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# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
No 160 April 2007

**ASIST**  
Anti-Social Investigation  
Team  
Office 8:45am – 4:45pm  
Ask for David McLaren or  
Lisa Simpson  
Tel: 01505 325 030

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **April/May**  
See back page for RSPB and Castle Semple/Muirshiel events, talks, walks and watersports courses etc.
- **Advice Works - every Tuesday** from 10am–12.30 in Lochwinnoch Library.
- **14th April** - Coffee morning in the McKillop Hall 10am to 12. Meet your local SNP MSP and Council candidates.
- **21st April** - Coffee morning in the McKillop Hall 10am to 12. (details below)
- **28th and 29th April** - Lochwinnoch Arts Festival, Parish Church, Lochwinnoch (more details inside)
- **1st May** - Slide Show - The Grand Piano Came by Camel - at 7.30pm in Lochwinnoch Library (see inside for more details).
- **11th May** - Prize Bingo Night, Masonic Club at 7.30pm. All welcome.

## Arthritis Research Campaign

The Lochwinnoch branch of Arthritis Research are holding their annual coffee morning in the McKillop Hall on Saturday, 21st April from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Usual stalls: baking, nearly new, books, bric-a-brac and a raffle. Tickets cost £1:00. Please support this worthy cause.

## SILVER BAND

A concert featuring The Steadfast Silver Band and the Gleniffer Singers is coming to Lochwinnoch on 7th September, Concert will start at 7.30pm in Lochwinnoch Parish Church. All welcome. Tickets available soon—Adults £5, children £2.50.

## Castle Semple History

The story of the Castle Semple Loch (originally not, like today's, Castle-semble) is as serpentine as the River Calder that feeds it.

I'm no historian, reading historical texts is as difficult to me as calculating the odds in a horse race. But I'll have a try at relaying the facts – just the facts, mam – of the history of the Castle Semple Loch.

In 1742 Colonel William McDowall from Garthland in Wigton bought the Castle Semple estate. McDowall had made a vast fortune in the West Indies from sugar and, it must be said, the slave trade.

In these days the Barr and the Semple Lochs were joined together so cutting the village in two. One of the consequences of this was that the village needed a school at both sides of the loch. Two schools, of course, meant two teachers, two jannies and double the amount of chalk that would have been used by one school. As McDowall was big on the village council he was constantly being squeezed to do something about this duplication.

First of all, he built a road between the two lochs. Interestingly, the work on this project saw the first employment of a wheelbarrow in this country.

### Editorial & copy for Chatterbox

Let us have your stories, notices, information, events and other items of interest – either hand-deliver them to the Chatterbox drop-box in the Library or e-mail: chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info

### To advertise in Chatterbox

Tel: 07899 746403 or e-mail: chatterboxaccount@btinternet.com

People travelled from all over the place to gasp at this piece of modern technology. Of course, this was in the days before endlessly fascinating TV programmes like Big Brother and Trish. (*Give me the wheelbarrow any day – Ed*)

The bulk of the landscape work fell to McDowall's son William II. He reduced Castle Semple Loch to a fifth of its size and called the reclaimed land Aird Meadow... More about how the Barr Loch was drained in future editions.

## PATIENT SURVEY

Drs Waterston McCormick and Kirk would like to thank all who responded to our Patient Survey this year. Your comments help tailor patient services for the future and we are delighted to report 94% of patients were satisfied with the service they receive from the practice. We would like to improve the overall response rate and would encourage you to reply to similar surveys in the future.

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# Community Council News

The April Community Council meeting took place on Tuesday 3rd April at 7.30pm in the Parish Church Hall.

Among the topics discussed were the Community Partnership/village policing, SRANI footpath projects/funding, traffic calming/yellow line proposals, Scottish Water/flood monitoring.

The police reported that twenty-two crimes had been committed in the village during the month of March – a disappointing increase on recent months. The breakdown was:  
7 vandalism – 3 detected  
4 House break-ins  
1 fraud  
3 vehicle crimes  
1 Breach of the Peace – detected  
4 Breach of alcohol bylaws (drinking in the street) – detected  
2 theft (caught on CCTV)  
In the High Street on March 24 several cars were vandalized, one local youth was arrested, he was also charged with disorderly conduct.

Extra police patrols will continue in the village; more money has been made available from Renfrewshire Council to stamp out anti-social behaviour, particularly over the Easter holidays.

It was also reported that, in March, officers from Strathclyde Police carried out a series of Safe Kids awareness projects for children of Primary 6 age, at Castle Semple Centre.

The Community Partnership liaison members reported that a considerable amount of work is also going on behind the scenes to combat anti-social behaviour and other incidents in the village. The police, ASIST and the Community Partnership meet every month and the team members are very committed to tackling the various issues in the community. Davie Arthur gives a full round-up of Partnership work in this issue of Chatterbox.

The SRANI (South Renfrewshire Access Network Initiative) liaison member reported that work continues on the footpath around the loch. Phase 2 - Lochlip Road to Castle Semple - is ready to be offered for tender, subject to SEPA.

# BM JOINERY

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Phase 3 - Castle Semple Centre to Blackditch Bay - is awaiting the final surface bonding layer to be laid after Easter. Meanwhile, the path is open. Phase 4—route linking Blackditch Bay with Fancy Bridge. Copies of the Consultation paper and proposals for this phase are available for the public to view and comment on at Castle Semple Centre, Lochwinnoch Library. The proposals for Phase 4 are also featured on the village website.

A competition has been set for someone to name the path around the loch. See separate CMRP item in this issue of Chatterbox for further details.

Proposals and drawings for traffic calming and the introduction of yellow lines were discussed. Details and plans are on display in the McKillop Institute, Lochwinnoch Library and on the village website. The Community Council would appeal to members of the public to view and comment on these proposals. Further information on this topic is also featured in the News article written by Davie Arthur in this month's issue of Chatterbox.

The next Community Council meeting is on Tuesday 1st May in the Parish Church Hall. All welcome.

## YOUNG CHATTERBOX

Readers - get your children or young friends to pen an article or write to us with a piece of local news. Mark it 'Young Chatterbox' and send it in, either by hand-delivering items to the drop-box in Lochwinnoch Library or e-mail it to: chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info  
**Deadline for articles is the last day of the month prior to the month of publication.**

## The Grand Piano Revisited

**Slide Show Presentation by  
Dr. Chris Lee of Paisley  
Museum.  
At Lochwinnoch Library  
Tuesday 1st May 7.30pm**

In early 1989 the archives of Egyptologist Arthur C. Mace came to light in Lochwinnoch.

A request from the local Primary School for an exhibition about ancient Egyptians and a chance remark to a local lady, brought to light the amazing story, which led to the discovery that Arthur Mace had played a major role in the excavation and preservation of artefacts from the tomb of Tutankhamun .

Much of the discovery was accredited to Howard Carter. However, it now appears that Arthur Mace played a far greater role and much of the original manuscript of the popular account of the tomb's discovery is in his handwriting.

Dr Chris Lee was the curator of Lochwinnoch Museum at the time the documents relating to Mace were uncovered. The subsequent research, resulted in the publishing of "... The Grand Piano Came By Camel ..." and the opportunity to lecture on the subject at home and overseas.

Arthur Mace's daughter was a long time resident in the Lochwinnoch area.

Tickets £2.00, Conc. £1.50  
Admission by ticket only.

Refreshments included.  
Space is limited so advanced booking is essential. Contact Lochwinnoch Library for details.

# RSPB Lochwinnoch News

**Spring is here which means lots of exciting things are starting to happen on the reserve. The migrants are returning, the flowers are blooming and the butterflies and moths are starting to emerge, all of which make spring one of the best times of the year to visit the reserve.**

Over the coming months, visitors to the reserve will be able to enjoy watching our 'Wee Birdie' (not Big Brother!) blue tits build their nest and attempt to raise a family of chicks – last year 9 chicks fledged successfully and we hope they are just as successful this year!

We will also be showing footage of the Clyde Muirshiel hen harriers once the Aren't Birds Brilliant project begins. Keep your eye on the Clyde Muirshiel and RSPB websites for regular updates.

On bank holiday Monday (7<sup>th</sup> May) we will be holding an extra special event to celebrate free access to the reserve.

During 'Lochwinnoch Discovery Day' we will be asking our visitors to find as many birds on the reserve as possible. We will also be holding pond dipping, mini-beast hunts and guided walks throughout the day. The event is free so if you haven't been to the reserve in a while, why not come along and find out more!

Throughout the spring and summer, we will occasionally

announce 'Moth Mornings' where we invite visitors to come and have a look at what we have caught in our moth trap the night before.

To find out about these and our other events see back page of Chatterbox for monthly details. You can also ask to be added to the 'Events by E-mail' list, by contacting us at: [lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk)

#### Reserve Opening Hours -

The reserve is open at all times, and the visitor centre is open daily from 10am to 5pm. (closed 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> January).

Phone 01505 842663 or visit us in the visitor centre for more information.

Location: RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve, Largs Road, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, PA12 4JF. Easy to access by public transport.

Events are priced as specified. Many events are FREE to RSPB & Wildlife Explorer members!

RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve is ideal for all the family, as the trails and hides and the visitor centre are all easily accessible. You can enjoy refreshments in the visitor centre or browse in the RSPB shop, which specialises in optics, natural his-

tory books and wild bird care products.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

**The SRANI partnership** is seeking a name for the "Round the loch" path and they are inviting the local residents and those who use the path to choose an appropriate name.

Although the full path will not be ready for some time, SRANI will shortly have completed the sections from Lochwinnoch Station to Blackditch Bay. The next phase to be opened will be Phase 4 - the link from the cycle path at a point near St Brydes, around the side of Kenmuir Hill and down to Fancy Bridge, where it joins up with the path from Howwood.

The project has now reached a stage where initial directional signs are necessary and a name needs to be chosen for the path.

It has been decided that an open competition is the best way to select the name and anyone can submit an entry. The prize for the winning entry is a family fun day at Castle Semple Centre, donated by Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

Don't delay, get your thinking caps on and pick up an entry form at Castle Semple Centre, Lochwinnoch Library or Howwood Post Office and let us have your suggestions.

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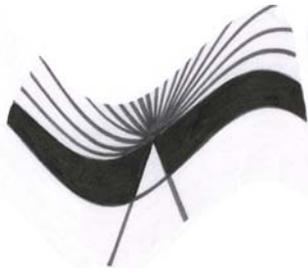
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## Lochwinnoch Arts Festival 2007

**Saturday 28th and  
Sunday 29th April  
Parish Church, Lochwinnoch**

### Saturday 28th April

12noon -1pm  
Paintings, Prints and Crafts (Entry free)

1-2pm  
Liz Lochhead (Scottish writer and poet)  
Presentation of primary school poetry  
competition

2-3pm  
Paintings, Prints and Crafts (Entry free)  
Local authors and second hand books

7.30pm-9.30pm  
Celtic music evening

### Sunday 29th April

1-2pm  
Paintings, Prints and Crafts (Entry free)

2-3pm - Classical music recital  
by Heather Corbett  
(BBC Symphony orchestra)

3-4pm  
Paintings, Prints and Crafts (Entry free)

7.30pm-9.30pm  
St Winnoch Singers Concert  
Celebrating 10years!!

*Tickets £15 Family (2 adults and  
2 children)*

*£12 All events*

*£5 Single event*

*£3 Single concession*

*Tickets from Crafts of Calder, The Junction  
Bistro and Brown Bull Pub*

## Local News from Davie Arthur

### **TRAFFIC CALMING/ PARKING:**

A reminder that the Community Council are still looking for comments from the public on the proposal. Drawings of the proposal may be found in the Library, McKillop Hall and on the village website. I also have a set of the drawings to view and I am also available to answer any questions and receive any comments on the proposal. I can be contacted on Tel: 843507, Mobile 07811 924 995 or by e-mail at: david.s.arthur@btopenworld.com

**YOUTH SPACE:** The Thursday night youth club raised a tremendous £530.20 for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day by getting sponsorship for the youths to colour their hair red as well as a few splodges on the odd face. There were also the daredevils who went a bit further and had their hair cut short on the night. Well done to all the youths involved and to Louise Johnston and her terrific hard working team.

**SCOTTISH WATER:** I am pleased to hear that a few Crookhill Gardens residents have been successful with their compensation claim to Scottish Water for the lack of water coming out of their taps over a 36-hour period. £40 per household is the payout. If you think you also deserve compensation and would like to make a claim to Scottish Water then contact me and I will give you the details. Tel: 01505 843507, Mobile 07811 924 995 or by e-mail at: david.s.arthur@btopenworld.com

**LOCHWINNOCH PARTNERSHIP:** Our unique partnership, the only one of its kind that is in existence, has just celebrated its second anniversary. The team consisting of Councillor Nimmo, the Police, ASIST (Antisocial behaviour Team), Christine Gibson and myself from the Community Council, are delighted with the results achieved over the last two years in making our community a safer and more peaceful place to live. The Partnership looks forward to continuing with our work on your behalf.

As the summer approaches, and the sun shines more consistently, there is normally a general increase in people consuming alcohol in public places. May we take this opportunity to highlight that there is a bye-law that makes it illegal to consume alcohol in a public place. The crime figures for March show that 4 people were arrested in the village and subsequently charged under this bye-law.

May we once again ask for your continued support by reporting all crime to the Police on 01505 404000 and all antisocial behaviour to the ASIST Team, contact details on the front of Chatterbox.

## ADVICE WORKS at Lochwinnoch Library

Tuesdays 10am -12.30pm  
Providing advice about entitlements to benefits. Advisors on hand to help fill in claim forms, check and advise on welfare benefits and money problems. Advisors can provide expert advice on a wide range of debit related topics, such as credit card, mortgage arrears, council tax, etc The service is FREE, confidential and open to all residents of Renfrewshire.



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**Call in or phone us for an appointment. Tel: 01505 842118**  
**Open Tuesdays to Saturdays and late on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.**

## Ladymoor Wind Factory Action Group (LWFAG)

### Kelburn Windfarm

We are delighted to advise that on 26<sup>th</sup> February North Ayrshire Council (NAC) rejected the application by Renewable Energy Systems Ltd to build a windfarm of 19 Turbines on land owned by Kelburn estate, Blair estate and adjoining land. This would have been to the North of the existing Dalry windfarm. This is the first time NAC have rejected a windfarm application within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The Developers have 6 months in which to appeal to the Scottish Executive so we should not become over excited - yet!

### Race Night

A most successful and enjoyable Race Night was held in the McKillop Institute on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The object was to raise funds to pay for more *SaveYourRegionalPark.com* banners, the ever increasing amount of printing and postage required for this campaign and to start building up a fund for expensive legal and expert witnesses which will be needed when we have to attend Public Enquiries. It was good to see people from right around the circumference of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park coming to Lochwinnoch in support of this event. The burden of organising this event fell on our very busy Events and Fundraising team who were supported by a great many generous Lochwinnoch individuals and business sponsors. We take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned for helping to make the evening the great success that it was.

## Warning to Irresponsible Dog Owners

This letter comes from a concerned villager.

'This is a direct plea to certain dog owners/walkers. There has been a marked increase in dog fouling on the streets and footpaths in Lochwinnoch.

The Community Council has been in contact with the Environmental Health Department of Renfrewshire Council and a dog warden has been assigned to patrol the village. The warden has posted some notices around the village to remind dog owners of their responsibilities with regard to this issue.

If you are a dog owner and allow your dog to foul the pavements you can be fined £40.00.

(Dog fouling bags are available from Lochwinnoch Library and from Environmental Services at Renfrewshire Council)

## The Cairn Again

A few mistakes crept into last month's Chatterbox about The Cairn of Lochwinnoch.

Dr Andrew Crawford in writing the Cairn always used the name Andro. He was the only one in his family who used the name Crawford, the rest of his family were known as Crawford.

The title of the books, some 46 leather bound volumes, was 'The Cairn of Lochwinyoch'.

The books were never kept in the museum in the village; they were always kept in the library in Paisley, where, of course, they remain to this day. The volumes are also on microfiche again in the Paisley library.

Incidentally, the Cairn is supplemented by a further 10 volumes that contain: Lochwinyoch Matters, The Bridgend Papers, The Craigend Papers and Auld Ballats with Lochwinyoch Matters.

Don't forget to visit Lochwinnoch library to read up on a wealth of local history.

Lochwinnoch Library Opening hours:  
Mon, Wed & Fri—2-5pm and 6-8pm  
Tues & Sat - 10am-1pm and 2-5pm  
Closed Thursdays.

"It's about connecting  
people with information  
and connecting  
people with people"

The Village Website  
[www.lochwinnoch.info](http://www.lochwinnoch.info)

**New Webcam...** [www.lochwinnoch.info/webcam](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/webcam)

A new webcam has been fitted down at Castle Semple Loch. You can view live images from the loch and pan round to view the different activity areas. The camera has been funded by Awards for All via the Community Council.

**Out of School Club...** [www.lochwinnoch.info/community/losc](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/community/losc)

The recently opened Out of School Club (LOSC) has had a very successful holiday club season with children participating in trips, arts & crafts and sports during the summer. Children are now enjoying the breakfast and after school club with an intake of new Primary 1's adding to the numbers.

**Business Directory...** [www.lochwinnoch.info/business](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/business)

If you have a business in the village make sure you have a listing in the online business directory. Just create an account and add a description, contact details etc. A standard listing is free!

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

# The Junction

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## Millennium Celebrations

As part of the Millennium celebrations – remember them? – the kids from the primary school all planted a tree in the area around the swing park.

Eager helpers, dressed in Barbour jackets and wellies dug the holes and assisted in the planting.

The small woodland around the swing park would have been a welcome addition to the village, plus the children who planted the trees could have pointed out their contribution to the Millennium to their children and grandchildren. Alas it was not to be, within a few months the trees

were history. Attacks by vandals made sure not one tree survived. A great pity. And when you think of it if vandalism like this had existed in the past there would probably be no trees at all in the village.

## WELL DONE ...

In last month's issue of Chatterbox, we featured the achievements of a group of local youngsters in achieving Gold in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

It seems that there is yet more local talent out there and a browse through Johnstone High School website has revealed that Lochwinnoch youngsters feature highly in the latest school newsletter.

\*\*\*

**Rachel Colbron** is a member of the Johnstone High School 7-a-side football team, who won the Renfrewshire round of the Coca Cola National Competition. The team has qualified for the regional quarter finals at the end of March.

**Rachel Holmes** was selected for the full Scotland Netball team for the European Open Netball Championships in Belfast. She was also selected for her own age group team to represent Scotland in a competition in Malta.

**Rachel Colbron** was also selected for the Scottish team in the Malta competition, but had to withdraw due to appendicitis. She has represented Scotland before and once she is back to full fitness, will do so again.

**Kirstie Porteous** won the Renfrewshire Cross Country Championship and, with her team, took second place in the team event.

**Kirsten Holmes**, with her Second Year girls' team, was placed third in their Cross Country Championship race.

**Megan Hair** is a member of PACE and has had the opportunity to take part in a film.

**Cameron Mackie**, a first year student at Johnstone High School, has been granted a place in the City of Glasgow Tennis Camp.

**Helen Mackay, William Holmes and Chloe Patterson** gained Duke of Edinburgh Gold, Silver and Bronze awards.

**Angela Dock and Nicole Dock** and others at Johnstone High School raised significant sums of money for St Vincent's Hospice in Howwood and were commended by the Director of Education.

**PS** - for those of you who missed The Tall Ships news item in last month's Chatterbox and the fund-raising achievements of the team, visit the school's website at: [johnstonehigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk](http://johnstonehigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk) for a full account of their adventures on the high seas, complete with photographs.

*(Well done to all featured in this month's Chatterbox and we hope we didn't miss anyone out.*

*Don't forget, if you have a story to tell, get in touch with us - contact details on the front cover - Ed.)*

## Favourable weather for opening weekend at Castle Semple

The arrival of sunny spring weather and the Easter School Holidays resulted in a bumper start for the opening weekend of Bike and Boat Hire operations at Castle Semple Visitor Centre, Lochwinnoch.

Martin Russell of Express Cycles had all his new bike hire kit in use. There is a brand new fleet of mountain bikes all with hydraulic disc brakes as well as trail bikes for hire, tag-a-long bikes for kids, bike trailers for small children as well as children's seats.

With the off road Sustrans cycle track passing the Visitor Centre, Castle Semple is a great place for kids to learn to ride a bike or there are more demanding routes available. Martin will happily advise on where to go.

Equally, the safe inland water of Castle Semple Loch is a great place to take to the water.

Andy Pollock of North Boat Hire also saw a great start to the season with the warm sunny weather. Andy's new kit this season includes a 2 seater kayak and family friendly pedal boats. The every popular brightly coloured rowboats and sit on kayaks are all available as are aqua trikes and surf bikes.

To help keep the finances in order for families visiting Castle Semple this season Andy and Martin have got together to offer a special **Family Ticket** for Boat and Bike Hire.

The ticket only costs £19 for four people to have one hour of bike hire, half an hour on a sit-on kayak or surf bike and half an hour in a rowboat. For those that need any bike repairs or accessories Martin can also help with that while you enjoy a walk along the loch shore or a coffee in the Visitor Centre.

Bike Hire at Castle Semple is operated by Martin Russell of Express Cycles & Repairs tel 07867 790 889. Operating Hours are Weekends, Public and School Holidays and most fair weather days from 10:00 – 16:00 hours. If you would like a hire out with these times please call him to arrange. Group Bookings should be made in advance.

Boat Hire at Castle Semple is operated by Andy Pollock of North Boat Hire tel 07949 984 181 Operating Hours\* are Weekends, Public and School Holidays from 12:00 hours till late from April until mid October (\*subject to suitable weather conditions). To avoid disappointment please call him in advance to check weather conditions.

## Opening Hours at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

### Castle Semple Centre

Tel: 01505 842 882  
Apr to Oct - every day 10-17:00 hrs

### Cornalees Centre

Tel: 01475 521 458  
Apr to Oct - weekdays and weekends—10:30 - 1600hrs

### Muirshiel Visitor Centre

Tel: 01505 842 803  
Apr to Oct - weekdays 11:00 - 16:00 hrs and weekends 11:00—17:00

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MSc, FCIPD, MBACP, DTM.

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## Modern Cookery

Hello Darlings,  
The sight of Cyril sauntering through the kitchen door clutching his turnips instils in me whoops of joy. Turnips herald spring just as the sight of Cyril sashaying sideways through the same door holding his large marrow to me heralds the first few days of autumn. Spring turnips are, in my mind, as delicious as the much over-rated truffle – the most expensive food known to man.

The turnip is not a splashy vegetable so it should be treated with the utmost of simplicity. Peel, boil until tender, serve with a knob of rich melting butter. Marvellous with crisp-skinned sea bream or bass and perfect in a light chicken stew.

In this country we have two types of turnip, the small, sweet white-fleshed spring turnip and the more majestic orange-fleshed winter turnip known in other parts of the country as a swede.

## Now and Then

*Now open every Sunday*

*from 12 noon - 4pm as well as 9am - 5pm Monday to Saturday.*

*More time to browse our new range of leather handbags, cards and gifts for all occasions;*

*Scottish crafts; silver, costume and handmade jewellery; Arran Aromatics; finishing touches for the home and much more.*

*By popular demand, we are now stocking Yankee candles and fragranced products.*

# News & Events at RSPB, Muirshiel, Cornalees & Castle Semple Centres

## 6th—19th April - Correction to last month's notice:

CMRP advise that the Photography Exhibition is not taking place.

## Sat 7th - Sat 28th April - Sky Dancing Hen Harriers

An opportunity to join RSPB staff for a moorland walk with a chance of seeing these wonderful birds of prey. Guided walks start at 13:45 hrs for 14:00 departure from Muirshiel Centre. tel 01505 842 803 for days of operation & bookings.

**Sat 21st-Sun 22nd April -  
Water Sports Courses:** RYA Level 2 Sailing for adults, BCU2 Star Kayak for adults and BCU Yellow Kayak for kids, RYA Level 2 Powerboat courses at Castle Semple Centre. Advanced booking essential  
Tel: 01505 842882 X20.

## Wednesday 25th April - Collegiate Church Walk.

Join Feeling Fitter Folk on a level 1B 5km walk along the lochside and cycleway to the early 16th century church, returning by Parkhill Wood. Meet at Castle Semple Centre at 13:15 hours Tel: 01505 842882 for further details.

**Saturday 28th April -  
Plant and Produce Sale** - from 10am to 2pm at RSPB, Lochwinnoch (Tel: 01505 842663). Arrive early to bag some bargains at this annual plant and produce sale, organized by the Renfrewshire local group.

**Sat 28th April to Monday  
7th May - Windy Hill Treasure  
Hunt.** Family friendly treasure trail, approx 2km on paths, venturing through the forest. Start at Muirshiel Visitor Centre, between 1100 hours and 15hours.  
Tel 01505 842803 for further details.

Chatterbox is 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

## Saturday 28th April - Guided Walk in Hen Harrier Country

It's the breeding season for a lot of wildlife and this is an opportunity to join staff for a 4-6km moorland walk on tracks in a brand new 28,100 hectare SSSI. Meet at Muirshiel at 13:45 hrs for 14:00 hrs departure. To book—Tel: 01505 842803.

## Sunday 29th April - Get your Access down here!

Come canoeing, join the access amble, try the mountain bike challenge, complete a quiz for a unique prize, speak to local fishing, hill walking, kayaking, orienteering and windsurfing clubs about how you can become more active and enjoy the outdoors responsibly.

At Castle Semple Centre running from 10.30 all day.

For more information, bookings and advice on clothing/footwear,  
Tel: 01505 842882.

## Tuesday 1st May - Official Opening of Upgraded Windy Hill Trail

Thanks to the help of a Scottish Power helicopter, local Access Funds and landowners, there is now a mud free, environmentally friendly access route. Come see, admire and try it out—for more information, Tel: 01505 842803.

**Saturday 5th May - Trail  
Detectives.** Hunt for clues on a family friendly 2.5km trail, starting at the newly restored Greenock Cut and leading through farmland, woodland and moorland.

At Cornalees Visitor Centre anytime from 1100 hours to 1500 hours.  
Tel: 01475 521458 for details.

## Sunday 6th May - Dawn Chorus 4.30am – 6.30am

Today is **International Dawn Chorus Day**. Why not make the effort to rise early to join us on a guided walk of the reserve to listen to the wonderful dawn chorus? Tea and toast will be provided afterwards. Please book in advance.

Wear waterproofs and stout footwear. £3 adult/£1.50 child non-members, Free for RSPB/WEx members. Tel: 01505 842663 for details.

**Sat 5th, Sun 6th & Mon  
7th May - NatiOnal Model Boat  
Championships.** Scale model sailing boats racing on Castle Semple Loch over the weekend with competitions through to 3.30pm on the final day. Tel: 01505 842882 for more details.

## Sat 5th May & Sun 6th May 2 Day Map and Compass Course:

Theory and Practice How are your map and compass skills? Day 1, starts in the classroom with afternoon out on the hill; Day 2 is a full day hill walk. Day 1 is at Cornalees Visitor Centre, Day 2 TBC - book in advance - Tel: 01505 842882 X20.

## Monday 7th May -

Lochwinnoch Discovery Day  
Free access to the reserve for this special event day - see RSPB News article inside for more details or  
Tel: 01505 842663.

## Saturday 12th May

A Walk in the Woods - 10am—1pm  
To celebrate the Tree Council's 'Walk in the Woods' campaign, an energetic stroll is planned around the reserve's woodland and Parkhill Woods in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. £3 adult/£1.50 child non-members, free for RSPB/WEx members. Book in advance by phoning RSPB - Tel: 01505 842663.



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