

Strathard News

Serving the communities of Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Stronachlachar & Inversnaid

www.strathardnews.com

Issue 59
July 2010

FREE
(Donations
welcome)



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Holistic Therapies

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IYN and REPS recognised professional qualification

Starts September 2010



Yoga

regular drop-in yoga classes & workshops

in Aberfoyle & Gartmore

for more info, phone Stuart & Brenda or pop in to see us

Main Street, Aberfoyle

& David Marshall Lodge

www.chilloutscotland.com



This is our 5th year in Aberfoyle (and loving it!), and from where we started all those moons ago with our wee craft table at the DML, to where we are now, we have YOU to thank! If it wasn't for your support, we wouldn't be here.

Our 2 ChillOut areas, one at the David Marshall Lodge where we have the shop and yoga, and the other in the Aberfoyle Main Street, where our range of handcrafts and gifts has expanded, and where we have a treatment room offering holistic therapies and beauty therapy. Brenda's yoga classes are now in their 4th year, teaching at the DML and Gartmore, and our ChillOut Yoga Teacher Training course is becoming renowned near and far!

Last year was our first at the Wickerman Festival in Dumfriesshire, and this year we are organising the ChillOut Healing area, yoga, firewalk, workshops, therapists and djembe drummers for the festival – so we are looking forward to that again at the end of July... we'll be camping out in cosy yurts from Paul (RedKite Yurts).

If you want to get fitter, more flexible and feeling good for Christmas and the new year, then why not take part in our '108 Sun Salute Charity Challenge' on 27 November. The sun salute is a wonderfully rejuvenating yoga sequence adaptable for any age or fitness level ... you don't need any yoga experience to take part and it doesn't matter if you can't touch your toes! Once you are familiar with it, it's easy to practice at home. It's amazing how good it makes you feel! Preparation starts in August, and all proceeds are in aid of Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue... so come and give it a go! Get in touch with us for more info. www.chilloutscotland.com www.chilloutyoga.co.uk phone 01877 389302 email welcome@chilloutyoga.co.uk

ChillOut

holistic therapy

Open the door to a world of something different Day!

Saturday 21 August

11am-4pm

Pop in to ChillOut in the main Street

- info on different therapies
- talks and demonstrations
- meet the therapists
- special offers

more info in-store!

Many people have often asked me- 'what is holistic therapy?' So I thought a regular column in the Strathard News will help clear some of the mud! This issue is a brief overview of what holistic therapies are and some that we offer at ChillOut. In the following issues, I'll look more in-depth at individual therapies. If you have any questions, please email me chill@chilloutscotland.com. We are also holding an open day on Saturday 21 August (see the insert!) where there will be lots more info!

A holistic therapy is a treatment or therapy that treats the individual on all levels – mind, body and spirit. Holistic therapy can be anything from therapeutic massage (aromatherapy, shiatsu, reflexology, acupressure, Indian head massage, Thai, Swedish,... the list goes on!), talking therapy which helps deal with things like stress, depression, phobias, addictions, relationship issues and make positive changes (clinical hypnotherapy, stress management and NLP are among these), yoga helps improve flexibility, fitness, breathing habits and body

alignment and focus. Chiropractic, herbalism, traditional Chinese medicine, ayurveda, meditation, biofeedback, homeopathy, acupuncture, nutritional-based therapies are just some other types of therapies available. Holistic therapies are not miracle cure-alls, but they do focus on the root cause of a problem, not just the symptom.

I became interested in holistic therapies about 12 years ago in South Africa, when I worked at a garden centre and discovered the wonderfulness of herbs. This interest led me study aromatherapy, and over the years I have tried and studied various therapies (and still am!) I have found that some work for me and others don't. We are all different, we have different personalities, outlooks on life, life experiences and beliefs, and so what works for me may not work for you and vice-versa. All I can say is give some of them a try, if it helps you feel better on whatever level, then that's a good thing! In the next Strathard issue, I'll chat about some of the different therapeutic massage techniques.

Herb Corner

With the wonderful warm weather (well, it is as I am writing this!!) the herb of the moment has to be mint! Cultivated in Europe since ancient times, its origin has been lost but it has managed to become naturalized throughout the world in a range of different forms, including peppermint, chocolate mint, pineapple mint, ginger mint, spearmint...to me, all delicious. It's one of the easiest herb to grow – it roots easily from a cutting and prefers a fairly rich soil with lots of water – in the garden it can take over a wee bit, so growing it in a pot is good. It also does great on a sunny windowsill.



Mint tea is among the most popular herbal teas consumed throughout the world. In North and West Africa hot, sweet mint tea is found everywhere! Herbalists believe it helps soothe digestive upset, which may result from the naturally occurring menthol which appears to relax the smooth muscles in the intestines. Modern science has also validated the usefulness of the essential oil of peppermint for the management of indigestion and irritable bowel syndrome.

I love mint and am frequently found in my garden grazing it...yes, it's all over my garden, but I don't mind because I use it a lot! If you would like to try a refreshing de-caf tea, pop a couple of rooibos (red bush) teabags into a teapot, some fresh or dried mint leaves and honey to taste – let it steep for about 5 minutes... it's great as a pick-me-up morning drink, and rather delicious iced! Happy summer!



MoonWalk 2010

This year Edinburgh turned "Pink" in support of the MoonWalk 2010. A local team from Aberfoyle, The AI Poppers (aka Tris Crowder, Alan Irvine (Algie) & Diane Fraser), took part in the now famous MoonWalk Edinburgh on 19 June 2010.

The team did the FULL Moon Walk of 26.3 miles and crossed the finish line in 7hrs 49 mins!!!! Whoop, Whoop!! Team AI Poppers would like to say a HUGE THANKS to ALL their family & friends for their support.

It's NOT too late to sponsor the AI Poppers. If you would like to show your support for this VERY worthy cause please visit www.walkthewalkfundraising.org/algie_poppers

Thank You

Jimmy Quinn would like to thank the committee of the Anthony Nolan Trust, management of The Forth Inn and all who sponsored him when he completed the Trossachs 10k. The total raised was £300.00. Thanks also to Marie and Andrea of the Zanshai Kai Karate Club.

A Special Lunch

Eight years ago Morag MacMillan of Renagour, Aberfoyle, was diagnosed with breast cancer and in gratitude for the wonderful medical care and treatment she received, Morag and her husband Peter have held an Open Cafe once a year since then in their home in aid of Cancer Care Charities. With the help of family, friends and neighbours they have raised thousands of pounds. One of the recipients of their efforts has been Strathcarron Hospice and on the 29th of June this year, in appreciation of her efforts, Morag has been invited to a special lunch at Strathcarron to meet the Princess Royal who is Patron of the Hospice. Enjoy your day.

Aberfoyle Golf Club

Restaurant Now Open!

A warm welcome to all!

Snacks, Lunches, Evening Meals

Daily Specials

Takeaway service available for snacks and hot drinks

All day golf and catering packages for visiting parties

Every Friday: Rib Night Special served from 6pm-9pm (contact Clubhouse for reservations)

Opening hours

Monday: 12pm-3pm

Tuesday till Sunday: 11am-9pm

For enquires and reservations please contact the Clubhouse on 01877 382493 or SD Catering on 0781141854



CONSULTING TIMES

ABERFOYLE – TEL – 01877 382421

Monday:	10.30am – 11.30am 4.00pm – 5.30pm	Open Surgery By Appointment
Tuesday:	8.15am – 9.30am 2.00pm – 3.00pm	Open Surgery By Appointment
Wed:	10.30am – 11.30am 4.00pm – 5.30pm	Open Surgery By Appointment
Thursday:	10.30am – 11.30am	Open Surgery
Friday:	7.00am – 8.00am 8.15am – 9.30am 2.00pm – 3.00pm	By Appointment (Alternate Fridays) Open Surgery By Appointment

BUCHLYVIE – TEL – 01360 850237

Monday:	7.00am – 8.00am 8.15am – 9.30am	By Appointment (Alternate Mondays) Open Surgery
Tuesday	10.30am – 11.30am 4.30pm – 5.30pm	Open Surgery By Appointment
Wed:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Thursday:	8.15am – 9.30am	Open Surgery
Friday:	10.30am – 11.30am 4.00pm – 5.00pm	Open Surgery By Appointment

Results of the Patient Questionnaires

Thank you to everybody who completed both the in-house and national patient questionnaires. The results of both the surveys have been discussed by the practice team and the in-house results was discussed at a recent Patient Participation Group Meeting. The whole practice team was delighted with the results. However, there are a few issues and hopefully with patient help we will be able to sort them out.

Appointments

Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres operate a system of open and appointment surgeries. Once a week there is an early surgery (appointments only) starting at 7am; one week it is a Monday at Buchlyvie and the next week a Friday at Aberfoyle. All the other morning surgeries are "OPEN"

All afternoon/evening surgeries are "APPOINTMENTS"

You can make your own appointment via our website. To use this service you will need a unique user id and password this can be obtained easily by contacting either Aberfoyle or Buchlyvie Medical Centres. You can collect a copy of our surgery times from either Aberfoyle or Buchlyvie Medical Centres.

Waiting Times

We did not score very well with this question. Because we have open surgeries we never know how many patients will be attending and what they are attending for. We have discussed this in detail and we feel by offering an Open Surgery at least patients are seen that day. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by the long wait but we think it is better to wait in the surgery and be seen than having to wait another day or longer which happens in many other practices.

Lack of Privacy at the Reception Desk

We have tried to overcome this problem at Aberfoyle by using a "White Noise Machine" in the waiting room and for the first time in five years nobody has commented on this problem. However it still seems to be an issue at Buchlyvie Medical Centre and we will be ordering another machine in the hope that this will alleviate the problem.

Ordering Repeat Prescriptions

A number of patients thought that how they could order repeat prescriptions was poor. These are the methods we currently use:

Telephone: by using the following numbers you can leave your request on our answer machine which is available all day every day.

ABERFOYLE 01877 382900
BUCHLYVIE 01360 850238

EMAIL: the following email address can be used or you can order your request via our website www.aberfoyle-buchlyviesurgeries.co.uk

Aberfoyle Email: FV-UHB.aberfoyle-repeats@nhs.net
Buchlyvie Email: FV-UHB.buchlyvie-repeats@nhs.net

In Person: a repeat prescription request can be brought to the surgery and there is a designated collection box attached to the wall at both Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres.

If anybody has another suggestion please let us know. Once again a big THANK YOU to all those who completed the questionnaires.

Editorial

We, at Strathard News, have found this issue very difficult to produce. The sudden death of Dougie MacPherson on 18th May shocked everyone. Dougie had many facets, but there is one common theme: his quirky sense of humour.

Whether you knew him from the Met, Strathclyde Police, The Scottish Siberian Husky Club or the Byre Art Group, to name but a few of the organisations he was involved in, or simply as a reader of Strathard News, this humour shines through. As soon as people begin to talk about Dougie, the smiles and chuckles soon surface. You'll see what I mean if you look back over past issues.

Dougie was our 'roving reporter'. His last report was on the launch of Scotland which was reported accurately but not without the little asides which peppered his writing and I quote, "...attended the launch (appropriate – it was on the water – and on a boat!)". He was also Aunt Aggie and wrote as WTP. Sometimes there was no name at all but the content and, again that off-the-wall outlook on life, would leave the reader in no doubt as to the identity of the author. For example, *The Tallest and the Smallest*, in Issue 58, draws the reader in as a straightforward report, getting wackier and wackier until we are asked to visit 'seeweetree.com'. I have to say, I had to laugh aloud when I came to that bit. However, his humour was never malicious or cutting, rather wry comments on life or a play on words. He will be sadly missed. If you would like to remind yourself of any of Dougie's writing, back issues are on our website: www.strathardnews.com (this one actually exists!)

Our thoughts and condolences are with his wife, Bridget, who has very kindly sent us some articles which Dougie was working on. Look out for them in future issues.

Our thoughts are also with the Colquhoun family who are having to cope with the deaths of both Alec and Harriet. Thanks to Sharon for the beautiful tribute to them: it is very evocative of times past.

In fact, this issue has many reminiscences. I hope you enjoy reading them and perhaps feel inspired to send us your own memories or tell them to us as Helen Quinn did.

Be it past, present or future your stories and comments are always welcome.

Margaret

New Doctor

We were sad to see Dr Burton leave the practice at the end of last year but we are delighted to welcome her replacement Dr Susie Swinton. Dr Swinton will be joining the Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres on 13th July and will be doing sessions in both Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres.

New Pharmacist

On 2nd July we are also welcoming another new member of staff, Anne MacLean who is a qualified pharmacist. She will be working between the sites and will be assisting the rest of the team using her specialist skills to enhance patient care.

July is going to be an exciting month for the surgery and we hope you will join with us in welcoming both Dr Swinton and Mrs MacLean into our communities.

www.aberfoyle-buchlyviesurgeries.co.uk

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It seems like no time at all since I last sat down to update our news for the Strathard News. We really are stepping into summer now, have had some glorious weather, and have had many happy events occurring in the area. I am sure we are all, however, finding these early summer days cloaked with sorrow at the loss of three much valued members of our community. It was with much sadness that I record first the passing away of Douglas MacPherson suddenly on 18th May, a huge and unexpected loss to his wife, his family, his friends and the community. Just one day later, on the 19th May, the loss of Harriet Colquhoun, followed just two weeks later by her beloved husband Alexander Colquhoun on 3rd June, both of these with great loss to their family, their friends and indeed all of us in the community. John and I, as do so many people locally, would like to express our condolences to all of these families and friends, in their bereavement.

Somehow it seems appropriate to follow such sad news with talk of life, and it is with much pleasure that I report that three babies have been registered in the area since I last wrote. First the birth of a son, Elias Stentoft Dalglish to Aberfoyle parents Katinka and Christopher followed, again in Aberfoyle, by daughter Emily Lorna Stanford to mum and dad Jacqueline and Andrew. The boys weren't finished yet though and, just a little

further away in the direction of the Old Gartmore Road, a son Alexander McAulay was born to Drymen parents Elena and Alan. A big 'Welcome' to these new babies.

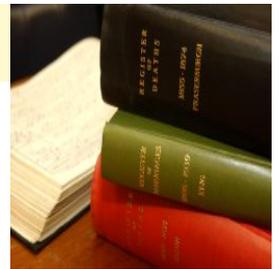
Again, as was the case in my last Strathard News report, it hasn't just been the newborns hogging the limelight! Young Master Harris Hesse-Wood managed to keep his cool and be star of the show on not just one, but two big celebratory days! The first of these, his 'Naming Ceremony', with parents Kirsten Wood and Thorsten Hesse, was a small family event held privately at Aberfoyle Registration Office on Thursday 13th May. Surrounded by some of his most special people, Harris was named while both grandmother Fra Wood and yours truly shed a few happy tears! Harris is not a young gentleman to do things by halves, and this was followed by a day of celebration on Sunday 16th May at Ledard Farm during which, among events too numerous to mention all, a Celtic Blessing was conducted by Uncle Gregor. Harris - who was charming throughout - also managed to gather gifts from all four grandparents, special promises from Uncle Bunny and family friend Eimear, and had a great 'third' birthday party, into the bargain! What a day! Weddings, too, have been much in the limelight (or should I say sunlight) recently. Altskeith and Forest Hills have both been busy recently, as have we, hosting weddings, some of which include those of Leo Heatley and Marsaili MacGregor from

Oxfordshire, and James Hughes and Thuy Vo from London.

Particularly busy have been our lovely local churches, where marriages celebrated have included two local couples. The first of these was the wedding of Bert Comrie and Ina Nugent who were married at the Parish Church in Port of Menteith; followed by the marriage of Laura Ferguson (daughter of our very own Christine and 'Jimmy-the-Post' Ferguson) to John Ramsey, at Aberfoyle Parish Church. Best congratulations to all couples married in our area.

In addition to Registration of such life events, we at Stirling Council's Local Office are also busy just now with such things as verification of Rent and Council Tax forms, processing Footwear and Clothing Grant forms and dealing with general enquiries. If either John [John Boyle-Hannah, Assistant Registrar] or I can be of any assistance to you, please do get in touch. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon. Appointments can be made by telephone 01877 382 986, by email regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk, or by dropping in to the office during opening hours.

Sharon Johnston Registrar



ROB ROY MINI HIGHLAND GAMES

Sunday 18th July 2010, Kinlochard Village Hall.



Free Entry

Grand Pipe Band Parade
11:30 from Forest Hills

Free Shuttle Bus From Aberfoyle

Car Parking

Kids Events
Giant Sack Race
Fun on the Loch
Highland Dancers
Bonniest Dog Competition
Duck Race
Adult and Junior Tug o' War
Traditional Heavy Events
Licensed Bar and Barbeque
Evening Family Ceilidh

Walter Scott Exhibition

Historical Re-Enactment of The Battle



In aid of the Village Hall Refurbishment

Part sponsored by The Scotland Grants Programme

www.kinlochard.org

SRDP Grant for Kinlochard Village Hall

Good news at last for Kinlochard! In the April Approvals, the SRDP made a £309,000 grant for the refurbishment and extension of the Village Hall. The past and present committee, closely supported by the community, worked tirelessly and continuously over a long period to achieve this grant.

The award was made recognising the need for an improved facility in the village; also - and in no small part - because the benefactors were impressed by the efforts and success of a small community in raising such a considerable sum of money themselves towards the project. Community spirit indeed! Work is planned to start this summer - after the Kinlochard Highland Games in July.

It's time once again for the
ROB ROY MINI HIGHLAND GAMES
Sunday 18th July

Kinlochard Village Hall and Lochside field
11.30am - whenever you choose

Hear the pipe band!!.....See the dancers and Battle of the Highlanders and Redcoats!!
Taste the best of burgers and beer or Afternoon Tea!!

Feel the atmosphere of fun!!

Join in the frolics and fun in the loch
- watch out for dragons!

Events for Ducks and Dogs

Events for kids

Events for big kids

Entertainment and competitions all afternoon.
All finished off by a farewell to the old Hall with a family ceilidh in the evening!

PACT Priorities April - June 2010

Operation Ironworks: To ensure quality of life, minimal disturbance and nuisance caused to locals by certain visitors to the area.

Road Safety: Continue to raise awareness of the unacceptable practice of illegal parking and driving on footpaths.

Targetting the dealers: Targetting the misuse of drugs and the dealers, working with locals to get drugs off the streets.



Central Scotland Police
Together for safer communities

Anyone with information can contact Central Scotland Police on 01786 456000 or information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

Operation Ironworks

23rd June 2010

Ironworks Officers will be out and about this weekend and a zero tolerance approach will be adopted in relation to drunk and disorderly behaviour. Officers will be visiting camp sites and identifying any problems and removing them at an early stage. This may be bags of alcohol, drugs, weapons or any other item that we consider to be a factor in any offences or indeed an offence in itself. But anyone causing bother will also be removed.

Dangers of the water

22nd June 2010

Visitors and locals alike are reminded of the dangers of water when visiting the Lochs or Rivers in the Trossachs.

A 20 year old man tragically drowned on Loch Lubnaig on Sunday. Police, National Park, Forestry and Water Bailiffs regularly speak with young people who visit the area during the summer months and who are often not fully aware of the dangers of the water. If you are visiting the Lochs for fishing or swimming or just to sit on the banks then be aware of the dangers around you. If you are swimming do not drink alcohol and know your own ability. If you are on a boat then wear a life jacket. Cold water can be energy sapping and reeds and discarded rubbish and fishing line can also pose a real danger along with powerful and often unseen currents. It may look inviting but only the strongest swimmers should go out of their depth.

22.5 litres of drink seized

19th June 2010

22.5 litres of drink was seized from a group intending to camp at the head of Loch Achray on Friday night.

Operation Ironworks Officers carried out checks on the Loch Sides with very little to report in the way of trouble or disorder. This particular group decided to up and leave after the Police visit.

Threatening towards staff

19th June 2010

A man from outwith the area is sought by Police after he is alleged to have been abusive and threatening towards staff at a local holiday park. Police will not tolerate abuse of any sort towards staff who provide a service for the benefit of others. Police will be calling on the man very shortly.

Drink and drive - 3 arrested

19th June 2010

3 drivers were arrested on Saturday 19th June 2010 in the Gartmore area. Operation Ironworks Officers patrolled the A81 and villages and dealt with rowdy campers who couldn't hold their drink and acted in a disorderly manner.

3 drivers were subject to road side breath tests after drawing attention to themselves and provided positive samples.

All 3 were arrested but later released. Reports will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Stirling.

Rob Roy challenge

17th June 2010

This Saturday 19th June sees the Rob Roy Challenge set off from Drymen bound for the finish point in Kenmore, making a total of 55 miles travelled on foot and bicycle. The route takes in Drymen, Aberfoyle, Callander, Lochearnhead, Balquhider, Killin and onto Kenmore. The event is undertaken by only the hardiest of souls and is in aid of Sight Savers, Princes Trust and NSPCC charities. It starts at 7am on the Old Drymen Road up by Muir Park reservoir and the first runners will be entering Aberfoyle around 07:30am. Your support will be appreciated and details of the event and how to donate can be found online if you search on Rob Roy Challenge.

Traffic diversion and weight limits

16th June 2010

With the A81 being shut for re-surfacing it has caused vehicles to use alternative routes such as the B8034 lake of Menteith road. On this road there is a 10 ton weight restriction due to an old bridge that has to be crossed.

There is concern about some bus and haulage companies ignoring this limit. Please be warned that warnings and advice is not an option in this matter but strict enforcement will be carried out. This bridge has already suffered a partial collapse due to part of the structure coming under excess weight and so the weight limit cannot be ignored by larger vehicles.

Please contact Aberfoyle Police Office on tel:01877 382519 if you need advice regarding alternative routes for heavy or large vehicles.

Bench vandalised

15th June 2010

The community bench outside the public toilets has been damaged and Police are following up a positive line of enquiry as to who was responsible.

If you have any information relating to this you can contact PC O'May on tel:382519. This can be given in confidence.

Thieves caught

11th June 2010

A white van seen acting suspiciously on the A81 was stopped by patrolling Officers late at night and found to contain stolen property. Two men were arrested and a third is sought in connection with the incident.

Our intelligence led pro-active Police patrols proved invaluable with this good capture of who are likely to be prolific thieves who are indiscriminate when it comes to targeting property whether commercial or dwelling.

Information passed on by members of the public plays a major part in our success in jobs like this and those who contacted Police are thanked for their diligence. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Stirling.

Please be aware of who is moving around the area and if you think its suspicious then report it.

What should I do if I witness a crime?

If you see a crime or offence being committed report it - or ask someone else to report it while you continue to watch what happens. **Dial 999 if -**

- there is a danger to life
 - there is a risk of serious injury
 - a crime is in progress or about to happen
 - an offender is still at the scene or has just left
- In other circumstances and the call is not urgent, call your local police office.

If the incident involves violence, you should not intervene, instead, call the police immediately by dialling 999.

If you are a witness to an incident you may need to describe those involved or explain in detail what actually happened. Pay attention to people's height, build, hair colour and length and, in particular, their clothes. Write down what you saw or describe the people involved.

What will the police want to know?

The police will normally want to know the following information;

- Your name and address
 - The telephone number you are calling from
 - A main contact number (mobile or home number)
 - The exact location of the incident you are reporting
 - The nature of the incident
 - Descriptions of the people involved
 - Whether you are a witness to the incident or reporting it on behalf of someone else
- If you are still watching the incident, you may be asked to stay on the line. If you are reporting a road accident you may also be asked:
- The number and type of any vehicles involved
 - The number and extent of injuries
 - Whether the road is blocked
 - Whether there is debris in the road

What number should I ring if it is not an emergency?

For incidents of a non-urgent nature you can contact your local police. Staff are on duty 24 hours a day at all of these stations and most are open to the public round the clock. However, restricted opening times apply at the other outlying stations and during these times, telephone calls are automatically transferred to the nearest Police Station.

Should you wish to contact any of the departments operating out of Police Headquarters such as Community Safety, Complaints, Professional Standards, Crime Management, Data Protection, Drug Squad, Firearms Licensing, Asset Management, Media Relations, Road Policing, Scenes of Crime Officers or any other police department not mentioned, you may do so by contacting us at: Central Scotland Police,

Police Headquarters

Randolphfield

Stirling FK8 2HD

Telephone number 01786 456000

Alternatively you may use the Internet to report non-urgent, less serious crimes. This system links into a national web site and can be used to report details of the following offences:

- Theft
 - Vandalism
 - Making off without payment
 - Theft from or damage to motor vehicles
- It will take approximately 30 minutes to complete the on-line notification process.

Gartmore's Black Bull Hotel is open again

After several months of repairs and decoration we were delighted to open the doors of the Black Bull Hotel again at the end of May.

With a few weeks under our belt the initial reaction has been very good. It's been great to see the bar busy again and the new look restaurant seems to have gone down very well too.

We know that many in Gartmore and beyond missed the Black Bull while it was closed, but the fact that it was closed for a while allowed us time to make some changes which we hope will add something to the Hotel. We would like to think the Black Bull will always be seen as the village pub but we also think it is a venue which is ideal for all occasions. The hotel is open every day for lunches, bar meals and evening meals. It's also the ideal place for parties, meetings and functions of all sizes.

If you haven't been to the Black Bull for a while, please come in and see what we have been working on for the last few months. The pool room has moved, so has the main dining room which is now open and spacious, and includes a lounge area where we also serve morning coffee and afternoon tea. As well as the main dining room we have a private room where we can cater for small groups of up to 16. We also have a function facility where we can comfortably accommodate up to 100. If you are planning a birthday party, a wedding or any celebration or gathering come and check out the function room – it might be just what you're looking for.

Black Bull Hotel Gartmore



Now open, under new management

Open Daily

Lunches • Bar Meals • Evening Meals
Morning Coffee • Afternoon Tea

For Hire:

Large Function Room for up to 100 people
Small group (up to 16 people) private room

Tel 01877 382 225



Aberfoyle Guide pipes for Princess



As you may know from the last edition of the Strathard News, on the 14th of May I flew down to Bath to play my bagpipes at the annual meeting of the Olave Baden-Powell Society. The Olave Baden-Powell Society funds activities for girls and Guides all around the world so it was a great honour, as a long-standing Girl Guide, to have this opportunity. I first played at the Friday evening reception, which was a formal awards ceremony held in Bath Guild Hall - which is a beautiful building with crystal chandeliers. I piped in and lead the official party; I also played at the meeting on the Saturday to welcome members to the meeting. I met many interesting people from all over the world during the two days, including members of two different royal families and Mrs. Cadbury of Cadbury's chocolate but my favourite person was the patron of O.B.P.S, Princess Benedikte of Denmark (I got my picture taken with her and the Chief Guide). It was an all round privilege throughout the weekend and I was offered another gig at next year's Guide World Conference in Edinburgh. I would really like to thank Morna Ferguson for giving me this opportunity and my piping tutor, Tom Dingwall, for his patience and support.

Mystery find in Aberfoyle

On a sunny afternoon on May Bank holiday my Uncle Matty & I decided to go metal detecting. We were at a stony area next to the River Forth in Aberfoyle, when the detector started beeping. Brushing away the top stones we were intrigued to find a device which we thought was some piece of metal until we picked it up and noticed it had a pin in the end. We took some pictures and decided to walk away and go to the police as we weren't sure exactly what it was. The police came and asked Uncle Matty to show them what and where our find was. They took pictures and sent them to their office in Edinburgh who told them to cordon off the area and that the Bomb Disposal Unit was on its way. They came out and we watched from Uncle Matty's living room window (at a distance) as they set up their lights. We don't know if it was detonated there and then or if they took it away. We believe it was some type of anti-aircraft shell or bomb from World War II. We don't know exactly if there was only one or if it is part of a cache. It would be interesting to know exactly what type of explosive it was and if there are any more kicking about.

Megan Gardner & Matt Madden



Community Council Report

Here are some of our current activities:



Planters, benches and noticeboards

Owen McKee, the area's National Park elected board member, toured around Strathard villages to meet the folk who had worked hard to make this scheme a success by designing, wood-working, installing and planting. Helpers included 5 community councillors, Kirkton Studios of Aberfoyle, trainees and instructors from Green Routes in Gartmore and the children and staff from Inversnaid Primary School. During his trip he also met many others who had contributed to making the initiative possible or provided sponsorship, including Guyana, The Wee Blether, The Pier Tearoom, Stirling Council Streetscape, Kinlochard Village Hall, the Sir Walter Scott Trust and Inversnaid Hotel. Owen congratulated everybody on their efforts, commenting that 'this is exactly the kind of community initiative that the National Park is delighted to support'. Strathard Community Council would like to thank the National Park for funding the project and also everybody who has volunteered or helped to make it such a great success. We are fundraising to ensure that we can keep the displays fresh – do support us, join as a volunteer or feel free to water and tidy the planters if they look as if they need this. The final item for this project – an improved Aberfoyle noticeboard - was installed at the end of June.



Andre, John & Geraint hard at work!



The finished planter

Vandalism returns!



Here's the first casualty of the year after our Stirling Council benches were refurbished, so now the additional bench at the bus stop has gone, with little chance of replacement. This is a repeat of the broken benches last year in Main Street, which we worked hard to get replaced or repaired by the Council. Please report any vandalism incidents you see to the Police.

Living & Working at Loch Katrine

See the historical Loch Katrine Water exhibition in VisitScotland, Main Street, Aberfoyle from 10th July to 29th August.

Weekly Talks

Come along to any of our interesting talks on the theme of Loch Katrine - past and present. The exhibition in VisitScotland will be open late on those evenings prior to the talks. Tea, coffee etc. provided afterwards.

Woodland History around Loch Katrine

Frid 16 July 7.30pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Peter Quelch explains how present day research into evidence of the historic woodlands, wood pastures and settlements at Loch Katrine can give a fascinating insight into past ways of life.

'A Cronie frae Stronie'

Frid 23 July 7.30pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Dr Duncan Ferguson shares his personal memories of living in, and returning to, his home village of Stronachlachar at Loch Katrine.

'Nae smell, nae taste' - 150 Years of Water from Strathard to Glasgow

Frid 30 July 7.30pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Bill Black tells the fascinating story of the search for a hygienic water supply for Glasgow and the construction of the Loch Katrine scheme.

Memories of a Shepherd

Frid 6 Aug 7.30pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Local historian, storyteller and award-winning author Sion Barrington talks about his many years working as a shepherd with the largest sheep flock in Britain and living in Rob Roy's house on the banks of Loch Katrine.

Working in the Great Trossachs Forest

Thurs 12 Aug 7.30pm - David Marshall Lodge

Liz Shortall and Donald Hendry of Forestry Commission Scotland, which now manages the land around Loch Katrine, will talk about how the Great Trossachs Forest project is creating new native woodlands and also re-introducing Highland cattle into the Loch Katrine area.

Loch Katrine Water Supply Scheme - Victorian legacy enhanced by 21st century engineering

Frid 20 Aug 7.30pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Gus Conejo-Watt of Scottish Water explains how the Victorian water supply system running from Loch Katrine to Glasgow was improved to allow it to meet the standards needed for the future.

The Work of The Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust

Frid 27 Aug 7.30pm - SS Sir Walter Scott, Trossachs Pier

A special venue for the last talk of this series. Operations director Gordon Allan will tell us about the present day - living, working and sailing on Loch Katrine. Places are limited - please book early either during previous talks in the series, or phone 387200. Adults £3, children & concessions £2.

Exhibition and talks organised by Strathard Community Council. The Scotland Grants Programme is part-financed by the Scottish Government, European Community Forth Valley & Lomond Leader 2007-2013 programme and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority.

Strathard eco-week has just finished and we have gained a huge amount of knowledge and ideas for the future on all the topics listed. Our thanks to all who participated and supported the events – full details will go onto our website and various ideas will be progressed over the coming year.



energy saving • renewable power
composting • buying locally
recycling • growing food
real nappies • biodiversity
allotments • efficient driving
going carbon neutral • transport...



Finally, the names of your Community Councillors are shown – please do get in touch with them on any relevant matter if you would like our help.

Fiona

Strathard Community Council meets on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard and Inversnaid Primary School. The next meetings will be held in Kinlochard (Forest Hills) on 5th August and then in Inversnaid on 2nd September. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councillor (Tony Finch, Paul Owens or Fergus Wood) will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns.

Community Councillors by Ward

Aberfoyle

John Clow
Ros Dingwall
Jimmy Quinn
Geraint Short

Inversnaid

Andre Goulancourt
David Horne
Ralph Wolfe

Kinlochard

Maureen Campbell
Mike Campbell
Fiona McEwan
1 vacancy

Contact details: Tel 01877 387200

Email: cc@strathard.org.uk

www.strathard.org.uk

Scottsland Events in and around the Area

Further information can be found at www.scottsland.co.uk



Dates in 2010	Location	Event Information
Every Saturday June to September 2.30pm	Departs Trossachs Pier, Stronachlachar, Loch Katrine	The Scott Homeland Cruise Travel on this special two-hour cruise on the Lady of the Lake. Discover how the landscapes of Loch Katrine so impressed Sir Walter Scott during a family holiday in The Trossachs that he was inspired to make it the setting of his famous poem Lady of the Lake, published 200 years ago. Times may change due to weather or for operational reasons. Please call for information and reservations: 01877 332000 or book online at www.lochkatrine.com Advance booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment. Adult £10, concessions £9, children £7.50 and under 5's £0.50.
Every Saturday June to October	Village Hall Car Park, Balquhiddier, FK19 8NY	Balquhiddier - The Thin Place: Magical & Spiritual Trail Enjoy the magical and spiritual highlights of this beautiful and tranquil highland glen by following this special trail, featuring drawings and verse from Lady of the Lake. Free
Every Sunday from 7th June – 15th Aug 2pm	Ancaster Square, Callander	Storyteller in the Square Rob Roy, alias actor Paul Murray, will bring the literary legacy of Sir Walter Scott to life in an informative, entertaining way through readings of his works. He will also reminisce on his life in the Trossachs. Times may vary. Free
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 29th June – 4th August 10.30am	Callander Youth Project, McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander FK17 8JP	Creative Youth Workshop Do you like being creative and aged 11-25? If so, this project is for you! Callander Youth Project is running a series of banner-making workshops to celebrate Sir Walter Scott. Booking essential as places are limited call Jennifer on 01877 330141 or email jennifer@cyp.org.uk This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. Free
3rd July 2pm	Village Hall, Brig O'Turk FK17	Talk & Walk. Looking in to the landscape with Ruskin Join Alexander Hamilton, artist, to see why Finglas Water in Brig o'Turk is the most important site in British landscape painting. Refreshments provided. Booking advisable. Tel 01738 635829 Email Scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk Free
July to September Daily	Callander Town Centre	Words in Windows Lines and verses from Sir Walter Scott's epic verse The Lady of the Lake will be artfully displayed in shop windows throughout the town centre. An interactive competition to match the verse to the premises – pick up an entry form from participating premises or the VisitScotland Information Centre in Ancaster Square. Exciting prizes donated by Callander Enterprise and other local businesses. Winners to be announced at the Callander Jazz & Blues Festival in October. Free
July to September Daily 2 – 4pm	Church of Scotland, Port of Menteith FK8 3RA	PORT OF MENTEITH - A view apart An exhibition of the lives and literature heritage of the village of port of Mentieth. Set in one of the oldest earldoms of Scotland, the enigmatic Church also has one of the most atmospheric views of the area. Donation to Kirk Fund
July to September Daily	The Byre Inn, Brig O'Turk, FK17 8HT	The Great Trossachs Forest Exhibition - Cyanotypes by Alexander Hamilton Exhibition of cyanotypes by Alexander Hamilton. The work celebrates John Ruskin's visit to the Trossachs in 1853 with pre-Raphaelite artist Millais. The cyanotype images are made from plants from the site that Ruskin chose for his portrait. More information about Hamilton's work at www.alexanderhamilton.co.uk . Contact 01877 376292 or email enquiries@byreinn.co.uk Free
Wednesday 25th August 7 – 9pm	Balloch Pier Sweeney Cruises, Balloch G83 8SS	Literature on the Loch Join the Lennox Literary Society for an entertaining literary cruise to hear Inversnaid overlooking the place itself, with Glasgow poet and story teller John Rice and well known Scottish folk singer Moira Kerr. Booking essential: 01389 604190 £10
4th – 26th September 2 – 3pm	Trossachs Pier Loch Katrine, By Callander FK17 8HZ	ScottsLand Cruise Join the ScottsLand Cruise on our boat The Lady of The Lake and listen to Sir Walter Scott telling the story of his poem The Lady of the Lake. Booking recommended on 01877 332000 email cruises@lochkatrine.com visit www.lochkatrine.com £9.00 - £14.00
14th & 21st September 7:30pm	The Roman Camp Country House Hotel, Callander, FK17 8BG	Spreading the Word - A Candlelit Evening with Scott and Friends A period candlelit evening of entertainment brought to you by the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs and the celebrated Callander Amateur Operatic Society, both established 30 years ago. The society will perform recitals, poetry and songs of Sir Walter Scott and his times and include forgotten treasures and previously unpublished Scott's writings from the Trossachs. A gem of an evening. Limited to 30 tickets per evening. Advance booking essential - 01436 677733 or email info@lochlomondtrossachs.org Cost: By donation

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HETAS APPROVED

National Park News

By Owen McKee



You can't please all of the people all of the time and indeed there are those of you whom we will never be able to please. I am frequently challenged to explain why we are still having problems in the National Park. After all the Park Authority has been in existence for eight years and has the power to introduce bye-laws and the like. So let us just take stock there. Our current efforts to introduce a camping ban for East Loch Lomond stems from the difficulties being experienced not only by the Park Authority but also the inhabitants of the area. Naturally support came from the vast majority of the locals whose lives have been blighted by that mindless minority who care little for their neighbours or the environment. And there was support too from the groups whose visits to Loch Lomond were marred by the morons. Conservation groups came aboard. But everything was going too smoothly and there had to be some opposition. After all wasn't the introduction of the Access Legislation the green light for everyone to enjoy our countryside without hindrance? And why should the responsible majority

suffer for the bad behaviour of the small minority? There is not a perfect answer but, to ensure that the good guys do have the chance to enjoy The Park, the proposals include the setting up of designated informal camping sites which will be managed and controlled.

Another area where views can vary is in the provision of housing and in particular housing affordable and accessible to the young members of our communities. When doing the consultation for the Local Plan we toured the Park and only one community did not highlight as a priority the provision of affordable housing. But come the detailing of that priority in the Draft Local Plan the little niggles began to appear. Yes we need housing but not in my back yard. And so it goes on.

Time and time again there will be agreement that this or that needs to be done but when steps are taken to give effect there will always be someone who sees a disadvantage to his or her way of life.

The Park Authority does not own the Park. Its main assets are its staff and its ability to work with others for the benefit of the Park.

Its first major task was to prepare a Park Plan which all the government agencies which operate in the Park endorsed. Indeed the National Park Act states that those agencies must take heed of the Park Plan whenever they do anything within the Park. That partnership working theme is best highlighted by the very successful Operation Ironworks which sees The Park Authority, The Police and The Forestry Commission working together. Although the Park is a relatively crime free area Chief Inspector Findlater has campaigned successfully to direct considerable resources to support policing in the Park.

At the close of nominations for the National Park elections I was the only nominee for this area and consequently was re-elected for another four years from 1st July.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead.

Phone: 01567 830214

owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

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Inversnaid Reserve

Breeding season is well over and done with now and we are taking stock of what we found on the reserve. Most disappointing news is that pied flycatcher numbers are down

again with only 6 nests found in the nestboxes this year. Productivity appears to have been better this year though with the chicks in better condition. All of the broods have now been ringed and should hopefully all be making their way back to Africa for the winter in the not too distant future.

Grouse numbers on the reserve are up again this year with 7 birds recorded on our very early morning survey (it was so early in fact I think it is actually classed as the middle of the night!). Our population is a small part of a greater metapopulation around Loch Arklet and that population has also shown an increase this year, which we are really pleased about but can't become too complacent about. There is still a lot of work to do to ensure the population is stable and viable.



If any of you have made it to the top of our nature trail lately then you will hopefully have noticed the lovely new bench which has been installed there. It took myself and Fraser five trips from the boat house to the top of the nature trail each to get all the pieces of the bench as well as all the tools we needed to install it up there but we think it was worth it to be able to sit and look at the view without worrying that the bench is going to give way any minute.

We also kicked off our people engagement programme with our first evening at the Inversnaid Hotel and we had a great time! 30 people came to listen to the talk about the reserve and Nick and Fraser even managed to make a member! One down, nineteen to go. We will be in the hotel about once a month over the summer so if any of you fancy popping in to see us and listen to us talk then we will be there on the evening of the 4th July and the 30th August. Hope to see you there!

Allison Leonard
Central Scotland Reserves, Assistant Warden.

Lady of the Lake Concert

The Lady of the Lake Concert, part of the Scottish Land Celebrations, will no longer take place on 28 September 2010 due to infrastructure restrictions.

Phil Cunningham is composing a new piece of music inspired by the Lady of the Lake and his own travels in the Trossachs, this composition, the Trossachs Suite, will be premiered at a later date.

Ally Bain and Phil Cunningham will be playing at Gartmore Hall on 30 August 2010, details at www.philcunningham.com

High Drama on the Nest....

The David Marshall Lodge in Aberfoyle is home to the Aberfoyle Ospreys Project. An osprey's summer season is all about raising chicks but every year is different and this year has been no exception. The season kicked off on the 12th April when the cameras that monitor the nest were turned on after the winter and within hours both a male and female were spotted on the nest. This was celebrated with the "Osprey Return" event on the 17th April. The female was identified as the resident female to this nest and is ringed Red 6A; this will be her 6th breeding year at Aberfoyle. The male who is new to the nest this year is ringed Green DX. From this we know that he is 5 years old and is from this area. Towards the end of April ospreys were seen nest building and mating. The wait was over when the first egg appeared on the 20th April. In the following days two more eggs appeared and it looked like a bumper brood!

Everything changed though on the 1st May in the form of an "intruder". Another male osprey landed on the nest and we soon realised that he hadn't popped in for a catch up! This intruder male was planning on taking over the nest and the female by destroying the existing eggs. Over the course of the next few hours the intruder managed to kick out one of the eggs and to smash another.

At this point everyone thought it was over but within a few hours of the intruder male being on the nest the original male returned to safeguard the final egg.

Not long after the first and second egg had been kicked out, the "intruder" male returned to destroy the third and final one. This was a big disappointment as we were hoping that the female would be able to hold onto her last remaining egg.

Within hours of the last egg being destroyed the female abandoned the nest, along with any chance of osprey chicks fledging from our main nest this season. But, all is not lost!

We have now managed to rig up a back-up nest from the local area. Currently on this nest we have three chicks that we believed hatched on May 25, 26 and 28. They all seem to be doing well and are growing very quickly. In the next few weeks we will be heading out to ring all the young osprey chicks in the area as part of the BTO ringing scheme. This allows us to keep track of the ospreys that were born in the Aberfoyle area. To make this even more fun we are going to be holding a competition to name our three young uns! Pop into the David Marshall Lodge in the next few weeks to find out more.

We are also looking for new volunteers for the project to talk to people visiting the David Marshall Lodge; no experience needed as full training is given. If you are interested, drop Robert an email at robert.fraser-binns@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The Aberfoyle osprey project is a partnership project between RSPB Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland.

By Robert Fraser-Binns

National Park Board Elections

Nominations for election to Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Board closed on 26 June. Existing members Owen McKee from the Breadalbane and Trossachs and Willie Nisbet from East Loch Lomond and Port of Menteith were unopposed. New member David McKenzie from Blairmore will represent Cowal and Loch Lomond.

Stirling Council will hold a postal vote to determine the members for the remaining wards, Callander and West Loch Lomond and Balloch. Ballot papers will be posted on June 10. The deadline for returning papers is 4pm, July 1. Votes will be counted at National Park headquarters on the evening of 1 July with Stirling Council Chief Executive Bob Jack as Returning Officer. The new board members will take up their posts immediately following the count.

Candidates standing for Callander

- Jack Black
- Dan McKirgan
- David Warnock

Candidates for West Loch Lomond and Balloch

- Iain Wragg
- David McCowan

Full details of the election, including a map of the wards can be found on Stirling Council's website www.stirling.gov.uk/nationalparkelections

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Dougie MacPherson - A Tribute

Dougie was an accomplished landscape artist and will be sorely missed by his friends at the Byre Art Group.

His favourite painting subject was "Atmospheric Trees". He exhibited and sold his work in Killearn, Dunkeld, Callander, Stirling and in several charity Art Exhibitions. He was also the organiser of the Byre Group's first Art Exhibition at the David Marshall Lodge.

Sometimes Dougie was the only "gentleman" present at the painting but, nothing daunted, he could easily hold his own with the "ladies", always ready with a good "Glasgow" joke!

He loved a "cuppa" and his lunchtime call of, "Kettle's boiled, girls!"....(we loved the "girls" bit!).....meant that paintbrushes were downed, chairs shuffled around and Dougie's well informed mind, and dry sense of humour always stimulated our discussions as we sorted out the world!

We think you could safely refer to Dougie as a big-hearted, gentle, caring, giant of a man, always willing to help others. Indeed we artists regularly benefited from his kindness as we struggled with our painting gear, or even getting the tops off tubes of paint! With a pretend grumble of, "Och, give it here", the problem would be solved and the offending article returned with a cheery, "Don't know what you girls would do without me!"



One of Dougies paintings of 'Atmospheric Trees'

Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme - Final Call

A final call has gone out to small-medium sized businesses across Scotland encouraging them to take advantage of Scottish Government funding that will help them make the switch to biomass heating. But anyone interested had better apply soon because the popularity of the scheme means that there only limited funds remain!

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment & Rural Affairs announced the final call at a Low Carbon Economy Conference held in Dunblane on Wednesday 2 June.

The financial support - which is also available to develop district heating scheme - can be obtained from the Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme, administered by Forestry Commission Scotland, and must be for projects that can be completed by March 2011.

Rebecca Carr, for Forestry Commission Scotland, said:

"This is an ideal opportunity for organisations that would like to make the change to biomass but that have been put off because they've not been eligible for SRDP or CARES funding.

"It's open to anyone in Scotland but we're particularly keen to see more applications from the Highlands & Islands and from private developers for district heating schemes. They'll be given priority.

"Anyone interested has until 30 September to apply - but judging from how well this has gone so far the funds may not last that long so you'd best get your applications in soon!"

Applicants should submit an initial enquiry form that outlines their project details, however if a project is to be considered for fast-tracking to the full assessment stage, a full application must be submitted. Forms can be found at www.usewoodfuel.co.uk Projects must clearly demonstrate that they can be complete by March 2011. Therefore projects which have a completed specification, planning permission, match finance in place and can demonstrate a secure fuel supply will be a priority for fast-tracking.

For more information contact the Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme team through www.usewoodfuel.co.uk or at 01349 860 919.

The SBHS is funded by the Scottish Government, Forestry Commission Scotland and the European Regional Development Fund.

Paul Munro, Forestry Commission Scotland press office 0131 314 6507. e-mail: paul.munro@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



PATRON: DAME DIANA RIGG

Stirling & District Association for Mental Health – Rural Access Service

The Rural Access Service supports people experiencing mental ill health to live a fulfilling life in their own local community. To access this Service, you must be aged between 18 and 65 years and live within the rural areas of Stirling. If you, or anyone you know, could benefit from this Service, please contact SDAMH on 01786 451203 or email info@stirlingmentalhealth.org.uk

Thistle Threads

Charity Quilt Show
in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
Saturday 17th July 2010
Callander Kirk Hall
11am-4pm



- ❖ Exhibition of quilts and patchwork and quilted items by members of Thistle Threads.
 - ❖ Sales table with lovely patchwork and quilted items and fabrics and notions, also home baking.
 - ❖ Raffle of beautiful Celtic appliqué quilt.
 - ❖ Demonstrations of patchwork and quilting throughout the day.
- Refreshments, teas/coffees and home baking.
Admission £2 (includes refreshments)
All proceeds for Macmillan Cancer Support.
We look forward to welcoming you.

All enquiries please contact Clare on 01877 382924 or email clare@thistle-threads.co.uk

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Welcome to the news from *Glendrick Roost*



The family of gerbils mentioned in the last article have now got a new baby as the mum was pregnant again but, fortunately, only one more baby was born. The boys are now in one cage and the girls are in another. They are very friendly all regularly being handled. We have had a spate of animals handed in recently, one in a most peculiar way. It came through the post!! While working with some of the animals at my home a TNT van came to the bottom of my ramp and said, "I have a tortoise for you!" Sure enough, in a shoebox sized cardboard box, was another box packed with tissue paper and peeking out was a tiny nose. On digging within the tissue paper a beautiful tortoise was revealed. We have called it Troy. As it is so small, probably only 2 or 3 years old, they are not easily sexed but I think she is a girl!!! She is sort of cute in a prehistoric way! We don't know anything about her but hope she has fallen on her feet as tortoises are one of my loves and I am actually in the middle of a Chelonian Husbandry course with the Tortoise Trust to learn more about these wonderful creatures. I also hope within the next couple of years to realise my dream of spending some time on the Galapagos Islands helping with the conservation of the Giant Galapagos Tortoise.

For some reason tortoises are often wanting rehomed and our name was on several rehoming lists already but I was not expecting to be inundated with MORE tortoises in so short a period. We have now taken on a further 3! An S O S was received when 8 pet rats were looking for help. Not having had much to do with rats I was a little reluctant to take them on but we are here to help when we can; so they came to stay. I must admit they are very friendly but it was a little disconcerting when they first came as they grab your hand, finger or arm with their front feet and hang on. Visions from the pied piper story ran through my head. Another bun arrived having been almost scalped by a dog. She is healing well but is very traumatised and frightened resulting in aggressive behaviour. Visits to Hessilhead are now more frequent as the summer wears on. Baby birds are found and handed in and one such visit involved taking a beautiful baby tawny owl that was out of the nest too soon. He will be reared amongst the many already handed in and the rest that come after. At the end of the summer we will hopefully be in a position to again rehabilitate some of these youngsters and release them back into the wild, something we have done in the past; a truly amazing task!

I was called to go and pick up a baby woodpecker found in Dunblane which I then transported to Hessilhead whereupon they presented me with the biggest guinea pig I have ever seen. He had been handed in to them and they passed him on to us. He is the double of a female we already have only twice the size. She is called Poppy due to her black face so he became known as Opium for the same reason. He is very friendly and has already been on one of our fundraising events at Dobbies causing a lot of comments about the 'giant guinea pig'. Several of our volunteers are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and are able to do their community service with us and places are also being taken for work experience. We are truly a community resource and hope to continue to offer assistance in many different ways. Please contact me, Mione, on 07748 351287 if you would like a community talk on our organisation or help with any domestic or wild animal.

The Trossachs Water Vole Re-introduction Trial

The water vole - immortalised as 'Ratty' in 'The Wind in the Willows' - was once a common sight throughout Britain, including here in the Trossachs. However, loss of their habitat and predation by the introduced American Mink have had a devastating effect, with over 95% of the British population being lost since the 1950s. The last known population in the Trossachs area had died out by the end of the 1990s.

The Trossachs Water Vole Re-introduction Trial aims to rebuild a healthy population of water voles that can breed, grow, and recolonise suitable habitat. A partnership was formed in 2008 to achieve this aim in the following ways:

- Creation and restoration of wetland habitat suitable for water voles
- Removal of American mink from the project area and ongoing monitoring of mink movements
- Scottish Water voles bred in captivity by water vole experts, to provide a large population for release
- Release into suitable habitat using well-researched methods, over three years
- Surveying and monitoring the released water voles, with the help of trained volunteers
- Raising the profile of water voles in the local community

The partnership has brought together Forestry Commission Scotland, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, Scottish Natural Heritage, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Derek Gow Associates and the Kilgarth Development Company. This is the first re-introduction of water voles in Scotland.

We are now in the third year of the trial, and indications are very good for the success of the project. Surveys, carried out with the help of National Park and Forestry Commission volunteers, indicate that animals have bred and survived in all the areas where they were released in 2008 and 2009. They are also colonising new areas of suitable habitat, up to 2km away from release sites!

This summer, we will be releasing a final group of water voles into Loch Ard Forest. If you would like more information about the water vole project, or if your school, group, or club would like an illustrated talk on the subject, please contact Anna-Marie Ford, Water Vole Project Officer on 01877 382 383 or anna-marie.ford@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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Any old...Buttons!?

My name is Jennifer Carranza and I live and work in Aberfoyle.

Since graduating in Textile Design from Robert Gordon University in 2007 I have been designing and making unique, one off pieces of jewellery and accessories; using diverse materials such as recycled vintage jewellery, fabrics and any interesting bits and pieces I can find – resulting in truly original one-off hand-made pieces. I make necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, brooches and hair pieces selling in the price range of £5 to £40

My working methods allow me to interact with people, allowing them to design their own jewellery (something I really enjoy). Uniquely, this gives people a direct input into creating their own piece of bespoke design. If this bid is successful I would hope to incorporate this at my Fringe Stall.

As well as designing and making individual pieces and sets, my designs allow the wearer to mix and match and personalise the pieces to their own tastes and needs.

My button necklaces and bracelets are very popular. These are made individually from reclaimed buttons (charity shops are a particular good source for finding these); a typical button necklace will use up to 30 different buttons, flexible tiger tail wiring and small button separators. Like all my pieces, each one is a unique one-off design.

From Trinkets to Treasures: I find travelling very inspiring both within Scotland and further afield (I have recently returned from Japan) and like a magpie I am both attracted by and collect shiny, pretty and unusual trinkets. I then recycle these (at times unloved cast offs) giving them a new lease of life creating a once more loved treasure.

All of my pieces are complete one-offs and are made using recycled (and where

possible) vintage materials (with the exception of findings and chain).

A big issue is sourcing old buttons. Could you help by putting out an appeal for people's old buttons?

Many people have jars of buttons in the house (perhaps their own or elderly relatives).

People may have come across them when clearing out houses and would normally pass them onto charity shops; charity shops are a good source of old buttons for me.

If you do have any and are willing to donate them (or sell them at a reasonable price) could you call me on 07845 271164 or email me at jen@jennifercarranza.com. If you do not want payment I am happy to make a donation to the Charity of your choice.

Any type of button will do, I am especially looking for unusual buttons such as military buttons, or unusual shapes/colours.



Memories of Old Aberfoyle

Helen Quinn

Helen was born in Manse Road 72 years ago. Her uncle, Andy Sharp was a train driver who lived in the house where Helen and Jimmy now live. One of her earliest memories is of collecting the papers from the train every evening. She would listen for the hooter then go like the hammers to collect them from the train, take them to the paper shop and deliver them to the houses.

Another early memory is of the riding school at the Baillie, run by Mr Tedcastle. She loved the work so much that she had to be dragged home at 10 or 11 o'clock. As well as the usual chores such as mucking out, she taught adults to ride while she was still of primary school age. Riding, however, was awkward for Helen since her legs were too short to go in the stirrups and she had to put her feet in the leathers. This really nipped her legs till somebody kindly gave her a pair of jodhpurs.

She particularly remembers Mrs Joynson who rode side-saddle and wore the full riding outfit. She had to use a mounting block to mount her horse, Silver. Only Silver could take the weight of the side-saddle. Helen had to arrange the skirt of the outfit once Mrs Joynson was mounted.

An amusing recollection of her days at the stables was when she rode up Manse Road, turned the horse up the steps and into the house – much to the dismay of her mother!

Ah, happy days.



Helen on Silver

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Where's The Cheepers?

How often do we go searching for something and find not what we were looking for, but something we never knew we had or had forgotten we possessed?

As a child growing up in the 1960s we often went walking through the woods, entering them at "The Cheepers". At that time I thought its name derived from the continuous birdsong which accompanied us all the way to Loch Vennacher. Since then I've given it very little thought, especially as its name changed during the 1980s to Braeval Car Park.

Enlightenment struck me only the other day while trawling my way through statistical and historical accounts of the area. "The Cheepers" of my childhood is not simply the gateway but the beginning of the pathway leading to the crest of the hill where the path splits in two directions - the west pathway leading to Loch Drunkie, and the east to Loch Vennacher. Here there is a spring called the Tyepers Well. The name "Cheepers" is said to be a bad translation of the Gaelic word "tiobar" meaning "well". This is also thought to be where William, the third Earl of Menteith was killed by Donald the Hammerer around 1544.

Having discussed this with several different people who have lived here for decades, it became apparent that only those who were part of the Forestry Commission community during my childhood days knew where I was talking about, but only a few knew why it was so called. As with all stories and accounts from hundreds of years ago, there can be vagueness or opening of interpretation to the accuracy of the facts. Excuses can be made as not everyone was literate at that time. What excuses do we have today for not retaining our local history? Do we all not have a duty of guardianship towards it? What other little lost gems of history are out there, that we didn't know we had, or had just forgotten about?

Janette Bond



This stunning cloud formation, captured over the Warden's House at the David Marshall Lodge in the early evening of Thursday June 25, is known as *Alto cumulus Lenticularis*.

They occur where a layer of stable air is forced upwards, usually by hills or mountains. Because the air is stable it descends on the other side and may sometimes set up a whole series of waves that stretch downward and usually decrease in size with distance. The clouds lie at the wave-crests, where the air is carried up above the condensation level. The first crest is usually quite close to the line of hills, but wave clouds may occur far from any high ground. The clouds may persist for hours if the wind conditions remain steady. David Wilkie.

Pictures courtesy of Charlie Stewart



The Salvation Army's new, furniture reuse/recycle project opened in IMEX Business Centre Craighleith Road Stirling FK7 7WU, on 2nd June 2010. The opening was attended by members of the Salvation Army and partners Stirling Council. Lieutenant Colonel Alan Burns cut the ribbon to officially open the project, and soon after a stream of customers were happily shopping.

Envoys Billy and Denise McMurray, who had the original vision for the project, were also on hand to see it finally opened.

The showroom is open Mon – Fri 9a.m – 3p.m, and sells suites, beds, dining furniture as well as smaller electrical items and white goods.

For donations and sales, or other general enquiries, call 01786 479262.

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- Old bagpipes, Dirks and skean dhus
- Old swords, knives, pistols and rifles
- Old musical boxes
- Old toys
- General antiques

Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!

Contributions welcome. Contact David Wilkie on 01877 382258 or email clubs@strathardnews.com



Rest Easy W.T.P.

Dougie MacPherson was the undoubted master of the pun. Each would be delivered with a slight swagger, a narrowing of the eyes and a cheesy grin topped off with a quiet, yet almost devilish, chortle.

In getting to know him over the last decade or so, as a friend, work colleague and fellow Strathard News committee member, I developed a 'sixth sense', which enabled me to anticipate when the next one was coming. This allowed me a brief second or two to retort with one of my own. More often than not, however, he would win the day with a killer line. This was Dougie to the hilt. If there were even the slightest opportunity of introducing a slice of humour into the conversation, he would latch onto it with vigour not unlike a baying hyena attacking a zebra carcass.

In a past life, it appears Dougie was a policeman. It is perhaps not too wild a notion that most individuals, upon meeting him, would 'hit the spot' when trying to guess his

occupation, given his physical appearance. This is not intended as a slight on the Police Force, nor on Dougie himself; more on people's perception of such (he did have big feet though... and they were flat!). In my mind's eye, I tend to suspect he was perhaps more a P.C. Murdoch figure (from 'Oor Wullie') rather than a Starsky or a Hutch. He was also a scholar. History, politics and art were among the particular subjects he excelled in and enjoyed in more private moments, whilst in his public persona, he was often referred to in the locality simply as 'The Husky Man' by those who did not quite know him.

It would be easy for most of us to think of Dougie purely for his many humorous asides. Personally, I prefer to remember his gentle side, no more apparent than through his obvious devotion to his wife and soul-mate, Bridget, and their beloved dogs. I continue to miss him on a daily basis.



What does W.T.P. stand for? Well...with all due respect to the Great Man, that shall remain unrecorded.

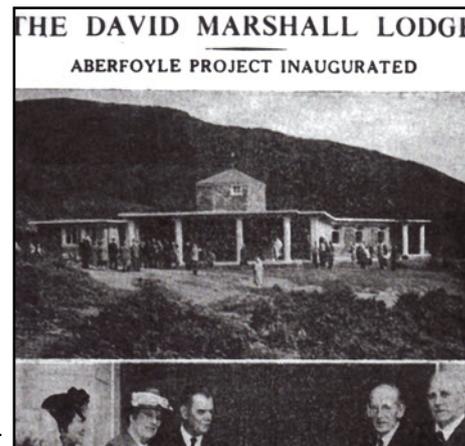
The Golden Day Beckons

On Monday, 16th of August, The David Marshall Lodge will celebrate its 50th anniversary. From humble beginnings, this iconic Trossachs institution has welcomed over seven million people through its doors during this period. When you consider the entire population of Scotland amounts to only five million in number, this is a remarkable finding. It is also often quoted that the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park as a whole receives over a million people each year.

In sharp contrast to these figures, the Lodge continues to offer the opportunity for peace and tranquillity on a timeless scale, even on the busiest of days. This, of course, could be put down in the main part to its exceptional location and the truly magnificent views, which would calm even the Devil, himself.

It should not go unrecorded, however, that the special atmosphere it exudes, which appears so natural, has been 'helped along the way' over the decades by a long line of like-minded souls within the Forest District staff who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the enjoyment and safety of every single visitor.

As an individual, I feel honoured indeed to have had the chance to play a minor role in its progress. If I had one regret to deliver on my life, it would be that I did not arrive here sooner. Here's to the next fifty!



The Spirit of John Muir

Forth Valley Street Sport visited the David Marshall Lodge on the 25th of May to take part in training the John Muir Trust's Award scheme.

Street Sport is a programme for young men who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It aims to provide activities which encourage participants to re-engage with their communities and put something back in.

Street Sport works in partnership with the Forestry Commission to enable participants to experience the countryside around them. Through the John Muir Leadership Training, volunteers and staff from Street Sport will be able to assist participants from the programme and other groups within their communities to achieve John Muir Awards. These are given by the Trust, which takes its name from John Muir,

the Scot who founded the modern conservation movement. Elaine Cochrane, Health Promotion Officer from NHS Forth Valley, who explained the nature of the scheme and organised the event, had some kind words to say about the Lodge, and offered this quote from Scott Gardner, one of the volunteers attending on the day.

"It was a great day. We learned about the history of the Trust and found out who John Muir was, and the things he did. It was really interesting and it was great to be able to get out into the forest around the David Marshall Lodge and explore it. It is a beautiful area and most of the guys we work with never get a chance to see it. I'm



looking forward to bringing them up here where they can learn about Nature and get involved in conserving it for future generations."

DML Photo Gallery



Before...
take a long look - soon the old bridge at the waterfall will be history



After....
this splendid sight has already been christened the ' Monet Bridge ' by staff



Rob Mulhollands celebrated 'mirror people' are back on the grounds. See if you can spot them!



The evergreen, and ever popular John McKinlay, is caught for once on the other side of the camera.

Rangers Corner

In all my life there is no more wondrous thing
Than the sound of a fledgling woodland bird sing
For theirs is truly a beauteous celebration of life
I like to think this is intent on their arrival
Based on their initial struggles for survival
A realisation, if you like, that they have passed the test.
'Look at me... I've escaped the nest '
This show of bravado by the new-born
Is never more encapsulated than in the break of the morn
When my senses, driven to an intoxicating height
By the feverish approach of a river of sunlight
Are coupled with their collective voices willowing on the breeze
As they gorge on their freedom with inexhaustible ease.
Whilst I marvel constantly at their conversation
There remains no doubt it is both a tonic, and an inspiration
To which each and every one of us should behold with grace and admiration.



DML Notice Board

- KIDS SUMMER NATURE CLUB
- Saturday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 July and 7 August
- 11.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Meeting at the Lodge.
- This is a must for all budding junior rangers (7-12 years).
- Why not get busy this holiday and join Susan, our Forest Ranger, for some fun activities at the Lodge and learn more about the natural world.
- Refreshments included and all weather clothing required.
- Cost £3.50 per individual session or £15.00 if you book all five.
- Booking essential.
- HEELSTER GOWDIE
- Sunday 18 July / Sunday 15 August
- 2.30 p.m.
- The band continues their summer season with the promise of some new material later in the year.
- Free. Donations Welcome.
- FIRST FLIGHT FIRST SPLASH!
- Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August
- 4.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. Meeting at the Lodge.
- Early booking is recommended for these mini bus tours to view ospreys in the wild. The event is designed to try and catch the osprey chicks honing their hunting techniques before setting off on their long migration to Africa. Light snacks will be available, on return to the Lodge.
- Cost £10.00 per adult, £5.00 per concession
- Limited to 16 spaces each day.
- Contact number for further details: 01877 382 258
- The David Marshall Lodge is open seven days, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. during July and August.

St Mary's Episcopal Church

Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's

It is better than watching the World Cup on the television. 'What is?' you might ask. The answer: the drive from here to Stirling via Thornhill on a summer's morning. Presently the fields are full of interesting sights. There are sheep and their lambs: the latter when born then little more than balls of fluff seeking shelter from the wind: as the weeks go by, they become sturdy and entities of their own. The same applies to cattle; most notably the magnificent Highland breeds. Perhaps you have noticed the unusual crops in the fields towards the Safari Park. Earlier in the year, symmetrical patterns of plastic sheeting appeared. Now, crops have sprouted through the sheeting: can anyone tell what is being grown?

All that I have described has not appeared by magic. Each field presently represents, I would imagine, the hopes and fears of many a local farmer. Will the price at market for the beast 'x' remain stable? Will the subsidy paid for crop 'y' continue to be paid for the foreseeable future? What will the weather be like during the summer? Will it be too dry for crops to grow, or turn too wet for harvest? Will there be a sufficient return at the end of the season to continue for another year? Many think the life of the Church drifts along oblivious of the concerns of those who strive to earn a daily living. This though is not so; on the contrary, the Church at this time of year devotes days of prayer for those so involved in a season known as Rogation. The word rogation originates from Latin. Rogation prayers ask God's blessing on human labour that it may be profitable.

The profit of labour is not only the creation of a fiscal return: it is also the derivation of a satisfaction from human toil. John Marston, a nineteenth century industrialist set up a factory at Wolverhampton called Sunbeamland. The name derived from the shiny black enamel that coated the metal goods manufactured. A devout man, he encouraged pride of craftsmanship amongst the workforce. In this Marston succeeded for almost a generation: his tinsmiths earned a worldwide reputation of being not only skilled but supremely proud in their toil. Sad was the day therefore when ICI took over the company and was forced to introduce the conveyor belt. Pride of labour thereafter rapidly evaporated and was replaced with resentment of endless drudgery. Technology has made such change all the more common. Some now confess the most satisfying part of a working day is a furtive calculation of the number of days remaining until retirement. Surely human toil should be worth more than this? On the other hand, many will yearn for any sort of employment to restore dignity to life. Perhaps the answer is a striving by government for our nation to again be the workshop of the world that human endeavour may again be a source of satisfaction: a lofty ideal of course and easier said than done.

A Rogation Prayer

Almighty God by whose blessing the earth brings forth abundantly for all that is needful for life: prosper we pray the work of all, that human need of every kind might be met.
Amen.

From the Manse Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church



Granny had a drawer in her kitchen, and it was always a source of fascination to me; a ticket to a land of magic and enchantment. She would make the pastry at the table and I would sit there and go through Granny's drawer.

It was full of things of not much consequence: old ration books; a hideous Victorian brooch that I thought was wonderful; marbles; shells and buttons; old letters and cards; brass curtain rings. I even found a copy of Lady Chatterley's Lover, which was taken rather abruptly away from me, I thought. There was an empty tin of Turkish Delight which still held its exotic smell; dog-eared cigarette cards picturing long forgotten footballers; a bottle of Coty's scent L'Aimant, which smelt slightly stale but which seemed to me the very height of sophistication; then, horror of horrors, a pair of false teeth.

The drawer took me to a land of magic, fun and mystery, to a place where my imagination could run riot. To a little girl it was an Aladdin's cave of oddments and treasures. Apart from those horrid false teeth, I loved the drawer. It fired my already over-active imagination. Every time I smell or taste Turkish Delight I am taken back to my childhood.

Granny's drawer may have seemed exotic to me, but I imagine to her it was just a source of old memories rather more prosaic than my fevered imaginings. Imagination is an undervalued thing, I sometimes think. Where would be without stories to entice, captivate and beguile us? Stories can challenge our very selves. We get to put ourselves in the plot - which is why Jesus' parables are so memorable, testing and powerful. Try substituting your very worst enemy for the Good Samaritan, and you will see what I mean. Jesus fired - and fires - people's imaginations about what they could be, and also showed how blinkered about others we often are.

Back to the kitchen, and now I have a drawer of my own. It is full of odd earrings, old birthday cards, diaries, photos, book reviews cut out of the Sunday papers. I mean some day to clear it out, but for now it is a useful repository for the things I don't yet want to throw out, but don't really use. Perhaps my grandchildren will go through it and find food for their own imagination, though I'm afraid they won't find me making pastry as they do so. Neither, I hope, will they find false teeth.

And while I am talking about unused things that linger in our homes, you might like to know that we hope to have another 'New to You' shop in the autumn, dates and place still to be confirmed. We would be most grateful for any donations of items you no longer need but want to see go to a good home. But, please, I beg you, no false teeth.

Have a lovely summer.

Linda

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Guild Sale

The Annual Sale will be held on Saturday, 21st August at 2pm. There will be all the usual stalls including baking, produce, bottle, books and toys, bric-a-brac, rainbow and teas with home baking. Entry is £1.80 including tea. Please come along and give us your support.



Thank you to all who made Christian Aid Week such a success again this year. We raised the magnificent total of £2427.15 which will go towards helping the poorest throughout the world.

Women in the Trossachs

Images of ScottsLand
Evening Cruise on Loch Katrine

Wednesday 14th July 7-9pm

Lady of the Lake, Trossachs Pier

A rare chance to photograph Loch Katrine in the evening light on this special cruise to launch the 'Images of ScottsLand' digital photography competition.

This competition will be looking for the best photos taken at any ScottsLand event over the summer. Full details and how to enter will be on www.witt.org.uk after the launch.

Booking essential: tickets available from Deli Ecosse in Callander, Aberfoyle Post Office or call 01877 387200.

Ticket prices: Adults £12 Children £8

Event and competition organised by Women in the Trossachs. The ScottsLand Grants Programme is part-financed by the Scottish Government, European Community Forth Valley & Lomond Leader 2007-2013 programme and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority.



Trossachs Film Week

Trossachs Film Week is on 10th and 11th September in Callander and 17th and 18th September in Gartmore. Free screenings will include classic and contemporary films shot in the Trossachs or of Walter Scott stories (including The 39 Steps and Rob Roy, the Highland Rogue) and a selection of short films and videos featuring the area. The full programme will be available at the end of May on www.scottsland.co.uk.

The festival is funded by the ScottsLand Grants Programme, which is financed by the Scottish Government, European Community Forth Valley & Lomond Leader 2007-2013 programme and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority.



Anne McGuire MP



Well, it's good to be back! Now that the general election is over my staff and I are now busy again both in the constituency office in Stirling and in my Westminster office in London. During the last few weeks, recent events meant that I was out and about in the constituency even more than usual and I now feel that I could drive to any part of it on autopilot!

That said, it is now business as usual and my staff continue to deal with your constituency queries in the office in Stirling. Future work is planned and surgery details for the summer months will be sent out soon. In fact, my next surgery will be Friday, 2nd July at the Parliamentary Advice Office in Stirling at 4.00pm. There is no appointment system and I will see all who wish to see me.

Acknowledgement of strong community links is always good to hear and I was delighted that the Trossachs Area Community Transport had been successful in applying for lottery funding. Their grant of £419,398 will help to safeguard both essential services and improved retail services in the Aberfoyle area. Having been kept up to date of developments, I know that many local people have worked hard to achieve this magnificent award and they are to be congratulated for their time and effort.

One of the many local issues I am currently dealing with involves the well-known Queen Victoria School in Dunblane. As a military boarding school for all ranks it could be under threat as a result of the new government's defence spending review. The school has been part of the community of Dunblane and the wider constituency for many years and provides education for those whose parents do not wish their children's education to be disrupted whilst serving their country, both at home and overseas. Having been a regular visitor to the school over the years, I have urgently contacted the new Defence Secretary to ask him that its future remains secure.

As ever, I can be contacted at the Parliamentary Advice Office, 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling, FK8 1UA. Tel: 01786 446515. Fax: 091786 446513 or by email on m McGuire@parliament.uk You can also keep up to date with news on my website www.annemcguiremp.org.uk

What Oh, Sir Walter!

Dougie MacPherson

As if our readers were not already aware, this summer and early autumn will bring many visitors to this area in celebration of Sir Walter Scott and his works with a series of events in honour of the great man, the overall theme being entitled, 'ScottsLand', a novel conception – and also quite new. So, for those of you who might get asked questions about Scott from tourists as you go about your daily business, we offer you a soupçon of the man's life and career. Sir Walter was born in the Borders (this was some time before it became a bookshop) way back in iniquity. In later life Edinburgh celebrated the great man in many ways, not least by erecting a statue in his memory. This was done initially to commemorate his efforts, if unsuccessful, to be the first man to reach the South Pole. To this day he is still remembered as Sir Walter of Antarctica.

One of the many tales of Scott from that period in his life was when he resided at his home, Abbotsford. On one occasion his cook had informed the assembled company that dinner would be a little late. 'I forgot the herbs,' he is alleged to have said; 'I may be gone for some thyme.'

But first and foremost, Scott was a writer. Edinburgh also named Waverley Station after the title of one of Scott's novels, 'Station'. Our researchers have endeavoured, to date unsuccessfully, to find traces of this novel, sadly to no avail. Initially, it was thought that the book, 'Ice Station Zebra, My Journey to Antarctica' was written by him but this has proved to be unfounded.

Scott did write many novels and some poems, itself a prodigious feat. (It has been reported that he did wear size twelve footwear). Perhaps his most famous was his short series (two – you cannot get shorter than that) of novels of a Chinese man living in Russia and who later moves to France, entitled 'Ivan Ho!' and its follow up, 'Westward Ho!'

What must not be ignored, especially in this year of ScottsLand was that he did compose beautiful poetry, The Lady Of the Lake being perhaps the most well known, based on Loch Katrine which is not really a lake but, hey, on this year of years, let's not nitpick!

Truly a great man, a Scotsman, and one to be proud of. All aboard the ScottsLand!

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Memories of Aberfoyle

By Henry Topping

In October 1946, I received an "invitation" from King George VI to join his army for two years. It was politely called National Service but we considered it to be more like "Borstal without the privilege of a court". After much square-bashing and various courses, I found myself in The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

There were about five or six hundred of us from various regiments, in the holding company, awaiting postings. The authorities did not really know what to do with us as they were also trying to demobilise the fellows who had served during the hostilities; it was utter chaos. Then one day, in the autumn of 1947, some of us heard that 639 Company of the Royal Army Service Corps needed drivers in Aberfoyle. Anything would be better than what we were enduring, so we volunteered (usually fatal in the forces), on the proviso that, if we did not like it, we could apply to be returned to our unit.

So, twelve of us set off with all our kit, rifles included, and, after a somewhat protracted railway journey, arrived at Aberfoyle station. We staggered up to the camp which, we were told, was only a "wee bitty" up the road. Weary, tired and footsore we were allocated a billet in a Nissan hut that had not been cleaned for some time. Our bed frames were a bit rusty but we managed to draw some bedding from the Quartermaster's store and got ourselves installed. We spent the next two days cleaning the place up and settling in. Those Nissan huts were just sheets of corrugated iron on a steel frame, rather like

a larger edition of the wartime Anderson air raid shelter. In hot weather they were like ovens and in cold weather we literally froze. The only source of heat was a small stove in the middle of the hut. In winter we would take off our wet clothing and hang it up, hopefully, to dry but next morning we had to fight our way into it as it would be frozen stiff! Yet it did not seem to do us any harm. We soon found out that we were to be employed driving Bedford Model OY three-ton trucks all over the Trossachs to transport the ammunition that had been stored in small iron huts during the war. These trucks were great vehicles to drive and this made up for some of the other shortcomings. There was a unit of the Pioneer Corps stationed at Cardross and they were employed to do all the heavy lifting and loading etc. The Ordnance Corps had a unit at Gartmore to supervise and co-ordinate the whole operation. The Ordnance sergeants and officers would decide where we had to take these explosive devices, many of them being somewhat hazardous due to deterioration over a long period. Most of them went to various railway sidings to be loaded for transport and then dumped at sea. Gas shells and bombs (yes we had them) went to the gas centre at Fintry to be dealt with by specialists. Certain items were taken to a quarry up the Duke's Pass and burned under controlled conditions.

The camp itself was not too bad once we had become used to the Spartan living conditions. Some of us were reasonable poachers which did much to improve the main diet! 'Nuff said.

The NAAFI, in the Rob Roy Roadhouse, was presided

over by a lady from Aberdeen, Miss Crocker. Who could ever forget her? She ruled with a rod of iron and had everyone under her thumb. However, her prices were reasonable,

portions generous and the food good though simple.

The officers were quartered in the chalets that stood along the boundary with the Glasgow Road. Of course, they were well kept – and were warm and dry. The main workshops were in the village and later became a garage. Is it still there, I wonder? We had a Bedford QL equipped as a fire engine; but, thank goodness, it was never required because it was not the easiest vehicle to start. The same could be said of one of the Ford V8 ambulances, although the other one started up as easily as anything; again, they were seldom required. It was soon discovered that I had been on various vehicle mechanic's courses and so I was made Platoon Vehicle Mechanic. My main job was to go out to breakdowns with the Austin six-wheeled recovery truck when drivers phoned in to say their trucks had broken down. Almost all of the faults were easy to fix at the roadside and I managed to persuade our boss, 2nd Lt. Todd, to let me use an old motor cycle that was lying idle. With a small box of tools on its carrier, I was then able to save much petrol and do the same job.

For a short while we had the use of a "Water Buffalo" which we used for lifting the phosphorus incendiary bombs stored in the Lake of Menteith. This was an amphibious tank powered by a Pratt and Whitney radial aero engine. Boy, oh boy, what a racket it made. We were glad to see it returned to its depot in Stirling!

In the late summer of 1948, all the transport requirements had been completed and we moved as a complete unit to Queen's Barrack, Perth. I was then transferred to be attached to 251 Army Dental Unit in Redford Barracks. I was demobbed in late October of that same year.

Thanks to Caroline Carranza of www.trossachs.co.uk for passing this on.



'B' Platoon, No 2 Company, Cameron Highlanders



Gardenshare Stirling

Do you have an unused corner in your garden that you would be happy to share with someone who would love to grow some fruit and vegetables but has no garden of their own? Or



perhaps you are keen to grow some of your own food but have no land. Gardenshare Stirling is a new scheme that aims to match budding gardeners with people who have a garden that they cannot manage themselves, perhaps due to lack of time or ill-health.

The benefits to garden owners include having a keen gardener keeping the weeds under control, seeing things growing in the garden again, meeting new people and sharing some of the delicious produce. There are now so many people who want to grow fruit and vegetables that it is a major problem finding enough land for them all. There are often long waiting lists for allotments and many modern homes have very small gardens or no garden at all.

Schemes such as this are now running successfully in other parts of the UK. If you have some spare land or would like to grow your own veggies please contact Philippa Cochrane on 07577816262 or email gardensharestirling@gmail.com

There is also a website that has information about the scheme:

<http://gardensharestirling.wordpress.com>

Amateur Photography Competition



The Callander Community Development Trust, in conjunction with the ScottsLand festival, is pleased to sponsor an amateur photography competition. Visitors and residents of all ages, P4-7 ages 8-11, Young Adults ages 12-18, and Adults, are encouraged to visit the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park with cameras in hand. Enjoy your visit to the Park and share your memories by submitting your photos to our competition.

Photo categories include:

- Local Landscape – The Big Picture
- Local Landscape – The Smallest Detail
- Local Wildlife – Plants, Animals and Insects
- Local Life – People, Places and Humour

Photos will be judged by members of the Callander Community Development Trust and employees of the Park Office in Callander. Winning photos will be announced during the Callander Film Society's Trossachs Film Week on the weekend of September 10-11 and will become part of a permanent photo exhibition within the Park.

Details for the competition and entry forms may be found in VisitScotland Information Centres throughout the Park, in National Park Visitor Centres, and on the following websites:

www.scottsland.co.uk www.callandercdt.org.uk

Deadline for the submission of photos is 12.30 pm 31 July 2010.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Inversnaid Primary

Chess Tournament

Last Sunday (6th June) dad and I were on our way to Cumbernauld. We were going to Broadwood Stadium, so that I could play chess. On our way there I felt nervous and excited!

When we got there I felt really scared because the Stadium was huge! We went inside and it was dark, and we walked upstairs and went in a door and saw lots of people playing chess. Dad went over to a table and asked a man called Michael to see what time it started but it didn't start until half past ten. Dad and I played two games of chess. Dad won the first round and it was stalemate on the second round. Then Michael said that I was in the 'under 300'.

When I was playing chess dad went upstairs and dad looked at some pictures. When I finished my first round I went upstairs and I saw dad. We went to the Clyde Suite, to buy two crispy cakes with a big layer of chocolate (yummy!). We went back downstairs and there were still three games of chess left so we ate our crispy cakes. Then the games were finished and I went back in and started my second round. It took me about ten minutes to do my second round. We went back to the Clyde Suite, dad bought a sandwich for his lunch and we had our lunch in the car. I played five more rounds of chess which were really exciting! At the end I got a certificate, and I was really proud.

Then we went home. I was really tired and I fell asleep all the way to McDonalds. It was about one and a half hours to get home.

By Morgan-Leigha McPheat

RagBag

We are the proud owners of a RagBag collection point. It is in the Inversnaid Primary School grounds, which means you can drop off any old textiles, clothes, towels, bed linen, curtains, hats, belts, bags and shoes at a time that is convenient to you. Just pop it in the 'big tin'. As soon as the bin is filled to the arrows they will come and empty it. SO please, please, please have a rummage in your attic, wardrobes, cupboards and drawers and have a totally brilliant clear out. It raises a small but gratefully received amount of money for school funds as well as being environmentally friendly.

By The Eco Team

Gardening Scotland Pallet Garden Competition

On Wednesday 2nd June Inversnaid Primary School went on a visit to Edinburgh to the Gardening Scotland 'Pallet Garden' Challenge. We based our pallet on Grow Your Own Soup, an idea that came from Mrs Miller, one of our eco helpers.

We designed our own soup bowls which we made out of clay. To start off with we planned our design, then we got really messy when we were shaping the bowls. We left the bowls to dry and made some model magic cane toppers so that if someone was to fall on the canes they would not get hurt or even become blind. We made carrots, onions, peas, turnips, pumpkins and cauliflower. We had to leave the cane toppers to harden so we started on the back board.

We invented our own soup recipes for the display board and we even got to make the recipes and taste them. We put on the display board why it was better to grow to grow your own soup. We had finished the back board! The next day we painted the bowls and the model magic cane toppers, we also had to glaze them but we had to wait until the paint had dried. It turned into a race against time! A race that we won just in the nick of time! Our pallet was set and ready to go to Edinburgh. Our taxi diver and classroom assistant, Laura, drove us there.

It was a bit of a squeeze to get all the plants, cane toppers, bowls, back board, lunch and us in the taxi. When we got there I asked the pallet garden organiser if we could borrow his wheelbarrow to unload and take our stuff down to our pallet. We started to get the pallet ready. First I shovelled some gravel into trays that we would put plants in. Next we spread the gravel so it would be level. Then we hammered the poles in to nail the back board to. Mrs Carter and Laura nailed the back board to the poles. Whilst they were doing that Morgan-Leigha and Blair put the cane toppers on the canes. We put the bowls on plant pots so they would be seen. Our garden was done!

That Sunday our Headteacher went to collect the pallet and she found a Silver Gilt Award in our garden! Our hard work had paid off.

By Jamie Carter P5



Aberfoyle Primary

P1 News

P1's topic is plants. They have been making mobiles and an enchanted forest that is absolutely brilliant! They have also been planting sunflowers and have been growing beans. On the 3rd of June P1 went to the Botanic Gardens in Glasgow. There they saw the biggest bamboo tree in the world that was bigger than their classroom door! They also found out that the goo inside a tree forms into rings. P1 are really looking forward to seeing their sunflowers and beans grow.

P2/3 News

P2/3 have been learning all about light and sound. Here are some facts about light and sound:

- If something blocks light, it creates a shadow.
- The sun is 100 times bigger than the earth.
- It takes 365 days for the earth to orbit the sun.
- Light always travels in a straight line.

In maths P2/3 have been learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables mentally as well as symmetry, weight and making up board games to help them work out sums.

In June P2/3 had a class trip to Sensation at Dundee Science Centre. This tied in very well with the class topic. Everyone had a most enjoyable time and two of the most popular activities were the How to be a Scientist workshop - "We put liquids together and they FIZZED up," said Molly Jennings; and the BIG model head which the children could climb inside - "We went in a big head and slid down its nose!" said Hannah Ferguson. Many thanks to everyone who helped out on the day.

We would like to wish P7 all the best when they move on to High School and to wish everyone a safe and happy Summer Holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone, old and new, back in August.

Summer Fair

A highlight of the school calendar, Aberfoyle Primary's Summer Fair raised over £700 to fund class trips for the pupils. The crowds enjoyed a raffle, face painting, beat-the-goalie, home baking and teas, and a tombola amongst the many stalls. Each class also hosted their own game.

A visit from the local fire engine and police car proved a big hit with the children, and another favourite in the school field was soak-the-teacher, with Mr. Fielden winning (losing?) the final vote!

A big thank you to all the local businesses, teachers and parents who so generously donated their time, the fantastic prizes and delicious baking which helped make this such an enjoyable afternoon.



As part of Strathard E Elephant came to visit A see from the photo every

P6/7 News

This term P6/7 have been very busy. At the moment P7 are away on their residential trip. P6 have also been out of school at the athletics and cricket festivals. They have also been studying the rainforest this term. They have learnt that there are four layers of the rainforest. These are the forest floor, the understory layer, the canopy layer and the emergent layer. The class have also been practising very hard for the end of term service where they will say goodbye to their P7 class mates.

P4/5 News

This term P4/5 have been learning about electricity. They have been making electronic things from Lego such as motorbikes, elevators and monster trucks. P4/5 have also made many different kinds of circuits using buzzers, motors, light bulbs and wires. In addition they have also learned many types of electrical symbols that you would use when drawing a circuit diagram. In other areas of the curriculum they have been planting tomatoes and potatoes outside their classroom. They are looking forward to seeing how they develop over the summer.

Sports Day

The grass was cut, the sun shone and there was hardly a midgie in sight for our sports day. Congratulations to all the children from Nursery to P7 who put in so much effort and ran so fast. Congratulations too to all the mums, dads and staff. Commiserations to Wayne who took a tumble during the staff race!! Frozen Capri Suns were provided by the Parent Council and The Coop and were much appreciated by all the children. A big thank you goes to Louis Stewart's granddad who put them in his freezer for us - all 100 of them! SATURN HOUSE won the Sports Trophy which will be presented at our Awards Ceremony.



co Week the Big Blue
berfoyle P.S. As you can
one really enjoyed the visit.

McLaren High School

Sponsored Walk

On Thursday 20 May all pupils in S1 – S3 were involved in our annual Sponsored Walk. The route took pupils across from the school into Coihallan Wood. The footpath led the pupils through the forested area before joining the Invertrossachs Road. The course was well stewarded by members of staff, with help from Stewart Kerr the Community Police Officer and our local Traffic Warden Jonny McCulloch.

The purpose of the walk was to raise funding for our wide range of additional pupil activities. As we go to press the total raised so far is £4,453.44 and still rising. Congratulations go to Rhiannon Stevenson S1 (pictured centre) who raised the most in sponsor money. Many thanks to all the parents, family and neighbours who sponsored the pupils!

National Park Debate

On Wednesday 26 May 8 pupils from McLaren High attended the National Park Headquarters in Balloch to participate in a debating event – part of the Scotland programme. Six schools took part in the event which consisted of 3 debates with two pupils from each school discussing the motion: 'Sir Walter Scott was the greatest Scot'. The purpose of this was to launch the new 'Scotland' programme celebrating the language of the landscape. All three debates were fiercely competitive making the judge's decision very difficult. Fiona England and Ruaridh Maxwell represented McLaren and outstandingly argued their case. A new debating team has been formed in McLaren and we hope to compete again in the near future.

By Catherine Allan and India MacLean (both S3)



Activities Week 2010

Another very successful Activities Week! S1 – S3 pupils took part in a variety of activities including: S1 residential visit to Lendrick Muir; Disneyland Paris; Kayaking through The Great Glen; Cakes and Cookies, Watersports, Model Making and Skiing. Pupils and staff feedback has been very positive, all helped by the wonderful weather.

Lendrick Muir

On Wednesday 2 June all of S1 at McLaren High School went on a residential excursion to Lendrick Muir. For some, including myself, it was their first residential outing. When we arrived we were immediately impressed by the beautiful scenery. We were introduced to the friendly staff and then we were shown our rooms. Everyone thought the rooms were comfortable and were pleased with their room-mates. The activities were also impressive. Along with the group activities we got to choose 3 activities from a list which included biking, archery, and orienteering. I think it was a most enjoyable experience for everyone.

By Craig Russell S1

Cakes and Cookies

A group of 19 pupils spent Activities Week making not only tasty treats such as scones, pavlova and very sticky chocolate cake, but they also showed creative skills in inventing and naming a new smoothie! They were rewarded on Friday afternoon with a picnic, and sampled some of their produce. The staff involved in helping with the activity all commented on how hard the pupils had worked and also how enthusiastic and well mannered the group were.

Senior Golf Championship

Darek Kunecki has won this year's Senior Championship. He beat Chris Ryan by the close score of 2 and 1 at Callander Golf Club. Well done to Darek and to all those who entered the competition.

Hockey and Rowing Achievements

Congratulations to Sabine Lang S3 who was selected to attend the Central Development Squad for Hockey, and also to represent the Central Region of Scotland in the Scottish Rowing Inter-Regional Competition competing in the Quadruple Sculls event.





SIGHTINGS WANTED



Name: *Anthocharis cardamines*

Alias: Orange-tip butterfly

Characteristics: Medium sized white butterfly, males with unmistakable bright orange wing-tips, females lack the orange but can be identified by the isolated black spot on the forewing. Both have a distinctive green marbled underside to their hindwings which acts as camouflage. The caterpillars can be cannibalistic!

Last seen: Between April and July on sunny days. Favours woodland edges, gardens and hedgerows.

Known associates: Food plants are crucifers such as cuckooflower, garlic mustard, and honesty.



MALE



FEMALE



UNDERWING

Name: *Mustela vison*

Alias: American Mink

Characteristics: The mink is medium sized member of the weasel family. The male is bigger than the female and both have relatively short legs. Their coat is glossy dark brown, with often white patches on the chin, throat, chest and groin.

Last seen: Mink spend 80% of their time in their dens, sleeping, grooming and eating food they have carried home.

Known associates: May be seen on every kind of waterway, streams, rivers and canals, but are capable of living away from water provided prey such as rabbits and small mammals are available. Often mistaken for otters, but are much smaller. The female is more of a threat to water voles as she is smaller and hence can go down the vole burrows.



Name: *Saxifraga oppositifolia*

Alias: Purple Saxifrage

Characteristics: A creeping mat forming plant with tiny oval leaves in opposite pairs along the stem. Flowers are solitary rosy-purple in colour, with five petals.

Last seen: It is frequent on damp mountain rocks and occasionally at the foot of hills growing from seed washed down by the burns.

Known associates: This is the best time to see purple saxifrage when it is in flower, at other times of the year it is dwarfed by other mountain plants.

Please email your sightings (with date, grid reference, habitat, number of plants/animals seen and any other useful information) to jane.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Many thanks!!!



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National Poop Scoop Week Monday 26 July to Sunday 1 August 2010



If you don't clean up after your dog, council staff or the police can issue you with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £40, which increases if it's not paid. Leaflets explaining the law and bags are available from Aberfoyle Post Office.

GRAB IT - Always keep a supply of bags near your dog's lead so you don't forget to take them with you on every walk. Simply insert your hand in the bag and pick up your dog's waste.

BAG IT - Carefully turn the bag inside out to "bag" your dog's mess.

BIN IT - Dispose of the bag in a bin. Dog waste can be put in a public litter bin if a specific dog waste bin is not provided.

Alec and Harriet Colquhoun

Tribute & History

It was with great sadness that many of us heard on the 19th May that Harriet Colquhoun had died. That sadness was compounded, but we were not surprised to hear that her beloved husband, Alec, had also died on the 3rd June, just two weeks later. None of us could have ever imagined them apart, and although we all felt bereaved, in many ways it was at least a relief to know that they were not to be apart, even now. Their passing will leave a space, a hole, for they were not only part of the local populace, and dear in so many hearts locally, but indeed Alec and Harriet were part of the very fabric of the history of our village life. It is a little of that history, a little of the village life of this quietly remarkable couple, which I hope to be able to relate.

It was in 1944 that a young engineer, Alexander McEwan Glass Colquhoun, wed his sweetheart Harriet Stirling. On that day he not only became part of her life, but also part of her way of life, for Harriet's family were in the fairground business, bringing the carnival to people throughout the country. The couple embraced that life together, working hard, both within their business and in bringing up their young family. It was in this way, in 1952, that they first came to Aberfoyle with their three children: Christine and Alexander barely primary age, and Raymond only a toddler.

Aberfoyle was very different back then. The Forth Inn was the Pavilion, wooden shops abounded, no Woollen Mill or Dukes Court, and the railway not long gone, although the railway sheds remained. It was into the area of these last two that the Colquhouns were able to find storage and space to bring the fairground to Aberfoyle, and it was in Aberfoyle that they found the people to be fun-loving, kind and caring. Indeed Harriet and Alec were welcomed, first properly by the then bank manager and his wife,

Andrew and Ann Hyslop, and then by just about everyone else, including the couple that were to become their lifelong friends, Robert and Ann Telfer.

They were home! This was where they wanted to be and, although that first visit could only be for two short weeks, it wasn't at all long before their 'stays' were extended, lasting from Easter until October. They settled with remarkable ease into village life and, although they still went back to Glasgow in the winter for a time, Aberfoyle was where they lived. And live they did! They continued to work tirelessly and to bring up their beloved family, now four strong with the addition of their youngest child Michelle, and they also became involved in so many aspects of village life. Quietly, as was their way, they would help anyone who needed them. Be it a bandage for your knee, help with your work, or a significant addition to the funds you were raising for whatever charity, Alec and Harriet were there. In fact there can't have been many local organisations that didn't benefit from the Colquhoun's generosity, but it is also highly likely that there would have been more than a few that didn't know who their kind benefactors had been. From the Reading Room and the Golf Club, to pensioners' outings and youth club fundraising, or simply just a family down on their luck, Alec and Harriet continued to give of their money and their time.

It wasn't all work though! Alec and Harriet enjoyed the social side of Aberfoyle, too. They loved to dance, attending every dance in the area, and were happy to be first to take to the floor. They valued their friends, Robert and Ann, the Forbes from the Pavilion, Elsie and John from the Clachan, the Fergusons, my own parents, and so very many more, none of whom would ever hear them say a harsh word about anyone. It

became harder and harder for them to leave, and harder for the other villagers to see them go, and so it was - in the late sixties - following an accident he was recovering from, that Alec decided they would no longer go, they would settle. Now on the current site, we all know so well, and with Michelle at Aberfoyle primary school, the Colquhoun's stayed year round. It was a happy decision, one they would never regret, although not all plain sailing as - when they did eventually move into Duke's Court - Alec could occasionally be heard to remark that there was no pleasing some folks, as Harriet would keep going back to the trailer!

The rest, as one might say, is history! Together, in the place they wanted to be, raising their family, supporting the village. Except ... what about the children? The village children! The visiting children! The children that came to the fairground! Well ... that is how I come to be writing this ... because my memories of Alec and Harriet are not of all those events I have already mentioned, but are the memories of a child. Imagine a child running down the shortcut, just four or five years old, because the roundabout was there! Clamouring to be allowed to sit on the top deck of the bus, or on the brightly painted wooden horse, or in the car, and going round and round, again and again; Harriet there, always kind, with her apron, which could house sweeties, and hankies, and plasters, and pins. It seemed to hold anything needed. A little older, imagine the penny arcade, and Alec in his waistcoat, his hat, always smartly dressed, juggling pennies and imagine how that child's threepenny bit, handed over, always seemed to come back as six pennies. 'Shhh' he'd whisper, his eyes twinkling. What memories! I was that child, but I bet a lot of you were too!

Sharon Johnston

When I was asked by the Colquhouns to write something for their parents, I was very pleased and very honoured. I have so many good memories of Alec and Harriet, none bad. Them feeding me; sheltering me; taking me to school (without telling my dad!) when they'd caught me plunking it; finding me clothes ... again ... when I'd fallen in the river ... again. I thought writing it all down would be easy. Then the doubts came crashing in. I felt almost fearful and rather unworthy. How could I ever, ever do justice to this wonderful, kind, remarkable couple? Well, I needn't have worried, I'd reckoned without the wonderful friends of Harriet and Alec, the villagers who have been generous enough to share their memories with me. Thanks to them all, especially Ann and Robert Telfer. I talked, in the beginning, of the hole that the death of Alec and Harriet has left in our village. Now I realise it isn't there at all; it's filled with memories.

THANK YOU

The Colquhoun family would like to thank everyone for the cards, the kind thoughts and the support we have received at this sad time. At the funerals of Harriet and Alex, donations were given for Cancer Research and Alzheimers. These totalled £1061.95. Thanks to everyone.

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Letters to the Editor.....have your say!

Post to Editor, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid FK8 3TU
Or email editor@strathardnews.com or hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office

Hi,
I hope you might be able to help me with some research I am doing about my family. My great uncle, James Kinnaird, ran the Loch Ard Youth Hostel with his wife Gertrude. James Kinnaird died there in the mid to late 1950s. I have heard that he may have killed himself. Do you have any info about his time there or his death? Anything that you have would help me.
Samantha Dymond
samdymond@hotmail.com

REMEMBERING THE TROSSACHS AT THE MOVIES

Over the years, many films and TV programmes have been made in and around the Trossachs. Disney's Rob Roy, the Highland Rogue (1953) based on Sir Walter Scott's novel Rob Roy, was filmed around Aberfoyle. The 39 Steps in 1959 featured the Invertrossachs Hotel, Brig O' Turk tearoom, Balquhidder and Altskeith by Loch Ard. Sixties TV medic Dr Finlay's home and surgery was set in Callander's Arden House. And part of Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975) was filmed in the Aberfoyle slate quarry. More recently Shepherd on the Hill (1993) was filmed at Loch Achray and Callander and in 2009 Richard Wilson toured the area in a 1950's Bentley in Britain's Best Drives on BBC4. Also in 2009, Strathendrick Film Society made Kirk, the story of

Reverend Robert Kirk from Aberfoyle who vanished on Doon Hill where legend has it the fairies trapped his spirit in a great pine tree. Do you remember any filming in the area? Were you one of the extras? Or did you meet the cast or crew? Did you take your own photographs? We'd love to hear from local people who got involved in any way and, depending on who and what turns up, we'll try to include your memories or mementoes in Trossachs Film Week, part of the ScottsLand celebrations. Please call or email Eammon O'Boyle, Chairman of the Callander Film Society, on 01877 330519 or poboye1@btopenworld.com.



Have Your Say in Photographs



Artwork celebrating adult learning in Stirling Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum 24 June - 31 August 2010

The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum is delighted to welcome **Have Your Say in Photographs**, our new display from **Have Your Say**, an adult learning group based in Stirling. The group explores alternative methods of self expression and communication, using drama and art as a basis for personal development. In their first exhibition at the Smith the focus is on photography. Images include objects from the collection as well as outdoor snaps from the local area, all with a highly individual take on the subject. Come and see summertime colour through the lens.

Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum
Dumbarton Road, Stirling FK8 2RQ
tel 01786 471917
Admission free
Opening hours
Tues – Sat 10.30am to 5.00pm
Sunday 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Closed Mondays
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Trossachs Area Community Transport BIG Lottery Fund Award

As hopefully everyone in the area knows already, either because they are one of our 345 members or because of all the publicity, we managed to beat the odds (1 in 3) and were successful in achieving nearly £420,000 in funding to help us buy and improve the local garage site. Details about the project were in the last Strathard News, and are shown in leaflets widely available locally and also online at www.ta-ct.org.uk.



By the second half of June, three weeks into our fundraising appeal, the community in and around Aberfoyle had backed the lottery buyout of our local garage to a value of about £15,000 (thank you!). A final push is needed to raise the total of £21,000 that the Big Lottery Fund needs to see coming from people living in Strathard and its surrounding villages. The Big Lottery Fund, which is contributing 95% of the total purchase price at market valuation, unsurprisingly requires the local community to be willing to show its commitment through a 5% contribution.

We would encourage residents and businesses to consider the benefits of keeping a fuel supply in the area for the future to ensure retention of public service vehicles based here and also to provide a refuelling facility to tourists and locals who do not travel elsewhere. Many improvements are scheduled to take place at the garage, as well as a reduction in fuel prices, and this Big Lottery project will also improve the range of goods & services available at the shop.

Anyone still planning to help with funding by way of a loan or donation please try to do this as soon as possible, or advise us that you will be doing so at a future date. For more information on the appeal see www.ta-ct.org.uk, phone 387200, or pick up a leaflet in Aberfoyle or Gartmore Post Offices.

The House Folk

Thursday 25th - 27th Nov. 2010
MacGregors Barn, Ledard Farm

	Thursday £15 Gaberlunzie supported by Gleusda	
Intimate Concerts in Trossachs Homes in the company of renowned Scottish Traditional Musicians		
	Friday £15 Finlay MacDonald & Special Guest supported by Duncan McCrone Duet	
For Ticket enquiries contact Gregor: Ledard Farm, Kinlochard, FK9 3TL 01877 387 219 Info@GreatTimeScotland.com www.kinlochard.org & www.greattimescotland.co.uk		
	Saturday £20 Fred Morrison supported by John Burns Duet	
20% discount Book all 3 concerts		
BYOB Concert followed by jamming session and party		

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Milton



Hello Children,
This is really summertime; Dad and Grandpa Otter are cooking barbecue suppers every night - trout caught absolutely fresh from the Forth, with baked potatoes and salads. George the Hare is a devout vegetarian, only eating fruit, all sorts of grasses and, of course, lots of vegetables. Well, they are very good for you, so Mum says. Every mealtime she tells us all to eat up our greens. As long as there is ice cream for pudding, I don't mind the rest. But when I grow up, I am going to live entirely on ice cream; just think of all the different flavours you can find.

Everyone is talking about Scottsland, a festival to celebrate the writer of some good Scottish stories, Sir Walter Scott. He was so famous that they named the steamer on Loch Katrine after him. My brain-box of a sister says that it is two hundred years since he published a very, very long poem about a beautiful lady who lived by Loch Katrine. Being a sassenach Lowland gentleman, he referred to the water as a lake. Sir Walter was a regular visitor to these parts, coming to meet the people of the Trossachs, listen to their stories and write his own in peace and quiet.

Ledard Farm at Kinlochard was one of his favourite places to spend a few months, working away at his novels. One of these stories was all about Rob Roy MacGregor, a notorious outlaw who had been born at Glengyle in 1660. That was a long time ago, but every year Kinlochard remembers his remarkable deeds at their Highland Games. Stories tell how Rob Roy would compete at the sports that would follow at the end of the business of buying and selling cattle at all the local fairs. It is said that Rob was both a champion at wrestling and duelling with the broad-sword.

On Sunday afternoon, 18th July, there will be all sorts of fun, games and competitions on the Games' Field. Everybody will be welcome to come and take part, even dogs, otters and hares. Gregor will be trying his level best to keep everything in some sort of order. The one event that the kits, Duke and Katrine, look forward to the most is the giant sack-race. And, boy, are these sacks on the large size? They are simply huge!! Even Rob Roy would get lost in one. Highland Games are held all over the country. Stirling Games, which are much bigger than ours at Kinlochard, are the Sunday before. The giant caber tossed at Stirling was once a great tree in the Lochard Forest.

The long school holidays are here at last. Time for fun. Watch out when you go swimming; the lochs and rivers are so low that there is a great risk of bumping your head on the bottom.

Bye for now,
Milton.

Sir Walter Scott Named Greatest Scot

The legacy that Sir Walter Scott left on Scotland was the subject of an animated National Park debate which was held on the 26th May at National Park headquarters in Balloch. Pupils from six local schools in and around Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park came together to debate if Scott's legacy was positive for Scotland's image or if he was responsible for tartan tat and tawdry tourism. Following a heated debate, it was agreed by a 2:1 motion that Scott was indeed the 'greatest Scot.'

Teams from Clydebank High, Dumbarton Academy, McLaren High in Callander, Balfron High, St Peter The Apostle in Clydebank and Hermitage Academy of Helensburgh took part in the debate and brought along 60 supporters.

Education Secretary, Michael Russell, chaired the debate along with Jack Donaldson from the English Speaking Union and the Literary Editor of Scotland on Sunday, Stuart Kelly, was one of the judges. The schools debate is one of a number of literary and educational events which make up the ScottsLand programme celebrating the 200th anniversary of the publication of Sir Walter Scott's poem Lady of the Lake. The poem was inspired by Loch Katrine set within the National Park and transformed opinion on the Scottish landscape and

generated the first surge of tourists to the Trossachs and Scotland. The book was a turning point in Scott's career, making him the most popular writer of his time in the UK, Europe and the United States. The book which has been republished for the first time since 1972 arrived at National Park Headquarters in time for the debate. The book has been republished by the Association for Scottish Literary Studies in partnership with the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park with illustrations by Linda Farquharson and foreword by Alex Salmond MSP, First Minister of Scotland.

The motion for the debate was 'This house believes that Sir Walter Scott is the greatest Scot'. Pupils opposing the motion argued that whilst Scott was indeed great, there were others that were greater including Alexander Fleming and Alexander Graham Bell who helped save millions of lives and improved communication across the world. In the end the motion was passed with two teams against one arguing that Scott was the greatest Scot as he played a vital role in shaping our nation and without him there would be no Scotland!

Speaking about the debate, Michael Russell MSP said: "Sir Walter Scott is one of the most significant and influential

figures in Scotland's history and his cultural legacy cannot be over-stated.

"The fact that he is still generating passionate debate almost two centuries after his death is testament to the impact he made. It is heartening to see that his life and work still resonate with young people and the quality of this debate demonstrates all that is good about Scottish education and those who teach and learn in our schools." Fiona Logan, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority added: "I was really impressed by the level of knowledge and enthusiasm the pupils brought to the debate. It has certainly brought the legacy of Scott to the forefront of people's minds and imaginations again. It's fantastic to see this unsung hero rise and take the credit for putting Scotland on the global map and creating what we know now as the birth of modern tourism. His passion for this truly remarkable area is one of the key reasons why we want to celebrate this and the resonant landscape of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

"The debate has been a fantastic start to the ScottsLand festival which brings alive the life, work and indelible footprint this great pioneer had not only in Scotland but right across the world."

KICKBOXING SUCCESS

Three members from Balfron & Callander Korean Kickboxing have been awarded Dan grades at recent Kickboxing Gradings.

The association was honoured to have eighty-five year old Tom Hibbert MBE, founder of the AMA (which is the largest kickboxing organisation in the U.K) and president of the WAKO G.B. (The largest kickboxing organisation in the world) preside over the grading.



Instructor Ian MacDonald, a slater from Gartmore near Aberfoyle, was awarded his 3rd Dan, with his younger sister Mairi MacDonald, who works for the Forestry Commission, being awarded her 1st Dan after a gruelling grading schedule. Instructor Neil Buchanan also achieved his 4th Dan.

Mr. Hibbert gave the trio the ultimate accolade when he told them they were "among the best he has ever seen".

Korean Kickboxing is a relatively recent sport which is rapidly growing in Scotland. It is a sport which combines Boxing, Thai Boxing, and Tae-Kwon Do Techniques.

The sport is popular with both women and men promoting fitness, weight-loss, increased flexibility, and self-defence.

The Kickboxing class's routines vary but workout is always intense. Classes include warm-up and strengthening exercises, stretching and rigorous routines of technique practice, padwork, and sparring.

You don't have to be fit to join! First time students will be eased in with basic techniques and allowed to progress at the level and pace they feel comfortable with.

Anyone can come to a class to take a look before they participate to get an idea what the training involves.

Kickboxing classes are on Monday & Thursday at Balfron High School, and Tuesday at the McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander. Classes are from 8pm to 9.30pm.

For more information on Korean Kickboxing in Balfron or Callander please call Neil on 07813 884202, or check out www.koreankickboxing.net



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The Chase is on

This September one of the most stunning landscapes in Scotland, the Trossachs, will play host to a Duathlon with a difference. 'The Chase', set in the heart of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, is a unique event fusing both sport and culture to celebrate the iconic 200 year poem, the Lady of the Lake, as part of the ScottsLand festival. The origins of The Chase began in 1809 when Sir Walter Scott visited the Trossachs and was so taken with the area he wrote this epic poem which transformed popular perceptions of landscape. His depiction of this breathtaking landscape within the poem established Scotland as a tourist destination. The Lady of the Lake describes how King James V, disguised as a knight, attempts to hunt a stag and eventually seeks shelter on an island on Loch Katrine, summoned by the beautiful Ellen Douglas (the Lady of the Lake).

The Chase will follow the themes of six cantos of the poem culminating in a gathering of the participants for a medieval style celebration with local food and entertainment; evoking a sense of magic from the poem.

The Chase, taking place on 25 September 2010, will follow in King James V footsteps along a 40mile route, passing three lochs (Katrine, Venechar and Achray) in pursuit of the 'elusive' stag. Using a combination of cycling and running, participants will journey through the breathtaking landscape encountering several special challenges along the way. The course will be fused with elements of the poem bringing history to life in the modern age.

Liz Shorthall from the Forestry Commission said, "The event will also take participants

through Scotland's landscape scale woodland restoration project - The Great Trossachs Forest - which is an additional draw to the area that I think Scott would have welcomed."

Catriona Morrison, World Champion Duathlete and local girl, helped launch The Chase in the Trossachs this week. She said, "I am delighted to support this exciting new duathlon coming to Scotland. The Chase will provide a fantastic opportunity for people from all over the country to experience the thrill of a duathlon in

one of the most amazing locations we have." There will also be a family orientated version of the event, called 'The Wee Chase', taking place on the same day, which is aimed at people of all ages, families, groups of friends or work colleagues looking to get involved in the festivities. 'The Wee Chase' features a five mile bike route followed by an orienteering task inspired by the poem, ending with a cycle back to join the medieval celebration with the duathlon participants.

The Chase and The Wee Chase are signature events forming part of ScottsLand, a diverse programme of up to 44 cultural and literary events, promoted by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, to celebrate the poem, the heritage of the Trossachs and its landscape.

Elsbeth McLachlan, ScottsLand Project Director said: "This is the first sporting event ever to take place in the National Park with a direct link to our rich cultural heritage. We are delighted to invite so many people to take part in what promises to be a thrilling chase on bike and foot with the spectacular



Trossachs as a backdrop. This will be the final event of our ScottsLand programme and what a fitting way to celebrate Sir Walter Scott's contribution to Scotland's cultural identity than to gather everyone together at the very place which inspired him to write the Lady of the Lake, in the heart of the National Park."

Entries for The Chase and The Wee Chase are now open at www.thechaserace.co.uk. For more information please call 01877 437 998.

The Chase is a partner programme supported by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and EventScotland.

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer of EventScotland said: "EventScotland is very pleased to be supporting this inspirational event, with its celebration of Sir Walter Scott's most famous poem. Just as The Lady of the Lake drew early tourists to Scotland, we are sure The Chase duathlon and The Wee Chase will bring visitors to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park to experience its natural beauty."



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New Stirling Smith exhibition celebrates City's farming heritage



The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum is set to open a new exhibition of animal paintings and other images of life on the land, celebrating the

rich heritage of agriculture in Stirlingshire.

The exhibition, entitled 'Big Beast Pictures', opens to the public on 19 June and is drawn from the collections of the Stirling Smith.

The title reflects both the size of the paintings and their subjects. The largest exhibit is "The Rebel" by A.R.W. Allan (1878-1959), measuring 9 x 9.5 feet. Painted in 1925, it features three Clydesdale horses at a time when Massey-Fergusson tractors were being introduced to farming.

Art enthusiasts will have the chance to see Allan's painting, which has been in store since 1970, cleaned and conserved in the public gallery from 9 to 13 August. Other works include paintings by Joseph Denovan Adam (1841-1896) who ran a school of animal art at Craigmill, near Cambuskenneth, which was

frequented by several of the Glasgow Boys. Adam ran his art school in Stirling as it was a major crossing place of the drove roads, which brought cattle from all over Scotland to the trysts of Falkirk. Highland cattle were once a common sight in the streets of Stirling in the autumn.

A number of events will take place alongside the exhibition, including a range of talks exploring agricultural-related topics, and activities for children throughout the summer.

The exhibition is supported by United Auctions (UA), Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers, whose headquarters are based at the new Stirling Agricultural Centre. UA's sponsorship is match-funded by a New Arts Sponsorship Grant supported by the Scottish Government in conjunction with Arts & Business Scotland.

The exhibition runs from 19 June to 14 November at The Stirling Smith. The art gallery and museum is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am - 5pm and on Sunday from 2pm - 5pm. Free admission and parking.



Callander Rambling Club

The Club consists of a group of enthusiasts who meet regularly throughout the year to participate in a programme of strolls, rambles, hill walks and a Long Distance Path. Details are published on www.incallander.co.uk/ramblers.htm, in the Ben Ledi View and on posters around Callander. New Members and guests are always welcome.

July

8:30am Sat 3rd LDP SWSW (6) - Melrose to Lauder 10 miles Paul Prescott 01877-330032
9:30am Wed 7th Stroll Argaty and Kilbryde 5 miles Norma Thornton 01877-331588
8:30am Sat 10th Hill An Caisteal & Beinn a' Chroin 9.95m Richard Cooper 01877-331067
9:30am Wed 14th Ramble Balquhider to Brig O'Turk 10 miles Bob Rennie 01877-330930
8:30am Sat 17th LDP SWSW (7) - Lauder to Watch Water reservoir 12 m Paul Prescott 01877-330032

August

9:30am Wed 11th Stroll Bochastle 4 miles Carol Cruickshank 07970-509911
8:30am Sat 14th Hill Ben Challum 1025m Mike Hawkins 01877-339080
8:30am Sat 21st LDP SWSW (8) - Watch Water to Abbey St Bathans 9 miles Paul Prescott 01877-330032
8:30am Sat 28th Ramble Around Glen Finglas Reservoir 8 miles Keith Niven 01877-376200

September

9:30am Wed 1st Stroll Culross to New Mills 5 miles Evelyn Dick
8:30am Sat 11th Hill Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin 986m Richard Cooper 01877-331067
8:30am Sat 18th LDP SWSW (9) - Abbey St Bathans to Cockburnspath 10 miles Paul Prescott 01877-330032
9:30am Wed 29th Ramble Across Rannoch Moor (inc train) 12 miles Rob Smallman 01786-825877

Gartmore Women's Rural Institute

Meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Gartmore Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors most welcome.

President: Lesley Bond, Cromdale, Gartmore, 382759
Secretary: Christine Hamilton, Montview, Gartmore, 382327



Gartmore Church

Times of Worship

Morning worship is at 10am every Sunday. We have tea/coffee after the service on the first Sunday of each month. The Sunday Club meets most Sundays.

Summer Teas in the Church

Commences Sunday 27th June to 15th August 2 - 4 pm. Come and enjoy a natter, and a scrumptious treat!

Drymen and District Local History Society

www.drymen-history.org.uk

Whether you want to research topics of local history or just hear from others you will be made welcome by Drymen and District Local History Society. The Society presents illustrated talks on local history on seven nights throughout the winter. Meetings are held in Drymen Village Hall on the fourth Thursday of each month September to November and January to April, starting at 7.45pm. Details of our programme will be on our website.

One date already confirmed is:

24 February 2011 - Kirsten Wood "A Palace Fit for a King" about the restoration of the James V Palace, Stirling Castle.

To join contact our Treasurer, Peter Smith, 7 Napier Road, Killearn, G63 9PB
Telephone 01360 550726
drymen.history@virgin.net or just come along to a meeting.

Strathendrick Singers

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Strathendrick Singers are a local choir that has been enjoying music for over 30 years. Our repertoire ranges from large choral works to Scottish songs and includes a piece that we commissioned from local composer Sally Beamish.

We rehearse in Killearn on Monday nights from September to April and perform Christmas Concerts and a Spring Concert.

This year's Christmas Concerts will be in Killearn Kirk on Friday 10th December, and in St Mary's, Aberfoyle on Sunday 12th December.

We are now auditioning for new members. Vacancies exist in all voices but we are particularly interested in increasing our tenor section.

Auditions on Monday 6 September at 7.15pm. Rehearsals on Monday evenings 7.45pm-10pm from Monday 6 September.

Killearn Kirk Session Room (adjacent to Killearn Kirk)
For more details, phone Alison on 01360 660737

Callander Taekwondo Club

Taekwondo is a great sport and a great way to get/keep fit. Why don't you come along and give it a go? Contact Duncan on 07713 193841 or visit the club website for more information. www.callander-taekwondo.co.uk

Deadline Dates

~~Issue 59 - 20 June~~
Issue 60 - 15 Aug
Issue 61 - 26 Sept
Issue 62 - 14 Nov (xmas)

Caption Corner



1. Floododils!
2. Them's Waterillies!



1. 'Water' lot of litter this could hold
2. Surely it's an Ocean (Bin) Liner?



1. You would do welly to have your picnic here
2. Floods reach a new Water/Benchmark!

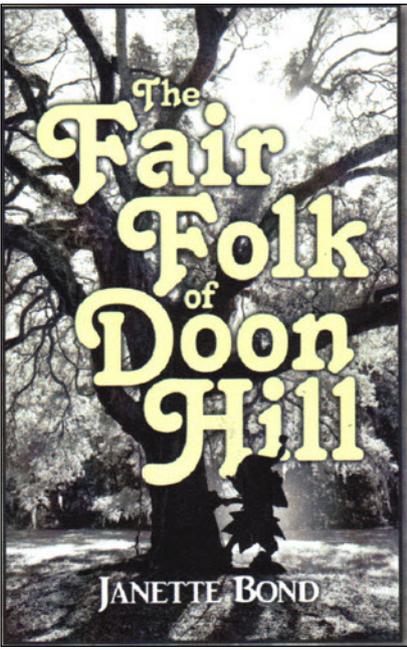


1. A 'tide'y group of trees, don't you think?
2. Them's Beach trees, surely

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Forth Inn Events Diary

July
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31 July - Pub Quiz

August
21 August - Karaoke in the Wallace bar starts @ 9pm
29 August - Pub Quiz

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