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CHATTERBOX

No 195 March 2010
www.lochwinnoch.info

ASIST
Anti-Social
Investigation Team
Office 8:45am – 4:45pm
Tel: 0141 840 2163

Community newsletter produced by lochwinnoch publicity committee for lochwinnoch cc

What's On

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

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

Lochwinnoch Arts Festival 2010



This year's events run from
Friday 19th March to
Sunday 28th March.
(Full details inside, on page 7.)

CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox is produced and distributed on behalf of Lochwinnoch Community Council, with support and financial assistance from local sponsors and advertisers.

The Editor welcomes all items for possible inclusion but will reserve all rights over them. All views are of individuals. The Editor accepts no liability for errors or statements and claims made in advertisements.

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR
APRIL 2010 ISSUE IS
TUESDAY 23RD MARCH**

TRACING THE ROBB FAMILY

I wonder if anyone can help me. My Great Grandfather James Robb lived in Lochwinnoch, until his death in 1923, with his wife Fanny (née) McLaughlan.

As far as I know James was a curling stone maker and they had the following children; Francis (Frank) b 1904, James b 1906 d 1927, Andrew b 1908 d 1957, Fanny b 1910, Martha b 1911 d 1913, Joseph b 1913 d 1998 and William b 1916 d 1917.

As far as I am aware the family all lived in Lochwinnoch and in 1913 resided at 53 Calder Street.

Joseph was my grandfather and moved to Exeter, Devon with his family just after WW2 and unfortunately lost touch with his brothers and sisters.

My father, now aged 75, would dearly love to know if he still has cousins/relations living in or around the area.

If anyone can help I would be extremely grateful and can be contacted by e-mail at:
martynrobb@thinkpositive.co.uk
By phone on Tel: 01392 686912
or Mobile: 07791 532287

Martyn Robb

Distant Voices - Woman House Bawfield

The Distant Voices section of Lochwinnoch village website forum has a number of requests for local information. This month's request for help comes from Brisbane, Australia.

My Great Aunt was lodging in 1871 in Lochwinnoch. Her address is given as "Woman House Bawfield" and her occupation was listed as "Bawfield Bleachfield Worker". There were about 90 other women listed as lodgers so it must have been a big property. The women were children through to adult women. Perhaps it was a place for the homeless, the poor and expectant (unwed) mothers?

Does anyone know of a 'Woman House Bawfield'? Any connection with Bowfield?

If you have any information, please e-mail Barbara, Lochwinnoch village website Administrator at:
barbara@lochwinnoch.info

The Village Website

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

www.lochwinnoch.info

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Lochwinnoch Historical Society

The February meeting had to be postponed due to the indisposition of our guest speaker. His talk on Paisley High Street will take place during the 2010-11 session instead.

We are delighted to welcome local celebrity, Vanessa Collingridge, to our March meeting. Geographer, explorer, author and broadcaster Vanessa will give an illustrated talk featuring her acclaimed book and award winning TV documentary about the explorer James Cook. Vanessa also plans to show excerpts from the TV documentary. As this promises to be a particularly interesting meeting we anticipate a good turnout.

The meeting is on Thursday 18th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Church. For visitors there will be a small charge of £2.00 with tea/coffee, cake and biscuits included.

Contact: **Gordon Nicholl Tel 842632**



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Variety of Dunlop, Arran & Kintyre Cheeses, Ayrshire Tatties & Perthshire Strawberries

Local Smoked Seafood products from Fencebay Fisheries, Fairlie

Local handmade sweets from Threepwoodfayre, Beith

Local Little Doon Balsamic Vinegar Dressings, Dalry.

HERITAGE FARMERS MARKET SHOP
39 High Street, Lochwinnoch. Tel: 01505 844941

OPEN Weekdays from 10am-5pm, Saturdays from 9.30am-4pm
and Sundays from 10am-2pm.

Elderly Forum

We were disappointed that a further snowfall prevented a slide show being shown of the village and residents' winter sporting activities during the recent freeze.

We had really been looking forward to this show in the museum room hosted by Margaret Sweeney and colleagues. Cancellation was due to the possibility of roads and pavements being slippery. However, Pat Smith's slides will be shown at a later date and full details will be given when arrangements have been made.

The March meeting takes place on Thursday 25th at 1.30pm, immediately following the ROAR lunch club. Paramedic Garry Fraser will give a presentation on his work and will answer members' questions.

The Tbar Easter Bonnet competition is on Tuesday 30th March and we expect this event to be as much fun as it was last Easter. Once again Councillor David Arthur will judge the entries. We will be very pleased to accept donations of prizes for the raffle we plan to hold.

Contact - **Gordon Nicholl: 842632**

LOCHWINNOCH SWRI

Last month, Franzeska Ewart gave us a fascinating insight into the history and story telling potential of shadow puppetry and showed us that this art form is much more than entertainment for young children. Shadow puppets can be used as an imaginative educational tool, as therapy, and can also be simply good fun.

Competition winners were:

Chocolate Brownies:

- 1 R Gould
- 2 M McFadyen
- 3 E Richmond

Decorated Gift Box:

- 1 L Benzie
- 2 R Gould
- 3 E Richmond

The next meeting is the AGM and a presentation on Mauchline Ware. Why not join us to find out about this traditional decorative technique?
Wednesday 17th March at 7.30pm in the McKillop Hall.

Carry a Knife – Go to Jail Petition in Memory of Guardsman Paul McGee

The tragic death of Paul McGee on Sunday 25th October 2009 shocked our community to the core and, four months on, it is still hard to comprehend the profound distress and immense loss suffered by Paul McGee's family.

As many readers will recall, in July 2008, Guardsman Paul McGee was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery for his efforts to save the life of a colleague during operations in Iraq; Paul's exceptional bravery was the subject of an article in August 2008 Chatterbox.

Following Paul's untimely death at the age of 28, just over a year later, tributes of a different kind appeared in November 2009 Chatterbox from the Reverend Christine Murdoch and from Councillor David Arthur. In addition, our very talented local poet, Betty McKellar, paid a very moving tribute to Paul McGee "and the Scots Guards who brought out the fine man in him" in her heartfelt poem, entitled "We'll Remember" in December 2009 Chatterbox.

Over recent months, many messages of condolence and tributes have been paid to Guardsman Paul McGee by his former colleagues, friends, family, neighbours and local people but nothing will bring Paul back to his family; the trial into Paul's murder is now proceeding through the Courts.

In late 2009, Paul's mother Anne and his sister Kelly started a petition to have the law on knife crime changed.

Kelly said –

"We are hoping to get as many names as possible. Something needs to be done with regards to knife crime in Scotland. We hope that something positive will come out of Paul's death."

"Local people have been very supportive and have given their personal backing to this good cause, such as Davie Arthur – 'As an individual and from the bottom of my heart, I totally agree that people should be deterred from carrying a knife. It is our right not only to be safe within our own community but to be safe to walk any street wherever it may be.' "



In recent weeks, thousands of signatures have been gathered in a door-to-door campaign, which Anne and Kelly are submitting to the Scottish Parliament. You can also add your name to the online petition at - <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/carryaknife-gotojail/> At the time of going to press, the electronic petition contained around 2,500 signatures.

Here is their appeal –

Please sign this petition in memory of Paul McGee. His life was brutally taken by a random, senseless knife attack, which took place outside his own front door in his hometown of Lochwinnoch.

Currently, there is NO minimum sentence for those caught carrying a knife. This has to change!! People should be deterred from carrying a knife. Surely we all have a right to be safe within our own community? The fact that such a crime could happen to a law-abiding, honourable gentleman like Paul shows that NO-ONE is safe from the destructive knife culture Scotland is currently suffering. We should all be aware of this!

Paul's commanding officer said of Paul – "We know Paul died standing up for right. Paul died as he had lived, a quiet hero."

It is now time for us to stand up for right and send those who carry knives to jail. If this was your father, son or brother, what would you do?

Anne and Kelly McGee

Pawsitive Action Day



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Pawsitive Action is in the process of starting up a dog charity and we are voluntarily putting together a few community events with the support of our Regional Parks, Muirshiel Centre and Castle Semple and the RSPB. We are members of the Scottish Canine Consultative Council (S.C.C.C.) and, in the future, we will be starting up our own Dog Management and Training Centre.

We are bringing Educational Awareness about The Outdoor Access Code and Dog Fouling issues to the public on the following days.

Sunday 4th April, from 10am - 3pm at Muirshiel Visitor Centre, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

Saturday 24th April, from 10am—3pm at RSPB Centre and Castle Semple Visitor Centres, Lochwinnoch

Sunday 9th May, from 11am - 3pm at Locherwood Park (Car park on the B786 Lochwinnoch-Kilmacolm Road.)

It is our aim to encourage and support dog owners to become responsible and to provide them with correct and updated information regarding dog management. We are hoping to attract dogs and their family pack to come and enjoy a day of fun. There will be people in attendance on the day, who are experts in their fields and who will give updated and correct information regarding dog ownership, laws, health and training.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you have any time to spare and would like to help bring awareness to the **Outdoor Access Code** and **Dog Fouling issues** that affect us, in and around the area, please contact us. Even an hour of your time would be gratefully received.

Please join us: offering an educational awareness day so that your dog and the family pack will have a safe and happy time in the countryside.

website: www.k9chat.co.uk

Tel: 01505 842885

CLIMATE CHANGE

Conservation charity, the Woodland Trust Scotland, is asking residents to help it assess the impact of climate change on the UK's most popular species - from snowdrops and bluebells to frogs and song thrushes.

Dr Kate Lewthwaite, the Trust's 'Natures Calendar' Manager, said: "Simply by letting us know when and where you spotted your first snowdrop or frogspawn of the year, we can begin to understand the impact of climate change on our native species. On average, spring is arriving earlier than it did 30 years ago, but how are our species responding? "That's where we need your help."

Last year, snowdrops were sighted in Scotland as early as the start of January, while frogspawn sightings peaked around the start of March.

To learn more, or to take part, visit www.naturescalendar.co.uk

TEA TIME !

Social care charity, Quarriers, is asking the kind-hearted people of Renfrewshire to take 10 minutes out to enjoy a cup of tea and raise funds to help the 18,000 vulnerable people the charity supports.

The Quarrier's 10 Minute Teabreak will take place on **Friday 5th March.**

If you would like to take part, visit: **www.10minuteteabreak.co.uk** for a fundraising pack or e-mail the team at Quarriers at: **teabreak@quarriers.org.uk**



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***Mothering Sunday on
14th March
and Easter from
2nd to 4th April 2010.***

Lochwinnoch Primary School

Hi. We are p6 and we have written some things that are happening in our class.

We are doing a topic on Wintersmith.

Wintersmith is a book by Terry Pratchett. The book is about a 13 year old girl who is training to be a witch. She lives with Miss Treason who is 113. We designed a dance scene where Tiffany dances with the Wintersmith. We have decorated our classroom with witches hats and snowflakes. At the end of our tables we have painted snowdrifts onto card and stuck them to our desks. We created, painted and named our own Nac Mac Feegles who are characters in the book. They are little blue men with red pigtailed and beards. We also painted a big Tiffany, Wintersmith and a picture of Discworld which we stuck onto our door. We are making "witchy" products to sell at Zakzak Stronginthearm's Magical Emporium. We are really enjoying our topic.

We are also studying the Winter Olympics.

We have decorated our walls. We each got a piece of the wall and picked from a selection of winter sports. We decorated our wall from the information about that sport. Mrs McClymont made an Olympic torch with help from Sophie and Eoin. We also made 3D mascots who are called Quatchi, Miga and Sumi to decorate round the wall. We have designed medals to help keep a tally of medals won by Great Britain and Canada.

We would like to say congratulations to Amy Williams who won a gold medal in skeleton.

We have just started factfiles about famous sports people.

Some of our sports stars are Amy Williams, Andy Murray and Jenson Button. We are making factfiles and doing prepared talks to the class on these people.

We learn about the Four Capacities.

They are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. At the end of each week we nominate someone who we think has been one of the four capacities. This week we are focussing on successful learners and we are looking for a time we have each been that this week.

Here are some examples of how you can be each of these capacities : you can listen to new ideas to be a successful learner, you can try to be independent to be a confident individual, you can respect other people to be a responsible citizen and you can work in partners and teams to be an effective contributor.

We were involved in try outs for the cross country competition on 24th February.

We had to run round a track in the school grounds. There are teams from p6 and p7 who will take part.

We went to Elderslie swimming pool for a course of swimming lessons. One week we did life saving skills in our pyjamas. On the last day we had a fun week. We all did very well and really enjoyed it.

We hope you enjoyed reading about life in p6.

Need some help with your garden this year?

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From the Parish Church

*The moment I wake up,
before I put on my makeup,
I say a little prayer for you.
While combing my hair now,
and wondering what dress to wear now,
I say a little prayer for you.*

Burt Bacharach and Hal David

You may have heard the joke about the American writing a book about famous churches around the world. In the first church he visited, he noticed a golden telephone with a sign that read "\$10,000 per call". He asked a priest what the telephone was for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God.

The man travelled across the world. In every church he found similar phones with similar signs, which all translated and converted to "\$10,000 per call". When the American travelled to Scotland he entered a church and found the same golden telephone, yet this time the sign under it read "1.5 pence per minute." The American was surprised so he asked the minister, "I've travelled all over the world and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven but, in all of them, the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The minister smiled and answered, "You're in Scotland now – it's a local call."

An amusing story to remind us that we who choose to live in Scotland believe we are living close to heaven. It also reminds us of an important part of the Christian life – prayer. Dionne Warwick praying for her beloved; Bon Jovi lived on a prayer. So do I. Without prayer, I could not live my life; without prayer, I could not survive life.

I pray, not just because the Bible commands me to; I also pray because I see prayer being answered. I realise that many people would explain away answered prayer by telling me that in praying I am focusing so much on a particular problem that the answer comes from within myself and not from God; I even know people who would explain that when I answer the phone or the door bell when I have just been pouring my heart out to God for help and there stands the person who can help me, is not the demonstration of prayer, but of tapping in to a collective conscience which motivates the other person to visit or phone. You may think so, I believe it is prayer.

I also believe in the power of prayer to change the world. What happened in Haiti was a disaster of immense proportions and many people are asking why God let the earthquake happen. I could give you all sorts of platitudes, but I would also like to point out that such strong earthquakes occur in rich countries and the buildings do not collapse. In 2004 an earthquake of similar scale hit the Chuetsu area of Niigata Prefecture, Japan. 39 people died. In Haiti some reports are claiming over 230,000 people have died.

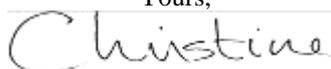
So what is the difference? Poverty. According to Pete Garrett, Head of the Red Cross disaster relief, poverty exacerbates a country's or region's vulnerability to such disasters. In places such as Haiti, where 72.1% of the population live on less than \$2 a day, and in cities like Port-au-Prince, where many are housed in poor and densely-packed shantytowns and badly-constructed buildings, the devastation is always expected to be greater.

"These countries have less money to put into buildings and there is less governance ensuring building codes are followed. Put simply – there are the technical elements of the earthquake and then the social elements on top of that."

In the 20th century, decades of environmental degradation, violence, instability and dictatorship left it as the poorest nation in the Americas. Haiti achieved notoriety during the brutal dictatorships of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son, Jean-Claude, or "Baby Doc". Tens of thousands of people were killed under their 29-year rule. Violent confrontations between rival gangs and political groups, the collapse of the infrastructure and rise in drug trafficking which has corrupted the judicial system and the police - led the UN to describe the human rights situation as "catastrophic". It is also a humanly created disaster.

Yet in the aftermath of the earthquake the world has sat up, finally, and taken notice of Haiti. At long last the world is recognising Haiti does not just need to recover from the after-effects of the earthquake, but from decades, if not centuries, of grinding poverty. I believe that is, eventually, an answer to prayer. We must continue to work and pray that the relief efforts continue; that we don't forget the plight of Haiti and that we ensure the country is able to develop and its citizens are able to live with their God-given dignity recognised by the rest of the world and in freedom from poverty and fear.

Yours,


Rev. Christine Murdoch

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Lochwinnoch Mystery Play

Producing a play on the last Sunday
in March in Lochwinnoch is almost
asking for rain! Therefore, please
come dressed for the weather and
bring your umbrellas.

Please dress up those wellies and
decorate the umbrellas - there will
be a prize for the best dressed
umbrella and wellies !

Lochwinnoch Arts Festival Art Exhibition

Friday 19th - Saturday 27th March

Submissions for the Festival Art
Exhibition are being invited from art-
ists living in Lochwinnoch and sur-
rounding areas. The Exhibition will
be held in 'The Library Room' at
Lochwinnoch Library.

Details and entry forms are available
from: **Crafts of Calder Gallery &
Framing, 8 High Street,
Lochwinnoch. Tel: 01505 844980.**



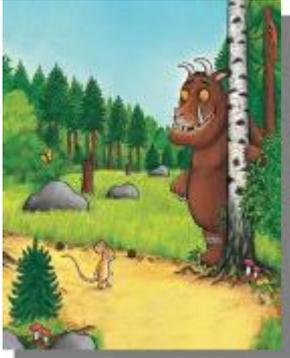
Lochwinnoch Arts Festival March 2010

Festival Art Exhibition Fri. 19th - Sat 27th March - Craft Fair Sat. 20th & Sat. 27th March
Free Admission to both in Lochwinnoch Library

Friday 19th March

Susie Lamont and Pupils - Parish Church 7pm
Donations

Michael Marra - McKillop 8pm (+ Bar)
£10 - includes free entry to Ceilidh and Festival Folk on Friday 26th



Saturday 20th March

Krafty Kids - Space - McKillop 2-4pm
£2

Cunningham Choir - Parish Church 7pm
£5 (Conc. £2.50)

Sunday 21st March

Parish Church Morning Festival Service
FREE

Julia Donaldson 'The Gruffalo' - McKillop 3-4pm
£5



Monday 22nd March

Betty McKellar and Lochwinnoch Writers - RSPB 7pm
£2

Tuesday 23rd March

Scottish Country Dance come and try - McKillop 7pm
FREE



Wednesday 24th March

Classical evening with Neil Wilson Guitar
and
Garnock Academy pupils - Parish Church 7pm
£5 (Conc. £2.50)



Thursday 25th March

Sing along 'Sound of Music' - Parish Church 7.30pm (DRESS UP!)
£5 (Conc. £2.50)

Friday 26th March

Ceilidh with the 4 Allans followed by Festival Folk with the Semple Tones and Guests
McKillop 8pm (+ Bar)
£3.50 (Conc. £1.50)

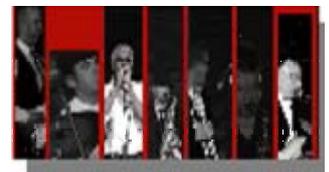


Saturday 27th March

Krafty Kids - Space - McKillop 2-4pm
£2

Lochwinnoch Primary Shadow Puppets Parish Church Hall 11-12 noon
£2

Republic of Soul (Funky Blues and Soul) - McKillop 8pm (+ Bar)
£5 (Conc. £2.50)



Sunday 28th March

Love is all Around Mystery Play in village 2pm

*****Tickets for sale in Crafts of Calder and Junction Bistro*****

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Councillor Arthur's Report

Carrying on from last month's column with the topic of dogs, I'm delighted to hear that, in April and May, there are going to be a few local 'Pawsitive Action Days' taking place. These days will be run by volunteers offering educational awareness with regards to the Outdoor Access Code for dogs and Dog Fouling issues.

Pawsitive Action is in the process of setting themselves up as a charity who will work in partnership with our community to promote the many responsibilities that are expected from dog owners whether it be the encouragement to 'bag it and bin it' through to the keeping of a healthy and respectful four legged friend. I have pledged my support now - why not do the same?
Contact Jacquie on 01505 842885 for further details.

I recently received a letter from Renfrewshire Association For Mental Health (RAMH) about their Lifeskills Service. Part of this is that they will recycle items of furniture to people in most need who access their services. They will arrange uplift and storage, prior to re-distributing items to those in most need. The number to call for uplift of your unwanted goods or referral is 0141 881 8811.

One of the issues that I have been pursuing is the maintenance of the fence and footway that runs along Lochlip Road. Contrary to what most people think, Renfrewshire Council do not own this footway or fence. Therefore, this in itself promotes difficulties,

but I am pleased that the Roads Section have agreed to replace the fence. Now my challenge is to get something in place for the upkeep of it in the longer term, so that we all have a safe walking route along there.

Currently, I am also in ongoing discussions with regards to a few other roads and footway maintenance issues and I'm also still working on getting a reduction on the speed limit on the A760 from Auchenhain Road (Glenlora Road) to the current 30mph signs at the entrance to Newton of Barr.

Lochwinnoch Partnership recently carried out a review on the two Speed Indicator Signs that were installed on the Johnshill a few months back. The Partnership who can be contacted through me or by emailing lochpartnership@btinternet.com, will give a report in April's edition.

My next Surgery is on **Saturday 20th March** but there is no need to wait for a Surgery if you require my help, you can contact me on Tel: 01505 843507 or email me at cllr.david.arthur@renfrewshire.gov.uk and we can agree a time when we can meet.

Councillor David Arthur

IMPROVING WITH AGE Keep Fit Class HELP! HELP! HELP!

Classes are held every Tuesday from 10am-11am at Lochwinnoch Annex in the Park. A fully qualified instructor is in attendance and classes are for males and females so, don't be shy, come and join us. **For further details, Tel: 01505 843393.**

FIRST PRIZE FOR 1st LOCHWINNOCH GIRLS BRIGADE

Recently, some girls in 1st Lochwinnoch Company took part in a National Brigade Challenge.

After a fun-filled and tiring couple of weeks, the 15 challenges were complete.

BIG congratulations to
Melissa Davies,
Eilidh McManus
Angela Graham
Laura-Rose Reid
Morven Bremner and
Kirsten Holmes

on winning a national competition and beating 18 other teams from across Scotland!

Well done girls!

The girls would like to say a big thank you to Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park for enabling them to plant trees in Parkhill Wood, to RSPB Lochwinnoch for helping them make bird food and feed our "international guests" and to Lily Rose Bridal Boutique for allowing them to dress one of their shop 'dummies' in a Girls Brigade uniform.

All sections enjoyed their Christmas parties, fun, games - and food!

The next big event on the Girls Brigade calendar is the Divisional Competitions to be held on Saturday 27th February. In the meantime, all Sections continue completing various sections of their badgework.

Jennie Cochrane

LOCHWINNOCH SURGERY NEWS

Congratulations to Dr McLaughlin and his wife on the birth of their son, Keiran, born on 15th Feb 2010.

Now that winter is almost over, many of you will be planning summer holidays. If you're heading somewhere exotic, remember to contact one of our Practice Nurses, who will be happy to provide you with up-to-date advice on travel health and recommended vaccinations.

Surgery Tel: 01505 842200

Or check out the website
www.fitfortravel.co.uk

Beith Arts Guild Sunday Concerts

Come and join us on
Sunday 21st March
at 2.30pm
in Beith Community Centre,
King's Road, Beith

The March concert in this year's series will feature Bobby Wishart and his Jazz Band, who will brighten our day with some lively music.

Bobby Wishart has a long-standing reputation as a jazz instrumentalist, and is very well-known in Scotland. You may remember hearing him many times on the radio. His hand-picked team of fellow musicians join him to give us two hours of popular, toe-tapping music, which will send us on our way humming well-remembered tunes as we leave.

Everyone is welcome, pay at the door (admission £8, concessions £6, students and children £1).

A further date for your diary: for our last concert of the season, on 25th April, we are very fortunate to have Gordon Mabbott and the Sound of Music to round off this season with melodious songs from the shows. More details next month, but make a note now so that you don't miss it!

website: www.beitharts.org



www.weansworldjohnstone.co.uk

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Out of school care places available - 43 Brewery Street, Johnstone.

Breakfast club/ After school care/ Holiday playscheme

Bookings now being taken for holiday playscheme and new term.

Tel: 01505 321916

☆ *Now taking Easter holiday bookings* ☆

Councillor Bibby's Report

The village of Lochwinnoch was shocked and saddened by the murder of Guardsman Paul McGee last October. Last week I met with Guardsman McGee's sister Kelly to discuss the fight against knife crime and I want to use this report to update you on this in accordance with the wishes of Guardsman McGee's family.

This was a barbaric and sickening crime. Two men are awaiting trial. I hope and anticipate that justice will be done. Sadly, however, the incident that shook our whole community is not an isolated one. A culture of knife crime leads to over 55 deaths a year in Scotland. Whilst educating our young people is important, stronger deterrents are also needed if we are to tackle this culture.

That's why, as many local residents will be aware, Guardsman McGee's sister Kelly and mum Anne are supporting a campaign to remove the knives from Scotland's streets and that calls for mandatory minimum sentences for those caught carrying a knife.

Like them, I quite simply believe that knife crime has blighted too many lives for too long. The petition that was launched on 3rd January has already

received a massive 6,000 signatures with a further 2,400 people signing an online petition.

This campaign is both impressive and worthwhile. It is all the more commendable because this is an extremely difficult time for Paul's family. They are committed to doing all that they can to raise awareness of the issues and to prevent further unnecessary suffering for victims and their families.

Having spoken to Kelly only last week, I know that the McGee family are very grateful for all the support they have received for their campaign. If you support their call for tougher sentencing but have yet to sign the petition you can do so online at

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/carrya-knife-gotojail/> If you would like paper copies of the petition you can contact me on 0141 840 3653.

My next advice surgery will be on Saturday 6th March at 9am in the McKillop Hall. Please note my advice surgery planned for Saturday 3rd April will be cancelled due to the Easter Holidays.

Please get in touch with any views or concerns at any other time Tel: 0141 840 3653 or by emailing me at:
cllr.neil.bibby@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Councillor Neil Bibby

What's On

(Regular clubs, classes and local groups)

- **Healing and Creativity Workshops & Classes.** For details or to book a place, please Tel Becky: 0141 8816700 or Libby on: 015105 842604.
- **Lochwinnoch Community Walks** - Mondays (ex. Public Holidays), meet at 10.30 am at The McKillop Inst.
- **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.
- **Advice Works** - Surgeries take place on Mondays from 2pm-4.30pm at 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.
- **Club Latino** - weekly Merengue, Salsa and Mambo classes for adults on Monday evenings at Lochwinnoch Bowling Club from 8.30-9.30pm. Details from Hazel on: 07812 023343.
- **Lochwinnoch Art Group** Meet fortnightly on Monday evenings, 7.30pm, McKillop Institute.
- **Keep Fit - Improving With Age classes,** every Tuesday from 10am-11am at the Annexe building in the Park. (See separate notice.)
- **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 at 2.15pm at Lochwinnoch Library. *



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.

- **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 and Thursdays from 7pm-8pm at Lochwinnoch Primary School. 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 Inst. at 6.30pm. For details, Tel: 0141 887 1357 or 07947 763704.
- **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: at 6pm and 7.30pm, McKillop Inst. Yoga, breathing practice, intro. to meditation. Tel Mary: 01505 842877.
- **Happy Harminis** - Fun for pre-school children on Thursdays 10am-11am, McKillop Inst. Tel: Frankie : 01505 612248.
- **Slinky Strollers** - on Thursday mornings (details on back page).
- **ROAR Lunch Club** - every Thursday from 11.45am at the McKillop Institute. **Please Note - the last sitting is at 12.15**
- **TaeKwon-Do Little Tiger Cubs.** Classes for 3-5 year olds, on Thursdays from 4.15pm-5pm at McKillop Inst. 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.

Dog Training at The Annexe

(Pre-booking necessary)

Mondays 9.30am - Advanced/Intermediate
Mondays 10.30am - Juvenile/Intermediate
Tuesdays 6.30pm - Puppy Course (8 week blocks)
Tuesdays 7.30pm - Juvenile/Intermediate
Tuesdays 8.30pm - Advanced/Intermediate
Thursdays 6.30pm - Puppy Course (8 week blocks)
Thursdays 7.30pm - Juvenile/Intermediate
Thursdays 8.30pm - Advance/Intermediate

Please phone/email for further information, to book a place or for information on outdoor classes.

Anne D Moss MSc (CABC), PGCE, MBIPDT
Liathach Dog Training & Behavioural Counselling
Tel: 01505 842367
e-mail: dogtraining@f2s.com

VILLAGE EVENT CALENDAR for 2010

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

Please use this calendar to publicise your events and to avoid any clashes when planning dates to hold events.

Dates for your diaries

- **Saturday 6th March** - Councillor Bibby's Surgery at 9am, the McKillop Institute. *
- **Sunday 7th March** - Fairtrade Stall at Castle Semple Centre from 11am. *
- **Monday 8th March** - last day of Fairtrade Fortnight 2010.
- **Saturday 13th March** - Ceilidh and Fun Night - 7.30pm at Lochwinnoch Parish Church Halls*
- **Monday 15th March** - Lochwinnoch Art Group fortnightly meeting at 7.30pm, Lesser Hall, McKillop Institute.
- **Wednesday 17th March** - Lochwinnoch SWRI AGM and presentation on Mauchline Ware at 7.30pm in the McKillop Inst. *
- **Thursday 18th March** - Lochwinnoch Historical Society meeting 7.30pm in the Parish Church Guild Room. *
- **Friday 19th March** - **Sunday 28th March 2010** - Lochwinnoch Arts Festival Lochwinnoch ArtExhibition and Lochwinnoch Craft Fair. (* Full details on page 7.)
- **Saturday 20th March** - Councillor Arthur's Surgery from 11.30am, the McKillop Institute. *
- **Sunday 21st March** - Beith Arts Guild Concert - Bobby Wishart and his Jazz Band - in Beith Community Centre at 2.30pm. *
- **Thursday 25th March** - Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum meeting at 1.30pm, McKillop Hall (follows the ROAR Lunch Club). *
- **Saturday 27th March** - Sportsman's Dinner from 6.30pm for 7pm at the Masonic Club. *
- **Sunday 4th April** - Pawsitive Action Day from 10am - 3pm at Muirshiel Regional Park. *
- **Tuesday 6th April** - Lochwinnoch Community Council meeting at 7.30pm in the Guild Room, Lochwinnoch Parish Church.
- **Wednesday 7th April** - Easter Activity, 2.30-3.30pm at Lochwinnoch Library for 5-10 year olds. Space limited, FREE tickets available in advance. *

No gift to your mother can ever equal her gift to you – life.

You can, however, bring a smile to her face on Mother's Day with a special present and card from our wide selection. We have everything from pocket money items for the kids to something really unique.

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Even if you can't decide, we do gift vouchers.
Gifts Cards Jewellery Leather Home
8 Church Street Lochwinnoch 01505 843311
 Open 9-5 Monday-Saturday. Just in case you forget, we will be open from 11-4 on Mother's Day (March 14)

- **Saturday 24th April** - Pawsitive Action Day from 10am - 3pm at RSPB & Castle Semple Centres, Lochwinnoch. *
- **Friday 30th April** - Boys Brigade Display in the McKillop Hall.
- **Sunday 9th May** - Women's 10K
- **Sunday 9th May** - Pawsitive Action Day from 11am—3pm at Locherwood Park (Car Park on B786 Lochwinnoch-Kilmacolm Road). *
- **31st May** - Bank Holiday Monday Semple Trail Walk. Departs 10.30am from Castle Semple Centre. (* See Semple Trail notice—page 13.)
- **Saturday 12th June** - Lochwinnoch Gala Day and the 28th Lochwinnoch Open Race.
- **Friday 18th June** - "Not the Booze Cruise" sets sail again. *

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

Fun Night

on **Saturday 13th March**
 at 7.30 pm in Lochwinnoch Parish Church Halls

This will take the form of:

Ceilidh, Games

Light Buffet Supper

Come and Join in the Fun !

Tickets

Adults £3 each Children £1.50 each

MASONIC CLUB EVENTS

Sportsman's Dinner

Saturday, 27th March

6.30pm for 7pm.

Tickets £25 from Billy

Tel: 01505 843359.

The speakers are:

Davy Wilson, ex-Rangers and Scotland player and Bobby Tait, former Grade 1 referee.



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Lochwinnoch Library

New books for March

Lesley Pearse : Stolen

Sussex, 2003. When a beautiful blonde girl is found half-drowned on a beach, she has no memory of who she is or what horrors have left her there. But an article about her in a Brighton newspaper rings alarm bells for beautician Dale, who shows the police photographs of Lotte Wainright. The girls met working on a cruise ship and their friendship blossomed as they sailed the seas of South America, until Lotte fell under the sinister influence of an older American couple. To her regret, Dale hasn't seen Lotte since leaving the ship months earlier ...but the girl on the beach - although badly bruised - is indeed her much missed friend. Their reunion only marks the beginning of a dangerous tidal wave of secrets, lies and nightmares. Where has Lotte been? Who is the man who seems to want to kill her? And what has become of the baby she's recently given birth to? Dale and Lotte must dig deep and find the strength to hold on against the odds if they are to rebuild their friendship and survive Lotte's stolen - and deadly - past...

Jessica Stirling : The Paradise Waltz

Christine is the local schoolteacher - far too pretty to be stuck out in the country with only the elderly Brigadier and her scottie for company. Alan is an eminent surgeon with sadness in his past, far too young to be content with the life of a single gentleman with a large, empty country residence. The Brigadier thinks they would make a perfect couple - but other suitors have their eyes on both Alan and Christine.

Robert Goddard : Long time coming

In Antwerp in 1939, a Jewish diamond trader flees Nazi Europe, leaving his priceless collection of Picasso paintings and diamonds with a friend who takes them to London. The boat he flees on sinks, leaving no survivors. Fast forward to 1976 when his penniless family tries to track down the missing paintings.....

Coming soon -

Stuart MacBride : Dark Blood
(Logan McRae book 6)
Harlan Coben : Caught
Jodi Picoult : House rules

Renew and Reserve

at

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.

ADVICE WORKS

Surgery at Lochwinnoch Library

Every Monday 2pm – 4.30pm

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

We can provide expert advice on a wide range of debt related topics eg. Credit Card , Mortgage arrears, Council Tax, etc

OUR SERVICE IS FREE, CONFIDENTIAL AND OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF RENFREWSHIRE.

EASTER HOLIDAY

The Library will be closed on
Friday 2nd April
Saturday 3rd April
and
Monday 5th April

(see notice at the foot of this column for our NORMAL HOURS

Easter Activity@ Lochwinnoch Library

Suitable for 5-10 year olds
Wednesday 7th April
2.30pm - 3.30 pm
As space is limited, **FREE** tickets available in advance.

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 on:
Fridays from 9.30am – 11am
For details Tel: **01505 842305**

Baby & Toddler Rhyme time



At Lochwinnoch Library
every Tuesday at 2.15pm

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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All the high quality products below are free to use from your home PC 24/7. To access these products from home, you must be a registered member of Renfrewshire Libraries. If you are not currently a member, join online to use the e-resources or at any Renfrewshire Library by taking along identification with your names and address, this allows you access to all of the library services.

Oxford Language Dictionaries Online

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

Who's Who and Who Was Who

Who's who has been published every year since 1849. It is the leading source of information about over 32,000 influential people in British public life today.

Grove Art

The ultimate source of information on all aspects of art. This online resource can tell you everything you need to know about visual art worldwide. Read about the people and processes involved in creating the works of art you see online.

Grove Music

This award-winning resource covering all aspects of music, from the past to the present day. Information about anything and everyone related to the world of music.

NewsUK

Searchable database of UK National and regional newspapers

Issues Online

Information about social issues : links to newspapers, websites and lobby groups.

Oxford Reference Online Premium for all your information needs.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Biographies of people who shaped history.

Lost for words? Use the Oxford English Dictionary

Encyclopedia Britannica for ages 18 plus

News, videos, statistics, timelines and a blog

Britannica Junior for ages 5-11

Need help with your homework and want some fun?
Primary school level

Britannica Student for ages 12-18

Discover Europe, important people, big events : CBBC News

CREDOreference

Encyclopaedias : Dictionaries : Biographies : Bilingual Dictionaries :
Crossword Solver : Measurement Conversions

If you are **logging on from home** using your library card, **type in the word renfrew before the barcode number** (no space in between).

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Monday & Friday 10am-5pm,
Tuesday-Thursday 10am-2pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

The Semple Trail

Come along and join Lochwinnoch and Howwood Community Councils as they offer a walk to blow away the cobwebs on this Bank Holiday Monday (31st May).

The route will take you around the Semple Trail, which encircles Castle Semple Loch. There will be an opportunity to purchase refreshments at the start and at the half way point in Howwood.

The pace will be leisurely and comfortable shoes are recommended. This route may be shortened and return journeys can be made from Howwood by train or bus.

Walkers should please come dressed for the weather. The distance is 7.9 miles, but please remember we are promoting the Outdoor Access Code and care should be taken when crossing farmland when farmland animals are present.

The walk starts at 10.30am at Castle Semple Visitor Centre, Lochwinnoch.

Further details can be obtained from David Fowles 01505 844865, or Joyce Reid 01505 842803.

THE COVENANTERS' CAVE AND HOLLOW

By
Derek Parker

The moorland mist mantled a heathery hollow with a spectral shroud one Sunday morning more than 300 years ago.

The marshy morass, with its bracken-mantled slopes, is known as the Covenanters' Hollow. It lies at the foot of the rocky escarpment known as Craig Minnan, near Muirshiel Country Park above Lochwinnoch.

A young couple walked from a stone-and-clay biggin in nearby Calder Glen across snow-frosted peat paths leading into the grey-veiled hollow that day.

The woman, wearing a tartan shawl, skirt and plaid, carried an infant in her arms. She and her husband joined a huddled group of men, women and children singing traditional Scottish psalms in the Covenanters' Hollow.

All were taking part in a conventicle - an illegal prayer meeting of Covenanters who got their name from the National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh, in 1638 by Christians affirming their allegiance to Presbyterianism. The Covenant was widely supported by the people of Lochwinnoch.

Attendance at conventicles was punishable by death, deportation and heavy fines. That was why Covenanters worshipped in remote countryside to avoid capture by red-coated dragoons led by Viscount James Graham, the famous (or infamous, depending on your point of view) Scottish soldier.

To his followers, Graham was known as 'Bonnie Dundee.' To his enemies, including the Lochwinnoch Covenanters, he was 'Bloody Claverhouse.'

The mellow-voiced preacher who officiated at the conventicle that winter morning wore the black, flowing robes of a Covenanting minister. Tenderly, he took the rosy-cheeked bairn in his arms - then baptised the child with water from a moorland stream as the congregation sang a beautiful benediction hymn.



High on the rocks of Craig Minnan, a sentry armed with primed musket stood guard - watching for Claverhouse's dragoons. The worshippers knew a dreadful fate awaited them if they were captured. Punishment could include being shot or bayoneted on the very spot where they prayed and sang.

But the sacred ceremony passed peacefully and the congregation returned to their biggins, cottages, but-and-bens and 'fermtouns' in the Calder Glen.

The minister's name was the Rev. Andrew Renwick and he was born in Glencairn, Dumfries-shire, in 1662.

The tranquil, but peril-fraught scene, is evoked by historian Dr Andrew Craufurd in his 'Cairn of Lochwinnoch' manuscript: 'On a day characterised by snow and mist, a child was baptised in the Misty Law area by a young preacher.'

In the rugged Calder Glen, near where James Renwick christened the child, is a secret cave concealed by dense vegetation. Known as the Covenanters' Cave, it is secluded behind a cascading waterfall plunging into a churning linn overhung by trees and rocky precipices.

The rocky refuge was used as a hiding place by the Rev. James Renwick when he preached in the Lochwinnoch neighbourhood.

I visited the Covenanters' Cave when I worked as a ranger at Muirshiel Country Park more than 20 years ago. It was an amazing experience, crawling through the narrow horizontal opening then standing upright in the concealed cavern behind the cascading cataract.

It was easy to visualise the fugitive preacher, scrambling down the wooded hillside to his stony sanctuary all these years ago.

But sadly, the gallant pastor's luck ran out. He was captured, put on trial, and hanged publicly on the scaffold at Edinburgh's Grassmarket on February 17, 1688. Aged just 26, the Reverend James Renwick was Scotland's last religious martyr.

But his memory lives on at the Covenanters' Cave and the Covenanters' Hollow where he ministered to the spiritual needs of his flock during that dark period in Scottish history described as the Killing Times.

Often, when I worked at Muirshiel and cycled down the dark Calder Glen road on my way home at night, the roar of the river in spate echoed eerily from the rocky ravine guarding the Covenanters' Cave.

From among the trees in the gathering twilight, grey wisps of ghostly mist spiralled from the foaming linn concealing the cave.

It was as if the phantom of the long-dead Reverend James Renwick still haunted the rocky retreat, which was his sanctuary during his all-too-brief life.

Warning: The Calder Glen is dangerous. Its steep sides, fast-flowing channels, powerful currents and underwater caverns have been the scene of several deaths. It is not safe to visit.

When the writer of this article visited the cave, he was accompanied by a highly-experienced and qualified staff member with mountain leadership certificates.

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



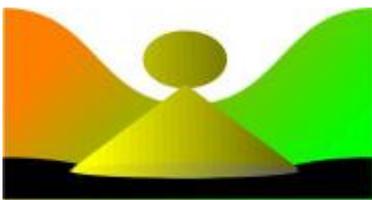
Finding out more about Fairtrade

Until March 8, the Castle Semple Centre will host an **exhibition** illustrating some aspects of the Fairtrade Campaign's aims and its local activities. You can also find out where to get Fairtrade products, when you are out shopping and eating, in Renfrewshire Council's new *Fairtrade Guide to Renfrewshire* : now available in various venues and outlets in Lochwinnoch.

Another good source of information about Fairtrade, including films about its importance is the Fairtrade Foundation website at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

The local contact is Bob Turner (Tel: 01505 843068).

Lochwinnoch International Aid News



www.lochwinnochaid.org.uk

Long term support

LIA has discussed several ideas for projects we might support on a longer term basis and has decided to give support to three organisations from the standing order donations. This should help them to plan more effectively for the future.

The first is the Amani Centre in Morogoro, Tanzania, which consists of a Day Centre that about 50 children attend daily, plus a number of outreach workers who

visit families regularly to ensure that they are coping. There is also a farm that aims to make the community self-sufficient and sell any excess. It also supports some poor teenagers to go to secondary school and they live and help at the centre. Finally, the community has an Awareness Group which perform through song, dance and drama in order to educate the public about disability and encourage their acceptance of it. Several pupil volunteers and four teachers from Johnstone High School did volunteer work at the Centre in Summer 2008 and we hope that those from Lochwinnoch will consider giving some regular support to LIA in the knowledge that some of this money will go to help people they have a personal link with.

The second project is Hlekweni Friends rural Service in Arusha, Zimbabwe that provides skills training in bio-intensive farming largely with impoverished communities in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe. It provides a holistic experience, through the sharing values of integrity, cooperation and compassion, offering courses that can lead to self-employment. An on-site organic nursery is used for training and demonstration purposes. A vetiver grass nursery is being established and a nutritional and medicinal nursery are planned.

The final project is the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia which is dedicated to treating the many women who had complications in childbirth and who were not welcomed in their local hospitals. A new 50 bed hospital supports approximately 25 women a week who are treated for vaginal fistulas.

Great distances are travelled by patients, even from Kenya, Sudan and Somalia and often on foot.

Although all of these initiatives are based in different parts of Africa, LIA also intends to support projects across the world using money it raises through special fundraising events like its evening of Cuban music.



New Fairtrade Mug

Alongside the various successful activities of Fairtrade Fortnight, we were pleased to launch a new limited edition mug to promote continuing support for Fairtrade in Lochwinnoch.

It is made from a hard wearing, unbreakable, recycled black plastic with special designs in three attractive colours showing the village's support for Fairtrade (see photos above & below). We have been able to keep the price at £2.50 due to generous sponsorship received from The Junction, LMEG and Councillor Arthur : our thanks to all of them. The mug is on sale at various outlets throughout the village. Any monies raised will be used to support Fairtrade activities in the village, such as the cost of hiring stalls.

Finally, on **Sunday March 7**, starting at 11am, there will be a Fairtrade stall at Castle Semple Visitor Centre, where you will be able to buy a wide range of Fairtrade products, try some samples and find out more about our campaign.

We are pleased to report that the Centre will be swapping its coffee for Fairtrade coffee/tea in the cafe for the fortnight and also selling other Fairtrade food products. Fairtrade activities are also planned involving two classes in the Primary School and members of the Elderly Form.



TEENAGE CANCER TRUST NEWS

With the Beatson Unit now being joined with the new Yorkhill Unit, Glasgow and the West of Scotland are well served for age-specific centres providing care for teenagers and young adults with cancer. Early in 2011, we will be launching our campaign to raise funds to build a new TCT Unit in the new hospital for sick children, which is to be built on the grounds of the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

The main focus for TCT in Scotland this year is to provide the same facilities for young people in the East of Scotland. On 8th March 2010, TCT will be launching the campaign to raise funds for new units at both the Western General Hospital and the new hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. The West of Scotland fundraising team will be supporting our 'cousins' in the East with their efforts, as they did with us when raising funds for the Beatson Unit.

We do have a local project very much in mind though. I was reminded at a recent TCT meeting that all of our young patients with brain tumours are treated for at least part of the time at the Neurosurgical unit in the Southern General Hospital. One of our group had spent some nights in a Neurosurgical ward beside her daughter, and there was not even a comfortable chair for her to sleep on overnight, let alone any form of bed. Nor was there as much as a TV in the room. We can't just 'magic' a TCT Unit into the wards, but we are hopeful that we will be able to provide some facilities and equipment to improve the conditions for patients and their families. I have asked the TCT staff to speak with the management in the Southern General and put together an action plan of what they can accommodate, and what we can provide. More details will follow as soon as I get them.

The main piece of local fundraising news is (drum roll !) - **I have booked the boat for this year's 'Not The Booze Cruise', which will set sail on Friday 18th June.**

Full details and tickets will be available in the next couple of months. In the meantime, keep your diaries free for that evening (and probably much of the next day!) Yo, Ho, Ho and a discreet bottle of wine !

In the meantime, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the continued support and generosity shown to TCT by the individual people and various groups of Lochwinnoch.

John Delaney

EARTH HOUR 2010

The WWF's Earth Hour takes place on Saturday 27 March at 8.30pm. You are invited to join millions of people across the world in a global call for action on climate change by switching off your lights for an hour.

Earth Hour is an inspiring message of hope and action, to let world leaders know the world is still watching, following the 2009 UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen.

Earth Hour 2009 was hugely successful, reaching millions of people across the world.

In Scotland more than 10,000 people took part and lights went out in each of Scotland's 6 cities, as well as on the nation's most iconic landmarks, including the Forth Rail Bridge, the Clyde Arc and Stirling Castle. The event was also supported in Scotland by 20 local authorities, 300 schools and over 1,000 businesses and organisations.

WWF is already in touch with some organisations to discuss how they can participate. You can help make Earth Hour 2010 even bigger and better too. Whether you are a business, local authority, school, community group or individual, you can take part.

If you'd like more information, all you have to do is get in touch with WWF by
Tel: 01350 728200 or just e-mail them at:
scotland@wwf.org.uk



Hear Here

Renfrewshire Hard of Hearing Support Group

The Renfrewshire Hard of Hearing Group has now been operating for over one year. We are a group of people who all have some degree of hearing loss, and we came together to raise awareness, campaign for positive change and provide support and activities for other people like us.

Because all our members have some degree of hearing loss, we understand how difficult it can be living in a noisy world. For some it feels easier to withdraw and become isolated, yet we are here to support each other overcome this and to ensure that we get the best use of hearing aids and modern technology to keep ourselves part of the hearing world. At our meetings, we get the chance to air our frustrations about the numerous difficulties we face and we invite speakers to provide information that may be of use to us, but we have missed because of our hearing loss.

Meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month. This month's meeting will be on the **4th of March 2010 - at 1:30pm** in the Mile End Centre, 30 Seedhill Road, Paisley.

You are welcome to join us if you live in Renfrewshire and are affected by hearing loss.

For further information or to be put onto our mailing list:

Phone: 0141 847 4950
Textphone: 0141 848 7232
Fax: 0141 847 4981

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

The Village Website
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

SAVE YOUR REGIONAL PARK

www.saveyourregionalparks.com

SYRP Parliamentary Petition & Kenneth Gibson MSP's *Protecting Scotland's Regional Parks Bill*

On 12th January 2010, representatives of SYRP, Sybil Simpson, Robert Maund and Nigel Willis were accompanied and supported by Kenneth Gibson MSP for Cunningham North at the Petition Committee's round table discussion on our petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to provide greater protection for the National and Regional Parks of Scotland from industrialisation, including wind farms and their associated quarries, roads, cable trenches and sub-stations. Also participating were three representatives of the Scottish Government, Graeme Purves, Ass't Chief Planner, Jamie Hume, Deputy Director Renewable Energy and Ian Hopper from the Species Management Team. The discussion took 55 mins. and can be viewed on **Holyrood TV** by logging onto -

[http://www.holyrood.tv/popup.asp?stream=http://vr-sp-archive.lbwa.verio.net/archive/120110 petitions.wmv](http://www.holyrood.tv/popup.asp?stream=http://vr-sp-archive.lbwa.verio.net/archive/120110%20petitions.wmv) (fast forward the timing slider to 58 mins to avoid the previous debate). The SYRP representatives felt, once again, that the Petition Committee members were largely supportive of the petition and at the end it was announced that a final decision on their action would be taken at their February meeting.

At the Petition Committee meeting on 9th Feb 2010 the Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the grounds that the concerns raised in the petition have been discussed at length by the Committee and that they can be further considered through Kenneth Gibson's Bill. It was considered a major achievement that the campaign and petition had triggered this Bill.

It is hoped to have the required backing of the necessary minimum 18 MSPs by 4th March. This would mean that the first Parliamentary debate would take place in May or June this year. If it is agreed to take a Bill forward it will be allocated to a committee to work up the actual wording of the Bill and then debate it in Parliament again in the autumn. If all goes well in this debate, the Bill should be ratified early in 2011.



The Strathclyde Police website contains information on all of the local Community Policing Teams. Check out our website.

www.strathclyde.police.uk

for contact details of officers in your local Policing Team.

You can also e-mail us from this website.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Strathclyde Police –0141 532 5900
Johnstone Police –01505 404000
Johnstone Community Safety Office – 01505 404023
Trading Standards 0141 840 3184
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

Latest news from Renfrewshire Trading Standards

ROGUE TRADERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FROZEN PIPES

The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) is urging residents to beware of rogues offering to check the house for frozen pipes. It is reported that vulnerable consumers have been visited by criminals claiming to be from a water company. Once they've gained access into the home the householder is distracted in the kitchen or bathroom while the burglars make away with valuables. We are urging consumers to be vigilant with any trader turning up on their doorstep uninvited. Should they need to have repairs or checks carried out, we'd advise them to call their water supplier and arrange for an engineer to visit by appointment. Consumers are also advised to check schemes such as Trustmark and Buy with Confidence to find a reputable trader for repairs. Other tips to avoid falling victim to rogues include:

- use a trader recommended by friends or family;
- get three quotes;
- do not use a trader who just turns up on your doorstep or leaves a leaflet; they could be anyone.

Should anyone have doubts about the credentials of a trader knocking on their door they should take as many details as they can, including the vehicle registration number, and report them to trading standards service or to the police.

PAISLEY TRADER FINED £2,000 FOR SELLING CIGARETTES TO UNDERAGED

Renfrewshire Trading Standards ongoing test purchasing scheme, whereby underage volunteers attempt to buy cigarettes from local shops, had a huge success this month.

A trader was caught by our team and a report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal. The trader decided to plead not guilty to selling to our volunteer and went to trial. The judge threw out his not guilty plea and fined him a Scottish record of £2,000.

BREAKING NEWS: The Scottish Government passed a bill in late February, banning the display of cigarettes in shops, outlawing vending machines, introducing fixed penalty fines for sales to under 18's and introducing a registration scheme for the sale of tobacco. The bill will come into force for large retailers in 2011 and 2013 for smaller retailers.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

- If you would like to report the **sale of counterfeit goods** please call 0141 840 3146 in confidence.
- If you would like to report the **sale of age restricted products to underage children** please call 0141 840 3460 in confidence.
- Do you have an item you feel should be published in our e-update? Call 0141 840 3285.
- If you require consumer advice, please contact our partners at Consumer Direct Scotland on Tel: 08454 040506.

Renfrewshire Trading Standards website at <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk> offers advice on a range of items, including: Consumer related advice, Trading Standards Plans, Targets & Pledges, Business Related Advice, Animal Related Advice and much more.



ST VINCENT'S HOSPICE



Precious Moments

In ordinary moments of care - extraordinary things happen.

At St Vincent's Hospice, it is a privilege to share Precious Moments with our patients and their families.

Every day we witness the courage and humanity of our patients and their families - they inspire us to continue to offer support, comfort and care for all in Renfrewshire and the surrounding areas. The need is great and the service costly, but it is the rewards that come with a journey brought to a loving conclusion that renews our efforts to find the ways and means to continue with our work.

Romeo from Radio Clyde very kindly came along to St Vincent's Hospice and spent time with our Daycare attendees and also with a patient in our ward area. He was also given a guided tour of all the facilities St Vincent's provides and an insight to the work we do and the people we care for.

He was delighted to meet with everyone and was impressed with the happy atmosphere of the Hospice and the people who benefit from the services provided.

Romeo is asking everyone to back St Vincent's Hospice Precious Moments campaign and help in any way you can, whether it be a smaller item on the list or if your group/organisation can fundraise together to help pay for one of the more substantial services. These Precious Moments come together to help make the excellent level of care provided by the Hospice.

For more information on the Precious Moments campaign, please contact the Fundraising Team - details provided below.

UNWANTED GIFTS

Do you have any unwanted Christmas gifts such as toiletries, bottles, books, DVD's, clothes, etc? St Vincent's Hospice can make good use of all these unwanted gifts through raffle and tombola prizes. You can either drop them into reception at the Hospice in Midton Road Howwood or give us a call on 01505 705635. Thank you.

HOME BOXES

If anyone is interested in taking one of the St Vincent's Hospice Home Boxes, please call in to the Hospice or visit your nearest St Vincent's Charity Shop.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Women's 10k

Calling all women!! This year's Women's 10k takes place on **Sunday 9th May**. If anyone would like to raise funds for St Vincent's Hospice please contact either Lorraine or Ashley in the Fundraising department (details below).

Door to Door Collections

We have some door-to-door collections coming up in March. These are:
Erskine - 1st to 6th March
Langbank - 8th to 13th March, and
Kilbarchan - 15th to 20 March 2010.

If you, family or friends can spare some time to do a collection in your street or surrounding streets, please contact Lorraine (see below).

Use the links below to keep up-to-date with hospice events.

www.bebo.com/StVincentsHospice
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=124230589015, and
<http://twitter.com/StVincentsHosp>
or

**Contact: Ashley Moran and
Lorraine Valentine on
Tel: 01505 705635 or e-mail:
Ashley.moran@svh.co.uk**

WALKIES !

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Contact SNH on 01738 444177 for leaflets or advice or visit their website: outdooraccess-scotland.com for further information.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to take responsibility for your own actions, respect the interests of other people and care for the environment.

Here's some guidance, reproduced with permission from SNH, to help you take the lead.

- * Don't take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young animals.
- * Don't take your dog into fields of vegetables or fruit unless you are on a clear path, such as a core path or right of way - and keep to the path.
- * Never let your dog worry or attack farm animals.
- * If you go into a field of farm animals, keep as far away as possible from the animals and keep your dog on a short lead (i.e. 2 metres or less) or under close control (i.e. this means that your dog responds to your commands and is kept close at heel).
- * If cattle react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let the dog go and take the shortest, safest route out of the field.
- * During the bird breeding season (usually April-July), keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in areas of moorland, forests, grassland, loch shores AND the seashore.
- * Pick up and remove your dog's faeces if it fouls in a public open place or where there's a risk to farming interests.
- * Some reservoirs and streams are used for public water supply. If there are intakes nearby, keep your dog out of the water.
- * In recreation areas and other public places, keep your dog under close control.



**YOUR DOG
DOESN'T KNOW ANY BETTER.
MAKE SURE YOU DO.**



Lochwinnoch Farmers' Market Sunday 7th March from 11am



A good range of produce will be available at this, the first Lochwinnoch Farmers' Market of 2010. Look out for meat (lamb, beef, pork, chicken), smoked produce including fish, soups, vegetables, dressings, confectionary, ice-cream, plants and Fairtrade items, such as cakes and coffees.

Martin from Express Cycles is offering FREE safety checks to everyone coming by bike to this Farmers' Market, plus he will have a new range of demonstration bikes on show. Live entertainment will be provided by the Kilbarchan Pipeband.

Becky Mason Coaching and Presentation Visit

Becky is the daughter of Bill Mason, world renowned open canoeist. Becky and her husband are over from Canada and on tour. Lochwinnoch is their only Scottish destination. Becky will be coaching on Castle Semple Loch on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd April and giving an illustrated presentation in Castle Semple Centre on both of the above days at 7pm. More information can be found at <http://www.redcanoes.ca/becky/canoe/tourlocate.html>

Xchange Scotland

Up to 8 International volunteers will be visiting the Regional Park from the 31st July to 14th August 2010. The Park will be developing a cultural programme for their visit to enable them to access community life and take part or help run local events. Hence if you have any suggestions or are thinking of organising a ceilidh for example, during these dates, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Caroline at Barnbrock on Tel: 01505 614791 or email - info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk

Cornalees becomes Greenock Cut Visitor Centre



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the consultation on the Rebranding of Cornalees Bridge Visitor Centre. 84% of respondents voted for a change of name and a total of 29 different names were suggested, the most popular being **Greenock Cut Visitor Centre**.

The Park Authority has agreed to rebrand the Centre and is pleased to proceed with this suggestion. Some new signage is due to be installed within the next few weeks as part of the Greenock Cut restoration project and this will utilise the Centre's new name. The remaining Cornalees Bridge Visitor Centre signage will be replaced gradually over the coming months through the Park's ongoing improvement and maintenance programme.

Accommodation for French Canadian Student

The Activities Team at Castle Semple plan to provide a work placement for a 27 year old female student from mid April to September. If you would be interested in providing accommodation at any point during this period please contact Caroline at Barnbrock on Tel: 01505 614 791 or email info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk

Spring News

Snow and cold weather is still with us. However, we are busy working on Spring and Summer event listings and plan to have these on the web and in print by the end of March.

Our Summer opening hours start at all Visitor Centres on Friday 2nd of April. The Rangers do regular 'blogs' on the Regional Park website - www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk/blogs

Please log on to get an idea of what they are up too.

VISITOR CENTRES

WINTER OPENING HOURS

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

Castle Semple Centre Open daily from 10am—4pm from 25 October to 29 March 2010. Tel: 01505 842882.

Cornalees Centre Open weekends only from 11am-3pm from 25 October to 29 March 2010. Tel: 01475 521458

Muirshiel Centre Open weekends only from 11am-3pm from 25 October to 29 March 2010. Tel: 01505 842803

Keep up to date with news and events at 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, drinks, snacks and a superb RSPB Shop. Daily activities for families, guided walks throughout the year, school holiday activities, try our monthly 'Wildlife Challenge'. An ideal day out for everyone.

For bookings and information,
Tel: 01505 842663

or e-mail us at:
lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
or visit:
www.rspb.org.uk/scotland

Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com

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

Follow us on Twitter at:
<http://twitter.com/RSPBLochwinnoch>

Subscribe to the RSPB Lochwinnoch Blog!

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

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

- **Monday mornings - Lochwinnoch Community Walks** - (ex. Public Holidays). Meet at 10.30am at The Cross.
- **Thursday mornings - Slinky Strollers walks** (for parents & pushchairs). - meet at 10.30am at Castle Semple Centre.
- **Monday 22nd February to Monday 8th March - Fairtrade Fortnight 2010** Fairtrade Campaign Exhibition at Castle Semple Centre during opening hours.
- **Saturday 6th March-Sunday 25th April - Homecoming Photographic Exhibition** at Muirshiel Centre during opening hours.
- **Saturday 6th March - Young Volunteers Group** 11am - 4pm at the RSPB Centre. For 12-18 year olds, booking essential as spaces are limited. Tel: 01505 842663.
- **Sunday 7th March - Lochwinnoch Farmers' Market** from 11am-2.30pm at Castle Semple Centre.
- **Sunday 7th March - Visit the Fairtrade Stall** from 11am at Castle Semple Centre.
- **Sunday 7th March - Muirshiel Mine Memories**. Indoor history talk at 2pm at Muirshiel Centre.
- **Friday 12th March - Stargazing Evening** at Muirshiel. Last evening of the season, indoor lecture if poor weather. To book a place, Tel: 01505 842803
- **Saturday 13th March - Mothers' Day Craft Making** from 11am-4pm at the RSPB Centre. Make an extra special, wildlife-themed gift for your mum.
- **Sunday 14th March - Walk on the Wild Side**. Join the Rangers to explore the area around Cornalees Centre, from 11am.



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

- **Sunday 14th March - Wool!** A practical, hands-on demonstration of traditional skills to turn a fleece into wool for weaving and knitting. Starts 2pm at Muirshiel Centre.
- **Thursday 18th March - Twilight Talk—Birdwatching in Lesvos** from 7.30pm-9pm at the RSPB Centre. Booking essential. £2 RSPB members, £4 for non-members.
- **Wednesday 24th March - Conservation Volunteer Session** from 1pm (for 2 hours) at Muirshiel Centre. Join us for some exercise and healthy fresh air.
- **Thursday 25th March - Coffee Morning** from 11 am-1pm at the RSPB Centre. Cost £2, Fairtrade Tea and Coffee served.
- **Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th March - Optics Weekend**, from 10am - 4pm at the RSPB Centre. Wide range of optics for sale with FREE expert advice on hand.
- **Friday 2nd April - Spring Forward**. The days are getting longer and Clyde Muirshiel Visitor Centres will be open longer.
- **Saturday 3rd April - Young Volunteers Group** for 12-18 year olds at the RSPB Centre from 11am-4pm. Spaces are limited, booking essential. Tel: 01505 842663.
- **Sunday 4th April - Pawsitive Action Day** from 10am - 3pm at Muirshiel Regional Park.
- **Monday 5th April - A quacking good Easter**. Wildlife-themed Easter activities for children from 11am-3pm at the RSPB Centre.
- **Friday 9th April and Friday 16th April - Lochwinnoch Holiday Club** dates during the Easter break at RSPB Centre, Lochwinnoch. For more details, Tel: 01505 842663.
- **Tuesday 13th April - Scavenger Hunt during the Easter break**. Come hunting on the Reserve with the RSPB team from 12 noon-2pm and try to win a prize!
- **Saturday 24th April - Pawsitive Action Day** from 10am - 3pm at RSPB & Castle Semple Centres, Lochwinnoch.
- **Sunday 9th May - Pawsitive Action Day** from 11am-3pm at Locherwood Park. (Car Park on B786 Lochwinnoch-Kilmacolm Rd).
- **31st May - Bank Holiday Monday Semple Trail Walk**. Departs 10.30am from Castle Semple Centre. (see Semple Trail notice inside, for full details.)

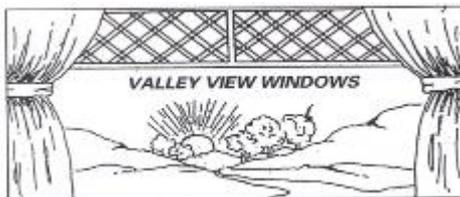
**See inside back page
for further Visitor Centre news
and for Winter and Summer
Opening Hours.**

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