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# CHATTERBOX

No 220 April 2012

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

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**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

### Love is All Around Apology

We are so sorry that the "Love Is All Around" has been postponed. This was due to Police deployment at a football match in Glasgow on the same day, which meant there were no officers spare to help us safely steward the play.

I am sure you will appreciate that safety must come first.

### Teacher Wanted

Lochwinnoch Country Dance Club is looking for a teacher to take classes from next September.

We have a membership of approximately 25 and meet in the McKillop Hall on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 -- 9.30.

If you are interested or can help us, please call Lorna Black 01505 843048

### SYRP Stop Press!

Save Your Regional Park campaign has just heard that Wind Hydrogen have announced that they are no longer going to pursue their Wings Law windfarm proposal on the hills behind Kilbirnie and have decided to pull out of the windfarm business in the UK altogether.

### TCT News

I am organising a concert for TCT in the McKillop on Saturday 28th April. 'Deja Blue' is the name of the new, highly acclaimed band featuring Lochwinnoch's own Tony Finn (The Penny Dogs - from the cruise). Tickets priced £10 are available from The Brown Bull and Cucina Minucci.

A Deja Blue review from a recent

concert:

"A fantastic band of established, slick musicians fronted by 3 outstanding singers. A mix of blues, soul and some real classic songs, this was a Ferry night to remember. Think 2012. Watch out for Deja Blue."

#### Not The Booze Cruise.

The shiny new big boat has been booked, and the confirmed date is Friday 22nd June. Tickets priced £15 (plus £5 for the coach) on sale now only from me (John) in person.

*John Delaney*

*07715 579312*

### Lochwinnoch Choral Society

The Spring Concert will be held at 7.30 pm on 29th April in the Parish Church with music by Scottish composers and Rutter's Gloria.

The choir will be accompanied by members of the Scottish Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Junior Choir will also perform some of their favourite songs.

Tickets: £7 Concessions: £5  
available from the usual outlets.

### Coffee Morning

Arthritis Research UK will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th May in the McKillop Hall from 10am – 12noon.

There will be the usual stalls – delicious home baking, quality Nearly New bargains, tombola and lots of other goodies.

### Lochwinnoch Summer Festival

If you enjoyed the Brown Bull 200th Birthday street party then keep Saturday June 9th free. The Community Council are organising an event to celebrate the coming of summer.

It is already an eventful week with the Queen's Jubilee on the 4th and the Olympic Torch coming through the village on the 8th and we would like to create an event that has something for everyone in the village.

The CC would like as many community groups as possible to be involved, so if your group would like to join in then please contact any Community Council member, or email [cc@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:cc@lochwinnoch.info)

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## Sinister Spectre of a Titanic Tragedy

Around 2500 miles separate Muirshiel Country Park above Lochwinnoch from the western Atlantic Ocean where the doomed Titanic steamship sank with the loss of more than 1500 lives 100 years ago this month.

Yet both locations are united eerily by a ghostly shadow whose phantom presence I experienced while working as a countryside ranger at the park more than quarter-a-century ago.

Previously, Muirshiel, with its magnificent 19th century mansion and 3500 acres of moorlands and woodlands, belonged to the wealthy Bates and Fletcher families who made their fortunes from the shipping industry.

I have in my possession a rare photograph of a 21st birthday party taken at Muirshiel around 1930. The ceremony marked the coming-of-age of Bruce Fletcher, the son of Sir Edward Lionel Fletcher, who lived with his family at Muirshiel during the autumn when they came from their Lancashire residence, near Liverpool, to shoot grouse and rabbits.

The historic picture portrays Bruce with his father, mother, sisters Pauline and Esme and their guests in the rhododendron-embowered estate gardens.

In accordance with the traditions of the time, none of the people in the photograph is smiling. It was fashionable then for people to mark important family occasions with sombre facial expressions.

Yet I could not think that the apparent gloominess of what should have been a happy event evoked sad memories of Muirshiel's weird links with the Titanic disaster.

Sir Edward, a commodore in the Royal Naval Reserve, was chairman of the White Star Shipping Line which owned the leviathan liner. This was a few years after that terrible night of April 14 and 15, 1912, when Titanic struck an iceberg and sank below the waves with the loss of an estimated 1517 lives.

The opulent shipping magnate was a familiar figure in Lochwinnoch where he was a keen member of the local golf club and held high office in its day-to-day administration and in the organisation of social and fund-raising events.

Sir Edward's predecessor at Muirshiel

was his father-in-law, Gilbert Thompson Bates, who preceded him as chairman of the White Star Shipping Line around the time Titanic plunged into the watery depths of the Atlantic Ocean, just off the Newfoundland coast, on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. Mary Fletcher, Sir Edward's wife, was Gilbert Bates' daughter.

The Fletchers sold Muirshiel in 1935 to Lord Howard of Glossop, who became the Duke of Norfolk and officiated at our present Queen's coronation in 1953.

Lochwinnoch has other mystic links to the Titanic tragedy which has been immortalised in films and books down through the ages.

A train load of chairs was transported from Lochwinnoch railway station to provide luxury seating for travellers aboard the prestigious, but ill-fated, liner. These were manufactured at the village's Calder Cabinet and Chair Works owned by Robert Crawford, Henry Hamilton and James Hunter.

Their destination was the Harland and Wolff shipyard at Belfast where Titanic was erected with the assistance of a crane designed by Sir William Arrol, who was born at Houston and began his engineering career in a cotton-mill in Johnstone.

Among the victims that terrible night when Titanic went down was the Reverend John Harper. He, too, was born in Houston and was on his way to a series of preaching engagements in Chicago when the ship sank.

Mr Harper, who worked at Stoddard's carpet factory in Elderslie and the Smith and McLaurin paper-making company in Milliken Park, Kilbarchan, was well-known and admired in Lochwinnoch which he sometimes visited as a lay-preacher of the evangelical tradition.

Mr Harper's body was never recovered but his memory lives on in the name of Harper Memorial Baptist Church in Govan, Glasgow, which honours his lifetime of service in evangelism.

While working at Muirshiel, I stood one summer evening on the summit of Hill Stake 1712 feet above sea level and looked across the Firth of Clyde towards Belfast Lough where Titanic was constructed.

The sun was shining then all of a sudden its light was dimmed and a snake-like serpentine shadow



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seemed to slither 100 miles across the sky, sea and hills linking the Emerald Isle with Muirshiel far down in the Calder Glen.

It was like the sinister spectre of the sinking steamship sailing on a phantom journey between the doomed vessel's birthplace and the magnificent estate where long-dead magnates of the company which fashioned her once lived and celebrated a son's 21st birthday.

*Derek Parker*

*Derek Parker worked as a countryside ranger at Muirshiel Country Park from 1985 to 1999*

## Accommodation Wanted

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park are once again taking on seasonal Countryside Rangers.

Most are local but two (one male, one female) are looking to rent accommodation for up to six months

If you think you might be able to help please contact Park HQ at Barnbrock. Tel: 01505 614 791.



## Nancy Burton

6 June 1935 - 23 February 2012

### Heartfelt Thanks

On behalf of my sisters Liz and Gina and my brother George I would like to thank everyone for the many cards, flowers and messages we have received following the sad passing of our Mum.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to all of the district nurses, Rev Archie Ford of the Calder Church, Marie McAlindon of Macmillan Cancer Support, the Marie Curie nurses Juliana and Elsie, Dr Hair and the nursing staff of Ward 18 at the RAH and all her friends and neighbours.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Dr Kirk, Anne Miller and Pauline of the Lochwinnoch surgery for the amazing care, love and attention they showed our Mum in her last few days.

Our Mum loved her life in Lochwinnoch, where she moved 11 years ago. She enjoyed walking along the main street, going to the Calder Church on Sundays, popping in to have her hair done by Susan at the hairdressers, paying regular weekly visits to the library and shopping in all the local shops. Living in the village were some of the happiest years of her life.

We have been told by so many people that our Mum touched their lives in with her cheery smile and the genuine and unselfish interest she always showed in others. So while these are difficult times for our family we are comforted by these messages as this is exactly the way we would like our Mum to be remembered.

Sincere Thanks

*Isobel McEwan*

## Thanks Caitlin

Lochwinnoch International Aid says "thanks very much" to 9 year old Caitlin Armstrong. She baked a lovely cake for raffling at the food fair (3rd March) to raise funds for us. She raised £42.00 and the lucky winner of the scrumptious cake was Carol Gemmel.

We also thank the Fairtrade supporters for baking cakes and scotch pancakes which were sold to raise more funds for us – and of course thanks to the people who bought them.



Caitlin and winner Carol Gemmel with the lovely cake



## Christian Aid Week

**13 -19 May 2012**

**Let's give the tools...**

### to help people in poverty

Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

Christian Aid Week gives poor communities the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty. We are committed to making your money work as hard as it can for those who struggle for a better quality of life and for their voices to be heard.

To achieve this we need your help during Christian Aid Week an amazing seven days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty. Add your time, money and voice this week, and see them multiplied to make an impact around the world through Christian

Aid.

LOCHWINNOCH Christian Aid Group will be active in and around the village on Christian Aid Week: 13th – 19th May.

Please give generously in your support when the red envelope comes through your letterbox.

Every pound given will help Christian Aid fund projects throughout the world where there is genuine need.

Take this opportunity to make a difference to the lives of those blighted by disease, famine and war.

Make an even bigger difference by filling out the Gift Aid part of the envelope before it is collected. This simple act will ADD almost 20% to your donation.

The Group will be working hard to give all in the village the opportunity to make a donation. Please give as generously as you are able to do.

Christian Aid Week

Let's give the tools



Photos: Barbara Brown



# RYA Sailability



**LEFT**—Ross Anderson (President Rotary Club of Gryffe Valley), David Hill (Sailability RO), Cllr David Arthur, Debbie Blachford (Sailability Manager)

at the Launch of Scotland's first Centre of Excellence at Castle Semple and the handing over of the pontoon hoist funded by Rotary Club of Gryffe Valley.



© Photo: Maurine Pepper





## Centre of Excellence Award

Castle Semple Centre has received national recognition as Scotland's first Royal Yachting Association (RYA) 'Sailability' Centre of Excellence. This means the Centre is fully ready, having the specialised sailing equipment, experienced staff (over 25 years combined) and facilities to accommodate people with a wide range of disabilities.

During a special event at Castle Semple Centre on Sunday 18th March the RYA confirmed the award. The day also marked the donation by the Rotary Club of Gryffe Valley of a special hoist on a pontoon beside the loch. This is used to transfer sailors from wheelchairs to specially designed dinghies recently acquired by the Park Authority. Ross Anderson, local resident and President of the Rotary Club of Gryffe Valley, officially handed over of the pontoon hoist and Park Chair Cllr. David Arthur accepted on behalf of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority. Ross confirmed that the donation of the hoist was the first demonstration of a continuing relationship between Rotary and the Park.

It was noted in the opening remarks that the Park has long been recognised for its "universal" provision; the 350,000 visitors annually who enjoy that site alone, are a testament to that. Increasingly though, there is a growing acknowledgement that the Park can provide specialist niche services as well as a universal provision of 'recreation; tourism and conservation'. The event was to confirm the development of such a specialist facility, supported and underpinned by a critical mass of community organisations, sports clubs and public sector services.

On the day sailors from local disability organisations were out sailing in a range of boats and there was demonstrations of specialist equipment that can help everyone access the sport.

Annabel Goldie MSP was a guest at the event and she praised the Park Authority, the RYA and the Rotary Club of Gryffe Valley saying it was a 'team effort' that had acquired and installed a hoist at the side of the loch which will enable greater access

# East Lochhead Self-Catering Cottages



Contact  
**JANET ANDERSON**  
East Lochhead Self-Catering Cottages  
Kilbirnie Road, Lochwinnoch  
Renfrewshire PA12 4DX  
Tel: +44(0) 1505 842610  
Mob: 07885565131  
admin@eastlochhead.co.uk  
www.eastlochhead.co.uk

to dinghies for sailors with disabilities. It was the 'icing on the cake' she added that the RYA was recognising the facilities with the confirmation of the 'Centre of Excellence Award'

### Appreciation



We were sad to read in Chatterbox that Davie Arthur is retiring as our local Councillor. Seldom

have we met a person so committed to help others and to improve our village. Always ready with his welcoming smile to stop and chat, we know that we and others really appreciate his concern and valiant attempts to make things work in and for Lochwinnoch. He has had some difficult challenges, but he always tried to do what he felt was right.

As members of LMEG we also really valued his support with, for example, the Christmas lights or the Cross refurbishment. It can't be easy being a councillor: people expect quick solutions that suit them and as a councillor you have to work within a big local bureaucracy but Davie worked hard for us while still holding down his own job in Paisley.

Thanks Davie & enjoy your less-stressed life :- ) ... and please don't stop smiling and chatting to everyone in the village. Your sort of open friendliness makes our village the great place that it is!

*David McCusker, Duncan Bremner,  
Carol Gemmell, Graeme Skelton &  
Sue Richardson—LMEG*

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[mgdstewart@aol.com](mailto:mgdstewart@aol.com)

### Lochwinnoch SWRI

The final meeting of the season will take place on Wednesday 18th April at 7.30 in the McKillop Hall. It will be out 59th Birthday party.

We look forward to welcoming guests from other Renfrewshire Institutes and office-bearers from the Renfrewshire Federation of the SWRI.

We will have an evening of quizzes and crafts followed by a delicious supper.

We look forward to greeting all our members.

### Editorial and Copy for Chatterbox

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

Electronic submission with full colour pictures are preferred.

To advertise in Chatterbox

Tel: 01505 842632

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY IS  
FRIDAY 13TH APRIL**

## St Vincent's Hospice

### Summer Raffle 2012

It's that time of year again and here at St Vincent's Hospice we have just launched our Annual Summer Raffle 2012! This is a crucial way for St Vincent's Hospice to raise funds and your support would be very much appreciated.

Tickets are just £1.00 each and there are some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

- 1st prize - £1,000
- 2nd Prize - £500
- 3rd Prize – 32" Television

The Draw will take place at the Hospice on Friday 15th June 2012.

If you would like to receive some raffle tickets or would like more sent to you, please contact the Fundraising Team on 01505 705635. Perhaps you can sell them through your workplace, to friends and family or through other groups, just get in touch. You can also buy the tickets from our Reception or Barn Tearoom at the Hospice or in any of our 9 Charity Shops across Renfrewshire.

### Summer Fayre – Saturday 19th May 2012, Houston Square Johnstone

Spring is in the air and all the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year has passed. Here at St Vincent's Hospice we are looking to the future and our up and coming Summer Fayre!

Back in the heart of Johnstone our Summer Fayre will take place on Saturday 19th May 2012 in Houston Square from 10am – 4pm. With lots of attractions to keep the whole family occupied it is a day not to be missed. There will be various stalls including

Home Baking, Fancy Goods, Books, Raffles and of course the ever popular Teddy Tombola! The fun of the fair will also be coming to town for the day.

The hospice relies greatly on the generosity of our supporters to help make the day possible. If you have any donations for any of our stalls they would be very much appreciated, these can be handed into any of our 9 charity shops and ask to be sent to the hospice or dropped off at the hospice itself. We also welcome any supporter who would like to volunteer on the day; we would be delighted to have you along.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation or volunteer for the day, please contact Ashley Moran or Drew Gibson in the fundraising team on 01505 705635 or email [ashley.moran@svh.co.uk](mailto:ashley.moran@svh.co.uk).

## RSPB Sustainable Development Award for LEAP

More good news! - LEAP were honoured in the Sustainable Development Award category at the inaugural Nature of Scotland Awards held in Edinburgh on Thursday 1st March, attended by Project Manager Carol Gemmell and Energy Advisor Nicola Smith.

LEAP were nominated for the award by Paula Baker at the RSPB and colleague Mike Flinn prepared the nomination form after spending time finding out more about the LEAP project.

From 90 entries overall, LEAP was shortlisted with 3 others in the Sustainable Development category: Scottish Power Generation Ltd, SOS Puffin and Whitelee Windfarm.

Scott Duncan and Alan Vince from

the team attended the Shortlisted Candidate event in December which was an opportunity to meet the other nominees and the judges.

Stuart Housden, Director of RSPB Scotland and head of the judging panel, said: "Congratulations to the very worthy winners. They all represent the very best in their field. We are pleased to honour them at this innovative event that celebrates those stepping up for nature conservation in Scotland. Nature cannot thrive in the future by just applying rules and regulation, it is when people enthusiastically step up and go the extra mile that something special can happen"

LEAP are delighted to be recognised by the RSPB for the way the Project's energy saving initiatives have been taken up in the local community.

Well done also to Charlie Woodward and the team at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park who delivered the Forestry Commissions Branching Out project here in Lochwinnoch which won the Innovation Award.

Our trophy has pride of place in the Hub window if you want to take a look.

### LEAP Car Club

The 2 car club cars are now parked in the McKillop car park. A big thank-you to the first members who have joined the Club and we are pleased to announce the first successful hire of the vehicles was on Tuesday 13th March.

The main benefits of Car Club Membership are:

- Access to a car as you need it.
- Access to a choice of two different size vehicles: a smaller car, a Ford Fusion, for fuel efficient driving and a larger car, a Ford C-Max, for those who need a little more space.
- Costs for insurance, breakdown cover and maintenance are spread across the membership, making it more economical than owning your own car.
- The services, checks and valeting are handled locally – helping to continue to support & promote local businesses and organisations.
- If you have visiting friends or family, the LEAP car club also offers a very competitive rate for daily one off rentals.

To find out more about joining the LEAP Car Club:

- pop in and see Scott Duncan at the LEAP office
- email us: [scott@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:scott@lochwinnoch.info)



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· call us: 01505 842 530

Keep your eye open for the Car Club Vehicles around the village! The LEAP Car Club logo will be on the vehicles very soon. We hope you will join us on our new and exciting journey and support a local community initiative designed for members within Lochwinnoch.

### Mini Food Fair and Food Festival

The next mini food fair will take place on Saturday 28th April in the

usual place outside the McKillop from 10 am till 3pm. The next larger Spring Food Festival will take place on Saturday 26th May.

We hope you will come along and support local producers.

Stalls will include butcher, burgers, deli, gluten free bakery, jams 'n' pickles, sweets, veg cuisine and much more. Let Rob Welsh know if you'd like to take a stall.

If you'd like to find out more about anything to do with the project, take a look at our webpages at [www.lochwinnoch.info/leap](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/leap) or email [leap@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:leap@lochwinnoch.info), phone 842 530 or drop in to The Hub, 22 Church Street to find out more.

*The LEAP Project Team*



## Regional Park April Round Up

### Photographic Competition 2012 PLUS New What's On!

The wait is finally over as leaflets for this year's Photographic Competition are out in Centres and online now! In support of the 2012 Year of Creative Scotland, the theme is 'Capturing Creativity in Clyde Muirshiel'. Top Prize £250! Our new What's On event guide is also available to help you plan your summer activities through until

October 2012.

### Bike and Boat Hire at Castle Semple

It's that time of the year again! Bike and Boat hire returns to the shore of Castle Semple Loch, helping everyone to get active this Spring. Both are available to hire daily during school holidays and weekends from April – October. Plus look out for the return of Summer opening hours at all our Centres.

### Clyde Muirshiel Celebrate Award Success!

Over the last two years, the Park has been involved in the successful delivery of the Forestry Commission mental health referral programme 'Branching Out'. It was through this partnership that Park representatives received an invitation to the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards, being held in Edinburgh's prestigious Balmoral Hotel. The Project won in the 'Innovation' category and we extend our congratulations to all the health and delivery partners involved. There was a win for the village of Lochwinnoch too with the Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) Project winning in the Sustainable Development Category. Congratulations to all at LEAP!

### Tartan Walk a Success on Leap Year Day

85 walkers, 5 babies in buggies and 3 dogs took part in the event and put their extra day in 2012 to very good use! There was lots of traditional singing and the village onlookers were enthralled!

### Calling Local Businesses

The Regional Park is looking to put together an information park for visitors to the area and would like to give them ample choice and information as to what is available. This would cover all aspects of tourism such as accommodation, catering,

things to do and see. If you would like to be included please email us your information to [info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk](mailto:info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk) or drop a few leaflets in to your local centre.

### EVENTS

#### Sun 8 Apr—Easter Crafts

Have fun making some crafts to welcome the arrival of the Easter Bunny!

WHERE: Castle Semple Visitor Centre  
WHEN: 13.30 – 15.30 hrs

MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882 Ex20 & bookings

#### Sat 14 Apr Pawsitive Action at Muirshiel

Bring your dog along to this FREE class on behavioural techniques. Pawsitive Action is all about promoting responsible dog ownership. WHERE: Muirshiel Visitor Centre  
WHEN: 13.00 – 14.00 hrs  
MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 803 & bookings

#### Sun 15 Apr Adopt a Beach/ National Spring Clean

Come and help the Rangers tidy up the beach area and record the litter washed up on the strand lines. Gloves, bin bags and litter pickers provided.

WHERE: Lunderston Bay

WHEN: 13.00 hrs at car park entrance

MORE INFO: 01475 521 458 & bookings

#### Sun 29 Apr Bluebell Walk

A walk through the Bluebell Woods filled with birdsong to explore the maze and learn more about the life of the woods.

WHERE: Castle Semple Visitor Centre  
WHEN: 14.00 – 16.00 hrs

MORE INFO: 01505 842 882 Ex20 & bookings

*Booking essential for all events, contact the centre to book your FREE place!*

NOW & THEN

### Gifts Cards Jewellery Leather Home

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Open 9-5 Monday-Saturday  
and 12-4 on Mothering Sunday

(just in case you forget)

### Sundays.

Cut the grass? Wash the car? Drive for miles to the shopping mall? Worry about work tomorrow?

Here's a different idea. Stay in the village. Have a walk. Breathe fresh air. Relax. Go for lunch. Have a browse around that little shop in Church Street that you never get the chance to explore during the working week.

You might just be surprised by what's on your doorstep. Which will you choose?

We're here every Sunday from Easter until Christmas. Come visit.



## Lochwinnoch Community Library

Opening Hours:

**Mon, Tues, Fri, Sat**

10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

**Wednesday**

2pm-5pm and 6pm-8pm

**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)

**EASTER PUBLIC HOLIDAY**  
**Lochwinnoch Library will be closed on Friday 6th, Saturday 7th & Monday 9th April**

### New Titles

**Vince Flynn: Kill Shot**—For months, Mitch Rapp has been steadily working his way through a list of men, bullet by bullet. With each kill, the tangled network of monsters responsible for the slaughter of 270 civilians becomes increasingly clear. He is given his next target: a plump Libyan diplomat who is prone to drink and is currently in Paris without a single bodyguard.

Rapp finds him completely unprotected and asleep in his bed. With confidence in his well-honed skills and conviction of the man's guilt, he easily sends a bullet into the man's skull. But in the split second it takes the bullet to leave the silenced pistol, everything changes. The door to the hotel room is kicked open and gunfire erupts all around Rapp. In an instant the hunter has become the hunted. Rapp is left wounded and must flee for his life.

**Sophie Kinsella: I've got your number**—Poppy Wyatt has never felt luckier. She is about to marry her ideal man, Magnus Tavish, but in one afternoon her 'happily ever after' begins to fall apart. Not only has she lost her engagement ring in a hotel fire drill but in the panic that follows, her phone is stolen. As she paces shakily around the lobby, she spots an abandoned phone in a trash can. Finders keepers! Now she can leave a number for the hotel to contact her when they find her ring. Perfect!

Well, perfect except that the phone's owner, businessman Sam Roxton, doesn't agree. He wants his phone back and doesn't appreciate Poppy reading his messages and wading into his personal life.

**Jodi Picoult: Lone Wolf** Edward Warren, twenty-four, has been living in Thailand for five years, a prodigal son who left his family after an irreparable fight with his father, Luke. But he gets a frantic phone call: His dad lies comatose, gravely injured in the same accident that has also injured his younger sister Cara.

With her father's chances for recovery dwindling, Cara wants to wait for a miracle. But Edward wants to terminate life support and donate his father's organs. Is he motivated by altruism, or revenge? And to what lengths will his sister go to stop him from making an irrevocable decision?

### Forthcoming titles:

- James Patterson: 11th Hour (Women's Murder Club)
- Jo Nesbo: Phantom (Harry Hole series)
- David Baldacci: The Innocent
- Donna Leon: Beastly things
- Alexander McCall Smith: The Limpop Academy of private Detection
- Cathy Kelly: The House on Willow Street

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You will need: Your library ticket

No. & pincode. If you are unsure of your pincode, please contact the library and we will be happy to supply you with the details.

**which?** WHICH is now available for reference at Lochwinnoch Library. Access to WHICH reports are available online from library computers only. If you require this service, a member of staff will log onto the site for you. A monthly magazine is also available for reference.



### 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 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!

**Homework help for school**  
Renfrewshire libraries know how important is for children to have access to safe and accurate

information which 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](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/libraries) Follow the link: Children & Young people

New collection of Language courses on CD @ Lochwinnoch Library

**French - Italian—German—  
Spanish & Portuguese**

## Renfrewshire Trading Standards News

Renfrewshire Trusted Trader Scheme was launched on 7th March 2012

There are currently 22 local traders who have been vetted by Trading Standards, have agreed to abide by terms and conditions of the scheme, and allow customers to review and rate their work.

You can find the list of trusted traders and their reviews and ratings on [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/trustedtraders](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/trustedtraders)

The list of trades covered so far are as follows:

- Plumbing & 'Gas Safe' Engineers
- Joiners
- Builders
- Electricians



# Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve

## Easter Break Activities

**Mon 2 Apr**

**Easter EGGStravaganza 12—3pm**

Are you an egg-cellent egg painter? We have plenty of wildlife-themed Easter activities for children of all ages. Cost: £4 or £1 for Wildlife Explorer members, adults go free! Drop in session, no need to book.

**Mon 9 Apr**

**Scavenger Hunt 12—3pm**

Join us for the reserve's biggest ever scavenger hunt! Visit unknown places on the reserve with the assistance of the RSPB team and join the chance to win a prize! Cost: £4. £1 for Wildlife Explorer members, adults go free!

**Lochwinnoch Holiday Club 11am—2pm**

**Friday 6 Apr—Photography Day:** Bring your own digital camera and take photos of amazing things around Lochwinnoch reserve.

**Friday 13 Apr—The Big Five:** Five is the magic number. Take the Find Five challenge looking for different birds, insects, plants and mammals

Our holiday club is led by our field teachers on Fridays during the school holidays. The holiday club is split into two sessions. One suitable for those aged 8 & under (who must be accompanied by an adult) and one for those aged 9 and over.

**Please bring a packed lunch and be sure to book in advance.**

**Cost £4 Wildlife Explorer members. £7 non-members.**

**Adults must accompany children aged 8 and under.**

**Wellies, waterproofs and old clothes that you don't mind getting mucky is recommended.**

**Geocaching Treasure Hunt 11—4pm**

Join us for the launch of our Naturally-Healthy campaign by taking part in one of the worlds fastest growing outdoor crazes—geocaching. Caches will be hidden across the reserve. A great activity to get active in the countryside.

Free event for geocachers. Please visit visitor centre to get a ticket. Drop in session, no need to book.

For more details & booking email: [lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk)

tel: 01505 842663

Or visit our website:

[www.rspb.org.uk/lochwinnoch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/lochwinnoch)

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The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654.

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To become a Renfrewshire Trusted Trader, (cost £200/year) please visit Renfrewshire Council website: [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/trustedtrader](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/trustedtrader)



## LEAP CAR CLUB UP AND RUNNING

Want to find out more about how you can make use of the 2 cars now available in the Village ?

To find out more about joining the LEAP Car Club;

pop into the LEAP office at 22 Church Street

email us: [scott@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:scott@lochwinnoch.info)

or call us: 842 530

## 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.
- **Lochwinnoch Community Walks**—Mondays (ex. Public Holidays), meet at 10.30am at The McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Playgroup**—For under 5's, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30-11.30am at the McKillop.
- **Lochwinnoch Toddlers**—Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30 - 11.30am, McKillop.
- **Lochwinnoch Gymnastics Club**—For primary school-age children

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every Monday, 5-8pm at the McKillop. Phone Coby on: 0772 9 051 615.

- **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
- **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.
- **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.
- **Drop-in T Bar**—Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum. Every Tuesday from 10am-1pm, McKillop Inst. For details tel Rita 842054 or Betty 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.
- **Scottish Country Dance Club**—Every Tuesday, from 7.30-9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **Jogging Buddies**—Tuesday evenings. Meet at Lochbarr Football Club 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 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](mailto:dogtraining@f2s.com)
  - **Calder UF Church**—Food for Thought. Last Monday of the month 7.30pm in church hall
- Some activities may cease during holidays, please check**

## Upcoming Events

- **Mon 2 Apr—RSPB Easter Eggstravaganza**, 12-3pm Wildlife-themed Easter activities for children at the reserve. Cost £4, £1 for Wildlife Explorer members, adults FREE. Tel: 01505 842 663
- **Fri 6 Apr—A Good Friday Commemoration**, Parish Church, 12noon-3pm
- **Fri 6 Apr—RSPB Holiday Club**, Photography Day 11am-2pm, booking required Cost: £7, £4 for Wildlife Explorer members. Tel: 01505 842 663
- **Fri 6 Apr—Open Mike session** at Golf Club, 8pm till late.
- **Sat 7 Apr—RSPB Naturally Healthy launch: Geocache Treasure Hunt** 11am-4pm, free event but collect a ticket from the Visitor Centre, no booking necessary.
- **Sun 8 Apr—Easter Crafting** at Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 1.30-3.30pm tel 01505 842 882 Ext20 for info and booking.
- **Mon 9 Apr—RSPB Scavenger Hunt**, 12noon-3pm, Cost £4, Wildlife Explorer members £1, Adults FREE
- **Fri 13 Apr—RSPB Lochwinnoch Holiday Club**, The Big Five find five challenge, 11am-2pm £4 Wildlife Explorer members £1 Booking required Tel: 01505 842 663
- **Sat 14 Apr—Pawsitive Action** at Muirshiel. Bring your dog along to this FREE class on behavioural techniques. Muirshiel Visitor Centre 1-2pm Tel: 01505 842 803 info & booking.
- **Sun 15 Apr—Write Here Write Now—RSPB Creative Writing Workshop**, 11am-1pm RSPB Lochwinnoch's resident writer, Nalini Paul, will be

leading workshops on the themes of wildlife based poetry and short stories, using the reserve as inspiration. £10. Tel: 01505 842 663

- **Wed 18 Apr—Lochwinnoch SWRI 59th birthday party**, 7.30pm McKillop Hall.
- **Thurs 19 Apr—Historical Society**, speaker Diane Adam on Sma' Shot Cottages, Parish Church Guild Room, 7.30pm
- **Sun 22 Apr—Beith Arts Concert** with choral group 'Aria' 2.30 p.m. at the Beith Community Centre, Kings Road, Beith. Admission (pay at the door): Adults £8, concessions £6, students and children £1. Tea and biscuits provided at the interval.
- **Thurs 26 Apr—Elderly Forum AGM**, 1.30pm
- **Sat 28 Apr—Concert in aid of TCT** featuring brilliant new band 'Deja Blue', McKillop Hall, tickets £10 on sale from the Brown Bull or Cucina Minucci.
- **Sat 28 Apr—Spring Dance** at the Golf Club with BPM Band £10 incl basket supper
- **Sun 29 Apr—Bluebell Walk**, meet Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 2 – 4pm. Tel 01505 842 882 Ext20 for info and booking.
- **Sun 29 Apr—Spring Concert by Lochwinnoch Choral Society** in the Parish Church, 7.30pm Tickets £7 Concessions £5

## CHATTERBOX

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Lochwinnoch Community Council welcomes all items for possible inclusion for publication in print, web or audio format or any way as thought appropriate by the editorial team

All views are of individuals. The Editor accepts no liability for errors or statements and claims made in submissions.

available from the usual outlets.

- **Sat 5 May—Coffee Morning in aid of Arthritis Research UK**, McKillop Hall, 10-12noon.
- **13-19th May—Christian Aid Week** collection in the village
- **Sat 19 May—St Vincent's Hospice Summer Fayre**, Houston Square Johnstone, 10am – 4 pm
- **Mon 28 May—Beith Arts Exhibition** on till 2nd June
- **Fri 22 June—TCT 'Not the Booze Cruise'** Tickets priced £15 (plus £5 for the coach) on sale now only from John Delaney Tel: 07715 579312

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## Road Rage

15 February 2012

The Director  
Planning and Transport  
Renfrewshire House  
Cotton Street  
Paisley

Dear Sir,

Muirshiel Country Park

As a regular visitor to Muirshiel Country Park, in particular the visitor centre just north of Lochwinnoch, I must bring your attention to the state of the access road from the B786 to the centre. Disgraceful, dangerous and almost un-passable unless you drive a 4x4.

Over the years, the road has been getting steadily worse, in particular the section around Tandlemuir, where the lack of drainage is having a particularly devastating effect on the road surface and is only passable with extreme care.

I fear most visitors who do not drive 4x4s will be daunted by the 3 mile assault course which now passes as the access road. This will impact on visitor numbers to the park and may even threaten the viability of the centre itself. Local businesses may also suffer from any drop in visitor numbers.

Visitors now have the choice between enjoying a lovely piece of Scottish wilderness or an afternoon in their local garage and a hefty repair bill for damaged suspension.

Do you have any plans to repair this section of road in the near future? If so when?

I look forward to your prompt and considered reply.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Melville

*At the time of going to press Mr Melville had not yet received a reply (Ed)*

## Elderly Forum

Thursday 26th April 1.30pm is the date for the AGM when the office bearers for 2012 -13 will be appointed.

As the local elections take place the following week it's the perfect opportunity to take part in Age Scotland's activity "Walk in our shoes, Act on our issues", enabling our age group to campaign locally on issues that matter to us.

Age Scotland has prepared a pack that allows us to highlight the barriers in the village and beyond to our mobility, safety, health and comfort. Broken pavements, potholes on roads, infrequent bus services, blocked drains, overhanging hedges, dog fouling and lack of disabled access.

The pack takes the form of a map on which we will highlight places showing these issues.

The main political parties have been

approached to ask if they will make an election candidate available to take part in a debate on these issues. Our very own hustings if you like.

As usual the meeting will end with wine and nibbles.

*Gordon Nicholl*



## Contact the Elderly

### Be our 'Guest' on a Sunday Afternoon

Contact the Elderly, the charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and isolation among older people, is looking for older people to join their Erskine and Lochwinnoch groups.

Contact the Elderly aims to relieve the acute loneliness and isolation of people over the age of 75 who live alone, need a bit of help getting out

and about, and do not have the support of family nearby, by organising monthly Sunday tea parties for small groups within their local community. Each older person is collected from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to a volunteer host's home for the afternoon. The group is warmly welcomed by a different host each month, but the drivers remain the same which means that over the months and years, acquaintances turn into friends and loneliness is replaced by companionship.

Our friendship groups provide a great opportunity for both older people and volunteers to make new friends within the community, to get out of the house, and to generally have a good time! Perfect for those looking for ways to brighten up a weekend.

Anyone over the age of 75 who lives alone, needs a bit of help getting out and about, and doesn't have the support of family nearby, who is interested in joining one of our groups, please contact:

**Margaret Oliver**

**West of Scotland Development  
Officer (01389) 605915**

**or email**

**margaret.oliver@contact-the-elderly.org.uk**

## Allotment Gold

Although we've not had much of the sunshine here in the west the temperatures haven't been too low, although the ground is really still quite wet- that squelchy whooshing noise you get when the fork tries to lift up the soil is a dead giveaway. But at least we've been able to make a start and get some air into the soil just by breaking the surface a bit. We should have started some seedlings in whatever sheltered space we have- greenhouse, conservatory, shed, or even window ledge. Hopefully by the time you read this we'll be lucky enough to get the first earlies into the ground. That would be a head start on last year for sure.

In June the Olympic Torch will be carried through Barrmill, Beith and Lochwinnoch by a relay of inspirational people nominated by their friends and families. What's this got to do with gardening I hear you ask? Be inspired yourself and choose varieties of your favourite vegetables to follow the Olympic rings colours-

Blue, yellow, black, green and red. For black you can use a very dark red or a purple. Grow yourself a rainbow of different colours and brighten up your salads- yellow tomatoes, purple beetroot and potatoes, green, red and yellow peppers, orange or purple carrots, blue corn- (lovely BBQ'd by the way), little gem lettuce and courgettes, red radishes and orange nasturtiums- they both add a lovely peppery taste to a salad.

Join in the celebrations and brighten up our gardens, allotment, doorsteps, patios and window boxes with some Olympic flower arrangements. Use any containers you have to hand- even an old bathtub will do, as long as it has drainage holes in the bottom. Add some crocks or stones, or even broken up polystyrene to help aeration and drainage and then your peat free compost. Go for GOLD with a packet or two of marigolds. Choose RED WHITE AND BLUE with for example, begonias or fuchsias and white and blue lobelia, or have all 3 colours of trailing petunias in a hanging basket.

For a lasting effect after all the excitement of this year has passed why not try roses of each colour either red, white and blue or even the Olympic colours and yes, there is a variety of green rose, although you could fill in a carpet of green between your bushes with a low growing ground cover shrub or even parsley and other herbs!

The Olympic Stadium has been planted with a golden wildflower meadow which is a safe haven for wildlife and plants. You can create a huge impact with little effort on any piece of garden or allotment by sowing your own "meadow". It's an easy way of bringing colour to your own patch.

1. Check that your seeds are suitable for the area you want to sow.
2. If you sow in spring and water regularly you should see the first flowers in 6 weeks. Some may flower early, some late and some even next spring.
3. By summer you should have a beautiful carpet of wildflowers which will attract bees and butterflies.

If you're interested in an allotment we still have some plots available at Garnock Valley Allotments Association in Kilbirnie. Contact Joyce on 01505 682911 or Priscilla on 01505 503410. Visit our Website [www.gvaa.co.uk](http://www.gvaa.co.uk) to learn about our project and see our photo library.



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## Leave it to the kids at LOSC's Easter Club.

### **What would happen if you left kids to put together an Easter Club?**

This is exactly what's going on at LOSC's Easter Club as the whole program has been put together by the children. When she was planning the Club, Nan Keenan LOSC's manager asked the children what they would like to do. The result is a packed program of activities that combines baking, with trips, sport, arts and swimming (but not all at the same time). Nan said: "We want to make the Easter Club as varied as we can.

Although parents and carers need to go to work, for the children it's a holiday so it should be fun. Hopefully we'll see some nicer weather and it'll be an opportunity to get outside".

**The Easter Club runs between the 2nd and 16 of April from 7.35am to 6.00pm each day. £22 full day £12 half day. Book your place at LOSC BASE in Lochwinnoch Primary or contact LOSC on 07757 801 042.**

This is the seventh year of Lochwinnoch Out of School Club. LOSC is a not for profit charity that was set up by a group of local parents to provide affordable childcare for themselves and other local families.

Today LOSC is still run by a small voluntary committee of parents and carers. Morag, the committee's Treasurer says "Childcare is very expensive so by running LOSC as a charity we can keep the costs down". But its not just about price, parents who use the service want their kids to have fun and be safe, and LOSC has consistently scored highly with the Care Commission.

Day to day running of the club is handled by Nan and her staff with support from the committee. Committee member Paul says "All the committee members have children who go to LOSC and they want to see the service continue and improve. Everyone is busy these days, that's why we use LOSC in the first place, but its just a couple of hours a month".

LOSC needs new committee members! As the children move up to the big school, their parents also leave the committee ... and without a committee LOSC will be no more. People join for all sorts of reasons; if you are new to the village it's a good way to meet other parents, its a great way to get involved in shaping a valuable local service .... So if you have a few hours a month to help on the committee please mention it to Nan when you are picking up your kids LOSC or send us an email at [louiselosc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louiselosc@hotmail.co.uk).

## Historical Society

January meeting will be held in the Parish Church guild room on Thursday 19th April at 7.30pm.

### **Guest speaker:**

**Diane Adam  
Sma' Shot Cottages**

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### From the Parish Church

*I feel good, you can tell that I do,  
I feel good, you can tell that I do,  
so good, so good, I do.  
In my head, in my shoulders,  
in my knees, in my toes, in my soul,  
I feel real good.  
Steven Fischbacher[1]*

One of my favourite things about being a minister is working with children. In Lochwinnoch we are privileged in that there is an open invitation for the ministers of Calder United Free Church and Lochwinnoch Parish Church to work in the school. Each year we visit the classes over a period of time, sharing with the children, often learning from them. On a recent visit I was sharing with P6 and we were exploring the topic, "We all have a right to feel good!" We did so acknowledging that there are times in our lives when we don't feel good, we can feel angry, sad, worried. We shared some of the things that can make us feel emotional, such as falling out with a friend, or losing someone we love.

We also talked about coping mechanisms – the ways in which we can deal with anger, sorrow and worry as well as ways in which we can help to start to move on. If the ideas shared by some of the class are representative of the whole class, then we have very well adjusted 10 and 11 year olds in Lochwinnoch!

One of the ways Christians can help deal with negative emotions is to pray.

I'm not sure how many of you are familiar with the animated film "Finding Nemo". The main part of the film focuses on the adventures that Marlin, a timid clownfish, has

as he searches for his missing son, Nemo. Along the way he meets Dory, who is a fish with short-term memory loss. To remind herself how to stay alive, she repeats the mantra, "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming."

My mantra is very similar, "Just keep praying, just keep praying." For me, prayer focuses my life; it reminds me that with God all things are possible; that whatever I am facing, I am not alone and that my strength does not just come from within me, but also from God. When I pray, I also have a strong sense of the supportive prayers of those who pray for me too.

A carving showing Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. As you may remember from last month's Chatterbox, in the Parish Church we have been exploring different ways to pray. In the Bible we often read of Jesus going off to pray, not least the night before he died. After Jesus had shared a meal with his friends, he went out to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives and he prayed what, to me, is the most heartfelt prayer, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." [2]

One could argue that Jesus' prayer was not answered, for the cup of crucifixion was not removed from him; yet through his prayer, he received the strength to walk in God's way, to ensure God's will was done. This prayer took place just before Good Friday, just before Jesus was arrested, put on trial and then led out to be killed. It was a brutal time; a brutal death, which was designed to be slow, painful and humiliating.

Good Friday, particularly the hours between 12 noon and 3pm [3], is perhaps the most emotionally draining time in the whole of the Christian year. Many churches have services over this time, services in which people are free to come and pray for a while and then leave. This year, we in the Parish Church, will be sharing prayer on the streets of our village, just outside the McKillop Institute. You are all very welcome to come and share in a Good Friday prayer walk, in which we will remember the last words Jesus spoke before his death. You can come for as long or as short a time as you can manage.

I survive Good Friday is because I know Easter is coming. The original disciples did not know that. Yes, Jesus had told them that he had to die and rise again, but I am quite sure they did not really believe it. So what do you do when someone you have loved dearly has died? You talk about them, you gather together to share your memories; you ensure that their name is as often used as it was when the person was alive.

I have a beautiful novel entitled, The Magdalene Gospel [4], in the opening chapter we read,

On this first Holy Saturday the women who travelled with Jesus from Galilee and who followed him in Jerusalem are drawn together. They comfort one another and defy the darkness all that day and through the night. From one another they draw strength and begin their struggle to understand Jesus' life and death.

Less than twenty-four after his death, these women make the day sacred by their faith and love. [4] In their time together, the women that knew Jesus best shared their

stories of how he had changed their lives and they prayed together. Sometimes the best we can do, all we can do, for one another is pray.

Attached to this article is a "prayer request" which you can fill in with as much or as little detail as you wish and we will include your prayers in worship in the Parish Church. If all you wish to give is a name, that is fine, if you wish to give more details, that is good too. These requests can be delivered to 1 Station Rise, or posted (in an envelope please) through the door of the Parish Church. All your prayer requests will be brought to God.

We do hope that you can join with us on Good Friday and however you are spending Easter this year, I pray God will bless you with the gift of seeing the world bathed in the glory of our risen Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Yours, *Christine*

- [1] © Fischy Music, used with permission.
- [2] Luke 22. 41, New Revised Standard Version, italics mine.
- [3] The time Jesus was on the cross.
- [4] Ashcroft M E (1989) The Magdalene Gospel, New York, Doubleday, p5

## Beith Arts Sunday Concerts

Those who came to our last concert, "The Ivor Novello Story", written by John Cairney, went home with wide smiles on faces and humming "We'll Gather Lilacs" or another of

## Prayer Request

Please pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (first name only)

Because \_\_\_\_\_

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(please provide as much or as little detail as you think appropriate and return to the Parish Church. Thank you.)

the great man`s melodies in which we had delighted all afternoon! It was a record size audience, and there was no doubt about their opinion of the quality of the entertainment - a real nostalgia trip for most of us, beautifully presented and performed by singers regularly employed by some of the best opera companies in the country. We can`t wait to see their next presentation which is being put together now.

Our April concert on Sunday, 22nd, is the last one for this season. Our artistes this time are a small ladies` choir (only eight in all) called "Aria". These ladies were once at school together, and started singing there, with pop songs featuring high on their preference list. But a music teacher heard them and saw their great promise, and they are now a stunning singing group presenting a wide range of music from

popular to serious. They are accompanied on the piano by that same music teacher who discovered them, Mr. Jim Drennan. So make a note of the date, Sunday April 22nd at 2.30 p.m. at the Beith Community Centre, Kings Road, Beith. Admission (pay at the door): Adults £8, concessions £6, students and children £1. Tea and biscuits provided at the interval.

Although there won`t be any more concerts after that until September, don`t forget that our annual Art Exhibition runs from Monday, 28th May till Saturday, 2nd June. There will be details of opening times, etc., in the May issue of Chatterbox. If there are any budding artists out there who would like to enter some of their pictures, photographs, embroideries, ceramics or other craft items in the show, they should email irene@parkhill.me.uk or phone Irene Cairns on 01505 684608 for more information.

## Historical Society

The Society would like to thank all who came along to the meeting on Thursday 15th March to see Nigel Willis's presentation on Scotts of Greenock.

It was certainly a very good turnout for what proved to be a most interesting and enjoyable evening thanks to Nigel.

The sum of £181.00 was raised for Lochwinnoch Parish Church.

*Gordon Nicholl*

## Whats On at Lochwinnoch Golf Club

**The Golf Season Kicks off Saturday 24th March**  
Come along take a look around, take in the view, check out some golf attire and sample some free nibbles!

**Tea Dance Last Wednesday of the month 2-4pm £5**  
28th March; 29th April; 30th May; 27th June  
includes sandwiches, fancy wee cakes tea or coffee  
Music by Karpati

**Open Mic Sessions First Friday of the month from 8pm till late!**  
Everyone welcome!  
6th April, 4th May, 1st June  
Special set menu available from £10.95 or our regular menu

**Special Easter Weekend Menu**  
Available Friday 6th, Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th and Monday 9th April  
(standard menu also available)

**Spring Dance with the BPM Band**  
Saturday 28th April 7 to Midnight Tickets £10  
Basket supper included

### COMING UP

Summer Craft Fayre  
Jazz Night with Richard Mulharn & Band

### Easter Weekend Menu

3 courses £17.95  
2 courses £15.95

Kids menu available from £7.95 includes Chocolate Egg

Stilton & Cranberry Samosa  
Trout Pate & Oat Biscuits  
Panna Ham & Melon Salad  
Grilled Halloumi & Roast Tomato Salad/Cheese

Confit of Duck on a bed of Puy Lentil Broth  
Pan Fried Sirloin Steak with Crispy Roasts & Seasonal Vegetables

Sautéed Chicken Breast with a mushroom sauce and a Tarragon Mash  
Cajun Seared Salmon Chunky Hand Cut Chips with a Cucumber & Bean Salad  
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## ChatSearch

### Making Chocolate

Cacao	Criollo
Harvest	Winnow
Beans	Rest
Trinitario	Ferment
Ripen	Conching
Mould	Crack
Forasteros	Nibs
Grind	Flavouring
Roast	Mill
Eastereggs	Wrap
Eating	Tempering
Weighing	Enjoying

get the picture.

Then one day a message from the Council came to tell me I had to build a wood and plasterboard case around the tube to comply with some regulation. I jibbed at that but was not even granted the courtesy of a discussion. Just told these are the rules: do as we say or you could be committing an offence.

But then the Council servants were unlikely know about my 2009 solar experiments. I decided to ask if the clear plastic called Makrolon would be acceptable instead of plasterboard and this was agreed. When I curved the plastic far beyond the way it is used in cycle racks or bus shelters, I found I had a powerful spring in circular sheet form. This enabled me to build a surround to my flue that would throw me off if I fell against it, would enable the low level of heat in the wall of the stainless steel tube to radiate straight through the clear plastic without warming it in the slightest, and, provided I left a space top and bottom to let the room air circulate, it would prevent any damage to the flue which is now in clear view all the time. I can also change the colour to make the surface radiate better while adding to the decor of the room.

The Council inspectors have been, and having shaken my unit almost to the point of destruction as though to simulate an earthquake, have accepted the development.

I can no longer wrap my arms around the flue but the good thing is that I sense the heat passing through this plastic window. All day and all night the very slow moving air passing up through the tube warms the entire room just as though the casing was not there.

As an aside to this. If I had built the plasterboard tube the flue would not cool off. The plasterboard and the wood would heat up on the inside, the outer skin on the tube would stay hotter and the heat from the fire would be carried to outside my house, which when you think about it is daft because I am doing my best to keep the heat indoors.

R and D is not only about what it says, it is sometimes about converting set ideas and old methods, about moving forwards: about re-writing rules and regulations to allow new ways of doing things.

It is always about making progress. Sometimes it is also about insisting on evident truth and good value engineering under an outdated Luddite-like blanket of thought and practice.

*Alan Lovegreen*

*March 2012*

## Research has only 2% success.

Set down as a heading like that it is rather blunt and may appear to be off-putting so I will describe the setting. I was home on leave in the early part of the war and discussing with my Director at NPL about what I should aim to do as I would no longer be flying. He compared the life of a scientist and that of a service man. One has 2 % success and 98 % failure whereas the service man has 98 % boredom and 2% excitement. As he had won the Military Cross in the First World War he was talking from experience. I have found his views to be helpful all my life since.

98% of the things you try out come to nothing or are overtaken by more successful events time after time until finally there is a really worthwhile breakthrough. But all of those other events were stepping stones. Sometimes these are straight ahead; but never are they evenly paced. Quite often sideways steps are best. More often than not one goes back to the beginning to make a fresh start.

Also of course you have to wait your turn because all projects have priorities. Research therefore is also a matter of being patient.

But those of us engaged in the business know that it really goes on in one's mind and that is not something that can be put in a box and locked away or be

influenced by money. We develop pigeon holes into which ideas can be placed, taken out, turned over, added to and put back again so that when the time comes to make external steps for others to see, what comes out is often much tidier, has more facets, is closer to reality and may even be possible. You have taken time to think. Sometimes the very best ideas are very simple such as the safety pin.

Like all totally new things whatever it is will not be given any credibility. It will usually be greeted by "that won't work" or some such really encouraging comment. When it does work the usually comment is along the lines "well it was obvious wasn't it?"

Developing new things to order is almost impossibly difficult. Successful projects are usually the result of one person's vision.

Just now and again something can be lifted out of one environment and put into another and you have a new product.

Recently to keep fit I needed to take some action to keep warm, so I left the upstairs double skinned flue to my wood burning stove completely uncovered. Two metres above the stove it does not become very hot on the outside. I could strip to the waist and wrap my arms around it and be quite safe. I could tie my pyjamas around it to warm them but doing that hardly took the chill off. I am sure you

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# Lochwinnoch Arts Festival

Photos: Lesley Adam





Nancy Geddes

### Call the Midwife (again)

In the March edition we learned that Nancy Geddes of Johnshill not only watched the popular BBC TV series "Call the Midwife" but was a part of the real-life events on which the series was based.



Nancy (middle) visiting family during her time in Poplar

In Poplar, Nancy felt that in her working life she was putting her religious beliefs into action. She enjoyed the people and their great community spirit. People had very little, houses were often very overcrowded (with people and furniture) but families always tried their best to provide for their children.

A sad part of life, illustrated in the TV series, was the plight of young girls working on the streets. It could be difficult to identify which girls were underage and to find a safe place for them. The older 'ladies of the night' could easily identify underage girls and often came to ask for help for them. Unfortunately, often when the girls were taken to a children's home their 'minder' would find them and

persuade or force them back onto the streets. Sister Mary Catherine, one of the Anglican nuns, established a safe-house in Birmingham for those girls who could be rescued.

Nancy came to Poplar unable to ride a bike but after some initial problems mastered the skill. She even found a new way of getting round the district. There was a short cut that saved cycling a long looping road to the Isle of Dogs but the path led over a footbridge too narrow to cycle safely (there is a similar footbridge in Johnstone). Nancy had the bright idea of slinging the bike over her shoulder, carrying her heavy bag in her other hand and walking across the bridge. This shortcut became popular with the other girls too.

Nancy joined the Franciscan order as a nun. She expected to be sent to Somerset to use her Orthopaedic training to care for elderly people but instead found she was to go to Zambia to use her midwifery skills; this led to two very happy years there.



Nancy celebrating her Profession as a Poor Clare Sister with niece Barbara

In a Zambian village Nancy found the people similar to those in Poplar: A strong community of loving families with little material wealth. The Zambian Government paid Nancy a midwife's salary and this helped fund the Mission clinic.

There was also a community of lepers living separately from the village. The leprosarium (leper hospital) was well-funded and helped the local community especially with vaccines for the children.



Food shortages were common but people went hungry together and so did the missionaries. The World Food Program donated seed to local farmers to help increase food production; unfortunately this had the opposite effect. The seed donated was genetically modified and although more productive, was sterile (GM seed has to be bought new each year) so that when the farmers planted seed saved from these GM crops (as they were used to doing) they did not get a harvest. As they had no money to buy new seed, this caused greater hunger.

To a midwife the local custom of young girls carrying loads on their heads and younger siblings on their backs caused serious problems. The weight placed on bodies not yet fully developed caused deformed pelvises leading to problems giving birth. Traditionally the treatment for an obstructed pelvis in childbirth was to have someone jump on the mother's tummy! This was stopped.



Staff outside the clinic Meekness (front centre)

Another issue was post-natal depression. This was more common in girls who had gone away to the (local) secondary school 100 miles away. Meekness, a local nurse, found that the problem was linked to young mothers having missed out on the tribal initiation rites that signal a girl becoming a woman. When

their friends were being initiated, these girls were living far away at school. This lack of initiation weighed heavily on the girls when they became mothers. Mission staff referred these girls to the local (lady) witch doctor who worked with the girls to set things right.

The Mission Clinic was 180 miles from the nearest graded road. The Mission had been given a 4x4 vehicle but as this was very heavy and costly to run it was sold and a pickup truck bought.

The pickup was converted to an ambulance by fitting a canvas cover over the load area to shade the patient. Often the truck would get stuck but locals would simply gather together and lift it out of the mud.

In very serious cases where a patient needed to be moved to a major hospital Mission Medicare would fly the patient. This involved a makeshift landing strip with the truck's headlights as landing lights.

Although the clinic had a stock of powerful drugs these were simply kept in a drawer – no one would consider touching them. However, hungry people with a sweet tooth couldn't be trusted with other goods. Tins of condensed milk were kept safely under lock and key as these tended to vanish.

After two years in Zambia, Nancy returned to the UK to Birmingham and St Paul's Anglican Church, a community 96% African/West Indian. This outward-looking community also allowed its church hall to be used for teaching the Koran.

Nancy next left Birmingham and went to San Francisco as Assistant Chaplain at San Francisco General Hospital.

*To be continued.*

*Call The Midwife is being repeated Saturday Evening 7:20pm BBC HD*

## Easter Bunny

Over 90 million chocolate Easter bunnies are made worldwide each year. At this time shops are full of them often with a basket of coloured eggs. What is their



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

**Douglas Alexander, Lochwinnoch's MP**

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significance and where did the association of bunnies and Easter come from?

We recognise Easter as the great Christian celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus; the most important Feast in the Christian calendar. However, the festival of Easter pre-dates Christianity and was originally a celebration of Spring and the pagan goddess of Spring and fertility Ostara or Eostre.

“On this greatest of Christian festivals, several survivals occur of ancient heathen ceremonies. To begin with, the name itself is not Christian but pagan. Ostara was the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring” (Ethel L. Urline, Festival, Holy Days, and Saints Days, p.73).



Superhero Bunny—Brodie Cameron

### What of the rabbit?

During springtime, when days and nights are equal length, the hare (less cuddly than a bunny rabbit) was identified with the moon goddess and the egg with the sun god. Pairing the two together offered a kind of ying and yang to Spring equinox

celebrations.

OK, that was then and this is now, how did the rabbit get here?

In the middle ages, German children would eagerly await the arrival of the Oschter Haws, a rabbit who delighted good children on Easter morning by laying coloured eggs in nests. When German settlers emigrated to America in the 1700s they brought the Osterhase/Oschter Haws tradition with them.

The tradition spread throughout America, and anyone who has visited at this time of year will no doubt have seen what a big thing the Easter Bunny is there. As with so much else American, the bunny eventually found its way here and across the world.

In Australia they had a problem, rabbits are non-native and destroy crops: they are pests. Who wants a chocolate pest?

They have come up with their own variation: The Easter Bilby. The Bilby is rather like a mini-kangaroo only 9 inches long and an endangered species. So celebrating the Easter Bilby lets Australians forget the nasty rabbits and focus attention (and chocolate) on the little Bilby which needs all the help it can get.



So, the Easter Bunny is really a pagan hare who represents fertility and the moon and came here via Germany and the USA. Now there are 90 million of them - typical rabbits! Don't tell the Australians.

## Lochwinnoch Art Group

We have two meetings this month, on Monday the 2nd and Monday the 23rd of April, between 7.30 - 9.30pm. Our meetings are held in the Space Room of the McKillop Institute where we now feel quite "at home" and with twenty-one members we need all the space that it offers!

Many of our members have enjoyed supporting the Art Exhibition in the library during the recent Lochwinnoch Arts Festival by contributing some of the paintings which were on show. There are certainly a lot of talented people in our village!



### LEAP funded for a further 3 years!

The Scottish Government announced on 13th March that 43 community groups across Scotland have been awarded over £6.9 million for the next three years under the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). LEAP are delighted to be one of these 43 projects.

LEAP received a total grant of £442,500, through LMEG, over a period of 3 years to enable householders in Lochwinnoch, Howwood, Kilbarchan and Bridge of Weir reduce energy wasted in their homes.

The project will also develop car clubs and lift sharing schemes, expand local food producing initiatives and provide greater access to climate change information through local schools and other organisations working with children and young people in



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these communities.

CCF helps communities reduce their carbon footprints and contribute to Scotland reaching its ambitious climate change target of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. The current round of applications, assessed by an Independent Grants Panel, also introduces the first successful intake of applications for the Junior Climate Challenge Fund; 20% of the funding allocated to LEAP is through the Junior Fund.

The project team, group volunteers, steering group and LMEG are delighted with the news and want to thank the villagers of Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan and Howwood for their support and enthusiasm for the project over the past 2 years.

This fantastic support for our villages has been secured because of the successful uptake of the project to date, and a clear direction from the community on how the project should grow

### What will happen to all our stuff?

I never knew she collected elephants  
 Now all in the charity shop  
 Along with the walking sticks  
 She'd put aside while dancing  
 That reluctantly had to stop

She'd knowledge of many things  
 An active mind and quick wits  
 Mainly self-taught I guess  
 As school was disrupted starkly  
 By the London Blitz

So I bought one, a pincushion  
 A battered silver feller  
 Proud trunk held high,  
 A useful minding of our friend  
 A funny story teller.

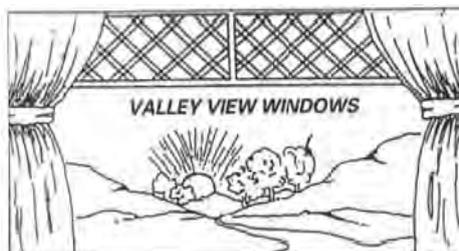
*A tribute to Joyce Allwright, a member of Lochwinnoch Writers, who passed away in January.*

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