

CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info
lochwinnoch no 133 March 2005

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

- **March 18th** Karaoke Night, Brown Bull.
- **March 19th Lochwinnoch Book Festival**, McKillop Institute 10.30-12.30 £5
- **March 19th Kathryn Stott, 7.30pm**, Internationally Acclaimed Pianist, Parish Church, £10 Tickets, Junction, Brown Bull .
- **March 20th Federico Mondelci, 7.30pm** Internationally acclaimed saxophonist, accompanied by Kathryn Stott, Parish Church Tickets £10, Junction, Brown Bull.
- **April 5th LCC Meeting**, Parish Church, 7.30pm all welcome
- **April 23rd, Carmina Burana**, St Winnoch Singers, Parish Church, 7.30pm Tickets on sale soon.

Community Council

A busy Parish Church heard accounts of vandalism, unruly behaviour and intimidation at the public meeting held to discuss crime in the village.

Feelings ran high as villager after villager described their experiences with the village's undesirable element. Residents living around the Cross in Calder Street and Church Street described weekends of misery with disruptions to sleep and their homes and cars

damaged by vandals.

One villager who had lived in a few villages in the area before she moved here said she never witnessed to kind of behaviour that is a feature of village life at the weekend in Lochwinnoch. Drinking, shouting and vandalism being the most prominent examples of bad behaviour.

Fish Tank

Over the past few weeks matters have improved as the police have increased their presence at the weekend. Something that indicates the need for a greater police presence every weekend.

One thing that emerged strongly at the meeting was the need to ask for an incident number every time you phone to report a crime. If you are given an incident number this means the crime has entered the statistics.

However, Councillor Alistair Nimmo the advantages of living in Lochwinnoch with its wide range of amenities and vibrant social life should not be clouded by the anti-social activities of a small minority.

Musical Weekend

On Saturday, 19 and Sunday 20 March you can wallow in a feast on music in the Parish Church. Lochwinnoch is

happy and lucky to have attracted two of the world's finest musicians to give two concerts in The Parish Church.

On Saturday, March 19 the wonderful Kathryn Stott will give a piano recital featuring music by, among others, Debussy, Chopin and Beethoven. It is a not to be missed recital.

On Sunday, March 20 the virtuoso saxophonist Federico Mondelci accompanied by Ms Stott will play a wide ranging programme that features music by Milhaud, Villa Lobos and Astor Piazzola.

Both concerts start at 7:30, tickets are available from the Brown Bull, the Junction or by phoning 843393.

The promotion is joint between the Lochwinnoch Music Society, and the group who are raising funds to totally refurbish the Parish Church, a project estimated at Â£1million.

The festival atmosphere of this weekend will be reinforced when that fine traditional fiddle player Alistair Savage (who has a new CD out) plays in the Brown Bull on Saturday evening from 9:00pm.

LCC Needs Members

The community council are actively seeking new members to fill a number of vacancies that have become available. To become a member of the community council you must be 16 years or over and resident within the community council area. If you're interested in working for your community then please contact Davie on 843507.

MATTHEW NEW & SONS

ROOFING - ROUGHCASTING - BUILDING MAINTENANCE

**Emergency Repairs, Storm Damage
Insurance Work, New Roofs, Flat Roofs
Roughcasting -UPVC Cladding—Guttering**

Tel No 01505 843400

FMB Certificate No 26366

Modern Cookery

Hello darlings.

You have probably guessed by now that I was brought up in a refined, rarefied atmosphere. Country house, tweedy mother, wine-buff father, buck-toothed sister dear Daphne - consequently I never saw a sausage until I was 18.

The first time I knew of the existence of the sausage was at university when Cyril popped round to my rooms one night with a sizzling banger. 'What's that?' I asked. Since then I have never looked back.

I love sausages, all kinds the good bad and the ugly, as they say. I also think a sausage is for every occasion, not just breakfast. There is no tastier meal than a real sausage cooked in a stew with beans and any veg you want to throw into the pan.

Nowadays you can buy sausages from all over the world, so you are never far away from a culinary trip around the globe.

During the sixties, I am pleased to say, I wrote the magnum opus on the humble banger called The Big Sausage Book. It contained sausage recipes from around the world Most of them delightful.

Here is a great sausage recipe. Chop an onion and some garlic and brown in a pan, add a tin of chopped tomatoes and a sliced pepper.

Grill a handful of skinned pork sausages to get rid of most of the fat. Add to the veg.

Wash a can of mixed beans and add to the pan, (you can mash some of the beans if you like).

Pour in a cup of vegetable stock bring to the boil and simmer for at least ten minutes. Make sure the sausages are cooked through. As a garnish top the dish with a good sprinkle of chopped parsley.

You can, of course, spice up the dish with a chili or two or some paprika.

Happy cooking
Fenella Fishslice.

Reporting Crime

The community council would like to remind residents that all incidents should be reported to Johnstone police on 404000, obviously except for emergency calls.

Remember to request an incident number and give as much information and detail as possible such as the name(s), description of the person(s) and what they are wearing. It is also important that if the incident is over and that the police presence is not required then another phone call to Johnstone police is requested.

As I'm sure you are aware, we now have a community partnership up and running which is made up of Lochwinnoch community council, the police, A.S.I.S.T. (Anti-social investigation team) and Councillor Nimmo.

As well as phoning in all incidents to the police, please also phone in the incident details to the Anti-social Behaviour Team on 0800 169 1283 from 9am to

10pm, 7 days a week. This will allow the team to have instant details and help build an individual profile and case on the perpetrators.

Kickjitsu for Kids

Due to demand I am launching a children's only Kickjitsu Class starting on Tuesday the 29th March in the McKillop Institute class will start at 5pm but numbers will be limited.

An adult class will follow this at 6pm. Can you give this information a mention and for info people can contact me on 01505 681833 or 07986146418.

Lochwinnoch's Second Book Festival

The featured author at the second Lochwinnoch Book Festival is Bernard MacLaverty. Bernard MacLaverty was born in Belfast (14.9.42) and lived there until he moved to Scotland with his wife, Madeline, and four children.

He was Medical Laboratory Technician, a mature student, a teacher of English and, for two years in the



7/9 Townhead, Kilbirnie
(200 metres from Tesco on Largs Road roundabout)

Open Tuesday to Saturday - Sunday,
Monday & Evenings by appointment.

- High quality products & Friendly Service
- Free Estimates
- Fully fitted from floor to ceiling, or supply only
- Bathrooms from £3,500 Kitchens from £4,500
- Visit our new showroom at 7/9 Townhead, Kilbirnie

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.

mid eighties, Writer-in-Residence at the University of Aberdeen.

After living for a time in Edinburgh and the Isle of Islay he now lives in Glasgow. He was Guest Writer for short periods at the University of Augsburg and at Iowa State University. He is a member of Aosdana in Ireland. Recently he has been broadcasting, on BBC Radio 3 and presenting a two hour classical music show on BBC Scotland. He has published four collections of short stories and four novels - the latest, 'The Anatomy School', was published in August 2001. He has written adapted his fiction for other media - radio plays, television plays, screenplays. Over the years his work has won many awards and prizes. 'Grace Notes' was awarded The Saltire Scottish Book of the Year Award (1997) and was short-listed for The Booker Prize.

Tickets available from: Brown Bull Pub, The Library Junction Bistro

The festival is on Saturday 19th March 2005 in the McKillop Hall. Here is the full programme: 10:30 - 11:30 Guest Writer Bernard MacLaverty : £5 entry

(www.bernardmaclaverty.com)
11:30 - 12:30 Children's Story Telling, Local Authors and Book Stands : £1 story telling for groups aged 5 and under, aged 6 - 11 years Refreshments included in the price

Website Chat

As you might expect the recent crime wave has got the forum air waves buzzing. Though how anyone who spends their waking hours tapping at a computer keyboard knows what's going on in the rest of the world beats me.

However, here are their weighty words of wisdom. Contributions are numbered as all forum contributors are anonymous:

1 Some new trees were planted

in Lochhead Avenue recently five of them were snapped off by youths leaving the cycle track between 7.00 and 7.30 out of their 'brains' on Buckfast. The bottles were tossed aside in the Avenue. Police were phoned but took nearly hour to respond.

2 This is well beyond a joke, the entrance to the cycle path off the avenue should be closed off, a shame because we know it is used by a lot of normal people. It seems, though, every weekend we are plagued by morons who think getting drunk on alcohol is "macho" and causing damage is fun.

3 I'm truly sorry to hear of the damage, distress and inconvenience caused by this mindless trash but how does closing the link deal with overall issue of neds?

It sounds as though you'd be happier if they were elsewhere in the village rather than in the surrounds of your estate.

4 We don't want them anywhere in the village. We didn't have trouble with neds damaging things before the link was opened.

5 The trouble only happens at the weekend when neds head to the bridge for a drinking session.

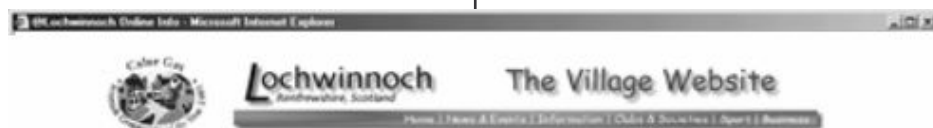
Before the link was opened they had to go through the park to get to the bridge and therefore had no young trees to damage. (A few years ago the primary school kids planted, I think it was 100 trees, in the park all were wrecked, none of them survived. Ed).

6 I do not know the answer to the problem of low level youth crime, it seems that there are only about 12/15 teenagers causing the trouble. It's beyond my understanding how the police are unable to nip this in the bud, it is not as if the village was a soulless housing scheme, it has a heart and a soul and people who care and deserve better.

7 The vicinity of my own house seems to have escaped general nedderly but if there's a threat to all I hold dear and the police remain ineffective I wouldn't tap away at a keyboard. Confrontation is the best form of defence. Even with a group, take a deep breath, single out the biggest and banjo him, believe me, it works. (Personally, I'd single out the skinny one with glasses Ed)

Library Holidays

The library will be closed on Friday 25 and Monday 28 March.



WHAT'S NEW ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

WWW.LOCHWINNOCH.INFO

Many thanks to David Williams in Ottawa for sending me photographs and stories about his family who emigrated to Canada from Lochwinnoch. His great grandfather was William Crawford who owned the Calder Glen Mill and who married into the Orr family from Kaim. You can read about the mill and the family in the history section of the village website. Photographs are available in the photo gallery.

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

Sun 20 March 10-4pm

Optics Demonstration April

Wed 6 April 11am-3pm

*EASTER-EGGStravaganza

Fun-packed activities relating to birds and wildlife at Easter-time. (£1 members, £2 non-members)

Thurs 14 April

3 sessions: choose from 10-11am or 11.30am-12.30pm or 1-2pm

*Watch the birdies

A special event to introduce children to birdwatching. Binoculars provided.

Please book in advance. (£1 members, £2 non-members)

RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve is ideal for all the family, as the trails and hides and the visitor centre are all easily accessible. Enjoy refreshments in the visitor centre or browse in the RSPB shop that specialises in optics, natural history books and wild bird care products.

There is free entry for all to the visitor centre which has a ground-level viewing area complete with seating, binoculars and telescopes.

The viewing tower offers panoramic views over the Aird Meadow and features informative displays and interactive children's display panels. There is a small charge for non-RSPB members to access our two nature trails and birdwatching hides. The reserve is open at all times, and the visitor centre is open daily from 10am to 5pm (closed 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January).

ACCESS FOR DISABLED VISITORS:

Our visitor centre, toilets, nature trails and viewing hides are accessible to wheelchair users. We aim to make our events program suitable for all. However, if you have any special requirements please tell us in advance.

Chatterbox is independently produced for the Community Council of Lochwinnoch through financial assistance by Lochwinnoch Community Council, Renfrewshire Council and advertisements. The editor welcomes all items for possible inclusion but will reserve all rights over them. All views are of individuals. The editor accepts no liability for errors

Update from the Community Land buy-out Working Group.

St Joseph's Nursing home and grounds have been off the market now for some time however, the agent has recently confirmed to us that negotiations are still taking place between the vendor and the prospective purchaser. No further details are available as yet.

We have been monitoring the situation and obviously should the sale fall through, the possibility of a community land buy-out remains open.

In the meantime we need to consider where we go from here. The community must decide now whether it wishes to embrace the principle of community land acquisition and consider it as a possible mechanism to acquire land in and around Lochwinnoch in the future.

Widespread support is crucial if we are going to succeed in carrying forward this potentially long and onerous process. The first stage, under the Right to buy legislation, will be to establish an officially recognised community body in the form of a limited company which can then register interest in land around the village, thereby pre-empting any future land sales. We shall need at least 20 people to volunteer to join

this.

The crux of the matter is whether there is concern about the sale of land to private developers which either currently or could potentially provide a valuable resource for the community, the loss of which would be to the significant detriment of the community. We believe that there are a number of prime development sites around the village which fall into this category.

Ultimately, there are many possible uses for such sites and it will up to the community as a whole to reach a consensus on that. There are many examples of communities all around Scotland now taking control of, and developing their local resources, from community woodlands and orchards to health and recreational facilities. The opportunities are limitless.

If you are interested and would like get involved in any form or capacity, or simply would like to register your support, please contact our group below. In addition we would be keen to hear from anyone with legal expertise or knowledge of community woodlands.

Please write to:

Community Land Buy-out Working Group

c/o Lochwinnoch Library

For further information, please contact Peter Livingstone on

01505 844 827

● PAINTING ● PAPERHANGING ● TILING ●

PAINTER & DECORATOR

JOHN A. KILBURN

TEL: 01505 842 395 MOBILE 07931 952 257

● FREE ESTIMATE ● NO JOB TOO SMALL ●

Sales and marketing Consultancy

Calder Marketing

Tel: 01505 842 681

Mobile: 07764 236 822

Email: cfraser@fsmail.net

Business Plans, Funding, Market Research, PR, Company Newsletters