

**Nuisance Helpline**  
Anti-Social Behaviour  
Noise problems  
Support and Advice  
Every day 9am – 10pm  
Tel: 0800 169 1283

# CHATTERBOX

No 170 February 2008  
[www.lochwinnoch.info](http://www.lochwinnoch.info)

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

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

- **Advice Works** - Tuesdays  
10am – 12.30, Lochwinnoch  
Library.
- **Kickjitsu for Kids** - Monday  
nights, Parish Church Hall.
- **Kickjitsu for Adults** - Mon-  
day nights, 7pm, McKillop Hall.
- **Tai Chi for Beginners** -  
Friday nights, 6.45-7.45pm, The  
Room, Lochwinnoch Library.
- **Yoga Classes** - Wednesday  
nights, 7.30pm McKillop Hall.
- **Morag's Keep Fit**  
Mondays and Thursdays from  
7pm, McKillop Hall.
- **Art in the Park** - Exhibition  
runs daily till **13 February**  
(see inside for details).
- **Saturday 16th February**  
Councillor Arthur's Surgery  
from 11.30am at the McKillop  
Institute.
- **Saturday 16th February**  
Gala Valentines Ceilidh – with Last  
Tram Tae Auchenshuggle at the  
McKillop Hall (details inside).
- **Thursday 21st February**  
Lochwinnoch Historical Society  
meeting at 7.30pm - Guild Room,  
Parish Church. (details inside).
- **Friday 22nd February**  
Prize Bingo Night - 7.30pm at the  
Masonic Hall (see inside for more  
details of other club events).
- **Sunday 2nd March** -  
Spring Farmers' Market  
(see back page for details).

## New Business Forum

Members of Lochwinnoch's busi-  
ness community have banded  
together to establish a new group  
with the aim of increasing the  
number of visitors to the village  
and boosting local usage.

The first meeting of the Lochwin-  
noch Business Forum was at-  
tended by local retailers, restau-  
rateurs and business owners  
who discussed ways of attracting  
more people to the village and  
ideas for persuading those who  
do live here to support their  
homegrown enterprises.

Now that phase two of the SRANI  
project, the path which will even-  
tually circumnavigate Castle  
Semple Loch, is approaching  
completion - one of the most  
pressing topics under discussion  
by the business owners was  
signage to the village centre.

Concerns were raised that al-  
though the number of visitors to  
the Loch, visitor centre and  
RSPB is very high, particularly  
during summer and for events  
like the Farmers' Market, few  
venture into the village centre

itself - probably unaware of what  
facilities are on offer.

"At the moment, Lochwinnoch is  
a community with a commercial  
heart", commented a spokesman  
for the Forum. "We haven't  
turned into soulless commuter  
belt like other places around and  
we have a growing number of  
local businesses of all sorts run  
by talented people dedicated to  
this village.

"While our businesses receive  
excellent support from residents  
and those from surrounding ar-  
eas, if we are to survive and de-  
velop, we need more. We have  
to increase footfall and patronage  
from outside Lochwinnoch as  
well as achieving more recogni-  
tion among locals of what they  
have on their doorstep."

Lochwinnoch Business Forum is  
keen to involve as many local  
companies and small enterprises  
as possible as well as being  
open to suggestions from anyone  
interested in ways of promoting  
the village and its commerce.

Initial contact can be made  
through Christine Brown at Crafts  
of Calder Gallery -  
([christine.brown@paisleyartists.com](mailto:christine.brown@paisleyartists.com))  
or Sue Nicholson at Now & Then-  
([sue@nicholson2808.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:sue@nicholson2808.freeserve.co.uk)).

## 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



### Editorial & copy for Chatterbox

Let us have your stories, notices, news,  
information, events & items of interest –  
either hand-deliver them to the Chatter-  
box drop-box in the Library or e-mail to:  
[chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info)

### To advertise in Chatterbox

Tel: 07899 746403 or e-mail:  
[chatterboxaccount@btinternet.com](mailto:chatterboxaccount@btinternet.com)

**COPY DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE  
IS FRIDAY 29TH FEBRUARY 2008**

# ID PLUMBING + HEATING

Plumbing • Gas Fitting  
Heating • Air Conditioning

Domestic and commercial  
installation and maintenance

Fires, Cookers, Boiler Installation and Servicing,  
Bathroom Suites, Blocked Drains

Tel: 01505 843 771 or 07920 762 529



## A Reader writes...

Dear Chatterbox

It was with much pleasure and interest that I read in the January Chatterbox the "Cinema Paradiso" article about the Manders' Palace Cinema in Calder Street.

It may have surprised some folk reading your article that early permanent cinemas were often opened in various towns in Scotland by travelling fairground people. For decades, fairground proprietors had previously presented magic lantern shows and moving picture bioscope shows, so it was only natural that with their expertise they helped pioneer the early 'pictures'.

As well as the Manders family, a branch of which still travels in Scotland with fairground amusements, other names that spring to mind are the Lawrences, Biddalls, Paulos and, of course, the Greens of Glasgow Playhouse fame.

Your article makes mention of Polly Manders' caravan or "living wagon" in showland parlance, which I have no knowledge of (perhaps before my time).

However, you may be interested to know that another living wagon, with strong links to Lochwinnoch, still exists. This wagon was built in Brig-house Yorkshire by Southern in 1946 for the late Nathaniel Codona,

who travelled a Motorcycle Speedway in Scotland. The wagon was sold out of showland about 1972 to a Mr Malcolm Drennan, a tipper owner-operator, to live in with his family while his ex-railway cottage in Howwood was renovated.

After a year or so, it passed to an owner in Lochwinnoch, either to a Mr Russell (who, with his father, operated a small fleet of tippers from Calder street) or to a Mr Fulton Barclay (possibly the one mentioned in your article) who was a projectionist at the Lochwinnoch Palace. Both of these gentlemen were owners of the wagon but I am not sure who was first. Anyway, I understand that the wagon spent many years parked adjacent to Lochwinnoch golf course and the many dents on the side of it, when we acquired it, would certainly bear testimony to that!

Eventually, Mrs Pat Findlay, one time licensee of The Brown Bull, acquired the wagon and it was shunted through a specially made hole in the wall behind the pub and into the garden for use as a summer house.



Later, realising that the adjacent land would be built on (this became Lade Court) and that the wagon would, therefore, become trapped behind the pub, Mrs Findlay put the wagon up for sale - which is where we came into the story, purchasing it for restoration in the Spring of 1991.

After two years of hard work and much blood, sweat and tears, the sympathetic restoration of the wagon was completed. The picture below shows the caravan as it appears today, being towed by a 1960 AEC Mercury showman's lorry on the road at Beattock.



Since 1993, both have been exhibited at vintage vehicle rallies the length of Britain, from Alness in the North to Kent, Cornwall and the Isle of Wight in the South.

Should any of your readers have any further information on the wagon's sojourn in Howwood and Lochwinnoch, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Yours faithfully

**Brian McGinley**  
East Kilbride

*(The team at Chatterbox are in contact with Mr McGinley and can pass on any information you may have to him. You can e-mail us at [chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info) or, if you do not have e-mail, please use the Chatterbox drop-box in the library for your replies and we will forward them. Ed)*

## Lochwinnoch Art Group

The Art Group welcomed some new faces at their last two meetings.

At their latest meeting, they had an interesting talk on drawing horses and ponies by Glenys, who is an expert in that field. Definitely not as easy as it looks !

The Group opened their "Art in the Park" exhibition at the Castle Semple Visitor Centre recently. The exhibition will run until Wednesday 13th February and all paintings are for sale.

The next meeting of the Art Group is on 11th February at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Guild Room of the Parish Church. The topic for the evening will be "Snowscenes" and Christine Brown will talk and do a demonstration in water-colours on that subject.

Once again, the Art Group extend an open invitation to everyone to come along and see what they get up to and hopefully join them for future interesting evenings.

**Christine**

---

## MASONIC CLUB EVENTS

### PRIZE BINGO NIGHTS

**Friday 22nd February**

**Friday 28th March**

7.30pm at the Masonic Club

Everyone welcome.

\*\*\*

### SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

**At the Masonic Club  
in April**

(look out for posters  
with more details)

## THE OSTEOPATHS

**Teresa G Harvey RGN, BSc Hons (Ost)**  
**Simeon P London BSc Hons, BSc Hons (Ost)**



**Neck pain, Back pain, Sports Injuries, Headaches,  
Whiplash, Pre/Post Natal Care, Babies and Children.**

**Tel: 07988 770380**

**Bowfield Hotel and Westfield House, Johnstone.  
Out of Hours Appointments available.**

## Sky at Night Lochwinnoch

### February to March

**The Moon** is 'New' on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**The Moon is Full in the early hours of Thursday February 21<sup>st</sup>** and those willing to rise early, will be rewarded with a **Total Lunar Eclipse**.

There are two phases, penumbra and umbra. The penumbra (about 0040) is barely visible but the umbra, where the Earth's shadow moves over the surface of the Moon, begins about 0145 hours and is quite dramatic. Total eclipse takes place between 0300 and 0400 hours on Thursday morning - early rise! At maximum eclipse there is just enough sunlight 'bent' around the Earth to cause the surface of the Moon to appear rusty red. During the eclipse, the Moon is just below the star Regulus, in Leo. To the left is the planet Saturn providing a great photo opportunity without the glare of the Moon.

### Planets

**Mars** is high in the south-east as darkness falls and sits just below the star Elnath in the constellation of Auriga, with the **Moon** in its 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to the right. About the same time, **Saturn**, still below Leo, is rising just above the Braes while **Venus, Jupiter and Mercury** rise just before the Sun about 7.30am.

### Meteors

There are no meteor showers of note in the near future but you are likely to see 'shooting stars' anytime.

### Sun

In Scotland, viewing of the night sky decreases rapidly as we move through spring due to the shorter nights. Only the brighter objects are seen. Then, it is time to move to daytime viewing and start looking for Sunspots. It is now officially the start of the next sunspot cycle, Cycle 24, building to the next Solar Maximum in 2011/2012.

This and much more can be found on the Village website at [www.lochwinnoch.info](http://www.lochwinnoch.info)

## EVENTS

### Stargazing at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Join staff from the Coats Observatory in Paisley and take advantage of the dark skies over Muirshiel Park.

- **Friday 22nd February**  
From 19:00-21.00hrs - Mini Messier Marathon. The Messier catalogue contains 110 nebula or star clusters visible from the northern hemisphere. Messier Marathons are timed for the first part of the year when, weather and location permitting, all can be viewed in a single night.
- **Friday 14th March**  
From 19:00 - 21.00 hrs - Saturn. Saturn is spectacular and you must see this before the rings turn edge on.

These events are FREE. Please come dressed for outdoors - warm clothes, hats and gloves and bring a torch and binoculars, if you have them. To book, contact Muirshiel Centre on - Tel: 01505 842803.



Lochwinnoch residents -  
Can I help? If so, please  
don't hesitate to get in  
touch.

Douglas Alexander, Lochwinnoch's MP

Write to : 2014 Mile End Mill, 12 Seedhill Road, Paisley, PA1 1JS.  
Tel: 0141 581 0333. Email: dalexandermp@talk21.com  
or come to one of my advice surgeries.



Lochwinnoch  
Millennium  
Events  
Group

## An update on LMEG ...

Some may remember that LMEG was originally formed following the great success of the Year 2000 New Year street party. More might remember Liz Nickerson and then Ruth Oldrey our Sustainable Community Workers based in the room at the back of the library who helped with a wide range of village projects. Establishing a Youth Club, which has since grown into the Youth SPACE Project at the McKillop, the Community Garden behind the Parish Church, the SRANI path from the station and of course not forgetting energy saving light bulbs and composting bins!

You'll have also seen in Chatterbox recently that we have been involved in helping initiatives like the Writers Group, the Playgroup and local poet Betty McKellor. In December we organised the Christmas lights in the village – a big thanks once again to all the villagers, organisations and the churches that helped in this adventure, in particular to Mr McManus of Calder Electrics and to Jo and Ivan Minucci who welcomed those who braved the elements into the Junction for mulled wine at the 'Big Switch On'.

### Over £1100 was raised

from villagers and local businesses towards the costs of the lights.

Thanks to everyone for making it such a great success – here's to more next year!

We have more ideas for the future and this note is to update anyone who would like to help us. Our Big Idea for 2008 is to build on the many paths in and around Lochwinnoch and encourage many more people who visit or live in our village to discover all parts of it. We would like to encourage people to spend time and money in Lochwinnoch and contribute to the vibrant community that we are.

It'll be a phased plan, so to start we've been talking to Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Renfrewshire Council (especially about the new core paths initiative) and it all seems very positive. We are also talking to Adrian Wiszniewski, one of the celebrated 'Glasgow Boy' artists who lives in Lochwinnoch, to design and build a structure giving visitors to the village an entertaining, informative and thought-provoking guide to the village. The theme of this structure might be taken on to leaflets and signage to promote the rich variety of walks involving the lochs, castles, churches and birds, to explore and enjoy the landscapes in and around the village. And that's only Phase One!

All help, ideas or input are very welcome. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Please get in touch.

Thanks,  
**Carol Gemmell**  
Tel: 843 858

## LOCHWINNOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Community Council met on Tuesday 5th February.

Ten crimes were mentioned in the January report for the Lochwinnoch area, including 4 vandalisms, 2 Road Traffic offences, 1 misuse of drugs, 2 thefts in the local area and 1 house-breaking. A team from ASIST visited the village on Monday, 28th January, with their 'ASBO' bus. Many local people dropped in for information and to talk to the ASIST team during that visit. The next Community Partnership meeting will be on 3th March.

Much discussion took place on planning matters, which will be recorded in the CC minutes and publicised.

A report had been received from Amey, who state that roadworks at Roadhead Roundabout are expected to be complete by the middle/end of March. Further update next month.

The SRANI team have now received a report from Scottish Natural Heritage containing advice from SNH's Mammal Ecologist in relation to the Round the Loch path. The recent Protected Mammal Survey found a great deal of otter and badger activity on the southern shore of Castle Semple Loch and SRANI have decided not to pursue the continuation of a path on that side of the loch.

Date of next CC meeting - Tuesday 4th March 2008 in the Guild Room. All welcome.

### Fairtrade Fortnight 25th Feb to 9th March

Lochwinnoch International Aid is setting up a new group to promote Fairtrade in Lochwinnoch with the aim of getting the village declared to be a 'FairtradeVillage'.

It doesn't take much, a number of organisations, groups businesses and individuals to declare themselves to be Fairtraders.

If you would like to be part of this group, phone Bob Turner 843 068 or Dave Mellor 843 099.

# Councillor Arthur's Report

Last May, the children of Lochwinnoch Primary School's Eco-Committee put together a proposal and applied to the Royal Bank of Scotland's community investment programme "Supergrounds", which helps primary schools improve their school grounds. After a long wait the children were jumping with joy and excitement when news came through that their application was successful and that the school had been awarded £4,000 for their project, which includes an outdoor classroom, a dance/karaoke area, some large sit-on toys for the infants and a quiet garden at the front of the school.

Rumour has it that some parents and grandparents are lobbying for a 'Child Pickup Drive Through' to be included within the outdoor classroom. If this stops those parents and grandparents causing congestion and compromising the childrens' safety by their selfish action of parking their cars at the school gates then the proposal gets my vote.

Well done to all involved in making this a successful bid and special thanks to the member of staff at our village bank for nominating this application. If anyone is interested in becoming involved in any capacity then contact Karen Campbell at the school on 842583.

I'm delighted to see that our village group Lochwinnoch International Aid (LIA) has picked up the facilitating role to get Lochwinnoch to become a 'Fairtrade' status village. This certainly fits in nicely with the commitment of the recently set-up Renfrewshire Fairtrade Steering Group of which I am a member. This Group, which is made up of



*"Valentine's Day  
Is a wonderful way  
To make "I love you"  
Easy to say"...*



*and you'll get extra brownie points for saying it with a gift and a card!*



*We have a huge selection at:*



**Now & Then**

**8 Church Street, Lochwinnoch Tel: 843311**

**Gifts • Cards • Jewellery • Leather • Home**

Renfrewshire Councillors, the Bishopton Fairtrade Steering Group, the Paisley Fairtrade Partnership, Reid Kerr College, the Co-op, Rainbow Turtle, Glasgow Airport, PACT and the University of the West of Scotland, are all dedicated to making the whole of Renfrewshire a Fairtrade zone. During Fairtrade Fortnight, which runs from 25<sup>th</sup> February through to 9<sup>th</sup> March, a programme of local events will be run at various venues within Renfrewshire.

At the Planning and Economic Development Board on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, a report was presented to and approved by the Board with regards to the strip of land in Gates Road that runs parallel with the cycle track. The gist of the recommendations was that the site lies within the designated Green Belt and is subject to Green Belt policy GB1. The full report can be found at <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/ilwwcm/publishing.nsf/Content/Navigation-cs-AgendasandMinutesHomePage>

My Surgery is on the third Saturday of each month at 11:30am in the McKillop Hall but there is no need to wait for a Surgery if you require my help, you can contact me on 843507 and we can agree a time when we can meet.

**Councillor David Arthur**

## VALENTINES GALA CEILIDH

On  
**Saturday**  
**16th February 2008**

from  
8pm - 12 midnight  
Doors open 7.30pm

Dance the night away to  
music by

**The Last Tram Tae  
Auchenshuggle**

Tickets on sale at £8.50  
from  
The Brown Bull, Junction  
Bistro, Calder Gallery and  
The Corner Bar.



BAR

RAFFLE



PRIZES

# From the Parish Church

*Roses are red, violets are blue,  
I'll save my last dance to dance  
only with you.*

It's February, nearly spring, when days lengthen and a time when, according to Chaucer, a young man's fancy turns to love. In the next couple of weeks, we will send over 1 billion Valentine Cards and buy 110 million roses. Just to say I love you.

The details of the life of the original Valentine are now lost in the mists of time. However it is thought that he was martyred sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century. He is included among those, "... whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God." He is now the patron saint for not just those who are engaged, but also bee keepers, happy marriages, love, plague, travellers, young people and greeting card manufacturers. No small wonder when Valentine provides them with their busiest season after Christmas.

When I was a young teenager, the craze was to collect as many Valentine poems as possible and squeeze them all into one card. I seem to remember my record was 96. Funnily enough I cannot remember to whom I sent the card!

Like so many of our traditions, the custom of sending an anonymous card to the object of our heart's desire began in Victorian times when it was believed to be unlucky to sign the cards. Today I suspect millions of cards are given to those we know – the people we live with everyday. I dare to suggest that we at least try

to show our love to husbands, wives, girl friends and boy friends, partners, children and parents, all the time. Showing we appreciate those with whom we share our lives should be a priority on each of the 366 days of this leap year.



However, I rather like the idea of sending our love anonymously. In recent months there has been a campaign to make Lochwinnoch a 'Fairtrade' village. I support that endeavour whole-heartedly. In using fairly traded goods we are ensuring producers in developing countries are given a fair price for their products. The Fairtrade Mark is an independent consumer label, which appears on products as an independent guarantee that disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a better deal. Carrying the Fairtrade Mark has made immeasurable differences to the lives of countless people around the world, as those of you who have seen "Black Gold" will know, and it is something I believe we should support.

Yet, charity, or love, as the Bible has it, begins at home. As I have said before, our own farmers have had an awful year. Yes, milk prices have risen and grain prices are also better than they were, however, this is a two edged sword.

Farmers needing to buy grain for feeding will have seen their costs almost double in recent months. Therefore alongside campaigning for fair trade with producers from overseas, we should also be campaigning for fair trade at home.

By showing support for our local farmers, by showing our support for unknown suppliers around the world, we are sending our love anonymously. By using produce produced in good working environments, by people who are being given a fair price for their labour and who are being cared for by their employers, we are sending our love around the world. I can't speak for anyone else, but knowing that the tea I drink has not exploited anyone in the making of it, makes the tea taste much sweeter.

Last year we celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery Trade Act. Millions of men, women and children are still enslaved in the coffee and chocolate industries – supplying us with luxuries they will never be able to afford. Let's send our love around the world and set them free. Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 25<sup>th</sup> Feb-9<sup>th</sup> March. This is a time we are encouraged to make changes. A small difference in our choices can make a huge difference to the lives of countless people. This month, please think about sending your love around the world – let's make Lochwinnoch a Fairtrade village.

Yours  
*Christine*



## Lochwinnoch Golf Club



### Special Winter Offer

Why not play our great course for just £40 for a 4 Ball. Lochwinnoch can almost guarantee Big Greens all winter long. Offer available until Friday 21st March.

### Revised Summer Packages 2008

18 Holes of Golf + High Tea for just £26.50.  
27 or 36 holes of Golf + Breakfast, Lunch and High Tea for only £37.50.

To book, contact Elaine Boyle on 01505 842153

# LOCHWINNOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st February at 7.30pm in the Guild Room of the Parish Church. This month's speaker is Murray Blair and he will give an illustrated talk entitled "Robert Burns - The Volunteer".

New members and visitors are always welcome. Membership is £8 for the year and an evening visit, including tea and coffee, is £2.

Renfrewshire Local History Forum are holding a series of History Nights at Paisley Central Library. Their next history night is on Wednesday 27th February from 7.30-9pm and the topic is "A Roaming Therapy". The speaker, Lil Brookes, will tell how a walk through Paisley's past started off an innovative local history project which combats stress and isolation. These history nights are free, though donations would be most welcome.

\*\*\*

We have been contacted by a member of the Mearns historical group, who would appreciate any information Chatterbox readers may have on James Melville, the house Robank or any of the lodgers mentioned in the following research article.

**James Melville** was born in Neilston or Barrhead in 1818. He married Jean (Jane) McEwen, also born in Neilston, on 31st January 1840. According to the 1841 Census, James was working as a calico printer in Grahamston. They had a daughter, Agnes, of 5 months and a lodger, Thomas Studdart, who also worked in the printworks. The Census gives his occupation as Colour M.

By 1851, the family had moved to Robank, Lochwinnoch, where James was employed as a silk printer. They had a lodger, John Cochrane, who was a colour cutter, five children and a servant.

## Elaine Robertson BSc Podiatrist

(HPC Registered)

**Podiatry  
Chiropody  
Lower Limb Acupuncture  
Hot Stone Therapy  
Swedish Massage  
Aromatherapy**



Tel: 01505 502675 & Mob: 07824 618896  
59 Crummock Gardens, Beith KA15 2HF  
[www.podiatryandmassage.co.uk](http://www.podiatryandmassage.co.uk)

In 1861, James was still living in Robank, Lochwinnoch, but was now described as a silk printing master. By this time the family had increased to eight children.

In 1871, James was to be found in New Monkland, Lanarkshire, working as a silk printer, as were 3 of his children. Their address was Edinburgh & Glasgow Road.

I was unable to find James in the 1881 Census in Scotland but my friend discovered him in Medford, Massachusetts, USA in 1880, working as a manager of a print works. With him were his wife and four of their children, Agnes, Janet, Helen and William. His brother, Hugh, was at this time living in Robank, Lochwinnoch, with his wife Rachel. He was master of the silk print works, employing 34 men, 24 boys and 42 girls. He seems to have been in eastern Canada in 1841.

In 1891, he was again established in Scotland, working as a silk printer and dyer at Hazelden at the age of 72. At West Hazelden, there was a 19 year old James E. Melville, who seems to have been born in Connecticut. Finally, in 1901 and at the age of 82, he was still working as a silk printer at E. Hazelden. His wife had died the previous year and two of his daughters were resident with him. He died in 1907.

**If you can help, please call me,  
Gordon Nicholl, on Tel 842632.**

## ST. VINCENT'S HOSPICE

### Forthcoming Events

Saturday 23rd February at 7.30pm  
Sports Dinner, with good food and entertainment from top sporting names at the Normandy Hotel. Tickets £40.

Saturday 15th March  
Race Night in St John's Church Hall, Barrhead. Looking for local businesses and supporters to sponsor races. Tickets £5. Buy horses on the night. Snacks and a full bar.

Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm  
Swing Into Spring Dinner Dance with music and vocals of the Capitol Big Band at Glynhill Hotel. Tickets £30.

### Recycling

We can raise money by recycling - mobile phones, ink cartridges, stamps, foreign coins, old and broken gold jewellery. These can be handed in to our shops in Johnstone, Linwood, Lochwinnoch, Paisley, Barrhead, Bridge of Weir or at the Hospice itself.

### Unwanted Gifts

Do you have any unwanted gifts that are in new or very good condition? St Vincent's runs raffles, tombolas and other fundraising events. Donations of unwanted gifts or bottles can help us raise vital funds.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Jane or Lorraine in St Vincent's Fundraising Dept. on 01505 705635.



## THANK YOU

Tickets for the New Year Dance were, once again, sold out long before the event. The revellers danced the night away to the excellent band 'Freedom' and a fun night was had by all.

Dance organisers - Laura, Julie and Fiona - would like to say a

### BIG THANK YOU

to everyone for coming along on the night, to the many local businesses for their generosity in donating raffle prizes, to the McKillop Hall Keepers, to our team of helpers for working so hard to make the evening so successful and to the band, 'Freedom', who were very popular, once again, this year.

### Another Reader writes in ...

Dear Chatterbox,

With reference to Derek Parker's splendid story of the drowning of Mary Caldwell, local poet, Betty McKellar, has written a most atmospheric account of the same sad tale in her poem "Silver Slip". It can be found in her book "Widdershins" - The Magic of Celtic Poetry. This poem was set to music by local musician, Gordon Rigby, and performed by The Lochwinnoch Choral Society.

\*\*\*

*(Betty McKellar has given us permission to feature her poem in Chatterbox. Here it is..... Ed.)*

## Silver Slip

By  
Betty McKellar

At the ancient village graveyard  
In ablow Auld Simon's ploo  
When the wind has the seugh o a hauntin  
In the deep black hert o the yew  
An the trees' witch-fingurs pointin high  
Accuse the storm-dreep moon  
An the airms o branches sway their blackness  
Unner the gloamin-gloom,  
A pair bit slip o a lassie aglint wi a ghaistly licht  
Glides white an saft as a barn-houlet  
In the hedgeraws o the nicht.

It doesna say on her gravestone  
If her skin was white as milk  
But o I wot that she was braw  
As a white rose unner the birk  
It doesna say there were fresh fresh flooers tied intil her braided hair,  
Or that the shilpit craitur was gracefu-like an fair,  
But I wot that she was lichtsome  
As a white doe on the green  
Wi a shimmer o brichtness about her –  
A pale star asheen,  
Lassies are unco bonny  
when they are but nineteen.

Gurly ran the Calder Burn  
Wi a banshee moan o soond,  
A wolf howled in the storm-winds,  
Rain-streaks whippit the ground.  
The very air was a maelstraem  
On the nicht that she was drooned.  
But she rode towards Lochwinnoch as gentle as a dove.  
Her hert was blythe wi gledness. She wad dance tae her true love.  
The Calder River cam chairgin doon on a swoop o pitiless grey,  
Its floods raised up their wet wet airms  
An cairrit her away.  
O the greetin an the wailin in the hert o the yew.  
A lover wept his sair saut tears for waesomeness an rue.

When there's whisperin in the branches  
Wind-seughins frae above  
The silvery slip o a lassie dances  
For her sad lost love.  
She glides like a lonesome houlet aglint wi a pearled licht  
Saft-fingured as a moonbeam-touch  
In the hedge-raws o the nicht.

**SKY**

**KIERAN TURNER**

**Freeview**

LCD and PLASMA SCREEN INSTALLATIONS  
WALL MOUNTS SUPPLIED AND FITTED  
REPAIRS • DIGITAL UPGRADES • MULTIROOM  
AERIAL AND SATELLITE • FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

Tel: 01505 842056 Mob: 07940 705115



# “LOCHENYOCH MATTERS”

## WHAT’S IN A NAME?

By Adrian Tharme

Last month the investigation into the origin and meaning of “Lochwinnoch” focussed on the possibility that it was of Britonic origin. There are other examples of localities in this area with Britonic names; the language was dominant in this area for about 1000 years and it was thought reasonable the Britons would have named a geographic feature of such importance to their lives. An authority on Britonic place names suggested possible meanings as “Upper Little Loch” and “Loch of the Upper Farm” or “land prone to flooding”.

The next major migration into this area was the arrival from Ireland of the Gaels around 400AD. Like the Britons, the Gaels were ethnic Celts. Their actual origin was more likely to have been the Iberian area (quite probably the Basque area) rather than the more central European origins of the Britons. The Romans knew these newcomers collectively as the “Scotii”, and it was the Goidelic tribe which settled in this area.

Though of common ethnic origins, these two groups of Celtic peoples developed quite different languages. The Britons arrived in this area via Brittany, Cornwall and Wales and their language linkage is strongest to Breton, Cornish and Archaic Welsh. The Gaels arrived here via Ireland and the Isle of Man and their language evolved from Common Gaelic into Erse (Irish Gaelic) with a strong linkage to Manx.

The arrival of the Gaels broke a continuous period of 1000 years during which Britonic was the language of this area. A prolonged period of transition followed, during which time Irish Gaelic, or Erse, became the primary language of the area. The emergent cults of Columba and, to a lesser degree, Ninian of Whithorn gave impetus to the spread of this language. However, a uniquely Scottish version of Gaelic evolved and became a language in its own right, firstly in spoken form and eventually in the written form too. From about 800AD to 1200AD a dialect of Scots Gaelic was the principle language in this area.

So was it these Celtic Gaels who named the loch? As with the Britons, it would seem reasonable that the Gaels would have given a descriptive name to such an important feature in their lives. As we’ve already seen, Irish then Scots Gaelic became the dominant post-Britonic languages in this area and remained so until about 1200AD.

And place names of Gaelic origin in the surrounding area provide a valid context for the assertion that Gaels could well have given the loch its name.

<b>MONIABROCK</b>	= moine-nan-broc = moss of the badger
<b>BARNBROCK</b>	= bar-na-broc = brae of the badger
<b>BALGREEN</b>	= baile grein = sunny farm
<b>KNOCKMADE</b>	= cnoc madaidh = hill of the dog
<b>BARNAICH</b>	= bar na heich = brae of roaring
<b>CLOAK</b>	= cloch = large stone
<b>RISK</b>	= riasg = rough, unbroken ground
<b>BARFOD</b>	= bar fada = long brae-face
<b>DUCHAL</b>	= dubh chail = black, wet moor
<b>KAIM</b>	= cam = bending or crooked
<b>GAVILMOSS</b>	= gabha moss = dangerous peat moor

It’s interesting to note that only one hill on the moors around Lochwinnoch has a name which may have Gaelic origin and even in this case it is likely to be a “corruption” ascribed at a much later time. But this is invariably the case in Scotland, where the earliest names are those of rivers, lochs, and lands attached to farm or fishing settlements.

And the final example, Gavilmoss, is quite rare in Scottish place-names. It is a hybrid name derived from the Scots Gaelic “gabha” meaning “dangerous” and the old Scots word “moss” meaning “a peat moor”.

So if the Gaels named the loch, what are the linguistic possibilities for its meaning?

The following compilation comprises the most commonly advocated meanings. Each version has had its supporters among the local historians such as

Andro Crawford, Elizabeth Anderson, Frank Newall, Cathie Hymers (nee Robb) and Parker Love. Linguists and native Gaelic speakers invited to review each possibility returned an almost unanimous selection of one of the alternatives.

**LOCH EANACH** = loch of the marshy moor

**LOCH INNICH** = loch of the small island

**LOCH UINEACH** = loch of the tumult or fray

**LOCH CUM HA N'EIG** = loch of the dirge or coronach

**LOCH GUTH THORNAIRG** = loch of rippling waves

**LOCH NA EACH** = loch of the horse

**LOCH EUNACH** = loch rich in birds

**LOCH EUNACHD** = loch of the wild fowl

The most advocated translation locally has been "Loch of the wild fowl" but native Gaelic speakers gave precedence to "Loch rich in birds".

Although he was not a Gaelic speaker, a strong advocate of this latter explanation was a former Headmaster of Lochwinnoch School, Mr Nimmo.

However, following last month's article suggesting a possible Britonic origin for the name, it is interesting to note that "LOCHEANACH", meaning "loch of the marshy moor" has strong linkage to one Britonic derivation, "land prone to flooding".

By looking at the early peoples of the area and their languages, two possibilities now emerge as to the origin and the meaning of Lochwinnoch. Next month the research will shift from a 'positive' approach to one that will make a case against two derivations sometimes given for the meaning of Lochwinnoch.

So it will be "saint bashing" in the next issue!

If this series on the meaning and origin of the name "Lochwinnoch" has got you interested in local history, why not pay a visit to Lochwinnoch Library to find out more. The library has many books and documents on local history and related topics.

**The library is open on**

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2-5pm & 6-8pm and**

**Tuesday and Saturday from 10am-1pm & 2-5pm. Closed on Thursdays.**

## The McCusker Family

Monica, David & Angela, Gerard & Heather, Andrew, Jonathan and Daniel wish to thank most sincerely all the kind people who sent cards, letters, flowers and other expressions of love and sympathy after the death of Charles. The wave of support we received from Lochwinnoch has given us much strength at this sad time. We will pray for you all.

## Arts Festival

27th - 30th March 2008

(All in Parish Church, except Thursday Jazz)

### Thursday 27th March

Jazz in the Junction

(contact Junction Bistro for tickets, Tel: 842225)

### Friday 28th March

Betty McKellar book launch

(venue and time to be confirmed.)

### Saturday 29th March

10am - 11am

Arts/Crafts, second-hand books and more in Parish Church Small Hall. (free entry)

11am-12 noon

Talks by broadcasters and authors on their books. Peter Hitchison on the Eyemouth Disaster and Vanessa Collingridge on Captain Cook. (In Main Church.)

Childrens' Poetry prize-giving, short reading, followed by tea and coffee in Small Hall and Back Hall. £2 and £1 (concession)

12 noon - 1pm

Arts/Crafts, second-hand books and more in Small Hall (free entry)

7pm

Scottish Music Night

in the Parish Church. £2 and £1 (concession)

### Sunday 29th March

1.30pm

Jazz on a Sunday afternoon

Richard Mulharn (saxophone) and friends in Parish Church Small Hall. £2 and £1 (concession)

7.30pm

Lochwinnoch Choir concert

Look out for posters with more details!

**\* STOP PRESS \***

A few weeks ago in Chatterbox, Strathclyde Police provided information and warnings regarding door step crime, particularly regarding the targeting of elderly persons.

In the last few days a number of males have been traced by police in Bridge of Weir and Houston areas. These males are all from the Nottingham area of England. They claim to be going about the doors selling small types of household goods.

**Beware  
of these individuals.**

If you should see them or they come to your door, phone the police on -

**Tel: 01505 404000.**

If possible, take particular note of their description and/or any vehicle they might be using.

\* \* \*

**CRIME UPDATE**

Special care should be taken with vehicles at present as there have been a number of cars broken into in the Houston area. No valuables should be left on view and all doors should be locked.

Also, a reminder to stay vigilant when in public places as there have been a number of thefts from persons.

The following advice on Personal Safety is provided by the Community Safety Department of Johnstone Police Office, together with a list of useful contact numbers.

**PERSONAL SAFETY  
ADVICE**

**Public Transport**



- Try to avoid isolated or poorly lit bus stops.
- When travelling alone on a bus, sit in an aisle seat near the driver where possible. Don't get hemmed in.
- On a train, sit in a compartment where there are several people, ideally in a seat next to the exit.
- Use only reputable taxi firms which display proper signage.

**Driving**



- Always have your keys out and ready as you approach your car.
- Make sure the car is in good condition and there is sufficient fuel for your journey.
- Plan the journey.
- When parking your car, consider the area and how it would be when it's dark.
- Tell someone the route you will take and an expected time of arrival.
- Don't pick up hitch hikers.
- Keep the door locked, even when driving.
- Keep valuables out of sight. Lock them in the boot.
- If you have a mobile phone take it with you, make sure it is charged and in credit.
- When parking in a car park reverse into the space for a quick exit.

**Shopping**

- Consider carrying a personal alarm which should be kept handy, in a pocket etc
- Carry any bags close to you to the front if possible.
- Only carry as much money as you need and keep separate from credit cards etc.
- When shopping or in restaurants NEVER let any credit or debit cards out of your sight to prevent cloning or skimming.
- At cash point machines, look around before using to ensure no-one sees your PIN number. Check the machine to ensure it has not been tampered with.

**At work**

- If you work in an office with the public, consider your room layout, position it so that you can see who is coming into your office and that *you* are positioned near to the door if you have to leave quickly.
- Try not to have too many objects on your desk that could become missiles.
- Always use a locker for your valuables if provided.
- If you feel uncomfortable or threatened, choose to leave and inform colleagues of any difficult clients etc.
- When leaving, lock all windows and doors.

**USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

Strathclyde Police – 0141 532 5900  
 Johnstone Police – 01505 404000  
 Johnstone Community Safety Office – 01505 404023  
 Trading Standards – 0141 840 3233  
 Care and Repair – 0141 812 4111  
 Renfrewshire Council 0141 842 5000  
 ASIST (Anti-social Behaviour Investigation Team) – 01505 325030  
 Victim Support – 0141 887 0328  
 Nuisance Support & Advice Helpline – 0800 169 1283  
 Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111

**Community Safety Office  
Johnstone Police Station**

## The Reverend Robert Smith

During the early part of the 19th century, Lochwinnoch Parish Church was presided over by the legendary preacher, The Reverend Robert Smith. At a time when the church played an important part in peoples lives, Rev. Smith became a kind of champion of champions.

His rise to ecclesiastical stardom started on the day he was ordained, Thursday March 2nd 1815. The village came to a standstill: 'the cotton factories, bleachfields and the weaving shops suspended labour, the farmers left their fields and gathered into the public services of the day. Parents took their children to the church to see the great minister placed.'

The church played an important part in people's lives around the time the new Parish Church was built. An American visitor to this country said the Scots were 'the most moral churchgoing people in the world'. In Lochwinnoch only the 'scandalous, careless or infirm' failed to make a pilgrimage to the local church.

Anyone who lived outside the body of the Kirk in Lochwinnoch had a lean time. Most of the factory owners and farmers - the largest employers in the area - insisted that their workers attended church. Outsiders who walked any other track were cold shouldered. It was this, more than anything else, that isolated Lochwinnoch from the grimmer social aspects of the factory system: prostitution, hard drinking, gambling and that hallmark of low moral behaviour the music hall.

Smith was a man with a mission. During his first year in the pulpit at the Parish Church, he visited every parishioner or potential parishioner in the area. He began his pilgrimage on April 1815 and ended it a year later on April 1816.

Religious leaders in these days were influential figures. They enjoyed an important place in the community. People saw the minister as part of a conduit that led to God, they listened to what the minister had to say. The Sunday sermon became the staple of Monday morning conversation the way football does today.

People topped up their religious reservoirs with visits to church on some

midweek days and on Saturdays. They also regularly attended religious instruction classes and put themselves forward to be questioned by the minister on their knowledge of the Bible.

It must be said though that death ran through people's lives like an ink stain on blotting paper.

Consumption, smallpox even plague was a feature of the lives of most people. Few families were untouched at any time by illness and death. In Glasgow, during the 19th century, a criminal was readily identified because he was one of the few people not scarred by smallpox.

The Renfrewshire Annual of December 1841, its contents 'accordant with true religion and strict morality', contains in its yellowing pages such party poopers as 'Lines by a mother, on viewing the Corpse of a Beloved Child', 'The Breaking Heart', 'Consumption' and 'The Dying Girl to Her Mother' that contains the lines:

"Good spirits wait me -  
dearest Mother, there  
my hopes now lead me  
from this world of care."

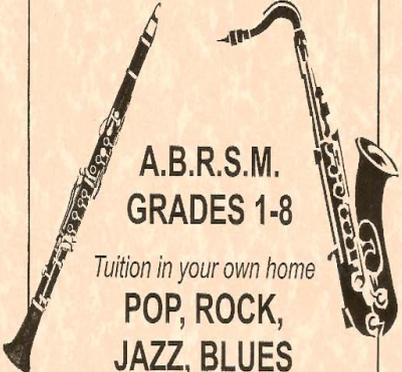
The Rev. Smith's sermons were one of the most discussed morsels of village news. Smith's funeral services were so well regarded he was forced to publish them. Sales were brisk.

There was a general fear of the consequences of ignoring the word of God. One factory owner, William Wright, used the hanging of three unfortunate young men from the Highlands who were accused of street theft (wrongly as it happened) and high spirits on Hogmanay 1811 in Edinburgh as a means of instilling the fear of God into his young workers. On the day the three were executed, he forced his workers to assemble in the picking room where he used the example of the high-spirited Highland men as 'solemn warning' on the perils of behaving in anything other than a Godly fashion.

In church people paid for the privilege of a pew. For some the cost was an additional mortgage but for the privilege of hearing a preacher like Smith and the assurance of a place at the hand of God it was worth it.

The congregation grew like the

**SAXOPHONE,  
CLARINET & FLUTE  
TUITION**



**A.B.R.S.M.  
GRADES 1-8**

*Tuition in your own home*

**POP, ROCK,  
JAZZ, BLUES  
& CLASSICAL  
AND MUSIC THEORY**

**(01505) 843 004**

*For further details, ring:*

**Richard Mulhearn**  
**0781 460 7135**

loaves and fishes and between 1820 and 1830 additional seats had to be fitted into the church. The passage round the back of the existing seats was filled with new seats, as was the gallery in front of the pulpit.

Communion in Dr Smith's time was special - and long. More than just the elderly wilted during a service that could last anything up to 9 hours. The communion services took place at 2 tables, each of the tables held 100 communicants. During the summer sacrament in June, 12 and sometimes 13 services were conducted at these tables. Parishioners were on the move all day queuing to get to a table, receive the sacred sacrament and move on. Those with influence in the community were naturally called first while others, especially those in the tent outside in the churchyard, had to wait for hours until the time arrived for them to sit at the table.

However uncomfortable the wait may have been, especially for the old and infirm, one contemporary writer believed most parishioners made their way home 'joyful and glad of heart' and 'often not without sensible evidence that the great Master of Assemblies was himself present in their midst blessing them and doing them good'.



## NEW YEAR, NEW COURSES, NEW BOATS.

### IT'S ALL CHANGE FOR BRITISH CANOE UNION COURSES AT CASTLE SEMPLE IN 2008

Canoe and kayak coaches based at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park's Castle Semple Activity Centre in Lochwinnoch have been busy gaining new coaching awards and learning about the brand new course structures for British Canoe Union (BCU) Courses.

Four instructors based at Castle Semple have gained new awards and qualifications of late. Willie McLeod, John Donnelly and Gordon Mackenzie have all achieved level 3 coaching awards for kayaking or canoeing allowing Castle Semple to become a BCU recognised centre. To gain these awards they must be good paddlers themselves. Gordon recently got his four star kayak award for his personal paddling skills allowing him to deliver the level three coaching qualification. Not to be left out Neil MacDonald has also gained his four star kayak award.

With all this new training Castle Semple really will be awash with freshly trained staff that are fully informed and up to speed on the new course structures.

The BCU has phased out the junior Rainbow Award Scheme the new scheme is called 'Paddle Power'. This allows a range of skills to be taught at the same time with more flexibility than was available under the old scheme.

Adult courses have also been re-structured; there is still a star system under the 'Paddle Sport' banner.

The 1 star course is now only 1 day long and is delivered in either a kayak or canoe, however during the course you will be given the opportunity to use several different types of boat.

To pass a 2 star course you have to be proficient in both kayak and canoe. Those with more experience wanting to gain their 3 Star will now be doing some river kayaking or canoeing to gain their award.

For juniors or adults that would like to just have an introduction to paddling in either a kayak or canoe there is now a 2 hour 'Start' option. This gives those of any age the opportunity to give paddling a go without committing very much time or money.

The British Canoe Union said *"This new scheme provides a balanced progression for paddlers, supports them as they move through their sport and, most importantly, encourages them to go paddling. The scheme has been developed around the needs of to-days paddlers, with direction taken from the findings of the BCU Paddle sport Review and the BCU Long term Paddler Development Review"*.

Willie McLeod, Senior Instructor at Castle Semple said

*"These exciting new courses fit in neatly with the safety, enjoyment and learning philosophy of the centre."*

*Direct transfer from the Rainbow Scheme will not be possible. However, if the participant brings along their rainbow card the instructor will take it into consideration when marking up their new Paddle Power Scheme card. The new scheme has been developed to push candidates to paddle more and join Kayaking clubs."*

As well as the new courses, Castle Semple has additional new changing facilities and the older changing rooms have been refurbished all ready for the new season. New boats include Dagger and Pyrhana kayaks – all ideal for use by both those that have not been in a kayak before, beginners and more advanced paddlers.

The BCU course dates as well as other activities such as sailing and mountain biking are on the Regional Park website [www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk](http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk) or call into a Visitor Centre to pick up a leaflet. If you'd like to bring your own group down at a time to suit you please contact the Senior Instructors either by telephone on 01505 842 882 Ext. 21 or by completing a 'Contact Us' form on the website.

Even if kayaking is not your thing, you can still enjoy a visit to Castle Semple and have a relaxing loch side walk or a coffee as you watch others take advantage of the easy access to Castle Semple Loch. The Visitor Centre is open daily all year from 10.00 hrs - 16.00 hrs Nov to March and 10.00 hrs – 17.00 hrs Apr to Oct.

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

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

**RSPB Webcam...** [www.lochwinnoch.info/webcam/rspb](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/webcam/rspb)  
The RSPB webcap is online again capturing images every few minutes from a feeder at the centre. 

**Business Directory...** [www.lochwinnoch.info/business](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/business)  
The business directory has been upgraded to make it even easier to use. 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!

**Website Statistics...**  
The village website continues to attract a remarkable number of visitors with August reporting 16,000 visitors viewing a total of 120,000 pages. That is a 20% increase since January 2007. The website hosting package has been upgraded to provide more storage space, higher bandwidth and improved capacity for future developments.

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

## The Save Your Regional Park Campaign

would like to draw the attention of readers to the risk to our fishing rivers, burns/streams, lochs/lakes and reservoirs from the construction of wind farms on neighbouring mountains and hills.

This is not intended to start a debate on the pros and cons of wind farms but merely as a warning to fishermen to pay attention to wind farm applications in the neighbourhood of, or upstream from the places they hold dear and love to fish.

Make sure you are alert to potential wind farm developments and read the detail of the Environmental Impact Assessments that will be part of the developer's planning applications.

Modern wind farms now consist of vast 410 ft / 125 m high industrial structures and inevitably include the creation of on-site quarries (called *borrow pits* by the developers), construction of many miles of wide forestry style roads to and between the turbines, large car park sized hard standing areas beside each turbine (for huge cranes etc), an electrical substation, trenching for cables between the turbines and the substation and new overhead cables from the substation to the grid connection. All this, by agreement between the developer and the land owner, is likely to be on high ground and frequently on peat and blanket bog, particularly in Scotland.

Unless the construction company is incredibly lucky, it is almost impossible to construct wind farms and their associated infrastructure on our hills and mountains, in our wet climate, without causing very considerable damage to the watercourses from the run-off during and after construction.

This is particularly so in peatlands. A classic example of this was the huge landslide that took place at Derrybrien (Ireland) during wind farm construction work in 2003 when an estimated half a million tonnes of peat slid down the hillside killing an estimated 15,000 fish plus other creatures and travelling nearly nine and a half miles into Lough Cutra. For the Shannon Fishery Board report see <http://www.shannon-fishery-board.ie/press-2003.htm>

While this was an extreme case, it is by no means the only example. Developers and construction companies maintain that they have learnt the lessons from Derrybrien but that has not solved the problem as has been amply demonstrated during the Braes of Doune wind farm (west of A9 near Dunblane) construction, when there was seriously heavy pollution of a number of burns feeding into the River Teith caused by run-off during and following the construction work. Read the report "*Scandal on the Braes*" on [www.friendsofthebraes.org](http://www.friendsofthebraes.org) Many fishermen heading north to fish will have seen this wind farm after passing Stirling.

Whatever precautions are built into the planning approval for wind farms, mistakes will happen and short cuts will be taken by the constructors, so it is wise to fear the worst. It is good to see that some fishermen and some of the local fishery boards and trusts are taking the threat to their rivers etc very seriously and fighting these developments wherever they see a risk to their rivers. The majority, sadly, seem to be putting their heads in the sand and saying that it won't happen to them and if it does they will sue if anything goes wrong. By that time, the damage is done and recovery periods of many years will be the consequence.

So come on fishermen, wake up to the threat to your fishing!



## ART IN THE PARK AT CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

**Lochwinnoch Art Group** have their latest exhibition of work on public display at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Castle Semple Centre, Lochwinnoch daily until Wednesday 13th February 2008.

The Group has been very active, producing a wide range of paintings with different subject matter and in different mediums such as watercolours, acrylics, oils and pastels. New members are making a vital contribution; in total this now annual exhibition at Castle Semple has 62 paintings on display.

New members to the group are - Gary Affleck, Raghad Karaali and Justine Young. They all have work on show in this exhibition.

Other Artists with works in the exhibition are A R Beattie, Helen Day, Margaret Edmonds, Phil Arbon, Sandra Fowles, Mary Gildea, Catherine Lilley, Christine Brown, Nora Guthrie and Andrew Ramsden.

The Art in the Park exhibition is open everyday until Wednesday 13 February. Entry to the exhibition is FREE and all the exhibits are for sale.

### VILLAGE EVENT PLANNER

Lochwinnoch Post Office has a wall-mounted calendar, where members of the public can enter details of forthcoming events.

Please use this calendar to avoid any clashes when planning dates of events and, of course, to help publicise your events within the village.

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

- **Every Thursday, 10.30am**  
Slinky Strollers - parent and pushchair walks from Castle Semple Centre.
- **Sunday 10th February**  
Aren't Birds Brilliant: Nest Boxes Find out about the benefits of various nest boxes and how to build and site them. Castle Semple Centre from 1pm-4pm.
- **Tuesday 12th February**  
Twilight Talk: Wild Caledonia from 7.30pm-9pm at RSPB Centre. Evening talk by John Simpson on his recent excursions to beautiful Scottish places. Booking essential. Tel: 01505 842663.
- **Wednesday 13th February**  
Final day of Art in the Park Exhibition. (See inside back page for full details of this event.)
- **Saturday 16th February**  
Outdoor Activity Season starts. It might still feel like winter but the outdoor season is getting underway at the Watersports Centre and around the Park. New Year, New Courses, New Boats. (See inside back page for details of courses and facilities or Tel: 01505 842882 Ext. 20.)
- **Saturday 16th February**  
National Nest Box Week. Join us at the RSPB Centre, from 11am-3pm, to build a bird box, decorate it and take it home for your own garden. Tel: 01505 842663.
- **Sunday 17th February**  
Storytelling - the saga continues! Cornalees Visitor Centre at 1pm.
- **Friday 22nd February**  
Star Gazing Night at Muirshiel Centre, 7pm-9pm. Join staff from Coats Observatory to look at Mini Messier Marathon. To book a place Tel: 01505 842803. (See inside front page for The Sky at Night over Lochwinnoch.)

## VISITOR CENTRES - WINTER OPENING HOURS

**Castle Semple Centre** Open daily from 1000-1600 hrs from October to March. Tel: 01505 842882

**Cornalees Centre** - Open 1030-1500 hrs weekends only until March. (Toilets open daily.) Tel: 01475 521458

**Muirshiel Centre** - Open 1100-1500 hrs weekends only until March. (Park and toilets open daily.) Tel: 01505 842803

**RSPB Reserve** - Reserve is open at all times; the Visitor Centre is open daily from 1000-1700 hrs. Tel: 01505 842663.

- **Sunday 24 February 2007**  
Conservation Volunteers. If you're over 16, do a bit of healthy outdoor work, keep fit and help the natural environment. Meet at Muirshiel Centre, from 1pm-3pm. Tel: 01505 842803 for more details.

- **Wednesday 27 February**  
Feeling Fitter Level 1B circular guided walk of Sheriff Wood, Lochwinnoch, leaving Castle Semple Centre at 1pm. For details, contact Senga McLeod on: 0141 840 3861.

- **Saturday 1st March -**  
Green Day. As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, we're having a day of 'green' activities. Come to the RSPB Centre between 12 noon and 4pm to sample Fairtrade products and browse around the stalls.

- **Sunday 2nd March -**  
Lochwinnoch Spring Farmers' Market. Wide variety of local produce for sale at Castle Semple Centre, from 11am to 2.30pm. Tel: 01505 842882.

- **Sunday 9th March -**  
Storytelling - the saga continues! Cornalees Visitor Centre at 1pm.

- **Saturday 8th February and Sunday 9th February**  
Wildlife Wander. Try out our optics on Wildlife Wander demo days and join us between 12 noon and 2pm at the RSPB Centre for a guided walk in search of wildlife wonders. Tel: 01505 842663 for more details and to book.

## RSPB NEWS

Throughout February, RSPB Lochwinnoch will be running their monthly Wildlife Challenge and extra activities around the RSPB's 'Homes for Wildlife' campaign. For more details on this campaign, visit: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/hfw/>

It's well worth visiting the Reserve for the great variety of birdlife at this time of year. In the first few weeks of January 2008, 52 species of birds were recorded, including great crested grebes, goosander, goldeneye and tufted ducks, goldcrests, siskins, greenfinches, redwings, fieldfares, great spotted woodpeckers, male hen harrier, 93 Canada Geese on Castle Semple Loch and large flocks of lapwings over the Barr Loch.

Also, don't forget to look out for the two Highland Cows!



## For All Your Garage Door Needs

Garage Doors . Remote Control Openers  
Installation . Repairs . Spares

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**FREE SURVEYS**

**FREE INSURANCE REPORTS**

**0141 950 1423 GLASGOW**

**01505 842176 AYRSHIRE**

**01786 820130 STIRLING**

**The Cross, Lochwinnoch PA12 4DB**  
(10 mins from Glasgow Airport on A737)