

**Nuisance Helpline**  
Anti-Social Behaviour

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

# CHATTERBOX

No 219 march 2012

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

[www.facebook.com/lochwinnoch](http://www.facebook.com/lochwinnoch)

**ASIST**  
Anti-Social  
Investigation Team

Office 8:45am – 4:45pm  
Tel: 0141 840 2163

Community newsletter produced by Lochwinnoch Community Council

## What's On & Dates for your Diaries

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

### MISTYLAW MEDICAL PRACTICE WEBSITE

To help patients who have internet access we have now set up a new practice website

[www.mistylawmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.mistylawmedicalpractice.co.uk)

On this site patients can browse our services, once registered to the website you can SECURELY request repeat medication, request telephone consultations, access registration forms, travel forms etc.

If those who are online use the website then it will mean easier telephone access for others.



### Business Opportunity

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is a tourist 'honey pot' and receives hundreds of thousands of visitors per year. These visitors represent potential customers for local businesses.

The Regional Park is looking to put together an information pack for visitors to the area which would cover all aspects of tourism such as: accommodation, catering, things to do and see. This is a great opportunity to promote your business.

If you want to take advantage of this opportunity:  
Email: [info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk](mailto:info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk)  
Contact: Claire Paterson tel: 01505 614 791

### Spring Concert

Lochwinnoch Choral Society will be holding their Spring Concert on 29th April in The Parish Church.

Programme includes works by Rutter and Robert Burns.

Further details to follow.

### New Upgraded Menu for ROAR

The meals served at ROAR Lunches have been improved.

We hope that New and Old Customers will join us in the McKillop Institute on THURSDAYS at 12.

Price remains the same £ 2.50.



### TCT News

Just a quick 'heads-up' on a concert I am organising for TCT in the McKillop on Saturday 28th April. 'Deja Blue' is the name of the

new band featuring Lochwinnoch's own Tony Finn (The Penny Dogs - from the cruise). Tickets priced £10 are on sale now.

The band played recently at the Renfrew Ferry, and they were brilliant!

Here are some review snippets:

*"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."*

Linda Jaxson, Violet Leighton and Marie McCormick pulled their talents to put on a special party night aboard 'The Ferry' on Glasgow's River Clyde to launch their new band Deja Blue. *"Three powerhouse singers, one fantastic band!"*

### 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. Get them while they're going!

*John Delaney*

07715 579312

A CHARITY DEVOTED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES  
OF TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER

## MATTHEW NEW & SONS

ROOFING - ROUGHCASTING - BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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

Tel No 01505 843400

FMB Certificate No 26366



## Cancellation

Due to unforeseen circumstances, and through no fault of Pawsitive Action Volunteer Group, it is with regret we announce that the Doggie Sports & Wellbeing Day event at Finlaystone Country Estate April 1st 2012 has been cancelled.

We know many of you have enjoyed our previous successful family fun day outings with your dogs and we would like to offer our sincere apologies to all those who had planned to join us. It is Pawsitive Action's aim to bring updated educational information to the general public and we hope to offer you more events in the near future networking alongside those who share our objectives. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Encouraging and Supporting Responsible Dog Ownership.

*Pawsitive Action*

---

## Elderly Forum

Mary McCulloch head of podiatry gave an interesting talk at last month's forum meeting. She outlined the criteria used in prioritising those requiring treatment. She also assured us that the chiropody service will continue to be available at the surgery.

- Roar lunches you will have read elsewhere in Chatterbox about the lunch club on Thursdays in the McKillop. The numbers of those coming for lunch were dropping and it was agreed that the quality of the food which is brought in from an external source was needing to be addressed. Those who attend regularly will agree that the quality of the meals offered now has improved considerably. A two course meal is ordered in advance and baked potatoes are available should the meal of the week not be to your taste.
- The Transport Service to and from hospital for outpatients which is offered by the WRVS and booked through ROAR has not been working well recently. It seems that although a lift to hospital seems to be available there is not always the lift back home. We need to be secure in this and we are assured that ROAR staff are looking into it for us. The problem is that the transport service is provided by volunteers and there are no volunteers from the village.

Which means a driver may have to come from Paisley and this all adds to the time and to the cost. Therefore ROAR will be putting an appeal for volunteer drivers in the April issue of Chatterbox. However if anyone is interested in helping with this please phone Maureen McPherson admin and communications officer at ROAR 0141 889 7481. Fuel expenses are paid.

- Tea Dances. the forum plans to organise regular tea dances to be held at the golf club. The cost will include sandwiches, fancy cakes and a glass of wine with music provided by Karpaul. Lifts will be available for those who need one. What does everyone think about this?
- Message in a Bottle the white plastic bottle placed in the fridge door containing your medical and emergency contact information. The emergency services know where to look. If you haven't got one yet, supplies are available in the McKillop. Also does everyone know to put your emergency contact person's phone number under the name ICE in your mobile contacts list for the same reason.
- Date of next meeting is Thursday 29th March at 1.30pm and the guest speaker is Valerie Reilly, former keeper of textiles at Paisley Museum, now retired. Valerie will present an illustrated talk The History of the Paisley Shawl.

---

## Renfrewshire Stoma Buddies Support Group

Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Stoma Buddies Patient Support group would like to invite all patients and their families to their inaugural meeting on March 1st at the Scottish Spiritualist Church Halls 3 Argyle Street Paisley PA1 2ET 12.30 till 2.30. There will be regular monthly speakers and demonstrations, come along meet new friends, have a wee cup of tea and a blether, and hear about new products.

We extend the hand of friendship to all; meetings will be the first Thursday of every month at 12.30pm. Come along and join us we look forward to meeting you.

For further details call Vicki on 07766 116551



**Local Solicitors**

**Providing Personal Service**

Whether you're buying or selling a home or are unsure of your rights on any legal matter the experienced team at JJ McCosh will provide an individual service from experts with local knowledge.

Partner, and local resident, Ian Briggs is more than happy to consult at your home, and there is no charge for the first meeting.

Feel free to get in touch to speak to our team and see how we can help.

Telephone:  
01294 832112

Email:

  
info@jjmccosh.co.uk



**Lochwinnoch SWRI**

The March meeting of the rural is on Wednesday 21st at 7.30 in the McKillop Hall

The talk is on Sugarart given by Vee Bee of Kilbirnie.

The competitions are:

1. Fruit Loaf
2. Egg Cosy any craft

The winners of the Competitions in February are:

**Viennese Fingers**

1. Kartrina Brunton
2. Elma Richmond
3. Pat Matthews

**Favourite Trinket Box**

1. Pat Matthews
2. Irene Johnston
3. Norma Bell.

We look forward to welcoming members, friends and guests on 21st March.



## LEAP



LEAP is very pleased to announce that we have achieved funding for a two vehicle **Car Club Scheme** for Lochwinnoch which is due to launch from week beginning 12th March 2012 with the support of Carplus.

LEAP are looking to involve members as much as possible to help get the scheme up and running as smoothly as possible. It works on a membership basis and will enable drivers to lower the cost of using a car and over the course of the scheme will help reduce overall car ownership.

The aim of the Car Club is to help provide a local transport service that is economical, will help reduce Carbon emissions and increase links with public transport. The Car Club pricing, benefits & conditions will be available online and from the LEAP office. Members have access to a car as they need it.

- LEAP has secured two vehicles which gives members more flexibility and availability.
- Costs for insurance, breakdown cover and maintenance are spread across the membership so the costs are lower than running your own car – making it a more economical option.

To find out more about the Lochwinnoch Car Club; call 01505 842 530, or why not pop into the LEAP office or email us on [leap@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:leap@lochwinnoch.info) Keep your eyes open for the Car Club Vehicles in Lochwinnoch very soon!

Next **Mini Food Fair** is Sat March 24th in the usual place outside the McKillop. We will tie in with the Arts Festival event being held inside the

McKillop. Running from 10-3. If you would like to have a food stall at this or further events please let us know asap. Next fair is Sat 28th April. Buy local, eat local, support your monthly market- as a trader or as a shopper...

'**Eat Lochwinnoch**' the food group meets monthly in the LEAP office 22 Church St. Next meeting- 6pm on Monday 5th March if you would like to come and drink tea and chat around food issues in the village- growing, cooking, distributing, contributing...

On a similar vein we would like to hear from anybody who would like to **Garden Share**. If you have a garden space you are not using, or if you are looking for a wee plot to work... let us know and we can put you in touch...There is already one plot awaiting tending.

Another successful **Fuel Efficient Driver Training** day has come and gone- good feedback from participants, and money and

carbon emissions to be saved. If we can get enough names we can now offer you a FREE FED driver session- if you would like to take this up let us know as soon as you can; it has to happen before the end of March. Training takes place over an hour, leaving from the McKillop in a specially equipped car with a fully qualified instructor.

The **renewables interest group** continues to assess both local consumption profiles and village potential. We are considering setting up a Community Energy Company to help meet local needs in the energy leaner (or, at least, increasingly expensive) times to come. This would allow more local control over, and investment in, local energy generation including, for instance, the possibility of re-instating an old water wheel site to provide power and an income stream for local investors.

The last of the current '**Draughtbuster**' workshops happened in February in Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan and Howwood. These have been well attended and folk have gone off armed with draught proofing materials, the skills needed to apply them, heads full of practical tips to make their homes warmer and cheaper to run, and tummies full of tea and cake.

We hope to be organising further sessions down the line, and if this is something that could help you please get in touch by phone on 842 530, email [leap@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:leap@lochwinnoch.info) or call into the LEAP office at 22 Church Street.



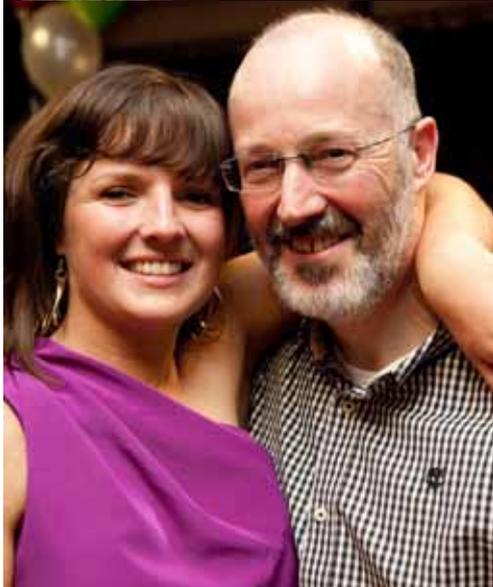
# Thanks

Fiona and Megan would like to thank all family, friends and customers of the Brown Bull so much for a terrific night at Lochbar Services on Saturday 8 January.

It was overwhelming to see so many people come along to see them off on their travels and all cards, gifts and good wishes were very much appreciated!

We hope you all had as good a night as we did!

Photos: Zul Bhatia



## Neil Bibby

*Councillor for Johnstone North,  
Kilbarchan and  
Lochwinnoch (Labour)*



It has been a tremendous honour to represent the people of Lochwinnoch, along with Johnstone North and Kilbarchan, on Renfrewshire Council for the last four years. As you may know, I was elected to the Scottish Parliament in May 2011 and will therefore be standing down as a councillor at the upcoming election.

I have been fortunate to meet and work with lots of great people and have never failed to be impressed by the sense of community spirit in the area. This spirit was key in the campaign to save Lochwinnoch Community Library and I was pleased to work with local residents to ensure it was maintained in its current location.

I was also delighted to support a number of local events, particularly Lochwinnoch Gala Day which brings the community together and is an excellent day out for all the family. I was sorry to hear there won't be a Gala Day this year but look forward to welcoming it back in 2013.

While I am standing down as a councillor, as a Member of the Scottish Parliament alongside your constituency MSP Hugh Henry, I will continue to hold regular surgeries and can be contacted regarding any issues you may have using the details below.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce Labour's two excellent candidates for the upcoming election. Chris Gilmour and Derek Bibby have both brought up their families and lived in the ward for many years and neither is a career politician.

Chris Gilmour left school to join the RAF and has since been an engineer in the private sector for over twenty years.

My father Derek, who shaped my own politics, worked in social work for forty years, twenty-four of which were in Renfrewshire, with disadvantaged and vulnerable families.

I fully believe they can use the experience gained from their working lives to improve and change the way the Council operates and provide common sense solutions to problems

## 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

in the local area. I am pleased that both Chris and Derek are fully committed to maintaining Lochwinnoch Library in its current location. They have the energy, experience and local knowledge needed to make excellent councillors and I wish them both the best of luck. I hope you will consider giving them your support at the Council elections in May.

### Surgeries

My next advice surgeries will be on Saturday 7th April at 9am in the McKillop Hall, Lochwinnoch and at 10am in the Steeple Hall, Kilbarchan.

Please contact me at any other time by calling 0141 889 0457 or visiting [www.NeilBibby.com](http://www.NeilBibby.com)

**Neil Bibby**

*Councillor for Johnstone North,  
Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch (Labour)  
Neil.Bibby.msp@scottish.parliament.uk*



### Contact the Elderly

### Volunteer hosts required

Contact the Elderly, the charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and isolation among older people is looking for more volunteer hosts to join their three Renfrewshire Groups. We have groups covering Erskine, Paisley and Lochwinnoch areas.

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 provides 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.

The groups are appealing for volunteers hosts who are willing to welcome a small group of local elderly people into their home for a tea party, just one or two afternoons a year. If you live in the Renfrewshire area, I'd love to hear from you! Hosts must have easy access into their homes, a downstairs toilet and a big teapot!

If you would like to find out more about volunteering as a host, or you would be interested in being 'our guest' in one of the groups, please contact:

*Margaret Oliver*

*West of Scotland Development Officer  
(01389) 605915*

*Or email [margaret.oliver@contact-the-elderly.org.uk](mailto:margaret.oliver@contact-the-elderly.org.uk)*

## Art Exhibition in Library during Library Hours - Wed. 14th - Sat. 24th March

### Thursday 15th March

Sing along film in Parish church 7pm (Donations)

### Friday 16th March

**Susie Lamont** and pupils in Parish Church 7pm (Donations)

**Capitol Big Band** plays the classics, Glen Miller, etc.

McKillop 8-11pm - £8 - Con £5

### Saturday 17th March

Crafts in Castle Semple 11-3pm (Free entry)

Author Talk for 8-11 year olds by **Franzeska G Ewart**

There's a Hamster in my Pocket Library 11 am (free entry)

Krafty Kids - Parish Church 2-4pm - £5

Calder Scottish Night in Calder Church - £4 - Con £2.50

### Sunday 18th March

Festival Service 7pm Parish Church featuring

Lochwinnoch Primary School poetry readings

### Monday 19th March

Lochwinnoch Writers and **Liz Lohead National Poet of Scotland**

McKillop 7pm - £4 - Con £2.50

### Tuesday 20th March

Film of Lochwinnoch McKillop (Free to pensioners) 10.30am

### Wednesday 21st March

By special request return of **Cameron Murdoch** with **Classical Potpourri**

Featuring Soloists from **Glasgow Phoenix Choir**

Parish Church 7.30pm - £4 - Con £2.50

### Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd March

Calder Drama presents '**Death by Fatal Murder**'

a play written by **Peter Gordon**

Featuring the incomparable, sorry, incompetent, Detective Inspector Pratt

McKillop 7.30pm - £6 - Con £3

### Saturday 24th March

Pauline Vallance plays music and words inspired by the Orkneys; **Rowena Murray** interviews **Ron Ferguson**

McKillop 10am - £5 - Con £2.50

Crafts in Castle Semple 11-3pm (Free entry)

Folk and Blues featuring special guest **Mike Whellans** supported by **Claire Robertson & Pauline Vallance**

McKillop 7.30pm - £8 - Con £5

### Sunday 25th March

Festival service with **Ron Ferguson** 11am Parish church

Finale the Village Mystery Play 3pm

**Tickets for Sale in Crafts of Calder, Now and Then, Brown Bull and Junction Bistro**

SEE ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY MATERIAL FOR FURTHER DETAILS



## From the Parish Church

### And Then the Rains Came Down

*Once there was a Loch  
whose waters were a grey silk shimmer  
under the pale sun.  
Willow and bulrush and the wild pink rose  
quivered  
and swayed around it as soft breezes blew,  
fish  
like silver darts  
swam through  
and always overhead  
in green jewel show-off finery  
the wild fowl flew.  
It was beloved of God  
a chosen place –  
man's breathing space.*  
Betty McKellar

Some of you may remember these opening words from Betty McKellar's poem which begins the Lochwinnoch Mystery Play, "Love Is All Around". The play was performed for the first time two years ago and will be performed again at 3pm on Sunday 25th March as part of the Lochwinnoch Arts Festival.

I would like to thank the Writers' Group, yet again, for their wonderful script and for the way they have included so many of the different groups within our village in the play. I am delighted to say that some of the favourite artists will be returning this year, while also introducing some new talent – not least from Lochwinnoch Primary School. I do hope you will all come out and support the actors, dancers, musicians and singers. All I ask is that you prepare for the weather. I am sure there will be a prize for the best decorated umbrella again.

This year's festival has something for everyone and I, for one, am wishing that I could purchase a "Festival Season Ticket", as there are so many good events to attend. I would like to thank Morag Thow and her team of willing volunteers for all they do to bring us such wonderful artists to our village at the end of March. One of the highlights for me will be the visit from the Rev. Dr. Ron Ferguson.

Ron will be known to many of you as a former columnist in the Glasgow Herald. I was privileged to spend my probationary time with Ron in St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, Orkney (despite what many of you may believe, this was not a set of conditions set by a court to see if my behaviour improved, rather it was the final part of my training as a minister in which the church tested my abilities to be a minister – yes, I did pass). I had a wonderful time in Orkney. I'm not sure what I learned about being a minister within the Church of Scotland; however I certainly learned the value of community, thanks to Ron Ferguson.

Ron began his working life as a journalist and left the Edinburgh Evening News to train as a minister. Once ordained he served as a Community Minister in Easterhouse before becoming the leader of the Iona Community, following in the footsteps of the first leader and founder of the Community, George McLeod, whose biography Ron wrote. Not only is Ron one of Scotland's outstanding theologians, he is incredibly humble and has a wonderful sense of the ridiculous and certainly knows how to keep a newly

licensed minister down to earth. When I worked with him, he gave me just enough rope to fly high, without causing too much damage if I were to plummet to earth again. Yet given his gentle (and at times unseen) support, I rarely fell to earth. As the Kirk Session will acknowledge, in the past, I have blamed Ron for any short comings I may have in church procedure, yet he deserves the credit for anything that I do correctly.

Therefore it is my great delight that Ron will not only speak at the Arts Festival, he will also be preaching in the Parish Church on Sunday 25th March at 11am. This will be one of the highlights of the Lent this year. Lent is the time in which the Church prepares for the great feast of Easter. It is forty days during which we remember the road that Jesus walked to the cross. This is not an easy time for Christians as we become well aware of our own shortcomings and try and turn ourselves back to walking the way of Christ. As Christians we know it is only by walking with Christ to the cross that we can truly appreciate the joy of Easter.

At last year's General Assembly the Church of Scotland encouraged each congregation to set aside time each year to think about stewardship of time, talents or money. This year we have chosen to concentrate on our use of time, particularly how we spend our time in prayer. To that end we will be having a series of short services in which we will explore different ways to pray. The dates and times are as follows:

- \* Tuesday March 6th—Music in Prayer 11.30am
- \* Wednesday March 14th—Everyday Objects & Prayer 7.00pm
- \* Thursday March 22nd—Art Inspires us to Pray 2.00pm
- \* Friday March 30th—Giving Thanks for our Food 1.00pm
- \* Friday April 6th—A Good Friday Commemoration 12noon-3pm

Everyone will be welcome at all of these services, which will last about 30 minutes. Whether you share our faith or not, in these services you will find time to step out of everyday life and contemplate who we order our lives – do we live to serve ourselves or other people? Everyone is also welcome to any and all of the Arts Festival Events. I do hope you will come along and support "Love Is All Around" for no matter what the weather, it promises to be a wonderful afternoon.

In the meantime, may I wish you all a blessedly joyful Easter,

Yours,

Christine

### LOCHWINNOCH

**High St** Two bedroom fully furnished flat lounge, open plan, kitchen, double bedroom and 3 pce bathroom. **£425 pcm**

**Church St** Two bedroom fully furnished ground floor flat, lounge (feature fireplace), modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and bathroom. **£500 pcm**

**Church St** One bedroom, unfurnished first floor flat comprising lounge with living flame gas fire, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, box room & bathroom. **£375 pcm**

### KILBIRNIE

**Dean Rd** Two bedroom, unfurnished first floor flat, lounge, galley kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and bathroom. **£450 pcm**

**Other properties available call for details**



## AMG LETTING

Your LOCAL Letting Agent

01505 843589

07528 798866

68 High Street

Lochwinnoch

PA12 4AA



## 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)

**New Titles for March 2012:**

**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.

**Jo Nesbo: Headhunters**

Roger Brown is a corporate headhunter, and he's a master of his profession. But one career simply can't support his luxurious lifestyle and his wife's fledgling art gallery. At an art opening one night he meets Clas Greve, who is not only the perfect candidate for a major CEO job, but also, perhaps, the answer to his financial woes: Greve just so happens to mention that he owns a priceless Peter Paul Rubens painting that's been lost since World War II - and Roger Brown just so happens to dabble in art theft. But when he breaks into Greve's apartment, he finds more than just the painting. And Clas Greve may turn out to be the worst thing that's ever happened to Roger Brown.

**Ann Cleeves: The glass room**

DI Vera Stanhope is not one to make friends easily, but her hippy neighbours keep her well-supplied in homebrew and conversation so she has more tolerance for them than most. When one of them goes missing she feels duty-bound to find out what happened. But her path leads her to more than a missing friend . . . It's an easy job to track the young woman down to the Writer's House, a country retreat where aspiring authors gather to workshop and work through their novels. It gets complicated when a body is discovered and Vera's neighbour is found with a knife in her hand. Calling in the team, Vera knows that she should hand the case over to someone else. She's too close to the main suspect. But the investigation is too tempting and she's never been one to follow the rules. There seems to be no motive. No meaning to the

crime. Then another body is found, and Vera suspects that someone is playing games with her. Somewhere there is a killer who has taken murder off the page and is making it real . . .

**Joanne Trollope: The soldier's wife**

Dan Riley is a major in the British Army. After a six month tour of duty in Afghanistan, he is coming home to the wife and young daughters he adores. The outside world sees those reunions as a taste of heaven after months of hell.

But are they? Can a man trained to fight adjust again to family and domestic life? And how will the family cope, if he can't? How much, indeed, can Alexa, Dan's wife, sacrifice her own needs and fulfilment to serve his commitment to a way of life that demands everything not just of him, but of her and the children as well?

**Robin Cook: Death benefit**

Behind the prim gates of the Greenwich, Connecticut, McMansions, Wall Street whizzes turn their attentions from mortgages to another possible profit source: the \$25 trillion life-insurance industry. By securitizing the policies of the old and sick, they hope to make another financial killing.

At the same time, Natalie Savondnik and Ronald Goodall-two exceptional yet aloof medical residents-are working closely with their medical center's premier scientist on cutting-edge diabetes research. When their mentor dies suddenly, they launch a quiet investigation. As they dig deeper, it becomes clear that the scientist's death was not from natural causes. Is it possible someone is manipulating private life insurance information to allow investors to benefit from the deaths of others?

**Look out for**

- Harlan Coben: Stay close
- David Baldacci: The innocent
- Sophie Kinsella: I've got your number
- Jodi Picoult: Lone wolf

**Renew & Reserve your library loans online at:**

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

You will need:

Your library ticket No. & pincode. If you are unsure of your pincode, please contact the library and we will be

## Professional Freelance Wedding Florist Elaine Lamont

Free home consultation

Tel: 01505 506169

Mob: 07505 735733

Email: [elamont@live.co.uk](mailto:elamont@live.co.uk)

[www.elainelamont.co.uk](http://www.elainelamont.co.uk)



happy to supply you with the details.

**WHICH** is now **which?** 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!



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

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

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

- understand desktop and icons
- use a mouse
- use a keyboard
- know about the internet
- keep safe online
- send and receive email
- understand computer jargon

The next course at Lochwinnoch Library is due to start soon.

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

- ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence)
- Driving theory test with Theory Test Pro

- Internet Safety Course
- Life in the UK test or British Citizenship test

Why not pop into Lochwinnoch Library and find out more.

**Homework help for all school topics** 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

#### Knitting Challenge

Take the 10 minute Knitting Challenge to support and raise awareness of Alzheimer (Scotland)

The challenge: to take part in a world record attempt to produce 71,000 squares, each square representing a person who was diagnosed with this condition in 2010.

How can you help? Knit as many (or as few) 10cm X 10cm (4"x4") as you can and hand them into the library.

And/or

Come along to Lochwinnoch Library on Saturday 31st March at 2pm and enjoy a group knitting session and have a blether over a cup of tea.



## Lochwinnoch Car Club

### launching week of the 12<sup>th</sup> of March!

Two cars available in the village 24/7.... Get in touch to find out more.

Want to run a food stall at the monthly mini mart? Give us a bell....

Interested in renewable energy for the village? Come and sit in on our renewables group at 6pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of March

Phone 01505 842530 or email [leap@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:leap@lochwinnoch.info) or pop into 22 Church St

To find out more phone 01505 842530 or email [leap@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:leap@lochwinnoch.info)

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

## J Quinn & son Memorials

Personal Service & Quality

Guaranteed

New Memorials

Additional Inscriptions

Cleaning & Renovations

SALE ITEMS ALWAYS IN STOCK

42 MAIN STREET  
KILBIRNIE

Please Call 01505 68 5455  
www.quinnmemorials.co.uk

Mon & Fri 10am-5pm  
Tue-Thur 10am-2pm  
Sat By Appointment

- **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. Reopens 10th January. For details tel Rita 842054
  - **Linda Margaret School of Dancing**—Tuesdays from 4pm-8.45pm, McKillop Institute. For details, Tel: 0141 581 9104.
  - **TaeKwon-Do**—Fitness and Self-defence classes for youths and adults. Tuesdays from 5-6pm, McKillop Institute and Thursdays from 7pm-8pm at Lochwinnoch Primary School. For details Tel: 01259 210716.
  - **Scottish Country Dance Club**—Every Tuesday, from 7.30-9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
  - **Jogging Buddies**—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
    - Monday Kilbarchan  
10am Int/Adv class  
11am —Juvenile class
    - Tuesday Kilbarchan  
5.30 & 6.30pm - Puppy Course
    - Wednesday Kilbarchan  
6.30pm - Puppy Course  
7.30pm - Juvenile class  
8.30pm—Int /Adv class
    - Thursday Beith  
8.00pm - Dog Club (Int/Adv)
  - **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

- **Fri 2 Mar—RSPB Local Group, Birding** in South Africa. An illustrated talk by Gordon Jamieson. McMaster Centre, Donaldson Drive, Renfrew. 7.30 pm – 9.30pm, free, all welcome.
- **Sat 3 Mar—Weaving Musical Threads**, Castle Semple Visitor Centre, storytelling, poetry and song.
- **Sun 4 Mar—Hen Harrier talk**, Muirshiel Visitor Centre, 2-3pm Info and booking Tel: 842 803.
- **Tues 6 Mar—Music in Prayer**, Parish Church, 11.30am.
- **Wed 7 Mar—RSPB Wednesdays with Wildlife** – Film show: Born to Fly, 7.30-9.30pm. £5. or £2 for RSPB members. Please book in advance as spaces are limited.
- **Sat 10 Mar—Write Here Write Now** – RSPB Creative Writing Workshop, 11am-1pm RSPB resident writer, Nalini Paul, will lead workshops on wildlife based poetry and short stories. There will be three different workshops during March & April, £10 per workshop, or book all three for £25.
- **Sat 10 Mar—Clamjamfrie's CD launch event** at Castle Semple Visitor Centre. Doors open at 7pm with free admission. Collection in aid of St Vincent's Hospice.
- **Sun 11 Mar—Beith Arts Sunday Concer** - singers from Scottish Opera present "The Ivor Novello Story", Community Centre, Kings Road, Beith at 2.30 Entrance £8 (conce £6), students and children £1. Tea, coffee, biscuits supplied during the interval.
- **Wed 14 Mar—Everyday Objects & Prayer**, Parish Church, 7.00pm
- **Wed 14 - Sun 25 Mar—Lochwinnoch Arts Festival. Exhibition** Lochwinnoch Library.
- **Thurs 15 Mar—Arts Festival Event: Sing along Film** in the Parish Church, 7pm, donations.
- **Thurs 15 Mar—Lochwinnoch Historical Society**, Nigel Willis presents "Scotts of Greenock, shipbuilders: A family enterprise from 1711 till Nationalisation in 1977", Parish Church Hall, 7.30pm, fundraiser for Lochwinnoch Parish Church.
- **Fri 16 Mar—Arts Festival Events:**
  - \* **Susie Lamont and pupils** Parish Church, 7pm, donations
  - \* **'Capitol Big Band'** playing favourites from Glen Miller, etc. McKillop Hall, 8-11pm, £8 Concessions £5.
- **Sat 17 Mar- Arts Festival**

## Events:

- \* **Craft Fair** in conjunction with Lochwinnoch Arts Festival, Castle Semple Visitor Centre 11-3 pm, free. For info tel: 01505 842 882 Ext 20
- \* **'There's a Hamster in my Pocket'** talk for 8-11yr olds by author Frazeska G Ewart, 11am, Library (free).
- **Sat 17 and Sun 18 Mar RSPB Mother's Day Pamper Weekend**, 11am – 4pm Join the team at the Reserve where Mum can get a relaxing head and hand massage and sample goodies while, you could make a nice wildlife themed craft for her and then pick out a suitable gift or two from our shop! Cost £8 per mum, including massage, samples & crafts
- **Sat 17 Mar—Ladies night with singer/songwriter Little Fire** to raise funds for Scottish Hemi Support Group, Watermill Hotel, Paisley 7.30pm. Tickets £20.00 f r o m [scottishhemisupportgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scottishhemisupportgroup@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 07972 307680.
- **Sun 18 Mar—RYA Sailability Launch Day** Castle Semple. For more info see [www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk](http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk)
- **Sun 18 Mar—Arts Festival Event: Festival Service**, Parish Church, 7pm featuring Lochwinnoch Primary School poetry readings
- **Mon 19 Mar—Arts Festival Event: Lochwinnoch Writers** will read their work followed by Liz Lochhead, National Poet of Scotland. McKillop Hall, 7pm £4, Concessions £2.50
- **Tues 20 Mar—Arts Festival Event: Film of Lochwinnoch** (free to pensioners) 10.30am.
- **Wed 21 Mar—Arts Festival Event: By special request an evening with Cameron Murdoch** and The Phoenix Choir soloists, Classical Potpourri, in the Parish Church, 7.30pm, £4 Concessions £2.50.
- **Thur 22 Mar—Art Inspires us to Pray**, Parish Church, 2.00pm
- **Fri 23 Mar—Star Gazing Evening** with staff from Coats Observatory, Muirshiel Visitor Centre, 7-9pm. Indoor lecture if weather unsuitable. Info and booking: 01505 842803.
- **Thurs and Fri 22/23 Arts Festival Event: Calder Drama** presents a farce 'Death by Fatal Murder' In the McKillop Hall, 7.30pm, tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Children/Senior Citizens
- **Sat 24 Mar—Arts Festival**

## Events:

- \* **Dr Rowena Murray interviews** her friend from Orkney **Ron Ferguson** former minister of St Magnus Cathedral and award-winning columnist and book reviewer with the Glasgow Herald. 10.30 am in McKillop Hall.
- \* **Craft Fair**, Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 11am-3pm
- \* **Folk & Blues Night** in the McKillop Hall with **Claire Robertson, Pauline Vallance and Mike Whellans**, McKillop Hall, 7.30pm, £8, Concessions £5.
- **Sun 25 Mar—Arts Festival Event: Festival Service** with Ron Ferguson, 11am, Parish Church
- **Sun 25 Mar—British Trust for Ornithology Practical Birding Day**, Castel Semple Visitor Centre 11am-3pm Info and booking: 01505 842882 ext 20.
- **Sun 25—Arts Festival Event: 'Love is All Around'** a mystery play, 3pm.
- **Fri 30 Mar—Giving Thanks for our Food**, Parish Church, 1.00pm.
- **Fri 30 Mar—RSPB Local Group presents "A Celebration of Birds"** by renowned expert Peter Holden at McMaster Centre, Donaldson Road, Renfrew, beginning at 7.30 pm, entry fee £2 for non-group members.
- **Sat 31 Mar—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 per workshop.
- **Sat 31 Mar—Knitting Challenge** at the Library 2pm part of the world record attempt to Knit 71,000 squares to raise awareness and support for Alzheimer (Scotland).
- **Fri 6 Apr—A Good Friday Commemoration**, Parish Church, 12noon-3pm
- **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.
- **Sat 28 Apr—Concert in aid of TCT** featuring brilliant new band 'Deja Blue', McKillop Hall, tickets £10 on sale now. Tel:07715 579312.
- **Sun 29 Apr—Spring Concert** by Lochwinnoch Choral Society in the Parish Church.



## RSPB bird expert to visit Renfrew

One of the RSPB's most experienced bird experts will be visiting Renfrew on 30th March to give a talk entitled "A Celebration of Birds!"

Peter Holden MBE worked for the RSPB for forty years and has authored or co-authored more than a dozen books on birds. Most recently he co-authored the RSPB Handbook of British Birds. In the past Peter has joined Bill Oddie to present the BBC TV series, Birds in the Nest, and he runs courses on birds and wildlife for Cambridge University.

The event will take place on Friday 30th March 2012 at the McMaster Centre Donaldson Road Renfrew beginning at 7.30 pm entry fee £2 for non-group members and will be hosted by the Renfrewshire RSPB Local Group. The chairman of the Group, Margaret Brown is very keen to attract as many interested people to the event as possible.

"Peter Holden is something of a legend within RSPB circles and his presentations are always hugely entertaining and informative. We would like anyone with an interest in wildlife to come along whether or not they are a member of the RSPB. Everyone is very welcome!"

Peter has also posed some teasers for members of the audience:

- Why were the Ospreys at Loch Garten a turning point for UK conservation?
- Was the RSPB making money from Charity Christmas Cards over 100 years ago?
- Why did RSPB invent conservation holidays in the 1950s - long before it became fashionable?

- How did young Blue Peter viewers help the RSPB launch the world's biggest bird survey?
- Why is only the head of the Avocet used as an RSPB logo?

For further information, please contact:

Indoor Meetings Organiser

Gary Turnbull 07779011988

## Calder Drama Spring Production.

In association with Lochwinnoch Arts Festival, Calder Drama are pleased to present for your enjoyment, a farce, 'Death by Fatal Murder!' which is the third play in the Inspector Pratt trilogy by Peter Gordon.

To be performed in the McKillop Hall, on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd March commencing 7.30 pm. Doors open 7.00 pm. Wine & soft drinks are available at the bar.

Tickets £6.00 Children / Senior Citizens £3.00 on sale at: Cut & Care Hairdressing, Wilson the Bakers and Now & Then.

### Synopsis

We return once more to Bagshot House in the dark days of the Battle of Britain with the mysterious disappearance of Constable Atkins.

The incompetent and disaster prone Detective Inspector George Pratt is called upon to solve the mystery as only he can, ably assisted by his side-kick Constable Thomkins.

The officer's disappearance begins to look like murder with suspicions, accusations and charges being

thrown wildly at the rest of the players who include the new owner of Bagshot House, Nancy Allbright, Italian Gigilo, Enzo Garibaldi, Welsh clairvoyant, Blodwyn Morgan, amateur sleuth, Joan Maple, socialite, Ginny Farquhar and the wounded Squadron-Leader Roger 'Stiffy' Allbright.

## Lochwinnoch Art Group

A big, "Thank you." to all Chatterbox readers who came along to our exhibition at Castle

Semple Visitor Centre. We hope you enjoyed viewing our work and we're pleased to report that 12 of the 62 works were sold. Our thanks also go to Charles Woodward and his staff for all their support in this venture.

Perhaps you might like to visit the Paisley Arts Centre before the 12th March where we are holding another, smaller exhibition under the auspices of Weaving Musical Threads.

Meantime our fortnightly meetings continue on Monday evenings in the McKillop Institute in the Space Room, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm., where we always welcome any new member to our friendly group.

Just come along on the night.

## Thank You

Isabel and Christine McIntyre would like to thank everyone for their generosity at the service of Sandy McIntyre at Calder UF Church.

£545 was donated to St Vincent's Hospice in his memory.

# NOW & THEN

**Gifts Cards Jewellery  
Leather Home**

8 Church Street  
Lochwinnoch 01505 843311  
Open 9-5 Monday-Saturday  
and 12-4 on Mothering Sunday  
(just in case you forget)

## Mum, Mummy, Mother, Mater, Mama, Ma.....

**Whatever you call yours, remember her on Mother's Day  
(March 18)**

**with a card and gift. From pocket money mindings to  
serious statements, you'll find it on your doorstep.**

**Keep it local and interesting – and even if you can't  
decide, we do gift vouchers.**

## Trail Blazers of Empire's Engineering

While working as a ranger at Muirshiel country park in the Lochwinnoch hills I was visited by Dr Jean Donald from Dundee.

Dr Donald asked if there was a memorial at Muirshiel commemorating her relatives who once lived at Tandlemuir House between the village and the park.

I wasn't aware of a Donald family monument but my quest for information led me into a fascinating and previously unknown world of industrial history.

In pre-Christian times, tandles were blazing bonfires lit by Iron Age Celts to herald the coming and going of the seasons like Beltane, the start of summer, and Samhainn, the beginning of winter. So Tandlemuir was the moor where tandles were incinerated.

According to tradition, Paisley Abbey monks with cattle grazing and fishing rights in the neighbourhood, Christianised the name to Candlemuir. This marked the burning of candles on February 2 to mark the Feast Day of the Purification of the Virgin Mary.

Dr Donald sent me a copy of an old painting of an ancestor, John Donald, of Tandlemuir. He was at one time gamekeeper to Sir John Maxwell at Pollok House around 1825.

Wearing a grey silk hat, green jacket, red waistcoat, white shirt and trousers, along with black tie and shoes, Mr Donald is portrayed with a pair of greyhounds on a leash.

The Tandlemuir Donalds, who acquired engineering skills during the 18th century Industrial Revolution, sprang to prominence in 1815 when George Houston, the Fourth Laird and founder of nearby Johnstone in 1782, invited a Robert Donald to set up business in the new town.

A factory, established in the High Street between Walkinshaw Street and Laighcartside Street, was the first engineering work in Johnstone and one of the earliest in Britain.

It paved the way for later engineering and machine tool companies which made Johnstone famous world-wide and earned it the epithet of workshop of the British Empire.

The machines built by Robert Donald's firm were used in the Laird



**ID** PLUMBING + HEATING

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

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

Tel/Fax: 01505 843 771 or 07920 762 529

OFTEC CORGI

of Johnstone's coal mines at Quarrelton and Benston and his cotton-spinning mills at Millikenpark, Cartside and Barbush.

When Mr Donald retired in 1856, he was succeeded by his son, James. He turned his attention to making machinery for calico printing, bleachfields and dyeing works which were vital cogs in the wheels of Renfrewshire's burgeoning textile trade.

The third generation of the Donald family was represented by James Fyfe Donald. He was appointed business partner in 1869 and given full control after his father died in 1887.

The Fyfe Donald factory, albeit it in other ownership, remained in business till well into the 20th century when it was demolished. The Lidl supermarket now occupies the site.

Another family member who made a name for himself in engineering circles was Hugh, a younger brother of James Donald. Along with a Mr Craig, he set up a business in William Street in Johnstone town centre. This company was known as Craig and Donald.

Following Mr Craig's departure, the firm manufactured tools for punching, shearing, trimming and straightening iron plates used in the expanding ship-building industry on the River Clyde and farther afield.

The company continued in business right up until the 1960s when it shut down and was replaced by Johnstone Swimming Baths at the corner of William Street and Ludovic Square.

The success of the Donald family inspired famous engineering companies like John Lang, Clifton and Baird, Thomas Shanks, John

Weems, John McDowall and others to follow in their footsteps with similar success and provide employment for thousands of local men and women.

The Donalds played a prominent role in Johnstone's civic affairs. James Donald was Provost from 1867 until 1873 while his son, James Fyfe Donald, held the same post from 1879 to 1882.

Both were prominent members of Houston St Johnstone Masonic Lodge No 242 and supported charitable causes throughout the town and surrounding villages.

Today the family is commemorated in street names like Fyfe Place and Craigdonald Place where they founded their factories nearly 200 years ago.

I was sorry I couldn't find a memorial at Muirshiel to Dr Jean Donald's famous family. But I was consoled with the discovery of their important role in Renfrewshire's illustrious industrial heritage.

Iron Age Celts and Paisley Abbey monks sparked holy fires at Tandlemuir in bygone days. But centuries later, Donald family members from the big house there blazed the way for a bright industrial future which brought countless benefits for future generations of people locally and nationally.

*Derek Parker*

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

# THE STIRRUP CUP



WEST BANKSIDE  
FARM, GEIRSTON RD,  
KILBIRNIE,

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

Great for Gifts or treat yourself

[www.thestirrupcup.co.uk](http://www.thestirrupcup.co.uk)

## Antiques, Curios and Crafts

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

Well worth discovering for yourself

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

Contact Greta Logan on Tel: 01505 683338

Email: [greta@thestirrupcup.com](mailto:greta@thestirrupcup.com) [www.thestirrupcup.co.uk](http://www.thestirrupcup.co.uk)

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

*Just opposite the Golf Course on the Largs Rd*



## RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve

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

**RSPB Renfrewshire Local Group**  
**Friday 2 March**  
**7.30 pm – 9.30 pm**  
**Birding in South Africa. An illustrated talk by Gordon Jamieson**

Price: Free

Venue: McMaster Centre, Donaldson Drive Renfrew, All welcome

### 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

[chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info)

**COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL IS  
FRIDAY 16TH MARCH**

**Wed 7 March 7.30–9.00pm –  
Wednesdays with Wildlife –  
Film show: Born to Fly**  
Extinct in the UK for over 400 years, the crane's recent return to British shores is for many a symbol of hope for the natural world. Cranes are amongst the most ancient of birds and undertake great migrations every year. We've never truly understood the way these amazing travellers live – until now. Join us for an exclusive showing of the RSPB's new film, Born to Fly, which tracks the incredible story of an intelligent bird, a born survivor, with and uncanny ability to adapt to an ever changing world. Cost: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Please book in advance as spaces are limited.

**Sat 10 and Saturday 31 March,  
Sunday 15th April  
11am–1pm Write Here Write  
Now – Creative Writing  
Workshops**  
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. There will be three different workshops during March & April, each with a different theme, which can be attended singularly at a cost of £10 per workshop, or book onto all three for £25, saving £5!

All materials and equipment will be provided. Booking essential as space is limited.

**Saturday 17 and Sunday 18  
March 11am – 4pm**

**Mothers Day Pamper Weekend  
Is your Mum keen on wildlife  
and nature?** Looking for a different way to show her you love her and help wildlife at the same time? Join the team at RSPB Lochwinnoch for something a bit different.

Mum can get a relaxing head and hand massage, sample Skinny Dipper products, RSPB chocolate and fudge and whilst she is enjoying herself, you could make a nice wildlife themed craft for her and then pick out a suitable gift or two from our shop!

Cost £8 per mum, including massage, samples & crafts

#### Where to meet:

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

#### Booking, prices and enquiries:

It is often necessary to book onto our events in advance as certain events may have limited space. If this is the case, the phrase '**booking essential**' will appear in the event information. To book a place or to find out more, phone 01505 842663, email [Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk) or visit us at the visitor centre.

Costs are stated in the event information and entry to our events also includes entry to the reserve.

**Many of our events are reduced in price for RSPB and Wildlife Explorer members**



The  
Clochodrick  
Stane

Ask anyone born and bred in Renfrewshire what they know of the Clochodrick Stane and you are bound to get a fair variety of responses. The answers could range from a meteorite to a sacrificial stone of the ancient Celtic Druids (Clach a' Druidh). The stone is an enormous boulder located in a field 3kms north-east of Lochwinnoch. It stands about four metres from ground level, is almost 7

metres in length, and about 6 metres in width.

"Stone of the Druids" may seem to reflect its present Scots name but the great Professor Watson in his book "Celtic Place Names of Scotland" informs us that in a 15th century Register of the Bishopric of Glasgow it is noted as Clochrodryge and as Clochrodric elsewhere. Watson gives the meaning as Roderick's Stone. Roderick it seems was a Pictish king, perhaps mythical, who was slain in a skirmish close to the stone. More likely is the boulder's function as a battle stone where the Strathclyde king Rhydderich Hael gathered his troops for some long forgotten campaign.

The meteorite theory, so widely held, is way off the mark. The boulder is what geographers and geologists call a glacial erratic.

At the height of the last glacial period, or perhaps even earlier, a glacier, moving down from the North-west Highlands, plucked a large piece of rock from the Renfrew Heights, transported it and then deposited it on to its present position in a field not far from the Howwood to Lochwinnoch Road.

If you want proof that the Clochodrick Stane is not a meteorite trust the findings of noted Geologists and Geographers (Price, Sissons, et al.). The rock type is fairly similar to the volcanic rocks upon which it stands in the field but it is identical to the basaltic rocks of the Renfrew Hills about two or three miles to the west and north.

Although it would seem that the word

Clochodrick has really no connection with the word "druid" that's not to say that ancient Celtic pagan priests were not averse to decapitating, at the stone, the occasion chicken as a sacrifice to some local deity. After all you can't get much more local than the Celtic god Lugh with his home town Lugton not far away.

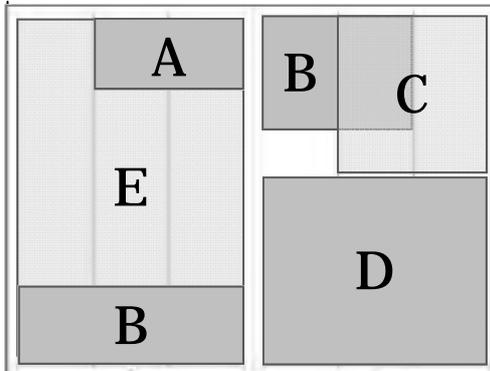
*Bryan Cromwell*

*East Kilbride*

## Beith Arts Sunday Concerts

Our March concert features a group of singers from Scottish Opera who are presenting "The Ivor Novello Story", written by John Cairney and featuring many of the famous composer's best songs. The singers are from the same group who in November gave us one of the best concerts we have ever had - "Music from Opera and the Shows", so we expect the same high quality of singing and presentation. We also hope that everyone who saw their last show will come to this one, because this is another not to be missed!

All newcomers too will be very welcome. The concert will be held in the Community Centre, Kings Road, Beith at 2.30 on Sunday, 11 March. Entrance is £8 (concessions £6), students and children £1. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied during the interval. Make a note of the date now!



## Advertising in Chatterbox

- A. Standard size advert – 5cm x 13cm (or 13cm x 5cm) layout - £30 per month.
- B. Special (customised) advert – 7.5cm x 13cm (or 13cm x 7.5cm) layout - £40 per month.
- C. Quarter page advert – 10cm x 14cm (or 14cm x 10cm) layout - £45 per month.
- D. Half page advert – 20cm x 14cm (or 14cm x 20cm) layout - £90 per month.
- E. Full page advert – 20cm x 28 cm - £180 per month.

Please e-mail

[chat-advert@lochwinnoch.info](mailto:chat-advert@lochwinnoch.info)

for further information.



## Lochwinnoch Golf Club & The Clubhouse Restaurant

**Open Mic Sessions** First Friday of the month from 8pm till late!  
2nd March; 6th April; 4th May; 1st June  
Special Set Menu available from £10.95

**The Golf Season Kicks off Saturday 24th March**  
Come round and sample some of our goodies free!  
Canopies & cake

**Mothers Day Lunch**  
Luxury 4 Course Lunch £21.95  
Including a Glass of Bubbly and Chocolates for Mum  
Kids Menu also available  
Bookings essential!

**Special Easter Weekend Menu**  
Friday 6th, Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th & Monday 9th April

**The Club House**  
Open to all day, every day for everyone. We cater for special events; Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings  
Funerals, Corporate Events or just that special evening meal.

## Tea Dance



**Last Wednesday of the month 2-4pm £5**  
28th March  
25th April  
30th May

Includes fancy wee cakes, sandwiches tea or coffee  
**Music by Karpaul**

To book, or for more information

call 01505 842153

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

## ChatSearch—Hobbies

BIKING	BIRDING
BOWLING	CHESS
CLIMBING	CRAFTING
DIY	FISHING
FLORISTRY	GAMING
GOLF	GARDENING
MUSIC	PARAGLIDING
RACING	READING
ROWING	SHOPPING
SKETCHING	SURFING
SWIMMING	TENNIS
WALKING	WOODWORKING

hand. Then would you believe, we changed over to cooking oil and that put the fire out instantly.

We couldn't believe this so started all over again.

At the back of my mind was the fact that the appeal would run because we could not stop it.

The next run saw a repeat of the last. One could put oil into a fire and put the flame out. Please do not try to do this at home. This is a very special flame in a furnace behind a closed door.

The question we asked ourselves was it oil or water off frozen chips that we were using. I put some of the same oil into the deep freezer hoping to get ice and oil but instead got something like lard. When I slowly cooked the oil on the top of my wood burning stove the water in it boiled off. So we had some more apparently good fuel.

But once more the cooking oil put the fire out. I used the same oil to fuel a lamp and twice kept the lamp going for seven hours. The cooking oil definitely burns but it does take time to heat up before igniting and it does produce a very hard stuff on the wick. I read again my book on Stephenson's Lighthouse lamps and sure enough they used rape seed oil likely to be the same as ours.

It was then that another penny dropped. The outside temperature fell and our oil in plastic bottles started to freeze as would happen vegetable oil across Europe and other likely places for disasters. I had been foolish to tie our plans for the oil burning stove to the idea of using locally available cooking oils. Much wiser to include enough mineral oil with the stoves to cover a short term emergency. Stephenson also found that paraffin when it evolved gave more light and did not need pre-heating.

So good neighbours, thank you for taking an interest, we are not seeking any more oil because we have good stocks and our experiments are now based on mineral oils.

For those of you intent on saving cooking oil, if you filter it as I do with kitchen paper to remove the food crumbs you can use it again. Just a couple of things extra to do. Keep the fish oil, pork and bacon fats separate from beef fat and each other and throw away oil that is over cooked.

Spanish cooks are able to buy little

## Castle Semple Rowing Club Introduces 16-25 Learn to Row

CSRC had a busy start to the year with members competing at the Scottish Indoor Rowing Championships held at Heriot Watt University and the Glasgow University Western Head of the River Race in January.

January's successful outings were followed by winning both divisions of the Strathclyde University Head of the River Race on the Clyde in early February. The four kilometre time trial races were won by Peter Murray and Martin Holmes racing their double against forty other crews in both events.

The club will be running Learn to Row courses throughout the year details of which have been posted on the club website. This year for the first time we have one course specifically for anyone aged 16-25 who hasn't had the opportunity to row before. Rowing isn't a common activity and, apart from being fun and great for your figure, looks great on your CV or in your UCAS statement. Rowing teaches you a lot about teamwork, overcoming

challenges, setting goals and planning towards them – all things that employers, colleges and universities are very keen to see.

For more information contact us through the club website [www.castlesemplerc.co.uk](http://www.castlesemplerc.co.uk) or visit us on Saturdays between 10 and 12am at Castle Semple visitor centre, Lochwinnoch.

## Research is 98% failure.

When I was writing the Christmas Appeal for used cooking oil the publication date was then many days off. We were really busy doing tests on the oil burning stove and it was getting very hot. To get ourselves started quickly and to build up team confidence we had set the vital parts into a 24" upturned plant pot. The idea being that it had been fired at far higher temperatures than we expected so that was the least of our worries. But when it started to crack and groan we knew instantly that I had made the first big error. However it held together enabling us to go on step by step, changing this for that and doing carefully planned tests. The fuels we were using were barbecue lighting fuels and any old mineral based fuels that came to

**Stuart Mitchell  
Financial Services**

**35 Gates Road  
Lochwinnoch PA12 4HF**

**Independent Financial Adviser and Mortgage Broker (Established 22 years)**

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

Or email [smfs@bopenworld.com](mailto:smfs@bopenworld.com)

**Mortgages and  
Remortgages**

**Savings and  
Investments**

**Protection**

**Pensions and  
Retirement Planning**

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

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



disadvantage in Poplar where cycling was the midwives' mode of transport and some shaky moments ensued.

Life was very busy with midwives often working all night to find themselves immediately on call again as soon as they returned. This led to an unfortunate mishap when Nancy returned totally exhausted from a call and, starting to clean her gown and equipment in the sink, sat down and immediately fell fast asleep waking later to find nuns dealing with a flood.

Hard work but they had fun too. The garden was not as portrayed on television but a roof garden. One night the girls decided to sleep out on the roof and didn't tell the nuns in case they forbade it. They took their mattresses and bedding out and found a way to stretch the telephone cord so that they could reach it and field calls. What they hadn't considered was the London fog. (London in those days suffered thick, dirty fog/smog caused by polluting coal fires and industrial chimneys). So the clean girls that went to sleep were very dirty when woken and everyone had to pitch in to help the first girl to go out on call get cleaned up. Of course the nuns found out about this and rather than being displeased found the whole thing funny.

Nancy found the people of Poplar to be friendly with great community spirit. Women loved the 36 week visit when the midwife would come and check that all was ready. Although warned, in the absence of a cot, to prepare a drawer for the forthcoming baby, the midwives never found this necessary as families always managed to provide a cot and at the 36 week visit could show off all the baby things they had gathered. In addition, the midwives had to check that the chimney had been swept. Most bedroom coal fires were not often lit and as a result the chimneys seldom cleaned. Lighting a fire in a dirty chimney could have serious and very dirty consequences, so this was an important matter to deal with before the birth.

In the television programme they show a mother who can't speak English having her 25th baby. Nancy helped this woman with her 26th child. This woman met her husband in her native Spain when he was there with other London



Nancy Geddes

dockers fighting in the Spanish Civil War. She never learned English and so although the midwives wanted her to have her later babies in hospital for safety, they were unable to communicate this with her.

In an emergency it could be difficult to transport a woman to hospital if the fog was very thick bringing traffic to a standstill. In such cases the police and especially the Flying Squad helped.

The handyman was one person from the programme Nancy didn't meet. During her time he was resting "inside" at Her Majesty's pleasure. The nuns kindly kept his job until he had served his time.

When time allowed, Nancy visited the Franciscan Order in Oxford to pursue her religious calling.

After Poplar, Nancy joined the Franciscan order and was sent to a Medical Mission in Zambia. She describes this as two wonderful years!

A Zambian village and Poplar had much in common: In each community families, who may not have had much in the way of material goods, adored their children and did their best for them. There were however differences.

*To be continued....*

filter jugs for this purpose. I will ask around and see if we can get some.

You learn most from your failures.

*Alan Lovegreen*

*Lochwinnoch 12/02/2012*

## Call the Midwife

BBC1 & BBC iPlayer

Many of you will have been watching the BBC television programme "Call the Midwife" but someone who doesn't have to watch it to know what happened (*because she was there*) is Nancy Geddes of Johnshill.

Nancy, born and raised in Port Glasgow, just off the main Glasgow road, travelled far and saw much before settling in Lochwinnoch.

As a young woman Nancy, a committed member of the Scottish Episcopal Church, training to be a nurse at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital, felt she had a calling to serve God as a nun. This was something her parents vigorously opposed. Her spiritual advisor suggested she could best carry out her calling by first qualifying as a nurse and midwife.

She moved first to Leeds for further training and then to Poplar in the East End of London as a pupil midwife in 1961.

Having lived near a busy main road as a child meant she was never allowed to have or learn to ride a bike. This proved to be a major



## Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

### History Rediscovered: The Windy Hill Cairn

Windy Hill is the pride of Muirshiel Country Park and has been a firm favourite and most popular walk for a generation.

Regional Park Manager Charlie Woodward recently gave a talk to the Bridge of Weir Historical Society and they gave him the following information on the Cairn's construction.

Its creation was organised by Bridge of Weir and Kilmacolm Round Table around 1970, when the Country Park was first designated and opened to the public. Once permission had been received by Lord Muirshiel, senior children from Balrossie Approved School took all the materials up to the summit by hand!

This was all conducted under the watchful eye of Hugh Watson, with the assistance of Ian Simpson, formally of Elderslie Estates.

At the Regional Park we are attempting to build up further details of this story and if you know anything more, have photos of the cairn at any point in history or indeed know anyone who took part in the building, then please

get in touch. Contact [info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk](mailto:info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk) or telephone

Barnbrock Farm 01505 614 791.



### Castle Semple: RYA Sailability Launch Day Sun 18th March

Castle Semple has received National Recognition for becoming Scotland's first Royal Yacht Association (RYA) 'Sailability' Centre of Excellence in Scotland. The programme for our official Sailability launch day on Sunday 18th March is now available on our website. We welcome you to come down on the day and see what's going on.

### Clydeside Orienteers Visit Muirshiel

This hugely successful event saw 128 competitors descend on Muirshiel Country Park. Armed with maps, compasses and high tech location recorders the enthusiastic orienteers ran the course around Windy Hill and through the woodland trails to

find each of the markers. There was a familiar face there as Regional Park Manager Charlie Woodward took part – although it could be argued that he had a home field advantage! A big thank you to Clydeside Orienteers for organising such a popular event!

### Calling Local Businesses

The Regional Park is looking to put together an information pack 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.

For more information please contact: Claire Paterson tel 01505 614 791

### Harvey Square

Renovation work began to repair the paths and lop the trees.



## Village Website

This month on the village website Marion from Australia wrote to ask...

*I am interested in any information on William Barbour [4 Jun 1775- 8 Sept 1847] and Mary Orr [1787-?]*

*They married in 1805 at Lochwinnoch and had 9 children- one was Matthew born 1826 at Little Cloak and I have his birth certificate.*

*I believe Mary Orr was the daughter of the 7th Willam Orr of Kaim. This I have found from a web sight with the descendants of William Orr and from Family search.*

*From Lochwinnoch Online I have found Cloak and Kaim on the 1821 map and am wondering whether they still exit?*

*I would appreciate greatly any more information on these families especially the Barbours as my maiden name was Barbour.*

*I will be visiting Lochwinnoch in May this year and look forward to seeing the village. Hoping some one can help me. !!*

Barbour was the subject of another request for information when Sven from Canada posted on Distant Voices

*Before I now go on with tons of verbiage, let me set the stage:*

*JAMES BARBOUR (my wife's great grandfather) was born on 05-JAN-1854 in "Scotland". According to an Ontario, Canada, Marriage Register (dated 1877), his parents were ROBERT BARBOUR and BARBARA GILMORE (GILMOUR). That's all we knew, but we were never ever able to match these names in a group until we came across a Household Member Listing in the 1841 SCOTLAND CENSUS. It revealed the following:*

*William Barbour (40), Margt Gilmour (40), Margt Barbour (40), William Barbour (15), Allan Barbour (12), ROBERT BARBOUR (10), John Barbour (8 months), Mary Barbour (15), Jane Barbour (14), Barbara Barbour (6) and Agnes Barbour (3). Their address was listed as "Square".*

*While the pursuit of the parents' info led us to tons of new "revelations", we came up with next to nothing concerning "our" ROBERT BARBOUR and BARBARA GILMORE (GILMOUR).*

If you have any information then please email the website or reply in Distant Voices. On the forum.

Also on the forum, the reports of unpleasant odours in the area continue. Along the cycle track, at the station, or down by Castle Semple Loch, the reports all describe an unpleasant sulphurous/gas-like smell.

*Has anyone else noticed a pronounced sulphurous odour in the last few months ? I am not sure where this is*

*coming from. Someone suggested the landfill site in Beith and another neighbour wondered if it was emanating from the pharmaceutical factory in Dalry. I have contacted SEPA but wondered if anyone could shed a light.*

SEPA (who investigate odour complaints) responded to one resident

*We are currently receiving a large volume of odour complaints from residents of Beith and Lochwinnoch in relation to a local authorised site and our officers are attending to investigate. We have substantiated offensive odours from this site at adjacent properties but not within the built up area of the village of Lochwinnoch.*

*If you experience an offensive odour which you believe to be from a site that SEPA regulates please call our 24 hour Pollution Hotline.*

**SEPA 0845 80 70 60**

## Getting cross on the crossing

I was a passenger in a car being driven by a Roads Engineer on Thursday 2nd of February just after 7-00 pm.

We were leaving High Street, moving into Main Street at about 20 mph and coming up to the Junction Cafe when we saw a man and a woman outside the Spar shop intent on getting two dogs under control, one to each person with both dogs on leads. By the time they had sorted themselves out and were stood up straight at the edge of the Zebra crossing we were already on the crossing.

At that moment the lady in the couple threw up her arm and pointed to my driver who suggested that there might be something wrong with the car. Our lights were obviously on. Then we realised that the lady was objecting to the fact that we had not stopped. My colleague who deals with this kind of problem told me that most people



have totally incorrect ideas about how to use Zebra crossings and went on to explain that pedestrians have no right of way across a Zebra crossing until the traffic has come to a standstill and the pedestrian is actually on the crossing.

Not many of us have up to date copies of the Highway Code so to help your readers I have downloaded the rules that apply as below.

At all crossings. When using any type of crossing you should

- always check that the traffic has stopped before you start to cross or push a pram onto a crossing
- always cross between the studs or over the zebra markings. Do not cross at the side of the crossing or on the zig-zag lines, as it can be dangerous
- You MUST NOT loiter on any type of crossing.

[Laws ZPPPCRGD reg 19 & RTRA sect 25(5)]  
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Highwaycode>

- Zebra crossings. Give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross. Vehicles will need more time when the road is slippery. Wait until traffic has stopped from both directions or the road is clear before crossing. Remember that traffic does not have to stop until someone has moved onto the crossing. Keep looking both ways, and listening, in case a driver or rider has not seen you and attempts to overtake a vehicle that has stopped.

*Alan Lovegreen*



*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](mailto:dalexandermp@talk21.com)  
or come to one of my advice surgeries.**

## Thanks

Our cat, George, was run over on Johnshill at about 2.30pm on Wednesday Feb 1st by a driver going up the hill. George was nearly 12 and a much loved family pet - our boys are 14 and 12 so can't remember him not being here.

I would like to thank the driver who stopped and helped our 2 lovely neighbours to carry him off the road.

*Anna Selwood*

## Tartan Day Parade NYC

New York's Tartan day will be on April 14 this year. You can get information if you log on to Tartan Day NYC;

<http://www.tartanweek.com/>

My sister and I go almost every year, have a great time, and would hope to see other people from Lochwinnoch.

*Martha Goerlich*

## A Date for your diary

The Lochwinnoch Historical Society, which meets in the Parish Church hall on the third Thursday of each month from September till April, is holding its 15th March meeting at 7.30pm as a fund raiser for Lochwinnoch Parish church.

Nigel Willis a member of both the Historical Society and the Parish Church will be giving a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Scotts of Greenock, shipbuilders: A family enterprise from 1711 till Nationalisation in 1977". This is a remarkable story covering not only the shipbuilding in Greenock but also their shipbuilding in Canada, France and Hong Kong as well as their involvement in blockade

# POWER DOORS

**For All Your Garage Door Needs**  
**Garage Doors . Remote Control Openers**  
**Installation . Repairs . Spares**

<b>FREE ESTIMATES</b>	0141 950 1423 GLASGOW
<b>FREE SURVEYS</b>	01505 842176 AYRSHIRE
<b>FREE INSURANCE REPORTS</b>	01786 820130 STIRLING

**The Cross, Lochwinnoch PA12 4DB**  
**(10 mins from Glasgow Airport on A737)**

running during the American civil war plus other surprises.

All attendance payments received on the night from non-members will be donated to the Parish Church. So come along and hear about a story of great entrepreneurial spirit involving what was the oldest shipbuilding business in the world.

## Lochwinnoch Playgroup

Playgroup would like to thank local businesses for their continued support and kind gifts towards our Xmas Raffle. With hard work from Catherine collecting gifts and selling raffle tickets, the great sum of £280 was raised. Thank you once again to:

- Now & Then
- Natural Touch
- The Three Churches Inn
- The Paper Shop
- The Post Office
- The River Inn (Houston)
- The Butchers
- The Spar Shop
- La Dolce Vita

The children at Playgroup had great fun recently celebrating Chinese New Year on the 23rd January; the Year of the Dragon. They made their own "Coolie" hats and they all loved tasting prawn crackers and noodles. Chung Lee House, our local Chinese takeaway, very kindly donated a lovely calendar and fortune cookies for the children to take home with them.

Thank you and a Happy New Year to all from Lochwinnoch Playgroup.

## CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox is produced and distributed on behalf of Lochwinnoch Community Council, with support and financial assistance from local sponsors and advertisers.

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

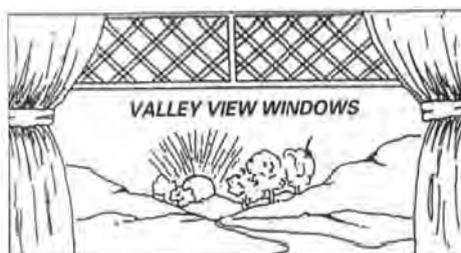
All views are of individuals. The Editor accepts no liability for errors or statements and claims made in submissions.

ESTABLISHED 1989

21 YEARS IN BUSINESS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS GO ON AND ON...

UPVC WINDOWS AND DOORS  
MAINTENANCE FREE UPVC  
ROOFLINE AND FULL  
WINDOW REPAIR SERVICE

HINGES, LOCKS AND MISTED  
AND BROKEN GLASS  
REPLACED



OUR PRODUCTS ARE  
INSTALLED  
IN OVER ONE HUNDRED  
LOCHWINNOCH HOUSEHOLDS

Contact—PETER McGARVEY  
Tel: 01505 614654

UPVC DOORS FITTED FROM £430