

Nuisance Helpline
Anti-Social Behaviour

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

CHATTERBOX

No 221 May 2012

www.lochwinnoch.info

www.facebook.com/lochwinnoch

ASIST
Anti-Social
Investigation Team

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

Community newsletter produced by Lochwinnoch Community Council

What's On & Dates for your Diaries

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



CSRC Regatta 19th May

It's nearly time for the annual Castle Semple Rowing Club (CSRC) regatta, this year being held on the 19th of May. All are welcome to come and join us and enjoy the largest one-day regatta in Scotland. This event brings rowing clubs from all over Scotland and the North of England to the banks of Castle Semple Loch and regularly attracts 150-200 people to the village. Sadly storm-force winds last year meant the regatta was rescheduled to August and numbers were lower but this year the club are hoping to return to perfect rowing conditions.

For those new to the village you might be interested to know that Castle Semple Rowing Club has been holding regattas on Castle Semple Loch since 1971 and it is considered to be one of the best and most friendly regattas of the Scottish Rowing Calendar. We hope to hold over 100 races between 9am and 6pm this year and everyone is welcomed onto the banks of the loch to shout and cheer the crews over the finish line. CSRC are the team in red and white with a castle emblem on the blades but don't worry if you're not familiar with the sport as the regatta programme contains details of the various clubs and events you'll see.

Many of these events are represented in the Olympics rowing section in which GB has a great chance of winning medals so this is an opportunity to get to know a bit more about it before the event. If the sport isn't something that attracts you then we should also add that we

will be selling a fantastic range of homemade cakes, bacon rolls, chili, soup, sandwiches and plenty of tea and coffee in the club's coffee room as well. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mistylaw Medical Practice Website

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

www.mistylawmedicalpractice.co.uk

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

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



Olympic Torch Relay

Lochwinnoch will form part of the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Route with the iconic flame set to light up the village on **Friday 8 June 2012**.

The torch will arrive in

Lochwinnoch from the nearby Ayrshire village of Beith and go on to Kilmacolm before finishing in Glasgow for an evening celebration. The route, from Beith on the A760 before travelling along Main Street, High Street, and then continue on up Johnshill where the flame will then pass into Kilmacolm.

The torch is due to arrive in the village at 1:59pm.



Torch Bearers

- Natalie Still—Age: 18, Hometown: Johnstone
- Janice Hendrie—Age: 56, Hometown: Greenock
- Jennifer Sundqvist—Age: 27, Hometown: Stockholm
- Vegard Sjursen—Age: 27, Hometown: Trondheim

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FMB Certificate No 26366



Yard Sale

I will be going to Ethiopia with the charity Habitat for Humanity, on 23rd June for 12 days to help build traditional homes alongside the people who will be living in these houses. Ethiopia is one of the ten poorest countries in the world and their need is great. The area is near Addis Ababa and we will be working with ex-leprosy patients who are the most disadvantaged people in the country.

In order to go I have to raise some funds for the project and therefore I will be having my Yard Sale at Ailort, Johnshill on Saturday 19th May at 10.00am 'till 12.00.

Any donations of bric-a-brac would be most welcome tel: 843289 for pick-up.

Many thanks

Carol Whyte

Lochwinnoch Art Group

We have almost reached the end of our programme for the session 2011 - 2012 with our last 2 meetings to be held on May 14th and May 21st.

On Monday, 14th we shall meet, as usual, in the Space Room of the McKillop Institute at 7.30pm.

However the meeting to be held on the 21st will be in a different venue at Justine Young's home. We shall have views of the loch or alternatively of a very interesting garden to sketch or paint. There is an abundance of subject matter!

Thanks to Justine's hospitality we can also stay indoors whether it is raining or not.

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.

Party Time!

There's the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations (with public holiday) on 4 Jun and the Olympic Torch visiting the village on Friday 7 June; but that's not all – on the Saturday we're gonna party like it's.. 2012(?)!

The details of the event are being put together so there is still time for you and/or your organization to stake a claim to some of it. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the action. Laura at The Bull has been fast out of the trap and built on her experience of the Bull's 200th birthday celebrations to organise the Street Party

She says:

"Lochwinnoch Village Street Party will take place on Saturday 9th June from 12 noon onwards. The event is based on the Brown Bull's 200th birthday party so we are looking for local crafters for stalls and local musicians to play in the McKillop.

There will be a mini Ale Festival, rides and slides for the kids, a music stall cd's/records and much more.

Any money raised will be split between St Vincent's Hospice and The Teenage Cancer Trust.

If you feel you can bring something to the event or could spare a few hours to help out then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Laura, at the pub 843250 or thebrownbull2@btinternet.com and let's make this as great as the pubs 200th..."

There will of course be other events during the day and late into the evening with music and dancing definitely on the list. There is a lot of planning going on but nothing ready for publication yet (Chatterbox deadlines are tough).

It is a village event and it would be great to have every interest group, children and adults alike, represented.

Whether your organisation, business or family has something they want to do or whether you are community minded and would like to help, get in touch.

Graeme Brown (CC Chair) has volunteered to be the contact person so get in touch with him and find out more. Go on, flood him with calls! In these kinds of events the more everyone is involved the better the day will be.



Local Solicitors

Providing Personal Service

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

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

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

Telephone:
01294 832112

Email:


info@jjmccosh.co.uk

Come on don't be shy – join in and have a great time! You have nothing to lose but your dignity.

Graeme's contact details are:

Email: graeme@lochwinnoch.info

Tel: 01505 842768

Calder Street Water

Small pieces of blue plastic have been appearing from taps in Calder Street. Scottish water have been alerted and have flushed the pipes but residents are still reporting small/large plastic shavings appearing.

Take care if you are preparing drinks, baby milk etc.

Court Theft

Daring thieves robbed a display case inside a Californian Courthouse recently. The alarm at the Siskiyou County Courthouse failed to activate and the exhibits of great local significance were taken.

Siskiyou County was the site of a gold rush in 1951 and known as the second Mother Lode.

The exhibits donated by miners were gold nuggets (!) worth more than £1.5 million.



Irene Morrison

19 June 1926 - 14 March
2012

The family of the late Irene Morrison would like to pass on their gratitude of thanks to all who sent cards, have given their support during this difficult time and donated to the St Vincent's Hospice collection at the church service during the funeral. We were very proud to hand over a cheque for £650.

We would also like to pay special thanks to the Rev Archie Ford for the lovely service he conducted and to the ladies at the Bowling Club for the tea provided.

Irene was born and brought up in Yorkshire and moved to Lochwinnoch after marrying Dan over 60 years ago. She loved her bingo, shopping, spending time with her family and always had a cheery smile on her face. Many of the cards we received said what a lovely lady she was and we have to agree; she will be sadly missed by many.

We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name,

In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone.

For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide,

And though we cannot see you, you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,

But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

*Heartfelt thanks
The Morrison Family*



Clyde Windsurfing Club

We are a volunteer run organisation, based at Castle Semple Loch, committed to making windsurfing accessible to all. A significant part of our remit is to offer coaching to young people to get them enjoying the sport of windsurfing and hopefully interested in competition and racing. This then serves as a springboard with many of our former youngsters going on to compete, win titles, teach and make careers out of the sport.

At our AGM we decided that membership fees will stay the same for the season and we have slashed the prices for the **Start Windsurfing Course** (easier than you think!) from £180 to £160.

Another addition is a new 2-hour taster session on a Thursday night for £30.

The start Windsurfing Course includes the club membership for the year and the taster session will get you £30 discount when deciding to book a complete course! Courses and memberships are bookable via the website

www.clydewindsurfing.co.uk/shop and please get in touch with our course coordinator at emma@clydewindsurfing.co.uk

T15 prices will stay the same for the most part as well but there's good news for those who have more than one child on a family membership in T15. It's book one, get one half price. This means the normal fee of £80 applies for the first child but it's only £40 for the second.

For any other queries please contact **Katie Dominguez** on katie@clydewindsurfing.co.uk She's our new T15 administrator and can tell you all about what's happening.

New for the 2011 summer season we will be running regular Windsurfing Club Nights for our members. The aim is to get members on the water



to sail in company, have some fun and pick up or share tips; a good opportunity to meet other windsurfers and improve your skills. There will be coaches / instructors on the water and the safety boat will be primed when necessary. Kit will be available for those who need it including beginner's boards but also the more advanced equipment for those looking to progress.

The Club Nights will run on Thursday evenings starting on 3rd May 2011.

The evenings will be open to adult members at all levels as long as you have either completed a Start Windsurfing Course or can demonstrate a similar level of competence.



We also want to encourage intermediate and more advanced sailors to come along and take part. The aim is to kick things off around 6:00 to get on the water by 6:30 or earlier. As the compound and toilets get locked up, we will need all kit back off the water and stored by 8:30.

The format will be flexible depending on what the group wants to do on the night and the wind conditions. Light wind freestyle, blasting, cruising, developing personal sailing skills, whatever. The emphasis is on having a bit of fun on the water.

Come and join us.

Please contact

mike@clydewindsurfing.co.uk for details and dates.



Poetry Competition

Primary 7 of Lochwinnoch Primary took part in the annual Poetry Competition and this year the theme was 'Trees' and the standard, according to Betty McKellar, was higher than ever.

First prize, with their brilliantly gothic 'The Tree of Revenge' went to Eilidh Harley and Lucy Milligan; 2nd prize went to Casie Finlayson and Mairead Law for their evocative 'The Spring Spirit'; and 3rd prize in the all-girl line-up went to Rachael Taylor and Tammie Clark for their splendid 'green' poem 'Life of a Tree'.

Betty, our local 'bard' was the main judge, and she was supported in her decision-making by Franzeska Ewart and Margaret Sweeney.

All the judges felt that the poems were also very well-presented, and this you can judge for yourself, because they are now available to be seen and read at the RSPB.

The Tree of Revenge

There in the darkness
 Stood the tree of my nightmares
 Moving slowly all bleak and bare
 I's getting faster ready to tear
 Creeping closer towards its prey
 Soon he's going to make me pay

For all the things I did back then
 Now I'm older, much much stronger

But I still can not wait for the light of day
 I'll cut him down and
 Pound him to the ground
 Like he did to me in my nightmares
 Creeping over me scaring me to death

He'll be the one who suffers this time

As soon as the church bells chime
 How can I wait for the light of day?

1st Prize
By Eilidh Harley & Lucy Milligan

The Spring Spirit

The intertwined branches
 held a small wooden swing
 The romantic couple visit
 When the season turns to Spring
 The tree notices the love
 It is unbearable and it shows
 For it wil never find love
 And everybody knows

The swing is loved
 By the tree so true
 But believe it or not
 The couple love it too

Soon Sumer is here
 And the couple have left

Those happy Spring memories
 Sadly drift

The tree grows old
 And begins to die
 Then the spirit of the tree
 Lifts into the sky

2nd Prize
By Casie Finlayson & Mairead Law

Life of a tree

We can be tall,
 We can be small,
 People climb up us,
 But sometimes they fall.

When we sway in the night.
 We give people a fright,
 We just want to hide,
 From the storm outside.

But then the next day,
 The storm goes away
 Then we can grow,
 Then we can sway.

We give you the stuff,
 That we need to survive,
 Without oxygen
 You would not be alive.

We get rid of all
 That nasty CO2
 This is just one of
 The things that we do for you

All we ask for
Is a little request,
Sunlight water and soil
That's all I guess

Just one more thing I need to ask,
Stop cutting me down, it's not a hard
task

3rd Prize

Rachael Taylor and Tammie Clark



LEAP Car Club

become a member!

LEAP Car Club is a membership centred initiative which you can join to give you convenient access to economical cars designed as a hire solution on your doorstep, all right here in Lochwinnoch.

LEAP Car Club is designed to spread costs of car ownership, which means that you save money, reduce hassle, support the local economy and have access to reliable fuel efficient vehicles when you most need it. The money from Car Club goes back into the car club to help sustain the service into the future.

Thanks again the members of the LEAP Car Club and welcome to newer members who have just come on board. We aim to increase the membership within the local community and continue to create a model that is as successful as others that are in place in other rural communities in Scotland.

How does a car club benefit its members?

Car ownership and running a car, like many other aspects of modern life are becoming increasingly expensive, car clubs as well as other newer initiatives are becoming a solution to this all over the world and increasing in population. At a local level the cost of running our homes and cars is on the increase and more people are switching on to financially astute measures such as sharing resources and controlling the outgoings within the home. Many of the local residents in Lochwinnoch have kept a close eye on their costs for a long time, however more often we are hearing of clever ways that local people are coming up

East Lochhead Self-Catering Cottages



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

with that reduce costs for transport

The cost of the cars are spread across the members which means that the cost of running a car can be reduced as well as having less hassle as we arrange the maintenance, valeting, Servicing & MOT, Breakdown cover, Road TAX, Insurance, Water Levels, Oil and even down to the Screen wash.

Why join a car club?

There are different reasons that the members have joined the car club which means that we have mixed usage of the vehicles, some examples of why members join up include;

- to have a more reliable car when the one they own is nearing the end of its life,
- to replace a second car that is underused,
- when they want a car that is more economical
- as a hire option as opposed to hiring a car from one of the large car rental companies
- for trips that would otherwise cost more and use more fuel in a car with higher fuel consumption
- to benefit the local economy and support local initiatives

Why here in Lochwinnoch

LEAP Car Club is ideally situated in a local community where many people have to commute to other areas fairly often. Car clubs are part of a transport mix that aims to help reduce carbon emissions as well as provide a reliable yet economical option within local communities across Scotland and internationally. LEAP is one of the early projects however there have been car clubs up and running in rural communities in the UK for over 10 years.

Where are the cars situated?

The cars are situated at the rear of the McKillop institute within designated parking bays. This is to create a centralised and pivotal space within Lochwinnoch which is one of the main community facilities locally.

What to do next..!

Pop into the LEAP office at 22 Church Street, call the office on 842 530 or email scott@lochwinnoch.info

**Come along to the LEAP office
Monday to Friday
between 9am – 4pm.**

LEAP Car Club drop in sessions - Come along to the leap office **any Wednesday Evening in May** 6:00pm till 8:00pm.

Go online to www.leapcarclub.co.uk to find out more or get your membership up and running.



Editorial and Copy for Chatterbox

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

Electronic submission with full colour pictures are preferred.

To advertise in Chatterbox

Tel: 01505 842632

chatterbox@lochwinnoch.info

**COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE IS
WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY**

Regional Park Round Up

Celebrating a 5th Branching Out Programme

The Park has long been involved in promoting mental health but nowhere is this more evident than in our delivery commitment to the Forestry Commission's model of woodland activity, 'Branching Out'. Park staff have just completed our fifth successful programme at Castle Semple Centre and would like to thank the participants for their contributions. We hope they will continue to use the Park and the outdoors to continue the benefits to their mental health and wellbeing identified in the programme. Look out for the fantastic willow sculpture that the group made at the entrance to C Semple Centre!



Participants making a willow boat



Environmental Art



Swallow fledglings



Swallowcam 2012!

We are eagerly awaiting the return of the swallows to the Greenock Cut Centre for this year's Swallowcam! Will the chicks survive? Will we have more than one brood? Check the Blog page of our website nearer the end of the month to find out more!

Scottish Biodiversity Week 19 – 27 May

We have two exciting events at Muirshiel Country Park to help you celebrate nationally and locally rare wildlife this Scottish Biodiversity Week! Taking place at Muirshiel Country Park there will be a 'Green Hairstreak Walk' and a 'Wings Over the Heather Walk' to look for the elusive Hen Harrier. See events listings or our What's On guide for more information.

Photographic Competition 2012

The wait is finally over as leaflets for this year's Photographic Competition are out in Centres and online now! In support of the 2012 Year of Creative Scotland, the theme is 'Capturing Creativity in Clyde Muirshiel'. Top Prize £250!

Calling Local Businesses
The Regional Park is looking to put together an information park for visitors to the area and would like to give them ample choice and information as to what is available. This would cover all aspects of tourism such as accommodation, catering, things to do and see. If you would like to be included please email us your information to info@clydemuirshiel.co.uk or drop a few leaflets in to your local centre.

Events in May

Sat 5 & Sun 6 May Scottish District Sailing Championships 2012

Come and see lots of radio model yachts racing on the loch.

WHERE: Castle Semple Visitor Centre
WHEN: all day, each day
MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 882 Ex20

Sun 6 May

Wings over the Heather Walk

A walk up a well surfaced track to look at moorland birds with the possibility of seeing elusive Hen Harriers. Binoculars available.

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

Fri 11 May

Beach Clean

An event in conjunction with the Marine Conservation Society. Help clean Lunderston Bay and maintain its place in the Good Beach Guide.

WHERE: Lunderston Bay
WHEN: tbc – please check website.
MORE INFO: tel 01475 521 458 & www.mcsuk.org

Sat 19 May

Castle Semple Rowing Regatta

Look behind you! Lots of long thin boats from all over Scotland will be racing on the loch as long as it is not too windy. Please try and come by public transport as the car park will be very busy.

WHERE: Castle Semple Visitor Centre
WHEN: All day

Sun 20 May

Green Hairstreak Walk

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

WHERE: Muirshiel Visitor Centre
WHEN: 13:00 – 15:00 hrs
MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 803 booking essential

Sun 27 May

Wings over the Heather Walk

A walk up a well surfaced track to look at moorland birds with the possibility of seeing the elusive Hen Harrier. Binoculars available.

WHERE: Muirshiel Visitor Centre
WHEN: 13:00 – 15:00 hrs
MORE INFO: tel 01505 842 803
b o o k i n g e s s e n t i a l

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

Beith Arts Annual Art Exhibition

We are pleased to invite you to our 2012 Art Exhibition which is well-known locally for the number and high quality of the entries, and is always well attended.

We show framed pictures in any medium, unframed prints and small pictures, photographs, and also craft items including ceramics, embroidery, wooden and metal items, and no doubt a few surprise pieces (judging by previous years).

The exhibition will be held at Beith Community Centre, Kings Road, from Monday, 28th May to Saturday, June 2nd. Opening times are as follows:

Mon. to Fri. 2.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 4 p.m.



This is a very popular event, and is as much a social occasion as an artistic one - whichever day you come you'll be sure to meet some friends and make others. Most of the exhibits are for sale, and at very reasonable prices, so we look forward to seeing all our regular visitors and hopefully many new ones too. There is a great deal of local artistic talent waiting to impress you. We are also very happy to welcome "new" artists - that is, those who have never exhibited with us before. If you would like to show your work please contact Irene Cairns at irenecairns88@yahoo.co.uk and she will send you information.

We hope to have a record attendance this year, so do come along. We look forward to seeing you.



Lochwinnoch Writers Group Summer Writing Competition (ages 13 -19)

The local Writers Group which meets in the library is holding a writing competition for teenagers.

There are two groups: 13 -15 and 16-19 based on age at 30th April 2012.

All forms of writing: poetry, fiction, non-fiction on the theme "Carrying a torch" are included.

Rules

- Word limits are 1000 words for prose entries, 40 lines for poetry/lyric entries.
- Entries to be printed on A4, double-line spaced, using Times New Roman font.
- Name of entrant must NOT be on the entry. All entries to be accompanied by an official entry form available from 1st May.
- The competition is open for entry from 1st May to 31st August 2012

Prizes

1st prize £50, 2nd prize £20 and 3rd prize £10 for each age group

For more information and entry form contact Lochwinnoch Writers Group who meet 2-4pm on Mondays at the library.

Bokwa Fitness

My friends Holly and myself are starting a new fitness class weekly from the 10th May in the McKillop Institute, Thurs nights 8.30 to 9.30pm. The class is called Bokwa.

It is an intense cardiovascular workout

combined with South African war dance, Capoeira, Kickboxing and Steps.

BOKWA is a very unique dance fitness program due to the use of letters and numbers as placement combined with use of hand signals and American Sign Language. It is refreshing and builds strength and endurance driven by the pulsating rhythmic beats of African, Latin, Popular dance and House music. Bokwa is an innovative dance fitness program that is an abundance of fun and does not feel like a workout.

For further info or to book a place as they may be limited we can be contacted at

bokwarachelholly@yahoo.co.uk or on 07795 100 231 or 01505 503362.

Rachel Johnston

Spring Food Festival



The Lochwinnoch Food Group in conjunction with LEAP hope you'll be able to come along and support local producers at the Spring Food Festival 10am -3pm on 26th May.

There will be an interesting mix of stalls for you to peruse. The more folk come and shop, the wider the range will grow. Let us know if you would like to help in any way and if you have ideas and suggestions to make the event better for everyone. If you'd like a stall selling foodstuffs, please get in touch.

Any musicians who would like to come and play a wee slot, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information or to book a stall contact:

Email: leap@lochwinnoch.info, phone : 842 530 or drop in to The Hub, 22 Church Street.



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Lochwinnoch Community Library

Opening Hours:

Mon, Tues, Fri, Sat

10am- 1pm & 2pm-5pm

Wednesday

2pm-5pm and 6pm-8pm

CLOSED THURSDAY

MAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Lochwinnoch Library will be closed on Monday 7th May

Services available:

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

New Titles:

Clive Cussler: The thief On the ocean liner Mauretania, two European scientists with a dramatic new invention are barely rescued from abduction by the Van Dorn Detective Agency's intrepid chief investigator, Isaac Bell. Unfortunately, they are not so lucky the second time. The thugs attack again-and this time one of the scientists dies. What are they holding that is so precious? Only something that will revolutionize business and popular culture-and perhaps something more.

Katie Flynn: The runaway Dana and Caitlin are kitchen workers at the Willows Dining Rooms and living at the YWCA, but desperate to get a place of their own. They are both running away from their Irish families, but for different reasons. Working beside them in the kitchen is Polly, a waif from the Liverpool slums. She admires and envies the two Irish girls and watches their every move. When they find a decrepit butcher's shop they try to take on the flat above it, and eventually do so, turning the shop into a tearoom. Polly hovers, watching everything and hoping they might eventually give her work.

But they are cheated out of their tearoom and Caitlin, the weaker character, goes back to Ireland leaving Dana to struggle on alone.

Alex Gray: Pound of flesh Detective Inspector Lorimer's worst nightmare is a serial killer loose in his city. But two serial killers operating at once in Glasgow is a nightmare come to life. Is there any link between the brutal slaying of prostitutes in the backstreets of the city and the methodical killing of several unconnected businessmen? Lorimer is never one to jump to conclusions but something about these cases just doesn't add up. When the latest murder is that of a prominent politician, Lorimer finds the media's relentless scrutiny turned on his investigation. Psychologist Solly Brightman is helping with both cases, but someone within Lorimer's team is unwittingly sabotaging their efforts by leaking confidential police information.

Future publications:

- Nora Roberts : The witness
- Mandasue Heller : Lost angel
- Iain Banks : Stonemouth
- Quintin Jardine : Funeral note
- Hilary Mantel : Bring up the bodies (Vol.2 of Wolf Hall trilogy)

Renew & Reserve your library loans online at:

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/librarycatalogue

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

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

**Lochwinnoch Library
Bookbug Rhymetime
Every Tuesday at 9.30am
Come along and join in the fun
Suitable for children
aged birth – 4 years**

Bookbug's Library Challenge is a free programme that encourages children aged birth to four to discover and

enjoy their local library. On their first visit to the participating library children are issued with the Bookbug's Library Challenge collector card. Every time they visit the library the collector card will be stamped, and your child can exchange four stamps for one of our beautifully illustrated Library Challenge certificates. Your child's name will be written on the certificate to encourage them to feel proud that they have become members of their local library. There are five different limited edition certificates to collect. So start collecting now – it's never too early or too late to join your local library... and it's FREE!

It's gardening time again

Lochwinnoch Library has an extensive range of gardening books and access to many more titles through the Renfrewshire Libraries network. www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/librarycatalogue

The range of titles includes : garden design, wild flowers, composting, greenhouse & polytunnels, vegetables, flowers, you name it and it's more than likely we can get it.

The following titles have been added to the existing collection in the last few weeks :

- 635 - Eveleigh—Gardening in no time : 50 step –by- step projects
- 635 - Harland—Designing and creating a cottage garden
- 635.048—Powers—The living garden : A place that works with nature
- 635.967—Titchmarsh—How to garden – small gardens
- 635.982—Russell—The polytunnel book : fruit and veg. All year round
- 712.6—Wilson—Making a garden



Alzheimer (Scotland)

A huge thank you , to everyone who supported Alzheimer (Scotland) in their attempt to collect 71,000 4"x4" knitted squares.

Knitters of Lochwinnoch , you are amazing, to date you have handed in **726** squares.

They arrived a few at a time and by the carrier bag load.

THANK YOU

From the Allotment:

By the time May comes along visiting the allotment is starting to become a pleasure. Members are coming out of hibernation and the plots are all coming on a treat with less of the hard work of digging and if the weather conditions are kind to us, a bit more of the delicate work of planting out. The sight of growing crops is now starting to replace the dull brown soil of winter and early spring is in the air with blossom, bees and butterflies.

Perhaps you remember back to schooldays the words of William Henry Davies-

*"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep and cows."*

Well, it's time to do just that. Enjoy the sights and sounds of your allotment or garden—but don't let those weeds grow under your feet. If you have grass paths around your plot keep them neat and tidy to stop them overgrowing with weeds. It makes your plot look more cultivated and prevents invasion of your neighbour's plot with unwanted vegetation.

May is also a good time to have a good long think about what you have sown or planted. Now's the time if you have forgotten a favourite crop or have some space left to fill. Check on your patio pots or in the greenhouse for any plants that need to be potted on in larger containers or are becoming pot-bound if you're not ready to transplant them outside into the ground.

Once germination begins seedlings will emerge rapidly. The root comes first followed by the seed leaves. Energy for all this growth comes from the seed but the development of true leaves relies on the seedling making its own food by using light to form

sugars. It's important to separate seedlings at this stage to give them room to grow. Gently lift out each seedling, teasing the roots from the compost with a dibber or the end of a pencil. Make a pencil width hole in a pot or tray of fresh compost. Use the end of the dibber or pencil to lightly firm the compost round about the roots leaving the stalks of the seed leaves level with the surface of the compost, and water well. As the month progresses we start to get a bit twitchy about whether it's time to plant out early grown seedlings or if it's still a bit on the chilly side. Be cautious, have some fleece ready to provide quick cold comfort.

Intersowing is a method of growing two different crops in the same row or bed- one fast-growing and the other slower. Although both may be planted at the same time and grown together, the faster of the two will be harvested and out of the ground before the slower is ready to fill the space. Some suggestions are radishes and parsnips, or lettuces and leeks. Tall crops such as sweetcorn also leave adequate space for lettuce to grow beneath.

Continue to earth up your potatoes drawing soil up around the developing plants to prevent the tubers breaking through the surface. If they are exposed to light they will turn green and can become poisonous. Looking forward to your first new potatoes of the year is always great excitement. First earlies should be ready at around 100-110 days after planting –depending of course on our weather and other growing factors (especially keeping your fingers crossed!!).

Some plots still available at Garnock Valley Allotments in Kilbirnie. Contact Joyce on 01505 682911 or Priscilla on

01505 503410. Visit our Website
www.gvaa.co.uk

GVAA members tree planting



Jubilee Woods Tree Planting

GVAA members turned out this Easter Monday morning to plant trees from the Woodland Trust's national Jubilee Woods tree planting project to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Barrier hedging of dog rose and blackthorn was planted interspersed with trees of crab apple, elder and hazel around the perimeter of the site. All the species planted will provide berries or fruit which can be used in a variety of jellies, jams etc. Additional trees will be planted between the plots to give the site a more mature appearance and act as a windbreaker.



Dejablu Plus Guests

In support of

Teenage Cancer Trust

McKillop Hall

Saturday 28th April

7:30pm

Tickets £10

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Contact LEAP Car Club: pop into the LEAP Office, 22 Church Street, Lochwinnoch or

Email: scott@lochwinnoch.info



What's On

Regular clubs, classes and groups

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

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- **First Friday of Month**—Semple Tones host an open mike session at Lochwinnoch Golf Club. Come along, don't be shy.
- **Girls Brigade**—1st Lochwinnoch Company, Wednesday evenings from 6pm -9.15pm at the Parish Church Hall for various age groups.
- **Happy Harminis**—Fun for pre-school children on Thursdays 10am-11am, McKillop Inst. Tel: Frankie : 01505 612248.
- **Healing and Creativity Workshops & Classes**—For details or to book a place, please Tel Becky: 0141 8816700 or Libby on: 015105 842604.
- **Jogging Buddies**—Tuesday evenings. Meet at Lochbarr Football Club at 6.30pm. For details, Tel: 0141 887 1357 or 07947 763704.
- **Keep Fit—Improving With Age classes**—every Tues from 10-11am at the McKillop.
- **Knit @ The 19th at the Golf Club**—Monday 10am-12 noon (or longer), all levels and learners welcome.
- **Liathach Dog Training**—(pre-booking necessary). Anne Moss, Tel: 01505 842367, e-mail: dogtraining@f2s.com
- **Linda Margaret School of Dancing**—Tuesdays from 4pm -8.45pm, McKillop Institute. For details, Tel: 0141 581 9104.
- **Lochwinnoch Art Group**—Meet fortnightly on Monday evenings, 7.30pm, McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Choral Society**—Rehearsals on Monday evenings, Parish Church/ Hall. Juniors 7:15-8pm, and Seniors 8pm-9.15pm.
- **Lochwinnoch Community Walks**—Mondays (ex. Public Holidays), meet at 10.30am at The McKillop Institute.
- **Lochwinnoch Gymnastics Club**—For primary school-age children every Monday, 5-8pm at the McKillop. Phone Coby on: 0772 9 051 615.
- **Lochwinnoch Playgroup**—For under 5's, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30-11.30am at the McKillop .
- **Lochwinnoch Pre-School Gymnastics**—(for children from 18 months to 5 yrs). Fridays, from 10.15am - 1.45pm at the McKillop. Further details from Coby on Tel: 0772 9051615.
- **Lochwinnoch Toddlers**—Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30 - 11.30am, McKillop.
- **Lochwinnoch Writers Group**—Monday from 2-4:15pm in the Library. Contact 873581
- **Morag's Keep Fit**—Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm, in the McKillop Institute.
- **ROAR Lunch Club**—every Thursday from 11.45am PROMPT at the McKillop Institute. **Please Note - ONLY ONE SITTING.**
- **Scottish Country Dance Club**—Every Tuesday, from 7.30 -9.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **Slinky Strollers**—Thursday mornings
- **Scottish Slimmers**—Thursdays, 7/7.30pm, McKillop Inst.
- **TaeKwon-Do**—Fitness and Self-defence classes for youths and adults. Tuesdays from 5-6pm, McKillop Institute and Thursdays from 7pm-8pm at Lochwinnoch Primary School. For details Tel: 01259 210716.
- **TaeKwon-Do Little Tiger Cubs**—Classes for 3-5 year olds, on Thursdays from 4.15pm-5pm at McKillop Tel: 01259 210716
- **Windsurfing Club Night**—Thursdays 6-8:30pm
- **Yoga Classes**—Wednesday evenings, McKillop Inst. only 1 class 7-8:30pm. Call 842877 to book.

Some activities may cease during holidays, please check

Upcoming Events

- **Wed 2 May—Wednesdays with Wildlife** – Poetry Evening 6.30pm – 8pm Cost: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Please book in advance as spaces may be limited.
- **Thurs 3 May—Clyde Windsurfing Club** nights start at Castle Semple Loch 6-8.30 pm
c o n t a c t :
mike@clydewindsurfing.co.uk for details
- **Sat 5 May—Coffee Morning** in aid of Arthritis Research UK, McKillop Hall, 10-12noon.
- **Sat 5 & Sun 6 May—Scottish District Sailing Championships 2012** Come and see lots of radio model yachts racing on the loch. Info tel 01505 842 882 Ex20
- **Sun 6 May—Lochwinnoch Dawn Chorus 4.30am - 6.30am** A gentle walk along the reserve trails, listening for bird song with advice from the RSPB team. Suitable for: Families and Beginners to experts in birdwatching. Cost: £5 including breakfast roll and tea/coffee.
- **Sun 6 May—Wings over the Heather Walk** up a well surfaced track to look at moorland birds. Binoculars available. Muirshiel Visitor Centre, 13.00 – 15.00 hrs, Tel 01505 842 803, FREE but booking essential
- **Sat 12 May—RSPB Plant Sale 10am-12noon at the reserve**
- **Sat 12 May—Coffee Morning**, Masonic Club, High Street, 10.00 am till 12.30pm approx. Tickets £2.00 at the door. Transport can be organised, please contact Billy Davey on 01505 843359.
- **13-19th May—Christian Aid Week**
- **Fri 18th May—Psychic Night** at the Masonic Club, High Street, featuring the Glasgow Psychic Centre. Private readings on request. 7.30pm for 8.00pm Tickets £5.00 Can be obtained from Billy Davey, also Fiona Russell in Three Churches. [Garthland pub]

- **Fri 18 May Pamper Evening** in aid of Lochwinnoch Primary School. Tickets £6 Call Donna Tel: 01505 844910 Email: famousarmstrongs@yahoo.com
- **Sat 19 May—Castle Semple Rowing Regatta** Boats from all over Scotland will be racing on the loch as long as it is not too windy. Please try and come by public transport as the car park will be very busy.
- **Sat 19 May—St Vincent's Hospice Summer Fayre**, Houston Square Johnstone, 10am – 4 pm
- **Sat 19 May—Yard Sale** in aid of Habitat for Humans, Ethiopia, at Ailort, Johnshill, 10 -12 noon, donations welcome. Tel: 843289 for pick-up.
- **Sun 20 May—Green Hairstreak Walk** with a ranger through the blaeberry to search for these butterflies. Muirshiel Visitor Centre, 13:00 – 15:00 hrs Tel 01505 842 803 FREE but booking essential
- **Fri 25 May—St Vincent's Hospice Glitter Ball** in the Central Hotel, Glasgow. Tickets for this event are £60 and you will be treated to a glamour evening to help raise funds for St Vincent's Hospice. To book tickets contact Lorraine Valentine at the Hospice on 01505 705635 or email Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk.
- **Fri 25 and Sat 26 May—Moth and Bat Night** 9pm till late Fri 25 and 10am – 12 noon Sat Cost: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Please book in advance as spaces may be limited.
- **Sat 26 and Sun 27 May—RSPB Binocular and Telescope Demonstration** 10am – 4pm. FREE expert advice available all weekend.
- **Sat 26 May—Spring Food Festival** outside the McKillop Hall 10am-3pm
- **Sun 27 May—Wings over the Heather Walk** up a well surfaced track to look at moorland birds with the possibility of seeing the elusive Hen Harrier. Binoculars available. Muirshiel Visitor Centre, 13:00 – 15:00 Tel 01505 842 803 Free, booking essential
- **Mon 28 May – 3 Jun—Beith Arts Exhibition**, Beith Community Centre, Kings Road. Opening times: Mon. to Fri. 2.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Sun 3rd June—St Vincent's Hospice 5 A-Side Charity Event**, Five on 5 Ltd at Pro Life Fitness Centre in Paisley. Entry is £75 per team with optional sponsorship available. For more info and to book a place for your team please contact Ashley Moran on 01505 705635 or email ashley.moran@svh.co.uk.
- **Fri 8 June—The Olympic Torch** comes through Lochwinnoch arriving 13.59 hrs.
- **Sat 9 June—Lochwinnoch Summer Festival**
- **Sat 9 June—Food Fair** outside the McKillop Hall 10am-3pm
- **Fri 22 June—TCT 'Not the Booze Cruise'** Tickets priced £15 (plus £5 for the coach) on sale now only from John Delaney Tel: 07715 579312

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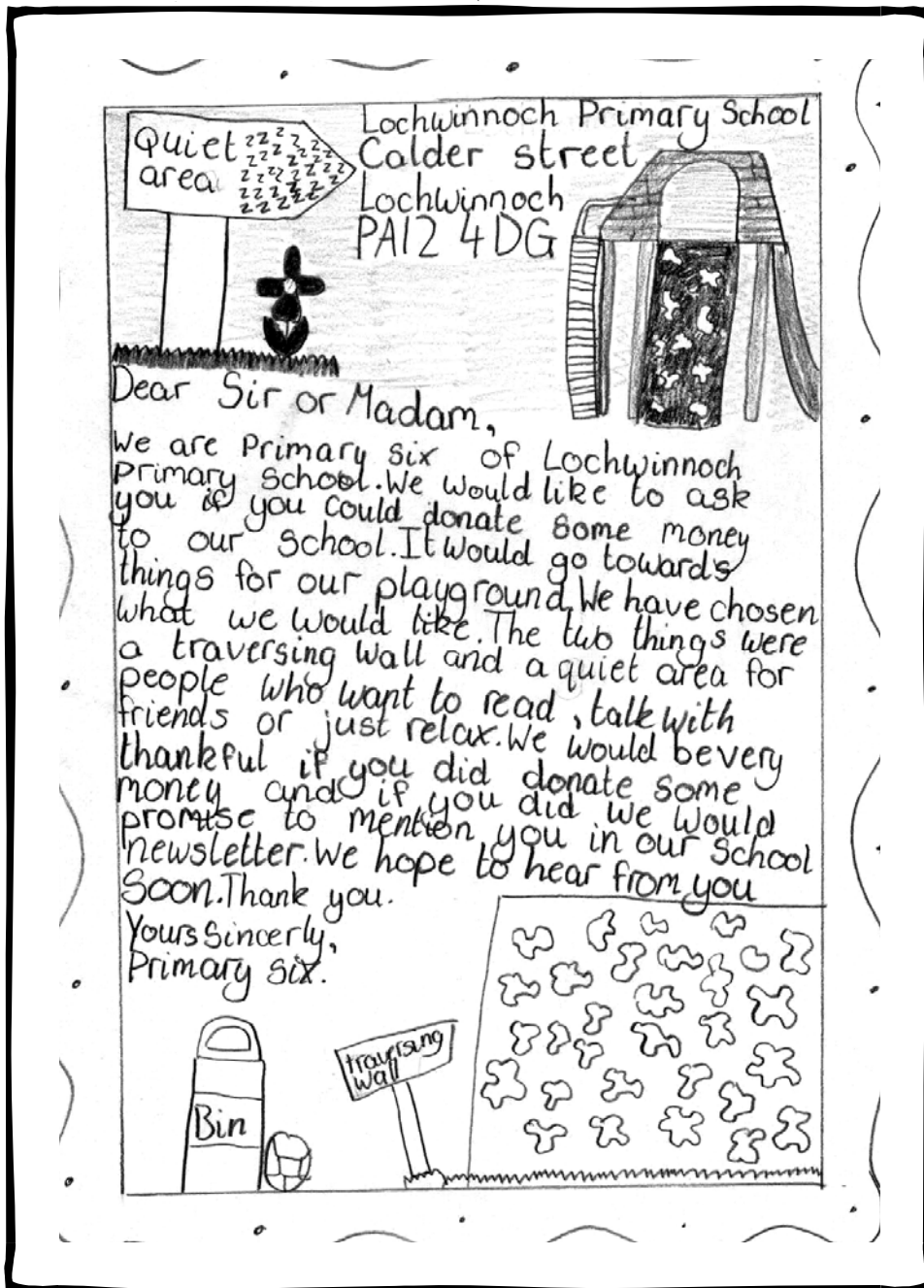
Tel: 01505 506169

Mob: 07505 735733

Email: elamont@live.co.uk

www.elainelamont.co.uk





Lochwinnoch Primary School

With the Olympic Torch visiting our village this June, Lochwinnoch Primary School has some exciting plans for an outdoor project.

Our goal is to create a range of areas to allow pupils to try new sports, learn new skills and to improve our outdoor facilities within the playground. While the project is particularly special this year, it will also create a lasting facility for years to come which can be enjoyed by current and future pupils of the school.

We have plans for a traversing wall, an outdoor classroom, a quiet area to read and draw, playground games and much more!

If you can help us through time, materials or monetary donations we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Jane Knox, Parent Council Chairperson, for more details.

Email: jane@theknoxfamily.net

Phone: 07789 012201

St Vincent's Hospice

Summer Fayre – Sat 19th May 2012

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

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

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

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

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

Glitter Ball—Fri 25th May 2012

You are cordially invited to the St Vincent's Hospice Glitter Ball on Friday 25th May 2012 in the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow. Tickets for this event are £60 and you will be treated to a glamour evening to help raise funds for St Vincent's Hospice.

Our spectacular Glitter Ball will start with a Champagne Reception followed by a sumptuous three course meal and excellent entertainment to keep you dancing into the wee small hours. Fundraising activities will include raffles, auctions and lots more throughout the evening. For more information and to book tickets contact Lorraine Valentine at the Hospice on 01505 705635 or email Lorraine.valentine@svh.co.uk.

5 A-Side Charity Event, Sunday 3rd June

Do you play for a football team or just fancy getting some friends together to have a bit of fun while raising money for charity? Well the St Vincent's Hospice 5 A-Sides Event could be just the thing for you.

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

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

lockers and showers.

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



RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve

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

Wednesday 2 May 6.30pm – 8pm Wednesdays with Wildlife – Poetry Evening

Join a group of poets from Grey Hen Press and our resident writer, Nalini Paul, for an evening of wildlife poetry. The Grey Hen poets will be reading not only from No Space but Their Own, an illustrated collection of poems about birds, but also from the latest Grey Hen publication, *The Price of Gold*: a collection of poems about bees, which will be launched in 2012. Nalini will be reading some of her own bird poems. Cost: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Please book in advance as spaces may be limited.

Sunday 6 May 4.30am - 6.30am Lochwinnoch Dawn Chorus

Today is International Dawn Chorus Day and all around the world, people are getting up early to listen to the amazing morning-time choir. Why not be one of them? Then enjoy breakfast and a hot drink.

Walk description: Gentle walk along the reserve trails, listening for bird song with advice from the RSPB team. This walk will stay on the reserve trails.

Key species we will look/listen for: Grasshopper, sedge and willow warbler, reed bunting, chaffinch, blue tit, robin, blackbird, song thrush.

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Suitable for: Families. Beginners to experts in bird watching. General interest in wildlife. Cost: £5 including breakfast roll and tea/coffee. Please advise us of any dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Saturday 12 May 10am - 2pm Plant sale

Stock up at our annual fundraising plant sale organised by the RSPB Renfrewshire Local Group. Teas, coffees and home baking available throughout. If you would like to sell some of your own plants, please get in touch with us at the reserve.

Friday 25 and Saturday 26 May 9pm till late Friday 25 and 10am – 12 noon Saturday 26 Moth and Bat Night

Join the RSPB team and staff from **Butterfly Conservation** to delve into the nocturnal world of moths and bats. Then come back in the morning to see what has crept into the moth trap overnight.

Walk description: Evening walk along the RSPB trails to look/listen for bats. We may cover some distance in the search.

Key species we will look for: Garden tiger moth, poplar hawk moth. Pipistrelle bats.

Suitable for: Families. General interest in wildlife. Evening explorers!

Recommendations: Stout footwear, waterproofs and warm clothing recommended. You may also wish to bring a torch, sunglasses and insect repellent. Cost: £5 or £2 for RSPB members. Please book in advance as spaces may be limited.

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May 10am – 4pm Binocular and Telescope Demonstration

An opportunity to choose from a

wide range of competitively priced binoculars and telescopes, including RSPB brand, with the added bonus that 100% of the profits go directly to helping conservation. FREE expert advice available all weekend.

Contact us: Telephone: 01505 842663/Fax: 01505 843026 or email: lochwinnoch@rspb.org.uk

www.rspb.org.uk/scotland

Pamper Evening

Spring is here, winter woollies are packed away and the Lochwinnoch Ladies are looking and feeling glam once more.

Lochwinnoch Primary School will once again be hosting a Pamper Evening Fundraiser at the Parish Church Hall on 18th May.

Tickets will be £6.00 each and will include access to crazily low prices for beauty treatments, a welcome drink and nibbles.

Relax in a man and child free zone, sip your wine and chat with your girl friends while you wait to be manicured, massaged and tanned.

Limited tickets will be available and will be on sale from 23 April.

Call Donna on 01505 844-910 or e-mail famousarmstrongs@yahoo.com for more details.

Thanks

Following our accommodation appeal, we want to let you know that all our new seasonal staff have found accommodation

Can you pass on our thanks to everyone who contacted us with offers of or information on available property rentals.

Clyde Muirshiel

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In praise of the Navigator

In carefully choosing my title I should tell you straight away that I am writing about the old fashioned navvy. The man who digs the holes, pushes the barrow and shovels the muck.

Why? Because without him, especially in these highly technical days, we would be in a terrible mess; but also because if he is good at his job he is a highly skilled person upon whom we all depend.

I have been fortunate to know many navvies at times and I shall begin with my father's attitude to them in the 1920's when men turned up hoping for work on a casual basis. My dad had a simple set of tests. Was he washed and clean shaven? Did he carry himself well, were the back of his boots clean and was his shovel shining clean and fit to cook breakfast on? If the answer to those things were good then he was likely to be taken on. Dad would know within seconds if the man could handle his tools and within hours would have decided to ask the man to be there the next day.

Those were the days when rock breaking was done with three or four men wielding sledge hammers

to strike the chisel 1234, 1234, 123....

These folk know how to pace themselves, they do a steady job all day and are just as effective as the day ends as they were in the beginning. They are the men who dig straight trenches with vertical sides, know how

to fill and wheel a barrow, how to mix mortar and place it just where their bricklayer mate will reach for it and where to stack the bricks for him.

These are the men who will place the concrete and bed the kerb stones on the most well-judged of curves in the road and take in the fall of the ground much better by eye than many a surveyor. They are also the ones who clean a concrete mixer without the noise of bricks bashing the inside hour after hour.

They are the men who can safely fell a tree and land the trunk of it between two pegs with total certainty.

Nowadays when it would appear holes cannot be dug without a back acting shovel on caterpillar tracks we tend to think that is the only way but quite often the man with a pick, shovel and spade will start, dig and throw, replace, finish and clear up while someone else is phoning around for a likely contractor.

Why am I telling you all this? Because all around Lochwinnoch I see evidence of the missing navvy.

There is no local man tending to the pot holes anywhere at all, is there? No doubt there is someone in the concrete castle sat by a phone listening to complaints and telling others; but there is no local man pursuing a worthwhile job actually at the work-face any more; we all pay the price in terms of discomfort, broken car springs, worn out shock absorbers, mess everywhere and people unemployed.

Let us praise the navy in all his guises and most importantly: point out the need to encourage them and their successors but remember the need to pay a skilled man a fair and proper wage because when the chips are down these people are the most

important of all at keeping the community ticking over properly.

Alan Lovegreen

Teenage Cancer Trust

1. Not The Booze Cruise 22 June.

Only the last few tickets remaining. Please remind anyone who told me they wanted to go, but haven't yet confirmed - and/or paid - to do so ASAP. Cruise ticket price is £15, plus return coach to and from Greenock is £5.

2. Anne Miller

One of our district nurses, Anne Miller, is running the Glasgow Womens' 10k (Ignis Asset Management is the official title !) on Sunday 13th May, and has again nominated Teenage Cancer Trust as her chosen charity.

Donations can be made at Lochwinnoch surgery or online at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Anne-Miller2>

Anne was a great help to us looking after Andrew, and we're very grateful that she is still supporting us and TCT today.

3. Three Churches Inn

Many thanks to Fiona and all the staff at the Three Churches Inn, who nominated TCT to receive the proceeds from the charity raffle and collection they held at their recent 'Spiritualist Evening'. I am told it was a great success, and the Spiritualist was very pleased: there's nothing like a happy medium!

Along with a few spirits, they managed to raise £100, which is terrific. I never saw that coming! Thanks again to all concerned.

John Delaney

From the Parish Church

*Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter,
little darling, it feels like years since it's been here:
here comes the sun,
here comes the sun, and I say
"it's all right."
Lennon/Harrison/McCartney*

I am quite sure we all have happy memories of that wonderfully warm week at the end of March, before returning to snow and wind in April. The cause of this sudden change in temperature was due to the direction of the wind. During the balmy days in March, the wind was coming from Africa, bringing with it the warm air. When the wind changed and was coming from the north, we were reaching for our winter woollies again.

My memories of this past winter will be of both the wind and the sound of chainsaws clearing up the trees that had blown over in the gales of December and January. In the manse garden we lost a beautiful pink hawthorn tree, while in our own home at Kilreggan we had just had one major roof repair completed before the same damage happened again on the 3rd January. The devastation I saw that day, including a whole tenement chimney breast that had landed on top of a car, was beyond anything I had witnessed before, including the time I lived in Orkney.

Yes, this past winter the wind has been very destructive. Thank goodness for our insurance policy, this has paid for all the damage to be repaired.

Yet wind can also be beneficial. Ask any sailor and they will recount endless stories of how, when the wind suddenly drops, they have gone nowhere fast. We all know the benefit of a gentle breeze on summer's day, helping to keep us cool. As I write, the wind is drying my washing, which given the outside temperature, would not be drying at all but for the wind.

So why is it that when disaster befalls our lives, we talk about our lives being "blown apart"? And what insurance do we have to turn to when personal disaster does fall?

For me the answer is family, friends and faith. I consider myself blessed to have grown up in a Christian home and to have a family who share my faith, for there are indeed times when I am thanking God just for being and

for giving me the strength I need to face the next five minutes, the next hour, the rest of the day.

Yet I also strongly believe that God comes to us in our family and friends. Sometimes that is to support us sometimes that is to bring us down a peg or two and bring us back to reality. I am also quite sure that all of you could tell a story which proves the adage, "A problem shared is a problem halved."

For me, faith also means that I need not be afraid of the future. When I began writing this letter, it was Holy Week – the time when Christians remember the last few days of Jesus earthly life. As we read the Bible lessons, we realise that, in terms of human emotion, there is truly nothing that Jesus (and so God) has not experienced that we experience. In the last hours of Jesus life, we learn that one friend betrayed him to the authorities (by giving him a kiss); another denied he ever knew Jesus and the rest ran away. While he was on trial, Jesus was well aware he was innocent of any crime the authorities could bring against him, yet he stood there silently and let human depravity do its worst. As he was whipped, beaten and taunted by the soldiers, he certainly knew what it was like to be physically broken. On the cross, he saw his mother watching him die and, in tenderness and love, he provided her with a new home. Then in a moment of complete and utter aloneness and desolation he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Jesus knows what it is to feel betrayed; Jesus knows what it is like to be alone; Jesus knows what it is like to watch someone he loves suffer and Jesus also knows what it feels like to believe we are abandoned by God. Yet the truth is, that on Easter morning God proved that humanity can never be abandoned by God because Jesus came back from the dead like the sun in full strength. That day leads Christians all around the world to share the glorious Easter greeting, "Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! Hallelujah!"

It has always been my experience that when life has been hard, I have two choices. I can wallow in self-pity, or I can see God in those around me, offering comfort and support. Then as I grow stronger again, I can look for the signs of resurrection and the new life that God is offering to us all, every new day. Sometimes the only

way to a new life, a better life is through experiencing some kind of death – a major change in lifestyle or perhaps the end of a relationship that has become abusive, or perhaps through redundancy.

It is my prayer for all Chatterbox readers that whatever winds are blowing through your life – gentle breezes filling your sails guiding you to a new adventure, or a full blown gale that is threatening your very existence that you will be blessed with family, friends and faith to carry you through.

Yours,

Christine

Glaswegians!

Wee Billy from Glesga always wanted to look cool.

His friend told him that he needed a good designer pair of trainers to go with his shell suit.

Billy saved up all his Giros and all the money he got back from returning his empty bottles of Ginger and finally managed to get himself a pair of brilliant white trainers to go with his shell suit.

Proudly, he strutted down the street calling out to all the passers by "See ma new trainers? Stonkin, eh?"

One fine upstanding gentleman pointed out that they were indeed a fine pair of trainers but was young Billy aware that one shoelace was undone?

Billy scornfully retorted that it was part of being cool to have a trailing lace on one trainer, and that on the sole of the trainer there were instructions for the wearer to do such a thing.

When asked for proof of this instruction, Billy look off his trainer and held it upside down for the disbeliever to read.

"There y'are! It clearly says

Taiwan !!!!!

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

ChatSearch

Spring

Birdsong	Blossom
Cleaning	Daffodil
Dawnchorus	Daylight
Digging	Egg laying
Insects	Leafbuds
Nesting	Nightfrost
Potting	Rhubarb
Shoots	Showers
Sunshine	Tulips



Lochshore field site

restructured and redesigned to provide a more attractive and usable public space. In addition, the part of the field not being used by the clubs can host recreational and sporting activities organised by the Regional Park Authority

All this is a huge undertaking, and an achievement in itself for a group of very different and independent club organisations to develop a vision they can all share and work towards.

We've made a great start in raising funds from within the clubs to buy the land and have recently been fortunate enough to be awarded funding from Renfrewshire Leader and Awards for All towards planning and development costs.

Sports Scotland has also been very encouraging of our plans. There is still a very, very long way to go though before we can think about laying the foundation stone for a new building.

However, in the meantime you will continue to see activity in the field as fencing is put in place, the Sailing Club extends its compound and recreational activities organised by the Park take place.

We will keep you posted.

If you have any questions, would like to help by sponsoring the development, or are interested in joining one of the clubs, please email SSAP@castlesemplerc.co.uk

Elderly Forum

At the time of writing we are anticipating the hustings at our AGM on the 26th.

At the March meeting we made arrangements for a day trip to Stirling on Wednesday 6th June. A notice giving all details will be displayed at the T-bar and lunch club. If you want to come on the trip please add your name.

The meeting this month is on Thursday 31st May following the lunch club.



Simple Sports Access Partnership



Lochshore Field Developments

The more eagle eyed of you may have noticed some activity in the Lochshore field down at Castle Semple Loch and have been wondering what is going on.

The field has been purchased by a group called Simple Sports Access Partnership which is the collective name for the independent water sports clubs based at Castle Semple Loch.

The group, which is now a registered charity, was formed over 18 months ago when Castle Semple Rowing Club, Castle Semple Sailing Club, Clyde Windsurfing Club, Lochwinnoch and Paisley Kayak Club and St. Winnoch Angling Club got together to look at ways in which to improve club-based sports access and facilities. This initiative was encouraged and supported by Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority who themselves have been working hard to improve park amenities and public access to quality recreational spaces and facilities.

As the many Lochwinnoch residents who are (or have been) members will know, the five water sports clubs have

grown greatly in size and ambition over the past 10 years. Over this period they have made the village proud by competing in, and winning many national (and some international) competitions and hosting annual competitive events which bring visitors in from all over Scotland and further afield. The clubs are all self-funded, run by volunteers and are very welcoming of new members.

Sadly, while the ambitions are high, the quality of the facilities that many operate in are less than ideal: the compound in which the clubs live has become overcrowded, portacabins are leaking, there is no space for expansion, indoor training areas are very limited and for some clubs, non-existent.

Over the past year the Simple Sports Access Partnership has worked hard to raise the funds to purchase the Lochshore field and to develop plans for a new sustainable, single storey integrated facility.

The building, which we want to be seen as a regional centre of excellence, is being designed to meet the current and future needs of existing clubs and those who wish to join them.

The development also allows the current compound area to be

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Lochwinnoch Arts Festival

Photos: Lesley Adam, Zul Bhatia



Call the Midwife (3)

In previous editions we discovered that Nancy Geddes of Johnshill not only watched the BBC programme "Call the Midwife" but was a part of the real-life events on which it was based.

Nancy moved from Poplar, East London to Fiwila, a village in Zambia, carrying on her life as a nun and midwife in the Anglican Mission there.

The Bata shoe company opened a factory in Zambia and made, among other things, cheap flip-flop sandals. Not very interesting you might think but actually very important. People walking barefoot were at risk of hookworm infection – the worms burrowing in through the unprotected sole of the foot and gradually migrating to the intestines causing blood loss. Hookworm infection is particularly serious in pregnant women and children.



It causes retardation of growth and intellectual development in children. Nancy and colleagues persuaded villagers to buy and wear flip-flops to prevent infection.

Visiting the UK in flip-flops

After her two happy years in Zambia, Nancy was sent to Birmingham and St Paul's Anglican Parish. Here she spent 12 years working with vulnerable girls. While in Poplar she had been involved with underage girls working on the streets and trying to find a safe refuge for them. Now she was working in the hostel that Father Joe (whose character appeared in the TV programme) had started as a result of that need.



At the Birmingham hostel

The girls were vulnerable in many different ways: some had come from working on the streets, from abusive

families or from forced marriages. One issue she and the other nuns faced was that wearing the nun's habit seemed to distance them from the girls they were trying to help so they decided to wear ordinary clothes (mufti). Nancy also realised that she needed further training to deal with the girls' issues and embarked on a Social Work training course at Birmingham Polytechnic.

Some male visitors could cause difficult problems at the hostel. Girls' 'minders' who wanted them to return to their previous 'profession' and who could be violent were particularly difficult but family members of girls who had run away to avoid a forced marriage could also be difficult. Bobby, a rescue dog who grew to be a large and important member of staff, helped solve these problems. He was always suspicious of male visitors and when any started to become violent or abusive Bobby would persuade them to leave.



Bobby, Lucy and Nancy

Lucy came to the hostel as a pup when her owner came to stay escaping life on the streets. The girl's 'minder' had given her Lucy as an accessory to hold in her arms while working; he thought a cute little puppy would add to the girl's charms. When the girl moved on, away from her previous life, she couldn't take Lucy with her and the little pup, now a large dog, was eventually adopted.

Nancy was next sent to the USA as Assistant Chaplain at the very large San Francisco General Hospital. Here she observed poverty of a different and more distressing kind than she'd known in Zambia. Poor people here did not have the kind of community support that she'd known. Patients had their ailments treated in the hospital but were then discharged without reference to their circumstances. It seemed to her better to be poor in Africa than in America.

This was the time of the AIDS

outbreak which had its epicentre in San Francisco. At that time young gay men were becoming ill and dying of illnesses only previously seen in the very old. It took some time to discover that the cause was a virus affecting the immune system and that its method of transmission made gay men vulnerable.

Nancy ministered to AIDS patients, their family and friends. The situation was very difficult with dying young men being comforted by their partners who knew themselves they were often to die soon after. The situation with families was complex as they often only discovered their son's sexuality at the time of their illness and death.

It was a challenging time for Nancy not only because of the demands of her ministry but also because of her increasing doubts about the nature of her calling within the Anglican Church. She made the decision to leave her Order and the Archbishop of Canterbury released her from her vows as a nun.

Nancy was 47 years old, in America with no home, no money not even baggage; she returned to her family in Port Glasgow.

She needed a job and initially found one at the Victoria Infirmary Geriatric Unit but soon moved on to Rainbow House, a Church of Scotland residential Addiction Centre where she worked for 10 years.

As Nancy told Chatterbox "I've always been interested in people on the edge".

While living and working at Rainbow House in Glasgow, Nancy met Edith Campbell.



When Nancy, due to health issues, needed to find more suitable accommodation, Edith needed someone to take on her flat in Calder Street, Lochwinnoch while she went off to San Francisco. Nancy moved in.

Nancy found Lochwinnoch a good place to live with a nice mixture of people. Her sister lived nearby in Bridge of Weir so a more permanent place in Lochwinnoch seemed a good idea for Nancy's retirement.

She found her ideal flat in Johnshill.

Post-retirement she worked part-time in The Paper Shop to fund her (New Testament) Greek studies at Glasgow University.

Nancy's faith has always been core to her life and while no longer a nun she is today still an Anglican Franciscan member of the lay Third Order.

Christian Aid Week

13-19 May

Let's give the tools...

to help people in poverty

Christian Aid works to bring an end to poverty around the world – tackling its root causes as well as its effects. We help people of all faiths and none.

Currently we work through 507 local organisations in 47 countries, providing urgent, practical and effective assistance, giving communities the tools and the skills to find their own solutions to poverty.

This can mean for example a new dawn for fishing and farming communities supported by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone. New tools and techniques are providing a way out of poverty and bringing hope of a brighter future.

We have the tools to help, a committed army of volunteers with their red bags, red envelopes ready to give very household in the village the opportunity to use their tools to help.

You all have the tools, the money you can afford to give and put in the red envelope, and a pen to fill in the Gift Aid form on the red envelope.

This simple act of using a pen can commit a further 20 odd percent to your donation. And this at no extra cost to you. It simply allows Christian Aid to get back from Mr Osborne the Chancellor a portion of the tax you have already paid.

In Christian Aid Week the community of Lochwinnoch has the chance to make a difference to really help give poor communities around the world the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.



*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.**

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



Christian Aid Week

Let's give the tools....



Old Legends Make Horse Sense

The Horse Whisperer novel by Nicholas Evans tells how teenager Grace Graves and her horse, Pilgrim, were seriously injured by a 40-ton truck in a road accident.

The rage and bitterness of the girl and her equine friend are healed after a meeting on a Montana ranch with a farmhand known as the Horse Whisperer who lives in harmony with the natural world.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Lochwinnoch had its own horse whisperers. They included my grandfather, the late Ted Parker, who worked as a whipper-in and groom with the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds from 1904 to 1912.

Horse whisperers belonged to a quasi-Masonic brotherhood known as the Horseman's Word. The fraternity's name comes from the esoteric, mystic manner in which initiates spoke to horses in a blend of ancient Celtic words accompanied with soothing whistling and hissing sounds.

This gift, which was the prerogative of just a few horse-workers, could pacify the wildest stallion whinnying, kicking, rearing and bucking dangerously in its stable. It inspired the most obstinate steed to jump stout fences, hedges and walls without dislodging its rider into a sea of thundering hooves and serious injury or even death.

Initiations into the Horseman's Word took place in night-time darkness at candle-lit barns or beacon-illuminated hilltops and forest glades where centuries earlier Iron Age Druids held their own fire festivals at sacred seasons on the pagan calendar.

The remote countryside around Lochwinnoch provided ideal trysts for these gatherings which included secret signs, passwords, handshakes and sworn oaths of loyalty to the brotherhood.

Sacraments involving bread, jam and whisky - the fruits of the earth - were dispensed and toasts offered to the Celtic woodland god, Herne the Hunter, and the horse goddess, Epona, whose age-old whitened effigies can still be seen carved into hillsides across Britain.

Horses fulfilled vital roles in agriculture so whisperers were valued members of the rural community. Their seemingly-supernatural powers gave whisperers shamanistic status.

Horses, which were regarded as cult creatures by the ancient Celts, were associated with good and evil spirits. Their veneration is exemplified today by the fact that eating horsemeat is a dietary taboo in this country while the practice is rife in other lands.

It was believed horses had the power to see ghosts and that they carried the souls of the dead to medieval witches' midnight covens at venues including Lochwinnoch's Courtshaw Hill, Warlock Gates, Hangman's Wood, Warlock Craigie and the ruinous Peel

