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Noise problems  
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# CHATTERBOX

www.lochwinnoch info  
lochwinnoch no 158 February 2007

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

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **1st-14th Feb—Art in the Park,** - 14th is the Final Day at Castle Semple Centre.
- **17th Feb Ceilidh** - McKillop Hall from 8.30pm Tickets £8
- **20th Feb Pancake Day** Tombola and home produce stalls Parish Church 2–4 pm Tickets £2
- **Sunday 4th March - Farmers' Market**—Castle Semple Centre from 11am
- **17th Feb —11th March** See back page for RSPB and Castle Semple/Muirshiel events, including Hen Harrier talk, Bat event, Watersports courses, etc.
- **Advice Works - every Tuesday** from 10am—12.30 in Lochwinnoch Library.

## Chatterbox Comes Of Age

**THE FIRST CHATTERBOX** was issued 21 years ago in February 1987. The first edition was delivered through every door in the village; subsequent editions were – as now – available from various outlets throughout the village.

The first edition contained snippets of news and a longer article (reproduced below) on the history of the Ayr to Glasgow railway line.

We were in the company of the gods when Glen Michael brought his popular cartoon show to the McKillop and Arthur Montford presented a TV Times Challenge Quiz Show also in the McKillop.

There was a plea to paint the railway bridge outside the lemonade factory. I think rather than painting it they pulled it down. It's no longer there.

Worldwide there was a lot happen-

ing in 1986: the Space Shuttle Challenger disintegrated shortly after launch, Chernobyl exploded, Halley's Comet reached the closest point to Earth during its second visit to Earth in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, BSE was first identified and the UK and France began talks on the Channel Tunnel.

In the entertainment world we watched Top Gun, Crocodile Dundee, Alien, Dynasty, Fame, The Bill and Hill Street Blues. We listened to Debbie Harrie, Simply Red, The Police, Culture Club and Whitney Houston. All people I am too young to have heard of.

The following article was headed 'Rail News'

'In 1840 when the Glasgow to Ayr line opened Glaswegians flocked to the Ayrshire beaches. The legendary Glasgow and South Western Railway was absorbed by the IM & SR in 1923. When BR took over following nationalisation in 1948 the trains were hauled by steam. Diesels were introduced in 1959. Shortly after this it was decided to electrify the line, but the project didn't get the go-ahead until 1982. The target for completion of the work that included altering 80 bridges, major earthworks and extensive rock cutting, was set to be October 1986 but the work was ahead of schedule and the new service started in January 1986. The trains consist of three carriages capably of carrying 216 passengers with through passenger access.'

### 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

## LMEG

### Money Available for Community Projects from LMEG

Do you have a project or are part of a group within the village with good ideas but short of cash? – LMEG would be interested to hear from you. Lochwinnoch Millennium Events Group has been around now for 7 years. Most recently LMEG has been involved with the Path around the Loch, the Out of School Club and Youth Space Project at the McKillop. Thanks to the success of the village CLAN Broadband project, which completed with some money to spare, we have funding to be used for community projects. Contact Carol Gemmell on 843858 to find out more.

### Need a Meeting Space?

The meeting room behind the library that used to be the office for the Sustainable Community Workers Liz Nickerson and Ruth Oldrey is still available for community groups to use for meetings, or other purposes. If you need a place to meet, contact Carol Gemmell on 843858.

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# Update from Davie Arthur

## Royal Mail

I'm delighted to announce that normal service has resumed after the needless interruption during the first few weeks in January - i.e. if you get a postcard through your door from the postman informing you that he was unable to deliver a parcel, you can collect it from Lochwinnoch Post Office.

Thanks to all who complained directly to Royal Mail and also to the Post Office Association who gave terrific support to our cause.

My thanks also to the Royal Mail Senior Manager who showed the requested compassion and understanding and over-ruled the decision to punish our community in the first place.

## Mains Water Supply

Recently our village has been plagued with either no water or dirty undrinkable water flowing from our taps.

Our problems started with a burst underground mains supply pipe in St. Winnoch Road, which was a simple run of the mill repair but when the mains supply water was reinstated the water pressure was uncontrollably increased so much that our ageing mains water supply network started to blow holes. This increase in pressure was caused by a fault with one of the in-line pressure reducing valves.

If you were one of the lucky ones, you had reduced pressure dirty water but if your house was in the higher areas of the village like Crookhill Gardens or one of the farms then you had no water at all, apart from the roadside bowsers and doorstep-delivered bottled water.

Scottish Water, who had to draught in reinforcements from other areas, battled bravely through day and night to try to initiate repairs and resume normal service. However, with identified bursts bordering on double figures and some residents requesting work through the night to be suspended due to the noise, time was the enemy.

With things getting back to normal, we now have to look at what

needs to be put in place to prevent a recurrence. As part of Scottish Water's Capital Investment Programme they are currently investigating the supply network within our village to determine which sections of pipe-work require replacement but there is no start date in place for replacement work to begin. These essential works need to be fast tracked to prevent more of the above interruptions. Over the next few weeks I will continue with my discussions with Scottish Water.

If you are having problems with your mains water supply then contact Scottish Water's Customer Helpline on 0845 601 8855.

If you are unsuccessful obtaining a solution to your problem then don't hesitate to contact me, Davie Arthur on 843507 or email [david.s.arthur@btopenworld.com](mailto:david.s.arthur@btopenworld.com)

## Letter

**I would like to thank all the villagers who sponsored me on the Jingle Bells run for Arthritis on December 8.**

A total of £112 will go to a programme of research being undertaken at York Hill Hospital by Dr Jane Gardiner.

Many thanks, yours in sport - keep running!  
Ronnie Brown

## Got a story?

THEN WE WANT to hear from you! A new book of writing by people who live in Renfrewshire. Open to anyone

over 16 who has not previously been published. Closing Date: 2nd March 2007

If you'd like help in getting started, come along to our writing workshops for beginners:

**Every Thursday morning 10am-12 noon at Glenburn Library, Paisley.** Wednesday 7th February 7pm at Glenburn Library-writing workshop with author Des Dillon. Des will be reading from his own work and giving advice about how to get started.

For more information, or if you would like a workshop to be run at a library near you, please contact Morag Smith on 0141 8842874

## Litter Litter Everywhere

LITTER IS BECOMING a problem in this village. Dropping litter in the streets seems to be the biggest single activity for some members of the community and beyond.

I pity the people who have to pick up the rubbish some people drop.

***In Continental Europe you don't have the same problem because most Continentals think dropping litter on the street is a pretty disgusting activity.***

The path to the station is strewn with junk of all kinds thrown from cars: hamburger packaging, bottles, crisp packets and assorted rubbish too varied to mention. It's not only youngsters who pile litter onto the streets. I recently stood aghast as the occupants of a car - ma, pa and two almost grown up weans - hurled loads of trash out of the sunroof window.



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## Advice Works Surgery

Every Tuesday from 10am to 12.30 pm in Lochwinnoch library.

Advice Works can provide advice about entitlement to benefits, check you are receiving all the benefits due to you, advise on welfare and money problems and fill in claim forms.

Advice Works can also provide expert advice on a wide range of topics, including Mortgage arrears, Credit cards, Council tax, Bank loans, and Bankruptcy and Trust deeds.

**The service is free, confidential and available to all residents of Renfrewshire.**

## Club Closure

As from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007, The Glue Pot Social Club has been disbanded. This was a decision taken by the majority of the members and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the people who have supported/donated to our charity events over the last 6 years or so. We managed to raise approx. £5,000 for different charities over this time. Again, THANK YOU.

On a different note, a few of us would like to have a Car Boot Sale in the village, perhaps in the summer time, and we would welcome suggestions as to which charity could benefit from profits from an event like this. If anyone knows of a local charity or other good cause, please contact me at [vas37@btopenworld.com](mailto:vas37@btopenworld.com) and we will keep you posted regarding this project.  
Thank you very much, Val Stewart.

## Community Council News

The monthly Community Partnership meeting took place on 1st February. It was reported that crime figures are down on previous months, with 8 crimes reported for January '07 and 4 for December '06. ASIST and the Police are active and much is going on behind the scenes in this area.

The Community Partnership (including the police and the ASIST team) will meet again on Thursday 1st March at 2pm at the McKillop Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting to speak to the Partnership team or to individual members of the team (in confidence).

A communication has been received from British Airports Authority (BAA), following consultations

undertaken regarding aircraft noise. The BAA has launched a new Glasgow Airport Noise Action Line, allowing local residents to raise concerns about aircraft noise. The number to call is: 0141 848 4644.

Concern was raised at the CC meeting about the increase in dog fouling in open spaces, on pavements and around play areas in the village. Dog owners please take note—it is an offence under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 not to remove and dispose of dog excrement. Dog fouling bags are available from Lochwinnoch library and from Environmental Services. Local Authorities and the police have powers to impose fines. Please play your part and clean up after your dog and scoop up the poop and dispose of it safely.

Consideration is being given to introducing a section in Chatterbox, which would feature articles, stories and items of news from young people in the village. It may be that, if enough interest is shown, a regular 'Young Chatterbox' page could be featured in future monthly editions of the newsletter. The Community Council would like to encourage this venture.

If you read Chatterbox and have children with a story to tell, please get in touch with the Chatterbox team direct—**Chatterbox contact details are given on the front of this newsletter.**

Copy deadlines for Chatterbox are the last day of the month prior to the month of publication.

"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 Sempie 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)

Places are still available for the Easter Holiday Club. Contact the club administrator for further details on 07914 968333

Forum Registration... forum registration is being managed manually for now. This will result in a short delay before your any new account is activated and able to post.

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)

# News & Events at RSPB, Castle Semple & Muirshiel

## Sat 17 & Sun 18 February

### Adult BCU 3 Star Kayak Course

A two day course for those who have already gained their BCU 1 & 2 Stars: Castle Semple: 09:30 16:00 hrs both days

COST: £65

MORE INFO: Advanced booking ASAP is essential please Tel: 01505 842 882 Ext20

## Sun 18 February

### Hen Harrier Talk

An illustrated talk on the Muirshiel Hen Harriers with CCTV footage from the 2006 season and earlier:

Muirshiel: 13:45 for 14:00 hrs.

MORE INFO: Tel: 01505 842 803 & bookings.

## Sun 25 February

### Conservation Volunteers

Do a bit of healthy outdoor work, it'll keep you fit and be helping the natural environment all at the same time:

Muirshiel: 13:00 hrs. MORE INFO:

Tel: 01505 842 803 & bookings

Mar

## Sat 3 & 4 March

### Adult RYA Level 1 Dinghy Sailing Course

This course is an ideal introduction to dinghy sailing on the safe inland water of Castle Semple Loch: Castle Semple: 10:00 - 16:00 hrs both days

COST: £135

MORE INFO: Advanced booking ASAP is essential please Tel: 01505 842 882 Ext20

## Sat 3 March

### Spring Arrives

With days getting longer, Visitor Centres will be open slightly longer at weekends, all month.

Castle Semple until 17:00 hrs

Muirshiel & Cornalees until 16:00 hrs

## Sun 4 March

### Lochwinnoch Spring Farmers Market

Local producers will have a wide variety of locally grown products for sale in a very scenic location: Castle Semple: 11:00 to 14:30 hrs or until sold out MORE INFO: Tel: 01505 842 882 Ext20

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

## Sun 4 March

### Bat Awakening

Wake up to Bats! They are, are you? Muirshiel: 13:45 for 14:00 hrs  
MORE INFO: Tel: 01505 842 803 & bookings

## Sat 10 & Sun 11 March

### Adult RYA Level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course

This course provides sailors with the opportunity to improve their skills to enable solo sailing: Castle Semple:

10:00 - 16:00 hrs both days

COST: £135

MORE INFO: Advanced booking ASAP is essential please Tel: 01505 842 882 Ex20

## Sun 11 Mar

### Aren't Birds Brilliant: Hunting Hen Harriers

RSPB staff will be on hand with telescopes and binoculars, ideal for spotting Hen Harriers before they head up to the moors for the breeding season: Castle Semple: Drop in anytime 14:00 - 16:00 hrs.

## Thanks

The Doctors at Lochwinnoch surgery would like to thank Vikki Lee for the kind donation to purchase a nebulizer for the surgery, following her successful Variety Benefit Show.

## Step We Gaily Ceilidh

### Saturday 17th February.

Hooch to the sound of The Last Tram Tae Auchenshuggle at the Step We Gaily Ceilidh in the McKillop Hall from 8.30pm. Tickets £8 .

## Windfarms

THANK YOU very much for printing our update on the Wind Hydrogen windfarm proposal in the January edition. I notice that you have asked for someone to write an article in favour of wind power and just wanted to make it clear to you and other readers that Ladymoor Wind Factory Action Group (LWFAG) is **not** an anti-windpower organisation. However we are anti-windfarms placed within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

There are currently 10 wind farms proposed within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park (CMRP).

These total about 300 turbines and are at various stages of proposal, discussion and planning. CMRP covers 108 Square Miles of a designated **Area of outstanding Natural Beauty** covering the geographical area of the Renfrew Heights roughly from Greenock in the north to Ardrossan in the south, Largs in the west and Lochwinnoch in the east. These wind farms, if allowed would take up about 30% (and no doubt eventually more) of the park.

CMRP is administered by an Authority Board consisting of representatives from the Councils for Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire and Inverclyde plus Scottish Natural Heritage. The aims and objects of CMRP are available from

[www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk](http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk)

Both the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan together with all the Local Plans suggest areas they consider are suitable for wind farms and state that CMRP is **not** suitable.

We are the organisation running the **Save Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park** campaign to keep the park free of all industrial development including wind farms. A park is a park and under no circumstances should CMRP be allowed to be turned into an industrial estate.



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