

Nuisance Helpline
Anti-Social Behaviour

Noise problems
Support and Advice
Every day 9am – 10pm
Tel: 0800 169 1283

CHATTERBOX

No 206 February 2011

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

Feasibility Funding for Lochwinnoch Community

LMEG has recently secured **£20,000** of funding (£10,000 each from Big Lottery Investing in Ideas and Renfrewshire LEADER funds) to help local community groups consider community ownership options within the village. The funding criteria allows this money to be used for such things as building surveys, architects drawings, options appraisals and business planning and should support the growth and development of the local community.

Given the recent Renfrewshire Council decision there is an urgent need to consider, and plan for potential alternative community uses for these premises.

LMEG will use a small amount of this money to instruct a full Building Fabric Survey of the Annexe and Library buildings. These surveys will be made available to any community groups interested in utilising these premises. The surveys might assist local community groups consider possible options for community involvement or full community ownerships by providing an independent assessment of the current condition of these buildings.

This funding can be used for much of the development work required to give the community a chance of retaining the buildings for community benefit. The funding is purely for feasibility studies and to consider whether local ownership options are possible. It does not require, or commit, any local organisation to take on a community ownership option. Time is critical, if alternative options are not forthcoming the buildings could be closed or sold in the summer of this year.

Anyone interested in utilising this funding should contact LMEG through Sue Richardson serichardson@btinternet.com or Duncan Bremner duncan.bremner@btinternet.com



A Celebration of Love!

There are so many songs about love and relationships that listening to the radio can leave one with the impression that if you are not in a committed relationship then something is missing from your life. Valentine's Day, when the whole world seems to be caught up celebrating romantic love, leaves many people feeling lonely. In some countries St Valentine's Day is not about *romantic* love, it is about celebrating friendship and family.

Little is known of St Valentine. The accompanying text to a woodcut portrait dated from 1493 claims he was a Roman priest who was martyred during the reign of Claudius II for marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were being persecuted. As he is associated with acts of charity and kindness and demonstrations of Christian love, one way we can celebrate St Valentine's day is by showing acts of kindness and love.

Love is at the heart of the Christian message so in the Parish Church we will be celebrating St Valentine's Day albeit a little early. On Sunday 6th February at 7pm we will be holding a café style Church Service when we will gather in the hall, around tables. The service will be very relaxed and include a music quiz and the showing

of some film clips, each of them demonstrating acts of love; we shall also remind one another, in the words of Paul McCartney, that "Money Can't Buy Me Love" it is a gift for all and a gift freely shared. So if you find St Valentine's day just too sugary sweet to be true, or even if you love everything about it, then please do come and share with us on the 6th February at 7pm.

Knit @ The Junction

Mondays 10 am till 12 noon (sometimes later) informal gathering of experienced knitters and beginners. Come along, enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, make some new friends and maybe pick up some knitting tips.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Laura, Fergus and all the staff at the Brown Bull would like to say Happy 60th Birthday to **Charlie Fraser**. The party was fantastic and here's to the next 60 years!

Staff, customers, Laura, Fergus and family would like to wish **Megan McLaughlin** all the best for her 21st birthday. Thanks for all your hard work with us in the last 4 years. Enjoy your day Megan xx

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Teenage Cancer Trust

Brown Bull Christmas Auction and Raffle - Grand Total

The total raised for the Teenage Cancer Trust Scottish Appeal from the auction and raffle, including several individual donations, was a fantastic **£5,026.50**. Once again many thanks to Laura, Fergus and all their little helpers in the Brown Bull, and to everyone who donated and/or bought items and made donations.

Forthcoming Attractions

1. Friday 6th May: The return of 'Opera & Chips'! Yes, it's back! Ladies and gentlemen: look out your party frocks and best bib and tucker for another trip to the palace of high cultural that is Harry Ramsden's in Glasgow! TCT is delighted to announce that we have again secured the operatic services of the talented and beautiful young ladies of 'Les Sirenes' to provide the opera. Mr Ramsden will then be providing the chips (and fish), and finally our guests can dance the rest of the night away to the accompaniment of Tony & Jim, aka 'The Penny Dogs'.

If you haven't been to Opera & Chips before, and maybe think opera is not your cup of tea, just have a word with anyone who has been to a previous event, and I'm sure they'll tell you they had a ball!

As usual, a coach to and from Glasgow will be organised, and all information regarding tickets prices and availability etc will be issued very soon. Meantime, please note the date in your diary.

2. Friday 17 June: 'Not The Booze Cruise!' What a fantastic evening we had last summer! Make sure you don't miss out on the social event of the Lochwinnoch summer season, and get your tickets reserved now. Again, full details and ticket prices etc will be available very soon.

If you have any questions and/or want to reserve tickets for either 'Opera & Chips' or 'Not The Booze Cruise', please email me at johndelaney@thinkpositive.co.uk



Regional Park Round Up for February 2011

Online Communications In addition to the Regional Park website (www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk) the Park now has facebook and twitter pages so we can quickly keep you updated on events, activities, wildlife sightings and any daily goings on of relevance. Do 'follow' us www.twitter.com/clydemuirshiel or 'like' us on Facebook- look for the Regional Park logo.

Tartan Walk: Wed 16 Feb 2011 11am start at Castle Semple Visitor Centre It time to get out the tartan! Snow resulted in the postponement of the popular early December Feeling Fitter Tinsel Walk and with Burns Night just past it will be tartan and Scottish songs rather than tinsel and Christmas tunes to be seen and heard on this Lochwinnoch walk. The walk will be suitable for everyone, contact the Rangers at Castle Semple or the Active Renfrewshire Sport Development Team on 0141 842 3000 for more information.

Star Gazing at Muirshiel Visitor Centre, next evening Fri 25 Feb, not 19 Feb After a few access issues in 2010 with rain and then snow we had a great turnout for the January star gazing evening. 27 people came to observe the night sky and although there was some patchy cloud, there were great views of the constellations & the orion nebula. Please note the next star gazing evening will now take place on **Fri 25 Feb** and not on 19 Feb as previously advertised. The topic for the

evening will be 'Charles Messier, Comet Hunter'. Please call Muirshiel on 01505 842 803 to make a booking.

Adopt a Beach at Lunderston In association with the Marine Conservation Society, the quarterly clean up of the beach took place at the start of January. Ranger staff and volunteers collected an impressive 28kg of rubbish. Thanks to everyone who helped. If you fancy doing some beach cleaning and recording, the next date is 17th April, 13.00 hrs—coinciding with National Spring Clean Week!

Frost Flowers in Parkhill The recent cold spell allowed strange white candy floss like flowers to grow, they have now been identified and confirmed as 'Frost Flowers'. They only appear in certain weather conditions and often melt when the sun comes up so they can be hard to see. Look at the Ranger Blog on the Park website for more information about these amazing winter flowers.

Photographic Competition 2011 Final preparations are being made for this year's competition – the theme is 'Woodlands of Clyde Muirshiel' as it is International Year of Forests, there will be a leaflet and information available on the Park website very soon.

Mountain Bike pals? Enjoy getting out on your bike but would like some local company? Send us an email to routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk and we'll let you know when folk are going out.

Lochwinnoch Farmers Market The Spring market takes place on **Sunday 6 March** from 11.00 until 14.30 hrs. A good range of stall holders are being lined up to come. We hope also to have at least one new supplier. Look on line www.clydemuirshiel/farmersmarket for the latest stall holder information



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...small enough to care.

We are a well established firm with offices in Glasgow's West End and City Centre and Newton Mearns. We are recognised as one of the leading members of GSPC specialising in domestic and commercial property and Estate Agency. Our solicitors also provide a wide range of other legal services including Wills and Executory Estates, Powers Of Attorney, Matrimonial/Separation Agreements. We strive to maintain the traditional values of a family firm and put our clients' interests at the heart of our business.

Terence Docherty, the Associate Partner in our Newton Mearns office, has recently moved to the Village and is delighted to provide you with a local service.

138 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns.
0141 639 2277
18 Waterloo Street, Glasgow
0141 227 8200
108 Byres Road, Glasgow
0141 342 5570



Frost flowers in Parkhill Woods

Reminder 'Calling all Cyclists'

We are gathering information on where people cycle within the Regional Park and what developments you would like to see in the future. What ever type of cycling you do or don't 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. Thanks to those that have been in contact, your input is most appreciated.

"Art in the Park 2011"

Lochwinnoch Art Group Exhibition Opens at Castle Semple

This year's productions of traditional and contemporary works in oils, pencils and pastels are in a variety of styles such as landscapes, still life, realism and abstract. Art Group membership as well as the number of paintings in this exhibition has increased since last year, this gives a wide range of interest for everyone.

Charles Woodward the Regional Park Manager said "This is a fantastic opportunity for local artists to display, and sell, their works to the public. Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority are delighted to once again host the annual Lochwinnoch Art Group Exhibition and hope to do so for many more years to come".

This exhibition of more than sixty painting by fifteen



Whooper Swan

different artists will be on show each day in the Visitor Centre until Tuesday 8 February. Entry is FREE. All the works are original and available for purchase and collection at the end of the exhibition.

If you have an interest in art, then why not make a New Years resolution to join the Lochwinnoch Art Group, for more information about the group please talk to the members who will be staffing the exhibition at weekends, or contact Sandra





Pawsitive Action

Pawsitive Action is receiving more requests from our Park Rangers to join them before the lambing season begins. Tony and I are looking for volunteers to help us bring awareness to dog walkers and owners to keep their dogs under control or on 2 metre leash while out and about in our countryside.

For those who don't know.... We set up our marquee and as people pass by we hand out information leaflets and if anyone is in need of help with training tips for their dogs, then we are there for them. We bring the public's attention to the Outdoor Access Code, "Ground nesting birds" Dog Fouling, and litter and the damage dogs can do if out of control, intentional or not.

20th March we will be heading up to Greenock Cut Centre and Muirshiel

Visitor Centre as they have requested help. Dr Kate Cuthbert, SNH Scottish National Heritage has invited us to join them at Gleniffer Braes where they have been having problems with out of control dogs. Throughout the summer we travel far and wide, joining up at Gala days so that we can directly help the public. Please get in contact if you have an hour to spend and come along to help our Country and City Park Rangers to educate dog owners, so we can all enjoy the countryside together!

With support from Renfrewshire Council we have been conducting outdoor training class all year, rain, shine, and yes even snow! We are starting up another beginner's class so if anyone out there would like to join us and learn how to get your dog under control with distractions around you please contact us.

We are now proud Puppy Parents for Canine Partners. Puppy Parents take on a puppy and puppy train them until they are 12-18 months old. They are then sent to Heyshott, Southampton to do intensive training for a year. Then these pups grow up to become Assist Dogs for people who live with disabilities.

<http://caninepartners.org.uk/>. Our own dog, Collie/Spaniel mix, was rescued from being PTS, we adopted him just a little over a year ago, now aged 4yr. He is thoroughly enjoying being a foster doggie daddy to the puppies.

The Black Labradoodle puppy, now 12 weeks old, is as cheeky as they come while giving you the look, you know what I mean, the head tilted and the eyes are sparkling saying, ahhh I know you love me, I'm just a wee puppy!



The 5 ½ month Golden Retriever, is a special story. Scottish troops, MCM1 Squadron and Battlestaff, cycled over 8,015 miles to fundraise for him.

<http://www.caninepartners.org.uk/Default.aspx?SiteSearchID=-1&ID=/searchResults.htm>
Canine Partners are very proud of him, he is the one you saw on "STV The Hour" show.

We have had the pups to places such as Braehead Shopping Centre, Piazza Paisley, Hospitals, Doctors, Chemist, and Banks etc. And it is such a great experience whilst all the time you are training. It gives you such a proud feeling inside and we love going places with the pups!

So please if you have some time to spare and would like to join Pawsitive Action, please get in contact, we would really appreciate your help.

www.k9chat.co.uk 01505 842885

Surgery News

Dr Waterston and Dr McLaughlin will be reducing their hours from 1st February and Dr Anne Fraser will be joining the practice.

Dr Waterston will now be working Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Dr McLaughlin will be on every day except Wednesday.

Dr Fraser will be on Mon, Tues, Wed.

We would be grateful if patients would request repeat prescriptions using the re-order slip provided with your medication. This can be posted through the letterbox at evenings and weekends or handed in at reception. In order to keep the phones free for patients who require urgent medical advice, prescription requests should be made between 9 am and 5 pm.

You may notice when asking for repeat prescriptions at reception or by phone, the receptionist will ask for your date of birth. This is to comply with local clinical governance guidelines and reduce the risk of errors caused by patients with similar or same names.





RSPB Lochwinnoch Reserve

- Wildlife viewing all year round
- Nature trails and hides
- Visitor centre open 10am – 5pm daily
- Superb RSPB shop
- Bird feeding station and tree-top tower
- Daily activities for everyone, especially families
- Drinks and snacks
- Join in with our monthly 'Wildlife Challenge'
- An ideal day out for everyone from beginners to experts!

Access for disabled visitors:

Our visitor centre, toilets, nature trails and viewing hides are accessible to wheelchair users. We aim to make our events programme suitable for all. However, if you have any special requirements, please tell us in advance.

February Events programme

- **Tuesday 2 February World Wetland Day – Guided Walk 12noon – 2.00pm**—Join the reserve team to explore the wonderful wetland found at Lochwinnoch, find out more about its birds, wildlife and history.

 - **Walk description:** Gentle walk along reserve trails led by the RSPB team. Will also include a look at the Barr Loch, which has an uneven surface.
 - **Key species** we will look for: whooper swans, wigeon, teal, pochard, tufted ducks.
 - **Suitable for:** Beginners to experts in bird watching. General interest in wildlife. Families. Pushchairs and wheelchairs.
 - **Cost:** £2 or FREE for RSPB members
- **Thursday 17 February**—RSPB Variety Evening – Casino Night!. 7.00pm - 10.00pm. Come along to an **entertaining** evening of music and have fun in our casino to help raise funds for the RSPB's vital conservation work. **You** can buy tickets in advance. £3: RSPB members. £6: non-members.
- **Saturday 19 February—Build a bird a home!**, 11am - 3pm. Want to give a **home** for a bird this spring? Join us to help build and decorate nest boxes, during **National Nest Box Week**. Cost: £5, half price for RSPB members (includes a nest box to take home)
- **Saturday 26 Feb—Membership Taster Day** 11am – 2pm—Want to

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find out more about the RSPB, our campaign work, how we help birds from your back garden to those on the other side of the world and more? Come along to our FREE membership taster day and find out all about the RSPB, about Lochwinnoch and join us for a guided walk of the reserve.

Where to meet:

Events start from the RSPB Lochwinnoch visitor centre unless otherwise stated.

To book a place or to find out more information, phone 01505842663, email Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk or visit us at the visitor centre.

Guided Walks throughout the year:

The reserve hosts a whole range of guided walks covering a range of different topics and areas of the reserve. We are also available to run walks for groups and organisations both during the daytime and in the evenings. For more information about this, including cost and content, please phone the reserve on 01505 842663 or email Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk.

For all walks:

Stout footwear and waterproofs recommended. Be prepared for changeable weather conditions.

Booking essential but spaces may be available on the day. Cost £2 non-members, FREE for RSPB & Wildlife Explorer members (unless otherwise stated)

Keep up to date throughout the year:

Although most of our events are listed in this programme, we often run new, exciting activities throughout the year such as pond dipping and bug hunting, and the best way to keep up to date with these is by joining our 'Events by Email' mailing list. You will be sent an update on reserve activities once a month. To subscribe, please email Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk.

Family events:

The vast majority of our events are

suitable for families, children aged eight and under must be accompanied by an adult for all events.

Follow RSPB Lochwinnoch online:

Get regular updates for our events, wildlife sightings and daily goings on, on

RSPB website: www.rspb.org.uk/lochwinnoch for information and recent sightings.

 Facebook: www.facebook.com search for RSPB Lochwinnoch and become a fan!

 Twitter: <http://twitter.com/RSPBLochwinnoch> & follow our tweets!

 Lochwinnoch Blog: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/blogs/lochwinnoch/default.aspx> weekly Lochwinnoch updates.



Lochwinnoch Christmas Lights

LMEG would like to say THANK YOU to all the villagers, businesses, organisations and the churches involved in the Christmas Lights this year.

Over £240 was raised from donations at the switch on parade and the red collection boxes dotted around the village over the festive period.

Special thanks go to Key Stores, La Dolce Vita and The Spar for donations of sweets for the children, Ivan and Jo Minucci for their help in serving the mulled wine after the parade. To Strathclyde Police and Renfrewshire Council for their assistance on the night and for LEADER and Renfrewshire Council Local Area Committee funding.

An event enjoyed by many in the village once again.

St Vincent's Hospice's Charity Shops Need Your Help!

Due to the extremely bad weather during December we have found that the donations to our shops has fallen and as a result we are running really low. Now that we are into the new year and everyone is thinking of making those resolutions and having a fresh start – why not consider donating your unwanted goods and gifts into one of our shops and help raised some money for a worthwhile cause.

Our shops accept a range of donations include, gift set, ladies gents and children's clothing, jewellery, DVDs, toys, games, fitness equipment, bicycles and we also take furniture! If you do have any items of clothing which you think we would not be able to sell in the shops please still hand them in as we can raise funds through recycling them.

St Vincent's Hospice is always in need of good quality furniture and electrical goods. These can be collected free of charge at a time which suits you. Our delivery drivers can also collect good quality clothing or bric-a-brac at the same time. Please contact Lorna Spiers at the Hospice on 01505 705635.

Alternatively you can donate any items you may have at any one of our 8 charity shops. And don't let those unwanted Christmas present sit and collect dust in a cupboard – our volunteer teams in our shops can put them to good use, using them in raffles or for tombola prizes throughout the year helping us raise much needed funds to support our patient care services.

Barrhead – 28 Cochrane Street – Monday to Friday 11am – 3pm
Bridge of Weir – 21 Livery Walk – Monday to Friday – 9.30am - 3.30pm
Johnstone – 43 High Street – Monday to Friday – 9.30am – 3.30pm
Linwood – 77 Clippens Road – Monday to Friday – 9.30am – 3pm
Lochwinnoch – 6 High Street – Monday to Friday – 9.30am – 3pm
Renfrew – 11 Dunlop Crescent – Monday to Friday – 9.30am – 3pm
Paisley – 53 Neilston Road – Monday to Friday – 9.30am – 3.30pm
Paisley – 11b Moss Street – Monday to Friday – 9.30am – 3.30pm “

Update on Previous Events:

Ladies Lunch—Our fabulous Ladies Lunch 2010 was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow with entertainment by the fantastic Craig McMurdo & the amazing Red Hot Chilli Pipers. Craig played as the ladies entered and during lunch then The Chilli Pipers got everyone on the dance floor and provided a great show.

Thanks to the generosity of our ladies who attended we raised a fantastic £24,000 for the Hospice. A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day a great success.

M&S Bag Pack—A huge thank you to the volunteers from Johnstone High Parish Church for helping out with the Marks and Spencer bag pack on Saturday 11th December 2010 which raised a fantastic **£1,384.80**. Thanks again to everyone who gave their time, it is very much appreciated.

Asda Bag Pack—Thank you to all of our volunteers who came along and helped out on Saturday 18th December 2010 at Asda Linwood at our bag pack. Despite the snow, it was a busy day, raising a marvellous **£581.88**. Thanks again to everyone for helping out.



Johnstone High School

The 1st year pupils at Johnstone High School recently took part in a “Language Challenge”. They were challenged to learn 10 words in a new language such as Polish and Arabic. The kids found people to sponsor them and raised a fantastic **£910** for the Hospice. Well done to all the kids who took part and helped raise such an amazing amount for the Hospice.

Upcoming Events

Angel Delight – A Night Of Music & Dance In Aid Of St Vincent's Hospice Saturday 5th February 7pm, Lynnhurst Hotel, Johnstone.

Some of the nurses here at the Hospice will be trading in their uniforms for their glad rags on Saturday 5th February to raise some much needed funds for the Hospice.



The night is being organised by Elaine McIntyre and Karen Gallacher two of the staff nurses here at the Hospice.

Why not come along and enjoy a fun filled night with music, dancing, raffles, a hot buffet and much more. Entertainment will be provided by “Easy Street” a band sure to get you in the mood for dancing the night away.

The nurses do a fantastic job and it is great that they are taking the time to arrange this. Please show your support for them and the Hospice and come along and enjoy a great night. Tickets £25.00 are available from St Vincent's Hospice reception, ask at the Barn Tearoom or contact Elaine or Karen on 01505 705635.

Can you say “Cheese – Cake! - The chef at the Barn Tearoom up at St Vincent's Hospice was cooking up a storm before Christmas making his famous cheesecakes. Talented chef Willan Hernandez now dubbed ‘The King of Cheesecakes’ raised a fantastic £640 ! Even better thanks to the generosity of some fantastic supporter all the ingredients to make the cheesecakes were donated to the Hospice meaning that every cake sold was profit for the Hospice.

This was such a great success that the cakes will now be available to order from the Barn Tearoom the whole year round! Why not pop along to the Tearoom and try a slice and if that tickles your taste buds you can order one before you leave.

The Barn Tearoom is open Monday to Saturday 10am until 4pm (not hot food after 3.15pm)A variety of food is available including: Soup, All day breakfast, Sandwiches, Filled Rolls, Toasties, Baguettes, Assorted Cakes, Baked Potatoes, Burgers, Teas, Coffees and Soft Drinks.



The Tearoom also has paintings, prints and gifts for sale in aid of the Hospice."

Historical Society

We want to thank Helen Calcluth for the very interesting talk on Kilbarchan in the 18th & 19th centuries given at our last meeting.

The next meeting is on Thursday 17th February at 7.30pm in the guild room of the Parish Church. The speaker for the evening is Dane Love. His subject is "The History of Covenanting in Renfrewshire"

Visitors welcome at £2 for the evening to include the tea/coffee cake and biscuits.

Grateful Thanks

May I, through the pages of the Chatterbox send out a message to some kindly villagers and others all of whom recently came to my aid.

On Saturday 18th December, while proceeding on foot to Castle Semple Visitor Centre, I upended myself on a stretch of hidden ice and sustained a nasty head injury.

Badly dazed, I was assisted by a number of villagers into the Cafeteria area of the Centre where Mr Stuart Kane, a paramedic from Kilwinning, was present and he bandaged me up, arranged for an ambulance, and recorded my personal details.

Ann Stevenson, a staff member in the Centre, very thoughtfully telephoned my wife and again contacted me later to check on my condition. She also provided me with a substantial sum of money to enable my return from the RAH in Paisley.

My sincere thanks go to all of those

people for their care and concern in my time of need. Thanking you,

Iain O. Robb

Family Tree Help Needed

I am seeking some help if anyone is able to help me in researching my family tree. My great grandfather William Jones was born in 1879 in Lochwinnoch.

Please can someone tell me if there any parish records on him? I have been in touch with the Scottish People website but sadly it has not found any info for me. The only connection with a Jones family I get is in Dailly, Ayrshire and I assume it not same place as Lochwinnoch.

I do hope some one can help me as I have tried everywhere I can think of. Thank you so much for any help you can give me.

email barbara@lochwinnoch.info

Elderly Forum

At the time of writing this we are looking forward to Alison Ewing coming to tell us what happens to all of the stuff we recycle.

The Tbar and lunch club are back on track after the holiday as you know, Meeting on the usual days and times. Tbar Tuesday only from 10am - 1pm and lunch club Thursdays at 11.45am.

June Reid, Benefits Take Up Officer, will be coming to our February meeting on the 24th.

We want to be sure that Forum Members are made aware of all the benefits that are available.

A Big Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who attended Sue's party of Friday 17th December. We had a donation box for the Teenage Cancer Trust Fund and collected the grand sum of nearly £500!

So a very Big Thank You to all the generous people of Lochwinnoch.

We couldn't wish for better friends.

Sue and Jud.

Lochwinnoch Writers

Lochwinnoch Writers invite you to the Book Launch of the second anthology of their work at 7.30 pm on Friday 25th February in Lochwinnoch library. Members of the writers group will entertain you by reading some of their work. Refreshments will be provided and everyone is welcome.

Lochwinnoch Writers have changed the time of their meeting to Monday afternoon instead of morning. We meet in the library at the new starting time of 2 pm for a prompt start at 2.30 pm.

Quotes

"Women are like mobile phones. They like to be held and talked to, but push the wrong button, and you'll be disconnected."

---Unknown

"Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same."

---Oscar Wilde

"Love makes the world go round? Not at all. Whiskey makes it go round twice as fast."

---Compton Mackenzie

"Nothing in the world is friendlier than a wet dog."

---Unknown

"If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?"

---Unknown

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www.elainelamont.co.uk

Lochwinnoch Community Library

Library Opening Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 2pm –

5pm, 6pm – 8pm

Tuesday & Saturday 10am – 1pm, 2pm–

5pm

CLOSED THURSDAY

Services available:

Free Broadband Internet

Free document Shredding facility

Photocopier & printer (15p per black & white copy)

Fax (Charge depending on UK or Overseas destination)

Recycling

We accept HP Print cartridges and mobile phones to recycle on behalf of the charity CHAS

Recent Additions:

Stuart MacBride: Shatter the bones

The new Logan McRae thriller set in gritty Aberdeen, from the bestselling author of Cold Granite and Dark Blood. 'You will raise money for the safe return of Alison and Jenny McGregor. If you raise enough money within fourteen days they will be released. If not, Jenny will be killed.' Alison and Jenny McGregor -- Aberdeen's own mother-daughter singing sensation -- are through to the semi-finals of TV smash-hit Britain's Next Big Start. They're in all the gossip magazines, they've got millions of YouTube hits, everyone loves them. But their reality-TV dream has turned into a real-life nightmare.

James Patterson : Tick Tock

A bomb set in one of New York's busiest places is discovered before it explodes. But relief turns to terror when the police realize it is just a warning of greater devastation to come.

The city calls on Detective Michael Bennett, pulling him away from a seaside vacation with his ten adopted children and their beloved nanny, Mary

Catherine--leaving his entire family open to attack.

Jo Nesbo : The leopard—Two women are found murdered in Oslo - both of them have drowned in their own blood. What mystifies the police is that the puncture wounds in the victims' faces have been caused from the inside of their mouths.

Kaja Solness from Homicide is sent to Hong Kong to track down a man who is the Oslo Police Department's only specialist on serial killings. The severely addicted detective has tried to disappear in the vast, anonymous city. He is on the run and haunted by his last case, the woman he loves, and creditors alike. His name is Harry Hole.

Stephen Leather : Midnight—Jack Nightingale found it hard enough to save lives when he was a cop. Now he needs to save a soul - his sister's. But to save her he has to find her and they've been separated since birth.. When everyone Jack talks to about his sister dies horribly, he realises that someone, or something, is determined to keep them apart.

Erica James : Promises Promises—'I Must Stand Up for Myself More' so promises Maggie Storm who spends her days cleaning houses for people who often have more money than manners.

Married to a man with as much sex appeal as Mr Blobby, she dreams of a

life straight from the pages of a romantic novel. 'My Head Must Rule Over My Heart' so promises Ella Moore who, determined never to let her heart get the better of her again, is recovering from seven wasted years of failing to win over the daughter of the man with whom she wanted to spend the rest of her life.

'No More Women' so promises Ethan Edwards who, to distract himself from the depressing sham of his marriage, is a repeat offender when it comes to turning to other women for sexual consolation.

But when Ella appears unexpectedly in his life, he finds himself turning to her for very different reasons.

Coming soon:

Wilbur Smith : Those in peril—

Nora Roberts :Chasing fire

Jill Mansell : To the moon and back

Michael Connelly :The fifth witness

New! Junior & Teenage Books on

MP3—New at Lochwinnoch Library , a small collection has been added to the library stock.

Jacqueline Wilson, Phillip Pullman, Eoin Colfer are a few of the authors available. Come and check these out!

Advice Works Surgery

@Lochwinnoch Library

This is now an APPOINTMENT ONLY based surgery. For further details please contact :

01505 382328

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.





Bookbug Rhymetime

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Bookbug's Library Challenge

Bookbug's Library Challenge is a free programme that encourages children aged birth to four to discover and enjoy their local library.

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Your child's name will be written on the certificate to encourage them to feel proud that they have become members of their local library.

There are five different limited edition certificates to collect. So start collecting now – it's never too early or too late to join your local library... and it's FREE!

The Socialist Farmer of Castle Semple

During its 400-years-old history Castle Semple and the 18th century house which replaced it were owned by just three families.

These were the Sempills (1500-1727); the Macdowalls (1727-circa 1813); and the Harveys (1813- circa 1908). With the end of the Harvey dynasty, the mansion became derelict and the government department responsible for agriculture built small-holdings on the old estate. This was to enable people to set up small farms and earn a living for themselves and their families in the years of hardship during and after the First World War (1914-18).

One remarkable man who grasped the opportunity to be self-sufficient was Robert Nichol who became known as the Socialist Farmer of Castle Semple. Before coming to Lochwinnoch, Robert was a coal-miner at Lesmahagow in industrial Lanarkshire. But he lost his job and house because he was an active trade unionist and campaigned for better living and working conditions for colliers.

Robert was a friend of James Keir Hardie, the first Labour Member of Parliament and fellow Lanarkshire miner who was also made redundant because of his support for a better deal

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for colliers. He also knew Bob Smillie who was elected Member of Parliament for Morpeth as well as president of the Scottish and British Miners' Federations.

Following his sacking, Robert arrived in rural Lochwinnoch around 1913 and established a prosperous fruit farm at what became the Shiels small-holdings just opposite the former Castle Semple Home Farm. It was situated just off the roadside, among green fields, between the old mansion and its North Gates entrance. He worked diligently at his new business and soon established good markets for his home-grown tomatoes, cherries, damsons, blackcurrants, raspberries, strawberries, brambles and gooseberries.

Although some of Robert's produce was sold locally, most of it was sent to the Glasgow fruit market by train from Howwood railway station. The Castle Semple fruit farm was so successful that casual labour was employed with pickers and planters coming from Lochwinnoch, Howwood and Johnstone to gather the fruit.

Robert was also well-known around Lochwinnoch as an accomplished violinist who provided music at barn dances, fairs, weddings, christenings and other social occasions. But he never lost his political fervour and spoke passionately in defence of the agricultural and industrial labouring classes. He was a loyal supporter of Jimmy Maxton, the Independent Labour Member of Parliament for Glasgow Bridgeton.

When Mr Maxton was imprisoned because of his opposition to the First World War, Robert provided him with moral backing as well as fresh eggs, milk, cheese and butter from the family farm at Castle Semple.

During my time as a countryside ranger at Castle Semple, I had the privilege of meeting Robert's granddaughter, Mrs Nancy Wylie, from Glenrothes, Fife. She remembered an ornamental bannister in his

farmhouse which her cousins slid down at breakneck speed to the annoyance of the family. This was located behind the official front door to the dwelling which was used only at christening, wedding and funeral parties - as well as by new ministers until they became accepted by the family and had their tea or 'dram' in the kitchen along with everyone else.

Mrs Wylie also remembered a wooden shed near the railway line at the Collegiate Church. The hut was occupied by an elderly Miss Crawford who was so deaf that local children had to jump up and down on the floor to attract her attention when looking for some of the delicious buttered scones and jam which she made.

Another memory was of the old plum orchard between the dilapidated mansion and Robert's farm. Although insufficient to be marketed locally, the fruit could be made into a tasty plum jam which was a speciality of Mrs Wylie's mother's cooking.

And ownership of at least one cow ensured a regular supply of butter 'pats' made from milk in large flat pans and wooden moulds. 'Ca'ing' the handle of Aunt Liz's hand-churn for making butter in the laughter-filled yard in front of the house was one of the farm children's great pleasures.

Among the neighbours was an old man named Campbell who came originally from Islay and was reputed to have learned the art of illegal whisky distilling in his youth. When he met members of Robert's family on moist, misty mornings, the patriarch greeted them with felicitations like: "This would be a great day for making a wee drap o' the cratur. The exciseman couldnae tell where the smell was coming from."

Mr Campbell was adamant, however, that since coming to Castle Semple from the Highlands, he had abandoned 'the potstill and barley bree.'

Derek Parker

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

What's On

Regular clubs, classes and 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.
- **Knit @ The Junction**—10am-noon, all levels and learners welcome,
- **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 Tues from 10-11am at the Annexe building in the Park.

• **Drop-in T Bar - Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum.** Every Tuesday from 10am-1pm, McKillop Inst. For details, Tel Betty 01505 703727

• **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, 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**—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-Adv/Intermediate
10.30am-Juvenile/Intermediate
- Tuesdays
6.30pm - Puppy Course
7.30pm - Juvenile/Intermediate
8.30pm—Adv/Intermediate
- Thursdays
6.30pm - Puppy Course
7.30pm - Juvenile/Intermediate
8.30pm - Adv/Intermediate

Collections?

Do you collect anything for charity? Email barbara@lochwinnoch.info and add it to the list.

Stamps—Hearing Dogs for the Deaf—Wilson's Bakers.

HP Ink Cartridges—Childrens' Hospice Appeal CHAS—Library

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.

Electronic submission with full colour pictures are preferred.

To advertise in Chatterbox

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chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info

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Forthcoming Events

- **Sat 5 Feb—"Angel Delight" – A Night Of Music & Dance In Aid Of St Vincent's Hospice**, 7pm, Lynnhurst Hotel, Johnstone. Tickets £25.00 from St Vincent's Hospice reception, the Barn Tearoom or contact Elaine or Karen 705635.
- **Mon. 7 Feb—Lochwinnoch International Aid AGM**, 7pm, Library
- **Sat. 12 Feb—Valentine's Dance** with buffet at the Golf Club featuring The Miami Showband. 7.30 pm, tickets £15 booking essential 842153
- **Sat. 12 Feb—Havok Rd** play in the Brown Bull, 9:30pm
- **Wed 16 Feb—Tartan Walk: 11am start at Castle Semple Visitor Centre** Snow resulted in the postponement of the popular early December Feeling Fitter Tinsel Walk and with Burns Night just past it will be tartan and Scottish songs rather than tinsel and Christmas tunes. The walk will be suitable for everyone, contact the Rangers at Castle Semple or the Active Renfrewshire Sport Development Team on 0141 842 3000 for more information.
- **Wed 16 Feb—Lochwinnoch SWRI** meet at 7.30 in the McKillop Hall with member of Gryffe Camera Club
- **Thurs 17 Feb—RSPB Variety Evening Casino Night!** 7.00pm - 10.00pm an entertaining evening of music and fun in our casino to help raise funds for the RSPB's vital conservation work. £3: RSPB members. £6: non-members.
- **Thurs 17 Feb—Historical Society** meeting at 7.30pm in the guild room of the Parish Church. Dane Love will speak about "The History of Covenanting in Renfrewshire" Visitors welcome at £2 incl
- **Sat 19 Feb—Build a bird a home!** 11am - 3pm Want to give a home for a bird this spring, help build and decorate nest boxes, during Â£5, half

price for RSPB members (includes a nest box to take home).

- **Thurs 24—Elderly Forum**, speaker June Reid Benefits Take Up Officer.
- **Fri 25 Feb—Star Gazing at Muirshiel Visitor Centre, not 19 Feb as previously advertised.** The topic for the evening will be 'Charles Messier, Comet Hunter'. Please call Muirshiel on 01505 842 803 to make a booking.
- **Fri 25—Lochwinnoch Writers Book Launch** at 7.30 pm, Lochwinnoch library.
- **Sat 26 Feb—Fairtrade Family Fun Day** in Paisley Town Hall, 12pm—3pm. The Singing Kettle will be performing and tickets are free but must be booked via the Paisley Arts Centre Box Office 0141 848 1692.
- **Sat 26 Feb—Fairtrade Farmers Market** in County Square, Paisley.
- **FSat 26 Feb—Fairtrade Football** 5 a side Students Association, 10.30am—2.30pm. Contact Arnaud Bastianelli, 0141 849 4160 or sp@sauws.org.uk
- **Sat 26 Feb—RSPB Free Membership Taster Day** 11am - 2pm find out all about the RSPB, about Lochwinnoch and join us for a guided walk of the reserve.
- **Sun 27 Feb—Beith Arts Concert**, songs by many composers, presented by the R.S.A.M.D. Song Studio 2.30pm Beith Community Centre Kings Road. Tickets Â£8, concessions Â£6, students and children £1.
- **Wed 2 March—free Fairtrade coffee tasting event** at The Junction, 7 to 8.30pm, only 10 places for this event so booking is required tel: 01505-842225 or call into the cafe.
- **Sun 6 March—Lochwinnoch Farmers' Market from 11.00 until 14.30 hrs**

- **Wed 9 March—RSPB** hosts a **Twilight Talk on What difference does Fairtrade make?** 7.30 til 9pm, £4 (£2 RSPB members) booking essential
- **Thurs 10 March—Fairtrade lunch** 11 - 2 at Methodist Central Hall in Gauze St, Paisley.
- **Thurs 10 March—free Fairtrade wine tasting**, at The Junction from 7.30 til 9.30pm. Limited to 30 places, reserve by depositing £5 at The Junction.
- **Sat 12 March—Lochwinnoch International Aid Safari Supper, 7pm** one course of a 3 course 'Fairtrade' meal in each of 3 different host homes in Lochwinnoch, spaces for 16 guests £15 per person. Contact Bob Turner tel: 843068 or email robert.turner111@btinternet.com
- **Wed 16 March-Lochwinnoch Arts Festival begins**
- **Fri 18 March—Festival Art Exhibition** will run until Saturday 2nd April in the Library Room, Lochwinnoch Library during Library Hours.

Lochwinnoch Gala Day

Lochwinnoch Gala Day will go ahead as usual this year on 11th June 2011. We have 'Superheroes' as our theme this year. This will give everyone plenty of time to get their costumes ready, young and old alike.

We will be advertising nearer the time to allow stallholders to book a pitch. Four months to go! We have a few helpers but still need to have a few more. If you can help in any way at all please leave your details at the Calder Gallery and a committee member will get in touch.

Lochwinnoch Gala Day Committee



FUNDING FOR LEAP 2 ?

We'd like your feedback on the project and your opinions on how it should grow for the LEAP 2 Funding Application

What would you like us to tackle ?

Would you like to get more involved ?

Please let us know at:

www.lochwinnoch.info/leap or phone 842 040

IMAGINE

Imagine a time called 2030 and then:-

Imagine that the journey that Lochwinnoch is making towards being a centre of cultural interest, is about to be realised.

Imagine a Lochwinnoch with a Town Centre complex that has at its core a theatre with comfortable upholstered seats on a sloping floor

Imagine that before taking your seat you have just met up with friends in the foyer for a drink or snack with them in the bar downstairs.

Imagine if you will, seeing and greeting other friends and neighbours as you look about you. Do you feel the warmth, both social and real, of the event?

Imagine that there is a well lit spacious stage with proper wings knowing that there is a workshop and props store beyond what you see.

Imagine, just imagine, that on this day or another day there will be a real orchestra either on the spacious stage or in front of it.

Imagine Sunday afternoons with visiting stars from the Theatre or Concert hall.

Imagine pictures on the walls.

Imagine our own large screen cinema showing outstanding films in an atmosphere only a cosy cinema can give whenever the theatre is not active.

Imagine another time when the floor has been levelled, the seats stowed away and the floor is about to spring to the feet of dancers as reel follows reel and kilts swirl.

Imagine in the light of day that our complex houses not just the Library but the Post Office, the Police Office, the Café open. People about and happy.

Imagine the rooms for Choir and Band practices, Debate and Learning.

Imagine that in the architecture that has brought about the sloping floor there is a height factor so that we have a collection of work places around the periphery for Guitar makers, Silversmiths, French Polishers, Photographers with other skilled people None of these are imaginary people, they, and people like them are here now doing the most amazing things as people like them did at the turn of the century. But now we care.

Imagine another site close by where we have a twelve bed cottage hospital for when we do not need the services of the big central hospitals but need somewhere to be nursed when being at home is not a good idea. Imagine that hospital with the doctors surgery just a

step away but in the same complex. Imagine also the surgeries for Dental surgeons, Podiatrists, Physiotherapists, and more for whatever professional medical people you need close at hand.

Imagine how important it was to have held onto the 2010 properties so that we could use them while the new complex evolved

Imagine our sports field with a good Pavilion and all the things that go on there

Imagine these things and think to yourself that the financial crises all came to an end. Remember that as history showed, politicians are only there from one election to the next. They had a different agenda from us. We are here but they are gone. They wished to exercise power but we are the ones who wielded it.

Imagine how holding the purse strings brought the services we needed. That we paid the Regional council only for the things they could usefully do for all towns and villages like ours, such as the major roads.

Imagine what the truth of devolving power to the people really meant.

Imagine! If from then, then is now and how different it was! Imagine.

Alan Lovegreen



Lochwinnoch International Aid

Lochwinnoch International Aid is starting its 6th year with its **AGM** on Monday **7th Feb.** 7.00pm till 7.45pm in the library. Anyone interested in our work and especially in joining us will be welcome.

We'll be reviewing the past year, with over £3000 distributed to several projects including the emergencies in Haiti and Pakistan, training centres, orphanages and disabled peoples' centres in Africa, fistula operations for poor women in Ethiopia and some to our Fairtrade banana producing friends in St. Lucia.

We have also started giving regular amounts to a few charities who need long term support (they all do really). Many of us give individually to charities and we encourage everyone to do that as well. We try to do something different each time and in the name of Lochwinnoch.

Fund raising involves us contributing through a small monthly standing order; if you want to help, get in touch. We also run events but not as many music events last year as before

so we'll be talking about how to get back into that. We have collecting tins in various places around the village for your spare cash.

We're having the second 'safari supper' during Fairtrade Fortnight, where people buy an evening meal with a difference. Details are in the news item about Fairtrade.

Dave Mellor, 20 High St, Tel: 843 099



courtesy of Scott Haughey

Library and Annexe Group (LAAG) Update

The Petition in a Book event started in what could only be described as "interesting" weather. The rain poured down, the wind blew umbrellas inside out and it was very cold. Despite this a hardy band gathered outside the McKillop Hall and then the Library to sign and hand over their books.

A photographer from the Paisley Gazette turned up who had previously photographed Library Action Group events and he said "You folks must be really mad about what's happening 'cause, it doesn't matter how bad the weather is, there's always a good turnout."

How to transport heavy books between the McKillop and the Library where the signings were happening? Kerry McKendrick solved the problem with his tarpaulin-draped wheelbarrow. No

St Vincent's Hospice

Charity Shop

Since the revival of interest in knitting we are asked regularly if we have wool for sale.

A big thank you to those who have already donated however we will always sell as much as we can get.

disrespect to the books we love but much easier to move them by barrow than have your arms fall off trying to carry them. The response has been fantastic, thank you both for the books and for all your encouragement.

The True Numbers

As you know the Council have tried to paint the library as failing and have produced statistics to help make their point.

We have already shown that these statistics were misleading and taken out of context but wanted to be absolutely sure we have out facts right e.g. Council quoted visits to Lochwinnoch Library were down by 2% over 4 years, this is correct but in Renfrewshire as a whole they were down 14% (they didn't mention that).

We used Freedom of Information Legislation to ask Renfrewshire Council for figures for all 12 libraries for the past 5 years. Guess what? It proved very difficult to get this information and finally involved the Information Commission who confirmed that Renfrewshire Council were acting illegally (for which they have now apologised and claimed a "confusion").

Of the 12 libraries in Renfrewshire

- *Cost per hour that the library is open:* Lochwinnoch Library is 2nd cheapest for 3 out of 5 years and 3rd cheapest for other 2 years The cheapest is Bishopton and Paisley Central the most expensive
- *Number of library loans/thousand population* Lochwinnoch Library is 1st one year and 2nd other 4 years Johnstone came 1st in the years that Lochwinnoch was 2nd and Ferguslie was lowest.
- *Number of library visits/thousand population (data only kept the last 4 years)* Lochwinnoch Library is 1st one year and 2nd other 3 years Again, Johnstone Library came 1st when Lochwinnoch was 2nd and Ralston came last.

We are still crunching numbers but it is easy to see that Lochwinnoch Library is not failing, rather it is a very well-run, well-used, value-for-money service. Margaret Sweeney and staff should be congratulated for the good work they have done and continue to do.

Lochwinnoch Community Library is worth supporting. Thank you for all your efforts! Don't forget the Action Group meetings on Wednesday 7.30 pm kindly hosted by the Brown Bull and the Meet and Borrow 11.30 am Saturdays at the library. Everyone welcome!

Follow the Library on Facebook:

<http://on.fb.me/Lochwinnoch>

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 3rd February 2011, at 1:30pm in the Mile End Centre, 30 Seedhill Road, Paisley.

Find out about our hearing aid maintenance volunteering scheme run in conjunction with RNID, about our drop-in clinics around Renfrewshire and about our work in Renfrewshire's Care Homes. We're trying to keep Renfrewshire hearing!

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

Beith Arts Sunday Concert

Our January concert was just wonderful - "Burns meets Mozart",

presented by Capricorniche (and beautifully accompanied on the piano by our very own Gordon Mabbott), was a melange of well-kent lyrics and melodies produced by the two great contemporaries.

It was a great pleasure to hear Burns' lyrics sung in traditional mode - 'My luvie is like a red, red rose' brought a tear to many an eye, so touching was this portrayal sung as a duet for tenor and baritone.

There was subtle comedy too, especially in some Mozart arias. The large audience responded with enthusiasm, and it was altogether a memorable afternoon, and just before Burns' birthday.

The next concert promises more good singing. It is entitled "Sea Fever", and will consist of songs by many composers, presented by the R.S.A.M.D.Song Studio. The four soloists are postgraduate students, and



will be accompanied by Timothy Dean, Head of Opera.

It is always a great pleasure to hear young artistes at the beginning of promising careers. They may in the future be big names on the operatic and concert circuits - and we shall be able to say that we heard them first in Beith Community Centre!

The concert is at 2.30 on 27th February, and all are welcome. Tickets are £8, concessions £6, students and children £1. Beith Community Centre is in Kings Road, Lochwinnoch

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Lochwinnoch SWRI

Members and friends enjoyed an enthusiastic presentation on the work of The Yorkhill Children's Foundation.

The competition winners were:

An open sandwich:

1. J. Galbraith
2. .R. Gould
3. E. Richmond

Small cross stitch picture:

1. R. Gould
2. D. Donn
3. J. Galbraith

The next meeting is on Wednesday 16 February at 7.30 in the McKillop Hall when members of the Gryffe Camera Club will return, by popular request, with another Diaporama presentation. Visitors welcome.

The competitions for members are: 3 Valentine Biscuits and a Pincushion (any craft).

Met Iona Biggar-Carr

HELLO dahling, HOW IS Fenella? Good. Ivor was so worried when he heard of her ordeal. The University of the West of Renfrewshire can be such a dangerous place for the unwary! All those students - have you SEEN how they dress? Ivor has SUCH a soft spot for her since the cave-diving incident, though why anyone would go cave-diving in six inch heels and a micro skirt I REALLY can't imagine. Oh yes he is QUITE recovered though chafing is still a problem that and the twitch.

I MUST apologise for Honor and her

friends. The little imps just didn't REALISE that tattooing was PERMANENT. I'm sure Kirsty will be FINE, just a matter of a new hairstyle, long sleeves and high necked tops. I must say I was SO disappointed by the spelling but perhaps one should be grateful that girls of that age are unfamiliar with such words. I'm sure we'll look back at this in a few years and LAUGH! Well, yes dear it may take QUITE a few years. As she grows I'm sure Kirsty won't notice the tattoos SO much though I do think the extra eye is PARTICULARLY CHARMING.

We've been invited to a SAFARI Supper, have you been to one? I'm not familiar with them and just hope I don't have to kill my own supper - I mean WHAT does one wear? Ivor is thinking of wearing Daddy's solar topee and khaki shorts which is alright for HIM but what about ME? It'll be a CHOICE between the leopard skin from the library wall - which could be a BIT draughty and there is the risk of being shot, so perhaps not - or a combination grass skirt and lots of necklaces (my figure not being QUITE what it was I'd rather NOT go down that route). I'll ask Itsy Castenellenbogan, they own RATHER a lot of Africa, you know, so she must know about safaris.

Thank GOODNESS for Lochwinnoch Library! Yes, dahling I know you are busy SAVING the library but I've been busy USING it. It is SO handy, you know - well I expect you do know. Yes dahling, I know I've been involved in demonstrating FOR the library but I hadn't actually USED it in AGES. With all my charity commitments I hardly have time to read Hello erm - I mean THE LADY, never mind a book!

You see we've had the TEENSIEST problem with our computer. Apparently Selwyn's new business idea is TECHNICALLY illegal and we

were cut off the Internet. Something to do with silly anti-organised crime legislation. No, I don't understand anything about it either and some of these policemen can be really QUITE RUDE they just wouldn't accept that what they call extortion is just a boyish money-making scheme. Still, I'm sure it will all be sorted out - just as well Selwyn's Godfather is a judge!

I really missed my cooking forum chums and was desperate to tell all about my liquorice and fig traybake and then I found out I could contact them using a computer in the library - and for FREE! Who knew!

We're back online now - although Selwyn is still banned from the Internet. He was a little DOWN but he has popped back with a new business idea - can't mention it - TOP SECRET!

MUST DASH there's a nice man in Amsterdam I'm web-chatting with who wants to know a surprising amount of personal details. A TEENSY bit NAUGHTY but fun! Just don't tell Ivor!

BYEEEE

An Honest Politician

In November 2010 Japan's Justice Minister, Minuro Yanagida, was forced to resign after he admitted jokingly that to do his job was easy as he only needed to learn two standard answers. These were:

"I don't comment on individual cases"

And

"We are handling the matter in accordance with the appropriate regulations"

Sound familiar?



Have LEAP helped you ?

"my wood burning stove is the best thing I've put in my house – ever !"

Bryony White

"I learned a lot more than I thought I would"

George Edgar

"this is all excellent advice, thank you"

Ann Fairfull

LEAP have completed over 230 Home Energy Checks with householders in Lochwinnoch. Providing advice on how to reduce fuel bills and make homes more energy efficient. The Climate Challenge Fund, who fund the LEAP project have announced more funding to support projects such as ours from April 2011 to March 2012. The LEAP team are currently considering an application for some of this funding to expand the LEAP project.

Is there more we could be doing? Would you be interested in a car sharing or leasing scheme? A community minibus? Community renewable energy? A wholesale food buying network or food cooperative? Is there something you would like LEAP to tackle?

We'd like your feedback on the project and hear your opinions on how it should grow. Please go to www.lochwinnoch.info/leap to complete a short survey or e-mail leap@lochwinnoch.info or phone Carol Gemmell on 842 040.

We'd love to hear from you, to show funders there is demand for the project in Lochwinnoch.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2011

Since becoming a Fairtrade village in November 2008, Lochwinnoch has made a continuing commitment to support Fairtrade producers and farmers across the world to improve their incomes and their community facilities. Fairtrade Fortnight, our annual awareness raising campaign, takes place between 28 February and 13 March, when we hope Lochwinnoch folk will get loud and proud about the Fairtrade goods they wear, eat, drink or use to cook with. A varied programme of local events has been organised to which everyone is invited.

Fairtrade events in Lochwinnoch

We start with a **free coffee tasting event** at The Junction, on Wednesday 2 March from 7 until 8.30pm, when Ivan Minucci is offering a great chance to

learn more about the aroma and taste of the distinctive Fairtrade single origin coffees he sells. There are only 10 places for this free event so advanced booking is required by ringing 01505-842225 or by calling into the cafe.

Another event being hosted at The Junction **will be a free Fairtrade wine tasting**, sponsored by the Cooperative membership's South West area committee, on Thursday 10 March from 7.30 until 9.30pm. During the evening there will be a chance to sample a sparkling wine, a rose, two reds (one is an award winning Malbec from Argentina) and a white. In between tastings there will be a film about Fairtrade wine and a quiz with prizes. Although the event is free of charge, those who wish to attend are asked to pay a deposit of £5 at the Junction since places are limited to 30. Deposits will be returned to those who attend the evening and there will be a collection to raise funds for the local Fairtrade campaign group. Reserve your place by paying a deposit over the counter at the Junction.

The RSPB is another important supporter of Fairtrade and on Wednesday March 9, from 7.30 until 9pm, it will host a **Twilight Talk on What difference does Fairtrade make?** Members of the local campaign will explain why Fairtrade is important for small producer communities and the environment. The evening will also involve a quiz and a short film to illustrate the talk plus a chance to try some of the range of Fairtrade drinks and snacks available at the RSPB. Advanced bookings are essential : £4 (£2 for RSPB members).

Fairtrade activities are also planned involving the pupils at the Primary School, who will design posters for display around the village.

Finally, on the evening of March 12 starting at 7pm, Lochwinnoch International Aid (LIA) is planning its second safari supper 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 'Fairtrade' meal in each of 3 different host homes in Lochwinnoch, meeting different folk as you move! There are spaces for 16 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 Fairtrade banana farmers re-establish their crop after hurricane damage and the evening will be a chance to find out more about how you can support LIA in the future.

To reserve a place, please let Bob Turner know by phone (843068) or email robert.turner111@btinternet.com with any dietary requirements. He will advise you how to pay if there are places left.

Fairtrade Fortnight Events in Paisley

Free tea, coffee, juice and biscuits will be provided. Renfrewshire Fairtrade Steering Group have written to every local school urging pupils to get involved and design their own Fairtrade bunting during Fairtrade Fortnight. Bunting packs are available from the Fairtrade Foundation website.

There are two further events on the same day. First, a **Fairtrade Farmers Market** in County Square, Paisley. Secondly, a **Fairtrade Football 5 – a –side Tournament**, being organised by UWS Students Association, on Saturday 26th February from 10.30am – 2.30pm. Contact Arnaud Bastianelli, 0141 849 4160 or sp@sauws.org.uk

People all over Renfrewshire are being urged to join in the bid to create the world's longest string of bunting. The challenge being organised by the Fairtrade Foundation will see groups all over the UK designing their own Fairtrade bunting to be part of the project. Renfrewshire Fairtrade Steering Group have written to every local school

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urging pupils to get involved and design their own Fairtrade bunting during Fairtrade Fortnight. Bunting packs are available from the Fairtrade Foundation website.

Other events taking place in Renfrewshire during Fairtrade Fortnight

A Fairtrade lunch takes place on Thursday 10th March from 11 - 2 at Methodist Central Hall in Gauze St, Paisley. There will be homemade soup and bread for a minimum donation of £1.00 and/or a specially made Fairtrade biscuit with the Fairtrade logo on top with tea/coffee also for a minimum donation of £1.00. Apart from these goodies the unmissable highlight of the event will be a performance by the talented Paisley based **Beechwood Women and Arts group** of their newly commissioned sketch on the injustices that make Fairtrade a lifeline for cotton farmers in West Africa and India - and how we can help. There will also be a further chance to design (and decorate if you wish) your own piece of Fairtrade cotton bunting.

Elsewhere, there will be two coffee mornings on Saturday 5 March in Freeland Church Hall in Bridge of Weir and on Saturday 12 March at Killelan Church Hall in Houston. These two events are being organised by the new Bridge of Weir/Houston Fairtrade group who are keen to welcome along anyone interested in Fairtrade locally to find out more about Fairtrade and how to get involved.

Finding out more about Fairtrade

There will be an **Information stand** at Braehead shopping centre, on February 22nd, between 10am and 9 p m . Information about where to get Fairtrade products when you are out shopping and eating, will be found in Renfrewshire Council's new *Fairtrade Guide to Renfrewshire : available in various venues and outlets in Lochwinnoch during Fairtrade F o r t n i g h t* . Another good source of information

about Fairtrade, including films about its importance is the Fairtrade Foundation website at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>. If you wish to help at an event or find out more, please contact Bob Turner (843068) or Lesley Scott (842589).

Postcard from Picardy 25th January 2011

Burns Night comes to Fouquenies

Saturday the 22nd saw the arrival of a dozen denizens and friends of Lochwinnoch at Beauvais/Tillé airport, and a reception committee from Fouquenies turned up in convoy to welcome old and new friends. Mission: to bring into focus the poetic and philosophical writings of Scotland's national poet, but with a French twist.

Once again, our pals from Picardy rolled out the red carpet, welcomed us into their homes, fed and watered us and showered us with kindness and seemingly never-ending hospitality. (By the time of their departure from Beauvais airport again, immediately prior to me writing this, many members of the tartan team were more worried about excess calorie-induced kilos round the waist than excess baggage in the hold of the plane.)

Claire and Michel Dubert had made available the function suite at the Moulin des Huguenots for a 'Welcome Lunch' on arrival, and the convivial atmosphere that began there was to continue for the entire 3 nights and four days of the visit. However, what had been intended as a light lunch proved to a veritable banquet; and there was a dinner to follow later that evening!

On Sunday most of the host families plus their Scottish guests gathered in nearby Méru to visit the fascinating Mother-of-Pearl Museum. It was an intriguing glimpse into the history of how Méru became known as the world

centre of Mother-of-Pearl production in the 19th century, due to its proximity to Paris, the fashion centre of the world. This precious and quite beautiful material is made from various types of sea-shell, large and small, from around the globe.

The museum is set in a former industrial factory not dissimilar in style to some of the Paisley and Johnstone mills. Goods such as buttons for clothing are still produced by hand within this museum, using the original methods employed and demonstrated by the staff there. However, the demand for these products is not what it once was, due to the much lower cost of mass-produced plastic buttons, fans and other goods and this caused the decline of the industry.

Sunday evening had been intended to be a rehearsal opportunity for our musicians, prior to the Burns Supper on the Monday. However, it seemed more appropriate to entertain our friends with an impromptu warm-up concert of traditional music, not necessarily only by Robert Burns.

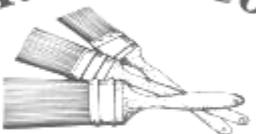
After all, they had organised the use of the school hall in nearby Pierrefitte-en-Beauvaisis and of course a fabulous picnic-style dinner to be eaten while the musicians did their thing. It turned out to be a great opportunity for the assembled international crowd to rehearse singing the chorus of "Green Grow the Rashies - O" by Burns, and to perfect rolling their 'Rs' in time for the main concert.

Monday came: B-Day. ie Burns Supper Day for us, since the return flight had been booked for Tuesday the 25th. By 9am the ladies of Fouquenies were already taking control of the cuisine. We felt guilty that our main contribution to the culinary delights was to have smuggled 5kg of Haggis plus 1kg of veggie haggis into the country by plane and Eurostar. (I'm only kidding about the smuggling - it had all been cleared in advance with the authorities.) The day seemed to rush by, with a quick practice beforehand for our musicians. It is to the credit of everyone taking part that they were able to keep it together with a minimum of rehearsal.

Proceedings got under way when Pauline, like the Pied Piper on this occasion, 'piped' in the haggis by flute and led the procession (Claire Dubert, Cheftaine de Cuisine; Michel Dubert, Haggis-Bearer and Food-Taster-In-Residence; and of course Roger, Whisky-Bearer and Beard-in-Following) in a figure-of-eight around the centre of the room, allowing the 50 diners to enjoy the spectacle of the poor beastie going to meet its doom.

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The haggis was duly despatched in the traditional fashion by myself then everyone raised their glass of whisky to toast 'The Haggis'. A fine vegetable soup was served by Scots and French volunteers alike and enjoyed by all. The veggie haggis option was much appreciated by those so disposed, and it has to be said that the original haggis was very well received by everyone else.

The traditional accompaniment of mashed potato was joined on the plate by a blend of turnip and carrot mash, adding a simple but delicious local touch. Our other international friend and guest, Folco Bencini, had waited 33 years for this moment and had flown in from Florence especially for the occasion. He was voted the addition of a splash of whisky to the haggis to be a masterstroke. Several times, in fact. I didn't realise haggis could be so intoxicating.

A further French twist was added to events with the opening of what could be a World First - a cheese bar! Our hosts had wanted to integrate a cheese course as part of the proceedings, and the quickest way to serve it up was for Michel Dubert to become the Cheese Barman. Franchises could soon be available in your area...

Dessert on this occasion was a home-made 'Galette des Rois' or Kings' Galette, a deliciously rich and sweet marzipan centre wrapped in filo



pastry. Several of these had been prepared by the ladies of Fouquenies, and one of them contained the 'favour' which, when found by the lucky diner, gets crowned king and then appoints his queen. As luck would have it, I had that privilege, and after only a moment's deliberation to add a little spice to the occasion, appointed Pauline as queen.

As regards the spoken and musical aspect of the evening, all presentations went well and were enjoyed greatly by our hosts and guests alike. Many speakers had gone to the trouble of translating into French to assist in the understanding of the messages and their sentiments.

In addition to their linguistic skills in that respect, Tom, Linda and John seem to have a symbiotic musical relationship and Tom had prepared a French version of his Toast to the Lassies. This redoubtable trio was joined by Marek and Pauline, who seem to be able to adapt whatever is required of them. On this occasion it included a well received part-spoken interpretation by Tom plus communal chorus of Green Grow the Rashies-O.

All our laddies were on the floor as backing singers for this as a suitable musical toast to the lassies. Dave (To a Mouse) and Shelley (The Immortal Memory) pulled off a brace of performances in French to great effect (some illustrations were used by Dave to show a bekilted mouse to the amusement of all) and Lindsay managed to translate a suitably bawdy reply for the lassies, which was followed by all our lassies singing Rantin Rovin' Robin. Marek joined Lottie to entertain us with Ye Banks and Braes and Ae Fond Kiss.

Many photographs were taken by our



French friends who thoroughly enjoyed the whole event. (If I've missed out any contributors, please forgive me; I'm working from memory and battling against a tight deadline.) Suffice to say, It was a great night!

Earlier this evening we had a final get-together at the Moulin des Huguenots. Tea and Cakes were served at 5 pm in a very British-style finale to a wonderful weekend. Hot tea and home-made cakes-a-go-go?

We were in seventh heaven, as you can well imagine. After a few words of thanks by Michel Dubert and myself, Marek and Pauline led the singing by a now well-rehearsed gathering, in 'Green Grow the Rashies - O' and this had a wonderful bonding effect on the crowd. A few minutes later, the convoy retraced its steps back to the airport. Bags were checked in, and to paraphrase another, more modern bard, Dougie Maclean

"Hands were shaken and kisses flowed, now I must disappear".

One final word regarding future events and exchanges with Fouquenies: On the last weekend of June 2011, the Saturday the 25th and Sunday the 26th, there is a wonderful opportunity to visit our friends in Fouquenies, combined with a major local medieval festival, La Fête Jeanne Hachette in Beauvais.

Our friends are heavily involved in this and would like to know how many visitors they are likely to have at this time, as tickets have to be booked in advance. Having attended this myself in the past I can assure you that it is an event not to be missed.

We are privileged indeed to have been offered this opportunity and we should make the most of it if we can. I encourage you to get in touch with me by email as soon as possible if you are interested, at: rory905@hotmail.com.

A bientôt, chums. More next month.

Ronnie McCorrisken

Lochwinnoch Arts Festival Art Exhibition

The Festival Art Exhibition will run from Friday 18th.March until Saturday 2nd April in the Library Room , Lochwinnoch Library during Library Hours.

Details of submissions will be available from the middle of February at Calder Gallery & Framing, 8 High Street, Lochwinnoch.



Lochwinnoch Arts Festival 16-27th March

This year's Arts' Festival begins on the 16th March and contains many familiar events, plus several new ideas. The theme is "Nostalgia" and during the Festival we will be taking a walk down memory lane as well as looking to the future. As usual, the opening event will be the Art Exhibition in the Library on the evening of Wed. 16th March, Susie Lamont's pupils will entertain us on

Friday evening in the Parish Church while in the Golf Club you can enjoy a Blues/Jazz evening.

Saturday 19th is a busy day with Crafts in the Library, Krafty Kids in the Parish Church during the day and a Scottish Evening in Calder Church in the evening. On the Sunday 20th in the evening there will be an Arts Festival Service in the Parish Church where we

will be involving as many contributors in the festival as possible.

Literary fans will be delighted to welcome the Scottish author Christopher Brookmyer to the McKillop Institute. There will be the usual second hand book sale during the evening.

One of the new events is a Tea Dance, which is free to pensioners, in the McKillop on Tuesday 22nd March at 10.30am McKillop Hall. This will also feature the premier of the Lochwinnoch Nostalgia Audio/Visual Show. This will be followed by a Classical Potpourri Concert, featuring Cameron Murdoch and members of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir in the Parish Church on the evening of Wednesday 23rd.

Local author Franzeska Ewart has written a new play, "The Spirit of Lochwinnoch" which will be performed by the Lochwinnoch Drama Group on

Thursday and Friday in the McKillop Institute. The play will feature the poetry of some of the P7 pupils from Lochwinnoch Primary School.

On Saturday 26th the McKillop will Host a 'Catford' folk night with Davy Cattanaich (formerly of the Old Blind Dogs), Steve Crawford, Jonny Hardie (formally of the Old Blind Dog) and guest Ali Hutton (Old Blind Dogs) and Nigel Hitchcock (a sax player who has played with artists such as the Peatbog Faeries, Stan Tracey, Claire Martin and Laurence Cottle). During the day there will be Crafts in Castle Semple Visitor Centre.

The Grand Finale Concert will be provided by Lochwinnoch Choral Society in the Parish church on the evening of Sunday 27th.

As some events are still in the planning, please look in next month's Chatterbox for exact times. We hope to see you at some of the above events – I am sure you would agree there is something for everyone.



Councillor Arthur's Report

This was the 11th year of our Hogmanay walk and the weather was so much kinder than last year. This allowed us to start off at Auld Simon and then visit the 3 churches. Numbers were very healthy and after sermon and prayers there was time for a chat over a cuppa and home baking.

Once again my thanks go to Julie, Fiona and Laura for organising the New Year's dance. It was another fantastic night and it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves from start to finish. The girls chosen charity this year was SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy). Thanks also to Margaret and Eamon who volunteered to open up the

hall and to Lochwinnoch Community Council for their continuous support.

I had much pleasure in attending Lochwinnoch Art Group's Art in the Park Exhibition in the Castle Semple Centre which has a mixture of traditional and contemporary work. The exhibition runs until Tuesday 8th February. It's well worth a visit.

It's always nice to hear of volunteers being recognised for their commitment and dedication. Volunteers like Alice Carnduff from our community who picked up an MBE for her outstanding services to Save the Children. Well done Alice, it is well deserved and I hope that you have a lovely day.

My next Surgery is on Saturday 19th February at 11:30am in the McKillop Institute but there is no need to wait for a Surgery if you require my help, you can contact me on 843507 or email me at

cldr.david.arthur@renfrewshire.gov.uk and we can agree a time when we can meet.

From the Parish Church

Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love,

the things you are,

the things you never want to lose.

From the television show "The Wonder Years"

We all have our favourite memories and our favourite quotes about memories. While memories can be enriching and at other times they can seem more like curse. We all have memories we yearn to forget and those we are fearful of losing. As Burns put it so well when addressing the mouse,

Still thou art blest, compar'd wi' me
the present only toucheth thee:
but, Och! I backward cast my e'e,
on prospects drear!
an' forward, tho' I canna see,
I guess an' fear!

Memories also have the power to heal and soothe. When we lose those we love, it is our memories that keep us going; it is our memories that keep our beloved alive in our hearts and minds. That is why it is so important around the time of a funeral to hear and share reminiscences about our departed friends. Yet it is not just our individual memories which are important, the memories of our community are vital to who we are and where we have come from.

In recent years there has been a move away from traditional teaching of history of facts and figures and an overview of politically important events to what is being termed "Social History". This is a



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

Douglas Alexander, Lochwinnoch's MP

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or come to one of my advice surgeries.**

way of studying History that includes the stories of ordinary people and their ways of coping with life and their reactions to major events. The WW2 People's War section of the BBC website is one of the best examples of this and there you can read the stories of ordinary people as they lived through the many events of the Second World War. As a parish minister I am aware of the rich heritage of social history that each person carries with them. I have learned so much more about the histories of the places I have lived from listening to the stories people told, often around the time of a funeral, than I ever have from reading books.

In recognition of our memories, this year's Arts Festival will have the theme of Nostalgia. Franzeska Ewart has written a wonderful play that the Lochwinnoch Drama Club will perform during the Festival. The play is set in the future and deals with the issue of how to capture the "Spirit of Lochwinnoch". Without giving too much away, the children decide to gather stories of the people who once lived in the village. We would also like to create a small audio visual social history project to be part of the festival.

The plan is to find photographs of views of Lochwinnoch or people who used to live here, or places of work which no longer exist and to chat about them. A presentation will be created that will be on display in various places around the village during the Festival. It is hoped that a permanent home for our project can be found within the village. It is also hoped this project is one which can be added to over the years.

This cannot be done without your help. We need your photographs and your reminiscences of Lochwinnoch. If you have any photographs you would be willing to lend out for a period of 48 hours, would you please contact me on 843484, or through the Church website? I will scan the photographs and return them to you and arrange

for a time to chat about your memories of days gone by. While the prime motivation for the project is to be complete for the Arts Festival (18th – 27th March), we will of course be able to add to it after this time, so please do contact me, even if you are going to be busy over the next few weeks. This is a chance for us to let the future know what we think is important about our past and a way of holding onto the things we love, the things we are and the things we never want to lose.

May God bless you with amnesia for all that has caused you pain and a long memory for the good things you have enjoyed.

Yours,

Christine



**Castle Semple
Sailing Club**

Although sailing at Castle Semple tends to be a summer activity especially during these long frozen winters the Club is still very active with social events, with weekly badminton on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm at the Lagoon in Paisley.

As the Loch was frozen during the festive period, rather than a New Year sail, members had to settle for an enjoyable walk to the Collegiate Church followed by soup and bacon butties back at the Club House. Members also recently challenged each other at Curling at Greenacres in a fiercely fought competition.

The Club will celebrate its 45th Anniversary this year and a special event will be held during the summer.

The official sailing programme will start at the end of March, if you are interested in joining the Club see web site for details

www.castlesemplesc.co.uk

