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CHATTERBOX

No 222 June 2012

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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



Summer Festival Street Party

Things are shaping up nicely for the Village Street Party but if you would like to help or get involved in any way at all please feel free to get in touch with me at the Brown Bull. By the time this prints there will still be a week to go...Don't be left out! Get in touch if you haven't already as it's never too late!

Stalls are filling up as I type with handmade soaps, face painting and delicious handmade cupcakes, wedding orders taken! Homemade ice-cream and Hog Roast will be on offer and I believe Threepwood Fayre are bringing the chocolate fountain...I'll probably have to man that station for them :)

Crafters will line the street with their Jewellery, bags and clothing...all handmade! There should be something for that special someone, somewhere along the street.

Bands will be playing for the musical delight of your ears through the day in the Mckillop. So far we have The Furrballs, Unkle Vanya, Sound of Lies, A 3 piece Jazz band, Squish Lemon and more. The bands are playing for no fee and all I ask is you put your hand in your pocket and fling a couple of quid in the charity buckets to show appreciation. The money will be counted at the end of the day and split between Teenage Cancer Trust and St Vincent's Hospice. A grand total will be published in July.

We hope you can make it along and join in the fun and buzz of the day. Kick off for stalls will be 12 noon and bands will start at 12.45pm.

See you there!

Laura

Summer Jam Festival

THE THREE CHURCHES INN will present a Summer Jam Festival of non-stop music on Saturday 21st July in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust.

Ten local musicians will play back to back in the beer garden from 2pm. Tickets: £5 adults, £2.50 children.



The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

The annual house-to-house collection in the Lochwinnoch area will not take place this year. The local branch of the RNLI would like to thank most sincerely all those who have donated to the charity so generously over the years.

Special thanks are due to all the loyal supporters who have given their time willingly, in all weathers, to collect in and around the village.

Collection boxes for the RNLI are available in some village shops and the lochside for those who wish to continue to support this most worthy charity.

Thank you all.

Lochwinnoch Open Race

This year's Lochwinnoch Open Race will be held on Saturday 09th June, beginning at 14:00. There will be two categories of race: Seniors (over 16) and Joggers/Juniors (over 13). Both races will begin at Lochwinnoch Parish Church and finish in the Park.

Registration will take place at Lochwinnoch Parish Church between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm on the day of the race. There will be changing facilities available in the Church and presentation of medals will take place in the Church Hall after the race.

The route is the same as last year. The Senior Race is a circular route around Glen Lora, coming down to the cycle track and into the Park, covering a distance of approximately 8.9km.

The Jogger/Junior Race will be along the cycle track and back, a distance of approximately 5.8km.

Please contact Christine Donaldson on christine39forever@hotmail.com or telephone 01505842548 for further information.

We wish all the runners a good day.

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They've lit the flame!

When we came to stay in Lochwinnoch in 1996 the first question a youngster asked was "who are you for?" When someone explained that he was asking if I supported either Rangers or Celtic I was no wiser. I had no idea who they were, running was my sport. It suited me and I suited it. I began as a child imitating a horse. My dad crafted my first spikes before I was ten. I ran everywhere. I was lucky enough to run with and against Humphries the RAF's marathon runner of 1942 and to be advised by him but I never beat him and that was not for the want of trying. For all my effort and for all the scheming and planning, for all the right food and rest I was not good enough to beat this smaller more supple man. Later, at 24 years of age I thought I was past my peak.

The thing athletes in all disciplines do is to train. In all weathers they train, practice, call it what you will and then, on the day, perform to the very best of their abilities. If they win they rarely make a great fuss and if they lose they are the first to congratulate the winner. What they all have in common is the will to strive. Striving is the thing. Beating the task, beating the desire to stop but instead taking one more step and then another. It does not matter what the game, sport or activity it is, striving and practice are the routes to success.

I was watching a team at work the other day with my eye mainly on the coach. Usually one sees arms waving about but this chap was using his fingers to squeeze out that little bit of extra effort, ducking his head, screwing up his face, conjuring effort out of space. The result of all the

CHATTERBOX

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training sessions, all the explaining, all the starting and stopping, all the practice of set pieces was coming together and the crowd were enthralled and quiet. The team? The Lochwinnoch Junior Choir singing under conductor Gordon. Good sports all of them.

And we have moved on a month. The Torch bearing the Olympic flame is on its way and in a few days will be carried up through Lochwinnoch. A very good choice, because this village knows a thing or two about competing, about striving to excel and about putting in the time and effort.

Every day we see oarsmen out training, sailors getting every ounce out of the wind, cyclists wrenching their machines up and down our hills and runners road pounding. In gyms folk are trying hard. So it is right that this flame is carried high through here. It belongs.

But this event is not just a one off. It is a moment in time of many cycles. It is a moment we use to take stock. To find out where we are, to make a record, to build a reference to complement our library of memories and to set examples. It is also the time to realise that we are capable people, in our sports and lives: so far we have seen many double dips. We know ourselves; we know that if we aim to reach new heights in any endeavour each of us needs to take that next step.

So greet the flames, herald the runners and cheer them on, watch the events and come away better people.

That, when all is said and done, is what the Olympics are really about.

Alan Lovegreen

Congratulations Lucy!

On the 29th of March, Lucy McCutcheon won an award for digital animation from the creative Scotland awards. This award was for the best animation taken from students covering the whole of Scotland, she became the youngest ever winner of this award. The animation she did was "It" and was based on the Daft Punk song "Technologic".

The judges were taken from some of the best in their fields in Scotland, so well done Lucy.



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Elderly Forum

All eight of the election candidates attended the hustings event run by the forum on the 26th April in the McKillop. Thank you to all who contributed to this event which I am pleased to report went very well.

As this was also our AGM the office bearers for 2012 - 13 were elected.

Chair: Gordon Nicholl.

Vice chair/minutes secretary: Betty McArthur

Treasurer: Lita Lazatin

Secretary: Anne Nicholl

Tbar convenors: Reta Parr and Betty McArthur.

The meeting finished with wine plus a tasty sandwich and cake buffet provided by the golf club.

The June meeting is on Thursday the 28th at 1.30pm. Then a break for two months returning in September on Thursday the 27th.

The dates when the Tbar and lunch club will be closed and reopened will be given at the Forum June meeting and published in the July issue of Chatterbox.

Gordon Nicholl



Fund Raising Night for Ethiopia

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of Cheryl and Scott Milligan, of Lochbarr Centre, the recent quiz night was a wonderful success. Cheryl and Scott offered their centre for the charity, Habitat for Humanity, so that I could raise funds. I am going to Ethiopia with the charity in June, to help build homes, primarily with leprosy victims.

Along with the help of Frances and Billy, we had a fun night and despite some subterfuge and sabotage along the way the "Lemons" took the overall first prize. Of course the charity itself came off best with a mighty total of £521.68 raised.

Thanks to all who attended the evening and for the support of those who were unable to attend. A very special thanks goes to Ryan for donating his long saved pennies to the cause.

Carol Whyte

Need a lift to Mass?

If you want to attend 10am Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Lochwinnoch and need a lift to get there, help is at hand.

Please call Michael Coane on 0771 374 3439 and he will arrange a lift for you.

St Vincent's Hospice

5 A-Side Charity Event, Sunday 3rd June

Do you play for a football team or just fancy getting some friends together to have a bit of fun while raising money for charity? Well the St Vincent's Hospice Event could be just the thing for you.

St Vincent's Hospice is running a new sporting event for all the footballers out there, this year in the form of a 5 A-Side Charity Tournament. On Sunday 3rd June Five on 5 Ltd at Pro Life Fitness Centre in Paisley will play host for this fantastic event.

You will take part in knock out games for qualifiers with the chance to win the St Vincent's Hospice 5's Trophy! A buffet will be provided for all players and you will have full use of the changing rooms, lockers and showers.

Entry is £75 per team with optional sponsorship available. For more information and to book a place for your team please contact Ashley Moran in the Fundraising Team on 01505 705635 or email ashley.moran@svh.co.uk.

St Vincent's Hospice is now on Facebook, Twitter and Linked In.

Help support - St Vincent's Hospice - when you shop online www.easyfundraising.org.uk/svh

Ian Weir

2nd May 1944—6th April 2012

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help, cards and beautiful flowers I received after the death of Ian. Also the family and I are very grateful for the wonderful support and dedication shown to Ian during his illness by all the staff and volunteers at St Vincent's Hospice. I know he appreciated this very much.

The collection after the funeral service amounted to £630.00 and has been passed on to the hospice.

I want thank Rev. Archie Ford and Father Sean Cunney for all their support during and after Ian's illness. I know their visits brought him great comfort.

Ian was born in Harvey Terrace and moved to Howwood when he was 6 months old but always had a special place in his heart for Lochwinnoch.

With grateful thanks

Margaret Weir

THEN & NOW—71 High Street June 1661 / May 2012—Gilmour's Hairdresser

This was Ian Gilmour's first property purchased, and his first car. His brother Robert purchased the premises in 1987 and says he'll never sell it because it was the family's first business venture. The property shall pass it's way through the generations. *R. Gilmour*



Regional Park Round Up

Double Celebrations for Clyde Muirshiel in Heritage Lottery Funding Awards

We are delighted to be celebrating two successes in the recent Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding announcements. The funding awards for the Semple Trail Heritage Project and Scotland's Mountain Woodland Project total nearly one million pounds and will benefit Lochwinnoch and the wider community. Look on our website for more details.

BBC film at Castle Semple

Castle Semple loch has just been a film location where the BBC filmed the school drama *Waterloo Road*. The crew and lots of equipment were there for 2 whole days causing them to have to borrow the nearby Annex for some of their vehicles. Several local people and fans of the show were down watching the action patiently from the Visitor Centre ramps! We would like to thank the public for their patience and we look forward to seeing the episode, due to be screened in August.

Rare Beetle Found at Muirshiel

A rare beetle has been found on the moor on the way to Windy Hill at Muirshiel Country Park. Carabus

nitens is a nationally notable species and is a golden-green ground beetle with bright coppery-red foreparts. It is mainly seen between dawn and dusk on upland heather moors and is regarded as one of the most endangered ground beetles in Central Europe due to a loss of heathland areas. If you spot any of these colourful beetles within Clyde Muirshiel let the Rangers know or contact Alan Brown at Barnbrock.



Swallowcam 2012!

We are eagerly awaiting the return of the swallows to the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre for this year's Swallowcam! Check the Blog page of our website for the latest information.

Photographic Competition 2012

The wait is finally over as leaflets for this year's Photographic Competition are out in our Visitor Centres and now online. In support of the 2012 Year of Creative Scotland, the theme is 'Capturing Creativity in Clyde Muirshiel'. Top Prize £250. It's time to great creative with your camera or mobile phone.

Schools Nearly Out for Summer

The Countryside Ranger team and our Outdoor Activity team have a wide range of outdoor activities and courses, events, wildlife watching and volunteer opportunities available during the school holidays – please look at the event listings on our website or look at the course dates and consider what new and fun things you and or the children could be doing this summer, many events are free.

Mountain Bike Pals?

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

'Calling all Cyclists'

We'd still like to know where you cycle within the Regional Park and what developments you would like to see in the future. Please get in contact, preferably by email, to routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk. Thanks to those that have been in contact, your input is most appreciated.

Events in June

- **Sat 2 & Sun 3 June Come and Try RYA Sailability Weekend**—One of many events being held at Castle Semple throughout the year to

celebrate the Centre achieving Centre of Excellence status. Now fully equipped with all the specialised equipment and experienced staff, we invite those with disabilities to come and try Sailing..

WHERE: Castle Semple Centre,
WHEN: 10.00– 15.30 hrs 2 hour slots
MORE INFO: tel 01505 614 791
Ex21 booking essential.

- **Sun 3 June Summer Farmers Market**—Enjoy the loch side location as you purchase fresh produce and drinks from local suppliers. Stalls inside and outside.

WHERE: Castle Semple Centre
WHEN: 10.00 – 14.30 hrs or until sold out
MORE INFO: tel 01505 614 791

- **Sun 3 June Flower Folklore** - Have you ever wanted to know more about wildflowers? This informative walk will give you the stories behind them as well as some tips on identification.

WHERE: Castle Semple Centre
WHEN: 13.30 – 15.30 hrs
MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882
Ex20 & bookings

- **Wed 6 June—Pound and Pace Charity Walk**—A chance to walk the 7.5mile Greenock Cut with a Ranger and admire the view - weather permitting! Your pound donation goes to a local charity.

WHERE: Greenock Cut Centre
WHEN:10.30 hrs for registration, walk starts 11.00 hrs
MORE INFO: tel 01475 521 458 & bookings

- **Sun 17 June Wings over the Heather Walk**—A walk up a well surfaced track to look at moorland birds with the possibility of seeing elusive Hen Harriers. Binoculars available.

WHERE: Muirshiel Centre
WHEN: 13.00 – 15.00 hrs
MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 803,
booking essential

- **Sun 24 June Butterfly Day** - A celebration of some of the most colourful members of Scottish wildlife with the opportunity to walk a transect and improve your identification skills.

WHERE: Castle Semple Centre
WHEN: 13.00 – 16:00 hrs
MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882
Ex20 & bookings

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

East Lochhead Self-Catering Cottages



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admin@eastlochhead.co.uk
www.eastlochhead.co.uk

Garnock Valley Allotment Association

One of the biggest jobs now will be watering, stone fruit tends to be shallow rooted, if you allow these to dry out the fruit will either abort or drop off will be small, dry and tasteless. Make sure you water enough so it works its way down into the soil to benefit the roots. With vegetables, aim to keep the soil evenly moist to avoid drying and flooding which causes root crops to crack or run to seed prematurely.

Things to do this month: continue making successional, little and often, sowings of all salad and quick maturing crops to give you a regular supply through the season. Finish planting out tomatoes, courgettes and other tender vegetables sown and grown indoors; remove side shoots from cordon when still small. If allowed to develop they sap the energy of the plant reducing the quality of the yield. Bush and hanging basket varieties don't need sideshooting and should be left to grow naturally.

Water potatoes regularly especially those that are in tubs and barrels. Continue to earth up as the shoots grow leaving just 2 inches of shoot uncovered, finishing when the earthed-up ridge is about 10ins high. Potatoes grown under black polythene don't need earthing-up.

Still some plots available. Contact: Joyce 01505 682911 or Priscilla 01505 503410.

Visit our Website: www.gvaa.co.uk

Save Your Regional Park Edinburgh - Protest March

Save Your Regional Park (SYRP) organisation decided to support the Communities Against Windfarm Group (CATS) and sent 16 members through to Edinburgh on Wednesday 9 th May to take part in the march.

There were well over 300 protesters representing communities from Shetlands to the Borders. The march informed us that there is serious concern all over the country and that many town and city dwellers were unaware what was happening in the rural areas. Some householders from the Aberdeen area, unable to sell their houses, were considering abandoning them because they can no longer live with the noise and disturbance from the many wind turbines erected in that area. A medical doctor approached me and gave me a page from the British Medical Journal outlining research which the medical profession has decided needs to be done about wind farms I quote:

"A laboratory study has shown that low frequency noise is considerably more annoying than high frequency noise and is harmful to health - it can cause nausea, headaches, disturbed sleep, and cognitive and psychological impairment".

What was also very clear was that the media were only truly interested in the pro-wind farm case as neither TV nor newspapers covered the plight of all those travelled from the Shetlands or the Borders to make their case. It was indeed a day well spent and has given a greater perspective on the damage that turbines are doing not just to our landscape but to our health.

Editorial and Copy for Chatterbox

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

Electronic submission with full colour pictures are preferred.

To advertise in Chatterbox

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR JULY IS
FRIDAY 15TH JUNE**

Double celebrations in Heritage Lottery Funding Awards

at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Staff and local communities at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park are delighted to be celebrating two successes in the recent Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding announcements. The funding awards for the Semple Trail Heritage Project and Scotland's Mountain Woodland project total nearly one million pounds and will benefit Lochwinnoch and the wider community.

The Semple Trail Heritage Project receives £399,000 for developments at Castle Semple Country Park. This award is the result of a successful stage 2 bid to HLF to enhance heritage and access.

The funding was secured by Renfrewshire Council in cooperation with the South Renfrewshire Access Network Initiative (SRANI) partnership. SRANI has for some time been developing a path network linking routes, facilities and attractions around Castle Semple Loch and this latest step marks the beginning of the most ambitious stage of development so far.

Charlie Woodward, Manager of the Regional Park is delighted as the award will allow the park to tell the story of the Semple Estate and make access to its rich natural and cultural heritage easier and more fun. Castle Semple Country Park already receives around 350,000 visitors per year. The Semple Trail Heritage Project will enhance facilities to make visits to the Park even more rewarding. Additionally there will be events for visitors of all ages and skills development programmes with young people.'

An ice house, grotto and cascades from the former Castle Semple Estate will be conserved and promoted to visitors. New and upgraded paths plus interpretation will encourage visitors to learn about and enjoy these heritage features. There will be lots of volunteering and skills development opportunities as well as an activity and public engagement programme for visitors and school children. Thanks to an innovative partnership with Renfrewshire Council's Museums and Arts Service, the project will be working with schoolchildren from all over Renfrewshire.

A key part of the project is the 'Windows on Wildlife' programme which will use a variety of

technologies including cameras to record, present and interpret wildlife in the area. Cameras will allow visitors to learn more about everyday species such as swallows and also to watch rare or infrequently seen wildlife such as otters, badgers or roe deer.

Elsewhere in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park - 'Scotland's Mountain Woodland Project' will take place along the Calder Glen from Lochwinnoch to Muirshiel Country Park.

Working in partnership with the landowner and Highland Birchwoods a large scale wildwood is planned in Calder Glen that will have native species such as aspen, rowan, willow, birch and juniper. Scottish mountain woodlands have largely disappeared from the uplands and this scheme aims to create around 150 hectares of woodland with over 190,000 trees in the Regional Park.

As the woodland establishes badgers, otters, stoats as well as birds like kestrels, buzzards, peregrines, ravens, long-eared owl, barn owl and short-eared owl are likely to use the developing wood. Part of the site is in a Special Protection Area for hen harriers and here the tree planting will be less dense, so that it retains an open aspect, giving excellent hunting areas for this species.



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Clyde Muirshiel and two other sites (Dundreggan Estate and Lochluichart and Scatwell Estates) are involved in the overall project. Free training courses will take place at the three sites twice a year. As well as creating a diverse woodland habitat the project will involve volunteers with tree planting species surveying.

The project will establish a wildlife corridor linking important nature conservation sites in the valley and the moorlands. These corridors also help species to adapt to climate change



Olympic Flame

The Olympic Flame is a symbol commemorating the theft of fire by Prometheus from the ancient Greek God Zeus. It originated in ancient

Greece when an eternal fire was kept burning by Vestal Virgins in the temple of Hera at Olympia. Although it didn't play any specific role in the ancient Olympic Games, the flame has been an enduring part of the modern Olympics since its introduction at the Amsterdam Games in 1928.

Contrary to popular belief, the Torch Relay from the temple of Hera in Olympia to the host city is not an ancient event. In ancient times the flame was already at Olympia so there was never any need for a torch relay.

The Olympic Torch Relay is a modern invention devised by Carl Diem and introduced at the notorious 1936 Berlin Olympics organised by the Nazi Josef Goebbels. The Olympic Flame was lit at the temple of Hera in Olympia (by actresses in place of Vestal Virgins) using a concave mirror (made by the German company Carl Zeiss) and transported in steel-clad magnesium torches (specially produced by the armaments giant Krupp) from Greece to Berlin. The distance: 3,187

kilometres, was covered by 3,331 runners in twelve days and eleven nights. This was later re-staged for the 1938 Nazi propaganda film 'Olympia'.

Although the Olympic Flame is still mainly carried by runners, it has been transported in many different ways. In 1948 it was carried by boat across the English Channel and by dragon boat in Hong Kong in 2008. It first travelled by air in 1952 to Helsinki in Finland and in 1956, when equestrian events were held in Stockholm instead of Melbourne, all Torch bearers travelled on horseback.

In 1976 the Olympic Flame was transported for the first time to the New World by innovative means. Heat sensors in Athens were used to detect the Flame, it was transformed into a radio signal and this signal was transmitted by satellite from Athens to Canada where it was received and used to trigger a laser beam to re-light the Flame for the 1976 Montreal Games.

In 2000, the Torch was carried underwater by divers near the Great Barrier Reef.

In 2004, the first global Torch Relay was undertaken, a journey that covered all seven continents and lasted 78 days. The Olympic Flame

covered a distance of more than 78,000 km in the hands of 11,300 torchbearers travelling to Africa and South America for the first time, visiting all previous Olympic cities and finally returning to Athens for the 2004 Summer Olympics.

The Olympic Torch (without the Flame) has been taken into space twice in 1996 and 2000.

The Olympic Torch Relay ends on the day of the opening ceremony in the central stadium of the Games. The final carrier is often kept unannounced until the last moment, and is usually a host country sports celebrity. The final bearer of the Torch runs towards the cauldron, often placed at the top of a grand staircase, and then uses the torch to ignite the Flame in the stadium which marks the symbolic commencement of the Games. The Flame continues to burn throughout the Olympics, and is extinguished on the day of the closing ceremony.

Over the years there have been protests against the Olympic Torch Relay due to its origins with the Nazis. In the 1956 Melbourne Games, local student Barry Larkin, protesting against the Relay, tricked onlookers by carrying a fake Flame, consisting of a pair of flaming underpants in a plum pudding can, attached to a chair leg. He successfully managed to hand over the fake flame to the Mayor of Sydney and escape without being noticed.



Lochwinnoch

Arts Festival 2012

The Arts Festival Committee wants to thank all helpers, artists and people who attended this year's festival.



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CLOSED THURSDAY

MAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Lochwinnoch Library will be closed on Monday 7th May

Services available:

- Free Broadband Internet
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New Titles:

David Baldacci: **The Innocent**

It begins with a hit gone wrong. Robie is dispatched to eliminate a target unusually close to home in Washington, D.C. But something about this mission doesn't seem right to Robie, and he does the unthinkable. He refuses to kill. Now, Robie becomes a target himself and must escape from his own people.

Fleeing the scene, Robie crosses paths with a wayward teenage girl, a fourteen-year-old runaway from a foster home. But she isn't an ordinary runaway-her parents were murdered, and her own life is in danger. Against all of his professional habits, Robie rescues her and finds he can't walk away. He needs to help her.

Even worse, the more Robie learns about the girl, the more he's convinced she is at the centre of a vast cover-up, one that may explain her parents' deaths and stretch to unimaginable levels of power.

Now, Robie may have to step out of the shadows in order to save this girl's life . . . and perhaps his own

Nora Roberts: The witness

Daughter of a controlling mother, Elizabeth finally let loose one night, drinking at a nightclub and allowing a strange man's seductive Russian accent lure her to a house on Lake Shore Drive. The events that followed changed her life forever.

Twelve years later, the woman known as Abigail Lowery lives on the outskirts of a small town in the Ozarks. A freelance programmer, she designs sophisticated security systems - and supplements her own security with a fierce dog and an assortment of firearms. She keeps to herself, saying little, revealing nothing. But Abigail's reserve only intrigues police chief Brooks Gleason. Her logical mind, her secretive nature, and her unromantic viewpoints leave him fascinated but frustrated. He suspects that Abigail needs protection from something - and that her elaborate defences hide a story that must be revealed.

Mandasue Heller : Lost angel

Many years ago, Johnny Conroy was forced into a shotgun wedding with a Manchester gangster's daughter. He's never even begun to love her, but can't leave without being killed by her vicious father. He turns out to be a success in the car-theft business, with a used car lot that provides both cover and a way to fence the cars. But now the best thing in his life - his daughter Angel - is sixteen and history seems to be repeating itself when she falls for one of his employees. Ryan is a nice boy, and he really loves Angel. But there are secrets that could destroy the happiness of Johnny and his daughter, and they are about to come out.

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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

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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.

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Men of Iron

Since early childhood I've been fascinated by blacksmith's forges - especially those where horses' shoes were made and attached to the hooves of sturdy Clydesdales.

This was probably because my grandfather and great-grandfather were grooms and horsemen on country estates in Scotland and England.

Genetic memories guided my footsteps to smithies like those which were once everyday aspects of my ancestors' lives.

I cherish fond memories of smithies in and around Lochwinnoch during the 1950s. These included forges at Newton of Barr, Castle Semple North Gates and the Roadhead.



Beyond the parish boundaries, skills of blacksmiths like George Fulton of Kilbarchan and the Marshalls of Gateside were much in demand by Lochwinnoch farmers and country estate-owners.

Craftsmen who simply sculpted and attached shoes to horses' feet were known as farriers. This word comes from Latin, 'ferrum,' meaning 'iron,' the material from which the shoes were made.

Blacksmiths performed these roles, too, but their talents extended to repairing agricultural implements like ploughs, harrows, cart-wheels, reapers, corn-binders and harnesses.

They also sharpened sickles, scythes, tree-loppers, hedge-cutters and shears. Smiths were popular with children because they made girrs (metal hoops), cleeks (hooked guiding rods) and brakes and steering wheels for bogies (wooden go-carts).

These were easily-made playthings for Lochwinnoch boys and girls during the post-Second World War years when money had to be spent on food, rent and clothes rather than toys.

Until the advent of mechanisation during the 20th century, horses were essential for farm work. I have wonderful memories of watching horse-drawn ploughs carefully guided by experienced ploughmen carving furrows across fields in the Castle

Semple, Auchengowan, Kerse and Lochhead areas.

This was in preparation for potato planting while large flocks of gulls swooped on freshly-excavated soil in search of insects.

So it's not surprising that blacksmiths' skills in forging farm implements and preparing horses for service on the land imbued the artisans with an aura of wonder and awe.

The mystique was further enhanced by the eerie aura of smithy workshops, darkened with shadows flickering phantom-like on walls and illuminated by flaming furnaces.

Forges reverberated with the ringing clatter of white-hot iron being hammered into the desired shape and size on sooty anvils.

The blacksmith had to tread warily as he bent the curved horseshoes with his heavy sledge-hammer, anvil, fire and water-cooling trough before fitting the sizzling shoes on horses' feet.

This required great empathy with the enormous equines, especially plough-pulling Clydesdales whose massive, hairy hooves could shatter a man's skull if he inadvertently spooked and caused them to lash out with their feet.

Smithy walls were frequently festooned with horseshoes. These hung upside down so luck would flow down into the forge. In houses, horseshoes were placed with prongs facing upwards to ensure good fortune never ran out.

Blacksmiths have occupied sacred places in the pantheons of many lands. In Celtic Scotland, Goibniu was blacksmith of the gods and goddesses. He made weapons and

shields for the Tuatha de Dana (children of the Earth Mother, Dana) in their prehistoric battles with Iron Age invaders from Europe.

The patron of blacksmiths was St Clement who was chained to an anchor and drowned during Roman persecution of the early Christians.

On his anniversary, November 23, it was customary for smiths to ram gunpowder into small holes in anvils then ignite it, causing explosions. This was known as 'firing the anvil.' Effigies of St Clement were then carried through villages and money collected for celebratory carousals at local inns.

Artists like Ford Maddox Brown and Joseph Wright regarded blacksmiths and farriers as personifications of the dignity of labour. They epitomised the indomitable spirit of the agricultural working classes.

Today horses no longer ply their trade in the countryside around Lochwinnoch. The role of the traditional blacksmith has hugely diminished.

But during my time as a ranger at Muirshiel and Castle Semple country parks I often reflected on long-gone scenes of pastoral life when land was tilled and the harvest gathered by sturdy horses drawing ploughs and other implements shaped by mighty blacksmiths.

On occasions like these, memories of distant days gleamed as brightly as flames in forges where Lochwinnoch's men of iron shod colossal Clydesdales and mended implements which shaped the countryside around the village today.

Derek Parker

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



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or call: 842 530

What's On

Regular clubs, classes and groups

- **Advice Works**—At the Library by appointment only. Contact 382328
- **Bokwa Fitness** — McKillop Institute, Thursdays, 8:30-9:30pm. Places limited. Contact Rachel on 07795 100231 or 503362
- **Boys Brigade**—Anchor Boys and Junior Sections meet on Tuesday nights, Parish Church Hall.
- **Calder Drama Club**—Thursdays, from 8pm-10pm McKillop Institute.
- **Calder UF Church**—Food for Thought. Last Monday of the month 7.30pm in church hall
- **Drop-in T Bar**—Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum. Every Tuesday from 10am-1pm, McKillop Inst. For details tel Rita 842054 or Betty 703727

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- **First Friday of Month**—Semple Tones host an open mike session at Lochwinnoch Golf Club. Come along, don't be shy.
- **Girls Brigade**—1st Lochwinnoch Company, Wednesday evenings from 6pm -9.15pm at the Parish Church Hall for various age groups.
- **Healing and Creativity Workshops & Classes**—For details or to book a place, please Tel Becky: 0141 8816700 or Libby on: 015105 842604.
- **Jogging Buddies**—Tuesday evenings. Meet at Lochbarr Football Club at 6.30pm. For details, Tel: 0141 887 1357 or 07947 763704.
- **Keep Fit—Improving With Age classes**—every Tues from 10-11am at the McKillop.
- **Kiddies Ceilidh Club**—Traditional dancing for you and your little ones. Thursday 9.30am McKillop Institute
- **Knit @ The 19th at the Golf Club**—Monday 10am-12 noon (or longer), all levels and learners welcome.
- **Liathach Dog Training**—(pre-booking necessary). Anne Moss, Tel: 01505 842367, e-mail: dogtraining@f2s.com
- **Linda Margaret School of Dancing**—Tuesdays from 4pm -8.45pm, McKillop Institute. For details, Tel: 0141 581 9104.
- **Lochwinnoch Art Group**—Meet fortnightly on Monday evenings, 7.30pm, McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Choral Society**—Rehearsals on Monday evenings, Parish Church/ Hall. Juniors 7:15-8pm, and Seniors 8pm-9.15pm.
- **Lochwinnoch Community Walks**—Mondays (ex. Public Holidays), meet at 10.30am at The McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Gymnastics Club**—For primary school-age children every Monday, 5-8pm at the McKillop. Phone Coby on: 0772 9 051 615.
- **Lochwinnoch Playgroup**—For under 5's, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30-11.30am at the McKillop .
- **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.
- **Lochwinnoch Toddlers**—Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30 - 11.30am, McKillop.
- **Lochwinnoch Writers Group**—Monday from 2-4:15pm in the Library. Contact 873581
- **Morag's Keep Fit**—Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm, in the McKillop Institute.
- **ROAR Lunch Club**—every Thursday from 11.45am PROMPT at the McKillop Institute. **Please Note - ONLY ONE SITTING.**
- **Scottish Country Dance Club**—Every Tuesday, from 7.30 -9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **Slinky Strollers**—Thursday mornings
- **Scottish Slimmers**—Thursdays, 7/7.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **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.
- **Windsurfing Club Night**—Thursdays 6-8:30pm
- **Yoga Classes**—Wednesday evenings, McKillop Inst. only 1 class 7-8:30pm. Call 842877 to book.
- **Z u m b a** — Mon 7-8pm Lochbarr Centre Wed 7-8pm McKillop Inst Thur 10-11am Lochbarr Centre

Some activities may cease during holidays, please check

Upcoming Events

- **Mon 28 May—3 June Beith Arts Exhibition**, Beith Community Centre, Kings Road. Opening times: Mon. to Fri. 2.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Sat 2 June—St Vincent's Hospice 5 A-Side Charity Event**, Five on 5 Ltd at Pro Life Fitness Centre in Paisley. Entry is £75 per team with optional sponsorship available. For more info and to book a place for your team please contact Ashley Moran on 01505 705635 or email ashley.moran@svh.co.uk.
- **Sat 2 June—Three Churches Inn hosts Gamble, Gamble and Drever**
- **Sat 2 & Sun 3 June Come and Try RYA Sailability Weekend** Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 10am-3.30 pm in 2 hr. slots. All the specialised equipment and experienced staff, so why don't those with disabilities to come and try Sailing. Tel 01505 614 791 Ex21 booking essential.
- **Sat 2 & Sun 3 June-Springwatch: Family Fun Weekend** 11am-4pm, RSPB Reserve - a day of fun filled activities for all the family to enjoy. Take part in our Springwatch Reporter competition, too! Cost: £4 or £1 for RSPB members
- **Sun 3 June—Lochwinnoch Summer Farmers Market**, Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 10am -2.30pm or until sold out. : Tel 01505 614 791
- **Sun 3 June Flower Folklore Walk**, Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 1.30-3.30pm. The stories behind the flowers as well as some tips on identification. Tel 01505 842 882 Ex20 for info & bookings
- **Tues 5 June—RSPB Jubilee Tea Party** 1pm – 3pm Join us to celebrate 60 years of Elizabeth II. Snacks and drinks provided as well as a right royal wildlife quiz. Free event!
- **Wed 6 June—Pound and Pace Charity Walk**, Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, 10.30am for registration, walk starts 11.00 am. A chance to walk the 7.5mile Greenock Cut with a Ranger and admire the view - weather permitting! Your pound donation

goes to a local charity. Tel 01475 521 458 info & bookings

- **Wed 6 June—RSPB Wednesdays with Wildlife: Wildflower Identification** 7.00 p m – 9.00 p m Join us for a beginners session, learn about some of the folklore surrounding plants, about past medicinal uses and pick up some hints and tips about wildflower identification in the field. Please book in advance as spaces may be limited. Cost: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Phone 01505 842663, email Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
- **Fri 8 June—The Olympic Torch** comes through Lochwinnoch arriving 13.59 hrs.
- **Sat 9 June—Lochwinnoch Open Race** in two categories: Seniors (over 16) and Joggers/Juniors (over 13). Both races will begin at Lochwinnoch Parish Church and finish in the Park. The Senior Race is a circular route around Glen Lora, coming down to the cycle track and into the Park, a distance of 8.9km. The Jogger/Junior Race will be along the cycle track and back, a distance of 5.8km Registration will take place at Lochwinnoch Parish Church between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm on the day of the race. Race starts 2pm.
- **Sat 9 June—Lochwinnoch Summer Festival**, midday-midnight, street fun,
- **Sat 9 June—Food Fair** outside the McKillop Hall 10am-3pm
- **Sat 9 June—June Disco Fever** at 3 Churches Inn a 70s, 80s night. Fancy dress optional. Prize for the best groover.
- **Sat 16 June—The sensational Blind Panic** is back at the Three Churches Inn.

- **Sun 17 June—RSPB Father's Day Guided Walk** 11am – 4pm a guided wildlife walk with fun activities for you and Dad to do along the way. Cost: £6 per family or £3 for RSPB family members. Please book in advance as space is limited. Phone 01505 842663, email Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
- **Sun 17 June—Wings over the Heather Walk**, Muirshiel Visitor Centre 1 - 3 p m A walk up a well surfaced track to look at moorland birds possibly seeing Hen Harriers. Binoculars available. Tel 01505 842 803, booking essential
- **Fri 22 June—TCT 'Not the Booze Cruise'** SOLD OUT
- **Thurs 21 June—RSPB Summer Solstice Guided Walk** 7 p m – 9 p m A gentle stroll along the reserve trails into the evening, walk led by the Lochwinnoch team. Cost: £4 or £1 for RSPB members
- **Sun 24 June—Butterfly Day**, Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 1-4pm A celebration of some of the most colourful members of Scottish wildlife with the opportunity to walk a transect and improve your identification skills. Tel 01505 842 882 Ex20 info & bookings
- **Tues 26 June—Rev Christine and Family - Farwell Party**, 8pm, McKillop Institute with "pot luck" supper, everyone invited, feel free to bring a (cold) dish.
- **Sat 30 June—Three Churches Inn host folk music with The Skunards.**
- **Sat 21 July—Three Churches Inn hosts Summer Jam Festival** in aid of TCT at Three Churches Inn Beer Garden. Tickets £5 adults £2.50 children

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NOW & THEN

is 10 Years Old

Colin and Sue Nicholson are celebrating 10 years of trading in their shop Now&Then in Church Street. Now&Then is not so much a gift and card shop as a sort of Aladdin's cave where there is so much to see wherever you look.

The business started when Colin, having suffered the pain of redundancy, looked around for a new opportunity and found the current shop to let. As fans of antiques, Colin and Sue decided to start a business selling antiques, collectibles and gifts which explains the name: Now&Then. Colin worked full-time in the shop and Sue helped at weekends alongside her demanding career in public relations.

After trading for some while, experience showed them that, while people enjoyed browsing the antiques, they actually bought the gift items. So the business developed into one selling

gifts, crafts and cards although by this time the name Now&Then had stuck so they continued with it. Sue had by this time traded in her glamorous job for a full time life working and living in Lochwinnoch.

The Nicholson family have lived in Lochwinnoch for 30 years, 10 years of which have involved running Now &Then. Colin and Sue are investing further in the village opening a second store "Little Now&Then" a children's store, to be run by their daughter Rebecca. This represents a major commitment to the village by one family. Sue said " We've always been very grateful for the wonderful support we have from villagers and we don't take it for granted. We try to give a personal service and find stock that is interesting, different and good value. "

We've all seen businesses in the village come and go and in these difficult economic times we only have to look at high streets around us to see what happens when shops close for good. Depressing is the only

word for it. So we need to support all our local shops.

There are times in Now&Then when it seems that the walls would bulge if everyone breathed out at once. Even so, it's a great place for a browse as there always seems to be something new and interesting.

Thanks Colin and Sue for giving us a local place to buy our cards and gifts and best wishes for the next 10 years.

Robert Armstrong Thanks

Sheila and family thank everyone who attended the funeral service for Bob Armstrong at

Lochwinnoch Parish Church on Wednesday 9th May 2012, and afterwards at Lochwinnoch Cemetery.

The retiring collection in aid of

Parkinsons UK raised the sum of £800.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

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WHAT'S COMING IN JUNE

Live Entertainment

Saturday 2nd June

Gamble Gamble and Drever

Saturday 9th June

Disco Fever 70's, 80's night.
Fancy dress optional. Prizes for best groover

Saturday 16th June

The sensational Blind Panic are back

Saturday 30th June

Folk music with the Skunnards

Come along and join us

From the Parish Church

*Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many
days has lain;
love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.
John Macleod Campbell Crum*

John Crum's beautiful Easter hymn reminds us that each year the seeds that have been lying in darkness in the soil return to new life. This spring we are still awaiting the arrival of many of the flowers that brighten our gardens – even those we buy from garden centres are still waiting to be planted (at the time of writing) due to our unseasonable frosts. I even know someone who took the precaution of putting his seedlings in the greenhouse and the frost got to them there! I am aware that the weather was the subject of my last column in the Chatterbox, nevertheless, the weather has been so strange this year that it is something that we are all talking about. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, your gardens will be alive with colour again.

One of the great privileges of being a minister is conducting a funeral. I realise that may sound a strange thing to say, especially when in a village the minister will know not only the family, but also the person who has died – very often the minister themselves is also saying a final farewell to a beloved friend. Yet it remains a privilege. When I am standing at the graveside, I am not only reminded that life is short and therefore should be lived to the full, I am also so very much aware that what we plant in darkness rises to new life. Of course by the time of a funeral, the soul of our departed loved one is already in heaven, yet the funeral service remains a reminder that the physical death we experience here on earth leads to a glorious new life in heaven. The winter of death is followed by the spring of resurrection in heaven.

I do not think it is any co-incidence that Easter is celebrated in the spring time when we see nature being reborn after the dying back of autumn and winter. In the season itself we see the resurrection of the world around us,

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again reminding us that the life we experience on earth is not all there is to life. When we experience our own autumn and winter, there is a wonderful spring yet to come. It is also very true that all through life we experience small deaths – things that come to an end which cause us pain, perhaps it is the loss of a relationship, or redundancy, or some other life changing event that takes us all our energy just to survive. Yet after we have come through such experiences and look back on them, we often find that while life has changed beyond all recognition, some of the changes have brought new friends into our lives, or given us some unexpected experiences and that in fact the changes have been for the good. I certainly know from my own experiences that the hard times in my life have in the main made way for new life to grow. Some of the more difficult challenges and changes in my life are the very experiences that set my feet on the path that has led us to Lochwinnoch.

We are certainly living through change in the Parish Church Manse. There are lots of things that we are doing for the last time in Lochwinnoch. In many ways life seems to be in limbo. There is an “almost, but not quite yet” aspect to life as we prepare to leave Lochwinnoch. Living in limbo is not necessarily a bad thing for it gives time and space to work out what is truly important in life. And not for the first time, we are very much aware of the wonderful support of so many people.

In the five years we have been living in Lochwinnoch we have made so many friends, we have worked with so many different people in so many different ways. We so much appreciate the way you have welcomed us into your village and into your hearts and we will miss you.

We would like to be able to say goodbye to you all, so please accept our invitation to a “farewell party” in the McKillop Institute at 8pm on Tuesday 26th June.

This is an invitation to you; please don't be thinking, “she doesn't mean me.” Yes I do. Please also spread the word. Children are also very welcome to come along. There will be a “pot-luck” supper table and if you wish, you are more than welcome to bring a cold [1] supper dish to add to the table. There will also be a bar serving refreshments.

We do realise that not everyone will be able to come along on that particular night, so we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your friendship in the past five years. Cameron, Iain and I have so enjoyed living in Lochwinnoch, it has been a great pleasure to be the minister of the Parish Church and I would not have missed the experience for anything.

May God continue to bless you all.

Yours,

Christine

[1] By restricting ourselves to cold dishes we avoid the necessity to re-heat food to the temperature required by food safety regulations.

Adopt A Station

We have had preliminary discussions with Scot Rail to adopt Lochwinnoch Station to improve the look with plants etc.

More than one hundred Stations have so far been adopted in Scotland by volunteer gardeners – who have helped to add seasonal colour and vibrancy. We will be announcing more soon!!

Watch this space

Morag, Rowena, Zul and Liz

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The Antiques Roadtrip films at The Stirrup Cup Again!

Last month the BBC2's Antiques Roadtrip filmed again at the Stirrup Cup outside Kilbirnie. This will be for Series 5; such is the popularity of the show.

The format for the new programme places two experts as contestants travelling the length and breadth of the U.K., always in a classic car, with £200 each to spend. They then try to out profit each other by selling their items at auctions along the way. All monies made will be donated to charity at the end of the series.

This time around, the celebrities, on the Scottish leg, are James Lewis and Thomas Plant.

Both were filmed driving to the Stirrup Cup in 'Bluebell', the convertible Morris Minor, where James is dropped off in search of 'bargains', and Timothy chugs his way to record a section on Quarriers Village.

Owner, Greta, pictured below with

James, said of the experience this time around, "It was another fun day. A bit nerve-racking though with the TV camera up close but the team were super, very friendly"

Due to be aired around about October, later this year, other local antique shops will be featured again, with all items bought being auctioned in Glasgow.

Pawsitive Action

Pawsitive Action Voluntary Group (PA) aim is to Encourage and Support Responsible Dog Owners/Walkers by bringing updated educational awareness on dog related issues. PA networks with individuals, groups, organisations, Councils, Regional Parks and Council Parks, dog businesses and charities to offer our services promoting responsible dog ownership.

Thanks to Charles Woodward, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Parks Manager and Kate Cuthbert, Local Access Officer for nominating Pawsitive Action and we are now members of

the Local Access Forum. We are honoured and promise to work hard to bring our message across: encouraging and supporting responsible dog owners who are always welcome in our Parks.

We will be attending Lochwinnoch Street Party June 9th and Barshaw Gala Day June 16th, so come along if you have any questions or need advice.

"All About Dogs, Renfrew", Dog Walking Service approached PA to help promote and support a Dog Walking Service Network Group.

We are contacting all Dog Walking Services in and around Renfrewshire area to ask if you would like to register your interest in hearing about future networking events which would bring dog walkers together and allow you to discuss the ups and downs of being a dog walker.

We will be organising our first networking event in June 2012. This is a chance to discuss how we can educate the public and our Councils in the valuable community service "professional" dog walkers provide and the importance of socialising dogs.

PA and All About Dogs Renfrew will bring your suggestions to members of our Council. The Council and our Parks are eager to network with you in a pawsitive action way.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us or Louise McAllister.

- Jacquie Dougan, Tony Gibb & Louise McAlister

- All About Dogs phone: 07824 317899

- All About Dogs email: broadloan@hotmail.com

- Pawsitive Action phone: 842885

- Pawsitive Action email: pawsitiveaction2010@gmail.com

Lochwinnoch has a new baby!

The former deli at 39 High Street has been transformed to provide a home for innovative business Little Now&Then, which will specialise in children's items.

The store opens at the beginning of June - exactly ten years after the birth of its parent Now&Then, the gift shop in Church Street. And while the name may be similar, the stock and the feel of the new shop are very different.

The light and airy space in Little Now&Then is home to a treasure chest of goodies for kids or anyone buying presents for them and should be a valuable addition to shopping choice in the village.

It aims to offer a huge selection of all sorts of objects for babies and children, lovely things for mums-to-be and new mums, while not forgetting dads, grandparents and siblings.

Clothes range from tiny, adorable baby garments including many small "mindings" like socks, bibs, vests and hats to pretty summer dresses for the girls and funky outfits for toddlers as well as a selection of t-shirts for big brothers and sisters and babygro's with witty and inventive sayings- many made in Scotland.

Decorative items will help create cosy, bright nurseries and kids' rooms while adults can get busy with the very best quality baby knitting wool and pattern books.

The shop has a profusion of baby and christening gift items from the traditional to the contemporary. From pure, delicately scented baby and adult skin and bath products from Arran to handmade chocolates from an artisan chocolatier based in Ayrshire, there are attractive and unusual Scottish products that make a lovely gift for a new parent. Personalised hand painted wooden door hangers, produced in Fife, can be ordered and delivered in a short time for that totally unique present.

Imaginative toys and books are available for both genders and all ages making Little Now&Then the perfect destination for a birthday or party present. Whether it's a cuddly soft toy

or wooden puzzle for a little one through to a science kit, board game or creative project for an older child there should be something for everyone.

Special occasions for special girls can be marked with a special piece of silver jewellery while there are oodles of pocket money purchases to be had for both boys and girls.

There are some things, however, that will be common to both shops - the quest to discover a large range of affordable and original stuff that you will not find in the supermarket, an amazing selection of cards and cheery, welcoming personal service.

The management of Little Now&Then is also a family affair. Colin and Sue Nicholson, who have run Now&Then for the past decade, will continue to take a hands-on interest in the development and operation of the new venture but the day to day supervision and decision making is in the hands of their daughter, 23 year old Rebecca.

A former pupil of both Lochwinnoch primary and Johnstone High School, Rebecca has grown up in a shop-keeping environment and has gained valuable experience in her years working in the retail industry.

At the opening of the shop, Rebecca commented: "I'm incredibly excited and enthusiastic about this project. I hope to build on the success of Now&Then and give people another reason to shop in the village. We will, of course, be delighted to hear your suggestions or feedback. I hope that everyone will come and have a look - we're friendly, affordable and a bit different. Welcome in for a browse!"



TCT News

1. Not The Booze Cruise. Tickets for the boat and bus are now sold out. Would those people still topay me (£15 for the boat and £5 for the bus) please get the money to me asap as the boat charter has to be paid in advance.

2. Dejablu. Many thanks to everyone who came along and helped provide a great atmosphere and a great night. A very special thank you to the anonymous donor who gave me a cheque to cover ALL the expenses for putting on the concert. Largely as a result of that wonderful gesture, we cleared a profit in excess of £2,500 on the night; a very welcome contribution to TCT and its task of opening two specialist units in Edinburgh to complement the two Glasgow units.

3. Three Churches Inn Summer Jam On Saturday 21st July, the 3 Churches is organising a full day party with local bands and musicians performing. There will be a full day's entertainment and events, and all ticket sales on the day will be donated to TCT! Please put the date in your diaries and watch out for more details in the coming weeks.

John Delaney

Mistylaw Medical Practice

Travel Advice

If you require information on vaccinations needed for travel please contact the practice at least 6 weeks in advance - forms available from reception.

You can also obtain information from the Travel Clinic at Glasgow Airport on 0141 848 4800 or the website

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home.aspx

Repeat Prescriptions

Repeats can be requested by using the re-order slip which can be handed in at reception or posted through the letterbox outwith office hours. You can also use our new secure online system at

www.mistylawmedicalpractice.co.uk

Lochwinnoch Gala Day 2013

Plans are already being made for Gala Day 2013. The theme of next year's Gala Day will be announced shortly.

For those interested in next year's Gala Day, details can be obtained from Jane Owens who is now the main organiser. Jane can be contacted on 01505 842089



Councillor Doig

I am very pleased to have been elected as one of the three Councillors for the multi member ward of Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, and Lochwinnoch at the recent council elections on 3rd May. On behalf of my SNP colleague, Ken Macdonald, and myself, I would like to thank those in Lochwinnoch who gave us their support and I will endeavour to live up to that trust by standing up in the Council chambers for the interests of the village as part of the wider ward.

The ink was hardly dry on the ballot papers before I became aware of the tremendous award for the Castle Semple Country Park of £400,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to set up the Semple Trail Heritage Project. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in Lochwinnoch, and its people, and the idea is very much to involve local people in the project with training being given to a pool of long term volunteers. My wife, son and I have long enjoyed Castle Semple so now there are more reasons to enjoy one of Renfrewshire's leading visitor attractions.

I very much want to make myself available to local residents in Lochwinnoch and am in the process of organising regular constituent surgeries at the McKillop Institute. Until these are finalised and, then publicised, please call me on 07534

148224, or e-mail me at cldr.andy.doig@renfrewshire.gov.uk, should you have any issues you wish to raise with me. Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Andy Doig (SNP),

Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, and Lochwinnoch Ward, Renfrewshire Council.



LEAP Recruitment

4 SELF Employed Positions Available

The LEAP Project, is currently looking to recruit:

- Energy Advisor - to work on average 18.75 hours per week, earning up to £9,750
- Community Development Officer (Education) – to work on average 20 hours per week, (up to £12,480)
- Community Development Officer (Energy) – to work on average 15 hours per week, (up to £9,360)
- Car Club Coordinator – to work on average 12 hours per week, (up to £6,240)

All positions are self-employed, some evening and weekend work will be required. Initial contracts and earnings will be for the period to 31st March 2013, the first year of the funding period.

There is scope for renewal of contracts for a further twelve month period or scope for involvement in another aspect of the project. For a detailed job description, the application form and to find out more about LEAP please go to:

www.lochwinnoch.info/leap/recruitment

Closing Date: 5pm Wed 6th June

e-mail leap@lochwinnoch.info

phone 01505 842 530



Lochwinnoch Out of School Care (LOSC)

Lochwinnoch Out of School Care is a not-for-profit charity which is run and organised by a committee of local parents who aim to provide high quality childcare for local children. We are always looking for new committee members

EASTER CLUB

The kids had a great time at LOSC's Easter Holiday Club, swimming, eating, cooking, sport, arts and lots of other stuff (but not at the same time).

The kids wanted to do a day of "I'm a celeb get me out of here", so set up their own forfeits and eating trials. Teams were asked questions with forfeits for the losers: either sticking their feet into goo (Soup, beans, and other assorted stuff) to pick five things out of the bucket using just their toes; or eating horrible food combos ... custard, beans and coffee anyone? Later on they had an obstacle race with a soaking for those that came second.

Another trip was to Johnstone Fire Station. the kids had a go at being firechildren. They got to climb aboard the fire engine, had a tour of the fire station and have a go at with a fire hose. Thanks to everyone at Johnstone fire station for a great day out.

And they went Ten Pin Bowling, Ewan turned out to be brilliant despite being only a little bigger than the bowl itself.

SUMMER CLUB

LOSC is running a Summer Activity Club from 27th June to 13th August £22 full day/ £12 half day. A book of 5 day tickets is available for purchase until 22nd June for £90.

These tickets can be used for any day during the holiday club and shared with brothers and sisters.

All children welcome! You don't have to be a LOSC user

Book your place at LOSC in Lochwinnoch Primary or contact LOSC on 07757 801 042

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Lochwinnoch Out Of School Care



Ultimate Field Trip 2012

Congratulations Simas

Simas Stilius, former Lochwinnoch primary school pupil and current resident, has won, with two other Strathclyde University students, the prestigious BP Ultimate Field Trip competition 2012.

The Strathclyde team, known as 'Aspire', came first in the nationwide challenge after impressing the judges with its innovative solution to a problem set by BP. The question posed to this year's crop of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students saw them find a way to "create the world's first zero carbon dioxide oil refinery by 2030". Aspire's three members – Guy Drori, Simas Stilius, and Edward Kay – were rewarded with a six week paid internship in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and the Gulf of Mexico after presenting their idea of using algae to absorb the unwanted CO2.

Team Aspire set out a plan to provide optimal conditions for algae to photosynthesise, using flue gas taken from the refinery. As well as providing a system for carbon capture, they also hoped to sell the algal biomass at a profit – intending to use it in biofuels as well as pharmaceuticals.

Almost 250 teams entered this year's competition and were judged by a panel of experts, including David Eyton and Ellen Williams, BP's head of technology and BP Chief Scientist, as well as TV presenter and scientist Kevin Fong.

Well done Simas, enjoy the West Indies!



Simas (middle)

Leap Car Club Launch Membership Offer £15 !



Photos: Zul Bhatia



LEAP Car Club

Join for just £15 Membership

First 15 members will save £45 on annual membership

Lochwinnoch's Local Car Share & Hire Scheme, was successfully launched at the end of April at the Local Food Fair Event.

LEAP has secured funding to support 'new membership fees' which will allow the first 15 members to join for just £15, saving £45 on annual membership charges.

LEAP Car Club has had strong interest from Lochwinnoch resident who are looking at the true cost of running the family car or a second car in the household. The overall costs of running a car when you include everything (fuel, servicing, tyres, breakdown, road tax, insurance, breakdown cover and then the unexpected costs) can be as high as 0.68p per mile for cars driven around 6,000 miles per year and these costs are likely to continue to rise. We can help you look at the costs related to running your existing car and look at other transport options.

LEAP Car Club is also helping **occasional drivers**; you may already be paying out for a car that when the costs are broken down it is more cost effective and better for the environment to be part of a car share scheme that helps spread the costs of motoring. Feel free to pop in and we can help you explore your options without any obligation, we are here to help you look at your wider transport needs, not just to develop the car club.

Are car clubs for everyone? While a car club may not be for everyone, it does not make financial sense for example to use the car club vehicle to do the daily commute to work and leave it sitting outside your workplace in the car park, however, it may work for the same person if they have a need for a second family car, at the weekend or for specific journeys that are not commuting back and forth to work.



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.

LEAP and Local Transport:

LEAP are keen to find out more about the impact that changes in local transport service will have on residents and also help people find alternatives such as lift share and the car club where they are a viable options.

Largs to Braehead Bus: recently members of the community expressed concerns that the Largs to Braehead bus service will no longer be running. LEAP will be carrying out a local transport needs survey to help identify gaps in local transport that have the potential to be filled by community based services or working in partnerships with transport providers. If you would like to be involved in the transport survey and consultation please contact the details below.

Thank you to local residents who came along to the drop in sessions in May and to the members for their support, it's been great to see people signing up to the car club and we look forward to seeing the membership get to the level that would make it sustainable long into the future. We are confident that this project can continue to grow.

If you have any questions about the Car Club, then please feel free to get in touch.

What to do next..!

Pop into the LEAP office at 22 Church Street, call the office on 842 530

- email scott@lochwinnoch.info
- Come along to the LEAP office **Monday to Friday** between 9am – 4pm.

G o o n l i n e t o **www.leapcarclub.co.uk** to find out more or get your membership up and running.

Castle Semple Rowing Club: eight wins in the first event of the season

The Strathclyde Park Regatta took place over the weekend (Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 April), getting the new Scottish Rowing season off to a flying start.

In the face of horrendous weather conditions, Castle Semple Rowing Club came away with eight wins, three second places and four thirds.

There were a number of new crews on the water – with some junior members competing in their first ever race – and the club was also able to enter a women's eight in the regatta for the first time in many years.

Fresh from their win in the Boston Rowing Marathon in April, where they broke the 31-mile course record for their category, Martin Holmes and Pete Murray won the MVet2x B-D with ease – despite a nine second handicap.

Cameron Grant and Gavin Horsburgh, meanwhile, raced their double over a 2km course for the first time and won the OJul6x by a huge 39 second margin. Cameron also won his Junior 16 singles event, while Gavin just missed out on second place in his single in the Junior 15 age group.

In the WNov2x, Emma Brander and Chloe Lyth, who have recently joined forces as doubles partners, raced together for the first time. After coming second in their heat, the girls came a very respectable third place in the final out of a field of 18 boats.

Caroline Parker, Castle Semple Rowing Club President, said:

"Castle Semple had a hugely successful weekend at Strathclyde Park. As the first regatta of the season, it was great to see so many of our club members come away with a win, and to see that all the training they had put in over the winter months had paid off."

Torch Bearers - A personal reflection

I was pleased and excited for our village when it became known that it was on the chosen route for the Olympic torch on its celebratory journey to London for the Games. Foolishly, I assumed that a torch-bearer would be one of us – a Lochwinnoch resident. I even wrote a poem for him (or her) and was disappointed to be told that this is not the case.

I'm sure they are worthy torch-bearers – I don't suppose they'd choose anybody who wasn't. I dedicate my poem to them. I'll even come and wave my flag and shout my support on the day.

But I still think it would have been better carried by one of our own and I started to wonder who we might have chosen from among us. My short leet is from people I know. It's personal. Other people would choose differently; but surely some of the names put forward would coincide. There are people in our village who are quite outstanding.

Rumour had it that it was to be Ronnie Brown. That's a name I'd have backed. He's given of his time and efforts for many years to the young of the village in the Boys' Brigade. He also does sponsored runs for Charity. I'd be happy to wave my flag and cheer him on. His female equivalent, Margaret McKinley of the Girls' Brigade is another one for my list.

What about Morag Thow? She and her partner, Rowena, have had a truly positive influence on our village. Their bright, innovative ideas and the energy they use to bring them to fruition have made Lochwinnoch a vibrant, more tolerant place for us. The Arts Festival, the ceilidhs for charity, their Keep-Fit are now well-established events which lighten our year and they were all instigated by Morag. Our village is a

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better place for her presence. I'd wave a flag high for Morag.

And there's Archie Ford, surely a leading torch-bearer among us; a much-loved minister who has earned our affection in his selfless, caring efforts on our behalf, no matter what Church we go to or if we don't go to Church at all. He practises what he preaches, loves us warts and all. He'd be a great choice.

Don't forget Paul Waterston, the self-effacing doctor who cycled and ran for charity when he wasn't doctoring, and David Arthur who worked so hard for us as our Councillor and deserves our praise whether we agree with his politics or not.

The enthusiastic groups in the village could surely throw up more names – the Lifeboat ladies, the Community gardeners, the Church community, those volunteers who help the elderly, the Gala Day organisers. There are many who deserve a shout – a veritable phalanx of torch-bearers.

I honour them all. Perhaps it's better NOT to make a choice.

Betty McKellar

Who Lights the Flame?

Run fast;
run with the torch held high
You are chosen;
let your running be infused
with pride that is selfless
and your feet will fly.
May joy be kindled in your stride.
We who watch must too be touched
in all your joy
and pride.
You are not the first.
In the long-ago
Men ran with torches.
You are but today's link in the chain
New and bright –
Always the best
To set the flame alight.

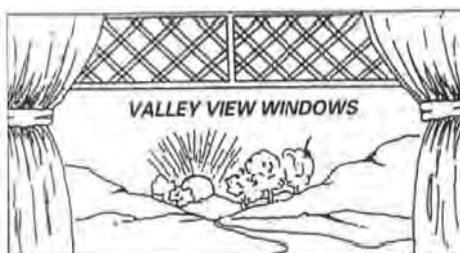
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