housebreak-ins
- 3 drugs offences
- 2 Road traffic offences
- 6 Vandalism
- 1 Breach of the Peace
- 1 Indecency offence
- 1 Car break-in
- 1 Police assault
- 1 Shop lifting
- 1 Common Assault

There were 13 detections; all were reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

## Path Round the Loch

**Work begins on the path from the station to the village on February 7. The path will be welcome by those who have to walk to and from the station.**

However, recently some have expressed concern that the path could provide an extension of the unlicensed drinking areas in the village.

This concern is coupled with a further concern that the valuable habitat for wildlife could be disturbed by weekend partying. It would, indeed be a tragedy if otters and birds were dispossessed by drunken youngsters.

We will have to hope action is taken immediately to prevent youngsters using the path as a drinking den.

## Art in the Park

**The Lochwinnoch Art Group is presenting an exhibition of their work in Castle Semple Park during February. The exhibition opens on the 9<sup>th</sup> and runs until February 23. It is open from 10:00am 4:00pm.**

The exhibition features the high standard work produced by local artists, always something worth a look at.

## Music Society

**The Lochwinnoch Music Society is about to be revived. Look out for the re-launch with a fascinating series of concerts in Lochwinnoch, Glasgow and Edinburgh.**

The society is able to get reduced prices for many concerts, plus a bus is usually available to take you from the village to the concert and bring you back. So you can relax and have a pre-concert drink and not need to worry about driving home from town.

Among other things concerts will feature music by Rachmaninov, Messaien, his Tarangulila Symphony, a fabulous work not often heard in the concert hall but a must for music buffs and many more of the world's top composers.

Kathryn Stott, who played in the Parish Church a few years ago and made a tremendous impact will return to give another concert in the church as will the world class saxophonist Federico Mondelci. Two concerts absolutely not to be missed.

The society will organise informal folk concerts in and around the village. If you want more details look out for posters appearing throughout the village. missed.

## Great Chieftain.

**The St Winnoch Singers are organizing a Burns Supper in the McKillop on Saturday, February 26.**

A wonderful night of food, barley bree, music and a healthy dollop

Hold your breath as Tam O'Shanter takes his drunken ride, laugh your heed aff at the antics of the Twa Dugs and gasp as the haggis, pair wee beastie, is cut in twa. The event starts at 7:30 and for the energetic goes on till the cock crows. Tickets £12:00. Not to be missed.

## Hoots

**Another great Scottish event takes place in the Parish Church on Friday, February 18 when a band of strolling musicians take to the stage to play the melodies of auld Scotia.**

The evening features mellow accordions, skirling bagpipes, sweet singers and much more. The concert starts at 7:30 and costs Â£5:00 for individuals, Â£12:00 for families. Not to be missed.

## Daffodil Tea

**The first sign of spring is just around the corner when the Parish Church hold their daffodil tea on Friday, March 11 at 2:00pm in the church.**

This is a traditional afternoon tea with sandwiches, cakes, scones, tea and coffee and you can eat as much as you like.

Why not come along and bring a friend? Tickets cost Â£2:50 adults, £1:50 children. All welcome.

## Fish Tank

**A villager is wanting to give a 3 ft Fish Tank and Base to good home. (fish not included). Please leave note in Chatterbox tray in Library if you are interested.**

## 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](mailto:ecf82@hotmail.com) for further info.

# Well done Lochwinnoch Primary School !!

**Lochwinnoch Primary celebrated its centenary in fine style over the weekend 4-6<sup>th</sup> February. Celebrations started with a church service, invited guests and parents were taken on a journey through 100 years of the school by the current pupils in a light-hearted manner which did not belittle the importance of the occasion.**

A very touching moment took place in the church when probably the oldest ex-pupil, Mrs Elizabeth Fotheringham(95), and the youngest pupil, James Reston, cut the birthday cake.

The children performed perfectly and were a credit to both parents and school staff. Included in the service was a song, specially written for the centenary by Mrs Betty McAllister, an ex-member of staff.

The service ended with Mrs Betty McKellar, a well known local poet and another ex-member of staff, reading, in her usual auld Scots manner, a poem composed specially for the occasion.

The PTA finished the day with a family ceilidh in the village hall where pupils and parents danced the night away.

The Saturday night was another night for celebration. Ex-pupils and parents boogied through the night at a disco in the village hall. Thanks to the many local business who supported this venture.

The money from the PTA events and the disco was added to the money the children raised in the school, estimated at time of writing as £2,000. This will be sent to the Tsunami Earthquake disaster and Christian Aid, on behalf of the school.

There was no doubt the overwhelming success of the weekend was the exhibition in the school. Over 1,000 people visited to see old photographs from the early 1900s and various other memo-

abilia.

Old friends met for the first time in years and poured over photographs putting names to faces. The PTA provided much needed cups of tea. In all staff and pupils are to be congratulated on an excellent exhibition that took two years to plan.

I was proud to have played a very small part in it and hope that there somewhere some of the exhibition will be put on show again, so people who didn't get a chance to come along can eventually see the exhibition.  
MK

**PS** The centenary year will end next February, another disco may be held to mark the end of the celebrations, watch this space!!

## Farmers Market

**Castle Semple is also the venue for the Farmer's Spring Market. This is on Sunday, March 6 from 11:00am -3:00pm.**

You'll get a chance to buy fresh regional produce from local farmers.

Among the produce available will be: game, meats and bacon, vegetarian produce, cakes, a variety of eggs plus whisky liqueurs, fish,

## Books Books

mushrooms, confectionary and cheese.

**Here are some of the new fiction to appear in the library:**

Elizabeth Elgin	Linden Walk
Colin Forbes	Blood Storm
Rosie Harris	Winnie of the Waterfront
Jack Higgins	Toll for the Brave
Una Horne	The Pitman's Brat
Meg Hutchinson	Ties of Love
Bill Knox	The Tallyman
Ken McClure	Gulf Conspiracy
Barbara Nadel	Deadly Web
Jenny Pitman	Vendetta
Nora Roberts	Blue Dahlia
Alexander McCall Smith	
	The Sunday Philosophy Club
June Tate	Every Time You Say Goodbye

## Heel for Heel

**The Step-we-Gaily Ceilidh takes place in the McKillop Institute on Saturday, February 19 and starts at 8:30.**

Tickets cost £7:00. This time music will be provided by local band Clamjamfrie, an excellent band. An evening not to miss.

Lochwinnoch Online Info - Microsoft Internet Explorer



Lochwinnoch  
Southwest, Scotland

The Village Website

Home | News & Events | Information | Clubs & Societies | Sports | Register

### Christmas Lights

Thanks to everyone who entered the Christmas Lights Competition and to Gibb Stuart Hardware for supporting the event. I hope you have been taking advantage of the sales to stock up on decorations for next year!

1st Place - 21 Glenpark Road

2nd Place - 28 Station Rise

Commendation - 64 Calder Street

### Broadband Survey

We are interested to hear about the take-up of broadband within the village. How many people have signed up to broadband, what supplier have you opted for, what speed. It will help to have some background info when we are trying to decide on web layouts, new web projects etc. If you could take a few minutes just to click on a few boxes that would be appreciated. The form can be found from the home page [www.lochwinnoch.info](http://www.lochwinnoch.info)

### Reindeer Run

Villagers were out in force again on Saturday, December 18, to join in the fun as Lochwinnoch hosted Santa's Reindeer Training Run. Members of *Lochwinnoch Outlandish Events* (remember the wheelie bin grand prix?) wanted to help people get into the festive spirit and at the same time help the reindeer get back into shape after eating grass all year. People made sleighs and dressed as reindeers to pull Santa through the village. Prizes were awarded to the best Santa, reindeer with best leadership skills (reddest nose) and the best sleigh. Hotdogs, mulled wine and carol singing all set the scene for Christmas. All money raised on the night went to the Youth Space project.

<http://www.lochwinnoch.info/albums/album22/graeme.sized.jpg>

[http://www.lochwinnoch.info/albums/album22/RR1\\_006.sized.jpg](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/albums/album22/RR1_006.sized.jpg)

thanks -Barbara

## RSPB News

**March Sat 5 March 12  
noon-4pm Green Day**

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, we're having a day of 'green' activities. Sample Fairtrade teas and coffees whilst browsing around a variety of stalls and take part in activities. Free event and free admission to the reserve today too!

Wed 16 March 7.30-9pm  
Talk-time: The Celtic Adventure part II: The Runes!

North Ayrshire's RSPB local group leader and artist, Duncan Watt, will once again inspire us with his work. He'll be discussing how his work promotes our heritage and the importance of conserving Scottish wildlife with a particular focus on the runes (a species seldom seen at Lochwinnoch). See [www.spectrus.net](http://www.spectrus.net) <<http://www.spectrus.net>> for more information about his work. Please book in advance. For further information on membership, volunteering or events, please phone: 01505 842663 or email: [lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk) website:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/scotland>  
[http://www.lochwinnoch.info/RSPB/Jen Walker Visitor and Publicity Officer RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve Largs Road Lochwinnoch PA12 4JF RSPB Scotland](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/RSPB/Jen%20Walker%20Visitor%20and%20Publicity%20Officer%20RSPB%20Lochwinnoch%20Nature%20Reserve%20Largs%20Road%20Lochwinnoch%20PA12%204JF%20RSPB%20Scotland) is part of the RSPB, the UK-wide charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all.

## The Cairn of Lochwinnoch

**Lochwinnoch is lucky to have a wonderful historical document in the shape of The Cairn of Lochwinnoch.**

The Cairn is a 48 volume

chronicle written around the turn of the 19/20 century by Lochwinnoch resident Dr Andrew Crawford.

Dr Crawford was a surgeon in Rothesay. At a young age he lost a leg (his own, in case you are into jokes), so he returned to Lochwinnoch and protracted retirement.

He did not pass the time idly, he spent the rest of his life writing and studying.

One of the things he wrote was The Cairn. The 48 volumes consist of village gossip, news, pages of title deeds and cuttings from newspapers. All very interesting even to villagers today.

The volumes were housed in the museum, but because of their delicate condition, a few years ago, they were dispatched to the museum in Paisley.

To read these volumes you have to use an old-fashioned, cumbersome microfiche reader. Not very satisfactory.

A few years ago someone volunteered to transfer the microfiche pages to CD-Rom but this never happened. The project was, as far as I can remember, a red tape casualty. A great pity as The Cairn should be available in an easy accessed format to allow villagers and villagers down the line can experience life in Lochwinnoch over a hundred years ago.

## Wheelie Bin Grand Prix; 'The next generation'

**Last year, Lochwinnoch Outlandish Events brought you the world's**

**inaugural Wheelie Bin Grand Prix, this year the event is out of this world. LOE will be holding the very first, intergalactic 'Teddy Bear Space Camp' combined with Daddy Bear's Picnic, to be held at Castle Semple Centre on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2005 (provisionally)**

This is the first astronaut training camp for teddy bears to be held anywhere in the known galaxy and Lochwinnoch has, once again been identified as the most suitable location for this most prestigious event (no comments about being wired to the moon). For bears who don't like heights, they (and their owners) can join in the Daddy Bear's picnic.

In order to make this event a success, the organisers are looking for volunteers to assist in making it all happen in order to deliver a fantastic family day out and a fund raising opportunity to benefit our local youth groups. Last year's event raised over £650, all of which was ploughed back into the community groups.

We had over 2300 people attend the event and the management and organisation of this sort of event needs a team operating behind the scenes to make it happen. If you want to be part of this great day out, please come along to our kick-off meeting at the old museum (behind the library), High Street on Tuesday, 22 February at 8pm and learn what a difference a team can make.

Sales and marketing Consultancy

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