

Nuisance Helpline
Anti-Social Behaviour

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

CHATTERBOX

No 214 OCTOBER 2011

www.lochwinnoch.info

www.facebook.com/lochwinnoch

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

Surgery News

Computer System

We would like to say "Thanks" to all our patients for their patience and understanding during the changeover to the new computer system.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccine should be available from the beginning of October and we would encourage all those aged over 65, those with diabetes, chronic respiratory, heart, kidney, liver, neurological or immunosuppressive disease, all pregnant ladies and carers to have the vaccination.

Help Clean-up Lochwinnoch

This is a very good idea. We, residents in Calder Street, think the Primary School children could be involved in this as the mess they leave in this street is dreadful: crisp bags, chocolate wrappers, empty juice cartons, cans and bottles.

Children are the future residents of this village and should be involved in keeping it tidy.

Fete Change of Date

The Bowling Club Fete to be held on 1st October has been changed to 5th November due to illness.

The Fete will be held in the Clubhouse

5th November 1-4 pm

Tickets £1.50 includes tea.

Call Margaret 842013 or a Committee Member



Calder United
Free Church
Church Street



Food for Thought
**Last Monday of Every
Month**
(Sept – Mar)

7.30pm

Calder Church Hall



Topics this session include:

- The prophet Micah
- The impact of the King James Bible
- The Beatitudes (3 sessions)
- The devil

An opportunity to share a meal and discuss issues of faith

Please come along

All welcome

Wednesday evenings

6.30-7.30pm

The church is open for anyone who would like a little quiet time for prayer or meditation. All welcome.

A Patchwork of Colour

Why not escape this dreary weather and pop along to Paisley Museum where you will find that Paisley Patchers 25th Anniversary Exhibition of quilts is now on until **3 0 t h O c t o b e r .** Tuesday - Saturday 11am- 4pm, Sunday 12-5, closed Mondays

There is a rainbow of colour to brighten your day with quilts from King-size to miniature on display made by the members of Paisley Patchers who are a group of women from all over Renfrewshire (including Lochwinnoch), and some from North Ayrshire.

There will be a member of Paisley Patchers there who will be happy to chat about the craft with you and of course entry is free.



BB Coffee Morning

The Boys' Brigade are holding a Coffee Morning in The Parish Church Hall on Saturday 29th. October from 10.00am till 12 Noon.

Tickets are available from members of The Company.

MATTHEW NEW & SONS

ROOFING - ROUGHCASTING - BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Emergency Repairs, Storm Damage
Insurance Work, New Roofs, Flat Roofs
Roughcasting -UPVC Cladding—Guttering

Tel No 01505 843400

FMB Certificate No 26366



Lochwinnoch War Memorial Project

A historic landmark in Lochwinnoch is set for a revamp as part of a programme of local green network projects in Renfrewshire's towns and villages.

The Lochwinnoch War Memorial Project aims to improve the setting of the memorial and more fully reflect the Memorial's role at the heart of the village community. The existing benches which are in poor condition are set to be replaced. New paving is set to be installed which reflects the site's conservation area status.

A key aim of the project will be to address various issues involving the cherry trees around the memorial which are reaching maturity. The canopies of the trees are very wide with heavy branches which are reducing the amount of available light and increasing the risk of the branches breaking. Some of the existing trees are also causing extensive root damage to the path. This damage is encroaching on the War Memorial itself. Possible solutions being considered include crown pruning, root barrier treatment and selective tree removal – but only as a last resort.

Renfrewshire Council and Johnstone and the Villages Local Area Committee have already given their financial backing to the project. An application for funding has also been made to Historic Scotland. It's hoped the total budget for the project could be around £10,000. A consultant landscape architect has recently been appointed by Renfrewshire Council to design a scheme and manage the works once a contractor is appointed. Before the proposal is finalised, the community

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

Tel: 01505 842632

chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info

COPY DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER IS MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

of Lochwinnoch will have the chance to give their views. Lochwinnoch Community Council will organise a meeting where residents can view and comment on the various options. Renfrewshire Council representatives will also attend that meeting. Details of the date and venue will be publicised once they are confirmed.



Lochwinnoch Fairtrade Group and Lochwinnoch International Aid

invite you to a fund-raising

Safari Supper

(it's a bit different!)

Meet and mix - as you rotate tables between courses - with other guests whilst enjoying a three course meal of delicious home-cooked, fairly-traded food served on hosted tables, each with a different theme.

Enjoy our relaxing musical entertainment from Australian artist Rebecca Wright

Parish Church Hall, 7.30, Saturday November 12th 2011

Places limited! Tickets £15 per head. All surplus money (after basic expenses) will go to LIA-funded projects.

Please reserve your seat by contacting

Lesley Scott on 842 589 or Fairtrade Group- or LIA members or email Fairtrade@lochwinnoch.info

The First Village Food Festival

A big thank you to everyone in the village for participating in the Food Festival which took place at the heart of the village on Saturday 17th September. It felt like a great

community day out, with a wide range of local produce and great live music from local artists including an inspiring opening performance from the choir. Should we do it again? Should we do it differently? – We'd appreciate feedback from everyone. Please go to www.lochwinnoch.info/leap/foodfestival and click on the link to the Eat Lochwinnoch Food Group Survey to give us your thoughts and suggestions.

If you would like to find out more about anything to do with the project take a look at our webpages at www.lochwinnoch.info/leap or email leap@lochwinnoch.info phone 842 530 or drop in to The Hub, 22 Church Street to find out more.

Carol Gemmell, LEAP Project Manager

Lochwinnoch Choir and the Food Festival

A big thank-you to LEAP for organising the Food Festival. It was a fabulous day which brought the whole community together.

Also thank-you to all the members and friends of the choir who donated wonderful home-baking, crafts and their time to help out on the stall.

We had a very successful day and sold out all our goods. So thank-you to all who bought our produce and supported the choir.

The cakes we raffled were won by two local ladies: Fran and Moira. Hope they enjoyed them!

We will have tickets available shortly for a St Andrew's Dance in the McKillop Hall on 3rd December with music by the well-known Tony Finn and Jimmy!

Our Christmas Concert is on the 23rd December.

So, congratulations to Rob and the team at LEAP, Ivan and Sean. Hopefully they can put together another day like the 17th!

*The Committee
Lochwinnoch Choir*

For Rent

Modern 2 bedroom Flat, First Floor, Calder Street with off-street parking
Furnished or unfurnished
£440 per month

For details phone David on 07767 755 263





Eat Lochwinnoch

The LEAP Food Group (Eat Lochwinnoch) hopes everyone who attended the recent Food Festival had a great time. It certainly seemed very successful and we will be looking into running one again. Many thanks to Sean Middleton who provided the stalls, which gave it a real village market feel. And thanks, too to the volunteers who made it happen, the stall holders and, of course, all you lovely people who turned up and shopped locally.

If anyone would like to join Eat Lochwinnoch, who are also planning a food co-op and looking for more ideas to encourage the consumption of local produce and shopping locally (saving on fuel-miles), please speak to Rob at LEAP, 22 Church St, phone 842 530, or find out more at

<http://www.lochwinnoch.info/leap>

Lesley Scott



Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

New Autumn/Winter What's On & Opening Hours The park's new What's On event guide will be available to pick up in Visitor Centres and online from the beginning of October. The Greenock Cut Centre and Muirshiel Centre will be open weekends only, 11:00-15:00 hrs, from the end of October onwards. Castle Semple will be open daily 10:00-16:00 hrs.



Star Gazing Returns to Muirshiel Centre

Last year was so successful that we will be again running our star gazing evenings at Muirshiel Country Park. Hosted at one of the darkest skies in Renfrewshire and in collaboration with Paisley's Coats Observatory staff, each evening will be themed with a different aspect of galactic exploration. The first date is Friday 28th October, 19:00-21:00 hrs.

East Lochhead Self-Catering Cottages



Contact
JANET ANDERSON
East Lochhead Self-Catering Cottages
Kilbirnie Road, Lochwinnoch
Renfrewshire PA12 4DX
Tel: +44(O) 1505 842610
Mob: 07885565131
admin@eastlochhead.co.uk
www.eastlochhead.co.uk

Clyde Muirshiel Park Annual Report 2010/2011

Regional Park Manager Charlie Woodward is delighted to have been invited as guest speaker at the Lochwinnoch Community Council AGM on the 4th October. Charlie will focus on 40 years of Castle Semple and maintaining the special relations between the Park and the local community. Following the publishing of our Annual Report 2010/11, Charlie will be looking for views from the community regarding what you would like to see prioritised in the Park's 2012/13 workplan. For more information on the Annual Report and consultation on the 2012/13 workplan, please see our website.

Outdoor Activity Happenings and Opportunities at Castle Semple

New Directions have been working with the Castle Semple Centre this year on their day expedition programme. We have been sea kayaking & canoeing on Loch Lomond, mountain biking at Arrochar and hillwalking at the Rest and Be thankful. A brilliant day was had and the instructors are looking



forward to 3 weeks mountain biking with this really keen group. Want more info on organizing a group booking for a 6 or more people you know? Call Willie or Dave on 01505 842 882 Ex 21.

Photographic Competition 2011

Closing date is Friday 21st Oct. Very soon! Get out there and capture our impressive woodlands at their best. There is £250 to be won. Look online or pick up a leaflet at a Visitor Centre for details. The display of entries will be open to the public at Castle Semple on Sat 5th Nov.

'Eid in the Woodlands'

On Saturday 10th September Forestry Commission Scotland, in association with Regional Park staff hosted a religious and cultural Eid-al-Fitr event celebrating the end of Ramadan in Parkhill Wood. Muslim communities from all over Glasgow joined together for talks, a Halal picnic, as well as varied games and crafts. Parkhill has many special attributes that make it suitable for such an event and despite the dreary weather, the beautiful environment proved successful in making a special outdoor prayer space for all involved.





Castle Semple Sailing Club

Ian Brown Motors Cup – 11 September 2011

Well, we all knew Hurricane Katia was on its way and certainly the start of it appeared to have arrived early at Castle Semple Loch, but four boats bravely took to the water; Robbie and Johnathan (Vago), Angus and Arthur (Arthur's GP14 - Fiona had volunteered crew for Arthur, but having seen the conditions, sensibly opted for a shopping trip instead), Paul and Barry in the Golden Ticket (not sure exactly how willing Barry was for this!) and Leo in his laser.

There was no chance of a 10.00am start since no one was on the water until nearly 11.00. Big Stan came for an inspection of the proceedings commented that the soup wasn't hot and promptly left.

Race 1: Leo didn't even manage to complete the first lap, due firstly to a tangled main sheet and then a broken tiller extension. Robbie and Johnathan had a close battle with Angus and Arthur, but the GP14 just beat them over the line.

Race 2: Robbie and Johnathan had swapped places and quickly went for a swim before the start of the race, not sure if there was a minor father and son domestic as there were mutterings of two helms being in the boat but that was them finished for the day, having

had several pre race swims. Which just left the two GP14's to compete.

Lunchtime brought Oliver out from the fireside, eager to get out and catch some of the action, there was a slight problem in that he couldn't actually find a willing crew. Unfortunately, for Iain, who thought he would be safely sailing with Arthur for the afternoon, he arrived too late and Angus and Arthur were already back out on the water, and Iain was immediately captured by Oliver and told he would be going out in the Yellow boat, albeit they would be too late for Race 3.

Race 3: started with the two GP14s competing with the increased wind and rain - Paul must have been pleased he had fought off the competition, but he just couldn't catch Arthur's boat.

Oliver and Iain finally got out on the water and it must have been, at least five minutes before they went for a swim. Having righted the boat (eventually) Iain attempted an ill advised gybe and they were promptly swimming again, with the mast firmly stuck in the mud. By this time Paul was feeling left out and decided it was only fair for him and Barry to join in for a second swim, since there was no chance of catching Angus and Arthur. Eventually Race Officer,

Jim sensibly decided enough was enough.

With the Yellow Boat still firmly stuck Leo managed to kidnap a safety/rescue boat from the Centre and headed towards it. Oliver in attempting to free the mast somehow became entangled with some sheets and ended up with a foot round the mast. Unfortunately, for him by this time the boat had drifted very close to the bank and I understand there is yet another photo of Oliver in a compromising position.

In meantime, Paul and Barry were experiencing the same problem on the other side of the loch and Barry was beginning to realise why Carolyn had been so keen for him to crew for Paul rather than her. Barry opted for a short reprise in the safety boat whilst Paul demonstrated his Wednesday tactic of sailing off without his crew.

Sometime later, everyone was back in the Club House and Angus and Arthur were declared the winners. Phew! Many thanks to Ian Brown Motors for sponsoring the event.

Jim did an excellent presentation and thanked everyone who supplied food and helped in the kitchen; the soup and jacket potatoes being particularly welcome by some rather damp people.

GP14 Team Racing at Derwent Reservoir – 3rd and 4th September

The GP14 Team Racing this year was hosted by Derwent Sailing Club. Twelve happy campers from CSSC eventually made it down there plus two groupies in the form of Dandy Stan and Trucker Crawf (also first team reserve). Stan and Crawf were camping in Stan's trailer tent, known as a Dandy hence Dandy Stan. Barry and Carolyn had borrowed an old VW Camper van and the rest of us were in tents.

Carolyn put on the Notice Board before we left "don't miss this one-off opportunity" and it certainly was.

Plan A was to leave in sufficient time so as to arrive in daylight to erect tents. Since we were still in Cardonald at 6.30pm there was little chance of arriving in Derwent before sundown. However, it was not raining or cold so with the help of the advance party ie Dandy Stan and Trucker Crawf tents were erected.

Saturday morning started wet but Duncan and Paul bravely set about crucifying some bacon and burgers on the gas barbecue, at least that's what I think they were before cooking. I like

my bacon crispy but the charred offerings were taking things a bit too far.

The rain was replaced by a gentle breeze which soon became a 30 mph wind. Racing was slightly delayed due to the conditions and it was decided that for safety reasons instead of six boats racing at a time (3 teams) only four boats would race. Castle Semple Team D was first up with Duncan/Barry and Steve and stand in crew Trucker Crawf (Steve's normal crew being temporarily indisposed). Duncan and Barry survived the race but Steve and Crawf soon went for a swim, joining a Derwent boat. After that racing was suspended for an hour until the wind lessened a little, when of course the opposite happened.

Race 8 saw Paul and Carolyn in an immaculate Derwent boat. The low water level meant that centreboards could not be put down until a good 20 metres out, a fact which had apparently escaped Paul as he was heard to say something to the effect of "Carolyn dear, when you have a moment do you think you could possibly put the centreboard down as I am slightly concerned about hitting the pier and damaging the boat", to which Carolyn's reply was something to the effect of "Oh Paul, just a minute whilst I fix my hair, I'm trying my best but the water just isn't deep enough" as the boat was rapidly approaching the wooden pier. Paul, in a rather more urgent voice -" will someone **please** jump off the pier to stop the boat getting damaged". Ross saved the day by jumping into the shallow water narrowly averting a catastrophe since we would have had to have paid a premium for any damage.

Saturday night's barbecue became a guessing game of carbon dating the

burnt offerings. And then the Quiz followed, needless to say we didn't do any better at this than we did on the water. Paul's team resorted to some cheating but were quickly roused. Of course, there was a dispute over at least one of the answers (naturally Stan knew them all but just didn't tell us until afterwards). Question under the geography section - what is Portland Bill - Answer from quiz master a lighthouse. Castle Semple argued it was a spit not a lighthouse.....

Sunday morning dawned bright warm and sunny (and little wind) and breakfast turned in to a somewhat more civilised affair with the team moving from the Dandy to the VW for any food going. Although Stan did complain at someone's audacity to use the butter knife in his jam, manners must be kept up under all conditions.

Racing started late again, partly due to the Derwent Race organiser not being seen until well after the supposed 10.30 start. Castle Semple A team went through to the tie break and took fourth place with Castle Semple C and D teams in 5th and 6th.

You may have noticed I haven't actually mentioned exactly how many teams took part, well folks if you weren't there you will just have to work it out for yourselves!!

www.castlesemple.co.uk



Councillor Arthur's Report

Back in June's edition of Chatterbox, I reported that the area around the War Memorial was included in the Local

Green Network Project. The total budget for the Lochwinnoch work is now likely to be in the region of £10,000.

I also intimated that Lochwinnoch Community Council would be contacted for their views on how to best spend the money.

Proposals for the work, which includes the removal of some trees, was presented by an officer from Renfrewshire Council at the September meeting of the Community Council and a number of actions were agreed. Included in these actions was an article in this month's Chatterbox, a display of the proposed works in the McKillop Institute and in the Library, as well as a public meeting to be held by the Community Council.

I also have a few sets of drawings which show the proposals. Contact me if you wish to see them.

The recent LAC (Johnstone & Villages Local Area Committee) saw this financial year's grant budget exhausted. There were two applications from our community groups and I'm delighted to report that both were granted. These were the Calder Drama Club £499 and the Lochwinnoch Country Dance Club £400. In this financial year just under £8,000 of grant fund made its way to our village.

Well done to the LEAP (Local Energy Action Project) team for our community's successful Lochwinnoch Food Festival.

If you require my help, you can contact me on 843507 or email me at clr.david.arthur@renfrewshire.gov.uk and we can agree a time when we can meet.

THREE CHURCHES RESTAURANT

At the Garthland Arms

5 Church Street

Lochwinnoch

Tel: 01505 843 854

Lunch Menu—12pm—5pm

Evening Menu—5pm—8pm



What's on for October

Live bands

- Sat 1st Jeff
- Sat 15th Daniel Docherty
- Sat 29th Halloween Party fancy dress with Gamble, Gamble & Drever. Come along and join the fun.

Special Offers at Three Churches

- Mondays—Kids Eat Free
- Thursdays night—any curry & rice £5.00
- Fridays—Steak Night £10.00
- Sundays—Sunday Roast £7.95

Quiz Night every Thursday (cash prize)



Lochwinnoch Community Library

Opening hours:

Mon, Tues : 10am- 1pm & 2-5pm
Wednesday : 2 -5 pm and 6 - 8 pm
Thursday : Closed
Fri, Sat : 10 am-1 pm & 2 - 5 pm

Services available:

- Free Broadband Internet
- Free document Shredding facility
- Photocopier & printer (15p per black & white copy)
- Fax (Charge depending on UK or Overseas destination)

New Titles

Peter Robinson : Before the poison

Through the years of success in Hollywood composing film scores, Chris always promised his wife they'd return to the Yorkshire Dales one day. Now a widower, Chris feels he must not forget his promise. Back in the Dales, he rents an isolated house that

will allow him the space to grieve and the peace to compose his piano sonata. But when he finds that the house was the scene of a murder in the 1950s, and the convicted murderer was one of the last women hanged in England, he finds himself increasingly distracted by the events of sixty years before . . .



Ruth Rendell : The Vault

The impossible has happened. Chief Inspector Reg Wexford has retired. He and his wife now divide their time between Kingsmarkham and a coachhouse in Hampstead belonging to their actress daughter, Sheila. For all the benefits of a more relaxed way of life, Wexford misses being the law. But a chance meeting in a London street, with someone he had known briefly as a very young police constable, changes everything. Tom Ede is now a Detective Superintendent, and is very keen to recruit Wexford as an adviser on a difficult case.

The bodies of two women and a man have been discovered in the old coal hole of an attractive house in St John's Wood. None carries identification. But the man's jacket pockets contain a string of pearls, a diamond and a sapphire necklace as well as other jewellery valued in the region of £40,000. Wexford is intrigued and excited by the challenge -- until this new investigative role brings him into serious physical danger.

Carole Matthews : Wrapped up in you

A Christmas fling, or has Janie found the real thing? Thirty-something hairdresser Janie Johnson's single status is a constant source of gossip for her friends and clients. So after too many nights in with her cat, a blind date disaster and news that her ex is getting married, Janie realises it's time to do something dramatic with her life. It's time for an adventure! Leaving winter behind, Janie takes the plunge and books an exotic trip to Africa. Her friends think she's mad and Janie thinks they may very well be right ...but then she falls head over heels for her tour guide ? and fully fledged Maasai Warrior ? Dominic. But can Janie now face spending a snowy Christmas back home without him?

Packed with unforgettable characters, romance and laughter, *Wrapped Up In You* is your very own perfect Christmas Carole!

Chris Ryan : Killing for the Company

2003. Invalided out of the SAS Chet Freeman makes his living in high-end security, on a temporary contract for an American corporation called the Grosvenor Group. He catches a young woman, a peace campaigner, eavesdropping on a meeting the Group is holding with the British Prime Minister. The Group's interests include arms manufacture, and what Chet and the young woman overhear seems to imply that it is bribing the Prime Minister to take his country into an illegal war.

Could this possibly be true?

J.D. Robb : New York to Dallas

When a monster named Isaac McQueen - taken down by Eve back in her uniform days - escapes from Rikers, he has two things in mind. One is to pick up where he left off, abducting young victims and leaving them scarred in both mind and body. The other is to get revenge on the woman who stopped him all those years ago.

Penny Vincenzi : The decision

Set against a vibrant sixties backdrop, this is the story of two bright young things: Eliza, an ex-deb making a splash in the world of fashion, and Matt, a working-class boy carving out a serious name for himself in property. Their story begins with a love affair, closely followed by a marriage, followed by a baby. But whilst their relationship is at first fuelled by passion, it's not of the enduring kind, and soon what started out with such promise descends into a harrowing divorce case and an epic custody battle. With everything at stake for both Eliza and Matt, and neither party willing to give up their little girl without a fight, it's high drama in the courts. Let battle begin...

Professional Freelance Wedding Florist Elaine Lamont

Free home consultation

Tel: 01505 506169

Mob: 07505 735733

Email: elamont@live.co.uk

www.elainelamont.co.uk



**Lochwinnoch
Library
Bookbug
Rhymetime**



Every Tuesday at 9.30am

Come along and join in the fun.....

Suitable for children aged birth - 4 years

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.



On their first visit to the participating library children are issued with the Bookbug's Library Challenge collector card. Every time they visit the library the collector card will be stamped, and your child can exchange four stamps for one of our beautifully illustrated Library Challenge certificates.

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!



Renfrewshire Libraries have teamed up with the BBC to provide First Click, a beginners computing course aimed at people aged 55 and over.

Groups are small and friendly and you will meet other beginners just like yourself.

By the time you have completed the course you will be able to:

- understand desktop and icons
- use a mouse
- use a keyboard
- know about the internet

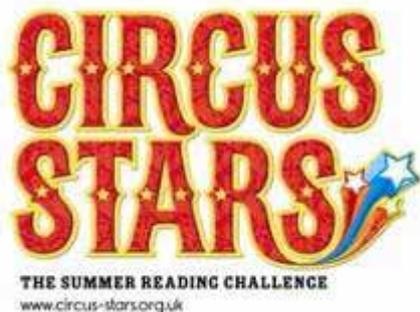
- keep safe online
- send and receive email
- understand computer jargon

The next course at Lochwinnoch Library is due to start in October.

Other, more advanced online courses are available to library members and can be accessed at home or in the library :

- ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence)
- Driving theory test with Theory Test Pro
- Internet Safety Course
- Life in the UK test or British Citizenship test

Why not pop into Lochwinnoch Library and find out more.



Congratulations to all of the children who took part in this years "Summer Reading Challenge"

Of the 53 Lochwinnoch children who participated, 40 completed the challenge.

Certificates & medals will be issued shortly.

This term sees the continuation of the Lochwinnoch Primary & Lochwinnoch Library Reading Scheme.

Children are encouraged to borrow books from the library . Once returned, the children are asked a simple question about the book, a card is stamped and on presentation to the teacher they will be awarded House Points.

We are happy to announce that a large selection of new junior books have arrived for all age groups from babies to teens.

Homework help for all school topics Renfrewshire libraries know how important is for children to have access to safe and accurate information that supports learning and is aligned to the national curriculum.

Our e-resources offer a whole host of online information including age appropriate articles, images, educational videos and interactive learning games to assist with understanding and development.

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/libraries

Follow the link :

Children & Young people

Recycling

We are still accepting HP Print cartridges and mobile phones to recycle on behalf of the charity CHAS



Could you spare 3 hours per week?

We are looking for extra volunteers to help in our charity shop in Lochwinnoch. Help needed mornings or afternoons.

Please contact Christine Haddock, Volunteer Co-ordinator, on 01505 705635 or pop into the shop for an application form.



Lochwinnoch Car Club Meeting

Wed 12th Oct 7-8 pm in the McKillop

Renewable Energy Technology Showcase

Sat 29th Oct 12-5 pm in the McKillop

find out more www.lochwinnoch.info/leap

Contact:

leap@lochwinnoch.info , phone 842 530, pop into The Hub, 22 Church Street

What's On

Regular clubs, classes and groups

- **First Friday of Month**—Semple Tones host an open mike session at Lochwinnoch Golf Club. Come along, don't be shy
- **Healing and Creativity Workshops & Classes.** For details or to book a place, please Tel Becky: 0141 8816700 or Libby on: 015105 842604.
- **Lochwinnoch¹ 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 McKillop. Phone Coby on: 0772 9051615.

J Quinn & son Memorials

Personal Service & Quality

Guaranteed

New Memorials

Additional Inscriptions

Cleaning & Renovations

SALE ITEMS ALWAYS IN STOCK

42 MAIN STREET

KILBIRNIE

Please Call 01505 68 5455

Mon & Fri 10am-5pm

Tue-Thur 10am-2pm

Sat 10am-1pm

- **Lochwinnoch Writers Group**—Monday from 2-4:15pm in the Library. Contact 873581
- **Knit @ The 19th at the Golf Club**— Monday 10am-12 noon (or longer), all levels and learners welcome.
- **Advice Works**—At the Library by appointment only. Contact 382328
- **Baby Yoga—for children**, at Castle Semple Centre, 10am Active Baby (crawling up to 2 yrs), 11am Baby Nurture (birth—crawling/1yr)
- **Morag's Keep Fit**—Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm, in the McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Choral Society.** Rehearsals on Monday evenings, Parish Church/ Hall. Juniors 7:15-8pm, 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 McKillop Institute.
- **Drop-in T Bar** - Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum. Every Tuesday from 10am-1pm, McKillop Inst. Closed 28 June reopens 30 August For details, Tel Rita 842054
- **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.
- **Scottish Country Dance Club**—Every Tuesday, from 7.30-9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **Jogging Buddies**—Wednesday evenings. Meet at Lochbarr Services 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, McKillop Inst. only 1 class 7-8:30pm. call 842877 to book.
- **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
- **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 months to 5 yrs). Fridays, from 10.15am - 1.45pm at the McKillop. Further details from Coby on Tel: 0772 9051615.
- **Liathach Dog Training** (pre-booking necessary). Anne Moss, Tel: 01505 842367, e-mail: dogtraining@f2s.com
 - Monday Beith 11am—Int / Adv class
 - Tuesday Kilbarchan 6.30pm - Puppy Course
 - Wednesday Kilbarchan 6.30pm - Puppy Course 7.30pm - Juvenile class 8.30pm—Int / Adv class
 - Thursday Beith 8.00pm - Dog Club (Int/Adv)

Some activities may cease during holidays, please check

Upcoming Events

- **Sat 1 Oct—Jeff** is back again live at the Three Churches at the Garthland Arms tel: 01505 843854 to book
- **Mon 3 Oct—Tea Dance**, Paisley Arts Centre, 1pm, £2.
- **Tues 4 Oct—Community Council AGM**, Bowling Club, 7.30pm
- **Wed 5 Oct—Lochwinnoch Art Group Exhibition** public opening in the Library 6-8pm. Exhibition runs until 22nd Oct.
- **Fri 7 Oct—Open Mic**, The Club House Lochwinnoch Golf Club. An evening of music and song. All varieties welcome to play and sing. Food served until 9.30pm
- **Fri 7 Oct—Curry and Quiz Night**, 7.30 – 10pm, McKillop Hall, £6. Contact Alec on 843449 or 07740 0 9 7 9 6 7 E m a i l : OctoberQuiz@myslasy.com
- **Fri 7 Oct—Absolute Elvis**, Paisley Town Hall, 7.30 pm £15, (£12.50 conc.)
- **Wed 12 Oct—Car Club** information meeting 7 pm McKillop Hall
- **Sat 15 Oct—Dance in aid of St Vincent's Hospice** to live music, St Margaret's Church Hall, Johnstone. Tel: 01505 705635 for tickets or more information
- **Mon 17-22 Oct—St. Mirren children's football camp** 9:30am till 12:30pm, Lochbarr Centre
- **Fri 21 Oct—An evening of Jazz** with Richard Mulhearn and Band. Hot Spanish buffet including dessert. Glass of wine included. Tickets £19.95 The Club House Lochwinnoch Golf Club.
- **Sat 22 Oct—Cabaret** at the Bowling Club with Neil Diamond and Kenny Rodgers 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets £7 call Margaret 01505 843013 or committee member.
- **Fri 28 Oct—Stargazing** at Muirshiel Country Park 7-9pm
- **Sat 29 Oct—BB Coffee Morning** in the Parish Church Hall, 10 – 12 noon.
- **Sat 29 Oct—Renewable Energy Technology Showcase**, McKillop Hall Tel: LEAP 842530, or call in at The Hub for more information.
- **Sat 29 Oct—Halloween Band Night** at Lochbarr Centre featuring The Versions plus special guests, £2.50 entry all proceeds going to Cancer Research UK, prize for best costume and best carved pumpkin.
- **Sun 30 Oct—Kids Halloween Party** Disco, Crafts, Games, and party

food. Ages 5 to 11. The Club House Lochwinnoch Golf Club Tickets £5 Book early to avoid disappointment.

- **Mon 31 Oct—Food For Thought**, Calder United Free Church, 7.30pm, share a meal and discuss issues of faith.
- **Fri 4 Nov—Open Mic**, The Club House Lochwinnoch Golf Club. An evening of music and song. All varieties welcome to play and sing. An enjoyable evening of fun for all the family. Food served until 9.30
- **Sat 5 Nov—Bowling Club Fete**, in the Clubhouse, 1-4 pm Tickets £1.50 includes tea. Call Margaret 842013 or a Committee Member
- **Sun 6 Nov—Car boot/Table top sale**, Lochbarr Centre, 11am - 3pm, tables £5 each (if the weather is bad we will set up in the function hall – so please book early to avoid disappointment!) call 01505 842808, 07941257100 or 07748859683
- **Fri 11 Nov—"The Fall Ball"** raising funds for the Erskine home for the military. Ceilidh and true Scottish Stovies, The Club House Lochwinnoch Golf Club, Tickets £8.50 available from The Junction, Brown Bull, Golf Club and Calder Gallery.
- **Fri 11 Nov—Quiz & Band Toddlers Fundraising Night** at Lochbarr Centre featuring **Gamble, Gamble and Drever**, fundraiser for our local mothers and toddler group, the quiz is from 7.15 till 9.15 followed by the fabulous Gamble, Gamble and Drever. If you would like to enter a team (teams of 8) please call 07748859683 or drop in

for an entry form.

- **Sat 12 Nov—Safari Supper**, Parish Church Hall, 7.30 pm
- **Thurs 24 & Fri 25 Nov—Calder Drama Christmas Panto**, McKillop Hall, 7.30pm Adult Tickets £6 Pensioners/Children £4



Christmas Pantomime

Calder Drama are pleased to announce their November Production, 'The Kelpie's Song.' A brand new Christmas Pantomime written by local Playwright, Franceska G. Ewart, taken from the poem, 'Loch Legend' by Betty McKellar.

It tells of a young girl's unshakable belief in the existence of a mythical creature, King Kelpie, whose domain lies deep beneath the waters of the Loch. There is mystery, sorcery, kidnapping, comedy and romance which should appeal to young and old alike, and ends as all good Pantos should with everyone including the 'Baddie' living happily ever after. Performances in the McKillop Hall on Thursday 24th & Friday 25th November.

Doors open 7.00 pm with Curtain Up at 7.30 pm. Tickets will be available from Cut & Care Hairdressing - Wilson the Bakers - Now & Then. Ticket Prices -

Adults £6.00

Senior Citizens/ Children £4.00

Word Search—"around the world" (21 words) *Answers on back page*

A	A	I	F	M	L	E	O	N	Y	T	E	A
T	I	E	E	I	I	L	R	L	A	A	A	S
N	T	D	H	A	S	E	A	A	N	M	A	E
H	A	S	S	D	W	T	N	A	U	E	C	L
M	O	D	W	I	I	I	H	I	N	N	G	A
S	R	N	E	N	T	G	G	G	A	I	I	W
C	C	A	D	N	Z	L	A	R	R	R	H	T
O	O	L	E	U	E	G	F	O	N	H	K	C
T	M	G	N	B	R	E	P	E	R	U	R	U
L	R	N	M	I	L	A	M	G	D	D	O	R
A	N	E	A	L	A	E	S	T	O	N	I	A
N	A	N	R	D	N	A	L	N	I	F	R	C
D	N	I	K	A	D	A	N	A	C	T	T	A

Caught out catching up.

When I had cleaned out my PC and saved everything I thought worthy of keeping to disk, I called up Amazon and from one of their subcontractors ordered copy of Windows 7. From all accounts this was the best Windows program so far. It had all of the old XP simplicity and none of the Vista difficulties and what is more one could do a clean install. My hard disk would be cleaned and then in would go the new program. With a good version on disk I could transfer to another new machine later.

The whole business worked like a dream. I was amazed and delighted. It was a Sunday, so taking my time I installed essential programs all the afternoon and the icons began to make the screen look good. The mail was working, the internet was working, upgrades were streaming in from Microsoft and I was chatting on Skype.

This went on for a couple of days when up came a reminder about registering and verification. Nowadays that is so easy to do I but a message arrived telling me that my process had been blocked and that I should do a different process by telephone. Once again this was straightforward but a few seconds later came a message to say that I was using a counterfeit copy. The screen changed to have a black background and all the Icons changed. Next came a message telling me how I could get a proper copy by paying the original purchase price to Microsoft and that Microsoft would withdraw security in 30 days time. Microsoft had aimed its fire power right into my PC.

But hang on a minute. I bought this version from an Amazon supplier. You can't tell me that this is a counterfeit copy. There must be a mistake, I did the whole process again but nothing changed. Instead, Microsoft sent a message offering a web page that

enables people to determine if they have a counterfeit copy. And mine passed all the tests. (I did some Googling and there are lots of people in my predicament and lots of ways of getting proper codes. Just what is going on? I could see myself signing Direct Debits to Microsoft so decided to write to Amazon. They were their usual businesslike selves and suggested first of all dealing directly with the supplier who responding by asking me to return the software using recorded delivery. A few days later the Post Office reported back that they had tried to deliver but no one answered so they left a card; but no one has come in to collect the parcel. After fortnight I emailed the supplier, gave him a fortnight to respond before I put the matter in the hands of the Trading Standards Office and notified Amazon. Nothing happened and I did both of those things. The Trading Standards officer said to write an ordinary letter to Amazon. To do that I needed to phone them for their office address but, when I explained what for, the Amazon system went into action and I was promised a refund and that their people would take care of the matter.

My computer had now been out of action for about a month and I was handling my mail on an a 2002 old XP machine but now running with Linux Ubuntu software instead of Microsoft Windows. I decided to see what else this free software could do and I was impressed enough to send for a new small fast machine with an up to date version of Linux already installed. Now I had a sort of insurance. I was no longer beholden to Microsoft and I was insured against interference to my computer by Microsoft.

For some time I had known that a very up-to-date version of Linux named Ubuntu had come out in April and on talking with friends about it, one said he had three copies

and would bring one to me, which he did. Linux is a free issue. Anyone can pass it to another by permission already given.

Once again I chose a Sunday to install Ubuntu 11.4 starting at 10.10 am. By 10.45 I was using it for a conversation via Skype.

Amazon have refunded my Windows purchase price plus the postage costs and I have a system running that appears to beat Windows at everything I ask of it. All the files I saved under the old Vista work with a click. All the pictures come up easily. All the videos from family cameras work. Start up time is about forty seconds.

Linux comes as a free issue in Linux magazines or you can buy copies on disk for very small costs from places like Linux shop. To try the systems all you do is to put the disk into the D drive drawer and work from there.

You will not be alone. The users run into the tens of millions. I have been keeping a watching brief since 1991 but Windows has such a hold I kept going with it but this new circumstance has helped me in a different but enlightened way. My misfortune turned out to be fortunate.

Alan Lovegreen

Hard of Hearing 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 6th October 2011, at 1:30pm in the Mile End Centre, 30 Seedhill Road, Paisley. This month we are quite fortunate to have Stuart Miller, from Engage

**Stuart Mitchell
Financial Services**

**35 Gates Road
Lochwinnoch PA12 4HF**

Independent Financial Adviser and Mortgage Broker (Established 22 years)

For a Free Initial Consultation please call us on **01505 843044 / 07870462798**

Or email **smfs@bopenworld.com**

**Mortgages and
Remortgages**

**Savings and
Investments**

Protection

**Pensions and
Retirement Planning**

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

For mortgage advice, we can be paid by commission or a fee of typically 1% of the loan amount.

Renfrewshire, who is coming to our meeting to share what changes have been made within the voluntary sector and what support Engage may be able to provide for our group. 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 4977

Textphone: 0141 848 7232

Fax: 0141 847 4966

Debbie Innes

Elderly Forum

After four months of the new office bearers for 2011 -12, I now find myself back in the office of Chair.

Our present Chair Sandra Loney has found that other commitments do not give her the time needed for chair of the Forum, thus she has stepped down.

Therefore there is now a vacancy at the office of Vice-chair. Should any member feel they would like to take this on please let me know.

We had an interesting meeting in August, our first for two months. John Webster from Clyde Muirshiel Park entertained us with a Powerpoint presentation of 40 years of Muirshiel. John is still hoping to get more "Memories of Muirshiel" for an exhibition he is planning. Sheets to write these down are available at Castle Semple Centre, in the McKillop or from me.

For those who use the service at the surgery you will now be delighted to know that the chiropody/podiatry service will carry on as usual, and not as we feared be stopping in November. This is really good news when we thought we'd have to travel to Johnstone to get treatment.

The golf club has been booked once again for our St Andrew's Day lunch. That's Wednesday 30th November. Choice of menu will be available shortly.

Tbar as usual on Tuesdays 10am - 1pm and the ROAR lunch club Thursdays 11.45am.

The Craft and Sewing Group meets on the 12th and the 26th of this month in the space room of the McKillop at 10.30am. It's been a very successful venture with just a few places left.

We have a very interesting speaker booked for October. Joy Blair is giving



ID PLUMBING + HEATING

• Plumbing • Gas Fitting • Heating • Air Conditioning •
Domestic and commercial Installation and maintenance

- Oil, Gas & LPG
- Boilers up to 5 year warranty
- Landlord safety inspections
- Under floor heating

Tel/Fax: 01505 843 771 or 07920 762 529





a Powerpoint presentation on lighthouses. This is really a very enjoyable talk and something to look forward to at the meeting on Thursday 27th at 1.30pm after the lunch club.

Gordon Nicholl

Re-registration of LCBG's community right to buy Struthers factory

When, 4 ½ years ago, the Struthers factory was struggling and on the verge of closure, a number of villagers got together to look into the possibility of a community buyout of the site. The potential loss to the village of a central, level site which could be put to many community- as well as business uses - was of great concern. So we decided to use the legislation specific to Scotland that allows community bodies to put in a claim for first refusal should a site/property come up for sale.

A lot of local people put in a huge amount of work in a short period of time to meet the government's stipulated deadlines (including first a petition then a ballot, as you might recall). We were successful and LCBG (Lochwinnoch Community Buyout Group) was awarded the right to buy the Struthers factory site in August 2007. However, our elation was short-lived; within a few days the Alfano Brothers Pension Fund (who own the building and land) took it off the market (as is their right) and it has remained so ever since. The site, they felt at the time, was worth twice the (independent) valuation. If it were to come back on the market, LCBG would have first refusal.

The village's 5-year right to buy the Struthers factory building expires next Spring. We have a chance over the next few months to show that we villagers still feel strongly that this

site is a potential asset too important to the village to be lost. Once again, we must show by petition that at least 10% of villagers (who appear on the electoral roll) wish to have the right to buy the factory and its land. Petition sheets will be available in a number of outlets round the village. If you are a registered voter living in the PA12 4 area, please do sign it (once only - it will be checked for duplications).

So why does the village need to keep its right to buy the Struthers factory?

Struthers has the potential to replace other buildings/facilities that have closed. 4 ½ years ago, of course, the Annexe was still open and the gym was still thriving. Now we have very limited facilities for sport and fitness in the village. The plan was that the factory building to the rear would be demolished and a new, purpose-built building be erected that suited villagers' need for, amongst other things, sports facilities. Obviously this is needed now more than ever.

We intend to have partnerships to allow our community uses and commercial uses to be run together on the site through a rental arrangement (generating income). As well as the sports facilities it was planned that space be given to the Lochwinnoch museum materials and also to offer space, as required, to local groups. The remaining space could then be used for offices by local businesses/organisations and perhaps a microbrewery (using the on-site water). In this way we hope to make secure or even increase employment in the immediate area.

A side benefit we have found is if another business were also to show interest in the site, then Renfrewshire Council would draw us into talks. This means the village could have some input into alternatives for the site and offer to waive our rights if an appropriate business or concern showed interest.

Lesley Scott

THE STIRRUP CUP



WEST BANKSIDE
FARM, GEIRSTON RD,
KILBIRNIE,

We specialise in
vintage & modern
jewellery, antiques,
curios, art and local
crafts

Great for Gifts or treat yourself

www.thestirrupcup.co.uk

Antiques, Curios and Crafts

A dynamic selection of oils, watercolours and Limited Edition prints
Bespoke crafts by local artisans, vintage and contemporary jewellery

Well worth discovering for yourself

The Barn on the farm, open 10am till late every day

Contact Greta Logan on Tel: 01505 683338

Email: greta@thestirrupcup.com www.thestirrupcup.co.uk

West Bankside Farm, Geirston Rd, Kilbirnie, KA25 7LQ

Just opposite the Golf Course on the Largs Rd

Renfrewshire RSPB Group

The Renfrewshire Local RSPB group is having a talk by Gary Turnbull, Wildlife Crime Officer, Strathclyde Police. The subject of his talk is Wildlife Crime - How Scotland's wildlife is officially protected.

The talk will be on Friday 7th October at 7.30 pm in the McMaster Centre, Robertson Park, Renfrew (enter from Donaldson Drive).



WELCOME TO RSPB LOCHWINNOCH NATURE 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!

Saturday 1st October

11am – 4pm Young Volunteers Group

Join us for the monthly Young Volunteers club, with activities including bird surveying, outdoor work, finding out more about RSPB campaigns and much more.

Booking essential and places are limited, so please enquire beforehand. Young persons aged between 12 and 18 can participate. Participants will be registered as RSPB volunteers.

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER HALF

TERM: Join us for DSI: Deadly Scene Investigation activities every day throughout the October break – become a deadly crime scene investigator and solve the mystery of who ate the eggs using clues hidden around the reserve. Work it out to receive a special reward. Part of CBBC's Live 'n' Deadly series.

Monday 17th October

11am – 4pm Wildlife Fun Day – Are you smarter than a ten year old?

Challenge your parents to find out who is the champion of wildlife knowledge in this fun filled family activity day. Join us for games, crafts and wildlife fun suitable for the whole family.

Stout footwear and waterproofs recommended.

Cost: £4, RSPB members go free!

Thursday 20th October

7.30pm – 9.30pm Quiz Night

Join us for our annual quiz night, with plenty of wildlife themed questions as well as some general knowledge thrown in. Take part in a raffle to raise funds for the RSPB. A chance to win some great prizes!

Teams must be no more than five people. Please book in advance. Cost: £3 per person to enter.

Friday 21st October

11am – 2pm Lochwinnoch Holiday Club

On Friday during the October school holidays, join us to take part in a wide variety of activities which could range from mini-beast 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 Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk.

Please bring a packed lunch and be sure to book in advance. £4 Wildlife

Explorer members. £6 non-members. Adults must accompany children aged 8 and under.

Friday 28th October

6-9pm (tours every half hour, starting on the hour and half-past.)

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.

Booking essential.

Cost: £4, half price for RSPB/Wildlife Explorer members.

Sunday 30 Oct

11am - 4pm Feed the Birds Day - Masterchef

Join in with lots of different activities to help feed the birds during the winter and take a masterclass in bird food making. £2/half price for RSPB members.

Where to meet: Events start from the RSPB Lochwinnoch visitor centre unless otherwise stated.

Booking, prices and enquiries: It is often necessary to book onto our events in advance as certain events may have limited space. If this is the case, the phrase 'booking essential' will appear in the event information.

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

Costs are stated in the event information and entry to our events also includes entry to the reserve. Many of our events are FREE or HALF PRICE to RSPB & Wildlife Explorer members!

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, so hopefully you'll be able to



Female Marsh Harrier : Photo Chris Gomersall

find one that suits you. 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, however, if this is not the case, further explanation will be given in the event's description.

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](http://www.facebook.com/search/RSPB%20Lochwinnoch) and become a fan!

 **Twitter:** [http://twitter.com/RSPB Lochwinnoch](http://twitter.com/RSPBLochwinnoch) & follow our tweets!



Male Hen Harrier : Photo Andy Hay

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

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.

Admission to the visitor centre is free for everyone, but you can get free entry to the trails too if you travel using "green" transport.

Both marsh and hen harriers have been seen on the reserve recently.

Please report any sightings to the RSPB (Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk or 01505 842663) as we'd love to hear about all records of them.

Outdoor Dog Training

K9 CHAT teach you the skills to train/socialise your dog using kind, rewarding techniques. We help build your confidence getting Out & About as "Responsible Dog Owners". With all the distractions around it can be difficult for some to control their dog. We work with groups and assist in solving the problems they face on

a daily basis. It is also our aim to help dog owners who have multiple dogs and we don't discriminate against any dog/breed or their behaviour; we are here to help.

We bring a fun, educational approach to owners regarding their ownership responsibilities. Each week we give information on subjects such as the Outdoor Access Code, Dog Fouling, Grooming, Health, Behaviour, etc., we cover a wide range of topics to help bring greater awareness of your dog's needs.

We believe in the importance of well-behaved dogs in our communities so K9 CHAT founded Pawsitive Action (volunteer group) "To promote public education in health, care, control and management of dogs to ensure public safety and prevent dog-related problems in our communities."

K9 CHAT / Pawsitive Action have the support of Renfrewshire Council and The Parks and Recreation Department, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Parks, Gleniffer Braes, Local Access Forum and we have permission to conduct classes in different City/Country parks.

Through discussions we have identified areas that owners/rangers find problematic, and have developed a program to meet all these needs.

Please get in touch to secure your place for your dog(s).

Jacquie Dougan & Tony Gibb

01505 842885

www.k9chat.co.uk



Parish Church

Pancake Day

Friday 7th October 2pm - 4pm

Adults £2 children £1.

Usual stalls.



Lee McKinlay

Holistic & Beauty Therapies

Swedish Massage

Aromatherapy Massage

Reflexology

Facials

Waxing

Eye Treatments

Manicure

Pedicure

A mobile service to promote relaxation

Gift Vouchers and Loyalty Cards are available

Telephone 07854 715625

From the Parish Church

*Old Mother Hubbard
went to the cupboard,
to fetch her poor dog a bone:
when she came there,
the cupboard was bare,
and so the poor dog had none.*

I am quite sure you all recognise this nursery rhyme from childhood. This was the verse which came to mind when I was thinking about the Harvest Thanksgiving Service to be celebrated in Calder Church on the 30th October. I am quite sure we all know the frustration of going to the cupboard or fridge for a particular item to discover it is no longer there – in our house it is usually the milk which has been finished. For most of us this is a minor irritation which usually involves a walk to the shops to buy some more. For many people in the world, it is a daily hardship. In fact many people don't even bother going to the cupboard, for they know there will be nothing there.

One of the reasons we celebrate the safe ingathering of the harvest is because so many people around the world will have no harvest this year. Indeed the harvest in the Horn of Africa has failed for the past two years, resulting in the first UN declared famine in over 30 years. Another reason for giving thanks is in response to the sheer miracle of creation that allows the earth to grow food. On a recent trip to the Primary School, I asked a class if they knew what a miracle was. One boy answered by saying it was something that could not happen that had happened. I could not have put it better myself. When we think of all that has to happen for our crops to grow – sunshine, but not too much; rain, but not too much, the right kind of soil, the right kind of fertiliser, and again not too much, it is indeed a minor miracle that everything comes together. When it does not work, we see the devastation that results – livestock begin to suffer, milk yields plummet and eventually people begin to starve. At the same time grain prices rise and become beyond the reach of many families. As always it is the old and the young who suffer the most. So far it is estimated that nearly 30,000 children under the age of five have died in Somalia.

Our own harvest thanksgiving is a time when we give thanks by supporting other people around the world. The Joint Sunday School use

our harvest thanksgiving as an opportunity to raise awareness of, and financially support, communities which do not enjoy the same resources as we do in Lochwinnoch. This is done by raising funds to sponsor a child. Many individuals will also contribute to a charity working to relieve famine in Africa. Yet the work of famine relief must not end when the crops begin to grow again. Famine relief is as much about changing the structures of international commerce, which seem to result in the poor becoming poorer and a few fabulously wealthy people becoming even richer, with the gap between the two being apparently unbridgeable. That is why aid organisations such as Christian Aid, Islamic Relief, Oxfam and The British Red Cross, who are all working in Somalia at this time, do not just provide clean water and nutritional packs, they work to develop policies and lobby governments to adopt them, to prevent famine occurring in the future.

Clearly the aid agencies have an uphill struggle, yet we can help too. We can lobby our MP and our MSPs to adopt policies which will make life better for the poorest people in our world; we can also make economic choices which support Fairtrade and other ethical organisations. As the Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu said over 2,500 years ago, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." The little differences that we make can make a huge difference to people around the world.

At this harvest time, may we all be blessed with enough to eat and a little bit left over for a guest. May we also be blessed to know that we can make a difference, for the better, to the lives of people who will have no harvest this year.

Yours,

Christine

News from Lochbarr Leisure Centre Newton of Barr Lochwinnoch

Lochbarr Leisure Centre is pleased to announce the opening of its new snooker room in October 2011. The fully refurbished room features 4 full size Snooker tables and will be open 7 days a week from 11am till

midnight.

Snooker Membership forms will be available from the 1st of October – the tables are also available to non-members, however members will benefit from a reduced hourly rate.

This is the second phase of the internal refurbishment at Lochbarr. We have recently completed the renovation of our new function suite and bar area. The bar offers a cosy, welcoming area to enjoy a drink, catch up with friends or watch sporting events on our large flat screen TV.

The function suite offers a large, attractive space for functions and is also available for groups to hire, it has a big screen with projector, showing most sporting events and a pool table. Lochbarr offers a number of party packages for both adults and children.

The Centre also offers 2 six a-side astro grass pitches, one inside and one outside. There are also two 11 a-side grass parks. Pitches are available to hire at on-peak and off -peak rates, seven days a week from 9am to 12 Midnight.

The Sunday sixes league has been running for 5 seasons now and guarantees action packed matches every Sunday from 4pm till 9pm. There are 2 divisions with the chance for promotion and demotion each season. All games are refereed by SFA affiliated Refs. There are cash prizes and trophies for the winning teams and best players. New teams and spectators welcome.

**NEW LEAGUE STARTING NOV 2011
– ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE AT
RECEPTION**

Lochbarr Leisure Centre is a family run business offering customers a quality leisure experience. We would like to invite you to come down and have a look around, relax and enjoy our new facilities.

Also would like to take this opportunity to thank all our

Historical Society

Guest speaker for October at the meeting in the Parish Church guild room on Thursday 20th at 7.30pm

Murray Blair "The Molendinar"

This is a change to the programme published last month.

Graeme Smith will now be coming to us in January.

customers, the Community Council and Councillor David Arthur for their continued support throughout this Lochbarr development.



LEAP

Lochwinnoch Car Club Meeting—Wed 12th October 7pm

The Club will provide economic, reliable cars on an hourly/daily and per mile basis. Allowing members to relinquish a car from the household, or provide flexibility for those reliant on public transport. We plan to have 2 cars initially, available to rent to members through a simple online booking system. Would you be interested in reducing your car ownership costs and becoming part of this trial? If so please come along to our meeting on Wednesday 12th October, 7pm in the McKillop. Chas Ball, Director of Car Plus will be explaining more about how such schemes can operate in local communities such as ours. There's more information at www.lochwinnoch.info/community/leap/car-club.

Renewable Energy Technology Showcase – Sat 29th Oct

This event, being organised in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust will provide villagers with the chance to find out more about installing Solar PV, Thermal Panels, or Heat Pumps. Impartial, qualified advisors will be available from the Energy Saving Advice Centre Scotland to answer your questions alongside a number of installers. So if you would like to know more about how you might benefit from the Feed In Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentives please come along. A number of suppliers will be demonstrating their technology in the McKillop main hall on Saturday 29th Oct – Could your home be suitable?

Draught Buster Workshops

Do you have wooden windows or doors, a house that's letting in cold draughts? LEAP are running a further series of draught buster workshops in the village in November. A fun, hands on way to learn how to Draught Proof your home. It's easy to do and will make a big difference to the heat loss from your home. If you'd like to attend a free workshop find out more by emailing leap@lochwinnoch.info.



Lochwinnoch Art Group

This is a busy month for all our members. We shall meet on Monday the 10th and on the 24th of October for our fortnightly meeting in the Bar Lounge of the McKillop Institute, 7.30 - 9.30pm. In addition, it will give us great pleasure to welcome everyone who visits our Annual Exhibition in the Library Room from the 5th to the 22nd October.

You are cordially invited to come to the Public Opening on Wednesday 5th October between 6 - 8pm.

Opening times are as follows:

Mon	10am – 1pm
Tue	2pm – 5pm
Wed	2pm - 5pm and 6pm - 8pm
Fri	10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
Sat	10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm

All original paintings will be for sale.

Once again we would like to record our grateful thanks to Margaret Sweeney and the Staff at the Library for their cooperation.

Boys' Brigade News

The 1st. Lochwinnoch Company Boys' Brigade had a successful enrollment night on September 6th and are now moving into their winter programme. The Anchor Boys number around 20, The Juniors 12 and the Company 20. The numbers are slightly up on last year.

Four of the senior Boys are will be starting work on the Duke of

Edinburgh Award. The Company Section are in the process of arranging a weekend camp.

As highlight of the Company Section programme in September was a visit from the Scottish Ambulance Service who arrived on a Paramedic Motor Bike. Just in case anyone was in doubt when this was arranged none of the Boys were ill or injured.

The Anchor Boys and Juniors are working hard at their various activities and in general having a great time.

Dance with PZAZ!

Seeking 8-12 year olds!

Join us to work with our professional dancers and costume designer in a fun-filled, energetic 2 hour session where you will learn some moves, create your own look for a full dress rehearsal and then perform your PZAZ dance routine to your guardians on their return.

Tickets £7.50 (includes all materials)

Lochwinnoch Parish Church hall 22nd Oct 1:30pm

Limited spaces: call Jenny on 07880 640146 / 01505 874073 to book your place

Fall Ball Ceilidh

'Fall ball' in Lochwinnoch golf club £8.50 Friday 11th November Dancing, Stovies, Bar and raffle

Charity is for Erskine Hospital

Tickets on sale mid October



TCT LEJOG Diary

An update from the intrepid Lochwinnoch TCT Cycle Team now returned safely (if sore) from their Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG) adventure.

"We left on Saturday Aug 20th and after getting the train down from Lochwinnoch (via London in John's case), we did the 10 miles to Land's End & back, and stayed at the YH (Youth Hostel, Ed) in Penzance.

Day 1. We then set off on the Sunday morning through beautiful, hot and sunny Cornwall, across the very scenic King Harry ferry to Golant. Remote but homely :-)

Day 2. The next day, after "one of the team was hit by" (or rather "one of the team rammed"!) a Toyota pick-up, we went on to very picturesque Tavistock and over Dartmoor. Hard! Being Scots, we didn't know Dartmoor was so hilly (a moor in Scotland being a flat area) and so ended up late in Exeter, completely knackered after a 12 hour day. In Exeter, David stopped to ask a local for directions to the YH. The person he asked did not know, because he was from Lochwinnoch!

(Jonathan Fawcett)

Day 3. Then via Taunton (very pleasant town) & Burnham-on-Sea (lost in the ice-cream 60's) to Stablegrove B&B in Wrington south of Bristol - best B&B we've ever stayed at; thoroughly recommend it!

Day 4. Then through sunny, beautiful Bristol, across the Severn bridge - in and out of (wet) Wales - to a B&B in Lea and a rather eccentric landlady!

Day 5. On via Wildergrove YH (impressive and great food), via Ludlow (lovely market town where we sunbathed at the castle) to Winsford where we stayed with friends. One member of the team had a 'senior' moment and chained up his bike to railings in a town centre en route, only to discover he had lost the key. Cue intervention from local DIY shopkeeper, much to amusement of other team members and assembled crowds.

Day 6. A few thrills and spills on the way through a very rainy Manchester and up to Slaidburn - very nice but wow(!) a great climb to get there!

Day 7. Over the hills the next

morning (a hard very wet 12 miles!) to Bentham in the Yorkshire Dales (great breakfast at hotel) and through the Lake District on to Carlisle where we stayed at the IBIS Hotel - good value - and a free round of drinks on the house!

Day 8. Danny McCusker joined us at Carlisle and we headed over the border. Unfortunately Danny's bike fell apart shortly after Dumfries, and he and the bike had to get back on the train to Lochwinnoch for some serious repair work. The rest of the team went on up to the Galloway Activity Centre on Loch Ken where we stayed in a Mongolian Yurt - interesting! Special word of thanks to a Castle Douglas taxi-driver called Brian, who later that night drove the team to and from to a pub in Castle Douglas, and gave us £50 donation **for the charity!**

Day 9. Next day up to Ardrossan where we all headed back to Lochwinnoch to have a night in our own beds. One team member went to the Brown Bull Quiz - and his team won (again).

Day 10. With Danny and bike back on the road, we headed back to Ardrossan

the next morning, and took the 7am ferry over to Arran - and a quick sprint from Brodick to catch the next ferry from Lochranza - where we all fell asleep and had to be wakened to leave! ...eventually on to Lochgilphead, where we stayed with friends.

Day 11. Incredible views and sunny weather on the cycle right through Oban, then on to Fort William (overnight), around the Commando monument and up the (a bit wet) A82.

Day 12. From Fort William along the Great Glen and off to the east of Loch Ness where again the views and sunny scenery were awesome, and on to Inverness.

Day 13. On the Saturday we did the Inverness Monster Duathlon round Loch Ness - a great (if mad) diversion from LEJOG and then we had an into the night ride up to Helmsdale afterwards (best YH on trip I think).

Day 14. Big, blue sky ride, taking the Helmsdale hills in our stride, and up to JOG where Orkney was just a touch away. At least we think it was John O'Groats, because there was no sign to confirm that. Instead, just a notice, which read: "I am sorry but the John O'Groats sign is staying closed Saturdays and Sundays due to unforeseen circumstances, usual service will resume Monday morning 10am. Thanks, Peter." Priceless.

Big thanks to Graeme Skelton who drove a mini bus from Lochwinnoch up to John O'Groats and brought the boys and bikes safely home.

Thanks from all the team for the continuing support from the Lochwinnoch community, and to our friends and supporters further afield."

The TCT online donation website remains open:

<http://www.teenagecancertrust.org/get-involved/as-a-fundraiser/fundraisers/lands-end-to-john-ogroats-cycle-2011> and there are sponsorship forms and collection boxes in the Brown Bull and Cucina Minucci.

Congratulations and well done Danny, David, Ian, Jack, John and Roger!(Ed)

Muirshiel Links with the Emerald Isle

While travelling through Knaresborough in North Yorkshire my attention was attracted by an elegant two-storeyed mansion named Conyngham Hall.



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

Douglas Alexander, Lochwinnoch's MP

**Write to: 2014 Mile End Mill, 12 Seedhill Road, Paisley, PA1 1JS
Tel: 0141 561 0333. E-mail: dalexandermp@talk21.com
or come to one of my advice surgeries.**

The building's Georgian facade included two giant Ionic pillars, bay windows, cornices, ornamental balconies and balustraded balconies.

I was amazed to discover this superb structure was inextricably linked to Muirshiel country park at Lochwinnoch where I worked as a ranger.

I learned the magnificent mansion was enlarged and restored by Ellen, Countess of Conyngham, when she purchased the edifice in 1796. In 1856 the Conynghams sold the Hall to a barrister named Basil Wood who became MP for Knaresborough.

Shortly afterwards, the Conynghams went to Muirshiel in Renfrewshire. There they built the shooting lodge which became Muirshiel House and the matrix of today's Muirshiel country park.

Viscount Muirshiel, formerly John Maclay, Secretary of State for Scotland, whom I met during my time at the park, told me the lodge included architectural features like the Conyngham coat-of-arms. These included a unicorn, horse and stag surmounting a crown and shield engraved with three stars and a shakefork.

The shakefork was a long-handled Y-shaped agricultural implement which lifted hay and straw during medieval times. It was said to have been used by an early ancestor of the family to fork straw over a fugitive Scottish king fleeing from enemies. As a reward, the benefactor was provided with vast tracts of land and given the name, 'Conyngham,' and the motto, 'Over,Fork, Over.' The name Conyngham - the Irish variant of the Scottish 'Cunninghame,' means 'home of the king.'

Just across the Misty Law from Muirshiel are the ruins of Glengarnock Castle. This was a Cuninghame stronghold. But during the 17th century, Sir James

Cuninghame incurred such huge debts he was forced to sell the castle to pay his debts and emigrate to Ireland.

There he settled in what is now Donegal and (London)derry as part of what became known as the Scots Plantation. This was when King James I/VI settled mainly-Catholic Ireland with Protestant nobles. To this day, places in Ireland have family-linked names like Newton Cunningham and Manor Cunningham.

Following the Conyngham return to Muirshiel and Scotland, the family continued to fulfil an important role in Irish politics when that nation was still part of the United Kingdom.

Francis Nathaniel, who was a general in the British Army, was the Second Marquis Conyngham, Lord Lieutenant of County Meath and Member of Parliament for Donegal. He was also a Knight of the Order of St Patrick. His wife, Lady Jane Paget, was the second daughter of the First Marquis of Anglesey.

Their children included Lord Francis Nathaniel Conyngham, who was born in London in 1832 and served as a Royal Navy Lieutenant during the Crimean War. He followed his father into politics by becoming Member of Parliament for County Clare until just before his untimely death on September 14,1880, aged 48.

The Conynghams' time at Muirshiel ended around the beginning of the 20th century when the mansion and estate were purchased by the Bates family from Liverpool who were wealthy shipping magnates.

But the Conyngham legacy remains in the form of the magnificent stone obelisk which today graces Monument Wood at one of the the highest points in the country park.

This lonely landmark commemorates the younger Lord Nathaniel's love for his parents, the Marquis and Marchioness of Conyngham. It also marks the burial place of the younger

