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# CHATTERBOX

No 190 October 2009  
www.lochwinnoch.info

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Tel: 0141 840 2163

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

## What's On

See centre pages for club activities, village events and classes.

See back pages for Visitor Centre/RSPB events and outdoor activities.

## CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox is a free, monthly community newspaper, produced on behalf of the Community Council of Lochwinnoch through support and financial assistance from local sponsors and advertisers and distributed by volunteers.

The aim of those involved is to produce an informative and entertaining journal for those who live, work and visit in this area.

The Editor welcomes all items for possible inclusion but will reserve all rights over them, i.e. the right to shorten, edit or not publish any item. Please note, all views are of individuals and the Editor accepts no liability for editorial errors or statements and claims made in advertisements.

## Exhibition and Consultation on Thursday 29th October



Following success securing funding from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund, an important stage in the delivery of the improvements to the grounds around the McKillop Institute has been reached, with the appointment of Simon Hirst Landscape Architects. Detailed design work can now proceed to improve the appearance and use of this important space right in the heart of Lochwinnoch. The regeneration fund for the McKillop ground project is currently sitting at £75,000.

Simon Hirst Architects are a long-established practice with a pedigree of quality projects including restoration of the grounds at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. It is hoped they will use their expertise to bring significant improvement to our village that reflects the views and wishes of local people.

Construction work is due to start early in 2010 as funding from the Scottish Government is only eligible for this financial year. A drawing of the draft design is on display now in the library and McKillop Hall with the facility to record your comments and suggestions.

Also, a drop-in exhibition of the designs will be held by Renfrewshire Council in the Lesser Hall of the McKillop Institute on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October from 3:30pm until 7:30pm** to allow the Council to gather villagers' views and opinions on the proposed works.

In addition, during the exhibition on Thursday 29th October, local group LMEG (Lochwinnoch Millennium Events Group) will be on hand to give details and answer questions on their recent application to the BBC Big Lottery Fund 'Village SOS'. The 'Village SOS' fund is searching for six UK villages (one in Scotland) with dynamic business ideas to transform rural communities and bring long-lasting change. LMEG is keen to gather opinions on local priorities for action, should the group be successful in moving to the next stage in the application process.

### Editorial & copy for Chatterbox

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

#### To advertise in Chatterbox

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## LOCHWINNOCH TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Tenants and Residents Associations represent Council tenants or former council tenants who have bought their homes. There are over 30 groups in Renfrewshire.

There is a Tenants and Residents Association for Lochwinnoch but, unfortunately, this group has not met for over a year.

Therefore, a Special General Meeting will be held in the McKillop Institute on **Thursday 29 October at 7pm** to either close down the group or, more positively, to relaunch it - provided there is sufficient interest and people are willing to form a Committee.

Letters are being hand delivered to all households covered in the area.

## MASONIC CLUB EVENTS

**PSYCHIC NIGHT**  
with "Second Sight" on  
**Friday 9th October**  
Starts 7.30pm prompt.

Tickets from Liz McNeill on 07891  
057751, at the Club and on the night.

**LADIES 'PINK' NIGHT**  
(wear a bit of pink)

**On Friday 30th October**

8pm till late at the Masonic Club.  
Disco & Karaoke, tickets £5 from Liz

**PRIZE BINGO NIGHT**

**On Friday 6th November**  
7.30pm at the Masonic Club  
Everyone welcome.

## Lochwinnoch International Aid News

### Music Events Planned and Projects recently supported

Lochwinnoch International Aid has organised two music events to be held at Lochwinnoch Bowling Club during October as part of their fund-raising efforts to make folk aware of LIA. The first of these was a ceilidh with music from the Four Allans on October 2nd. This will be followed by a concert given by the Melville String Quartet on Friday October 30, starting at 7.30. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased in the Junction, Brown Bull and paper shop. A further event is planned for November featuring Christine B.

We are updating the information on our website about donations that have been made from the money that is raised from our fund-raising events. Projects that have been supported in the last couple of months include the construction of a new classroom for the 'Let us Share' educational charity in N Ghana and water supply for an anti-slavery project in Niger: both providing better life chances for girls.

We have also sponsored Dr Clare McCormack who is raising funds for Water Aid by means of a sponsored 250 mile cycle ride in Vietnam. She is paying her own expenses but hopes to raise some money for WaterAid because it's so basic and important for everyone to have access to clean water. Donating via Justgiving is quick, easy and totally secure. It's also the most efficient way to sponsor Dr McCormack: WaterAid receives your money faster and, if you're a UK taxpayer, Justgiving makes sure 25% in Gift Aid, plus a 3% supplement, are added to your donation. Just go to:  
[www.justgiving.com/clare McCormack1](http://www.justgiving.com/clare McCormack1)

## Lochwinnoch International Aid News

### New Fairtrade Road Signs and group activities

Members of Lochwinnoch Fairtrade Group and Lochwinnoch Millennium Events Group (LMEG), shown in the photo, celebrated the recently installed Fairtrade signs at the main road entrances to the village.



Bob Turner, Chair of the Lochwinnoch Fairtrade Steering Group, expressed his appreciation of -

"the continuing efforts that have been made by members of the Group to promote interest in Fairtrade products in the village as well as the financial support of LMEG and Renfrewshire Council, which allowed us to get these signs in place as reminders of the village's recent Fairtrade status."

The local group will continue to host a wide range of events and initiatives promoting Fairtrade in the village. A new Fairtrade re-usable cotton shopping bag (as shown by our 'models' above!) is currently on sale at several shops in the village for only £2.50.

The Fairtrade Group will meet over the winter to discuss its future plans for how we can be more effective in promoting the Fairtrade message in Lochwinnoch.

The group would welcome help from anyone with time or skills to help.

If you wish to get involved, even in a small way, please contact Bob Turner on Tel: **01505 843068** or e-mail - [robert.turner111@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.turner111@btinternet.com)

Thank you.  
**Bob Turner**

## Councillor Arthur's Report

At the recent Local Area Committee (LAC) meeting the following grants were approved -

Lochwinnoch Playgroup £1,201.80,  
Lochwinnoch Art Group £488.80,  
Lochwinnoch Writers £400 and  
Lochwinnoch SWRI £200.

It was my pleasure to support these groups in their application.

My congratulations go to Remo, Sergio and all the staff at La Dolce Vita for their success in becoming one of the top five regional finalists in this year's Fish & Chip Shop of the Year 2009 competition. It would be wonderful for them to lift top prize as they certainly get my vote. Just for the record, their special fish is my favourite.

Lochwinnoch Parish Church brought to an end a year of celebrations for their 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of worship in their present building on Church Street with a Songs of Praise. The evening was very enjoyable and beautifully led by Ian McCrorie MBE. Congratulations to Reverend Christine Murdoch, the Bi-centenary Committee and all at the Parish Church for making their special year a roaring success.

As reported in the March issue of Chatterbox, the decision has been made to accept service changes to the way refuse is collected across Renfrewshire, by moving to Managed Weekly Collections (MWC) i.e. one week residual waste and one week dry recycle material and changing the method of kerbside collections for dry recycle to a co-mingled wheeled bin container. This service will be the same as the existing service in neighbouring councils. Councils operating this scheme report 83% higher yield of dry recycle.

So why has this decision been taken? At present Renfrewshire Council are meeting their recycling target of 30% set by the 'Government Waste Policy' document but their 2010 target is 40%. This 40% target cannot be met with the existing service and would result in landfill penalties and taxes of an estimated £1.6 million per annum. In 2013 Renfrewshire Council's target rises to 50%, in 2020 to 60% and in 2025 to 70%.

The new service starts in November and currently Environmental Services are informing the public of how the service will operate by means of a leaflet drop and a series of information roadshows across Renfrewshire. The roadshow will be in the McKillop Hall on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October from 4pm to 7pm but you can also visit it in Morrisons car park, Johnstone on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, Howwood Community Centre on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 10am to 2pm and Kilbarchan Steeple Hall on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 10am to 2pm.

You can also find out more about the new service by calling the Greener Renfrewshire Helpline on Tel: 0141 842 4448 or go to [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/recycling)

My next Surgery is not until Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October but if you require my help before then, you can contact me on 843507 and we can agree a time when we can meet.

**Councillor David Arthur**

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## ELDERLY FORUM

**The next Forum meeting is on Thursday 29th October at 1pm in the McKillop Institute.**

We look forward to a visit from Councillor Davie Arthur who will be giving details of the project due to begin in January on the environmental improvement work around the McKillop. This has been made possible by the award of £75,000 from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund plus a contribution from Renfrewshire Council.

The Tbar is in full swing once more and is as popular as ever. Reta and her team would like to remind Forum members about the suggestion box waiting for ideas for outings, visits etc. which could be arranged for 2010. For those members who were unable to go on the bus run to Oban there was the fish and chip tea in the McKillop on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. A big thank you to Sergio, Remo and all others of La Dolce Vita for the excellent suppers enjoyed by all. We wish their establishment success in the Fish and Chip Shop of the Year 2009 competition. Thanks also to Reta and her team, who graciously waited on us and saw to our every need, thereby making the enjoyable fish tea event all the more special.

**Remember** - the ROAR lunch club begins on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the McKillop. Look out for posters giving all details.

Finally, Janice from the Heritage Farmers' Market Shop came along to the meeting and handed out 15% discount vouchers. When these are redeemed at the shop, a further voucher for 10% will be given and so on. This scheme is operating on a trial period until Christmas. Don't forget to write your name and address on the back of the vouchers to ensure entry into the draw to win a Christmas Hamper.

**Contact:- Gordon Nicholl on Tel No. 842632.**

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## TEENAGE CANCER TRUST NEWS

### Yorkhill Unit

I know I always seem to be saying this, but the new TCT Unit at Yorkhill is *almost* complete, and ready for the first patients. The latest delay was due to a lack of suitably qualified staff, but happily the right people have all been recruited, including a consultant haematologist (the first in the UK with specific remit for adolescents), and I am assured they will all be in post sometime this month. Meantime, the fundraising continues...

### Karl Jenkins

As you know, this year, we are going through to Edinburgh to stage *'The Armed Man'* at the Usher Hall on the evening of Remembrance Sunday 8th November. All proceeds from the event will go to TCT's East of Scotland Appeal.

Once again, Karl will be conducting the Scottish Philharmonic Orchestra together with massed Scottish Choirs - including our own St Winnoch Singers! In addition to the main piece, there will be a full programme including Walton's - *'Spitfire Prelude and Fugue'*, and we are delighted to again have the wonderful young classical guitarist Ian Watt, performing Villa-Lobos' Guitar Concerto.

Tickets for the concert are now on sale from the Usher Hall Box Office. Tickets can be booked by telephone on: 0131 228 1155 or online at: <https://www.tickets.usherhall.co.uk/public/hall.asp>

As the village choir is taking part, there will be at least one coach going through to the concert from Lochwinnoch. Those wishing to come along are welcome to travel on the coach and make a day of it in Edinburgh. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.

### Boston Rowing Marathon

What a weekend! It was a fabulous day on Sunday 20th September in Lincolnshire, the sun shone relentlessly on all the courageous rowers to help them along the 51km (31 miles) course from Lincoln to Boston.

Castle Sempole Rowing Club had three doubles taking part: Lesley Afuakwah & Caroline Parker, John Delaney and Willie Weir, and rowing legends Martin Holmes and Pete Murray (out to beat their own course record in the Men's Veteran category).

The good news is that all 3 teams achieved their own objectives:

Caroline and Lesley aimed to finish the marathon in under 5 hours, and did that in style: clocking 4:34:39 to be precise.

Martin and Pete did indeed break their own course record, finishing in 3:36:43 and came 10th overall which is a great achievement.

John and Willie also achieved their main aim - they didn't drown! - (more about us later).

Special thanks to everyone who sponsored me in the Boston Marathon on the 20th September to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust.

My rowing buddy Willie Weir and I finished the 31-mile long river course from Lincoln to Boston in 5 hours 48 minutes - last by some distance - but we got a tremendous reception from the big crowd at the finish line who, by this time, had learned that we were the only 'charity runners' in the field of several hundred serious rowers. This helped many of them understand why when passing us earlier, they may have seen our boat run aground, stuck in reeds, weeds, or at one point in a tree (not easy!)

Anyway, we got there and raised a lot of money for a very good cause. Willie and I owe a huge debt of thanks to all the team from Castle Sempole Rowing Club: especially

Caroline and Lesley (mentioned above) who also raised a lot of money for TCT. Altogether, we have collected over **£5,000** so far, and when the Gift Aid tax relief is reclaimed, the total will exceed **£6,000**.

I also want to thank John McKinney and his team of Jo and Sam from CSRC, who got us up and down to Lincoln, supported us along the course to Boston and were on hand to help us out of the boat and open the champagne! Well done everyone!

Of course, I'm still very happy to accept donations from anyone who hasn't had the opportunity yet. You can either give it to me in person, or donate online at my JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/jd-boston-marathon](http://www.justgiving.com/jd-boston-marathon)

### Brown Bull 200th Anniversary

In addition to organising a terrific street party in July, Laura and Fergus and their staff at the Brown Bull - with the help of the musicians taking part on the day - raised a lot of money for both St Vincent's Hospice and Teenage Cancer Trust. In September they presented TCT with their share of the proceeds - a fantastic **£650.00!**

Also, as part of the Brown Bull celebrations, Fraser Gambol volunteered to have all his ankle-length golden locks cut off in exchange for donations to TCT. This tremendous act of self-sacrifice raised an astonishing **£780.60**. The staff at TCT wish me to pass on their heartfelt thanks to all concerned - especially Fraser - for their fantastic support.

### Thanks also to...

Everyone in the village for their continued support and donations - many people have asked not to be named, but you have my gratitude.

### And finally, a special thanks to ...

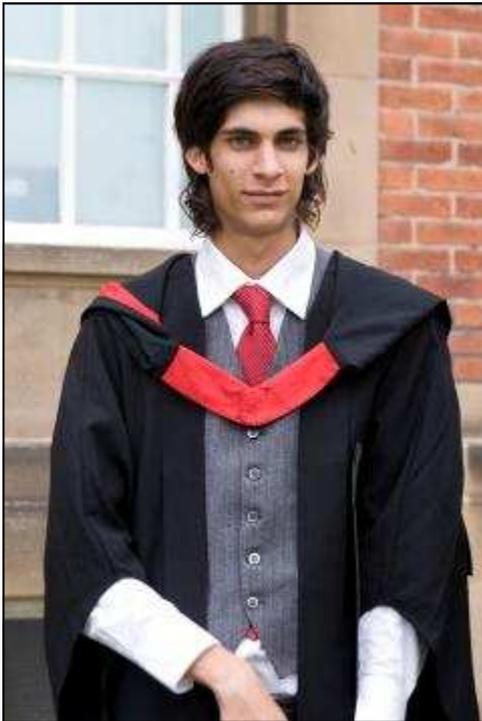
Three young ladies: Chelsea Clayton, Ciara Drain and Ruth Brown, all residents of Station Rise in Lochwinnoch. The girls decided to raise some money for TCT by doing some home-baking, then selling their produce around the doors of their neighbours. They raised the fantastic total of **£51.36**, which they handed in to my door last month. I was immensely touched by their thoughtfulness and hard work, but frankly gutted that they had sold every crumb before they got to my door! Many thanks to Chelsea, Ciara and Ruth - and to any other 'little helpers' who may have contributed by providing the ingredients, and helping clean up afterwards!

**John Delaney**

## ALLY IN RALEIGH

Ally Bhatia has lived in Lochwinnoch since 1997, attending Lochwinnoch Primary School and Johnstone High School.

He recently graduated from the University of the West of Scotland with an Honours Degree in Media Studies. However, in a climate where there are 49 university graduates per job, Ally has struggled to find work, as seems to be the case for almost every university graduate today. Never one to sit around and com-



plain, Ally has volunteered to partake in a 10 week expedition to Costa Rica and Nicaragua in Central America with an educational development and aid charity called Raleigh International. Ally is currently in the challenging process of fundraising the £3800 he needs to enable him to go on the expedition.

Ally will be working with the Raleigh International team in various projects, ranging from working in underprivileged communities to gain basic amenities such as clean drinking water.

He will also be doing some en-

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vironmental work on the expedition, e.g. conservation work, to help protect the critically endangered sea turtles and other work in the numerous national parks of Costa Rica & Nicaragua.

Projects vary on each expedition and Ally has yet to find out exactly what he will be doing in the different phases of the expedition. He is currently learning Spanish to get maximum benefit from his time in Central America and there will be a blog on the Raleigh International website, which Ally will update on a regular basis for those wishing to see what he has been doing on the trip. Further details about Ally's trip and about the charity, Raleigh International Trust, can be found at:  
[www.raleighinternational.org](http://www.raleighinternational.org)

Ally's father, Zul Bhatia, manages the RSPB Nature Reserve in Lochwinnoch and is a keen environmentalist. Ally, like his father, has a keen passion for the natural world and intends to put this passion into practice during his expedition.

Costa Rica and Nicaragua are home to over 500,000 species of animal making them two of the top countries in the world for biodiversity.

Costa Rica is world renowned for its national parks, with around 25% of its land area protected by the government.

However, much of the wildlife in Costa Rica is critically endangered due to deforestation and illegal poaching. Ally will be involved in an environmental project which is hugely important in helping to preserve natural resources and habitats and protect important species of plants and animals.

Ally will be holding a fundraising event in Lochwinnoch very soon as well as rallying (excuse the pun!) the support of local businesses to aid him in achieving his difficult fundraising target.

If you would like to sponsor Ally, you can either contact him by phone at: 01505 843718, by mail at 23 Main Street, Lochwinnoch PA12 4AH, by e-mail at:  
[allybhatia@googlemail.com](mailto:allybhatia@googlemail.com) or you can also donate directly to Ally online at:  
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## THANK YOU

Rose McManus would like to thank all kind neighbours and friends for gifts and cards during her stay in hospital.

Thank you all very much.

## LOCHWINNOCH SWRI

The new session got off to a good start, with an excellent presentation by Katharine Hardie, who explained some of the processes of silver craft and displayed some beautiful examples of her work.

### The competition winners were:

#### Jar of Apricot Jam -

1. P Matthews
2. D Donn

#### Fresh Flowers in a miniature bottle

1. E Richmond
2. P Matthews
3. L Benzie.

The next meeting is on -  
**Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm**  
in the McKillop Institute,  
when we will be entertained by  
Paisley Musical and Operatic Society  
Concert Party.

Visitors will be most welcome to join us for what promises to be an excellent evening.



## Lochwinnoch Arts Festival 2010

Here's a preview of what we have in mind for next year's week-long Festival. We said it would be bigger and better than before! Next year's Festival will run from the weekend of 20th/21st March right through to the weekend of the 27th/28th of March 2010.

Dates and times have still to be finalised for some events but, here's a taste of what's to come -

### **The Cunningham Choir**

on the 20th of March,

### **Roger McGough**

on the 26<sup>th</sup> March

(Roger was one the founder members of The Scaffold, who sang Lily The Pink and Thankyou Very Much. His poetry is world famous and he was one of the Merseybeat Poets along with Brian Patten & Adrian Henry. He not only writes poetry and prose but performs it live brilliantly. It'll be a great night.)

In addition, there will be **Jazz, Folk, Children's Events, Art and much more.**

Keep watching this space for updates.

## LOST AND FOUND

### **Mountain Bike**

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## Healing and Creativity Programme

**September-December 2009**

**Workshops:** Sundays 9am-12 noon. There will be meditation, music, movement and a creative project in a caring, supportive small group. The themes are.....

4<sup>th</sup> October: Communicate compassion with your body and open to your own healing wisdom.

15<sup>th</sup> November: Centre guidance at the heart of your life to bring clarity to your purpose and Life Task.

### **How to Live a Creative Life**

**Development Classes:** Mondays from September to November from 10am - 12noon.

A small group programme designed to enable you to Live from the Essence of your Being. Meditation, energy work, therapeutic exploration, body consciousness. Designed for those experienced and committed to their own personal growth.

**For details or to book a place, please call Becky on: 0141 8816700 or Libby on: 015105 842604. Venue: Lochwinnoch.**

## FISH & CHIP SHOP OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

La Dolce Vita in Lochwinnoch has now made it into the **Top 5** for the region. The region is - **Scotland B – Lothian, Strathclyde, Borders, Dumfries & Galloway**. This now ranks the shop in the top 10 in Scotland as Scotland is split into 2 regions.

The next round now includes a mystery shopper popping in to inspect the quality of fish and chips, customer service, shop cleanliness and staff training.

Regional winners then compete against 19 other region winners throughout the UK to be reigned Fish and Chip Shop of the Year 2009 for the UK. An awards ceremony is held in January at a hotel in London, where the winners are announced.



Sergio and Remo Pia, owners of La Dolce Vita, also received a personal letter from Douglas Alexander MP, wishing the two brothers and the staff good luck in the competition. Sergio and Remo would like to thank all of their loyal customers who completed a voting form for the first stage of the competition.



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### Lochwinnoch Historical Society

The 2009 - 10 season got off to a good start on September 17th with a visit from Jim Grant of The Maritime Museum. His talk "The Wandering Scot" told how as pioneers, adventurers, mercenaries, explorers and even opportunists, Scots have travelled to and settled all over the world since and probably even before Roman times. It was a very good turnout that evening with many visitors joining the regulars.

Our next meeting, which will take place on **Thursday 15th October in the Guild Room of the Parish Church at 7.30pm**, sees a return visit from John West. John will present an illustrated talk entitled "Rediscovering Local Historical Gardens and Designed Landscapes".

Membership remains at £8 for the year and an evening visit is £2 and includes tea/coffee, biscuits and cakes.

**Call Gordon Nicholl on Tel No. 842632 for further information.**

### Lochwinnoch Community Council AGM Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm in the McKillop Institute

After the usual business matters, Di Adams of this parish will give a talk about her time working in an orphanage in Kathmandu, using money raised in the village including £100 from the Community Council. She will talk about the living and working conditions for the children and the staff through the eyes of a European. Money is being raised to build a new orphanage.

As usual, refreshments will be provided at the AGM – nibbles, wine, beer and soft drinks.

The Community Council is seeking new members and would particularly welcome any possible new members to the AGM, or any of the regular monthly meetings, which take place in the Parish Church hall on the first Tuesday of the month.

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# KIERAN TURNER

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# What You Told Us about Lochwinnoch –

## Results of Residents Survey

The survey offered an opportunity for Lochwinnoch residents to say what they felt was good about the village and what could be improved. 323 people, 11% of the village population, filled it in. 79% were adults, 21% under 18.

Outlined below are the Key Findings and Issues identified from the Survey as expressed by those who responded. Detailed responses to each can be found in the 53 page report which is accessible in PDF format from a link on the home page of the village website. Alternatively, a printed version is available in the Library, the McKillop and in The Junction.

LMEG intend to examine the potential for funding sources to address some of the issues identified. The report can equally be used by any local group or business looking to develop their services and activities.

Thanks once again to everyone who completed the survey, there's been a very positive response.

### KEY FINDINGS:

**SHOPS:** 72% of residents had no problems shopping in the village. 28% had difficulties which primarily related to cost, range of products, opening hours and physical accessibility issues.

**TRANSPORT:** Local transport was felt to be difficult although 41.4% of residents stated that they never used local buses and 14.8% never used trains. Only 7.5% of people thought that the local bus service was "good" whereas 36.3% felt that it was "poor" or "very poor". 18.6% thought that the train service was "good" but over 26% felt that it was "poor" or "very poor". Over 20% of those who responded said that they would be interested in a car-sharing scheme.

**RECYCLING:** 89% of residents currently recycle and 59.5% would like to recycle more.

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** 24.5% of those completing the survey were unemployed. Over 60% stated that services to help the unemployed were "poor" or "non-existent".

**SELF-EMPLOYMENT:** 10% of completers were self employed and another 11% stated that they were interested in becoming self-employed. The majority of those who commented suggested that more support was required in this area.

**INTERESTS:** Over 74% of residents travel outwith Lochwinnoch for their hobbies and interests but over 76% also said that the village did provide services and activities for their activities.



*Lochwinnoch  
Millennium  
Events  
Group*

**ACCESSING INFORMATION:** Over 74% of residents said that they use Chatterbox for local information and over 60% use the village website. The majority said that access to local information was very good.

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT:** Most people said that community spirit was good in the village.

### KEY ISSUES:

These issues were identified across a range of sections throughout the survey:

**VILLAGE APPEARANCE:** Physical improvements to the village (painting, planting, upgrading). Of particular note was the need to upgrade the village centre and the McKillop Institute.

**ROAD REPAIRS:** The need for repairs to roads and pavements was highlighted

**TRAFFIC CALMING:** speed of cars and the need for traffic calming measures around the village was commented upon .

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** Lack of activities / facilities for young people. Many residents would be keen to see a leisure development.

**POLICE PRESENCE:** There was a strong desire for a greater police presence within the village, in particular to tackle anti-social behaviour.

**RISK OF SHOP CLOSURE:** Concerns were raised about the risk of shop closures. The attitudes of use (or lose) the local shops prevailed with a concern that supermarkets were taking over.

**SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES:** A need to attract more visitors to the village to sustain the local businesses was identified.

**LOCAL EMPLOYMENT:** Lack of local employment, especially hard for young people.

**FLOODING:** Flood prevention measures are required.

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES:** A need for a useable community facility which community groups could access at little cost was highlighted.

**Thank you once again to everyone who completed the survey. The full 53 page report can be viewed from a link on the home page of the village website or a printed version is available in the Library and the McKillop.**

# Sky at Night Lochwinnoch

October 2009

## Constellations this Month

By 9pm **Cygnus** - the Swan - can be seen high up to the west of the Village. An easy one to see, the stars forming the body are head down to the horizon with wings outstretched either side.

Away from the lights you can see the **Milky Way** as a backdrop to the body. Even low power optics reveal thousands of stars. Principal star is Deneb at the tail.

Below **Cygnus** is the diamond shape of **Aquila-the Eagle**. The bright star is Altair.

Above the Braes is the familiar square of **Pegasus and Orion** is just starting to appear over to the eastern horizon. More on these next month.

## Meteors - Orionids

The Orionid meteor shower arrives during the third week of the month with the peak on the 21st October. The Moon will not interfere.

The radiant is near Betelgeuse, the right shoulder of Orion. Rates are not high, usually 10 to 30 per hour but they are very nice. They meet the Earth head on at 36,000 miles per second so are short lived, sometimes very bright and often leave a trail hanging in the upper atmosphere.

## Planets

**Try not to miss this heavenly trio** - Around 6am on the morning of 16th October, look east before the Sun rises and see the merest sliver of a crescent **Moon** rising. To the left is **Saturn** and just below, **Venus**.

**Jupiter** is visible over Beith by 5.30pm setting about 11.30pm, 4 moons and cloud bands visible to users of moderate optical equipment.

**Mars** rises in the east just after midnight and is below the constellation of Gemini.

This information and much more will be found at [www.lochwinnoch.info](http://www.lochwinnoch.info)

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## Thank you

I want to convey my most sincere thanks to my family and friends for their most generous gifts and beautiful cards on the occasion of my 90th birthday.

Despite being an "incomer" (I've only been here since 1977!), I feel very much at home and can say with conviction 'Lochwinnoch's no a bad place tae bide'. Heartfelt thanks to all.

The poem (below) was published in my paper last month and I felt it was so appropriate for the older generation that I would like to share this with you.

Margaret McLeod

\* \* \*

## DECADES

When I was five, why, time stood still  
well, hardly moved at all,  
as the magic of each moment held me tight within its thrall.  
The ticking clock could not be heard in nursery or den.  
I could not comprehend a year, much less a year times ten.

In time, in time, in lots of time a decade rolled away  
as countless brim-full, stretchy hours made up each endless day.  
With 15 years inside my skin and growing still to do,  
the world seemed like a shiny toy, still half unwrapped, brand new.

By 25, I found that time had quickened to a trot,  
and sometimes got ahead of me a little - not a lot.

By and large I felt that I retained the upper hand,  
for days spread out ahead of me like sun-kissed grains of sand.

And, oh my dears, by 35 I hadn't time to breathe.  
I worked and played so hard that you would simply not believe the 'stuff' I packed into each day, each evening, every night.  
If time's thread dared to fray, I tied a knot, and held on tight.

By 45, I knew that I would have to get a grip,  
that time was far too precious a resource to just let slip.  
I knew the clock was out there, for I heard its distant chime,  
I vowed to make each minute count... as soon as I had time !

At 55, on taking stock, I felt I must concede  
I wasn't going to win the race for time was in the lead.  
But cunningly decided that with just a bit of luck,  
I'd stop this headlong gallop with a little nip and tuck.

Alas, the years took little heed and sped along apace,  
ignoring all the 'anti-age' I rubbed into my face.  
I took up yoga, learned tai chi, the same old war was waged for 65, I told myself,  
was merely middle-aged.

And still the Earth turned round and round  
as months and years played chase, leading me.... I see it now ....  
right back to my first base, where memories of years gone by seem near enough to touch.  
And from this vantage point, I see time doesn't matter much.

By Tricia Sturgeon  
Mundesley, Norfolk

# What's On

## (Regular Clubs, classes and local groups)

- **Lochwinnoch Community Walks** - Mondays (ex. Public Holidays), 10.30 am at The Cross.
- **Lochwinnoch Playgroup** - For under 5's, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30-11.30am at the McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Toddlers** - Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30 - 11.30am, McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Gymnastics Club** - For primary school-age children every Monday, 5-8pm at the Annexe. Phone Coby for details on: 0772 9051615.
- **Lochwinnoch Writers Group**—Monday mornings from 9.30-11.30am in the Library.
- **Morag's Keep Fit** - Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm, in the McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Choral Society.** Rehearsals on Monday evenings, Parish Church/ Hall. Juniors 7-7.30pm, Intermediates 7.30-8.30pm and Seniors from 8pm.
- **Lochwinnoch Art Group** Meet fortnightly on Monday evenings, 7.30pm, McKillop Inst. \*
- **Advice Works** - Tuesdays 10am -12.30 at the Library. \*
- **Drop-in T Bar - Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum**. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-1pm, McKillop Inst. For details, Tel Reta: 01505 842054.\*
- **Baby and Toddler Rhyme-time** - every Tuesday, 2.15pm at Lochwinnoch Library. \*
- **Linda Margaret School of Dancing** - Tuesdays from 4pm-8.45pm, McKillop Institute. For details, Tel: 0141 581 9104.
- **TaeKwon-Do** Fitness and Self-defence classes for youths and adults. Tuesdays from 5-6pm, McKillop Institute. For details Tel: 01259 210716.
- **Lochwinnoch Scottish Country Dance Club** Every Tuesday, from 7.30-9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **Jogging Buddies** - Wednesday evenings. Meet at McKillop Institute at 6.30pm. For details, Tel: 0141 887 1357 or 07947 763704.

## Liz Callaghan DTM. ADCMC. Therapeutic Massage Therapist



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**Contact Liz Callaghan: 01505 842 052**  
**or email: [remedyoptions@gmail.com](mailto:remedyoptions@gmail.com)**

## The Pot of Soup

We are all familiar with a pot of soup. Regardless of the ingredients we know that it is a fusion of vegetables or meat or both. In a Scotch Broth, we recognise the carrot, barley, turnip, lamb and anything else we have used. Simmering away they fuse with each other and form something quite unique. We can identify the carrot, take it out, dissect it and recognise it as carrot but the soup still carries the flavour of the carrot and the carrot is infused with the stock. We are able to identify the vegetable but it is inseparable with the soup and vice versa.

Fundamentally this is how the body works. From conception we are a type of soup, slowly simmering. All organs have a level of interaction and interdependence with each other.

However, it doesn't stop there. The

brain is an organ and therefore our thoughts, reactions, attitudes etc. also have a level of interaction with the body. This is not a new concept, especially in Eastern Traditions, and modern developments in science, particularly physics, are beginning to shed light on the basic building blocks involved.

My involvement in Therapeutic Massage over the years has given me a hands-on experience of this. Massage not only works on muscle but, by helping to increase circulation and aid lymphatic drainage, will directly help treat many other ailments. Also it affects our psychology perhaps through relaxation or addressing needs of touch and contact.

For a good pot of soup you need to stir it every now and again: try a massage to give the bodymind a stir.

**Liz Callaghan**

- **Girls Brigade - 1st Lochwinnoch Company** Wednesday evenings from 6pm-9.15pm at the Parish Church Hall for various age groups.
- **Boys Brigade - Anchor Boys and Junior Sections** meet on Tuesday nights and Company Section on Friday evenings, Parish Church Hall.
- **Yoga Classes** - Wednesday evenings - 2 classes at 6pm & at 7.30pm. Yoga, breathing practice, intro. to meditation. For details Tel Mary: 01505 842877
- **Happy Harminis** - Fun for pre-school children. Thursdays from 10am-11am in the McKillop Institute. Contact Frankie Plater for details: 01505 612248.
- **Slinky Strollers** - on Thursdays (see back page for details).
- **TaeKwon-Do Little Tiger Cubs.** Classes are for 3-5 year olds and are held on Thursdays from 4.15pm-5pm at McKillop Institute. Tel: 01259 210716 for details.
- **Calder Drama Club**—Thursdays, from 8pm-10pm McKillop Institute.
- **Scottish Slimmers** - Thursdays, 7/7.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **Lochwinnoch Pre-School Gymnastics** ( for children from 18 mths to 5 yrs). Fridays, from 10.15am - 1.45pm at the Annexe. Further details from Coby on Tel: 0772 9051615.

## Dates for your diaries

- **Wednesday 23rd September - Saturday 10th October** Lochwinnoch Art Group Annual Exhibition at the Library.
- **Friday 9th October - Psychic Night**, 7.30pm, the Masonic Club \*
- **Monday 12th October - Lochwinnoch Art Group meeting**, 7.30pm, McKillop Inst. \*
- **Thursday 15th October - Lochwinnoch Historical Society meeting** at 7.30pm, in the Guild Room of the Parish Church. \*
- **Saturday 17th October - Silent Auction** from 10am-3pm at the Parish Church Hall. \*
- **Saturday 17th October - Councillor Arthur's Surgery** from 11.30am, the McKillop Institute. \*
- **Sunday 18th October - Concert** at 2.30pm in Beith Trinity Church. Tickets at the door, £8, £6 Conc. & £1 children.
- **Monday 19th October - Lochwinnoch Community Council AGM**, 7.30pm in the McKillop Institute, Lochwinnoch. \*
- **Wednesday 21st October - Lochwinnoch SWRI meeting** at 7.30pm in the McKillop Inst. \*
- **Thursday 22nd October - ROAR Lunch Club** - starts in the McKillop Inst (see Elderly Forum news in this issue of Chatterbox) \*
- **Saturday 24th October - Krafty Kids class** from 1.30-3pm for Primary School children at Space Rooms, McKillop Inst. To book, Tel Katharine on: 01505 844944.
- **Sunday 25th October 2009 British Summer Time ends**. Put your clocks back 1 hour at midnight on Saturday 24th October.
- **Tuesday 27th October - Renfrewshire Council Waste Collection Roadshow** from 4pm-7pm at the McKillop Institute. \*
- **Thursday 29th October - Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum meet** at 1pm in the McKillop Institute. \*
- **Thursday 29th October - Lochwinnoch Tenants & Residents Special General Meeting** at 7pm in the McKillop Inst. \*
- **Thursday 29th October - Renfrewshire Council Exhibition and Public Consultation** from 3.30-7.30pm in the McKillop Institute. \*
- **Friday 30th October - LIA Fundraising Concert with the Melville String Quartet**, 7.30pm at Lochwinnoch Bowling Club. \*

## Vanda's Mobile Hairdressing Ladies and Gents.



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- **Friday 30th October - Ladies 'Pink' Night, Disco and Karaoke**, 8pm till late at the Masonic Club.\*
- **Friday 6th November - Prize Bingo Night**, starts 7.30pm at the Masonic Club. \*
- **Friday 6th November - Lochwinnoch Fireworks Display**, 7.30pm at the Golf Club. \* (See main notice for details.)
- **Saturday 7th November - Councillor Neil Bibby's Advice Surgery**, at 9am, McKillop Institute. \* (Tel: Councillor Bibby on 0141 840 3653.)
- **Saturday 7th November - Krafty Kids class** from 10am-11.30am for Primary School children at Space Rooms, McKillop Inst. To book, Tel Katharine on: 01505 844944.
- **Wednesday 11th November - Amended Date for Save Your Regional Park campaign Public Meeting** at 7.30pm in Radio City, Kilbirnie.
- **Saturday 14th November - Fall Ball Ceilidh** with "Last Tram Tae Auchenshuggle" in the McKillop Inst. Tickets £8.50 from usual outlets. \*

\* For further details about these events and activities, see separate notices inside this issue of Chatterbox.

### VILLAGE EVENT CALENDAR for 2009

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

Please use this planner to avoid any clashes when choosing dates to hold events, and to help publicise your own events in and around the village and local area.

### ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION

The Lochwinnoch Church Hall will be open on  
Monday 12th,  
Tuesday 13th,  
Wednesday 14th,  
Thursday 15th and  
Friday 16th October,  
between 7pm and 9pm  
to receive any items for the  
Silent Auction.

If you would like someone to pick-up an item for the Auction, please contact Norma Bell (Tel: 01505 842558) and this can be arranged.

### SILENT AUCTION

**Lochwinnoch  
Parish Church  
Saturday 17th October 2009**

Doors open 10am - Last bid 2.55pm

Lovely 3-piece suites, bric-a-brac, cooker, coffee tables, piano, organ and, for all the Rangers fans, there is a signed football shirt from Kris Boyd and much more!

**Come and find a bargain !**

The Fundraising Committee at  
Lochwinnoch Parish Church

### WANTED

House with land and out-buildings in the Lochwinnoch area. Any condition considered.

**Tel: 07860 348896**

## From the Parish Church

Lord, for the years  
your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us,  
cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us,  
pardoned and provided,

Lord of the years,  
we bring our thanks today.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith ©T Dudley-Smith*

The Parish Church has been a busy place over the past three years.

Almost as soon as I came to Lochwinnoch, we began planning to celebrate 200 years of worship and witness on Church Street. We have had 8 celebratory services, beginning with our walk from Auld Simon in 2007 and ending with a Songs of Praise on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. Perhaps the most memorable service was when we were joined by the Very Rev. David Lunan and members of the congregation presented us with beautiful commemorative banners. An Exhibition has celebrated the history of our Congregation and Elizabeth West's excellent history booklet is a lasting reminder of the past 200 years (copies are still available). We welcomed back long-standing friends and made new ones; we have been entertained by the Paisley Abbey Choir and at our organ recitals; Christine Pollard has produced beautiful cards showing the banners; we have been soaked walking to the Collegiate Church, where the singing defied the weather; we have hunted for treasure; been entertained by the cast of Godspell.

Some things have still to be completed – the time capsule will be hidden soon and, before too long, the cairn will be erected in the garden, while a stained glass restorer is currently trying to jigsaw together the fragments of the former windows (a task made easier by photographs supplied by the McLeod Family).

I would like to publicly, and personally, thank everyone who has helped in any way towards our celebrations, particularly the committee – Glenys McKee (Convenor), Irene Johnston (Clerk), Norma Bell, Tom Begg, Calum Duncan, Sandy Innes, Gordon and Anne Nicholl, Christine Pollard, Anne Sloan and Elizabeth West. I am sure they are all looking forward to a well-earned rest.

I would also like to thank all our friends in the village for your support during our bi-centenary year. There is no point in having a party if no one comes along to share in the fun.

Most of us enjoy a party; we enjoy marking special days and dates in our lives: birthdays and anniversaries. Some of the anniversaries are happy ones, reminding us of wedding days; others may be sadder occasions, a reminder of a loved one we have lost. Inevitably anniversaries make us cast our minds back over the years. When we do we see how life has changed, how we have changed. We are also usually reminded that there is much in our lives for which we must give thanks.

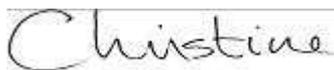
October is a time in the Church when we traditionally give thanks for the gift of harvest. This year we will be celebrating in Calder Church on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October. This is a service which is open to all (as are all services in our churches). It is a service in which we not only thank God for the food we enjoy, we give thanks for those who grow and produce our food. We also give thanks for God's presence in our lives and stop to reflect on all the people who share in our lives and who help us in any way, both known and unknown.

There is an image of hell in which people are sitting around a table groaning with wonderful food. At each place setting there are metre long utensils and the people are sitting staring at the food and starving. The same image is used to illustrate heaven – the same table, the same food, the same utensils. Yet here the people are feeding one another and all are able to join in the feast. In our own celebration of harvest, we must ensure that all people are welcome to our table and that we enable each other to be fed.

In our world, there are places where the harvest will fail. Perhaps the best way we can give thanks is to share our abundance with others, enabling all to benefit from our riches.

However you spend Harvest this year, may God bless you abundantly.

Yours



**Rev. Christine Murdoch**

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## Thank you Cronies !

Calder Church says a big thank  
you to -

**Gavin Pratt, Johnny Mair,  
Willie Davey, Malky Blair,  
Willie Gamble, Willie Graham  
and piper Julie Donn, the  
Garthland St. Winnoch Cronies**  
for a fabulous night of Burns,  
which was held recently  
in the church.

The Cronies told the story of Robert Burns through his poetry and music, which was delivered at the highest level; and for those who unfortunately missed it, we would highly recommend that you look out for their next performance.

The Cronies gave their time and talents to raise a fantastic  
**£200** for St. Vincent's Hospice.

# ABBEY ELEGY FOR A DAUGHTER OF CASTLE SEMPLE

by  
DEREK PARKER

A magnificent memorial on the chancel wall of Paisley Abbey tells the sad story of how a prosperous land-owner, cotton-mill magnate and quarry master was left broken-hearted when his beautiful young Lochwinnoch bride died from smallpox.

The stone tablet marks the burial vault of the family of George Houstoun, the 4th Laird of Johnstone, who lived with his wife, Mary, and sons, Ludovic and William, at Johnstone Castle.



Mary was the daughter of wealthy William Macdowall, laird of Castle Semple and one of the richest merchants, land-owners and bankers in Britain. When George and Mary were married in 1788, it seemed a rosy future lay ahead. She was one of the loveliest young women in Renfrewshire and the wedding was an unforgettable event on the social calendar.

But fate decreed that the young couple's marriage would be short-lived. There was an evil omen soon after New Year in January 1782, when George Houstoun's mother, Jane Rankine, wrote in her diary about an outbreak of smallpox among 'bairns' at Quarrelton coal-mining village at the foot of the avenue (now Tower Road) leading to Johnstone Castle.

Jane revealed it was planned to take the two boys, Ludovic and William, to the home of Mary's father in the more salubrious surroundings of Castle Semple.

But it was not to be. Because, to everyone's horror, tragic Mary, who was in her early 30s, was struck down with

a raging fever and horribly disfigured with awful sores that scarred her pretty face and body. She had caught the dreaded smallpox. The disease was often fatal in these days and so it proved for the Laird of Johnstone's lovely lady from Lochwinnoch.

It seems likely that Mary's lifeless body was carried in a horse-drawn hearse down the wooded avenue at Johnstone Castle then along the main road at Thorn and Elderslie for burial in the family vault at Paisley Abbey. But dark rumours spread that Mary's mortal remains were buried in a pit of burning lime in the Johnstone Castle woodlands to incinerate all traces of the smallpox that killed her.

Her grieving husband founded the town of Johnstone a few weeks after Mary's death and made his fortune from agriculture, the cotton trade and coal and limestone mining. He married again, this time to Ann Walkinshaw, whom he survived by four years.

George Houstoun died on December 31, 1815, and was buried in the

family vault in Paisley Abbey. His name is engraved on the chancel mural, along with other Houstoun family members, including Mary Macdowall, his first wife.

But before he died, George named Macdowall Street in Johnstone after Mary, the laird of Castle Semple's daughter, who gave birth to his sons. Macdowall Street is still an important thoroughfare in Johnstone town centre. It lies directly opposite George Street, which was named after George Houstoun.

But the story didn't end there. In September, 1866, William Houstoun, the second son of Ludovic Houstoun, who became 5th Laird of Johnstone, drowned in a boating accident at Castle Semple Loch within sight of the mansion where Mary Macdowall was brought up.

It seemed that the Macdowalls and Houstouns - two of Renfrewshire's most illustrious families - had been united by a terrible fate.

**Derek Parker worked as a countryside ranger at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park from 1985 to 1999.**

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*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 561 0333. E-mail: dalexandermp@talk21.com  
or come to one of my advice surgeries.**

# Lochwinnoch Library

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Online access to bilingual dictionaries in French, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian and Chinese. Supporting your language learning every step of the way.

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## New book titles added to stock this month

[Secret life of Evie Hamilton](#) by Catherine Alliot

[Transition](#) by Iain Banks

[Blood line](#) by Mark Billingham

[Born to trouble](#) by Rita Bradshaw

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[A sister's tears](#) by Meg Hutchinson

[Farewell to Lancashire](#) by Anna Jacobs

[House of angels](#) by Freda Lightfoot

[Blind eye](#) by Stuart MacBride

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[Ghost music](#) by Graham Masterton

[The devil's garden](#) by Richard Montanari

[Shadow child](#) by Libby Purves

[206 bones](#) by Kathy Reichs

[The Doomsday key](#) by James Rollins

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[Look again](#) by Lisa Scottoline

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at

[www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/libraries)

Library members can view, renew and reserve their library loans online. All you need to get started is your library membership number and a password. If you don't have a password just ask at any library.

## Baby & Toddler

### Rhyme time



bookstart

At Lochwinnoch Library  
every Tuesday at 2.15pm

## FREE Computing Class for Complete Beginners

Would you, or someone you know, like to learn to email and surf the Internet? Classes are held at **Lochwinnoch Library**:  
Wednesdays 9.30am – 11am  
The course lasts for 5 weeks.  
For further details **Tel: 01505 842305**

## ADVICE WORKS

### Tuesdays 10am – 12.30pm

Advisors are on hand to help fill in claim forms, check and advise on welfare benefits/money problems, etc. Advisors can provide expert advice on a wide range of debt related topics, such as credit card, mortgage arrears, council tax, etc. The service is FREE, confidential and open to all Renfrewshire residents.

## NORMAL LIBRARY OPENING HOURS :

Monday, Wednesday and Friday:  
2pm–5pm & 6pm–8pm  
Tuesday and Saturday: 10am–1pm  
and 2pm–5pm  
Closed Thursday.  
**Tel: 01505 842305**

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*Just opposite the Golf Course on the Largs Rd.*

## SILVER

(PART 2)

At about £12.00 an ounce today, silver is and always has been considered a valuable commodity. To ensure that solid silver items were the genuine article there needed to be a universal process to authenticate them.

It is common knowledge that all solid silver items are hall-marked but what exactly is a hallmark?

A hallmark consists of a series of stamps in the form of punched marks which confirm the quality of the precious metals used to make the piece, as well as information on when, where and by who the piece was made.

In both Rome and Ancient Greece, maker's marks and stamps indicating the purity of the metal were used. During the Saxon period in England, the percentage of silver in the pennies produced was fixed at a minimum of 92.5% silver (the remaining 7.5% being copper) and, interestingly, this is still the same for silver items today.

In 1300 a system came into operation in Western Europe whereby a leopard's head was struck on both silver and gold to prevent unscrupulous silversmiths from adding large amounts of alloy to silver and gold. Following the 1363 statute, every silver and goldsmith added his maker's mark to pieces. Some sort of hallmarking system was now in place in most European countries, but it varied from country to country.

A letter of the alphabet was included in 1478. This started

with an A, working through the alphabet until all the letters were used up. A new cycle was then started using a different style e.g. lower case, capital letters or italics. From now on precise dating of all work to a year became possible. It also saw an end to the practice of touch wardens testing and marking precious metals in gold and silver smiths' workshops, to stop the touch wardens being bribed. Precious metals had to be taken to the Goldsmith's Hall for testing and marking, hence the name Hall Marks. Formerly, sub-standard wares had been marked, accepted by the Mint and converted directly into coinage which led to a loss of confidence in the currency. This third mark, ensured that the Assay master or touch warden could be identified if a marked piece was found to be inferior.

To show royal control a fourth mark was added--- the Lion Passant or Sterling Lion, hence Sterling silver, when King Henry V<sup>11</sup> took over the Assay Office in 1544.

More Assay offices were established in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century around Britain and allowed to use their own mark. The leopard's head was used for London, an anchor for Birmingham, a crown for Sheffield, to name a few. In Scotland and Ireland a thistle and a crowned harp were the respective marks used. Glasgow had an established Assay office from 1819 until its closure in 1964.

Today all sterling silver is sent to one of the 4 remaining centres – London, Edinburgh, Birmingham or Sheffield. The centres may be few in number but the UK is recognised as having the most stringent verification system in the world.

## LOCHWINNOCH FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm at  
Lochwinnoch Golf Club

**Date For Your Diary !**

**Annual Lochwinnoch Fireworks Display**  
will once again be hosted by Lochwinnoch  
Golf Club with support from LMEG.

The Fireworks will start at 7.30pm  
Sharp so please come down around  
7 pm to get a good spot !

The Club House Lounge Bar will be  
open throughout the evening,  
serving food and refreshments.

**For further information**  
contact Elaine Boyle at the Club on 842153



## SYRP PUBLIC MEETING

Revised Date

**Wednesday 11th November,**  
7.30 pm at Radio City, Kilbirnie.

**Save Your Regional Park campaign** are holding a public meeting to which all members, friends, MSPs, MPs, MEPs, Councillors, Council officials, Community Councillors, members of CMRP park authority and staff and all others interested in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park's future are invited.

This is a unique opportunity to hear and question the Scottish Government's Chief Planner for Scotland, Jim McKinnon, who has kindly agreed to give a talk on how he sees the future planning system and the role of Regional Parks within the overall plan for Scotland.

**THIS MEETING IS A MUST FOR ALL THOSE  
WHO ARE INTERESTED IN REGIONAL PARKS.**

## Glenlora's Response to Anaerobic Digester concerns

Following our recent planning submission to Renfrewshire Council, we have become aware of concerns within the local community relating to our planning application.

We believe these concerns have arisen through the combination of not enough "operating detail" in our planning application document and the subsequent circulation of "alternative explanations" of the project's impact.

Although we are not in control of what has been circulated by others in the local community, we do feel responsible for the situation that has resulted. We would like to apologise to those within the community who may have become concerned about our project and we would like to reassure them of our best intentions.

Please accept our categorical assurances that this is an agricultural scale project using only barley and slurry.

There will not be hundreds of trucks from all over Scotland delivering all sorts of waste to Glenlora. There will not be any smell generated by this plant. We have no plans or requirement to increase the size of the existing shed. Noise levels will be such that walkers on the Corsfield Road will not be aware of its presence.

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) will be consulted to gain their approvals.

We are aware that the Corsfield Road is not just a public highway and is used regularly by pedestrians; we have no intention to engage in operations that would discourage the public's enjoyment of a core path.

We have applied for permission to build an anaerobic digester. A tried and tested, safe, clean and environmentally friendly project. It has been recognised by the United Nations Development Program as one of the most useful decentralised sources of green energy.

The plant consists of the existing shed which will house the controls and machines within a sound-proof container, two large tanks and one small tank.

The process involves feeding barley and slurry into the digester tank, where it is broken down by bacteria. This produces a biogas which, in turn, fuels a generator unit to produce electricity. There is no process waste, the "by product" is a nutrient rich fertiliser.

We changed our feed substrate from grass to barley for its high productivity value; this greatly reduces the quantity required.

We will require 4,000 tons of slurry and 3,200 tons of barley per annum.

The Estate's 215 acres of barley production will leave a shortfall of barley, which will necessitate two deliveries per week by road. Our inbound daily slurry delivery from local farmers is unloaded and outbound loaded with quality fertiliser.

This project will secure two existing long-term jobs, generate two new permanent full-time and two new permanent part-time jobs.

Having benefited from visits to both industrial and agricultural plants in Germany, where these plants are very common, we have been able to satisfy ourselves that the scale, siting and methodology of this project is not detrimental to the local community or environment.

We will work with Renfrewshire Council and others to ensure all genuine concerns are addressed.

### Glenlora Estate



## The 'Fall Ball Ceilidh'

in the McKillop Hall,  
Lochwinnoch  
on  
**Saturday**  
**14th November '09**

Doors open 8.15pm

Band  
'The Last Tram  
Tae Auchenshuggle'

Bar, Buffet and Raffle  
Entry by ticket only - £8.50.

Get your tickets now  
(as they always sell out)  
from the Brown Bull  
pub, Junction Bistro  
and the Corner Bar.



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

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

### Lochwinnoch Weather Live

There is a new addition to the village website. The web team have been busy over the winter raising funds to buy and install a village weather station. It is now live giving access to live weather data including rainfall, wind speed, direction, temperature, barometric pressure. It will also build up a historical record of lochwinnoch weather which will be available online. It should provide useful information to a range of users within the village including Clyde Windsurfing Club as well as other loch users.

Thanks to "Kieran Turner - aerial and satellite installation" for his support with installation, and to Clyde Windsurfing Club for contributing towards the purchase of equipment.

[www.lochwinnoch.info/weather](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/weather)



**STRATHCLYDE  
POLICE**

## BOGUS PHONE CALLS

Recently, householders in Lochwinnoch and Beith have been receiving phone calls from a so-called "security company". These callers have been offering their services, asking questions about security alarms (already installed in homes), using sales bullying and pressurising tactics, etc, etc.

The callers are claiming that they are working with the local police to crack down crime in the area. This is certainly not the case and the police are investigating these calls.

**If you receive any suspicious phone calls, report them to the police on  
Tel: 01505 404000.**

- On no account give out your details to these callers.;
- Never answer the phone by giving your number;

- If you receive a suspicious call, asking for personal details, ask for the caller's identity and a contact number so that you may return their call.
- Under no circumstances should you give out any personal or bank details over the phone. NEVER give your PIN number or security number on the reverse of the card unless you have called the number and are certain of whom you are speaking to.

### Telephone Preference Service

If you find yourself on the receiving end of annoying or unwanted sales calls, then register with the

Telephone Preference Service,  
DMA House,  
70 Margaret Street,  
London  
W1W 8SS

or phone: 0845 070 0707

or visit their website at:  
[www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)



**STRATHCLYDE  
POLICE**

## 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 -  
 Tel: 0141 842 5000  
Anti-social Behaviour Investigation Team (ASIST) - 0141 840 2163  
Victim Support - 0141 887 0328  
Nuisance Support & Advice Helpline - 0800 169 1283  
Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

The Strathclyde Police website contains information on all of the local Community Policing Teams, which aims to increase the visibility of the officers within their communities.

Take a look at our website -  
**[www.strathclyde.police.uk](http://www.strathclyde.police.uk)**  
for contact details of officers in your local Policing Team. You can also e-mail us from this website.

## BRIDGE CLUB IN LOCHWINNOCH FURTHER UPDATE

There has been some progress to report. I finally heard from the Scottish Bridge Union, who have said that they are prepared to give us an interest free loan over 5 years of £500. Obviously this offer won't last indefinitely, so we do need to get moving on some fairly boring but vital requirements before we can accept the money.

These surround what is required to open a Club Bank Account into which the money can be deposited, the most important being elected officers and a constitution. (I can provide a pro-forma version of that). In order to do this, we will need to hold a meeting to formally constitute ourselves - and yes, I know it sounds boring but it is essential!

However, this all assumes that we still have enough interest to make it viable, and whilst I've had some response so

so far to the note in the last Chatterbox, it has been rather slow. I really need to know if people are still interested, so if you haven't responded or know of people who are interested but haven't responded please can you do so as soon as possible.

The ideal route would be via email, but I would be happy to contact people via ordinary mail if that is not possible.

My intention is to send out a note detailing what has been done so far, and also to get your views on a number of issues that will, in any event, need to be addressed - for example, most suitable day, venue, cost etc.

Could you therefore  
send your e-mail address to -  
[rogerandjune@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:rogerandjune@ukonline.co.uk)  
or

complete the slip at the end of this notice, giving me your address and either send it to me at:  
3 McConnell Road  
Lochwinnoch, PA12 4EB

or drop it in at Lochwinnoch Library, marked for my attention, and I'll pick it up from there.

Failing that you can call me on 01505 842151, and give me your address or leave a message on the answerphone.

**Roger Evans**

✂

**LOCHWINNOCH BRIDGE CLUB**

NAME .....

ADDRESS

.....

.....

CONTACT DETAILS -

Tel: .....

E-mail

.....



## Mine Memory Gathering

The Barites Mine, in the hills beyond Muirshiel Country Park, closed 40 years ago on 6th September last month.

Do you remember the mine, or any of the people that worked in the mine? If you do, then we would like to hear from you.



Len Howcutt, who has been a Countryside Ranger with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park since 1978, said -

*" We are currently gathering stories along with general facts, photographs and information so that we can mount a display to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the opening for the Country Park next year. We also hope to have a few artefacts from the mine site to give visitors a hands on experience of what working at the mines was like.*

*Thanks to several local sources and online contacts we are building up a unique insight into the history of the mine however we would still like to speak to any local people who may have worked at or had connections with the site.*

*Photographs tell a thousand words, hence we are really interested in any old photos of the mine and the landscape of the mine workings taken over the last 40 or so years. These might be used to enhance the display; naturally we would return all photographs after scanning."*

The mine display will be part of the forthcoming celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the opening of Muirshiel Country Park in 1970 by the late Viscount Muirshiel C.H. G.M.G. H.M. Lieutenant. This was a contribution by the then Renfrew County Council to European Conservation Year 1970, and was the first phase towards the creation of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.



You can contact Len Howcutt, Countryside Ranger, or another member of staff at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Muirshiel Visitor Centre, near Lochwinnoch, PA12 4LB or phone: 01505 842 803 or e-mail us at - [rangers.muirshiel@clydemuirshiel.co.uk](mailto:rangers.muirshiel@clydemuirshiel.co.uk)

## Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Annual Report 2008/2009

This report is available for downloading from the CMRP website. Visit [www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk](http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk) and select about us/downloads page. Alternatively, contact the Park HQ office at Barnbrock on 01505 614 791 to request a paper copy.

## Workplan Consultation

Development of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Workplan 2010/2011 is under way. There is currently an opportunity for the public to contribute to its development by telling us what you want us to achieve and the actions required to get there. For more information visit - [www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk](http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk) and click on the link on the home page or phone the office on 01505 614791 and ask for Alison.

## Parkhill Wood

The formal consultation paper on the future management direction of Parkhill Wood will be coming out shortly. Please look out for it at Castle Semple Visitor Centre.

In addition, on Sunday 15th November, there will be an Autumn Walk with the Rangers to Parkhill to look at some of these improvement proposals. Meet at Castle Semple Visitor Centre at 1pm.

## Hallowe'en 'Rescue Me' Training Day

On Saturday 31st October, all Loch Users Clubs are getting together to update their rescue skills ... dookin for apples, boats, people...! As well as the serious side of skills development, it will certainly be a fun day. For more information, contact Clyde Windsurfing Club or the Senior Instructor at Castle Semple Centre.

## Homecoming 2009

Semple Footsteps - Step into the Sempill Room in Castle Semple Visitor Centre to see the display about how the Sempill clan became the Semple family and their connections to the area. Open daily from 10am-4pm.

Scots Words - Check out your speugs and shonnags. If you don't know what they are, have a look at the Scots Words display in Muirshiel Centre. Open Daily from 11am-4pm.

Homecoming Photographic Exhibition  
A display of the entries from the competition starts its Park-wide tour from 31st October to 10th January 2010. On daily at Castle Semple Centre (except 22nd November, 6th & 20th December)

This is a great opportunity to see the Clan Map and Semple DVD. We are now looking for the most original First Lord Semple - can you help?  
Tel: 01505 842882, Extn. 20.

# RSPB LOCHWINNOCH NEWS

## Photography Competition WINNERS !

Over 60 entries were received for this year's photography competition. The votes are in, they have been counted and verified and the winning entries from each category are as follows:

### BIRDS

- 1st place - Heron with eel by Billy Blair  
2nd place - Landing Woodpecker by Raymond Watson  
3rd place - Proud Mother by Raymond Watson

### WILDLIFE

- 1st place - Bank Vole on Twig by Billy Blair  
2nd place - Frog by Carrick Crawford  
3rd place - Blue Damselfly by Lorna Pass

### PEOPLE

- 1st place - Robin Flies Past at Dawn by Kirk Thomson  
2nd place - "Bark" ing Mad by Catherine Frew  
3rd place - Say Hello to My Little Friend by Kirk Thomson

### LANDSCAPE

- 1st place - Autumn on the Trail by Robert Beattie  
2nd place - Bleak New Year by Daniel Ferguson  
3rd place - Reflections by Robert Beattie

### UNDER 15's

- 1st place - Spring Has Sprung at the RSPB by Rosie McCafferty

Congratulations to the prize-winners and many thanks, once again, to all of this year's participants.

A full list of each participant's placing in the competition is available on request to the RSPB Centre on Tel: 01505 842663.

# RSPB LOCHWINNOCH

Wildlife viewing all year round, nature trails and hides open at all times, Visitor Centre open from 10am-5pm daily, Bird Feeding Station and Treetop Tower, daily activities for families, school holiday activities, drinks, snacks and a superb RSPB Shop.

For bookings and information,

**Tel: 01505 842663**

or e-mail us at:

**lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk**

or visit:

**www.rspb.org.uk/scotland**

## Keep up to date with the latest RSPB gossip.

Find us on Facebook:

Search 'RSPB Lochwinnoch', click on us and receive regular updates.

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Lochwinnoch Blog!

For weekly updates, visit:  
<http://blogs.rspb.org.uk/lochwinnoch/default.aspx>  
and subscribe using the RSS link.



## Arts and Crafts for Young Teens, Lochwinnoch

The Chameleon Club Art Classes are for anyone aged 11+ who would like to try some arts and crafts, e.g. plasticine animations, ceramic money banks, printed and folded origami creations, mosaic frames/ boxes, drawing and creating comics.

Classes run from 2-4pm at the RSPB Centre, Lochwinnoch and are led by local artist Cáit Gould. The cost is £10 per session, all materials included. Contact Cáit on 01505 842380 for more details.

Classes will be held on the last Saturday of each month, except for December when the class will be held on **Saturday 19 December**.

## VISITOR CENTRES

### OPENING HOURS

#### **Castle Semple Centre**

Open daily from 10am-5pm until 24 October 2009, and  
Open daily from 10am-4pm from 25 October to 29 March 2010.  
Tel: 01505 842882.

#### **Cornalees Centre -**

Open daily from 11 am-4pm until 24 October 2009, and  
Open weekends only from 11am-3pm from 25 October to 29 March 2010.  
Tel: 01475 521458

#### **Muirshiel Centre -**

Open daily from 11am-4pm until 24 October 2009, and  
Open weekends only from 11am-3pm from 25 October to 29 March 2010.  
Tel: 01505 842803

**RSPB Reserve** - Reserve is open at all times; Visitor Centre open daily, 10am-5pm. Tel: 01505 842663.



## Lochwinnoch RSPB Wildlife Explorers

Is a Group Programme for children aged from 5 to 14 who are interested in all kinds of wildlife from bugs to eagles. We meet one Saturday morning per month from September to May. All are welcome to attend for indoor and outdoor activities.

Activities for the remainder of this year are: - **Mammal Catch and Count** in October, **Feed the Birds** in November **and Art Masterclass** in December.

To find out more about the group and how to join, contact Margaret and Michael Jarvis on 01505 842 563 or e-mail them at: [mikej@chem.gla.ac.uk](mailto:mikej@chem.gla.ac.uk)

## What's On at RSPB, Muirshiel, Cornalees & Castle Semple Centres

- **Monday mornings** - Lochwinnoch Community Walks - Mondays (ex. Public Holidays), 10.30am at The Cross.
- **Thursday mornings** - Slinky Strollers walks (for parents & pushchairs) - meet at 10.30am at Castle Semple Centre.
- **Saturday 10th to Monday 19th October** - Autumn Air on bikes, in boats or on foot. Enjoy the autumn colours at Castle Semple Centre from 11am-3pm.
- **Monday 12th October** - RSPB Lochwinnoch Wildlife Explorer Day for young people, from 11am-4pm at RSPB Centre. Stout footwear & waterproofs recommended.
- **Mon 12th-Friday 16th October**. Multi-activity Week. Taster sessions for kids in 5 different outdoor activities. Mornings for 8-11 year olds, Afternoons for 12-15 year olds—all at Castle Semple Centre. Booking essential. Tel: 01505 842882.
- **Wednesday 14th October** - Family Fun from 1.30pm - try Conservation Work and Environmental Games at Castle Semple Centre.
- **Friday 16th October**—Lochwinnoch Holiday Club from 11am—2pm at RSPB Centre. Take part in mini-beast safaris, pond dipping, bird watching, wildlife gardening. For more details and to book, Tel: 01505 842663.
- **Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th October** - Wildlife Wander Plus: Migration from 10am-12 noon. Winter wildlife is arriving at the RSPB Reserve; find out more about their amazing journeys. Booking essential, Tel: 842663.



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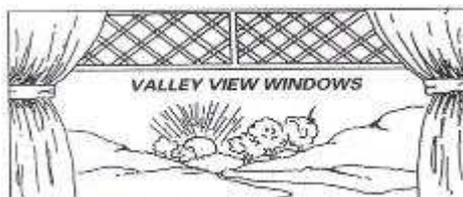
**The Cross, Lochwinnoch PA12 4DB  
(10 mins from Glasgow Airport on A737)**

- **Sunday 18th October** - 1 Day Map & Compass Course from 10am—4pm at Cornalees Centre. Tel: 01505 842882, Ext 20 for more details and to book a place.
- **Sunday 18th October** - Pond Dipping from 1pm with the Rangers at Cornalees Centre.
- **Thursday 22nd October**—Coffee morning from 11am-1pm at the RSPB Centre. Cost £2.
- **Sunday 25th October** - British Summer Time ends - clocks go back one hour at 2am!
- **Sunday 25th October** - Feed the Birds Day from 11am-4pm at the RSPB Reserve. Free event.
- **Wednesday 28th October** - Conservation Volunteers. Get some fresh air, keep fit and help nature at the same time. Gloves & equipment provided, come dressed to get dirty! At Muirshiel Centre, from 1pm for 2 hours.
- **Friday 30th October** - Fright Night from 6-9pm at the RSPB Reserve. Tours every 30 mins, booking essential, pay in advance please. Tel: 01505 842663
- **Friday 30th October** - Autumn Moonwatch: Stargazing Evening at Muirshiel from 7-9pm. Spaces limited so book a place in advance, Tel: 01505 842803.
- **Saturday 31st October** - Chameleon Club workshop 2-4pm with Cáit Gould at the RSPB Centre. \*
- **Saturday 31st October**—Hallowe'en 'Rescue Me' Training Day for local loch users clubs - from 10am-3pm at Castle Semple Loch. Booking essential. Tel: 842882. \*
- **Saturday 31st October-Sunday 10th January 2010** - Homecoming Photographic Exhibition at Castle Semple Centre during opening hours. \*
- **Sunday 1st November**—Wool. Demo. of traditional skills to turn sheep fleece into wool from 2pm at Muirshiel Centre.
- **Saturday 7th November** - Teenage Volunteers Group join us from 11am-4pm at the RSPB Reserve and take part in bird surveying, outdoor work, etc. Booking essential. Tel: 01505 842663.
- **Sunday 8th November**—Hen Harrier Highlights. An illustrated talk showing in-nest highlights of this protected species. At Muirshiel Centre from 2pm.

\* See inside back pages of *Chatterbox* for further information on these events and activities.

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