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# CHATTERBOX

No 202 October 2010  
www.lochwinnoch.info

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

Community newsletter produced by Lochwinnoch Community Council

## What's On & Dates for your Diaries

Village events, clubs, classes, etc are in the centre pages this month

### Lochwinnoch Surgery Flu Vaccination

The seasons are changing and before long Winter will be with us bringing colds and flu.

Flu vaccine is now available for those over 65 and patients with chronic conditions such as: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; diabetes; immuno-suppressed; heart; liver; renal or neurological disease.

Please telephone the surgery (01505 842200) and arrange an appointment with the nurse for a flu jab.

### Editorial and Copy for Chatterbox

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

Electronic submission with full colour pictures are preferred.  
To advertise in Chatterbox  
Tel: 07866 373254  
[chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info)

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
NOVEMBER CHATTERBOX  
IS TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER**



### 'Fall Ball' Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 'The Big Shoogle' McKillop Hall, 8pm

The Big Shoogle are an up-tempo Scottish Ceilidh Band with cajun, zydeco and rock influences, all added together and SHOOGLED.

Rated one of the best ceilidh bands in Scotland by Freak Music. The Big Shoogle provided the music for John Byrne's play The Cherry Orchard in Spring 2010 at Edinburgh Royal Lyceum.

Listen to the band on [www.myspace.com/thebigshoogle](http://www.myspace.com/thebigshoogle)

Tickets £8 are on sale during October in the Brown Bull, Junction Bistro and Corner Bar. There will be a bar, buffet and raffle on the night. Call 01505 843183 for more information.

### Harte Bus Emergency Timetable

A major concern is this road closure isolating people. We have managed to get permission from the proprietors of the local sports centre to turn on their premises thus allowing our service to operate and pick up Lochwinnoch as normal

So it's a big "Thanks" for the support of Lochbarr Services Ltd., (the proprietors of the indoor football complex) for allowing us access to turn on their premises. We are able to operate a full service into Lochwinnoch, until the roadworks are finished.

### Wedding Wishes

Laura, Fergus and family and all the staff at The Brown Bull would like to wish Mark Thomson and Khanya Meyi all the best for their wedding day on the 16th October. We hope you have a memorable day and a very happy future together. Laura x

## **MATTHEW NEW & SONS**

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RSPB Reserve  
**What's On at the Reserve**

**Wildlife Fun Day**, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, a fun-filled day 11am-4pm of games, crafts and wildlife suitable for the whole family. Stout footwear and waterproofs recommended. £2 for non-members, RSPB members go free. For more information call 01505 8 4 2 6 6 3 or email: [lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk)

**Holiday Club** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 11am-2pm, includes a wide variety of activities that could range from minibeast safaris, pond/river dipping, survival skills, wildlife gardening or indoor activities if the weather is poor. To receive an update on what the activities will be, please email the reserve [lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk)

Please bring a packed lunch and be sure to book in advance. Adults must accompany children aged 8 and under. £2 for Wildlife Explorer members, £4 for non-members.

**Coffee Morning** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Come along to our monthly winter coffee mornings and help give nature a voice by raising funds for our vital conservation work. Join RSPB staff and volunteers for a hot drink and a chat, in the comfort of the visitor centre, whilst enjoying the wonderful view and wildlife of the reserve. All our coffee is Fairtrade. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the reserve. £2 to cover tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes

**Fright Night** 29<sup>th</sup> October. Be prepared for a spooky time as you walk through the woods and meet the Reserve's creepy characters, plus fun crafts in the Visitor Centre. 6-9 pm - tours start every 30 minutes on the hour and half-hour. £4 per person half price for RSPB/Wildlife Explorer members. Booking Essential.

**Feed the Birds Day** Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October Lots of activities to help feed the birds during winter. 11am-4pm. FREE.



**Gannets Galore**

Our period of interesting bird sightings has continued. The juvenile black terns that were feeding between the Aird Meadow and Castle Semple loch have continued to do so, dropping down to just one for the past few days, but still very active and providing good views for our visitors.

On Thursday 16th, we also had a very unusual sighting of 21 juvenile gannets all passing over the reserve (heading south west). The fifth record of gannet we've ever had for the reserve and the highest number we have ever recorded.

There have also been several records in the local area of guillemots and on the 15th Sept one circled over the Aird Meadow a few times before heading towards Barr Loch and on

the 17th Sept there was one present on Castle Semple loch! A very unusual record for the recording area.

Most of these unusual sightings were probably brought in by the spell of bad weather we had during the week, high winds can sometimes blow sea birds off course and bring them to inland sites.

Other sightings on or around the reserve this week have included almost 70 tufted ducks on the Barr Loch, 4 buzzards circling over the nearby conifer trees, 30 lapwing, 30 snipe & 8 curlew over the Aird Meadow (on separate occasions). Up to 16 swallows and a few house martins have been present on the reserve, along with a sedge warbler still calling (although not in full song) and there was a pintail and a female wigeon on the Aird Meadow loch on the 18th Sept. All in all, a good week of records for the reserve, let's hope there are many more to come

**St Vincent's Hospice**

In the local village shop we have lots of knitting and crochet patterns, knitting needles and crochet hooks in many sizes. What we don't have is wool! One of our volunteers emptied her cupboards of large amounts of wool and this sold out immediately. Now there's none and customers ask for it.

We are always delighted with all of the donations handed in.

Now we are hoping you can find us some wool, any wool 2 ply to chunky in any quantity.

**Pre Xmas Parties Catered for  
Book Before 5th December**

**Xmas Day Menu Now Available  
1 o'clock sitting, 5 o'clock sitting  
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**THREE CHURCHES RESTAURANT  
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**Lunch Menu—12pm—5pm**

**Evening Menu—5pm—8pm**



## Teenage Cancer Trust

### Lynn Jones swimming legend

The Clyde Charity Swim was organised by supporters of the Gillian Saltire Fund, a charity established in Largs in memory of a local lady named Gillian Ward.

I was originally planning to do the swim, and my good friend from the village Lynn Jones offered to coach me. I eventually realised that there was no way I could do it, so I chickened out, and sort of talked Lynn into doing it in my place! This may well become the blueprint for any other mad challenges that I agree to do! (*John's friends be warned! Ed*)

Unfortunately, the wind and sea conditions on the day of the race didn't allow the swimmers to start at Cumbrae. An alternative route was set by the organisers; a 1.75 mile swim following the coast line. "Not any easier but safer" apparently!

Lynn did fantastically well, completing the swim in 66.41 minutes, along with her buddy John Wilson and her support boat crew Morag and Roddy. I also gave my support from the comfort and warmth of the bar in the Largs Marina.

A total of 56 people entered the event; 51 started; 48 finished (the other 3 were helped ashore); and Lynn and

John finished 18th equal; Lynn was the 4<sup>th</sup> lady home. No-one told her in advance it was a race or it might have been a different story!!!! Fortunately she encountered no jelly fish but she has a stoater of a friction burn" on her neck - "now I know why people grease up!"

Lynn and I wish to thank everyone who has already sponsored her. She is tantalisingly close to reaching her fantastic target of raising £1,000 for Teenage Cancer Trust's Scottish campaign.

If you would like to sponsor Lynn, and help her hit target, you can either hand in cash or a cheque to Lynn or me or to the Brown Bull.

Alternatively she has a charity sponsorship page on the internet, and that is a really good and effective way of getting the money directly to the charity. The address is:

**<http://tinyurl.com/largsswim>**

NB. You will see that the sponsorship page is operated by



Virgin Money, rather than justgiving.com. The reason for the change is that justgiving.com now charge the charities a commission of 5% of all online contributions received, whilst Virgin Money make no charge for the same service. Any other fundraisers out there may wish to take note.



## Singalong Mamma Mia

Rumours of an informal singalong Mamma Mia at the Parish Church turned out to be true with the church hall packed full of nylon wearing blondes.

Many thanks to Rev C for organising the evening.

If you missed the show then Paisley Operatic Society will be giving a concert of well known show tunes in Lochwinnoch Parish Church Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October @ 7.30pm.

They may not expect an audience singalong but this is Lochwinnoch!!



OFFENSIVE IMAGES REMOVED



## Lochwinnoch Lad to Race in Italy

Tom Thickpenny will be travelling to Castelletto in Italy this half term as part of a 27 strong UK karting squad.

The Easykart World Finals are attended by over 250 of the top drivers from 20 countries. The track marshals will be from Monza Circuit, there will be over 50 accredited journalists present and 20 different media including press and television channels!

Tom will be racing in the Cadet class (8 – 12 year olds) against over 60 other Cadets including former F1 driver Johnny Ceccotto's son and Felipe Massa's nephew! The Cadet (60cc) class, along with the Junior (100cc) class, is today's gateway to International karting and beyond.

Tom, who has been karting competitively since 2007, has just been crowned Runner-Up in this years Easykart UK Championship. Going into the last round he was leading the Championship on total points but was joint first on dropped scores. Unfortunately an engine problem lead to his kart breaking down on the rolling lap of the Pre-Final which meant he had to start the Final from the back of the grid. From this position he was

expected to make his way up the grid to challenge for a podium place but unfortunately as soon as his kart left the grid we realised the engine problem was still not sorted and he only managed to limp home in 11<sup>th</sup>.

This bad luck handed the Championship to his main rival... but such is racing! Tom's dealt with the disappointment of mechanical gremlins robbing him of a sporting conclusion out on track and is now fully focused on Italy.

You can follow Tom's progress on [www.tom-karting.com](http://www.tom-karting.com).

## St Vincent Hospice Bag Packing/Bucket Collections

- Braehead – Bucket Collection – Sunday 21st November – 11am to 4pm.
- Sainsbury's Braehead – Bag Pack – Thursday 2nd December – 4pm to 8pm.
- Marks & Spencer Braehead – Bag Pack – Saturday 11th December – 10am to 4pm.
- Marks & Spencer Braehead – Bag Pack – Sunday 12th December – 10am to 4pm.
- Asda Linwood – Bag Pack – Saturday 18th December – 10am to 4pm.
- Morrison's Johnstone – Bag Pack – Sunday 19th Dec – 10am to 4pm.

## From the Parish Church

*“Those who feel the breath of sadness,  
sit down next to me.*

*Those who find they're touched by  
madness,*

*sit down next to me.*

*Those who find themselves ridiculous,  
sit down next to me.*

*In love, in fear, in hate, in tears.*

*Down, down*

*Oh sit down, Oh sit down, Oh sit  
down,*

*sit down next to me.*

*Sit down, down, down, down, down  
in sympathy.”*

*James*

In the four years since I moved to Lochwinnoch, each week at least one person from the village has been a patient in the Royal Alexandria Hospital.

Even a short walk through the village will bring us face to face with people who are suffering pain or illness. Yet this is not the way God wants the world to be. We know from reading the Gospels that again and again when Jesus met people whose lives were limited in some way, Jesus held out healing to them. Jesus also commissioned the disciples to heal the sick.

In the work of so many different medical practitioners, Jesus holds out the gift of healing today. Yet healing is still offered to us, directly from God – for some that will be a miraculous release from all that has bound them, for most it will be an inner, spiritual healing that is just as transforming.

Spiritual healing is a wonderful gift which enables us to deal with any physical limitations we may experience.

It may not provide us with “miraculous” relief from our symptoms, it does bring a calmness and an inner strength to cope with

life.

In the love of God, we find the strength to face all that life brings and we find the strength to live today and hope for tomorrow.

Over the winter months, on the first Wednesday of every month there will be a service of healing and meditation in the Parish Church Hall at 11.30am. This short service allows us to take time out and reflect on our lives and to seek God's blessing.

Within the service we allow ourselves to hear God's word and to meditate on God's goodness. We also create a space in which we can sit down with one another and just be together.

We don't need to share our innermost secrets; we just come together and enjoy the knowledge that we are not alone. In love, in fear, in tears, we sit down together and help each other bear the burdens we all carry.

We also seek, through prayer, to experience spiritual healing. In prayer we are not seeking to change God, but to change the world and praying that God's will may be done through us. In our services we invite people to share in and receive the ministry of prayer.

Everyone has the ability to share in the ministry of healing. This is often done in ways of which we are unaware, yet when ask a friend or neighbour, "How are you?" we engage in the ministry of healing; when we offer a friend the chance to chat over a cup of tea or coffee,



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we engage in the ministry of healing; when we pray for those who are ill, we engage in the ministry of healing.

The healing we share may not involve a miraculous cure yet Christ offers us strength to bear all that life brings. And because the things that cause us to be hurt often require a political solution, action and prayer belong together.

Action is perhaps the harder part. How do we face the challenges that cause people to suffer? That task is only going to become more difficult in the months ahead as we face the reality that is public spending cuts. There is no doubt that our country needs to sort out its debt crisis, but at what cost to the health and welfare of our friends and neighbours?

Sometimes we can feel overwhelmed by the size of the task before us, yet when we do, we have the example of Jesus himself.

I am sure you are all familiar with the story of the miraculous

feeding of the crowd. Jesus and the disciples had been followed by thousands of people into the countryside. Jesus, concerned for their welfare, told the disciples to feed the people, yet all they had was five loaves and two fish.

Undaunted, Jesus asked them to bring the food to him. He blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. All ate and were filled and afterwards there were twelve baskets full of leftovers.

Many people have tried to explain the miracle of that feast. For me it doesn't matter whether in an act of divine grace God multiplied the food, or if people's hearts were moved to share what each person had brought with them. Both explanations show that nothing is beyond the power of God, in partnership with humanity.

In our services of healing, we will not just pray for the healing of our minds and our bodies, we will pray from the healing of our nation.

All people are welcome to come and share with us – so why not come and sit down next to me, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am in the Parish Church Hall.

Every one will be made very welcome.

Rev. Christine Murdoch

See Mathew 14. 15-21



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## Regional Park Round Up early autumn 2010



### Renfrewshire Active Week

Clyde Muirshiel was involved in various events during this week. Outdoor Instructors and Rangers helped Renfrewshire Council run a Sporting Chances event for adults with disabilities on Friday 27 August. The event offered the chance to try outdoor activities including kayaking, canoeing, sailing, power boats and cycling. On Saturday 28 August the Rangers helped with Walk About A Bit 2010 from Paisley to Castle Semple. Near 80 walkers took part and received medals from (now retired) Ranger Len Howcut. Twelve of the walkers were there to raise money to sponsor a young Renfrew girl on a trip to India. To date, over £500 has been raised towards the £3,000 needed. The Park offers lots of walking or cycle routes all year round, as well as provides outdoor activity courses to individuals and groups – do contact the Rangers at any Visitor Centre or the Outdoor Instructors at Castle Semple for more information.

### Winter What's On

The programme is now on our website and available to pick up at Visitor Centres. All our Visitor Centres are open on a daily basis until the end of the October. From November the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and Muirshiel Visitor Centre are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11.00 to 15.00 hrs. Toilets remain open throughout the week. Castle Semple Visitor Centre is open

daily all winter from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.



### Water Rollers at Castle Semple

The two huge inflatable water rollers or 'Zorbs' are proving popular, there is still time to have a go before boat hire stops for winter. Two children can get in one so it's only £2.50 a head and they provide plenty of exercise in a short space of time!

Andy of North Adventure has them for hire at weekends and local holidays from 11.00 hrs. each day. Alternatively there are row boats, sit on kayaks, canoes or aqua trikes.

### Staff News

Semple Trail Heritage Development Officer has been appointed. Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park welcomes back past employee Aileen Monk to the post. The project aims to develop detailed proposals for enhancing the built heritage, biodiversity and recreational access on the trail and at visitor facilities around the old Castle Semple estate.

### Wildlife on Screen

The 2010 wildlife viewing project at Muirshiel has now finished for the season, we are busy doing project evaluation and making plans for creating future wildlife watching opportunities.

Do let us know if there is anything in particular you would like to see in the future.

### Lochwinnoch Farmers Market

A good number of local people came along to the September market, the baker was sold out by 1pm. All stall holders including Fencebay Fishery, Edenmill Meats and Houston Brewery had a good day. Even more stall holders are keen to come to the December market – please note the date **Sunday 5 December** from 11.00 – 14.30 hrs. and plan to come along. We'll put details of stall holders on the Park website as they are confirmed nearer the time.

### Visitor Survey

Every couple of years we like to collect information on what you think of our services and facilities. We'll be out and about asking questions during October.



### Mountain Bike pals?

Enjoy getting out on your bike but would like some local company? Send us an email to [routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk](mailto:routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk) and we'll let you know when folk are going out.

### Reminder 'Calling all Cyclists'

We are slowly gathering information on where and how often people cycle within the Regional Park and what developments you would like to see in the future. What ever type



of cycling you do, on road, off road, on your own, with your family we'd like to hear from you. Please get in contact preferably by email to [routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk](mailto:routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk). In the future there will be other consultations and surveys to inform the Park's cycling initiative. Currently we are trying to establish a baseline of activity and need.

## Calder Drama Club

We are presenting a double bill of comedy plays by David Tristram for your enjoyment. viz. Last Tango in Lochwinnoch followed by Last Panto in Lochwinnoch.

A bit of editing licence was necessary in both plays to give it a local theme. The plays centre around a failing Amateur Drama Club who are facing extinction through lack of finance and dwindling audiences.

Gordon, the Producer, has come up with a risqué idea in both plays that he thinks will swell the audience figures, much to the discomfort of Margaret, his leading lady. Bernard, the incompetent stage hand, and Joyce, a naive tuneless wannabee, who craves to be in musicals, make up the quartet of flawed actors.

We would point out that all characters in both plays are fictitious and bear no resemblance to members of a prominent local Amateur Group, living, dead, or otherwise.

Calder Drama's winter Production will be held in the McKillop Hall on Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd December. Doors open at 7.00 pm. Curtain up at 7.30. Tickets on sale at door or from Cut & Care Hairdressing, Now & Then, or any member of the Drama Club, priced £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for Children and Senior Citizens. Refreshments, both alcoholic and



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non alcoholic available from the bar.



### Trish Godman MSP

I would like to thank the Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum for inviting me to speak at their meeting last month. There was a healthy debate about a range of local and national matters – the group certainly gave me a good grilling!

I was pleased to return the favour during September. Elderly Forum members visited the Scottish Parliament for some lunch and another question and answer session. This time Hugh Henry MSP joined the debate. It is clear that the group are concerned about the impact on their members of potential cuts to come.

Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum deserve high praise indeed. There are not many other community groups as active and well attended in West Renfrewshire.

The pensioners of Lochwinnoch are lucky to have the Elderly Forum fighting their corner. I am following up some issues as we speak on behalf of the group.

If I can be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Trish Godman MSP -

T: 01505 615 337

E: [trish.godman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:trish.godman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

## Lochwinnoch Artists Group

The group meets on Monday the 11th and 25<sup>th</sup> October. As usual, meetings are held in the McKillop Institute from 7.30 -9.30 pm.

We welcome anyone who is interested in drawing and / or painting in comfortable surroundings. So don't be shy. Come and enjoy the company.

Our Annual Art Exhibition in the Library will run from the 6th - 29th October this year and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

We are, as always, very grateful to the staff at the Library for facilitating this event. Thank you.

## Library Opening Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
2pm – 5pm and 6pm – 8pm

Tuesday & Saturday  
10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm  
Closed Thursday

## Renew and Reserve

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

Library members can view, renew and reserve their library loans online.

## Tragedy at John Orr's Linn by Derek Parker

One of the most iconic landmarks at Muirshiel Country Park is the spectacular waterfall at the head of rugged Calder Glen.

In Springtime, summer and autumn, the silvery cascade is embowered by colourful sundew, orchid, violet and wild thyme flowers. Soporific songs of waterside birds like sandpipers, grey wagtails and dippers sing praise to the ancient spirit which enlivens surrounding moorlands and woodlands drifting down to the waterfall on bracken-mantled slopes.

The waterfall, however, has a tragic history which for 250 years has cast a sombre shadow on the upland landscape. The sad story - immortalised in Dr Andrew Craufurd's 'Cairn of Lochwinnoch' manuscript now in Paisley Library - unfolds in the mid-18th century.

Thomas Watt came to Lochwinnoch as a herd at Muirshiel' from Galloway.' He and his family set up home at the stone steading whose rocky remnants are still visible on the left-hand side of the road at the entrance to Muirshiel Country Park.

A chapter in 'The Cairn' entitled 'The Muirshiel Watts in 1830' reveals how a descendent of Thomas Watt named William Watt died at Knockbartnock (at the junction of Kilmacolm road and Calder Glen road) in 1777 after marrying Elspa Wylie from Ward Farm in 1760. Thomas and Elspa had six children: Margaret Watt born in 1761; Thomas Watt born in 1763 who became a Paisley weaver; Janet Watt born in 1765 who married John Mackie, a farmer at Knockbartnock; William Watt, born in 1767, a dyke builder; John Watt, a cotton spinner at Lochwinnoch; and James Watt born in 1773 who moved to Howwood.

The next reference is to Thomas Watt who lived at Muirshiel then went to Port Glasgow as a flesher then later to Glasgow. He had 'some bairns' who went to the West Indies, made their fortunes and 'settled on their grandfather £50 a year.'

There then follows a reference to one

of Thomas Watt's daughters, Ellie, who married John Orr, a shoemaker at Tandlemuir around 1760. The couple had three children - Janet, John and Thomas born in 1760, 1762 and 1764 respectively. But their marriage was short-lived because, according to 'The Cairn,' John Orr -nicknamed Bankie John - was drowned while bathing in the River Calder.

The manuscript continues: 'The place is called John Orr's Linn till this day. Ellie, his relict (widow) cried among those gathered greitand (crying) and bubbland (weeping). Och, I will never link to (marry) another man.' Her father replied; 'Hinnie (lass), whay (who) is seikand (looking for) thee.' We then read: She, notwithstanding this sorrow, afterwards married secondly William Millar in 1769 at the Mill of Cart (between Johnstone and Linwood).'

'The Cairn' reveals that one Margaret Watt married in 1770 John Riddell, a labourer and cottar at Tandlemuir and that the couple had three children: Jean, who married James Walker, a labourer from Bute; and Margaret and May who remained unmarried.

Today John Orr's Linn still churns across silvery, spate-laden sills of volcanic rock into the raging River Calder below. On a wintry dusk, when surging spray mingles with ghostly grey hill fog, you seem to see the wraith-like phantom of Bankie John rise from the watery grave where he drowned 250 years ago.

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

## Councillor Arthur's Report

Once again the A760 between Lochwinnoch and Kilbirnie has been closed due to the necessary renewal of the gas main. This resulted in several phone calls and emails from constituents and businesses asking why the work could not have been carried out by using traffic control. The reason that a full closure had to take place was for the safety of the Scottish Gas Network workmen. This decision was a no-brainer due to the extremely bad experience and very near miss that occurred when traffic control was originally used during the previous works carried out on the stretch of road where the cycle track bridge crosses at 'The Hole' cottage. At time of writing the work is ahead of schedule and it is anticipated, provided that no major problems arise, that the road will be open again during the week ending 8<sup>th</sup> October.

More gas mains renewal work, still on the A760 from the stretch between Kerse Road and the Renfrewshire Council boundary, will take place once the current works are complete however due to this being a wider section of road, traffic control will be in operation in the form of traffic lights and/or a convoy system but if this proves to be too dangerous to the safety of the Scottish Gas Network workmen then a total road closure will be enforced. If this is the case then access will be maintained to emergency vehicles and pedestrians at all times. Kerse Road will remain open for local traffic during the duration of the works.

NOW & THEN

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Can I take this opportunity to remind you that the Lochwinnoch Partnership is still very much available for you to contact with regards to anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership which is made up of the Police, the Anti-social Behaviour Team (ASIST), Lochwinnoch Community Council and Renfrewshire Council can be contacted through me or by [emailing lochpartnership@btinternet.com](mailto:emailinglochpartnership@btinternet.com) or alternatively you can contact the Nuisance Helpline or the Anti-Social Investigation Team direct by using the contact numbers at the top of the front page. Don't suffer in silence, let us help.

I'm delighted that the Chatterbox is continuing and especially in its paper form as it certainly plays a major part in village communication. Thank you Lochwinnoch Community Council.

There is still time to nominate someone under the following categories for the annual Provost's Community Awards: Child of Achievement, Carer, Community Volunteer or Group, Special Needs, Adult Achiever, Arts and Culture and Spirit of Fairtrade.

There are some fantastic prizes for the winners including a trophy to keep for one year, a donation of £500 for a charity or charities of their choice, £200 spending money and a return flight for two people with two nights' accommodation in a four-star hotel in London. If a group wins an award, the prize is £800 for either an approved local charity or for the group to spend themselves for a specific purpose, such as buying equipment. Closing date is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. For further details contact Drew Gibson or Mairi Brown on 0141 840 3363 or 0141 840 3706.

Please note that my next Surgery on Saturday 16th October is in the McKillop Institute at the usual time

of 11:30am but if you require my help before then, you can contact me on 843507 and we can agree a time when we can meet.

## What's happening on the Village Website

**Distant Voices**—Can anyone help this month?

Colin wrote—*Hi, My granddad Hugh McWhirter Campbell married Jane Drummond and lived in Gas House with their 5 children Mary, John, David, Hugh, Robert according to the 1891 Census - parish of Lochwinnoch. He was manager of gas works.. Any information this family?*

Peter wrote—*I am currently putting together a family tree and need some help. According to the 1901 census, the McAvoy family - about 13 of them! - lived in Calder Street. One of them, Patrick, was my grandfather and I know that he moved to Dumfries a few years later. There are quite a few gaps in my research, so I would be grateful for any information about any of the 'clan'.*

**Tartan Parade Anyone?**

Martha wrote—*My sister and I have attended the Tartan Day Parade in New York, NY for several years, and keep hoping to*

*see a contingent from either Lochwinnoch or Renfrewshire, but no luck so far. We left Lochwinnoch in April 1959*

**Talkback**—talk on the website this month has been on a range of topics from the somewhat philosophical discussion on the "Scottish fitba team" to discussion about Lochwinnoch's latest business to open it's doors in the village The Three Churches restaurant.

Ongoing is the discussion about a mystery photograph. "1970's photo - Is this Lochwinnoch Station?". Is it a photo of the old station (now Station Rise)? Where are the church steeples? The station closed in 1966 so why the train?

Trainman wrote—*The train was a railway enthusiasts special from Ayr, visiting disused lines and closed stations. There are also photographs showing it at Commonyke Station and also at Muirkirk Station.*

*The only stations I know of, which could have had a subway up to the platforms were Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan, Kilbirnie and North Johnstone, unless anyone knows of any others locally.*

## Lochwinnoch Bowling Club Race Night

Saturday 23 October  
First Race 8:00pm

## Vanda's Mobile Hairdressing Ladies and Gents.



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Sat 10am-1pm

## 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 Institute.
- **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 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - Mondays 2-2.30pm 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 7-7.45pm, Intermediates 7.30-8.30pm and Seniors 8pm-9.15pm.
- **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.
- **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 Rhymetime** - every Tuesday at 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 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
- **ROAR Lunch Club** - every Thursday from 11.45am PROMPT at the McKillop Institute. **Please Note** - ONLY ONE SITTING.
- **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 Annex** (pre-booking necessary). Anne Moss, Tel: 01505 842367, e-mail: dogtraining@f2s.com
  - Mondays
    - 9.30am - Advanced/Intermediate
    - 10.30am - Juvenile/Intermediate
  - Tuesdays
    - 6.30pm - Puppy Course
    - 7.30pm - Juvenile/Intermediate
    - 8.30pm - Advanced/Intermediate
  - Thursdays
    - 6.30pm - Puppy Course
    - 7.30pm - Juvenile/Intermediate
    - 8.30pm - Advanced/Intermediate

## Yoga with Mary Laidlaw

I have begun a new Yoga Class in Houston's Carrick Centre on Mondays at 1.15pm until 2.45pm especially for the Over 50's and although we are in the 3rd week, there is lots of room for others to join in.....men and women. (although it's all women so far)

I decided to try an Over 50's class as many older people seemed to be put off by "bendy young things" and the 6/8 women who have joined up appear to appreciate the space and the pace! Very suitable for beginners....no matter what ailments.

I would also be interested to know if any men out there would like a Men Only class for beginners yoga???? Just a thought....!

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## Forthcoming Events Diary Dates

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** – Furniture Sale in aid of St Vincent's Hospice 10am-3pm Our Lady of Fatima Hall, High Street Lochwinnoch, entry £1.50 including refreshments.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** – Help for Heroes charity event at the Garthland Arms with disco, live band and raffle. Tickets £2.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** - Beith Arts Sunday Concerts, **The Meryon Trio** in Beith Community Centre at 2.30 pm. Tickets (at the door) adults £8, concessions £6, children and students £1

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November** - wine and dine with the best of live jazz on the West Coast; Richard Mulhearn and Stuart Forbes. Phone the Club on 01505 842153 for details and bookings.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October** Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time at Lochwinnoch Library 10.15 am NB New time!

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October** Service of Healing and Meditation at 11.30am in the Parish Church Hall.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October** - Renfrewshire Hard of Hearing Support Group meeting 1:30pm in the Mile End Centre, 30 Seedhill Road, Paisley

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October** – Football match. St Mirren Under 19's play Giffnock at Viewfield Rovers Park, kick-off 2pm.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October** – RSPB Wildlife Fun Day, a fun-filled day 11am-4pm of games, crafts and wildlife suitable for the whole family. Stout footwear and waterproofs recommended. £2 for non-members, RSPB members go free. For more information call 01505 842 663.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October** – RSPB Holiday Club 11am-2pm includes a wide variety of activities that could range from minibeast safaris, pond/river dipping, survival skills, wildlife gardening or indoor activities if the weather is poor. To receive an update on what the activities will be, please email the reserve [lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk) Please bring a packed lunch and be sure to book in advance. Adults must accompany children aged 8 and under. £2 for Wildlife Explorer members, £4 for non-members.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October** - Gamble Gamble & Drever play in The Brown Bull at 9pm to celebrate the wedding of Mark and Khanya. All welcome to come along and celebrate the happy couple's special day.

**Councillor Arthur's Surgery,**  
11.30 am McKillop Institute

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October** – RSPB Coffee Morning. Join RSPB staff and volunteers for a Fairtrade hot drink and a chat, in the comfort of the visitor centre, whilst enjoying the wonderful view and wildlife of the reserve. Tickets £2 can be purchased in advance at the reserve.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – St Vincent's Hospice Sports Dinner at the Glasgow Airport Holiday Inn. Tickets £40.00 available from the Fundraising Team on 01505 705635  
o r e m a i l  
[Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk](mailto:Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk).

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – Race Night in Lochwinnoch Bowling Club. First race 8pm

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October** – Football match. St Mirren Under 19's play Torrance at Viewfield Rovers Park,

kick -off 2 pm.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October** – RSPB Fright Night. Be prepared for a spooky time as you walk through the woods and meet the Reserve's creepy characters, plus fun crafts in the Visitor Centre. 6 -9 pm - tours start every 30 minutes on the hour and half-hour. £4 per person half price for RSPB/Wildlife Explorer members.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October** – Fall Ball with “The Big Shoogle” in the McKillop Hall, 8pm, bar, buffet and raffle, tickets £8 from the Brown Bull, Junction Bistro and Corner Bar.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October** - The Brown Bull Halloween Party...This years theme is Super Heroes

and Villains! Come along and join in the fun and games with us from 9pm with DJ's Ally & Suzie playing all your favourites and requests. There's a prize for the best dressed boy and best dressed girl!

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – RSPB Feed the Birds Day. Lots of activities to help feed the birds during winter. 11am- 4pm. FREE.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November** - Renfrewshire Hard of Hearing Support Group AGM 1:30pm in the Mile End Centre, 30 Seedhill Road, Paisley

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - Christmas Fayre at St Vincent's Hospice 11am – 2.30pm

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November** - Lochwinnoch International Aid safari supper, tickets £15 per person from Bob Turner tel: 84306 or email: [robert.turner111@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.turner111@btinternet.com)

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## Village Event Calendar

The 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.

There is also the online calendar on the website. Submit your events to have them displayed on the site.

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

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*Would you like a Thermal Image  
of your Property ?*

*SEE where the heat is being lost  
then Stop It !*

LEAP is hiring a specialist firm of thermal imagers to survey selected houses in Lochwinnoch during November. Thermal Image UK will produce high resolution pictures and a report detailing areas of excessive energy loss, from poor glazing, ineffective wall and roof insulation and leaky doors and windows. Unexpected issues such as dampness can sometimes also be identified.

These images show where insulation and draft proofing is most needed in your home and LEAP has a team of Energy Advisers ready to follow up with advice on remedial actions, and help on how to access grant funding where available.

The Thermal Images will be taken of selected properties in Lochwinnoch during the first week of November. The photography will be done in the evenings, (dry nights permitting !) with no disturbance or damage to the property or occupants - you don't even need to be in.

**LEAP is giving you the  
opportunity to have a thermal  
image of your house for FREE.**

All you have to do is have a home energy check completed in October, and we'll arrange for the thermal imaging survey during November.

If you'd like Rob or Alan, LEAP Energy Advisers, to visit you to discuss the benefits of Thermal Imaging and help reduce the energy you use, go to:

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

e mail [leap@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:leap@lochwinnoch.info)  
or phone Carol Gemmell on  
842040

**Thermal Image UK**



## Elderly Forum

Trish Godman MSP deputy presiding officer at the Scottish Parliament was guest speaker at the meeting in September. We had asked her to give a general outline of the working of The Parliament. This she did outlining her role and speaking about Bills which have now become law. Some of the topics discussed were policing, the possible increase in the price of alcohol, bus passes, winter fuel payment, free personal care for the elderly, council tax and the lack of permanent jobs for newly

qualified teachers.

A lively Q & A session ensued with not all members agreeing with Trish's comments.

A number of forum members spent a day in Edinburgh on 8th September. Some visiting The Scottish Parliament as guests of Trish Godman and others enjoying the day in the city. The day went well and was enjoyed by all.

The Tbar re-opened for business, drawing a crowd as usual. Thanks again to Reta and her team. These ladies ever welcoming and cheerful have made the Tbar what it is, popular and always busy. Remember too the team who volunteers to help at the Tbar is the same team who plates, serves, clears and washes up every Thursday week in week out at the lunch club. I know this has been mentioned more than once but all of us who enjoy the Tbar and lunch club cannot praise them enough for what they do.

Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire staff members from Paisley plan to introduce a number of activities to take place on Thursday mornings prior to the lunch club. A few of these are health and wellbeing, head and hand massage, games, bingo and quizzes. A timetable is in production and this will be displayed in the McKillop and in the Chatterbox

On Forum meeting days, always the last Thursday of each month there will be no morning activities.

On Thursday 23rd September an official launch party to mark the launch of the new ROAR website and the introduction of the activities took place after the lunch club. This was attended by ROAR staff members, visitors from other forum groups and Councillor Lorraine Cameron. Wine and soft drinks were available with music for dancing provided by Dave Lennox.

The next forum meeting is on Thursday 30th October at 1.30pm after the lunch club. It will be just long enough to cover the usual business and then we will make our way along to the library for the slide show postponed from last February. Both the slide show and the lunch club were cancelled that day because of the snow. There will be reminder posters before the event and we look forward to a good turnout.

*Gordon Nicholl*



## **Safari Supper**

### **Lochwinnoch International Aid**

Lochwinnoch International Aid is planning its first safari supper that will take place on the evening of Nov 20 to raise funds for people in less fortunate parts of the world.

The idea is that guests will have one course of a 3 course meal in each of 3 different host homes in Lochwinnoch, meeting different folk as you move! There are spaces for 8 pairs of guests who would

pay £30/couple (or £15 for an individual).

All proceeds will go to LIA funds. These are regularly allocated to good causes across the world that often have a local connection to someone who lives in the village and has worked for or visited the project.

We are currently supporting the flood relief efforts in Pakistan as well as a project supporting people with spinal injuries in the Moshi area of Northern Tanzania. The evening will be a chance to find out more about our work and how you can support it.

To reserve a place, please contact Bob Turner by phone (843068) or email (robert.turner111@btinternet.com) with any dietary requirements.

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## **Renfrewshire Hard of Hearing Support Group**

Come join us for our monthly meetings at the Mile End Centre.

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 of the first Thursday of every month, with the next meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010, at 1:30pm in the Mile End Centre, 30 Seedhill Road, Paisley.

Find out how our group is expanding and what services we are now providing in the community.

Next month, the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, will be our Annual General Meeting, where in addition to speaking about progress made over the past year, we will also be planning for our annual Christmas lunch!

Our monthly meetings last about an hour and a half and tea/coffee is available.

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

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## **From the Library**

A small collection of MP3 Digital Books :

Playaway, the world's first pre-loaded digital audio book, has proven enormously popular with listeners, and is already an established product in libraries across the UK.

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Playaway is lightweight, compact, and very easy to use - simply plug in the earphones and press play.

## Historical Society

2010 celebrates The Society's 20th year. Our first meeting to discuss the formation of the group took place in February 1990. The late Mrs Elizabeth Anderson, Chris Lee from the museum and some in the village who were interested in history met to discuss the possibility of forming a history group. The Historical Society committee and members owe much to Elizabeth Anderson's enthusiasm and vast knowledge of village history. She was the mainstay of the group for a number of years entertaining us with snippets of village history at each monthly meeting. She would be very pleased to see that we are now in our 21st year.

September's meeting our first of the new season went well with a presentation of the life and legacy of Robert Tannahill. Speaker Davey Mullen, president of the Robert Tannahill Federation had brought along a lot of photographs, books paintings and other items to illustrate the talk.

Robert Tannahill was most certainly remembered and celebrated for over a century after his death. However, sadly this is no longer the case therefore fortunately we have Davey who is now doing much to rectify this with exhibitions, talks and concerts.

The October meeting on Thursday 21st at 7.30pm in the Parish Church features Valerie Reilly keeper of textiles at Paisley museum with a presentation "Marmalade and Mealie Pudding - Traditional Scottish Fare".

New members and evening visitors are always welcome. A year's membership is £8 and an evening visit is £2. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits are served after the presentation.

*Gordon Nicholl*



### Solar Log Drying (Part 2)

When the logs in the polytunnel solar drier were ready for use I decided to leave them there until they were needed because shifting them into store doubled the amount of work. Much better to bring them indoors when the time to use them was a day ahead. That left the problem of not yet having enough dry wood in stock.

Surely the best thing to do next time would be to find a way of having a moveable solar store that could be filled from the lorry and wheeled to the side door of the house. I began an Internet search for a platform trolley with handles at both ends and big enough wheels to make moving a full load at least a possibility. Within a week I had such a vehicle here and next day the logs arrived so there was no time to work on the trolley. We put the logs in and wrapped the lot in plastic. Then found it was too heavy to shift- I am 88 years of age so that was par for the course! 28 days later the logs were dry, nice and warm and I could take time to make a proper job of the altering the trolley.

The first task was to drill 28--25mms holes in the floor to let air rise through the mass of logs. Once the holes were varnished to protect the floor from rotting I put a plastic skirt around the lower third of the vehicle to ensure that rain water on the

outside and condensate on the inside could run off without wetting the floor or the wheels. That done I pulled the empty vehicle into a sunny spot more or less out of sight by my neighbours and filled it with logs I had in hand. My two pictures show the empty truck and the filled one. The pipe in the top has many small holes to let the warm air out. The white shaped tubes inside are to form the roof and make sure the rain water runs off the outside and the condensate from the inside without falling back onto the logs.

Roughly speaking each time the machine is used it adds many pounds to the value of the logs and we have calculated that to dry and hold a years supply should cost less than to build equal volumes of wood stores but only for people with level ground, some Sunshine with of course plans to have a wood burning stove.

*Alan Lovegreen*



### Mauchline Ware

In the world of antiques one of Scotland's most successful and long running industries was that of Mauchline Ware. When passing through the town of Mauchline today it is difficult to appreciate that this was the centre of an industry which manufactured small but always beautifully made and useful wooden souvenirs and giftware. In its heyday in the 1860's some 400 people were

employed. Not only were the products sold throughout Great Britain in vast quantities but they were exported worldwide.

Very similar products were made in other locations notably Lanark. However, so dominant was the contribution of the Mauchline firm of W & A Smith that irrespective of the source of manufacture the vast range of souvenirs produced in South West Scotland from the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until 1930s is now referred to by the generic name of Mauchline Ware.

Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Alyth, Perth & Kinross there lived a man of remarkable inventiveness called James Sandy. Sandy, who died in 1819 at the age of 53, had for much his life had been bedridden. Among his many achievements was the invention of the hidden hinge snuff box which was by far the most important. The knuckles of the hinge were formed alternately from the lid and the back of the box, with a metal rod passing very precisely through the centre of the knuckles. This rod was a little shorter than the box so that it did not protrude through the ends, which were "stopped" with a minute plug in such a way that the mechanism was invisible even on close examination.



*The above diagram illustrates how the knuckles of the integral hidden-hinge snuff box are formed alternately from the lid and back of the box*

However, the manufacture and marketing of the Invention was left to Charles Stiven from Laurencekirk near Aberdeen, the product being initially referred to the Laurencekirk Snuff Box.

Before long the hidden hinge found its way to Cumnock, then on to other snuff box manufacturers in Ayrshire. Around 50 separate manufacturers existed about 1820 but the habit of snuff taking soon started to decline and it became essential for manufacturers to diversify. Many went out of business but the Mauchline factory started to make many other items and by 1850 Andrew Smith stated in the "Art Journal" that the products of his firm "now consist of every article which you can almost conceive it possible to make from postage stamp boxes to tea trays". Among the first new products were tea caddies utilising the remarkable hidden hinge. Tea being an expensive commodity, like snuff benefited from being kept in the airtight container.

Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Mauchline factory still possessed the necessary skills to repair damaged boxes. The wood used was generally sycamore which has a very close grain and a pleasing light colour. Early snuff boxes were hand decorated in coloured paints or pen and ink work. Highly skilled artists were employed and favourite subjects for snuff box decoration were coaching scenes, field sports and drinking topics.



*Depicting a Four- in-Hand coach this is a typical Crichton of Cumnock snuff box decoration in*

*pen and ink with some colour. The base and sides are painted black.*

*It is 4 x 1.25 x 1.125 inches.*

Mauchline ware is now sought after by an increasing number of collectors throughout the world. Next month we shall examine the extensive product range of this popular brand.

*Greta Logan*

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## **Viewfield Rovers**

Big cities may have their famous football clubs but here in Lochwinnoch we're not left out. We too have football teams to support: Viewfield Rovers AFC and Calderglen FC.

Viewfield Rovers AFC play out of Viewfield Rovers Park in Lochwinnoch. Games are played on a Saturday afternoon at 2:00pm.

St Mirren U19's host Giffnock on Sunday October 10th and also play host to Torrance on Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at Viewfield Rovers ground.

St Mirren YFC 19's may also be drawn at Viewfield on October 31<sup>st</sup> in the 3rd round of the Scottish Youth Cup.

Viewfield Rovers Ladies train on Sunday at Viewfield Rovers park. If you are interested in joining, drop by the Club for information or come along on Saturdays to support us.

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## **Furniture Sale**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October,**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 10 am till 3 pm furniture and bric-a-brac sale in Our Lady of Fatima Hall, High Street, Lochwinnoch in aid of St Vincent's Hospice. Entry £1.50 includes refreshments with home baking.

Donations (especially home baking) are very welcome. Please come along and support this good cause.



## St Vincent's Hospice

Do you have any unwanted items which you think St Vincent's Hospice could use. Items such as toiletry sets, handbags, jewellery etc. St Vincent's Hospice can use these items to help to raise vital funds to support our work.

Any items that you would like to donate can be handed into the Hospice at Midton Road, Howwood or any of our shops.

**Golf** St Vincent's Hospice held its annual Golf Event on Friday 3rd September at the beautiful Erskine Golf Club.

This year saw a lot of new teams taking part, as well as much appreciated continued support from teams that come along for a great day of golf each year. The weather was in our favour with the sun making an appearance for the day.

The scores were all very close, with the final winning score not coming in until almost the end of the day. The winners, Old Clarkston RFC, who had a fantastic score received our "St Vincent's Hospice Annual Golf Event" shield, which was kindly donated to the Hospice. Second place went to The Watermill Hotel and third place to CV Panels.

A great day was had by all and the fantastic sum of £6,500 was raised for the Hospice.

A big thank you to Erskine Golf Club for all the help and hospitality. Thank you to all the teams who took part and helped to raise this great sum for the Hospice. We hope to see you all again next year!

## Golden Wedding

A big thank you to two of our supporters James and Anne Reilly who raised an amazing £800 at their recent Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrations.

The couple celebrated their anniversary with family and friends who very generously donated money to St Vincent's Hospice instead of gifts for the couple. Thank you to all the family and friends of James and Anne for your generosity and helping to support the Hospice.



## Forthcoming Events

### Sports Dinner

This year's Sports Dinner will take place at the Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport on Friday 22nd October.

Following the successful events of previous years, this one is set to be even better, with great guests including: Hugh Brown, former snooker commentator; Paul Cooney, former head of Radio Clyde & Super Scoreboard presenter; Derek Johnstone, Former Rangers player and current Super Scoreboard presenter; and Pat Bonner, former Celtic goalkeeper. There is something to suit any sports fan.

Dress for the evening is lounge suits for the gents and cocktail dresses for the ladies.

Tickets for the night are £40.00 available from the Fundraising Team on 01505 705635 or email

[Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk](mailto:Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk).

## Christmas Fayre

The Christmas season is approaching and St Vincent's Hospice is already preparing for this year's Christmas Fayre which will take place on Saturday 6th November, 11am – 2.30pm.

There will be a variety of stalls to come and browse through including: home baking; handbags; fancy goods and a Christmas stall. Santa will be in attendance at the Grotto for the kids to enjoy and there will be a tearoom with a selection of goodies.

So why not pop along and see what bargains you can pick up in the run up to Christmas.

## Johnstone Lights

The Christmas Tree lights in Johnstone Town centre will be switched on, on Saturday 27th November at 12pm.

St Vincent's Hospice will once again have our marquee with loads of goodies inside. Christmas Café, Santa's Grotto, plus lots of lovely stalls for you to look through.

## Light Up A Life

On Sunday 28th November, this year's Light Up A Life service will take place during which our Christmas tree will be illuminated. After this short service hot drinks and home-made mince pies will be served. The lights on the tree will continue to shine throughout the Christmas period.

We invite you to join us to the lighting ceremony in the Hospice courtyard for the service starting at 5pm.



## Three Churches at the Garthland Arms

No, the pub hasn't had a mock-gothic makeover, rather the new licencees, Martin and Karen Opray have opened a restaurant in what was the lounge, called The Three Churches, appropriate as there used to be a third kirk in Church Street (the West Church was demolished after the war).

Chatterbox had a chat with Martin and Karen recently, as the fact that one of our village's three pubs has changed hands is news. They took the Garthland over in the middle of June with the intention of concentrating on creating a good restaurant whilst keeping the pub bar. It took longer than planned for the refurbishments to the kitchen and lounge bar areas, both of which were completely stripped to the brickwork! (Don't these jobs always take too long?)

They are also planning to renovate the gardens and be able to open a beer garden from next spring. This will be good as it's always nice to be able to enjoy a pint in the sunshine.

A little background – Martin runs the Pinewood Fishery near Kilmacolm and has done so for fifteen years. As well as providing sport for anglers, this now provides trout for the restaurant. Karen used to work in a pub in Inchinnan. They have three (almost) grown-up boys.

They are planning to hold some charity events, starting with the Help for Heroes do on the 2<sup>nd</sup>



October and a jewellery party in November. There may be some entertainment – live music etc – but they will see how it goes.

The chef, Scott, a young man from a family of chefs in Paisley, was working in Crianlarich before coming to the Three Churches. His style of cooking is Modern Scottish, but with French and Italian twists. He also cooks award-winning authentic Indian food. There are daily specials as well as a varied menu. All ingredients are fresh and food is cooked to order, so don't expect a super-quick meal!

As well as lunches all day and dinner from five to eight, the restaurant is available for buffets, parties, etc.

The Three Churches will be open on Christmas Day with two sittings – one at lunchtime, the other in the early evening, but this is getting booked up already!

Karen and Martin are really looking forward to the restaurant taking off; it's already busy enough for booking to be a good idea – 843854.



## Paisley Florist Society Gardening Club

At the annual flower show held in Paisley on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, there were three prizewinners from Lochwinnoch: Mrs Jean Hunter; Mrs Pat Whyte and Mr Tom Martin.

Jean won the Paisley Florist Challenge Cup for best Chrysanthemums in the show. Pat also had a very successful day winning the Silver Salver in the floral art section, and Tom won the James Laidler Cup in the novice sweet pea class. .

Well done to all and all success in the future.



## Beith Arts Sunday Concerts

### The Meryon Trio – 3<sup>rd</sup> October

The second concert of the season follows hard on the heels of the first – regular members of our audience please note that the date is unusually early in the month. This is because we were eager to book the trio while their brilliant cellist, Jetka Vlasankova, is still in Scotland. She is also a member of the world-renowned Martinu Quartet, so has a very full diary.

The prize-winning duo Angus Meryon (clarinet) and Richard Saxel (piano) also travel far and wide, having performed recently in Prague and Cardiff, and in addition have very busy and

successful individual careers.

So we were fortunate indeed to find a date when all three could come together to play for us, and look forward to a very enjoyable concert. All are welcome to join us in Beith Community Centre at 2.30 pm. 3rd October. Tickets (at the door) adults £8, concessions £6, children and students £1



## Postcard from Picardy 18th September 2010

Without doubt, the greatest pleasure of working in estate agency in France's region of Picardy is the range of interesting characters I have encountered.

Recently I met Madame Claudette DUPONT, who lives in the picturesque village of Songeons, population c.1,500, about 30 minutes' drive northwest of Beauvais. Madame Dupont recently retired from her post of Directrice (Head Teacher) of The Jules Ferry School in St Leu d'Esserent and now has time to indulge in some of her favourite hobbies and pastimes.

However, quite apart from the everyday matters of skilful gardening and "bricolage" i.e. diy maintenance at her lovely home, she has hidden talents in Fine Arts.

These include expertise in Embroidery, Silk Painting, and, even more extraordinarily, creating what she calls "Des

Vitrines Miniatures" or miniature doll's house-style glazed showcases like shop windows, with Lilliputian scenes of shop interiors in exquisite detail.

She was delighted to show me these wonderfully detailed little worlds which she had created, each one representing an average of 100 hours painstaking and, I am sure, eye-straining, labour of love.

Her latest project took her a total of 160 hours to complete and is in fact a complete 3D miniature garden centre greenhouse, which can be viewed from all four sides plus through the glass roof. It contains representations of many varieties of plants and seedlings and also a solo gardener who closely resembles a mini Bill or possibly Ben, those famous characters from the children's cartoon series of my childhood, The Flowerpot Men. (Anyone who isn't old enough to remember them should ask a parent, uncle or aunt or maybe even a grandparent for more information.) The gnomish gardener must have been pretty effective because there isn't a single Little Weed in sight!

Madame Dupont had several "vitrines" on display, including one of an old-fashioned classroom interior, which her former colleagues at Jules Ferry School had made for *her* to mark the occasion of her retirement, and as a tribute to her unstinting service of the school, its pupils and teachers and support staff. Of Madame Dupont's own work, though, my personal favourite was the fishmonger's shop, la Poissonnerie.



Imagine a tiny world where a dozen prawns, each hand-crafted in modelling dough and hand-painted in salmon pink, would fit onto a platter small enough to just cover one of your fingernails.

Then, of course, there is the newsagent's shop with hundreds of tiny replicas, in full colour, of all the popular magazines of the day (I'm sure I saw a copy of the Chatterbox on the top shelf).

Oh, and the Wool Shop with rows and rows of skeins of wool colourfully displayed on its shelves...not forgetting the coffee-mill themed window; her imagination seems to know no bounds.

I've tried to capture the essence of these magnificent little treasures in some photographs, because words alone are insufficient to illustrate their impish charm and amazing attention to detail.

Perhaps Madame Dupont herself should be declared a French Regional or even National Treasure. Monsieur Sarkozy, I know you and Madame Bruni read the Chatterbox, so it's over to you now.

To paraphrase Colin Frame, former editor of Chatterbox,

"A bientot, chums!".

More next month.

*Ronnie McCorrisken*



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

**Douglas Alexander, Lochwinnoch's MP**

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Tel: 0141 561 0333. E-mail: dalexandermp@talk21.com  
or come to one of my advice surgeries.**

## Teenage Cancer Trust

### Thanks to P7

#### St Anthony's Primary

The Primary 7 class of St. Anthony's Primary School in Johnstone, which has many pupils from Lochwinnoch, recently had a 'Fun Day' which included selling various gifts and goodies to pupils and parents, as well as a raffle. Despite some pretty terrible weather, they got a great turn out and raised the fantastic sum of £494.45, which they have decided to donate to Teenage Cancer Trust's Scottish fundraising campaign.

They chose the charity in memory of a fondly remembered former pupil who died recently.

Mrs Elliott, the Head Teacher invited me along to meet the P7 students and their teacher Miss O'Rorke, and I was delighted to accept the cheque on behalf of

## VISITOR CENTRES SUMMER 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 - 5pm from April to October 2010. Tel: 01505 842882.

**Greenock Cut Centre** Open daily from 11am-4pm from April to October 2010. Tel: 01475 521458

**Muirshiel Centre** Open daily from 11am-4pm from April to October 2010. Tel: 01505 842803

Teenage Cancer Trust.

It was a pleasure to meet everybody involved, and may I just add that I thought that P7 were a smashing bunch of kids, and an absolute credit to St Anthony's and the local community.



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## Chat from the Chair

At the September Community Council (CC) meeting we were graced by the presence of no less than three policemen - Sergeant Twaddle and two of his PCs. They stressed that we all need to call in incidents - even the minor stuff they're not likely to do much about. That way their stats show that we need policing, so the real crime rate is kept bearably low.

Chatterbox is now looking rather happier - we are building a team to take it forward, though there may be room for more helpers - so let us know if you'd like to help.

The new CC scheme is slowly progressing, but the news is not good - although Renfrewshire Council is proposing to increase CC grants, it is also intending to stop paying directly for most of what it provides now. We haven't worked it out yet, but this could mean a net loss of several hundred pounds a year!

A couple of things came up under Planning for a change - it's been rather quiet of late. These were both renewable energy projects in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park; the Glenlora Estate is appealing the decision by Renfrewshire Council to refuse planning for an Anaerobic Digester, and Scottish and Southern Energy has applied for planning permission for 29 wind turbines at Waterhead Moor, in the centre of the Park. Whilst the cc has no objection to the Anaerobic Digester proposal,

just concerns about things like road access, the Waterhead Moor development easily triggers the CCs policy of objecting to industrial development within CMRP.

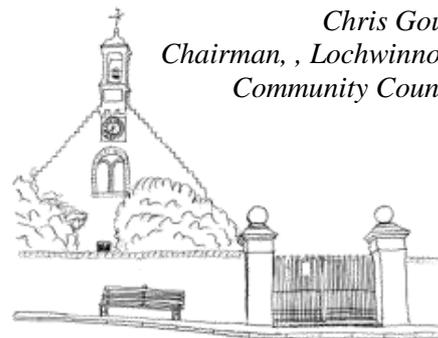
There are several ways to contact the Community Council: e-mail [communitycouncil@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:communitycouncil@lochwinnoch.info) or use the online contact form on the Community Council page of the Village website (<http://www.lochwinnoch.info/community/cc/>); write to the Secretary, Lesley Scott, 79 High St, PA12 4AB; or leave a message in the drop-box in the Library. The Community Council does not accept anonymous correspondence so you must include your name and address.

Or you could come to a meeting, which are all open to the public, however, the CC is going to have to move. The Boys' Brigade needs to use the Guild Room on a Tuesday night now, leaving us

looking for another room to hold our meetings, or change night, or possibly both. The 5<sup>th</sup> October meeting will be in the Parish Church at 7.30pm and the AGM will probably be held on the same night as our regular November meeting.

This is my personal take on things - for the official Community Council line you'll have to read the minutes!

*Chris Gould  
Chairman, Lochwinnoch  
Community Council*



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