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Tel: 0800 169 1283

# CHATTERBOX

No 225 September 2012

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**ASIST**  
Anti-Social  
Investigation Team

Office 8:45am – 4:45pm  
Tel: 0141 847 3445

Community newsletter produced by Lochwinnoch Community Council

## What's On & Dates for your Diaries

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

### Country Dancing

Lochwinnoch Country Dance Club are delighted to announce that they have been lucky enough to find a new instructor, Gill Reynolds, who lives in the village and has been teaching Country Dancing for many years.

We are all "raring to go" and looking forward to the fun and exercise provided by learning these traditional dances.

We are keen to increase our membership and would urge anyone over 18 years of age, male or female, to come along and try. Write the date on your calendar/diary and try something different on those dark winter evenings - see you in the McKillop Hall on Tuesday 25th Sept at 7.30pm.

*Lorna Black 843048*

### Safe On Your Door Step

Over the past 6 months there have been reports of people getting 'Energy Advisors' coming to their door to promote a range of insulation and renewable energy services.

There are currently FREE insulation measures for home owners that are not linked to your level of income, the eligibility is linked with the suitability of the property. There is no charge to homeowners for this scheme (uHIS – Universal Heat and Insulation Scheme) and you or someone you know may be entitled to free cavity wall and/or loft insulation (top-up or new) email [energy@myleaproject.org](mailto:energy@myleaproject.org) for more info.

Trading standards and the police have been made aware of at least one individual/company who was being dishonest and using dubious sales tactics to promote a service that in the end was costing residents of Lochwinnoch and neighbouring communities for something that they may be entitled to for FREE.

It is your right to say no to people who are selling or promoting door to door, it is not being ignorant to just say 'No thank you'... please also be on the lookout for vulnerable people you know in your community.

If you are concerned then contact trading standards at Renfrewshire Council or the local police station if you have serious concerns. You can also call Citizens Advice on 08454 04 05 06.

### Historical Society

The group begins this session on Thursday September 20th at 7.30pm in the Parish Church guild room and Valerie Reilly pays a return visit with

"It's Behind You! - The Story of Pantomime".

We all love a Pantomime however this form of entertainment, much loved by children, has a long history as theatre for adults. Valerie will tell us about the development of this art form, the origins of the stock characters and how the panto survives into the modern era.

Annual membership is £8. An evening visit is £2 and will include tea/coffee, cake and biscuits. We look forward to seeing you all again on the 20th.

*Gordon Nicholl 842632*

### Improving with Age

Fitness classes have restarted after the holidays every Tuesday 10-11 am at the McKillop Institute. New members very welcome phone 842136 for more info

### Three Churches Inn Raises £2000 for TCT

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Summer Jam Music Festival. It was a huge success. A special thank you goes to all the bands who gave up their time to play and to all the people who handed in raffle prizes.

I would also like to thank Catherine Donnachie for doing a fantastic job selling the raffle tickets, and to Garry for building the stage.

In total £1800 was raised which Karen and Martin rounded up to £2000.

*Karen*

### Drop-in Cafe at the Kirk

Parish Church

Saturday 22nd September

10am – noon

Adults £2

Children £1

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## Good News for Lochwinnoch!

As some people will recall, a while ago, members of LCBG (Lochwinnoch Community Buyout Group) were collecting signatures around the village for a petition. This was because 5 years earlier we were awarded the right to buy the Struthers factory area from its owners should it come up on the market. However, now it was time to apply to renew that right. The signatures were to demonstrate your support for our application to renew the right to buy the Struthers factory. The application was submitted in the spring. We later had the opportunity to rebut the owners lawyer's arguments against our case. Finally, in July we received notification from the Scottish government that ministers had found in our favour. So congratulations to Lochwinnoch!

This means that, for a further 5 years, if the owners wish to sell Struthers, they must offer the village the site first. This would be a marvellous opportunity for us to own a great site in the middle of the village, very accessible to all kinds of people. We want to create a multi-functional resource that provides a broad range of services which will help sustain Lochwinnoch as a vibrant, attractive community.

The space could be used for sports (particularly needed now that the annexe and gym have both closed), our much-loved museum, recording/performance space and rooms for recreation and meetings for both young and old. The aim would also be to attract businesses including a microbrewery using the spring water and crafts people to establish workspaces. Income from these would be used to support the social aspects.

### 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.*

Outside there's a plan to use the grounds for horticulture - hydroponics and a market garden - so reducing some of the village's 'food miles'. If these activities manage to bring in people from the surrounding areas then there should be a subsequent economic spin off for existing businesses and organisations.

## Toddler Group Thanks

Lochwinnoch Toddler Group has received a substantial donation from the now sadly defunct Lochwinnoch Youth Space Group. Mr David Arthur kindly delivered the cheque in person to the delighted Toddler Group's Kate Lynch.

This donation will allow the Toddler Group to purchase much needed toys and equipment for the children.

The Toddler Group wants to thank all those involved in the Lochwinnoch Youth Space Group for their generosity and to express sorrow that the Youth Space Group has had to disband.

## Muirshiel Mudders Muddy Make It

You may remember in the July edition of Chatterbox that four of the staff from Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park were taking on the Tough Mudder challenge at Drumlanrig Castle. we are pleased to announce that they all made it.

Outdoor Activity Instructors Neil McDonald, Ross Nicol, Andy Pollock and Ranger Hayley Douglas lined up with a group of other crazy-minded individuals on the 15th of July on a



**Join us for a Cream Tea**

**@ Lochwinnoch Library**

**Friday 28th September**

**10 - 12**

**Support**

**Macmillan Cancer Care**



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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.

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Email:



info@jjmccosh.co.uk

surprisingly dry day (for this summer). In just under four and a half hours the 3 Men and a Ranger team negotiated 11 miles of mud, fire, ice and electricity to raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust.

Hayley said " It was such a buzz, we all had a great laugh despite being cold, wet and covered in mud. The camaraderie on the course makes it a truly unique event and yes the electric shocks do hurt. We are just waiting for the last few sponsors to hand their money in but it looks like we have raised just under £1100 for TCT. We'd like to thank everyone in the village for their support, particularly the quiz teams at the Brown Bull."

Some of the team have already signed up to do the Tough Mudder again next year so if anyone fancies a go and has any questions feel free to pop down to the Loch to ask.

Enjoy the photos



Muirshiel Mudders Muddy Make It  
more online @ [www.lochwinnoch.info/photos](http://www.lochwinnoch.info/photos)



## Village Boxer makes the National Team

Cameron New, 17, has set his sights high and after making it to both the Scottish National and the GB training squad; the sky is the limit for this dedicated and talented young boxer. Cameron has had to step up quickly to national level, as his skills and reputation have seen potential local challengers fade away and at 81 Kg, he has to now travel to find suitably challenging competition.

Cameron trains at the Linwood Boxing Club under the watchful eye of his coach and trainer John McIntyre. John's gym in George Street Johnstone is a venue not only for aspiring boxers, but celebrities too, as the Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening sessions often sees George Bowie of Radio Clyde mixing it in the ring and on the bags with the boxers.

Cameron is one of a group of young boxers from our village with Gordon Rushbrook, and brothers Allan and Lee Dickson all showing real promise.

So let's watch out for and support our local athletes as they strive for more success, to the Commonwealth Games and beyond that perhaps a world stage.



## The Call of the Corbetts

An Cliseam on the Isle of Harris is a fine Scottish mountain. At 799 metres it is the highest peak in the Outer Hebrides and the only Corbett in that area.

Less well known than the Munros, the Corbetts comprise 221 of our mountains within the height range 762 – 914.4 metres. The geographic spread of the Corbetts is greater than that of the higher Munros and anyone setting out to climb them will be taken into some wonderful parts of the country. Galloway and the Borders is one example of this – no Munros but seven Corbetts.

An Cliseam is typical of the west coast mountains; rising steeply out of the sea with crags and rocky outcrops culminating in a narrow summit ridge. The top is marked by a

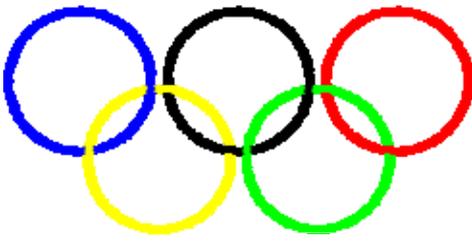
walled cairn which spreads across almost the full width of the ridge and, in inclement weather, provides some shelter for climbers.

On 7th August KAY WADDELL sat at An Cliseam's summit cairn and enjoyed her normal light mountain lunch. But on this occasion she also enjoyed a glass of champagne in celebration of her "completion" of all 221 Corbetts. The ascent of this mountain, in the company of a group of her friends, resulted in Kay becoming the first Lochenyochian to achieve Corbett Completion.

However, Kay is the antithesis of the "Munro Bagger" or the "Corbett Cruncher" for whom a numbers-game seems to become the motivation for climbing the hills despite the remoteness and difficulty in accessing many of them. A carefully maintained diary of all her climbs attests to the reasons why Kay spends so much time in the Scottish mountains. This contains records of every walk and the flora and wild life seen. On some walks the summit attainment has seemed secondary to the excitement of seeing a new-born deer calf or a relatively rare plant. And, alongside her Munro "completion", the ascent of all the Corbetts has given Kay a real insight into Scotland's topography and indeed it's history.

In September 2007 CHATTERBOX carried an article recognising Kay Waddell as the first female Lochenyochian to "complete" the Munros. Exactly five years later this article in the September 2012 CHATTERBOX salutes her as the first Lochenyochian of either gender to have also "completed" the Corbetts.

Well done, Kay, and another entry in the Lochenyochian Hall of Fame!



## After the Olympics

How was The Olympics for you? Did it fire you up to put on trainers, get out and regain your athletic peak or rather did you find that all those hours watching sport on TV, sustained by snacks, has resulted in the purchase of elastic-waisted trousers?

After enjoying the success of the GB Team and listening to the athletes talk about their routes to glory, we can be in no doubt about the importance of grassroots sport. We've learnt how participation in sport not only keeps young people fit and occupied but teaches them valuable skills such as concentration, determination, focus and teamwork as well as building self-confidence. We also learned that community support is very important.

So the question is: how many young sportspeople do we have in our community and are we supporting them? The Commonwealth Games are only two years away and wouldn't it be great to support as many home-grown, even local, athletes as possible.

Of course, in order to help and support someone you have to know that they are there and need support.

Why don't we have young sportsmen/women (and/or their coaches) tell us about themselves and their ambitions and how the community might help them? Pass the word along to any young people engaged in sport at whatever level and we'll look forward to hearing about them in Chatterbox.

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

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## Mistylaw Medical Practice

### Extended Hours

The practice will be providing new extended hours surgeries from 1st August 12. Evening appointments will be available between 5.30 pm and 6.45 pm once per week; alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays with one late evening being provided per month at the branch surgery in Beith. Appointments must be booked in advance and the practice will close at 6 pm as normal with emergency calls

being dealt with by the out of hours service.

Although these appointments are available to all our patients, we would like to accommodate those patients who are working outwith the village or those at risk of losing a day's pay to attend an appointment. We would therefore request that you only ask for a late evening appointment if you cannot attend at any other time. Anyone who requires further investigations, including blood tests will have to attend in the mornings to accommodate transport and Laboratory systems.

### Health Visitor

Drop-in Baby Clinic is now held on the last Wednesday of each month between 1.30 pm & 3 pm.

### Public Holiday

The practice will be closed on Monday 24th September – please order your repeat prescriptions in advance.

Emergency cover will be provided by the Out of Hours Service as usual – 0845 4 24 24 24



## Car Club £15 Membership - Hurry, offer ends soon!

As the car club is now approaching the target number of 26/28 members to make it sustainable, we now have a very limited number of £15 memberships available. The price of membership is set to increase soon, so if you are keen on getting involved, or simply want more information about how the car club could meet your needs, please get in touch with Diane Dunn the Car Club Coordinator as quickly as possible.

For your discounted membership or more information call Diane on 01505 842 530, email: [diane@myleaproject.org](mailto:diane@myleaproject.org) or drop into the LEAP office at 22 Church Street, Lochwinnoch.

## Lochwinnoch Choral Society

The Choir, led by Musical Director Gordon Rigby, begins the new session on August 27th at the Parish Church. The Junior Choir (Primary School ages) meets from 7.15pm to 7.50 pm and the Senior Choir (from Senior School to Senior Citizen) from 8pm (prompt) to 9.30pm. New singers of all voices are encouraged to come along and join in the fun. No audition is required and the ability to read music is not essential. All we ask is that you enjoy singing.

In addition to preparing programmes for the traditional Christmas and Spring Concerts, the choir is working on a repertoire of easy-listening pieces which will be performed at various functions in Lochwinnoch over the next year. We hope our talented local musicians will work with the choir to make these real community events.

Please feel welcome to come along and contribute your suggestions for music you would like to sing and play.

If you would like further information about how you can get involved with the choir please contact Peter Fereday (Choir Chairperson) email: [peterfereday@googlemail.com](mailto:peterfereday@googlemail.com)

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## Calder Drama - Winter Production

A preliminary meeting of the Drama Club was held in the Golf Clubhouse on Friday 10th August when the reading and casting of our November Production took place.

'The Rainbow Bird' specially written for Calder Drama by Franceska Ewart, has once again a local theme. This time it's centred around the Lochwinnoch RSPB Reserve where there is trouble a-brewing between our feathered friends and the local humans. The birds are incensed at the unwelcome intrusion of these flea-ridden, unhygienic humans who they feel are seriously violating the privacy of their nests. Things are getting out of control and there is a danger that open conflict will break out.

Franceska has once again written a truly imaginative tale which should delight both young and old alike. The Production will be staged in the McKillop Hall on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th November.

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## RSPB Lochwinnoch 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!

### Events

**Young Volunteers Group** : Saturday 1 Sept and Saturday 6 October 11am - 4pm, Price: Free, Booking essential

Join us for the monthly Young Volunteers club, with activities including bird surveying, outdoor work, finding out more about RSPB campaigns and much more. Young persons aged between 12 and 18 can participate.

**Wednesdays with Wildlife: Migration** Wednesday 5 Sept 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Price: £5 or £2 for RSPB members Booking essential.

September is the ideal time for roosting swallows to be seen, sometimes in very large numbers! Join us as we search for them around the reserve and local area. Walk description: Evening walk around the reserve to look for possible roost sites of hirundines. There is likely to be overgrown vegetation, and uneven,

narrow path surfaces along the way, but not for all of the walk. Key species we will look for: Swallows and martins but also we will look for otters, bats and other migrant species. Suitable for: Adults. Families. General interest in wildlife. Evening explorers! Recommendations: Stout footwear, waterproofs and warm clothing recommended. You may also wish to bring insect repellent. Please book in advance as spaces may be limited.

**Life in an Oak Tree** - Outdoor Meeting Saturday Sept 15th – 10-00 –12.00.

An oak tree is a natural world of its own. What creatures live there? How do they all get on with one another? Why does the tree put up with them? Did somebody plant our oak trees? Why? Come and find out. You might end up hugging one.

**Sale of second-hand natural history books and birdwatching equipment.** Saturday 8 September to Sunday 16 September. 10am - 4pm Daily Free

Here is your chance to pick up some bargain natural history books and birdwatching equipment including binoculars, telescopes and camera apparatus. You can also dispose of your old ones, either as a donation or for us to sell on your behalf. We also auction collectable wildlife books, often including New Naturalist and Poyser. Donations can be accepted throughout the year. Please contact us for more details.

**Young at Heart** Sunday 23 September 11am - 4pm Price: £5 or £2 for RSPB members.

Every time you are at the reserve, you see kids having so much fun looking for bugs and beasties, pond dipping and hugging trees. Don't you wish you could step back in time

and take their place? Well today you can, join in with all of the fun activities that usually only the kids get to do, learn about insects, pond life, plants and birds and play some fun games. Be a kid again for one day only!

**Fungus Foray and Feast Saturday** 29 September 11am - 1.30pm Price: £15 Booking essential

Join fungus enthusiast and countryside ranger Claire Bird for a one-off extra special fungus event. Claire will take us on a fungus identification walk around various parts of the reserve where we will collect and identify fungus specimens before heading back to the visitor centre to cook up a fungus feast! Stout footwear and waterproofs recommended.

**Wednesdays with Wildlife - Reserve Question Time** Wednesday 3 October 6.00pm - 8.30pm Free

The RSPB Lochwinnoch is undertaking some ambitious projects over the next few years, as well as lots of other behind the scenes work. We'd like to give you an opportunity to ask us about them and anything else happening on the reserve. We'll also be taking anyone interested for a walkthrough of the main project areas from 6pm – 7pm.

### Booking, prices and enquiries:

It is often necessary to book onto our events in advance as certain events may have limited space.

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.

### Children's Birthday Parties

Fancy something different for your child's next birthday? Relax and let the team at RSPB Lochwinnoch organise a wild birthday party for you!

With our beautiful wetland reserve as your background, bird songs as a soundtrack and nature as an entertainer, it will be the party to remember. Our hands-on activities and arty crafts will provide loads of fun for your little guests. You can choose from a range of activities including pond-dipping, minibeast hunt, wildlife walk, treasure trail and more.

There are three themes to choose from:

- Enjoy woodland birds and wildlife in our Woodland Wonderland
- Discover creepy crawlies and beautiful bugs with our Minibeast Safari
- Find out what hides under (and around) water, with our Aquatic Adventure.

Parties usually last for two hours, with a one-hour outdoors activity, a 30-minute craft session and 30 minutes for refreshments, cakes etc. We do not provide food, so you will have to bring your own, but we will provide a decorated room, invitations and party bags if requested.

We also have a tailored offer for toddlers (under 4s) who might be too young to enjoy some of our activities. We provide access to a decorated room with toys, games, colouring sheets and a lovely view over our lochside meadow. The offer also includes a storytelling session and/or a short and easy walk on the reserve to watch birds and other wildlife.

Let our trained and professional RSPB staff take care of things for you by providing a bespoke service to suit your needs. Give us a call and we can discuss the arrangements, phone 01505 842663, email Lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk

## Can you help with Information?

### Lochwinnoch D-Day Soldier

**ROBERT FULTON (1912-1944)**

### Sapper in 84 Field Company Royal Engineers

Later this year we will visit Normandy with our boys who are aged 12 & 9. In order to help bring the story of D-Day to life for them, we wish to retrace the story of a Lochwinnoch man who fought and died there, culminating with a visit to his grave in the Hermanville-sur-Mer military cemetery, where we plan to lay a poppy wreath as an act of remembrance.

We are trying to find out as much as we can about the life of Robert Fulton when he lived here in Lochwinnoch and would greatly appreciate any



information you might have about him or his family. So far, we have discovered that he was the son of John & Jeannie Fulton and that he was married to Mary Greenlees Fulton.

If you can help in any way, even with the smallest piece of information, then that would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks in anticipation.

*Robbie Weir (Telephone 842 014)*



## Have you had your FREE Home Energy Check?

The Autumn equinox approaching signals the return of longer nights and lower temperatures. With the ever increasing costs of home heating and electricity is your home winter ready?

LEAP Home Energy Checks and advice have saved local households up to 13% on their utility bills through simple inexpensive actions. Our City and Guilds Qualified Energy Advisors, familiar face Alan Vince and new recruit Laurie Duncan (both pictured), can carry out your FREE Home Energy Check and provide you with Your Home Action Plan tailored to your home and circumstances. It will only take an hour and can improve the comfort of your home and save you money.

At the current time Renfrewshire householders are also being offered

free home insulation under the Universal Home Insulation Scheme. Householders and private rented sector tenants in homes that are suitable can have cavity wall and loft insulation installed free of charge regardless of household income. The available funds are limited, are allocated on a 'first come first served' basis and are only accessed through the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre (ESSac). Please be wary of doorstep callers offering to fit this free insulation at a cost (see separate article in Chatterbox). LEAP is working closely with ESSac to assist local residents in accessing this free offer.

For your FREE Home Energy Check contact LEAP at 01505 842 530, or email: [energy@myleaproject.org](mailto:energy@myleaproject.org) or drop into our office at 22 Church Street, Lochwinnoch.

### Energy Advisors

Laurie Duncan, Alan Vince



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

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## THREE CHURCHES INN

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Tel: 01505 843 854

Lunch Menu—12pm—5pm

Evening Menu—5pm—8pm

## Breakfast 9am - noon. 7 days a week

### What's on for September

- **8th The Penny Dogs**
- **22nd Gamble Gamble & Drever**
- **28th Psychic Night. Tickets on sale now £6.**



## Lochwinnoch Community Library

Opening Hours:

**Mon, Tues, Fri, Sat**

10am- 1pm & 2pm-5pm

**Wednesday**

2pm-5pm and 6pm-8pm

**CLOSED THURSDAY**

**Public Holiday**

**CLOSED Saturday 22nd and Monday 24th September**

Services available:

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

**A Small selection of new titles:**

**Alex Kava: Fireproof** When a building bursts into flames on a cold winter night in D.C., investigators see a resemblance to a string of recent fires in the area. There is one difference, however: This one has a human casualty. The local team insists they're looking for a young white male, suffering from an uncontrollable impulse to act out his anger or sexual aggression. But when special agent Maggie O'Dell is called in, everything she sees leads her to believe that this is the work of a calculating and controlled criminal.

**Susan Lewis: No child of mine**

Alex Lake's day job is all about helping people, especially children. She cares about them passionately and does everything in her power to rescue them from those who mean them harm. It's as frustrating a career as it can be rewarding, though all too often she is left wondering if she has done enough.

When the case of three-year-old Otilie Crane comes to her attention everything changes. She finds herself completely unable to detach from the child the way she should, and feels an overpowering need to make a real difference in little Otilie's life. To do this she needs the support of her

superiors, but no one is prepared to believe that Otilie is in danger. In the end, Alex follows the only course left to her, and takes law into her own hands.

**Karin Slaughter: Criminal**

Will Trent is a brilliant agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Newly in love, he is beginning to put a difficult past behind him. Then a local college student goes missing, and Will is inexplicably kept off the case by his supervisor and mentor, deputy director Amanda Wagner. Will cannot fathom Amanda's motivation until the two of them literally collide in an abandoned orphanage they have both been drawn to for different reasons. Decades before - when Will's father was imprisoned for murder - this was his home.

**Tasmina Perry: Perfect strangers**

Just an innocent invitation... When Sophie Ellis is asked to house-sit at a luxurious Knightsbridge townhouse, it appears to be the offer of a lifetime. Drawn into the glittering circle of the home's owner, she meets wealthy American businessman Nick Cooper and is swept up into a thrilling and passionate affair.

But when Nick is found dead in his hotel suite, Sophie is suddenly the prime suspect for his murder, and soon realises Nick was not the man he seemed. Racing to find the truth and clear her name, Sophie must elude not only the authorities but also a group of dangerous players who believe Sophie has something that they want. And who won't stop until she's caught...

**Look out for:**

David Baldacci: Forgotten

Harlan Coben: Seconds away

Michael Connelly: Black Box

John Grisham: Racketeer

Jo Nesbo: Bat

**Homework help for all school topics** Renfrewshire libraries know how important it 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



**Lochwinnoch Library**

**Bookbug Rhymetime**

Every Tuesday at 9.30am

Come along and join in the fun

Suitable for children

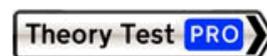
aged birth – 4 years

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!



**Free and online to library members.** Everything you need to pass your driving theory test.

Try Theory Test Pro free from your home PC or at your local library and pass the Driving Theory Test on your first attempt.

Theory Test Pro allows you to study at your own pace. It contains the entire official test question bank, hazard perception video clips and an online version of the Highway Code. Over the last 12 months the site has been updated with new features such as driving instructor test questions. A great way to make sure you pass first time.

If you are logging on from home, or in the library, you will need your library card.

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

From the menu select Computers & Learning

Using our link for the Theory Test Pro website, type in the barcode number, with no spaces, to get started.

If you are not a library member you can join at any Renfrewshire library and get the full range of library services.



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

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

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

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

***The next course at Lochwinnoch Library is due to start in September***

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



## A Return to 35mm Film

About a year ago having watched a professional photographer at work with a very big camera and having listened to his colleague extolling the virtues of film over digital I took out my 35 millimetre camera and bought some film.

Since then I have enjoyed using my not so old SLR film camera. Yesterday I discovered that Penman's no longer process films.

I wondered how those two professionals managed. I found out by going onto the Internet and discovering that the Fuji Company has a very active photographic laboratory processing millions of pictures all by mail order. All the things that you can get in places like Asda for your digital camera are available to you for your film camera from Fujifilm, in Burnley, Lancashire for about the same or better prices. And Fuji film is very good, possibly the best there is.

Go to their web page and download the paperwork to send off with your roll of film to get your prints back in four days. See:

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

You'll find they sell and process different types of film including black and white, as well as accessories .

If want to try Fuji (who process all brands of film not just their own) but don't have internet access the address is: Fuji Digital Imaging Service, Standish Street, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 1AP Tel: 01282 432333

## SWRI



The new season of Lochwinnoch SWRI starts again on Wednesday 19th September 7.30 in the McKillop Hall.

Our speaker is Laura Alexander and her subject is "Sleeping Around Scotland", which should be a very interesting subject!

The competitions are - Autumn arrangement of fresh plant material and a jar of plum jam.

We look forward to welcoming members old and new and would love to welcome many new members in particular newcomers to the village; why not come along on the 19th and sample what the "Rural" has to offer you?

Don't be put off at the thought of "competitions" it is just for fun and you don't have to enter (just yet!!), it is an evening of interest and companionship and a chance to make new friends!

## Why pay for a car to sit outside your house?

The AA estimates that an average car costs nearly £3500 per year in insurance, tax and depreciation - that's before you even take it on the road!



Based in Lochwinnoch, **LEAP Car Club** is a members car club which you can join, giving you convenient access to economical cars to hire, right here on your doorstep, 24 hours a day.

As a community project, all profits go back into the Club.

For further details, including membership and car hire costs, see [www.leapcarclub.co.uk](http://www.leapcarclub.co.uk) or contact the LEAP Car Club Coordinator on 01505 842530 or by email at [diane@myleapproject.org](mailto:diane@myleapproject.org)

## 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
- **Children's Drama Workshops**—Thursdays in McKillop Hall 5-8yrs 4.30-5.30pm, 9-12yrs 5.30-6.30pm Tel: 07814 6 9 9 1 2 7 E : rocketyouththeatre@gmail.com
- **Drop-in T Bar**—Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum. McKillop Institute, 10-12 noon .
- **First Friday of Month**—Semple

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Tue-Thur 10am-2pm  
Sat By Appointment

Tones host an open mike session at Lochwinnoch Golf Club, 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: 01505 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. Tel 842136 for info..
- **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.
- **Krafty Kids**—will be running again on Sat 1st September open to all Primary School Children 1.30pm until 3pm in the small Parish Church room. For bookings telephone Katharine Billany on 01505 844944 or 07947 075622 The 1st of 7 sessions.
- **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, 5-7pm at the McKillop. Phone Coby on: 07729 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 5yrs). Fridays, from 10.15am - 1.45pm at the McKillop. Further details from Coby on Tel: 07729 051615.
- **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. The club will be closed on Thursday 19th and 26th of July.
- **Scottish Country Dance Club**—Every Tuesday, from 7.30-9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **Sequence Dance Class**—Every Wed 7.30-9.30 at Bowling Club
- **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
- **Zumba**—Mon 6.30-7.30 Lochbarr Centre, Wed 7-8pm McKillop Inst Sat 10-11am Lochbarr Centre
- **Zumbatonic for kids**—Fridays 4-7 yrs 4 - 5 . 3 0 p m 8-14yrs 5.30-7pm, Lochbarr Centre

Some activities may cease during holidays, please check

## Upcoming Events

- **Sat 1 Sept—RSPB Young Volunteers Group (12-18 yrs. old) 11am - 4pm.** Price: Free, Booking essential. Activities including bird surveying, outdoor work, finding out more about RSPB campaigns and much more. Tel: 842 663 E-mail: lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
- **Tues 4 Sept—TBar re-opens, 10-12 noon,** McKillop Institute.
- **Wed 5 Sept—RSPB Wednesdays with Wildlife: Migration 7.00pm - 9.00pm.** Price: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Booking essential. Evening walk around the reserve to look for possible roost sites of hirundines. There is likely to be overgrown vegetation, and uneven, narrow path surfaces along the way, but not for the entire walk. Key species we will look for: Swallows and martins but also we will look for otters, bats and other migrant species. Tel: 842 663 E-mail: lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
- **Wed 5 Sept—Folk Night at the Howwood Inn** 8pm every Wednesday. Come along and see what it's all about.
- **Fri 7 Sept—SVH Golf Tournament 2012,** Friday 7th September, Elderslie Golf Club. Team entry is £280 for 4 players. If you would like more information on the day and to book in your team and tee off times, please contact Lorraine Valentine on 01505 7 0 5 6 3 5 or email Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk.
- **Fri 7 Sept—RSPB Local Group meeting "Birding in Japan" at 7.30** in the McMaster Centre, Donaldson Drive, Renfrew.
- **Fri 7 Sept—Open Mic Night at Lochwinnoch Golf Club** Say it! Play it! Sing it! Fun for all the family! Specials menu available.
- **Sat 8 Sept to Sun 16 Sept—Sale of second-hand natural history books and birdwatching equipment.** RSPB Reserve 10am - 4pm Daily Free
- **Sat 8 Sept—The Fabulous Penny Dogs** play at the Three Churches Inn
- **Sat 8 Sept—SVH Saddle & Stride Cancelled!**
- **Sat 15 Sept—Life in an Oak Tree - RSPB Wildlife Explorer Group** Outdoor Meeting -RSPB Nature Reserve 10-00 -12.00. An oak tree is a natural world of its own. What creatures live there? How do they all get on with one another? Why does the tree put up with them? Come and find out.
- **Sun 16 Sept—Beith Arts Concert** featuring the Cameo Clarinet Quartet, Beith Community Centre, Kings Road. Adults £8, Concessions £6, Students

and children £1. Tea is provided at the interval.

- **Sat 22 Sept—Drop-in Café at the Kirk, 10-12 noon,** Adults £2, Children £1 Parish Church.
- **Sat 22 Sept—Gamble, Gamble and Drever play at the Three Churches Inn.**
- **Sun 23 Sept—Young at Heart, RSPB Reserve, 11am - 4pm.** Join in with all of the fun activities that usually only the kids get to do, learn about insects, pond life, plants and birds and play some fun games. Be a kid again for one day only! Price: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Tel: 842 6 6 3 E - m a i l : lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
- **Fri 28 Sept—Cream Tea in support of Macmillan Cancer Care** 10-12 in the Library.
- **Fri 28 Sept—Psychic Night at the Three Churches Inn,** tickets £6 on sale now.
- **Sat 29 Sept—Fungus Foray and Feast, RSPB Reserve, 11am - 1.30pm** Price: £15 booking essential. Join Fungus enthusiast Claire Bird will take us on a fungus identification walk around various parts of the reserve where we will collect and identify fungus specimens before heading back to the visitor centre to cook up a fungus feast! Tel: 842 663 E-mail: lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
- **Sat 29 Sept—End of Season Party at Lochwinnoch Golf Club.** Dance the Night Away! Tickets £5. Includes snacks.
- **Wed 3 Oct—RSPB Reserve Question Time 6.00pm - 8.30pm** Free. RSPB Lochwinnoch is undertaking some ambitious projects over the next few years and we'd like to give you an opportunity to ask us about them and anything else happening on the reserve. We'll also be taking anyone interested for a walkthrough of the main project areas from 6pm - 7pm. Tel: 842 663 E-mail: lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk
- **Sat 6 Oct—RSPB Young Volunteers Group (12-18 yrs. old) 11am - 4pm.** Price: Free, Booking essential. Activities including bird

surveying, outdoor work, finding out more about RSPB campaigns and much more. Tel: 842 663 E-mail: lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk

- **Sat 6 Oct—Autumn Fete at the Bowling Club, 1-4 pm**
- **Fri 26 Oct—SVH Sports Dinner, The Normandy Hotel, Renfrew.** Speakers: Former Rangers player and Scottish Internationalist, Davie Wilson and Former St Mirren and Celtic player and Scottish legend, Frank McGarvey. Hugh Brown (former snooker referee and winner of Wag of the Year 2006) has kindly agreed to return as our MC again for the evening. Tickets for the night are £40. To book tickets and to reserve a table, please contact Ashley Moran on 01505 7 0 5 6 3 5 or email ashley.moran@svh.co.uk.
- **Fri 9 Nov—'Fall Ball' Ceilidh** in Lochwinnoch Golf Club with music from local band Clamjamfrie
- **Sat 24 Nov—Rod Stewart Tribute Show** at the Bowling Club tickets £10 call 843103 to book
- **Thurs 29, Fri 30 Nov—Calder Drama presents "The Rainbow Bird"** a new play by Franceska Ewart



Autumn  
Fete  
6th October

There are so many Fetes in early summer that it can seem too much at times. How refreshing then that the Bowling Club have an Autumn Fete.

**Saturday 6 October** is the date for your diary and 1-4pm the time. Let's hope for a beautiful day!

The Bowling Club is available for all types of function

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## ChatSearch—Olympics

backstroke	badminton	beachvolleyball
boxing	coxlessfours	crawl
decathlon	discus	dressage
finnclass	fourhundredmetres	heptathlon
highjump	javelin	marathon
omnium	parallelbars	polevault
pommelhorse	rythmicgymnastics	springboard
taekwondo	tennis	timetrial
triplejump	waterpolo	weightlifting

## Women of Faith

Women have long fulfilled important roles in Christianity and inspired people of faith.

We remember with gratitude and reverence the roles of ecclesiastical heroines like St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253), St Teresa of Avila (1515-82), St Margaret of Scotland (1046-93) and Mother Julian of Norwich (1342-1413) in religious life, teaching, nursing, hospital visiting and caring for sick, poor and elderly men, women and children.

Here in Lochwinnoch, the dilapidated ruins of the former St Joseph's College bear silent witness to the lives and times of an order of nuns who dedicated themselves to propagating Christianity while risking their lives in some of the most dangerous corners of the world.

St Joseph's, just off the Largs Road, was utilised by the Mill Hill Fathers between 1935 and 1985 to train priests to become missionaries in Africa and Asia.

Originally known as Garthland House and dating from the late 18th century, the elegant edifice previously belonged to the wealthy Macdowall family who also owned Castle Semple House on the outskirts of Lochwinnoch.

The college included a three-storey dormitory block and red-bricked chapel exquisitely adorned with stained-glass windows, black and pink marble altar pieces, mosaic panels, wooden pews, a confessional box and statues, icons, ornamental crosses and crucifixes.

It's less well-known that St Joseph's also accommodated nuns belonging to the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph Order.

After taking their final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, these courageous women studied for pastoral and educational work in Africa. There they put their lives at risk because the continent was in political upheaval following the conclusion of the colonial era and famine, war, poverty and diseases like polio and malaria ravaged predominantly rural communities.

Like the Mill Hill Fathers, the Sisters were inspired by the huge stone sculpture on the exterior wall of the chapel at St Joseph's which can still be seen today.

The sacred effigy portrays St Joseph, patron saint of carpenters, carrying a beam with one hand and a hammer in the other.

The sculpture reminded acolytes and novices that their vocations in life were to build hospitals, schools, orphanages and houses with the tools of wood, hammers and faith in foreign and often hostile fields.

The First Superior at St Joseph's was Mother Mary Eucharia, Vicarress General of the Franciscan Missionaries.

She was a pillar of support, guidance and inspiration to young women who left behind their families, friends, loved ones and homes to walk down the wooded avenue between the college and Largs Road bus stop to embark on life-long pilgrimages of prayer and piety.

Behind St Joseph's was a cemetery where some of the college's holy women were buried after they died.

The graveyard was, and still is, overlooked by a stone cross on the college roof. It loomed above the Sisters' sepulchres like a silent, stony sentinel.



Following the closure of the seminary and before it was converted into a residential nursing home for elderly people, the nuns' coffins were exhumed and re-interred in consecrated ground elsewhere.

When I visited the ruins of St Joseph's earlier this summer, the old graveyard was mantled with lilac-flowered rhododendrons and magnificent mantles of wildflowers like purple speedwells, red campions and white anemones.

A huge yellow buck-eye chestnut tree, with cascading chains of golden blossoms, formed floral arches over the Sisters' sepulchral sylvan sanctuary.

It was as if Mother nature herself weaved garlands of glory for these brave Brides of Christ whose voyages of faith started at St Joseph's and who looked forward to the blessed day of their summoning to the Marriage

Feast of the Lamb who was their Lord Jesus Christ when He was wedded to His Church.

*Derek Parker*

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



## St Vincent's Hospice

Our 5 A-Sides on Sunday 19th August and Saddle and Stride on Saturday 8th September have unfortunately had to be cancelled. Due to the holidays we have not had a great response. We are very disappointed that this has happened and do hope to have the events running again at a later date. Thank you to all those who showed interest in these events we greatly appreciate your support.

### Forthcoming Events

#### August Door to Door Collections

Can you help with our Door to Door collections in Paisley, Houston and Bridge of Weir?

All this involves is you posting a collection envelope (which you receive from us) through the doors in your area and returning at the end of the week to collect them in and send back up to the Hospice.

So could you, your family or friends help us with our collections either in your street or surrounding streets on Monday 13th August to Saturday 18th August? If you would like to help please contact the Fundraising Team on 01505 705635.

#### Golf Tournament 2012, Friday 7th September, Elderslie Golf Club

We are back again at the beautiful course at Elderslie Golf Club for another year of our fantastic Golf Tournament. Last year was very successful with all the teams that took part on the day having an enjoyable game on the course. This year we hope will be just as successful.

Team entry is £280 for 4 players. If you would like more information on the day and to book in your team and tee off times, please contact Lorraine Valentine on 01505 705635 or email [Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk](mailto:Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk).

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### Morrisons Bag Pack, Saturday 15th September, Johnstone

Bag Pack at Morrisons in Johnstone on Saturday 15th September from 12pm to 4pm. If anyone can spare a couple of hours or the afternoon to help Saturday shoppers pack their bags it would be very much appreciated. If you can help us out please contact Lorna Speirs or Ashley Moran at the hospice on 01505 705635 or email [lorna.speirs@svh.co.uk](mailto:lorna.speirs@svh.co.uk), [Ashley.moran@svh.co.uk](mailto:Ashley.moran@svh.co.uk).

### Sports Dinner, Friday 26th October 2012, the Normandy Hotel Renfrew

This year our Sports Dinner is returning to the Normandy Hotel in Renfrew for its second time and will take place on Friday 26th October. Entertainment for the evening will come from our top speakers:

Former Rangers player and Scottish Internationalist, Davie Wilson and Former St Mirren and Celtic player and Scottish legend, Frank McGarvey.

After leading the proceedings last year, Hugh Brown (former snooker referee and winner of Wag of the Year 2006) has kindly agreed to return as our MC again for the evening.

Tickets for the night are £40 and will include a sumptuous dinner and entertainment from the above mentioned speakers. There will also be fundraising on the night including a raffle and auction in aid of the hospice. Dress code for men is lounge suits and cocktail wear for the ladies.

We hope you will be able to join us for this event and enjoy what promises to be a fun filled evening in support of a very worthy cause. To book tickets and to reserve a table, please contact Ashley Moran in the Fundraising Team on 01505 705635

or email [ashley.moran@svh.co.uk](mailto:ashley.moran@svh.co.uk).

### Sainsburys Bucket Collection, Friday 5th October, Sainsburys Braehead

We are doing a Bucket Collection at Sainsbury's Braehead on Friday 5th October from 2pm to 6pm. If anyone can spare a couple of hours or the full afternoon to help out with collecting, please contact Lorna Speirs or Ashley Moran at the hospice on 01505 705635 or email [lorna.speirs@svh.co.uk](mailto:lorna.speirs@svh.co.uk), [Ashley.moran@svh.co.uk](mailto:Ashley.moran@svh.co.uk)



## TCT News

Seamus Harris has been shorn for the summer in Lewis (I can't help reading that in a Sean Connery ackshent).

Once again Seamus took the opportunity to raise funds for TCT – and the good people of the islands stumped up a grand total of £157.02. Many thanks once again to Seamus for his much appreciated support for the charity.

The Summer Jam Music Festival at the Three Churches Inn was a great success (pictures pg 18) and raised a fantastic £2,000! Unfortunately I was on holiday and couldn't be there.

I want to thank Fiona and all the musicians and staff involved for all their generosity and effort.

The "3 Men and a Ranger" team from Clyde Muirshiel Country Park who took part in the frankly horrendous "Tough Mudder Challenge" (swimming through ice and getting electric shocks – they must be mad!) raised a terrific £1,100 for TCT.

There is even a rumour that they might repeat the experience (!) next year. A big thanks to Hayley, Neil, Ross and Andy.

*John Delaney*

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*Just opposite the Golf Course on the Largs Rd*

### On the plot:

The summer sun shadows are growing longer and the sun is having a late fling after what has been a disappointing summer and growing season. On the allotment we have suffered the same as the nation's farmers with crop yields down on last year due to the huge amount of rain and the low temperatures. However I did see some bumper peas, courgettes, swedes, and beans- in my fellow diggers' plots- not so much in mine, although the tatties were very tasty I have to admit. Who can resist the taste of home grown potatoes and produce fresh from the greenhouse or garden?

We're at the time of the year where we are starting to clear areas of our plots after the crops have been harvested. You will already be filling in spaces with quick growing late salads but by and large we will be seeing some gaps and empty beds appearing. Mother Nature hates to see a vacuum. As we are all well aware, leave a patch of bare

ground and before you know it will be full of weeds. Not only that, bare soil will be leached of nutrients with the deteriorating weather. Better to fill it even if it is only with material that will end up on the compost heap! It's a great investment in the structure and quality of next year's soil.

Green manure is a great way to create humus that improves fertility and structure for subsequent crops. Almost anything will do this. Crops from lettuce to broad beans will act as a green manure by virtue of the roots' residue that we dig in rather than dig up. The principle is simple. Sow a crop that will cover the ground so that weeds have no chance to grow. The roots take up nutrients from the soil, then when you are ready, harvest excess top growth to the compost bin and dig in the remainder along with the roots. So get into your seed box or packets left over from this year and see what's there, get sowing.

You can of course use specific crops that act in a specific way at particular times of the year. Legumes such as crimson clover or vetch will fix nitrogen from the atmosphere via soil bacteria. Some of this nitrogen is left in the soil ready for subsequent crops in your rotation.

We tend to look on this time of year as the season when things are all coming to an end. Cheer yourself up with the thought that it's a good time to plan for adding some early colour to your plot or garden to raise a smile in the Springtime when things are looking a bit drab. You can start things off with snowdrops, the crocus and so many varieties of daffodils to choose from, followed by startling tulips. Try something different for early cheer; camassia, dog-tooth violets and foxtail lilies don't all need full sun, making this an easy way to brighten up a shady area, or coming at a time of the season when there isn't much light.

Hardy annuals such as calendula and godetia planted now will give early summer flowers.

On our allotment site we're concentrating on getting some core jobs completed before the end of the growing season and encouraging everyone to tidy up their plots and help with housekeeping tasks on the site. It's true, if we put in effort now it will make such a difference getting things started again in the new season. It helps if we get together over a BBQ at the same time, meeting folks and having a chat.

**We are looking for new members to join us on the plot. Do you know someone? - Garden too small? Maybe a flat dweller? There are plots available at Garnock Valley Allotments Association in Kilbirnie. Contact us by email [gvaa@ymail.com](mailto:gvaa@ymail.com) or visit our website [GVAA.co.uk](http://GVAA.co.uk).**



## Don't Panic!

I hope you will not think it inappropriate if I mention the London Olympics because I have a very good reason.

While the athletes were running, shooting and jumping a few weeks ago, hundreds of thousands of people visited the various arenas, millions of British people watched the events on Television and billions more people around the World did likewise. All of us were made happier, all of us kept watching and it is not unreasonable to think that all of us came away believing it is good to be alive and that we could tackle the trials of tomorrow the better for today.

One po-faced man, the Governor of the Bank of England, who I believe had earlier blamed both the Royal Wedding and the Queens Jubilee for dips in our economic welfare, came on the TV news to tell us that unlike the Olympians, the economy was not doing well.

As I write this before the sports are over I wonder how long it will be before one of the most successful events of the 21st century so far, will be blamed for actually causing a further decline in our economic well-being?

I have to say don't panic. Sir Mervyn King the messenger is reporting what his Bank thinks. I doubt if he or his like have ever built any three dimensioned worthwhile object in their lives. They can talk about lending money or not lending money because that is what they do. They print the stuff by an incredibly cheap process knowing full well they have nothing to back it up. They print money which they must know, as you and I know, is worth less and less at a faster and faster rate the more of it they print.

I have to ask, what does it actually do? What does the extra amount actually make?

Your house is still the same house as it was last year or when you bought it. The land under it may be wetter or drier but not much will have changed. If your house was worth about £1000 in 1939 it will apparently be worth about £400,000 today to give you some idea. Using this paper money is no different than using grains of corn in Biblical times except that if you planted the corn you would be rewarded a hundred fold. You would gain some interest. That is why I say don't panic. With reasonable luck the Sun will rise tomorrow and

somewhere a crop will grow a little, just as it will this afternoon. Somewhere, some able people will do their best to make sure there is enough to go round.

That is all you can be really fairly sure about. Conserve what you have in every sense of the word, take care of each other, spend wisely, and take Sir Mervyn and his gloom with a pinch of salt, because if he knew what to do he would not be on the TV moaning; but actively engaged somewhere getting on with the production. Or at least trying-- as most of the rest of us are.

*Alan Lovegreen*

## Viewfield Rovers

Viewfield Rovers are a successful (former Cup Winners), amateur adult football team established in 1922, playing in the Caledonia AFC league with matches at Viewfield Park in Lochwinnoch on Saturday afternoons at 2pm. This season the manager has a number of players returning from past seasons and has added younger players from St Mirren YFC 19's. However the club is still on the look-out for players (especially goalkeepers) and if you are interested come along and speak with the manager.

While we know that the Olympic sponsors paid big bucks for the privilege of getting their brand noticed there is a more modest opportunity locally. Viewfield Rovers are in need of a community-minded local company/group or individual to sponsor a new set of strips. If you could help, please contact Jimmy Logue at [gmgangym@hotmail.com](mailto:gmgangym@hotmail.com)

Come along 2pm Saturday afternoon, support the best amateur team in the area and enjoy a bowl of Flo's famous soup.



## Water Problem

Are we the only people in Lochwinnoch who have complained about the colour of the water which comes out of our taps?

Three times we have phoned to complain to the water authorities about the pale brown stuff we fill our bath with. Three times we have been advised to "run the cold tap for half an hour and it will probably clear it". So it does to an extent. However the next time we run a bath it's pale brown again. Heavens knows how

many gallons of water it wastes each time!

Now this is the stuff we fill our glasses with to keep by our beds, make tea, drink in our kitchens, wash in and wash our clothes with. Are we alone in thinking it is unsatisfactory?

If you have the same problem, why not telephone Scottish Water on 0845 601 8855. If enough people complain maybe something will be done (huge sigh there).

*June and Roger Evans*

## Zumba @ Lochbarr

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Zumba program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party! So what are you waiting for - ditch the workout and join the party @ Lochbarr Leisure Centre.

With 3 classes a week to choose from there is a time to suit everyone and it's not just for adults;

Zumbatomic for kids ages 4-7 and 8-14 is starting back on the 31st of August. The first block of Zumbatomic classes where a huge success and Toni and Cheryl can't wait to get started again - so come along - get fit - rock it out and have a blast!

- Zumba with Julie - Mon 6.30 - 7.30pm
- Zumba with Julie - Wed 7 - 8pm
- Zumbatomic with Toni & Cheryl - Starting on Fri 31st August: age 4-7 at 4-5.30 pm; age 8-14 at 5.30-7pm
- Zumba with Toni - Saturday 10 - 11am

## Elderly Forum

The Tbar reopens on Tuesday 4th September. Please note the new Tbar times - 10am - 12noon. The lunch club continues as usual on Thursday beginning at 11.45am. ROAR has a whole new programme of activities to look forward to after lunch, more on this from Anne Duncan our co-ordinator from ROAR.

As discussed at the last meeting in June we have arranged for all three of our councillors to come to the meeting on Thursday 27th at 1.30pm. So if you have questions for Chris Gilmour, Andy Doig and Derek Bibby this will be a good time to ask them.

Looking forward to seeing a good attendance on the day.

*Gordon Nicholl*

## Cllrs Derek Bibby and Chris Gilmour

Well folks, the summer holidays are over, and the children have returned to school.

We wish the children well for the coming session, and with a view to the future we can look forward to the exciting prospect of the classroom extension within the village primary school.

The council's recess is over, and it is back to our usual round of board and committee meetings, but most importantly many local group meetings are back to their usual business- some indeed did not stop for the summer!

It is crucial that these groups feel supported, not only by their elected members, but also by all sections of the council.

This involvement allows us to get a feel for the hot topics in the village.

To this end we are asking local groups if they would like council officers to attend their meetings, with a view to providing information to local residents.

Over the summer we have been dealing with a wide range of residents' issues across the village from clean-up issues e.g. the War Memorial to housing repairs

If you would like to get in touch with us we will be holding a surgery at the McKillop at 9 00am on Saturday 1st September and one following a meeting of the Elderly Forum on Thursday 27th September.

Alternatively please phone Derek on 07534156007 or Chris on 07534148427

## Drama for Children



Clare Collins is a professional drama tutor and freelance theatre director and has set up Rocket Youth Theatre to bring drama workshops to local communities. She has been running a children's workshop in the McKillop for over a year, and has just started a younger group.

Weekly after-school Drama Workshops every Thursday starting 16th August:

- 5-8 years (4 year olds considered) 4.30-5.30 p.m.
- 9-12 years (up to 14 considered) 5.30-6.30 p.m.

All newcomers get their first session free. Normal class price £5. Sibling discount is available on termly payments.

Contact Clare Collins on 0141 561 9690 or 07814 699127, or email [rocketyouththeatre@gmail.com](mailto:rocketyouththeatre@gmail.com) Come along and join the fun.



Cllr Andy  
Doig

Recently I was delighted to have List SNP MSP for the West of Scotland, Stuart McMillan, accompany me on a visit to the Lochwinnoch based social enterprise, Eadha Enterprises. Eadha, which is Gaelic for Aspen, has long term plans to use the growing of Aspen trees to help remediate post industrial land which can then be used for community and social use. They already have plans in the long term to offer training and

employment opportunities to young people and they are funded by Oxfam. Whilst there is a range of views in our village about the most suitable base for Eadha they certainly have a positive vision and that can only be a good thing.

One subject that I raised at the last meeting of Lochwinnoch Community Council was the progress of the Community Empowerment Bill which the SNP Government is currently piloting through the Scottish Parliament. This has a particular resonance for the village as the Bill seeks to make it easier for communities like Lochwinnoch to use buildings, land, and other resources that are not being used and apply them to community projects and initiatives. Many in our village will be aware of the wide spread concern about the Struthers site which is boarded up and I very much welcome legislation which will help to address issues such as this.

Following the item I had in the last Chatterbox about plans to keep Lochwinnoch Railway Station a bright and welcoming amenity for our village I was delighted to be approached by a constituent, who actually lives in Kilbarchan, who wishes to donate plants and seeds for the station. I thanked her very much for her offer and will ensure that the Station gets these plants donated. This is what community is all about and this is only a small example of the great spirit of generosity and kindness which exists in our Renfrewshire villages.

I very much want to make myself available to local residents in Lochwinnoch and my Lochwinnoch advice surgery is on the last Wednesday of the month, at 8:00pm in the McKillop Institute. Please come and see me if you have any issues you wish to raise, or alternately call me on 07534 148224, or e-mail me at [cldr.andy.doig@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.andy.doig@renfrewshire.gov.uk).

Yours Sincerely,

*Cllr Andy Doig (SNP),*

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

*"Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more."*

*Mark Twain*

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

## Regional Park September Round Up



### Partnership for Rural Mobility Scooter Trail

Inverclyde Council on Disability and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park have been working in partnership to improve access for local disabled people. Both organisations are delighted to launch a new 'mobility scooter service' along part of the historic Greenock Cut. The scooters are available to hire FREE on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and can be issued between 10.30 hrs. & 14.00 hrs. Call 01475 521 458 for more details.



### Go Canoeing September 2012

This exciting opportunity offers everyone the chance to try out canoeing at Castle Semple Centre this September 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30. Sessions are aimed at all levels of ability, tuition and all equipment is provided (just bring a change of clothes and lunch if you are doing a full day). Sessions are amazing value priced at just £17 for a half day (10.00 – 12.00 OR 13.00 – 15.00 hrs.) and £24 for a full day (10.00 – 15.00 hrs.). What are you waiting for? Call 01505 842 882 Ex20 as soon as possible to book.



### Summer Fun!

This summer might not have seen the best weather wise but it has been action-packed for everyone visiting Clyde Muirshiel. We have had successful event programmes at all of our Centres and locations. Included in the highlights have been: over 200 people crowding into Lunderston Bay to see Mark Wylie and his 'Drakes of Hazard'; our very own Lunderston Olympics which saw hundreds of Inverclyde school children competing and designing winning medals; spectacular dens being built at Muirshiel; plus rock pooling events at Seamill and the Pencil monument! Thank you to everyone who came along.

### New What's On

The new Autumn Winter What's On Event Guide will be available soon in Visitor Centres and online. Bursting with fun, interesting and adventurous events and activities, there are many options and ideals for you and your family to get out and about!

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are looking for a great way of meeting like-minded people, getting out and active, or are keen to learn a range of new skills, the Regional Park can help. We have a new Thursday programme underway at Castle Semple, look on the Parks volunteer page for more details or contact Emily at the Visitor Centre.

### Photographic Competition 2012

Remember leaflets for this year's Competition are in our Visitor Centres and online. 2012 is Year of Creative Scotland, hence the theme 'Capturing Creativity in Clyde Muirshiel'. Top Prize £250. It's time to great creative with your camera or mobile phone, closing date Fri 19 October.

### '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](mailto:routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk). Thanks to those that have been in contact, your input is most appreciated.

*"I never think of the future - it comes soon enough."*

*Albert Einstein*

# Summer Jam Music Festival For TCT @ Three Churches Inn



## Beith Arts New Concert Season

The first concert of our 49th season features the Cameo Clarinet Quartet, a group of talented young women who have performed together only since 2011. They were all trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly the RSAMD), and freelance with all the major Scottish orchestras

Their musical aim is to show the versatility of the clarinet over a large range of music, so we can surely look forward to a very varied and professional concert.

The date for your diary is Sunday, 16th September at 2.30 p.m. at Beith Community Centre, Kings Road. Adults pay £8 each, Concessions £6, Students and children £1. Tea is provided at the interval. All are welcome - we look forward to seeing you at the very beginning of the new season.



## Clyde Cruisers Classic Car Rally Taster... more next month



## Fifty Shades of Grey

'Fifty Shades of Grey' the erotic novel series by EL James is a publishing sensation and has earned the writer big bucks. However fans might be disappointed by a new offering.

It is billed as a "stunning tour de force" which gets "darker and darker" as the book continues.

However, closer inspection of 'Fifty Shades of Gray' by Sheridan Simove reveals it to be a novelty notepad featuring 200 blank pages on different shades of gray paper.

There are four pages in each of the 50 shades which start light and get darker and darker.

The £12.99 'book', available from Amazon, was dreamt up by "author" Sheridan Simove who previously had a hit with 'What Men Think About Apart From Sex', also containing 200 blank pages.

Speaking of his latest project, Mr Simove said: "Just like EL James's popular novel, I hope my new book will deliver deep and satisfying pleasure."

There are even those who suggest that cheeky Mr Simove's version is an improvement on the original.

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## Lochwinnoch Art Group



This month will see the resumption of our meetings in the McKillop Institute between 7.30 -9.30pm in the Space Room on Monday the 10th September. It will take the form of an AGM followed by, "Approach to Still Life".

We do meet fortnightly unless a public holiday intervenes. This is the reason for arranging our second meeting on Monday the 17th, after which they will be held fortnightly.

We are a friendly group of mixed ability so if you are interested in drawing and painting you will be made very welcome.

Come and join us. Our annual subscription fee is very reasonable. This is thanks to the award of a grant by Renfrew District Council.



*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.**

## Stupid 999 calls

A woman standing outside Specsavers called 999 after she lost her glasses.

Another phoned -emergency services to ask police to test her plug sockets after the fire service refused.

And a man called 999 and admitted it was not an emergency or a crime but more of an annoyance that his neighbour was playing his radio loudly.

A man rang in because the light was not working in the phone box as he was trying to tell relatives he had accidentally got off at the wrong rail stop.

One woman even dialled operators after she left her bag in the seat of a cab and wanted police to follow the taxi to retrieve it.

During cold weather a woman asked ambulance crews to collect her laundry for her because she didn't want to walk down her icy path.

A woman rang 999 to demand the Police give her directions to Homebase.

Then there was the man who called for an ambulance as he was having trouble breathing – he then

admitted he was short of breath from running from the Police!

And from the USA:

*Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What is your emergency?*

Caller: Hi, is this the Police?

*Dispatcher: This is 9-1-1. Do you need police assistance?*

Caller: Well, I don't know who to call. Can you tell me how to cook a turkey? I've never cooked one before.

## Avoid a moose

and

## hit a bear instead

Norway is a large country (around twice the size of Britain) with a small population of 5 million and a rugged terrain of forest and mountains. The country has around 100,000 moose (Elk) and 100-200 brown bears.

So it wasn't too surprising what a driver spotted a moose on a country road 140 miles north of Oslo at around midnight. He decided to drive round the moose but didn't realize there was a bear nearby.

"The driver had lost a bit of speed as he tried to avoid the moose before hitting the bear," said Svein Erik Bjorke of the local wildlife authority, who was out in the forest searching for the

While his car was damaged, the driver escaped without serious injury.

In Norway and Sweden moose wandering onto the road after dusk in wooded areas (and there are lots of these) are a frequent cause of fatal accidents. There have even been studies to determine what make of car gives the best chance of survival in a crash with a moose – Mercedes came out top.

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## Naughty Ladies!

The erotic bestseller 'Fifty Shades of Grey' has not just been a hit with young(ish) readers.

A charity that offers audiobooks for the visually impaired has had to order extra copies after an overwhelming demand from ladies over 70 yrs old.

