

# CHATTERBOX

No 233 May 2013

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Community newsletter produced by Lochwinnoch Community Council

## What's On & Dates for your Diaries

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

### Thank You!

Jemima Kilburn would like to thank everyone for the good wishes, cards and flowers received during her recent illness and hospitalization. Your encouragement and support is very much appreciated.

Thank you

*Mima*



### The Post Office Gets Crafty For The Teenage Cancer Trust

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CATEGORIES FOR

NURSERY

P1- 3

P4-7



### Lochwinnoch Art Group

Our first meeting this month will be held on Monday the 13th May in the Space Room of the McKillop Institute at 7.30pm- 9.30pm. The subject for sketching / painting is "Boats". This covers all types of sailing craft from a rowing boat to a Clyde ferry and could prove a useful exploration of form for seascapes this summer.

Our last meeting for this session, on Monday the 20th May, at the usual time, is traditionally held "Out of Doors" when Justine Young kindly invites us into her home and garden.

There are no meetings in June, July and August but we shall be resuming our fortnightly meetings after the summer holiday season is over. Let's hope that the weather this summer sees a vast improvement on recent years.

### Wanted - Grazing for Pony

Can anyone help me? I'm looking for a small piece of land for my Shetland pony to graze on, a shelter or stable would be amazing but it's not essential at this time of year. If you know of anyone who may be able to help us would you please contact [peachey78@hotmail.com](mailto:peachey78@hotmail.com)

*Kirsty*



### Searching for Ancestors

Hello, I am trying to trace my Lochwinnoch family ancestors, can anyone help me please.

I am looking for Archibald Scarrett Currie; he was a Master Mariner, his parents John Currie, from Lochwinnoch and Agnes Janet Mackie. John parents were John Currie & Margaret Wylie; Agnes' parents were John Mackie and Janet Wall.

Archibald Scarrett Currie married Agnes Henderson also from Lochwinnoch her parents were Robert Henderson & Jane Porter, Robert Henderson parents were Walter Henderson and Elizabeth Woodside.

I am in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. My great, great, grandmother Margaret Currie came to Donegal where she married my great grandfather Joseph McElwee, when he died she left Ireland with four of their children and moved back to Scotland setting in Motherwell, leaving oldest son Archibald McElwee in Londonderry which is my great grandfather.

I would be glad of any help anyone can give me.

*Ken Wright*

[keithwright105@gmail.com](mailto:keithwright105@gmail.com)

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## Lochwinnoch Parish Church

### CAR BOOT SALE

Saturday 18th May

10am - 3pm

To book a place please call 01505 842404 or 842365 No later than the 15th to avoid disappointment.

Cost of car and use of table £10.

Set up time 9am.

If weather VERY wet sale will be held in the church hall.

Tea/coffee/biscuits will be available in the small hall for £1.50



### Hearing Loop

We've heard from Alan Lovegreen of problems with the Hearing Loop in the McKillop Institute.

"Some years ago I set about getting a Hearing Loop put into the McKillop and that made a great difference to hearing the stage performances.

However I did not hear a word of last month's Calder Drama play because on the night the Hearing Loop system was out of order. A friend, Carol, took me to investigate and when we found no sound she sought out Margaret the caretaker and on further investigation all that was needed was one PP9 battery!

I have been in touch with Bill MacKellar at Renfrewshire Council (0141 848 6140) and he assures me that he will take the matter in hand as of now. Signs will be put up and batteries provided. Hopefully he will also issue instructions that the system will be checked daily because to those of us with hearing loss it is as vital as

keeping warm. If you are going to an event and need the Hearing Loop it might be worth phoning to check that the system is working."



### Lochwinnoch Arts Festival 2013

This year's Lochwinnoch Arts Festival was a huge success. There were over 16 events and performances over the 11 days. The opening was carried out by local art enthusiast and supporter Mabel Adam to a large gathering of artists and friends of the festival. The Art Exhibition was well attended over the festival with a high standard of work being exhibited.

On Thursday at the Golf Club jazz enthusiasts were given a great session by Joni Keen and her wonderful trio. She performed songs made famous by Ella Fitzgerald and many more well-known jazz performers of that time.

The Friday saw a great concert by Susie Lamont's music pupils, always a hit with all. While Susie's concert was in full swing the local pubs had music by local artists. There was a wide range of styles from Fran and Friends in The Brown Bull, Willie Gamble and band in Three Churches Inn and Sean and friends in The Corner Bar.

On Saturday Rowena Murray interviewed her friend Denis Canavan, a stimulating and thought provoking talk. Down Castle Semple Visitors Centre there were beautiful crafts on offer. In the evening Calder Church and friends performed the 'World Premier' of David the Musical a wonderful interpretation by musicians singers actors and more!!

Also on Saturday Pauline Valance and Clare Robertson played music in The Junction to the delight of the

customers!

Sunday evening at the Golf Club saw a fine turnout of local guitarists to experience the BBC funded workshop. This was led by Stuart Nisbet, a leading session musician, who eloquently and skilfully demonstrated many aspects of guitar playing.

Monday saw a substitute writer as Janice Galloway could not come but Denise Mina, the well-known crime writer, filled this slot at the last minute!! In support were the Lochwinnoch Writers with lovely readings of their work.

On Tuesday Pauline Valance was very busy entertaining the local Elderly Forum T-bar group to her beautiful harp and singing and at night at the RSPB with Clare Robertson, Betty McKellar and the 6 poetry winners performed 'Fur n Feathers' to a packed RSPB.

Wednesday saw the first time performance in Lochwinnoch of the Glasgow Theatre Guild a hugely talented group of 16. They sang and danced their way through film and shows old and new.

Thursday and Friday saw our local Calder Drama perform the hilarious 'Out for the Count' and 5 excerpts from 'The Steamie' two great performances (especially on night one when the protective cross broke!)

Saturday saw the Krafty Kids having great fun creating lovely art work in the Parish Church. Down at The Junction the 'Factory Street Quartet' was wooing customers with its wonderful saxophone music.

Saturday saw more lovely crafts at Castle Semple. Saturday night we had 'Clamjamfrie', Clare and Pauline perform a great ceilidh - such great musicians from our own doorstep!

The 'Grand Finale' was a blaster. The Junior Choir with members of the Scottish Philharmonic and the Lochwinnoch Choral society taking us musically round the world. Again a full house appreciated a musical delight.

The committee would like to thank all sponsors, helpers, photographers and artists who made this one of the best!

A special tribute to Mabel who was at almost every event!!

Looking forward to 2014!!

Photos thanks to

Adam Image Craft

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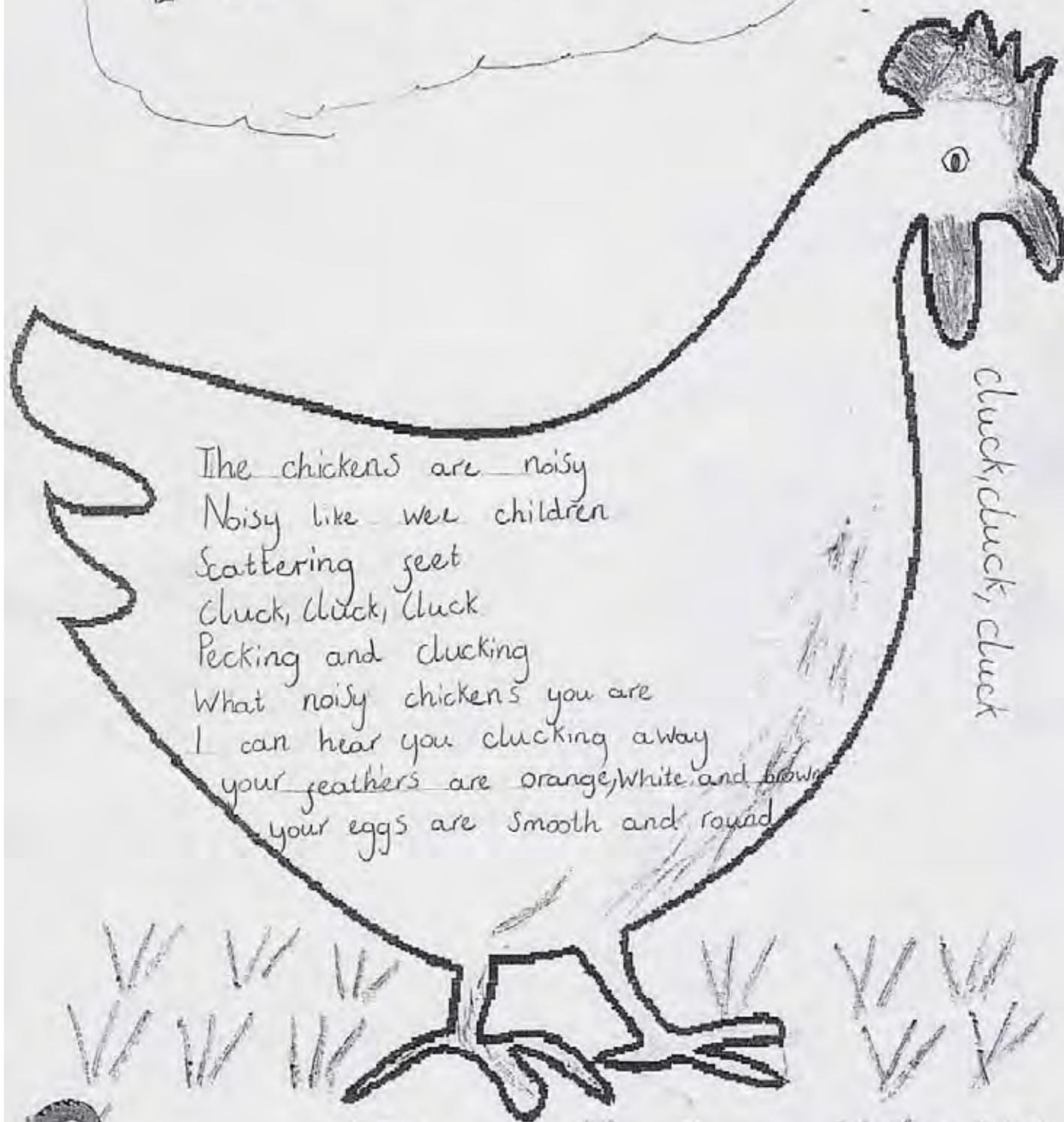
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# Lochwinnoch Arts Festival 2013



Photos from the second half of the festival will appear next month

# THE CHICKENS



The chickens are noisy  
Noisy like wee children  
Scattering feet  
Cluck, cluck, cluck  
Pecking and clucking  
What noisy chickens you are  
I can hear you clucking away  
your feathers are orange, white and brown  
your eggs are smooth and round

cluck, cluck, cluck



By Evie Livingstone

Age 7  $\frac{1}{2}$



## Bird's Eye View of Our Ancient Past

On a windswept hillside above Laigh Barnaigh Farm on high-lying moorlands overlooking Lochwinnoch is an ancient rock known as the Gowk Stone. Traditionally, this was where the first cuckoo of Spring was heard.

Its clarion told men and women working on the land that Spring had arrived and it was time to sow crops and move cattle and sheep on to hills to feed on the lush, green grass of upland pastures.

The cuckoo was known to agricultural communities as the gowk. That was why boulders where they perched to utter their duo-syllabic "cuckoo, cuckoo" calls were called "gowk stones."

The hawk-like birds returned to this country in April after spending winter in Africa. So their presence is one of the first signs that longer and warmer days are with us again.

The male is distinguished by his slate-grey plumage while the female, which notoriously lays her eggs in nests of other birds to be fed and reared by feathered foster-parents, has tawny brown feathers.

Once it was believed cuckoos hibernated in a "fairy hill" known as a sidhe (pronounced "shee") in winter and only assumed their more recognisable form in Spring.

It was this link with the otherworld of fantasy, romance, reincarnation, shape-changing and the old prehistoric Celtic nature religion which made the cuckoo an avian object of veneration.

It was regarded as a winged messenger from Tir-nan-Og, the Celtic heaven and Land of the Eternally Young, ruled by the mystical Angus Og (Gaelic for "young Angus").

This was where the dead became alive again, old men and women regained their youth and friendships severed by death were renewed.

During my time as a countryside ranger at Muirshiel country park, I marvelled at cuckoos calling all day long among hills inhabited between 1500 and 3000 years ago by Iron, Bronze and New Stone Age communities.

Burial chambers of these long-forgotten people still lay hidden beneath heather-

mantled hills and moors. Circular foundations of their rock-built homesteads remained visible at places such as Smeath Hill, Craig o' Todholes and Coplie Hill.

On a more sinister note, the Gowk Stone above Laigh Barnaigh is thought to have been a sacrificial altar used by Druid priests who were the religious and spiritual advisers of the Iron Age Celts.

It was previously known as Beligeith and dedicated to the Celtic sun god, Bel who, according to classical Roman writers, was the recipient of human and animal sacrifices. The spirit of Bel lives on today in the word, Beltane. This is the name given to the Celtic bonfire festival on May 1 which starts the Celtic summer.

"Beltane" means "fire of Bel" and evokes memories of the prehistoric practice when rural communities lit huge fires known as tandles in the hills above Lochwinnoch. This custom is commemorated in present-day names like Tandlemuir and Tandlehill in the Lochwinnoch countryside.

Other birds venerated by ancient Lochwinnoch communities included the sable-plumaged raven and the curlew with its long legs and curved beak.

Ravens, regarded as the Devil's Great Black Birds, were omens of death and, if one was seen near a but-and-ben, shieling or cottage, it was feared someone in the dwelling place would die.

I saw many ravens at Muirshiel with one of my most outstanding memories being an aerial joust between one of the Great Black Birds and a peregrine falcon above the road leading from the visitor centre to the barytes mines.

The raven frequently flipped over on to its back in mid-flight to present its sharp deadly talons to the peregrine flying in at speeds of around 180 miles per hour. This forced the falcon to veer off. Both birds eventually broke off the titanic struggle and flew their separate ways.

One of the most mystic birds at the country park was the curlew which wintered on the Firth of Clyde seashore before returning to the Muirshiel hills to nest and breed in Springtime. Their wistful, bubbling, trilling calls echoing across Mistylaw, Duchal and Ladyland Moors will forever be remembered.

At one time, curlews were identified with the legendary Seven Whistlers whose mournful cry was said to herald imminent death and disaster.

Sometimes there were said to be only six Whistlers searching for a seventh. When they found their long-lost soul-mate, the world would end.

In a harsher theological era, curlews were also said to be reincarnations of unbaptised children.

This legend had an eerie sequel.

One lady visitor to the park told me that, while walking in the hills with her four young children, a lone curlew walked behind them for several minutes.

Was this just a trusting bird looking for food? Or was it the spirit of a long-dead unchristened child embodied in a curlew wandering the moors? Looking eternally for the family which it had loved and lost?

*Derek Parker*

*Derek Parker worked as a countryside ranger at Clyde Muirshiel Regional*



## Spring into Action With Leap

Now we've had a few nice days and the gloom of winter seems to be lifting at last, is it time for a 'Spring Clean' with LEAP?

Why not spring clean your loft and take the opportunity to check your insulation to make sure it's thick enough to be ready for next winter, after all, who knows when it will strike!

Spring clean your finances – can you save money on energy? Review your energy bills and have a Home Energy Check with LEAP. Our Home Energy Checks have already saved over 600 households up to 13% on their utility bills through simple inexpensive actions.

Take stock of your car usage. Are you paying for a car that's spending most of its time sitting outside your house? Get rid of it and join the Car Club. A car just when you need it.

Spring clean your village. Interested in green issues and want to help the villages of Lochwinnoch, Howwood, Kilbarchan and Bridge of Weir reduce their carbon footprint? Why not join our Steering Group. We are looking for new members.

Alternatively, we support a network of local volunteers working to make our villages more sustainable, from food fairs and organic fruit and veg deliveries to work in schools and even community renewable energy generation – so why not get involved.

Spring Clean with LEAP! Please drop into the office at 22 Church Street, Lochwinnoch for further information or see our website at [www.myleapproject.org](http://www.myleapproject.org)

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## Regional Park Round Up

### Seasonal Staff Sign up for Summer

We have new Seasonal Rangers as well as some familiar Visitor Centre Assistants, Outdoor Instructors and a Beach Attendant joining us for the summer season. Be sure and say hello if you see them out exploring their new sites!

### Raptors Return to Muirshiel!

The hen harrier project returns to Muirshiel Country Park this summer. There will be live footage in the Visitor Centre provided a suitable nest is found; otherwise, we will have a selection of highlights from previous years. Use our self-guided walk leaflet and look for the birds performing their unique sky dancing display - hopefully nesting will follow!

### Scottish District Sailing Championships 2013

The weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May will again see Castle Semple Loch as the venue for the IOM (International One Metre) Model Yacht Racing. The races provide an excellent spectator sport and the Park looks forward to seeing the yachts in highly competitive heats. If you fancy trying out sailing (on a larger scale!) remember courses run throughout the summer and junior multi activity weeks give youngsters a taste of adventure!

### Scotland's Nature Festival Sat 18 – Sun 26 May 2013

Celebrate the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 at Clyde Muirshiel

with events celebrating the best of the Regional Park's wildlife. Spot kingfishers and otters on the Dawn Safari, chase butterflies at Muirshiel or get that perfect shot for the Photographic Competition with a Photo Walk at Greenock Cut Centre. Look online or in the new what's on guide for details.

## Regional Park News

Pick up a copy of our new publication 'Regional Park News' and read all about the plans and activities for Year of Natural Scotland 2013 at Clyde Muirshiel!

### Photographic Competition 2013

Launched on 1<sup>st</sup> March the theme for this year is 'Year of Natural Scotland 2013 at Clyde Muirshiel'. There are 5 categories to choose with prizes in each category and a top prize of £200. Plus this year under 16's can enter our Junior Competition to win an outdoor activity session.

### New Volunteer Programmes at CMRP

If you are looking for a great way to get out and get active, the Regional Park can help. We have a Thursday programme underway at Castle Semple and a Saturday programme at Greenock Cut Centre. For those only available in the evenings, with the summer approaching we can now offer a Wednesday evening volunteer programme based at Castle Semple. Look on

the Park's volunteer page for the Apr – June programmes.

### Keen Cyclist? Read on!

We're looking for some interested parties and individuals to get in touch and help us improve, create or develop some bike routes. Could you volunteer an hour or so to give us your thoughts or maybe even contribute to a discussion on the topic? We need your expertise! Register your interest or simply give us a few lines with where you like to cycle in the Park - routes@clydemuirshiel.co.uk. As this is submitted an evening meeting is planned for **Tues 14 May** at Castle Semple Visitor Centre, look on line for details or email us.

### Pound & Pace Charity Walk

This annual walk takes place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June this year. Members of the public are eagerly encouraged to come along and walk the Greenock Cut's 7.5 miles, with a Park Ranger, for a donation of £1. Registration is at 10:15 at the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, for an 11 o'clock start. Don't forget to buy a raffle ticket on the day to win various prizes!

## Events

### Sun 5 May—Dawn Safari

Take to the water by canoe for this unique 360 degree surround sound experience of the dawn chorus. Look for otters or even an osprey flying by or the blue flash from a kingfisher. This 3 hour trip includes a bush breakfast.

WHERE: Castle Semple Visitor Centre

WHEN: 06.00 – 09.00hrs – approx – exact time given on booking

COST: Adult £45/ Concession £30 per person

MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20 & bookings

### Wed 8 May Feeling Fitter Walk Level 2 Semple Trail Revisited

This is a circular walk climbing up to Belltrees and Bowfield for views over Castle Semple Loch before going down into Howwood and

through Parkhill Wood. Allow minimum 4 hours.

MEET: Castle Semple Visitor Centre

WHEN: 10.30 hrs or 10.45 at Lochwinnoch Train Station

MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20

### Sat 11 May Kilmacolm Agricultural Show

The Ranger Service will be there make sure you say hello!

### Sun 12 May Gourock Highland Games

Look out for our Greenock Cut Ranger Team with a stand at the games!

### Sat 11 & Sun 12 May IOM (International One Meter)

#### Model Yacht Championships

Come and admire the stylish model yachts being manoeuvred by their expert handlers. Just as exciting as the real thing!

WHERE: Castle Semple Visitor Centre

WHEN: Centre open 10.00 – 17.00 hrs

MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20

### Fri 17 May Marvellous Moths

An evening capturing and identifying what has been attracted by the mercury lamp. Seek out a true lovers' knot, question a silver y or nose around for a snout!

WHERE: Barnbrock Farm

WHEN: 20.00 – 22.00 hrs

MORE INFO: 01505 614 791 & bookings

### Sat 18 - Sun 26

#### May Scotland's Nature Festival

Love life, love nature – at Scotland's Largest Regional Park! Access to all our locations is free so it has never been easier to appreciate our countryside in the Year of Natural Scotland.

WHERE: All Centres & Park Sites

WHEN: Everyday

MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20

### Sat 18 May Dawn Safari

Take to the water by canoe for this unique 360 degree surround sound experience of the dawn chorus by our African visitors. See Sat 5 May for full details.

### Sun 19 May Green Hairstreak Walk

A walk with a Ranger through the blueberry to search for these extraordinary little butterflies. Bring a camera!

WHERE: Muirshiel Visitor Centre

WHEN: 13.30 – 15.00 hrs

MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 803 & bookings

### Sun 26 May Spring Photo Walk

Walk the nature trail with one of the Rangers and capture the delights of spring. Cameras available but feel free to bring your own.

WHERE: Greenock Cut Visitor Centre

WHEN: 13.00 – 15.00 hrs

MORE INFO: tel 01475 521 458 & bookings

### Sat 1 June Castle Semple

#### 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.*

### Rowing Regatta 2013

The Annual Regatta attracts lots of competitors; lots of long thin boats will be racing on the loch if it is not too windy. Be warned car park will be busy!

WHERE: Castle Semple Loch

WHEN: All day

MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20

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

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## The Message of the Drum

A month ago when momentous events were happening on the world stage it was difficult to focus on what might hold the attention of readers of our very local magazine today. I decided to pick one short event that I think will last a lifetime for some.

Scores of us were enjoying the Choir Festival and had been led from country to country as songs and music from almost every nation took us on a most enjoyable journey. Many of the pieces were very well known to this supportive audience when the young people choir stood up again and we wondered what would come next.

This time they were holding sticks and odd lengths of coloured plastic tubes.

Off they went into song and created their own drum beats.

It was a joy to be there, to watch these happy young people, to see all the orchestra and the senior choir directing their attention to this row of young performers

That crafty conductor was making musicians before our eyes! I could imagine him showing them how this music is written down and teaching them by doing what the effect would be. Cheerful, colourful magical, great fun, just what that music should be.

Long, long after present events, and for the rest of their lives, these young people will have an extra dimension to everything they do. A few of them may go on to be percussionists or timpanists but hopefully all of them will continue to sing, learn from music and hopefully play an instrument. These young choristers will definitely get the timing right far more quickly from now on.

I came away uplifted.

*Alan Lovegreen*

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## Cllrs Derek Bibby and Chris Gilmour

Residents in the village will welcome news of the resurfacing work in Bridesmill Road and the recent work carried out at the Calder Street end of Braehead.

This is part of a record investment of 5.7 million pounds by Renfrewshire Council into the repair of roads and pavements which will also see work undertaken in Crookhill Gardens.

We were delighted to attend the opening night of the Lochwinnoch

## Lochwinnoch residents – your local Councillors Chris Gilmour and Derek Bibby are here to help.

If you have a problem or an issue, come to our surgery at the McKillop Institute on the 1st Saturday of every month at 9am.



### Contact Chris:

Email:  
cllr.christopher.gilmour@renfrewshire.gov.uk  
Phone: 07534148427



### Contact Derek:

Email:  
cllr.derek.bibby@renfrewshire.gov.uk  
Phone: 07534156007

Arts Festival, which attracted a fantastic turnout, to celebrate the stunning artistic talent that is further evidence of a vibrant and fine tradition in the village and beyond.

Chris attended the launch of the Sailfari event on Thursday 11 April to Largs yacht marina which highlighted the Clyde Muirshiel Park drive to make the year of Natural Scotland a great success.

Mike Cantley chair of Visit Scotland was present as were officers of the 3 Local Authorities covered by Clyde Muirshiel Park.

The Sailfari will provide a unique opportunity for visitors to combine marine wildlife watching with learning to sail

The significant changes as a result of welfare reform were introduced at the beginning of April

Constituents who are affected can obtain information by visiting [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/benefitchanges](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/benefitchanges) or by telephone 0300 300 0288

Our next surgery will be on Saturday 4 May at 9 00 am in the McKillop Institute.

Derek Bibby—Tel: 0753 415 6007 Email: [cllr.derek.bibby@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.derek.bibby@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Chris Gilmour—Tel: 0753 414 8427  
E m a i l :  
[cllr.christopher.gilmour@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.christopher.gilmour@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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## Beith Arts - Future Dates

The current programme closed with our April concert, which brought a very successful series to an upbeat ending. "End of the Pier" entertained us with jazz, comedy, and songs old and new, performed by four skilful musicians who obviously enjoyed what they were doing just as much as we enjoyed listening and joining in.

So what's to look forward to? Firstly, there's our annual Art Exhibition which opens in Beith Community Centre, Kings Road, on Monday, 3rd June and runs until Saturday, 8th. This is always a popular event - local artists supply an amazing collection of talented work, and you can buy pictures and small craft items at very reasonable prices. All are very welcome. Opening times are: Monday to Friday 2.30 - 8.30 p.m., Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance is free.

Then there's the start of our next season coming up on 29th September - our 49th anniversary! We will provide further information about the first concert in the August edition of Chatterbox. In the meantime have a good summer - and be sure not to miss our Art Show in June!



## Castle Semple Sailing Club

### Sunday Spring Series

#### **First Sunday**

The series started quietly probably due to Easter, with only a few boats taking part.

#### **Second Sunday**

The following weekend even fewer appeared but three boats were away at a GP event at Annandale (suffering with a lack of wind) and probably other people were still away on holiday or put off by the continuing cold weather - but some people did venture out. Oliver was again entertaining us or rather his granddaughter was obviously giving Oliver a lesson on how to sail. For

most of the first race young Ross McG and his friend led the way in his Enterprise before being caught by Crawford in another Enterprise.

For some reason unknown to us all, Ray in his GP decided to ram any boat within reach only missing the "cruising section" of the club as Stan had gone in for quick cuppa and Jillian in her topper was obviously too quick for him.

By the start of the second race the wind had got up nicely, Oliver gave up for reasons unknown, Ross decided the wind was too much and Ray had run out of boats to attack, this only left the Enterprise to win the race!

With the racing over Stan in his Omega was once again back on the water with John S on board and was seen to be planing - obviously he couldn't catch Crawford in the Enterprise now "ye haaing" planing back and forth merrily across the water- however something went wrong and Stan and John were swimming. A nimble Stan was seen to scramble over the boat on to the centre board but he wasn't quick enough when the boat came up and over it went again. By this time it was Enterprise 1 to the rescue. Duncan and Dee sped out in the power boat. John made his escape into the power boat and Stan was left with dented pride, bent burgee and of course the inevitable loch coloured sails.

### Third Sunday

The wind was of such a force (F8-F9) that no one ventured out in their boats and all thoughts of racing were abandoned. Around 20 hopeful members had gathered hoping to watch some action. Eventually several went for a blustery walk in Parkhill Woods and later the sailing secretary, always with safety on the water in mind, organised some very useful refresher training in the power boat.

However, hopefully things will improve and it will warm up soon.

See website for further details:  
www.castlesemplesc.co.uk



## Mary's Meals Child 31

This is a short film recording the work of Mary's Meals in providing breakfasts for 700,000 children every day in a place of learning so that the children are enabled and encouraged to attend school. This happens in many countries around the world.

Lochwinnoch Fairtrade Group (part of Lochwinnoch International Aid) is showing the film as part of International Fairtrade Day celebrations.

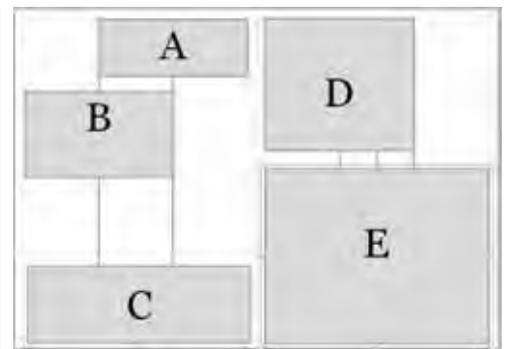
Who is Child 31? We hope you will come and see the film to find out. The showing is in Calder United Free Church Hall. Date and time to be confirmed but provisionally 11th May.

Confirmation will be announced later.

## Children's Book Launched

Jack Hastie, a member of the Lochwinnoch Writers` Group, successfully launched his children's` novel, Fraser's Voices, in the Old Library, Kilbarchan on Sunday, 7th April.

The book, set in Argyll, tells the story of a ten year old boy called Fraser whose life suddenly changes when illness brings with it an ability to speak to and understand animals. He makes friends with One-eye the fox,



## 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

for further information.

Barook the badger and Nephesh the owl. When his illness goes into remission this ability fades too. Each section of the book begins with the onset or recurrence of his illness and ends with a temporary cure and the loss of his gift.

In each section Fraser and his animal friends have to solve a problem – a murderous intruder, toxic pollution, rabies, a forest fire and face danger.

The book is available from ajhastie@hotmail.co.uk online from Amazon or through the writers` group.



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## What's On

### Regular clubs, classes and groups

- **Advice Works**—At the Library by appointment only. Contact 382328
- **Bokwa Fitness** — Masonic Hall, Thursdays, 7—8pm. 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 699127 Email: rocketyouththeatre@gmail.com
- **Drop-in T Bar**—Lochwinnoch Elderly Forum. McKillop Institute, 10-12 noon .
- **First Friday of Month**—Semple Tones host an open mike session at Lochwinnoch Golf Club,
- **Girls Brigade**—1st Lochwinnoch Company, Wednesday evenings from

6pm-9.15pm at the Parish Church Hall for various age groups.

- **Hatha Yoga Classes** with Laura-Jane Lawson. Wednesday-McKillop Inst 7pm-8.30pm. All levels welcome. For further information contact. Tel: 07999 8 6 2 1 6 2 or Email: [llyoga@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:llyoga@hotmail.co.uk)
- **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 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](mailto: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

children from 2.5—5 years, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30-11.30am at the McKillop . New children are always welcome. Please contact Daniela on 07765 695 270 or [daniela.sime@strath.ac.uk](mailto:daniela.sime@strath.ac.uk).

- **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.
- **Positive Thinking Group** Meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the Bridgend Community Centre Kilbirnie. Our next meeting is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, 7-9pm Cost £3.50 For further info telephone Andrea on 07890 181 769
- **ROAR Lunch Club**—every Thursday from 11.45am PROMPT at the McKillop Institute. **Please Note - ONLY ONE SITTING.**
- **Scottish Country Dance Club**—Every Tuesday, from 7.30-9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **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 and Thursdays from 7pm-8pm at Lochwinnoch Primary School. For details Tel: 01259 210716.
- **Youth Drama Classes** at the McKillop, Every Wednesday Juniors (5-8 years old) 4.30-5.30 p.m. Seniors (9-14 years old) 5.30 p.m.-6.30 p.m. Contact David: 07812 437 559 or at [david.ororke@historical-adventures.co.uk](mailto:david.ororke@historical-adventures.co.uk)
- **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

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## Upcoming Events

- **Fri 26 Apr—Lochwinnoch International Aid** fundraising music event. Lochwinnoch Golf club, music starting 8pm. The artists appearing: Fran Schoppler, Helen Reeves and Roy with a mix of roots, americana and original compositions. Followed by Ian Walker a folk musician with good music and entertaining stories. There will also be a few local 'floor spots' to add to the mix.. Tickets only £6.00, there is a bar, there will be a raffle and you can go a bit early and enjoy a good meal before the music starts. Phone the clubhouse restaurant for details 01505 842 153. Tickets from Heritage Farmers Market or contact Dave Mellor 01505 843 099 or [dgmellor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dgmellor@tiscali.co.uk)
- **Sun 28 Apr—Beith Arts Concert** light hearted entertainment from "End of the Pier" Beith Community Centre, 2.30 p.m. £8/£6 for adults and £1 for students and children (pay at the door).
- **Mon 29 Apr – Sat 4 May—St Vincent's Hospice House to House Collection**
- **Thurs 2- Sat 4 May—Bring It All Home Festival** inspired by the late **Gerry Rafferty** James Grant from Love and Money with Graham Skinner, Chris Thomson , Paul McGehan, Monica Queen and Fraser Speirs in a special night celebrating Scottish songwriters on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Paisley Abbey. To secure a ticket for the show contact Tickets Scotland on [www.tickets-scotland.com](http://www.tickets-scotland.com) An evening celebrating local songwriting talent May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Wynd Centre, will feature two local established songwriters Carol Laula and Yvonne Lyon. Tickets can also be bought from ticket Scotland. The Bungalow Bar and Hamishes Hoose are producing songwriting events on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May, James Grant will also host a free masterclass to be held in Paisley Museum on Saturday 4 May at 2.30pm. to secure one of 50 spaces for James' masterclass email [towncentres@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:towncentres@renfrewshire.gov.uk)
- **Fri 3 May RSPB—Local Group** meeting 7.30pm at McMaster Centre Donaldson Road Renfrew. There will be an illustrated talk **Madagascar-Eden in Crisis** by Judy Hayton. All welcome.
- **Sat 4 May—Wee Furry Beastie Trapping** Come see what wee

- beasties we have caught overnight in our live small mammal traps in the woods. Admire and learn about their lifecycles before we let them go. Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 10.00 – 12.00 noon 01505 842 882 Ext 20, Booking essential
- **Sun 5 May—Dawn Safari,** Castle Semple Visitor Centre, 6-9am approx exact time given on booking. Take to the water by canoe for this unique 360 degree surround sound experience of the dawn chorus. Look for otters or even an osprey flying by or the blue flash from the kingfisher. This 3 hour trip includes a bush breakfast. Adult £45/ Concession £30 per person. Tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20 & bookings.
  - **Wed 8 May—Feeling Fitter Walk Level 2 Semple Trail Revisited** meet Castle Semple Visitor Centre 10.30am or 10.45 at railway station. This is a circular walk climbing up to Belltrees and Bowfield for views over Castle Semple Loch before going down into Howwood and through Parkhill Wood. Allow minimum 4 hours. Tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20 for info.
  - **Fri 10 May—St Vincent's Hospice Silver Anniversary Gala Ball** Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow, hosted by Shereen Nanjiani Tickets £48; reception from 7pm, meal 7.30pm, carriages 1am, dress to impress. A limited number of tables remain – to reserve/book your tickets email [info@svh.co.uk](mailto:info@svh.co.uk) or call 01505 705635.
  - **Sat 11 May—Kilmacolm Agricultural Show**
  - **Sat 11 & Sun 12 May IOM (International One Meter) Model Yacht Championships** at Castle Semple Loch.
  - **Sun 12 May—Gourock Highland Games**
  - **Sun 12- Sat 18 May—Christian Aid Week**
  - **Fri 17 May—Marvellous Moths** Barnbrock Farm, 8-10pm. An evening capturing and identifying what has been attracted by the mercury lamp. Info: 01505 614 791 & bookings
  - **Sat 18 May—Dawn Safari Castle Semple** Take to the water by canoe for this unique 360 degree surround sound experience of the dawn chorus by our African visitors. See Sat 5 May for full details.

- **Sat 18 May—RYA Push the Boat Out Day** -10.30am - 3.30pm. In conjunction with the RYA the water sports clubs at Castle Semple Loch are holding a free come and try day for watersports at the loch-to book your place pop into the Castle Semple Visitor Centre or call 01505 842 882. Buoyancy aids will be provided but you are advised to bring a change of clothing.
- **Sat 18th May—Parish Church Car Boot Sale**—10am—3pm
- **Sat 18 - Sun 26 May—Scotland's Nature Festival,** All Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Centres, every day. Info: tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20
- **Sun 19 May—Green Hairstreak Walk** Muirshiel Visitor Centre, 1.30 -3pm A walk with a Ranger through the blueberry to search for these extraordinary little butterflies. Bring a camera! Info: tel 01505 842 803 & bookings
- **Sat 1 June—Castle Semple Rowing Regatta 2013** The Annual Regatta attracts lots of competitors; lots of long thin boats will be racing on the loch if it is not too windy. Be warned car park will be busy! Info: tel 01505 842 882 Ex 20
- **Fri 7 June—Tribute Night** at The Normandy Hotel in aid of St Vincent's Hospice. A showcase of tributes to the stars, including Shania Twain, Robbie Williams, Kylie Minogue, George Michael and Cher! Tickets £26 includes a 3 course dinner plus coffee, tribute acts followed by a DJ. To book tickets please contact the Normandy Hotel on 0141 886 4100 or visit [www.normandytributes.co.uk/event](http://www.normandytributes.co.uk/event)
- **Sat 8 June—Lochwinnoch Gala Day** theme **Scotland**. Parade starts 12 for 12.30pm at Auld Simon. Stalls available £25 per pitch, booking forms can be obtained from Calder Gallery & Framing or from The Junction.
- **Fri 21 June—TCT "Not The Booze Cruise"** £15 for the boat and £5 for the return coach trip to Greenock - payable in advance. Tickets will be on sale after Easter. In the meantime, please email order numbers, to [johndelaney@thinkpositivve.co.uk](mailto:johndelaney@thinkpositivve.co.uk) or text 07715 579312.
- **Sat/Sun 22/23 June—Castle Semple Sailing Club** is holding its **Annual 24 Hour Race** - come and watch the fun - see website <http://www.castlesemplesc.co.uk/> for details.



## Cllr Andy Doig

I regret to say that within the last week the Lochwinnoch Out of School Club has gone into liquidation, which leaves a gap in services for village parents, and many families who have moved into the village depend on it in particular. I met with the LOSC Committee at the end of January and advised them to apply to the Johnstone and Villages Local Area Committee for funding. The last Education Board meeting of Renfrewshire Council took a regrettable decision to cut funding to LOSC which I stated to council officers was not perhaps the wisest move. Surely if they were struggling additional support should have been offered at this difficult time not pulled away.

However, now we need to move forward, and immediately I heard the news I contacted the Head of Education to stress the importance of securing interim provision for the many families in Lochwinnoch who depend on the Out of School Club as a vital lifeline to enable them to work. At my request Education and Leisure are attempting to put an interim package in place, and I am actively working with some of the former LOSC Committee members who are seeking in the long term to set up a new Out of School Club for Lochwinnoch. Lochwinnoch families have my unequivocal support in this challenging transitional period.

On a happier note I was delighted to be able to attend the local Agefest event at the McKillop Institute, sponsored by ROAR, to support local pensioners. This was a fantastic tour down memory lane using computer technology to listen to the music of

yesteryear and I would like to congratulate the organisers as all who attended enjoyed it immensely. I would also like to congratulate Dr Morag Thow, and her team, who organised the very successful Lochwinnoch Arts Festival. I was at the Fur and Feathers evening of poetry, folk music, and fun at the RSPB, which amongst others featured Lochwinnoch's very own Poet Laureate, Betty McKellar, who I have been lucky to count as a friend for many years. It was only one of many great events at the Festival.

I very much want to make myself available to local residents in Lochwinnoch and my Lochwinnoch advice surgery is on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 8:00pm in the McKillop Institute. You can also follow me on Twitter at CllrAndy4Ward8.

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 [cllr.andy.doig@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.andy.doig@renfrewshire.gov.uk).

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Andy Doig (SNP)



## Silver Anniversary Ball

Celebrate 25 years of care for all with St Vincent's Hospice at the Silver Anniversary Gala Ball on Friday 10th May, 2013 in the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow,

hosted by Shereen Nanjiani. Enjoy a night of glitz and glamour starting with a champagne reception followed by a glass of wine, 3 course dinner plus coffee, 15 piece big band and DJ until 1am, plus prizes & surprises throughout the night. Tickets are just £48; reception from 7pm, meal 7.30pm, carriages 1am, dress to impress. A very limited number of tables remain – to reserve/book your tickets email [info@svh.co.uk](mailto:info@svh.co.uk) or call 01505 705635.

## Challenge Yourself

One of our brand new events for this year is 'Challenge 25'; an exclusive weekend cycle and trek on the Isle of Arran. One of the first people to sign up for this was our very own Director of Fundraising & Communications Karen Milne. She has jumped at the chance to get her cycling gear on and put pedal to the metal in aid of St Vincent's Hospice.

*"After such a long, dark winter I needed something to get me motivated and out into the fresh air; I thought Challenge 25 was a great excuse to get back on my bike and shake the dust off my walking boots. Signing up for Challenge 25 is a great way to get exercising, attempt a new challenge and raise funds for local patients and their families."*

Karen's enthusiasm has been inspiring lots of supporters to sign up to take part in this fantastic challenge! Places are starting to fill up so if you would like to take part please visit [www.svh.co.uk](http://www.svh.co.uk) or email [info@svh.co.uk](mailto:info@svh.co.uk) for an information pack and booking form.

## Collections

Will you help us make a difference? Can you spare 2 hours to help someone living with a life limiting illness? We have a couple of different collections coming up over the next couple of months which we need volunteer support with:

### Door to Door Collections

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Brookfield, Renfrew, Inchinnan and Houston.

### Bag Pack

Marks and Spencer, Braehead –



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Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 4pm

### Bucket collection

Braehead Shopping Centre – Sunday  
2<sup>nd</sup> June, 10am – 4pm

Your help would mean that St Vincent's Hospice can continue to provide essential care, totally free of charge to the local communities of Renfrewshire.

Be Part Of It - Contact Us Now

T :01505 705635

E: ashley.moran@svh.co.uk

### **Tribute Night**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013,  
Normandy Hotel Renfrew

The Normandy Hotel are delighted to promote this fabulous event in aid of St Vincent's Hospice. A showcase of tributes to the stars, including Shania Twain, Robbie Williams, Kylie Minogue, George Michael and Cher!

Tickets are just £26 which includes a 3 course dinner plus coffee, with tribute acts followed by a DJ to dance the night away to. Book now to avoid disappointment.

To book tickets please contact the Normandy Hotel on 0141 886 4100 or visit

[www.normandytributes.co.uk/event](http://www.normandytributes.co.uk/event)

### **Quiz Dinner – New event**

Join St Vincent's Hospice for this brand new Quiz Dinner event taking place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at the Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport.

Enjoy a wonderful 3 course meal, with coffee, while taking part in our celebrity hosted quiz rounds. Your trivia will be tested from sports, television and even some current affairs.

Tickets are just £35 making this a fantastic event at a great price!

For more information and to book your tickets please contact Ashley on 01505 705635 or at [ashley.moran@svh.co.uk](mailto:ashley.moran@svh.co.uk).

### **Friends Groups**

As part of our high-profile celebrations we are asking supporters to establish Friends Groups in their local communities.



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We would like you to work alongside other members of a Friends Group and commit to four or more fundraising activities per year, for example.

- Sell tickets for the St Vincent's Hospice official raffle
- Assist with one annual door to door collections locally
- Run a collection/bag pack at your local supermarket
- Represent us at local Gala days and promote St Vincent's Hospice in the community

For more information visit

[www.svh.co.uk](http://www.svh.co.uk) or email [info@svh.co.uk](mailto:info@svh.co.uk).

### **Barn Tearoom**

As of the 22<sup>nd</sup> May we will no longer be serving hot meals in the Barn Tea Room. Teas, coffee, cakes, sandwiches and soup will still be available to purchase, alongside our exciting range of vintage goods and furniture.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support to the Barn and the hospice. This will help us to continue to care for patients and their families who require our services now and in the future

### **Bring It All Home Festival**

Bring it All Home is inspired by the late Gerry Rafferty and is supported by the Rafferty Family. Planned to be an annual event it will take place this year between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

James Grant from Love and Money will be joined by Graham Skinner,

Chris Thomson, Paul McGehan, Monica Queen and Fraser Speirs in a special night celebrating Scottish songwriters on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Paisley Abbey.

Anyone wishing to secure a ticket for the show should do so by contacting tickets Scotland on [www.tickets-scotland.com](http://www.tickets-scotland.com)

James will also host a free masterclass to be held in the Museum on Saturday 4 May at 2.30pm.

To secure one of the limited 50 spaces for James' masterclass email [towncentres@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:towncentres@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

There is also an evening celebrating local songwriting talent being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May in the Wynd Centre, this will feature two established local songwriters Carol Laula and Yvonne Lyon. Tickets can also be bought from ticket Scotland.

The Bungalow Bar and Hamishes Hoose are producing songwriting events on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May, these are also free.

### **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

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

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## The Wasps' Bike

One nice summer's evening in the 1940's, myself and fellow travellers, towards the end of a long day pitched up by the "red barn". This was the dilapidated remains of a barn once connected to the old sawmill situated on the banks of the Barr Meadow.

As was our usual procedure, we flung ourselves to the ground to rest our weary legs from our day's peregrination. As we lay around relaxing and probably discussing some adventure or other, one among us chanced to look up at the roof. "Hello, hello! What have we here?" says he. "What do I spy hanging above us?" He then answered his own question, "It's a wasps' nest!"



This grabbed our attention. Wasps' nests, or "bikes" as Lochenyochians sometimes referred to them, were not unknown to us. This one, though, was quite different. It was dangling high from the roof looking fairly harmless especially as it was after sunset and the occupants would be settled for the night. Or so they must have thought, if indeed wasps can think. Most of us looked up with little interest. However, there's always one among us, isn't there! Someone got a stone and threw it at the target, missing by quite a distance. But that was enough, weariness was forgotten and the

search was on for suitable missiles.

Fortunately for us, unfortunately for the poor unsuspecting wasps, the loose ground was littered with stones and soon a barrage was heading for the target initially with little success. However, one of our number found a stick about 2 feet long and fired it at the nest. Through a mixture of good luck (for us, not the wasps) and good judgement, the stick caught the nest cleanly bringing it to earth with a gentle thud. For a few seconds we looked on interestedly as the wasps emerged. We were not really alarmed at first but it wasn't long, maybe about 5 seconds, before we realised that these little guys in their black and yellow jerseys were not at all kindly disposed to us. In fact, accompanied by some very angry buzzing, they were heading in our direction with malice aforethought. We, of course, were off in the direction of what we hoped would be sanctuary – the A760 Largs Road.

Our speedy departure from the barn onto the track leading to the main road was somewhat similar to our evacuation from the Peel Castle pursued by the real or imaginary German paratrooper. I am still not convinced he was, or is, a figment of our imagination. On the first occasion we were careering from east to west; this time it was west to east but with the same teeth-gritting determination. One added bonus was that this track was much wider so didn't require the same miracles of balance to stay upright while passing re-passing each other on the way to deliverance. It's difficult to recall in detail the exact happenings but I do remember much howling in anguish and near hysterical slapping and swatting our bodies and heads as we ran.

In a very short time we reached the A760, collapsing with sighs of relief, examining our wounds and asking each other where we'd been stung. But, would you believe it, not one sting was admitted to. We appeared to have outrun our tormentors with no damage sustained, or at least none admitted to!

In hindsight I've often wondered if wasps have some form of folklore (or wasp-lore)? The reason I pose this question is that I have often been confronted by a belligerent wasp seemingly intent on stinging me for no apparent reason. Is it possible that somewhere, somehow that story of the Massacre of the Red Barn has been passed down to that wasp? Of the day when a ragged band of half-sized hostiles, with no provocation whatsoever, happened upon a peaceful settlement of their forebears and reduced it to a rubble with a high casualty count. Thus, was kindled into the wasps' breast a fiery desire for vengeance to be vented on any of the perpetrators of this atrocity.

That's what I think anyway. Or it may be nothing to do with vengeance; they may just be nasty little guys who don't like us!

*Note: A "bike" is an old Scots word for a bee's nest and is often used when referring to a wasp's nest.*

*Gorman McGee*

## Credit Where It's Due

Lochwinnoch may be a small place but it has a very vibrant social and cultural life. How often though do we stop and think about all the time and effort that goes in to the events that we enjoy?

It struck me recently that many

people give up their time and talents to make things happen for others and so often they go un-thanked or worse are subject to niggling criticism. Yet we would all be so much worse off if nobody wanted to be involved in making the Arts Festival , Gala Day, Christmas Lights, Food Festival, etc. happen.

Yes, being involved in organising a village event can be fun but is usually also a lot of hard work. A sense of community is built on many things and the opportunity to come together is one of these. So these events are important to our community wellbeing.

Unless you've been behind the scenes, it can be difficult to understand just how much effort is required to make any event a success. So why don't more of us roll up our sleeves, get stuck in, meet new people and learn to understand what it takes? Okay, you might be willing but short of time. Then how about you lend your support in a less time consuming way by giving positive feedback to the people who take on the tasks?

Much of the preparation for summer events takes place during the cold, wet, dark months when we'd rather be at home slouching on the couch with a book or in front of the TV. Wouldn't it be nice if someone was encouraged to leave a cosy home and go out to prepare for an event because they know they are appreciated.

So, on that note, congratulations to everyone involved in the Arts Festival and thank you for all your efforts. Please do it again next year, you are appreciated!

Remember, it isn't too late to get involved in the Gala Day.

Marie



### Lochwinnoch Primary (today's P3) 1938-39

**Back Row L-R**

R. Eadie, Malcolm Finnie, Willie Mansworth, Willie Holmes, John McManus, Marcus Gatheral, Peter Holmes

**Second Back row:** Teacher Miss Kerr

George Johnstone, Murray Lawrie, Robert Kilburn, Gorman McGee, Willie Homes. John Knox, Andrew Anderson

**Middle Row**

Babs McMillan, Jean Ritchie, ? Campbell, Jean Pollock, Sheena Jamieson, Ivy McClure, Chrissie Cochrane

**Second Front Row**

Isa Cockburn, E. Hood, A. Sloan, May McPartlan, Morag Gray, Agnes Ferguson, Ruby Vassie, M. Hood, Mary Ashwood

**Front Row**

Harry Fenion, Harry McCabe, Willie Manely, Colin Milligan, Campbell Menzies, Gilbert Robb

*Photo courtesy of Gorman McGee*

For those of you interested there are more school photos available to view in the library and on the village website photo gallery.

## Chat Search — Colours

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

AMBER	AQUAMARINE	CRIMSON
EAUDENILE	EMERALDGREEN	GOLD
INDIGO	KERRYGREEN	MAUVE
MIDNIGHTBLUE	MUSTARD	NAVYBLUE
PINK	PURPLE	ROSE
SAFFRON	SAPPHIREBLUE	SKYBLUE
VERMILLION	VIOLET	YELLOW

## Product Recalls

Recently, the media has highlighted a number of **house fires** that were the result of homeowners being unaware that dangerous recalled goods were in their property.

**Beko frost free fridge freezer models** affected were manufactured between January 2000 and October 2006. These have a serial number that begins with: 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05 or 06 see label inside the fridge. Beko is making a free of charge modification to all affected models, this modification takes approximately 30mins.

Affected model numbers:

- CA 5411 FFS/FFW/FFX
- CA 7014 FFX
- CA 7015 FFW/FFS/FFX
- CDA 539 FS/FW/FX
- CDA 543 FS/FW/FX
- CDA 645 FW
- CDA 647 FS/FW
- CDA 648 FS/FW
- CDA 653 FS/FW/FX
- CDA 659 FS
- CDA 751 FS/FX
- CDA 752 FS/FW/FX
- CS 460 FF/FFS/FFW/FFSD
- CS 461 FFW/FFS
- CSA 4706 FFX
- CSB 4606 FFSD/FFS/FFW

**Beko 6kg & 7kg Condenser Tumble Dryers** purchased between May and October 2012. The serial number

is on the rating plate and is 10 digits long. The first 2 digits of the serial number give the year of production

and the last 2 digits give the month of production.

**Contact Beko on 0800 917 2018**

## 8am-8pm Mon-Fri 10-4pm Sat & Sun

White Knight Condenser Tumble Dryers manufactured October 2010-June 2011

Affected model numbers:

- 0312 76A 15002 (77AW)
- 0312-767 15009 (767C)
- 0312 76A 15010 (77AW)
- 0312 76A 15330 (77AS)
- 0312 76A 31000 (CL 76AWH)

**Contact White Knight on 0800 952 1102 lines open 7 days per week 8am-8pm see [www.whiteknightrecall.co.uk](http://www.whiteknightrecall.co.uk)**

**If you own any of the products affected then don't use, unplug immediately and contact the company.**

## Urgent Car Recalls

**Toyota:** Corolla, Yaris, Avensis, Avensis Verso, Picnic and Camry. (76,000 sold in the UK)

**Honda:** Civic (CR-V & FR-V models), Stream(15,400 sold in the UK)

**Nissan:** Almera, Almera Tino, Navara, Patrol, Teranno II and X-Trail (60,000 sold in the UK)

If you own any of these models (registered between 2000 and 2004), please contact the manufacturer.

You can use the government's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) to check at any time if there are recalls that affect your car. [www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/apps/recalls/default.asp?tx=VOSA](http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/apps/recalls/default.asp?tx=VOSA)

*Courtesy of Lesley Scott*

01505 844869

07884334747

[info@recars.co.uk](mailto:info@recars.co.uk)

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



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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](mailto:info@jjmccosh.co.uk)

## Quotes

Have no fear of perfection--you'll never reach it."  
---Salvador Dali

"I don't at all like knowing what people say of me behind my back. It makes me far too conceited."  
---Oscar Wilde

"The reason grandchildren and grandparents get along so well is because they have a common enemy."  
---Unknown

"You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on."  
---Dean Martin

"The truth is that parents are not really interested in justice. They just want quiet."  
---Bill Cosby

"The trouble with jogging is that by the time you realize you're not in shape for it, it's too far to walk back."  
---Franklin Jones

## A Deer's White Tail by Isla Skelton



A  
Deer has a  
White tail

It  
Is very quiet  
like a barn owl



It  
Is brown with  
A small white tail



When  
It runs you  
Can see its white tail

It  
Leaps over small  
Bushes and it disappears.



**Isla Skelton**  
**Aged 7**



## ROAR

Even busy Members of Parliament have to eat – but for Paisley and Renfrewshire South's MP Douglas Alexander, lunch was part of a fact finding visit to Lochwinnoch ROAR club in the McKillop Institute; where he dined with Chatterbox's Gordon and Anne Nicholl before taking time to meet many other ROAR members.

ROAR Business Development Manager, Nicola Hanssen, comments: "We were delighted that Douglas took time out of his extremely busy parliamentary schedule to visit our Lochwinnoch ROAR club. He seemed to enjoy the healthy 2-course lunch provided and our members certainly enjoyed chatting to him on many local and national issues."

Lochwinnoch ROAR club meets on a Thursday between 12pm and 2pm and is regularly attended by around 15 members. If you would like further details on how to become involved with Lochwinnoch ROAR – as a

member or volunteer – please contact ROAR on 0141 889 7481

*"I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Lochwinnoch ROAR club. Over and above the delicious lunch, it was a pleasure to meet and chat with the ROAR members. There was a great enthusiasm within the club and the positive work ROAR does to provide a real social inclusion meeting for older adults was obvious to see. A big thank you must go to the volunteers who give of their time and added to the warmth of the club. As I left the music and dancing was just beginning!"*



## Flower of the Month Bouvardia

Its full botanical name is Bouvardia Longiflora and it has a beautiful fragrance, however some new hybrids less so. It has lovely, small, delicate clusters of tubular shaped flowers and comes in mostly white, red and pink.

This is a very thirsty flower therefore should be cut and given fresh water regularly to ensure maximum vase life, which can be anything between 7 to 14 days. The water should have flower food and when possible the food produced specifically for this flower. Remove any excess foliage if not already done so, along with the top buds as this encourages longevity and blossom. Keep them away from draughts, excess heat and direct sunlight.

This flower means enthusiasm making it a perfect flower for weddings adding a feminine touch to tied posies and smaller arrangements but it could get lost in a large arrangement.

Named after "Charles Bouvard", doctor of King Louis XIII of France and director of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris

Happy May Days

*Gillian Connolly  
The Quirky Florist*



Ivan of Cucina Minucci at The Junction receiving another Fairtrade Award Certificate marking their continued commitment to using and selling Fairtrade goods.

### A Mother's day journey

It was her first trip to the city, far from her beach front home  
She could not read the street signs, she used the stars alone  
Her little heart was thumping as she made her weary way  
She had to reach the city, it was nearly Mother's day

A week ago on Tuesday she woke up with a yawn  
She looked around with sleepy eyes, to find Mother gone.  
She checked with all the neighbours who were acting very strange  
They told her of a city trip her Mother had arranged.

She thought this sounded rather strange, she asked the neighbours why,  
If Mum was going on a trip she hadn't said goodbye?  
They told her they had no idea, which she could not believe  
She had to find somebody who had seen her Mother leave

The neighbour round the corner had told her of a man  
He had seen him with her Mother and they left in a black van.  
He described the writing on the van and picture on the back  
He said the man was carrying a very heavy sack.

She'd waited for a week or so and felt sad and alone  
It would soon be Mother's day, she needed her Mum home  
She set off for the city and travelled day and night  
She would go any distance to see her Mum alright.

Eventually she found the van, her heart began to sing  
It was parked outside a clothing store, with very fancy things  
As she looked into the window at the models in their furs  
She felt her heart begin to break as a horrid thought occurred.

The pretty coat the model wore could belong to no other  
The baby seal began to cry  
For she had found her Mother

*Caitlin Armstrong, Aged 10*



*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.**



## Lochwinnoch Community Library

### NORMAL OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Friday & Saturday

10am – 1pm 2pm – 5pm

Wednesday

2pm-5pm 6pm-8pm

CLOSED THURSDAY

New contact number: **0300 300 1188**



### Bookbug Rhymetime

**Every Tuesday at 9.30am**

**Come along and join in the fun**

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**aged birth – 4 years**

Bookbug's Library Challenge is a free programme that encourages children aged birth to four to discover and enjoy their local library.

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!

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Browse & Borrow

You can check our online catalogue and use the Renew & Reserve facility  
[www.renfrewshire.go.uk/libraries](http://www.renfrewshire.go.uk/libraries)

### Services available at Lochwinnoch Library:

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

## A Celebration of Lochwinnoch's Hut Man

Throughout May and June the Community Library is to honour a wonderful man who, in the 1940's and 1950's, became known to a generation of children ( and to their parents , grandparents, aunts and uncles ) as the " Hut Man ".

Gilbert Fisher was one of the first

broadcasters to excite children throughout the country about our native wildlife. He did this in wireless (radio) programmes broadcast during "Children's Hour" on the BBC Home Service from 1948 to 1956. At first these were titled "Hut Country Walks" but later became known as "Exploring the Hut Country ". It was compulsive listening for a generation of children who huddled around what was, almost certainly, the only wireless set in their home to hear tales of wildlife from the countryside around Lochwinnoch.

The Fisher family arrived in Lochwinnoch after the end of WW1 and settled at West Knockbartnock. Some years later Gilbert moved half a mile away to a hut he built just off the Kilmalcolm Road beyond Peockstone Cottages. Here the contents of his " Hut Man " stories, featuring two children exploring wildlife in the " hut country ", developed into the radio broadcasts which became hugely popular.

Celebrity status from his radio programmes helped Gilbert Fisher move into a more hands-on role where his communication skills and enthusiasm enraptured children in Glasgow, Renfrewshire and Ayrshire schools till the late 1950's. Innovatively, he set up "Teach the Teachers "courses to ensure that nature studies became integral to the educational curriculum.



*Gilbert Fisher and Mowgli*

He was born in Bishopton in 1906 but we don't hold that against him! Since the 1930's Gilbert Fisher has been acknowledged as an honorary "Real Lochenyochian Star ".

**DROP IN TO THE LIBRARY TO SEE  
AND HEAR MORE ABOUT "THE  
HUT MAN ".  
GILBERT DEMPSTER FISHER 1906 -  
1985**

# Lochwinnoch Gala Day 2013

This year's Gala Day will be held on Saturday 8th June 2013. Volunteers have been working hard over the winter months with preparations, which are now well advanced, for this year's event. The theme for this year's Gala Day will be "Scotland" and it's hoped there will be some great costumes to fit in with the theme.

After the Easter holiday break, letters with more details will be going out to parents so that Lochwinnoch Primary School staff, pupils and their parents can work together on costumes for the parade, etc to make this a fun day out for everyone.

As Gala Day wasn't held last year, it has been decided to choose Lochwinnoch's Gala Queen from Primary 7 this year and in future years. This ensures fairness, so that no child is missed in the selection process. In order to give more children the chance to have a special part to play in this year's festivities, the Gala Queen will have a large entourage and there will be a number of children, from each school year, with individual roles to play. The names of pupils from each year will be placed in a hat and Miss Park will draw out the required number for each year group. The special roles are: 8 Bower Girls, Carnival King and Queen, 6 boys to carry a Saltire, 2 Ladies in Waiting, 2 Attendants and the Gala Queen.

Members of the public are also invited to go over the top with their own costumes. Whether you're in the parade or simply attending as a spectator, make sure you dress up in costumes from Scottish history or the award-winning animated film "Brave" and be as creative as you like!

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

As in previous years, the parade will start at Auld Simon, 12 noon for 12.30pm start and St Columba's School Pipe Band will lead the procession through the streets. The police will close the roads to traffic while the parade makes its way to the Public Park.

Please note, it is important that each child taking part in the parade **MUST BE** accompanied by an adult, who will be responsible for their child's safety.

On arrival at the Park, a great afternoon is in store for all. There will be live music, dancing and various events in the arena, Tug'o War, 5-a-side football, the finishing line of the Lochwinnoch Fun Run, numerous stalls, crafts, children's rides and slides, static displays, face painting, snacks, refreshments, beer tent, ice cream and, of course, the Annex tearoom which is always a big hit with Gala Day fans. More details next month.

If you're interested in booking a stall at this year's Gala Day, hire prices remain the same as before, at £25 per pitch. Booking forms can be obtained from Calder Gallery & Framing or from The Junction in Main Street. Book your pitch early to avoid

disappointment!

The Gala Day committee always welcomes help from volunteers and hope they can count on local people to come forward, have fun and give some of their time to help out with this year's event. If you can assist in any way, either before, during or after Gala Day itself, please contact Gala Day Convenor, Jane Owens, at: janeowens@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01505 842089.

All that is left to say is, put the 8th of June in your diaries, get to work on those Scottish costumes, come along and enjoy yourselves and keep your fingers crossed for fine weather for Lochwinnoch Gala Day 2013.

**Nuisance Helpline**  
Anti-Social Behaviour

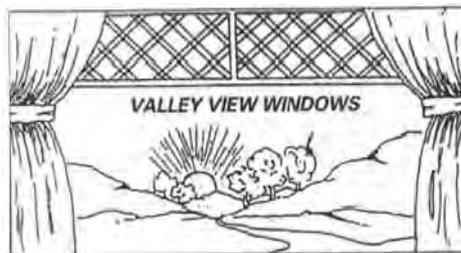
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