



Kinross Newsletter



Founded in 1977 by Mrs Nan Walker, MBE

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DEADLINE for the March Issue

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Contributions for inclusion in the Newsletter

The Newsletter welcomes items from clubs, community organisations and individuals for publication. This is free of charge (we only charge for commercial advertising - see below right). All items may be subject to editing. Please also see our Letters Policy on page 2.

Submit your item (except adverts) in one of the following ways:

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Front cover: Plastic Bag Free Kinross-shire poster by competition winner
Lewis Houston, of Fossoway Primary School.

Advertising in the Newsletter

Typed Adverts – New rates effective from December 2008

A typed advert may be placed for one or more months. These adverts are text only (no graphics allowed). There are two rates:

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The Newsletter reserves the right to vary the physical size of these adverts from issue to issue according to the space available.

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Printed (Display) Adverts

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The Newsletter reserves the right to refuse or amend any advertisement or submission and accepts no liability for any omission or inaccuracy.

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Letters

Editorial

A Happy New Year to all our readers!

We have a particularly packed and informative Newsletter for you this issue, including updates on the new community campus and local campaigns on the A977 and plastic bag use to name just a few.

While thinking of environmental matters, the following shops will accept Christmas cards for recycling until the end of January: Marks & Spencer, Tesco, T K Maxx and W H Smith. In addition to Christmas cards, Council recycling centres will take gift tags and non-metallic wrapping paper up until 31 January.

A few years ago the rugby club used to list every month in the Newsletter the number of dog mess deposits they had to remove from the pitches before playing. Sadly the inconsiderate behaviour of a few dog owners seems to have returned, judging by the Kinross United football club report (see Sport) and Councillor Baird's letter.

Letters Policy

We reserve the right not to publish any letter. Letters will not be published unless the sender's name and address are supplied and they are prepared to have them published along with their letter. Please note that the Newsletter does not necessarily agree with any of the views expressed on these pages.

Abbreviations Used

P&KC = Perth & Kinross Council

CC = Community Council

Cllr = Councillor

CCllr = Community Councillor

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Burns's Prediction

30.11.08

It is now 250 years since Robbie Burns first saw the light of day and some of his work will go on for ever. But Burns was a good prophet – some of his predictions have been proven over the years – all except one.

Ever since I was able to understand things – nearly 80 years – I have always had my doubts about it, and judging by the state the world is in today, I still "hae ma doots".

I think the criminals and terrorists will get worse until they go too far and blow up and kill themselves off.

Then would be the chance for the common sense and sane people to take over the reins and prove Burns to be correct.

Here is what he says:

"Then let us pray that come it may

(As come it will for a' that),

That Sense and Worth o'er a' the earth

Shall bear the gree an a' that

For a' that, an a' that,

It's comin yet for a' that,

That man to man, the world, o'er

Shall brithers be for a' that."

God speed that day because it is sairly needed.

Graham Shand

Am Bothan, Schiehallion, Crook of Devon

Plea to Dog Owners

12.01.09

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers A Healthy, Happy 2009. Much publicity is in the newspaper about the year of the Homecoming and many visitors, hopefully, will visit our beautiful country during the year.

Last week I attended two Community Council meetings and the same topic was raised again - I am sure you must know - A minority of dog walkers are allowing their dogs to foul children's play areas. Sadly a few do not care that they are causing a health hazard to children, particularly if they allow their dog to foul on bark in a play area or a path used by children walking to school.

I receive frequent requests for more dog waste bins, I do not think this would help the minority who do not think they are doing anything wrong.

Many Bloom committees and TRACKS and other voluntary organisations work hard to make Kinross-shire a beautiful place. Everyone can play their part: if you spot someone's dog fouling, please report to the Dog warden who will make every effort to patrol the area.

I could name the CCs but the problem is not unique. Please, dog owners, enjoy your dog and let everyone else enjoy parks and paths also.

Councillor Kathleen Baird

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National Curling Academy 11.01.09

As has been reported in a previous issue of this Newsletter, Kinross received the very exciting news a little while ago that it had been selected by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC) as the site for the proposed National Curling Academy. In addition to providing playing and training facilities for Scotland's various elite national curling squads, the Academy will also be home to the many local curling clubs and curlers. The RCCC is also proposing to move its head offices to the facility in Kinross and establish a curling museum to house all its curling artefacts and memorabilia. In short, Kinross is set to become the home of curling in Scotland and is a massive boost to the town.

The news was also a massive relief to hundreds of local curlers who were having to face up to the possibility that their enjoyment of this wonderful sport was in very real jeopardy. The existing curling rink at the Green Hotel is now over 30 years old and no longer 'fit for purpose'. Without a £1m+ major refurbishment, funding for which was extremely unlikely, the existing rink would almost certainly have to close for good within the next few years. The proposed new National Curling Academy will provide the perfect solution.

Since the announcement, I have become aware of a fairly vociferous campaign against the new facility being built in the Market Park as is currently proposed. The main plank of their opposition is that the Market Park is owned by the community for the common good. I am sorry to have to disabuse them of this notion but I am afraid it is fanciful nonsense. The Market Park is, and has been for hundreds of years, owned by Kinross Estate Company. The fact that a number of local fairs, including until 1977 the popular Jooley Fair, were held in the Market Park was down to permission being generously granted by my forebears. In the last couple of years, we too have given permission from time to time for other local events / markets to be held there. It is, however, a misconception to state that it is owned by the community because this is simply not the case. The broad concept for the National Curling Academy is that the planned new car parking area will be landscaped in such a way that occasional local markets could still be held there with the advantage of tents and stalls etc being on hard standing rather than grass and mud.

Another opposition complaint is that a lovely green space in the centre of the town would be lost if the plan goes ahead. The assertion that the Market Park is a lovely green space makes me chortle because it suggests that people have memory spans akin to the goldfish that we tried so hard to win at the Jooley Fair. Up until a couple of years or so ago, the Market Park was a scruffy paddock which was occasionally grazed by a small flock of sheep. Whilst this paints a rather quaint scene, the reality is that it was previously a bit of an eyesore, unkempt and covered in litter and general detritus. For the last two or three years, at our own cost, we have tidied it up and kept it mown and looking relatively nice and neat. In the current economic climate, I can make no promises going forward.

I have been asked whether there are not alternative sites for the National Curling Academy such as the presumably soon-to-be-vacated High School site. Whilst superficially a logical suggestion, in reality this suggestion is fanciful. P&KC needs to recoup as much money as they can from selling this site to offset against the huge cost of the new High School campus. Earmarking a large chunk of the

current Kinross High School site is financial nonsense. An alternative suggestion has been to site the new curling facility on the available land down by the Pier but few seem aware that all that land falls within the Loch Leven National Nature Reserve and does anyone honestly expect Scottish National Heritage to countenance that being used? Dream on!

The new National Curling Academy will be a huge boost to the local community. It will be owned and operated by the Kinross Curling Trust, a Scottish charitable company, where the majority of the trustees will be locals. Jobs will be created and the facility will attract visiting curlers to Kinross from throughout Scotland and internationally. Furthermore, the intention is to try to persuade hundreds more people locally, and in particular the schools, to try curling because it is a wonderfully enjoyable sport for people of all levels and abilities – it is also one of the most social of sports.

It does sadden me that many people seem prepared to risk jeopardising this project because of a perceived loss of valuable local amenity land. As pointed out earlier, the amenity value of the Market Park is being dramatically overstated. However, one has to 'break a few eggs to make an omelette' and I would argue that altering the look of the Market Park is a small price to pay for a hugely valuable project. As seems so often to be the case nowadays, narrow self-interest takes priority over wider community interests. There is too much 'take, take, take' and too little 'give, give, give'.

The architect and designers will be appointed for the project within the next few weeks and there will be extensive local consultation prior to any plans being formalised and submitted for planning permission. The Market Park is obviously a very sensitive area and it is vital that any development fits as sympathetically as possible with the local built environment.

Jamie Montgomery
Kinross House

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News & Articles

Kinross Community Campus

New Contact

After completing his duties as In-school Coordinator for the new school campus, Mr Morris has now been seconded (two days a week) to engage with the local community to:

- Inform people about the facilities and services in the new campus
- Promote community use of these facilities and services
- Answer questions and pass on issues/problems to the relevant bodies
- Provide feedback from the Council/Construction Company etc.

He will be happy to hear from both individuals and groups/clubs.

Mr Morris can be contacted at Kinross High School: Telephone 01577 862430, Email: dmorris@kinrosshigh.pkc.sch.uk

Progress Report

The building work remains on schedule for opening in October this year. Behind the scenes lots of people are working hard to make sure that this wonderful community facility will be fully functional from day one.

Here are some examples of what is happening at the moment:

Perth and Kinross Leisure are currently working on a booking system and pricing structure.

'Risk' workshops have recently been held which identified key issues for P&KC to address.

A Travel Plan has been drawn up for the new campus. P&KC and Kinross High School are working together to provide safe travel routes, update transport arrangements and promote 'green travel'.

Discussion is taking place, and training being planned, to ensure that all the Service Providers who will be based in the new campus will be working in an integrated way to provide the best possible service for all users.

Facilities available will include meeting rooms, sports pitches and halls, music rooms, craft rooms and much more besides. So whether you are planning a wedding, film night, birthday party, Burns supper, football tournament, craft fair, dance class or bridge club, the new campus could provide the perfect venue.



Loch Leven Community Campus, November 2008

Photo: Kilmac Construction

Green Apple Award

The Loch Leven Community Campus New Site has won a Green Apple Award (Scotland – Large Companies – Silver Award) through the Green Organisation. (If you look at The Green Organisation's logo, you will see that the stylised use of the G and O initials form the shape of a green apple.)

The Green Organisation, based in Devon is an independent environment group dedicated to promoting the positive side of environmental endeavour. One of the main thrusts of The Green Organisation's promotional campaign is through the national Green Apple Environment Awards for local

authorities, commerce and industry.

The Green Apple Environment Award campaign recognises rewards and promotes environmental best practice around the world.

This is a great achievement for the new campus, community and Laing O'Rourke and it would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the Project Manager John Ritchie and his site team.

A broad leaf tree has been planted on behalf of Loch Leven Community Campus by the Tree Appeal.

For more on the Community Campus, see Library News on p 13 and the Milnathort CC report on p 18.



Dr Stephen Thompson holds the Green Apple Award whilst John Ritchie holds the certificate

A977 Petition at Parliament

Richard Simpson MSP presents case

A petition asking for action over traffic levels on the A977 following the opening of the new Clackmannanshire Bridge was heard at the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee on 13 January, with some success.

Mid Scotland and Fife MSP Richard Simpson spoke in support of the petition, which was organised by Fossoway & District CC. The MSP has been working with Councillor Mike Barnacle and local MP Gordon Banks to help the local CC and residents with the campaign.

The Scottish Executive acknowledged some time ago that the new bridge would bring increased traffic to the A977 and granted P&KC £250,000 to fund measures, but campaigners claim far more money is needed to successfully deal with the effects of the increased traffic levels.



L to R: I Farquhar (Fossoway CC) Cllr Barnacle, Richard Simpson MSP, A Morrison (Chair, Fossoway CC) and F Wellman (FORK)

Dr Simpson presented the case for mitigation measures to protect the communities along the A977. Following the meeting, the Parliament's Petitions Committee has decided to approach the Government to reconsider funding for the work needed for the road. They have also committed to approach P&KC to ask that they work together with the Scottish Government to draw up the most suitable traffic mitigation measures. Also, on a broader note, the Committee will ask the Government how it will address these issues in future, with regard to nationally built projects which may have repercussions for local communities.

Speaking after the Committee meeting, Dr Simpson said:

"Whilst everyone recognises the positive benefits that the Clackmannanshire Bridge has brought, action is required to mitigate its effects along the A977 and its communities."

"The route now appears to be a favoured route for HGVs and quite simply the road is not equipped for such traffic and the dangers that come with that."

"Therefore," he continued, "I am standing firmly behind the Community Council and Councillor Barnacle's calls for mitigation measures to be fully funded, not only to improve safety on the road, but to encourage HGVs to use the M9 and M90 instead."

Councillor Barnacle warmly praised Dr Simpson's presentation and said that the Petitions Committee gave them "a very fair hearing."

Parking advice for visitors to Heritage Trail

Perth & Kinross Council has issued the following statement on parking for visitors to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, following a letter to the Newsletter (December 2008 issue):

"The letter writer stated their wish to see a new car park created at Grahamstone Farm to provide access to the Trail. The Council would advise that there are no plans at present to create additional parking around the loch, and encourage motorists to use the designated official parking facilities that are already available.

"The car parks at Burleigh Sands, Kirkgate Park and Kinross Pier are recognised for Trail users, and Findatie Car Park also provides parking for the public. The Trail can be accessed by wheelchair users from all these locations.

"Additionally, parking is available at Loch Leven's Larder and the RSPB reserve at Vane Farm for anyone wishing to combine a visit to the Trail with these visitor attractions.

"The Council would also encourage motorists to park with discretion around the loch and bear in mind the privacy, safety and livelihoods of others. Access rights under The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 do not extend to motor vehicles 'other than a vehicle or vessel which has been constructed or adapted for use by a person who has a disability and which is being used by such a person'".

Kinross-shire Community Christmas Celebration

There was almost a full house for the annual Christmas Celebration held in the High School hall. Head Teacher, Dick Keatings gave everyone a very warm welcome to what will be the last such event to be held in the present school building, before Brian Ogilvie, Reader at Cleish and Fossoway, took the reins.

The Joint Choir was in fine voice and sang several carols, including a charming arrangement by conductor, Joan McKinnon, of O Little Town of Bethlehem. The choir of Cleish Primary School charmed with Hark to the Bells, a German carol, and Awa in a Ruch Heck, a Scots version of Away in a Manger.

The readings were varied and less traditional than usual, with Brian Ogilvie giving a Scots version of the nativity story from the Lorimer Gospel, Anne Melville reading Christmas Bells, with the recurring theme peace on earth, goodwill to men, Ishbel McFarlane giving us Christmas is Really for the Children, Sarah Oxnard reading Kids' Stuff and the incomparable Irene McFarlane presenting T.S. Eliot's The Journey of the Magi.

A real treat was baritone, David Cairns, accompanied by the School String Group, singing Peter Cornelius' Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar.

There were plenty opportunities for the audience to join in with gusto, singing five carols.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was given to everyone involved by John Getley, Chairperson of Kinross-shire Churches Together and after a Christmas Blessing by David Ogilvie, Alex Cant, with the help of the choir, taught the gathering a Christmas Round.

There was a retiring collection for the emergency in The Congo and Wateraid.

Helen Glover

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Need a New Year's Resolution that's easy to keep? Why not go plastic bag-free?!

Kinross-shire Plastic Bag Free campaign is following the lead taken by other UK towns to cut their plastic bag use. It is part of the global movement which recognises the harm that disposable plastic bags can have on wildlife and the environment.

Reducing plastic bag use is a small but effective part of reducing the amount of plastic which ends up in landfills, streets and oceans.

This campaign will help Kinross-shire to be tidier, with less litter. It will raise awareness of the problems surrounding disposable plastic items, of the damage they cause to wildlife and the environment.

The Campaign recently ran a poster competition for Kinross-shire primary school children. The competition received 80 entries and was won by Lewis Houston of Fossoway Primary School. His winning design is on the front cover of this month's Newsletter. Lewis was presented with prizes (kindly donated by Joseph Giacopazzi and RSPB) at Vane Farm on 20 December.



Poster design competition winner Lewis Houston (right) with Andrea Habeshaw of RSPB and runners-up from Fossoway Primary School

The Campaign also held a successful make-your-own reusable bag workshop. Many people went away having made a fabric bag in around 15 minutes. They will be able to use this bag over and over, replacing many hundreds of plastic bags being used for a short time and then discarded. We would be interested in hearing from groups or individuals who could help with bag-making workshops in the future – perhaps you are good at sewing, or have some fabric or threads you could donate to us (email address below).

On 11 January, members of the Plastic Bag Free Campaign joined forces with volunteers from Loch Leven National Nature Reserve in a litter pick on the shores of the Reserve. Craig Nisbet, of Scottish Natural Heritage, who manages the NNR, estimates that discarded plastic bags contribute to a quarter of the litter found on the shores of Kinross-shire's special nature reserve - another reason why we should strive to keep our county free of plastic bags!

Some information about plastic carrier bags:

- Time used before discarding, on average - 20 minutes.
- Time taken to fully break down in the environment - 400 years.
- Number used globally each year - over 500 billion. Ten percent end up in the sea.
- Number of sea creatures dying each year as a result of swallowing them - 100,000.
- Amount of annual oil production going to make plastics - 8%.
- What happens to discarded bags? They 'photodegrade' into ever smaller toxic bits.
- Then what? They end up in the food chain.

So, when it comes to making a New Year's Resolution, how about one not to use plastic bags! It's one resolution you'll easily be able to keep – here's how:

- ✓ Invest in some cotton or jute bags to take with you when you go shopping
- ✓ Keep them handy at the door so you don't forget
- ✓ Keep one or two reusable bags in your car
- ✓ Fold a cotton bag and keep in your handbag or pocket
- ✓ If you're only buying a few items, and you don't have a bag with you, carry them in your hands or pockets
- ✓ Politely decline plastic bags in supermarkets

It'll become second nature in no time!

For more information or to offer support email:

kinrossshirepbf@googlemail.com

Many thanks to those who have already supported and endorsed the campaign:

Joseph Giacopazzi
RSPB Vane Farm
Kinross High School Eco-group
Willie Robertson
Perth & Kinross Council
Scottish Natural Heritage
Loch Leven's Larder

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phone Ann Harley on 01577 864512 or email
subscriptions@kinrossnewsletter.org

Kinross-shire Disunited

Kinross and Milnathort CCs have pulled out of the Kinross-shire Forum. The group was reaching the stage of drawing up a constitution and deciding on membership when Milnathort and Kinross CCs decided they had misgivings.

The Forum was the idea of Cllr Mike Barnacle and has met approximately five times over the last two years. The idea of the Forum was to provide an opportunity for CCs to discuss matters affecting the whole county and, where agreement was reached, to provide a united voice in representing Kinross-shire's interests. Representatives from Friends of Rural Kinross-shire (FORK) and the Kinross-shire Civic Trust have also attended meetings, as have the other local Councillors.

Matters discussed so far at the Forum have mainly related to P&KC policy such as its Housing in the Countryside policy, projected population figures for the area and the reduction of the influence of CCs on planning applications, but has also included topics such as increased traffic on the A977.

At the November 2008 Milnathort CC meeting the Milnathort CC Chairman, Mr Giacomazzi, expressed concern at FORK and the Civic Trust being members of the Forum as "neither ... was democratically elected". It was also stated at the Milnathort meeting that the "Kinross-shire Partnership was the only group legitimately entitled to attend because they didn't have a single-issue agenda".

At its December meeting, in the absence of the Kinross CC Chairman, Kinross CC decided that it did "not wish to be part of a Constituted Forum, but would like to be involved with any item affecting our jurisdiction." At the Milnathort CC December meeting, it was agreed "... that the CC would follow the example of Kinross CC and not become involved in the forum in its present form" and it was again stated that "the forum should be for CCs, not for bodies who were not democratically elected."

Following these decisions by Milnathort and Kinross CCs, Cllr Barnacle has written to all six CCs in the Kinross-shire ward of P&KC, the Kinross-shire Civic Trust, FORK and the other P&K Councillors to reiterate the benefits of a group such as the Forum. He also provided a proposed constitution and has asked all to respond to him one way or another.

Referring to a description of FORK and the Civic Trust as being non-elected and having a single-issue agenda, Cllr Barnacle says in his letter that he "cannot understand such criticism." He points out that these groups have large memberships and encloses copies of their aims and objectives.

FORK is a non-political organisation whose aims are: to preserve the rural character of Kinross-shire and help to protect its amenity, ecology and tradition for future generations; to consider all major proposals for housing and other developments in the rural areas; to make representations where appropriate and consistent with its aims; to assist other representative bodies such as CCs in conveying residents' opinion to local and national authorities; to take a county wide view of the impact of all developments on the character of Kinross-shire and to give effective support to the solution of our common problems.

The Kinross-shire Civic Trust's objectives are: to promote and encourage a public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of the areas of Kinross-shire and Glenfarg; to promote and encourage the preservation,

conservation, development and improvement of features of general public or historic interest; to promote and encourage a high standard of architecture and planning in the area. The Trust wants to see the essential character and identity of Kinross-shire to be maintained.

Cllr Barnacle suggests that "anyone who has a problem with these [aims] cannot have the interests of the Kinross-shire community at heart." He goes on to say that he "has no problem with the Kinross-shire Partnership being considered for participation in the Forum."

To reiterate the value of the Forum, Cllr Barnacle writes:

"... the idea of the Forum was an attempt to provide a focus for discussion on matters of importance and common interest to the community councils and other representative groups of Kinross-shire and to assist them in making our community's views known forcibly to the Council in Perth." He continues, "The reality is that two of the most powerful committees at P&KC are Development Control and Enterprise and Infrastructure; Kinross-shire members only have one place on the former and none on the latter committee! I believe our current administration in Perth is very centralised and focused on delivering the corporate 'growth' agenda, irrespective of community view and this situation needs to be addressed."

The proposed constitution for the Kinross-shire Forum circulated to the CCs and others is as follows:

- The aims of the Kinross-shire Forum are to provide a focus for discussion on matters of importance and common interest to the six Community Councils in the Kinross-shire Ward and to act as a collective voice for consultation with P&KC and other bodies.
- The Forum will have a Chairman and a Minute Secretary and other members may be appointed to act as spokesmen as mutually agreed for specific purposes.
- The four Perth & Kinross Councillors who represent Kinross-shire shall be ex-officio members of the Forum; they will have no voting rights but will be kept fully briefed on all decisions and agreed actions.
- The Forum shall invite other organisations in Kinross-shire, that have significant membership, to participate as considered appropriate. In particular Kinross Civic Trust, Friends of Rural Kinross-shire and the Kinross Partnership, as well as others.
- The Forum shall meet on a quarterly seasonal basis and/or additionally if specific issues arise.
- The Forum will not have any powers over the actions or responsibilities of the individual Community Councils, nor seek to circumvent or undermine them in any way.

Cllr Barnacle would still be prepared to carry on with the Forum even without the participation of all the bodies originally invited, but would much prefer that all are involved.

There are important issues coming up, potentially affecting the whole of the Kinross-shire and Glenfarg area, which the Forum could appropriately discuss:

P&KC wants to proceed with an Alteration to the Structure Plan in relation to population and household projections, with significant implications for housing growth. There is a consultation period until 28 February.

The contentious Housing in the Countryside policy is being reviewed and consultation will be undertaken in February and March.

Tips For Dog Walkers at Loch Leven National Nature Reserve

The final section of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail (LLHT) was officially opened in November and it is a treat to see the level of interest as people are out enjoying the new route and the views it offers to the loch and surrounding hills. The path runs mostly through the Nature Reserve and as it heads south from the Pow Burn it skirts Carsehall Bog, a large expanse of marshland favoured by geese. Moving further south, St Serf's can be glimpsed through the trees and fringing reeds. The expanse of water tucked in behind St Serf's often holds the largest concentration of ducks, swans and geese seen on the loch. This quiet stretch of the path offers a sense of calmness and closeness to the natural world for everyone to enjoy. We ask that people respect this **peaceful and tranquil atmosphere** and move quietly along the path.



Carsehall Bog

Photo: Craig Nsbet, SNH

As part of this we are taking the opportunity to advise dog walkers, who have an added responsibility on the nature reserve to ensure that our four legged friends cause as little disturbance to wildlife as possible.

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Why we need to take special care at Loch Leven.

Dogs have been bred and domesticated for thousands of years, so are not a natural part of Britain's wildlife. They are, in fact, man's companion. They are also, however, seen as a major predator by wildlife. When a spaniel or a labrador quarters an area, they are in reality, looking for prey to hunt or retrieve. This has the potential to create large scale disturbance to wildlife throughout the nature reserve. A dog's bark is enough to disturb and affect a brood of ducks taking shelter along the shoreline or in the many burns and ditches running through the marshes into the loch. Even though you may not see your dog chasing a bird or a squirrel, these animals sense your dog's presence and move away. Not only does this reduce the number and variety of wildlife in the area where dogs are not under proper control but it also means that someone else walking in the area is less likely to see and hear wildlife.

We hope that by getting out the message about the special qualities of the Loch and the impact that dogs can have on wildlife and amenity, that people will be considerate to others.

Please, remember you're on one of Scotland's 55 National Nature Reserves and if you have your dog with you on a walk on the Trail, keep it beside you.

Dog walkers: top tips for enjoying your walk along the new section of path from Pow Burn to Levenmouth.

- Don't forget your lead and dog bags when you leave the house.
- Please keep your dog under close control whilst on the Heritage Trail – this means on a short lead (2m or less) or close at heel (within a metre or so of your feet) and able to respond to your commands.
- There are some areas where your dog might want to go for a swim – please stop them from swimming anywhere other than the sands at Findatie.
- Make sure your dog does not jump over or crawl under the fence that runs alongside the path.
- Please help others to enjoy their visit by cleaning up after your dog – it's against the law not to! You can use any bin on the trail to dispose of your dog mess, but if a red dog dirt bin is nearby, please use it. It is planned that the Council will install a dog dirt bin at Findatie shortly.

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Deadline for all Articles

2.00 pm, MONDAY 16 February
for publication on Saturday 28 February

Kinross Community Council Questionnaire Results Announced

Last March the Newsletter printed a questionnaire on behalf of Kinross CC. The questionnaire was later also distributed with leaflets to households throughout Kinross-shire and was available on the internet.

Kinross CC Chairman Dave Cuthbert has now sent in the following report:

In early Summer last year, Kinross Community Council distributed questionnaires to most households in the area.

The response has been huge with 324 people completing the questionnaire.

The responses to this questionnaire are shown on the next page.

Key Findings:

Town Centre

It is clear from the results of this questionnaire that Kinross-shire residents would like to see improvements made to the Town Centre, with 94.87% voting in favour of this.

Employment:

More than 94% of respondents were in favour of more jobs being provided in Kinross, with appropriate employment for young people being cited as a way to keep them in the Town.

Town Hall and Old High School Site

More than 96% of respondents selected options other than private housing as future uses for the old Town Hall site and 91% were in favour of using the Old High School Site for other purposes.

Railway Link Re-established

92.74% of respondents voted in favour of this idea.

Kinross Primary School

Most respondents are in favour of moving the Primary School into the Old High School site.

Summary of Findings:

1. A majority of respondents would like to see Kinross as a Self Sustained community with jobs for residents (52.58%).
2. Most would like to see a railway link to Kinross re-established (92.74%)
3. Most would like to see more jobs in Kinross (94.41%)
4. Respondents would like to see new jobs in Kinross in the following percentages:
 - a. Unskilled (14.71%)
 - b. Part Time (22.81%)
 - c. Office (17.91%)
 - d. Small Business Incentive (44.56%)
5. Most respondents feel that there are enough sports facilities in Kinross
6. A majority of respondents would like to see water sports on Loch Leven (35.04% Sail, 32.60% Rowing, 4.87% Motor Craft).
7. A majority of respondents would like to see more major events held at Balado (60.63%)
8. There is a strong feeling that Kinross Town Centre should be improved with 94.87% in favour of this.
9. How the Town Centre should be improved had a mixed response with the following results:
 - a. Part Pedestrianisation (20.08%)
 - b. Retail Development (41.60%)
 - c. Business Development (15.78%)
 - d. Art & Music Centre (22.54%)
10. Overall parking in the Town was felt to be inadequate, with a majority of respondents in favour of more Long Term and Short Term unpaid parking being provided.
11. A majority of respondents (67%) were in favour of moving the Primary School into the old High School site rather than extending the existing school (21.55%) or building a new Primary School (11.45%). It should be noted that the Council have now indicated that the Primary School is not over capacity, although there will be problems accommodating the pupils should smaller class sizes be introduced by the Scottish Government.
12. A number of options were suggested for encouraging people to shop in Kinross, the most popular of which was small specialist shops (23.78%).
13. A majority of respondents are in favour of roundabouts at each end of Springfield Road (57.65%).
14. A huge majority of respondents are against the Town Hall being used as Private Housing, with only 3.99% electing for this option. Preferred options were Youth & Community Space (38.66%) and Art and Music Centre (32.35%)
15. The old Kinross High School Site was again rejected as a site for Private Housing, with only 8.33% in favour. Popular uses for the site were: Youth & Community Space (29.38%) Business Centre (21.88%) and Art and Music Centre (21.46%)
16. 74.05% of respondents said that there was not enough for young people to do in Kinross.
17. The most popular option for keeping young people in Kinross was the provision of appropriate jobs for them.

Kinross Community Council will be taking the results of this survey to Perth and Kinross Council and other government bodies to see if it is possible to fulfil the desires of local people.



Kinross Community Council Questionnaire

	Number of Questionnaires Completed	324		
Q1	What sort of town would you like Kinross to be?	Commuter Town	8.76%	
		Self sustained with jobs for residents	52.58%	
		Strong Tourism Base	38.65%	100.00%
Q2	Would you like to see the railway restored to connect with the existing system at Cowdenbeath and Bridge of Earn offering potential journeys to Edinburgh and Perth?	Yes	92.74%	
		No	7.26%	100.00%
Q3	Do you think there should be more jobs in Kinross? Yes or No?	Yes	94.41%	
		No	5.59%	100.00%
Q4	If so, what type of jobs would you like to see added to Kinross?	Unskilled	14.71%	
		Part Time	22.81%	
		Office	17.91%	
		Small Business Incentive	44.56%	100.00%
Q5	Are there enough sports facilities available in Kinross?	Yes	65.20%	
		No	34.80%	100.00%
Q6	Would you like to see water sports on Loch Leven, if so which ones?	Sail Craft	35.04%	
		Rowing Boat	32.60%	
		Motor Craft	4.87%	
		None due to wildlife disturbance	27.49%	100.00%
Q7	Would you like to see more major events at Balado in addition to T in the Park? Yes or No?	Yes	60.63%	
		No	39.37%	100.00%
Q8	Do you think the Town Centre should be improved? Yes or No?	Yes	94.87%	
		No	5.13%	100.00%
Q9	If so, how?	Part Pedestrianisation	20.08%	
		Retail Development	41.60%	
		Business Development	15.78%	
		Art & Music Centre	22.54%	100.00%
Q10	Is there enough parking available in the town centre?			
	Long Term? Yes or No?	Yes	38.46%	
		No	61.54%	100.00%
	Short Term paid? Yes or No?	Yes	50.50%	
		No	49.50%	100.00%
	Short Term Unpaid? Yes or No?	Yes	42.91%	
		No	57.09%	100.00%
Q11	Kinross Primary School is getting close to its capacity, which option do you think is the most appropriate?	Add to Existing School	21.55%	
		Build a Second School	11.45%	
		Relocate to the old High School Site	67.00%	100.00%
Q12	What would encourage you to shop in Kinross?	Large Supermarket Presence	7.39%	
		Retail Park Presence	8.19%	
		Local Market/Events	18.98%	
		Cafes & Eating places	13.29%	
		Small Specialist Shops	23.78%	
		Attractive Setting	14.59%	
		Ample Parking	13.79%	100.00%
Q13	Should there be roundabouts at either end of Springfield Road? Yes or No?	Yes	57.65%	
		No	42.35%	100.00%
Q14	How would you like to see the Town Hall building used?	Private Housing	3.99%	
		Business Centre	13.24%	
		Arts & Music Centre	32.35%	
		Youth & Community Space	38.66%	
		Retail Centre	11.76%	100.00%
Q15	If the Primary school does not move into the Old High School, how would you like to see the old Kinross High School site being used?	Private Housing	8.33%	
		Business Centre	21.88%	
		Arts & Music Centre	21.46%	
		Youth & Community Space	29.38%	
		Retained as a Public Building	18.96%	100.00%
Q16	Is there enough for the young people of Kinross to do? Yes or No?	Yes	25.95%	
		No	74.05%	100.00%
Q17	What would encourage the young people of Kinross to stay in the area?	Entertainment	18.25%	
		Appropriate Training Opportunities	18.50%	
		Appropriate Jobs	27.50%	
		Appropriate Housing	14.18%	
		Good Transport Links	21.58%	100.00%

Beanstalk capers at KHS



Ridiculing teachers is never difficult but for two nights in December, staff at Kinross High School gave their audiences a Christmas extravaganza they'll never live down! A number of good-humoured staff volunteered to take part in what many have described as the most hilarious pantomime of the festive season.

The audience enjoyed KHS's take on the classic pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk", written and directed by Kinross's talented drama staff, Fiona MacPherson and Stacey McNab, who wrote the script only two months before the show – a mixture of witty dialogue, musical surprises and, of course, a traditional sing along!

The show included the crème de la crème of the school's actors and actresses including the blingin' Mrs Davidson (PE) throwing some gangster moves as rap cow 50 pence and Mr Caimie (Senior Management), who slipped into something more comfortable (we don't know how) for his debut acting role as Dame Hott, or as he liked to phrase it, "Damn hot!" We followed feisty Jack's (Miss Kinnel, PE) quest to keep his best friend (50 pence) away from his nemesis, the aptly named Fleshcreep (Mr McKay, PE) and save his village from the fearsome giant (who struggled with an identity crisis)

after the Dame's careless scattering of magic beans lead to an unexpected garden feature which Jack simply couldn't resist climbing.

Also starring in the show were the Rector, Mr Keatings, who played the regal King Ross (geddit!) and his 'son', Prince Hess (Mr Campbell, English) who preferred painting his nails to pursuing baddies!

After escaping a magically shrunken giant (thanks to the Golden Goose's enchantment) and returning back to his mother (Dame Hott), Jack won back his best friend (50 pence) and united him with the charming but lonely Golden Goose (Mrs McMinn, Biology). Prince Hess found his missing masculine side and found love with the bad fairy (Mrs Moran, Biology), who portrayed her

character in hilarious Vicky Pollard-style as Fleshcreep's devilish but ditzzy sidekick.

Dame Hott and King Ross put aside their differences and let love lead the way, but the Dame didn't make it an easy chase; I'm sure the image of a senior management member in a ball gown flirtatiously calling "Chase me! Chase me!" to the Rector will not leave us in a hurry. Oh no it won't!

Well done to all involved, including office and kitchen staff, a number of pupils and of course various seniors and staff who made the show possible. KHS's Jack and the Beanstalk went down a storm and left us laughing into the New Year!

Sophie Mead, S6



Kinross High School staff and pupils make ready to wow their audience with their performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk"

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The Power of Poetry

A small mental health organisation called PLUS, based in Perth, has published an inspirational anthology of poems. The book of poetry is a follow-on to the 'One Leaf-One Link' exhibition held in Perth Concert Hall in October 2007. That arts project brought together individuals from many different walks of life; the young, the elderly, those with or without disability, all working towards a common purpose of creating an exhibition reflecting a society where everyone has a valuable contribution to make.

The book 'Poems and Leaves' was launched to reflect the community spirit that evolved during 'One Leaf-One Link'. It is a beautiful book containing many stunning photographs of leaf-inspired artwork as well as moving poetry. The poems reflect the kindness of the human spirit – a desire to give comfort and hope to others who are experiencing difficulties in life.

'Poems and Leaves' is an illustration of how creativity can transform communities. The book is priced at £7.99 and details on ordering can be found on the PLUS website @ www.plusperth.co.uk or by contacting the office directly on 01738 626242. The proceeds go towards future community art projects and a palliative care fund at the local infirmary.



Gordon Banks made honorary member of the Bevin Boys Association

Ochil & South Perthshire MP Gordon Banks has been made an honorary member of the Bevin Boys Association in recognition of his work lobbying the Government to recognise the war-time achievements of the Bevin Boys.

It took two years of campaigning before Mr Banks received a commitment in 2007 from then Prime Minister Tony Blair that the efforts of the Bevin Boys would be recognised. The Bevin Boys were a group of young men who were conscripted to work in the coalmines during the Second World War and surviving members began receiving their recognition badges in 2008.

Mr Banks was presented with his certificate in the House of Commons in December by BBA President Warwick Taylor. Speaking after the presentation, Mr Banks said, "I am absolutely thrilled to have been made an honorary member of the Association and to join the ranks of many brave Bevin Boys. Both my father and grandfather were miners and I represent a constituency which has many links to the coal mining industry so this is a tremendous honour."

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Sarah Brown visits Day Centre

The Day Centre had a very successful visit from Sarah Brown, the wife of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, on 30 December 2008. Sarah chatted to everyone who was on the premises at the time and took great interest in the work of the Centre and those who use its services. Her visit generated a great deal of interest and excitement amongst everyone present and all were impressed with her enthusiasm and friendly, informal manner.

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T in the Park Local Ticket Availability

Following the success of last year's new system for sale of T in the Park tickets, we are pleased to announce that John & J.H Sands Limited will be repeating this method to ensure that local residents continue to be given a more than fair opportunity to purchase tickets for the festival in addition to internet sales.

An exclusive email information service is available to give the best possible notice of any ticket availability to local residents. If you would like to join this mailing list and receive notification of when tickets will be available for sale from our premises, please email your name, address and a contact landline telephone number to the following email address: tickets@sands-ironmongers.co.uk

Emails received without all of the required contact details **WILL NOT** be registered.

Please note, we will **NOT** be selling tickets for the event at the time of the national launch, but on a subsequent date which will be notified to locals who have registered.

Any release of T in the Park tickets from our store is liable to be at very short notice so swift response to this notification is advised to ensure best chance of availability. We strongly recommend checking your emails for updates early every morning and being in a position to purchase on that day.

This is an information service only. We regret we cannot accept any firm bookings for either type or quantity of tickets. Email will be our only method of notification regarding tickets.

We regret that we cannot accept or return phone calls regarding T in the Park tickets.

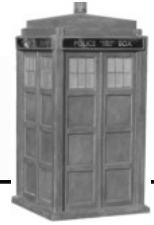
It is expected that this year we will be in a position to sell a weekend ticket with access for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday, without camping. Please note this ticket will NOT allow passouts during the day, only one entrance and exit per day is allowed.

Once you have secured your tickets, please ensure you keep your booking receipt safe. Lost booking receipts will result in tickets not being issued. Every year 'lost' vouchers are presented and exchanged for tickets by persons other than the original purchaser.

Locals will of course continue to be able to apply for tickets through Ticketmaster etc. at the time of the national launch which will be announced in the media, probably in early February.

Please note that recent press reports about T in the Park tickets being available to pre-book through David Sands, Grocers, were incorrect.

Stuart Skinner, Managing Director



Police Box

Burleigh Sands and Portmoak Church Car Parks

Towards the end of 2008 in Police Box we highlighted the problem of vehicles being broken into at the Burleigh Sands car park. Unfortunately this problem is still with us and thieves have also targeted the car park at Portmoak Church. Our earlier article read as follows:

"The above are popular with people who enjoy a walk in the country, particularly to exercise their dogs. Unfortunately cars parked at these locations are occasionally broken into and items stolen from within. We strongly advise people not to leave any valuables within their vehicles, unless they can be locked in a boot. Although it is good practice to keep valuables out of sight, previous experiences have shown that this is not entirely effective. Once a car is broken into, thieves will look under seats, look inside glove compartments and lift parcel shelves to look into tailgates. Unless you have a lockable boot, do not leave valuables inside your car.

We would also ask persons who visit these places to be aware of suspicious persons or vehicles. If you see a car or person acting suspiciously, report it to the police and whenever possible remember to note registration numbers." Since this problem was identified we have increased our patrols in these areas but to date, despite this extra attention,

we have failed to identify those responsible. It is felt that with a little bit of good fortune we can succeed in catching these thieves. With that in mind we would again ask those who use the car parks mentioned to continue to be diligent and to note details of any suspicious vehicles or persons they see at these locations. We in turn will continue to give the car parks as much attention as we can and hopefully we will put a stop to this mini crime wave.

CRIME STOPPERS Telephone Number 0800 555 111

This telephone number is a free phone number unless you are using a mobile phone, which any member of the public can contact at any time, if they have information relating to criminal activity of any sort. It is, if you wish, confidential and you will not be contacted if you choose to remain anonymous.

Community Crime Officers can be contacted at Kinross Police Office on 0845 600 5705.

Kinross - **Constable Ronnie Child**. Milnathort, Kinnesswood & Scotlandwell - **Constable Graham Stephen**. Cleish and Blairadam, Crook of Devon, Powmill, Blairingone, Cambo and Glenfarg areas - **Constable Lynne Petrie**.

Combined Fife Beekeepers' Associations

Beekeeping in Fife and Kinross has been a hobby for many years. During the war time people took up beekeeping as they got extra sugar rations to help feed the bees. Since then numbers dwindled but in the past five years beekeeping has been on the increase.

There are two associations in Fife which also covers the Kinross area. In fact beekeeping in Kinross has become very popular in the recent years. Both associations are very active with outdoor demonstrations in the summer and talks during the dark winter months. The membership has increased to over 70 and this is due partly to the beginners' classes which are held each year from January to April in Portmoak Hall, Scotlandwell before going outside for 'hands on' experience under the guidance of experienced beekeepers.

Recently, publicity has been given to the importance of honeybees as they are essential pollinators as well as providing honey which has lots of health giving properties. Beekeepers find this a fascinating hobby as they watch the honeybees at the hive entrance returning with their pollen loads and marvel at their life style within the hive.

The next session of beginners classes start at 7pm on Thursday 22 January in Portmoak Hall, Scotlandwell.

Any person wishing to find out more can visit the website: www.fifebeekeepers.co.uk



Library News

In November 2008 we were delighted to welcome Derek Flory who gave a talk at the Green Hotel on his book *Torn Apart*. Derek read extracts from the book which relates the amazing tale of his mother and her sister. Having been separated from each other during the bombing of Rangoon in Burma in 1941 they were finally reunited in 2007 having spent more than 65 years apart, unaware of each other's fate. Derek also provided extra insight into the background of the book and updated us on the most recent developments since publication. Derek's enthusiasm and knowledge of his subject provided the audience with a very interesting and entertaining evening and provoked many questions which he happily answered.

For junior readers in November, a competition with a Scottish theme was organised as part of the Word's Out literary festival this year. The entrants had to put names to the pictures of nine Scottish children's book characters. The Kinross winner was Douglas Mair.

There is a collection box in the library for used postage stamps. The RSPB are collecting these stamps to raise money to save the albatross.

2009 is set to be an exciting and momentous year for the library. Our move to the new Loch Leven Community Campus is scheduled for October. Stock is starting to be selected and we would very much like the community to let us know what they would like to see in the new library. Forms on which to make your suggestions are available at Kinross library.

Community Website

For contact details of community groups, hall bookings, job vacancies, leisure and visitor information and much more, visit www.kinross.cc

Contributors – please send your item well before the deadline if you can

Community Council News



The Community Council News is produced from edited draft CC minutes. Some CCs have full minutes on their websites. Full Kinross CC minutes are lodged in the local Library and County Buildings. All Community Council meetings are open to the general public.

Kinross Community Council

News from the December Meeting

Vice-Chairman C Watson welcomed CCllrs D Mackay, M Blyth, S Bathgate, L McKay, M Scott (Secy), D Colliar, J Richardson and B Davies to the meeting held on 3 December 2008. Also in attendance were all four P&K Cllrs, a police representative and five members of the public. Apologies for absence were received from CCllrs D Cuthbert (Chair) and I Jack.

Police Report: Two cars were broken into at Burleigh Sands at the end of November.

Newsletter: CCllr Watson reported on progress with insurance and work involved in establishing a company.

Warehouse at Pier Road: Cllr Baird was asked at the last meeting to request an Internal Audit into the procedures followed here. The application was submitted, objected to by neighbours, and then subsequently resubmitted and a decision reached through delegated powers. The CC had written to P&KC in Sept 2007 following complaints received regarding lack of "Neighbour Notification". This letter does not appear on the Council website; other communications are also missing. Cllr Robertson advised that under the new Planning Act P&KC will be responsible for "Neighbour Notification". Cllr Barnacle suggested that a copy of letters of objection should be sent for information to the local Councillors.

Park & Ride/Kirkgate Toilets: Cllr Barnacle had emailed Andy Clegg regarding this; the reply was that Kirkgate Park was not specifically named as a destination for an APC. Cllr Barnacle stated that this was incorrect and referred to a P&KC paper. Cllr Robertson reported that he had submitted a bid from the Capital Budget to meet one of these next year and asked that Cllr Miller support him on this.

Coat of Arms: A request was received from the Masonic Lodge asking if they could use part of the CC's Coat of Arms. The CC had no objection on the proviso that the Lodge provide a draft/photo of the proposal.

Derelict Building, Swansacre: Cllr Baird stated that at Committee that day (3/12/08), the sum of £45,000 was allocated to cover the expense of the bracing work. A Quantity Survey from the Housing Association has been engaged to prepare costings for the conversion of the building, and in particular to look at any shortfall. The

funding received from the developers re. social housing will be utilised towards meeting these costs.

Planning Applications: There were no objections to the following applications: Permanent siting of Manager's accommodation, Gallowhill Farm; alteration/extension, 5 Courcelles Court; erection of conservatory, 2 Lathro Park, extension, 43 Lathro Park.

Reports from Perth & Kinross Councillors

Trail bus: Cllr Robertson referred to the article he had placed in the December Newsletter and asked if KCC would write to him in support of this proposal. Cllr Barnacle suggested the bus also include Cleish area.

Levenfields Pathway: Cllr Robertson reported that meetings have been held with G S Brown, P&KC and residents. It was suggested that Cllr Robertson check the conditions of the planning application as it was believed that the path was to be closed for two years and then reinstated. Although regarded as a Public Right of Way, it was never registered.

Kinross-shire Forum: Cllr Barnacle advised that he had written to CCllr Cuthbert in relation to this matter. A meeting was to be held the next evening; two representatives from the CC were asked to attend. CCllr Colliar asked for confirmation as to whether we were members of the "Forum", when this was agreed and who were the representatives. Cllr Barnacle explained that this was a means of bringing together members of all local CCs to discuss various issues which affect all, such as planning etc. The meeting tomorrow was planned to discuss the Forum membership and issues such as the demoting of CCs, Structure Plan alterations and the future Development Plan and he urged us to attend. He commented that at the last meeting the Planners indicated their preference for one plan for the whole area, whereas the view of those attending was that the plan for Kinross-shire be retained. Other items to be added to the agenda for tomorrow were a Constitution and deciding on the number of meetings, say quarterly, etc.

It was noted that CC members S Bathgate and D Cuthbert attended the last meeting.

Cllr Robertson stated that he had arranged the first Forum meeting as a means to discuss various issues raised and to iron out problems. However, such meetings only require to be held when specific items involving all CCs are raised and thereafter the representatives should report back to their own CC.

The view of Kinross CC is that no representation will attend tomorrow and that the set up of the Forum should be checked to ensure that it complies with our Constitution. The CC do not wish to be part of a constituted Forum, but would like to be involved with any item affecting our jurisdiction.

Mr D Alexander addressed the meeting and expressed reservations about the establishment of the Forum and he thought there was a difficulty constitutionally in Kinross CC being involved in decisions made by the Forum which is comprised partly of bodies which are non elected.

Cllr Barnacle advised that none of our local Councillors stand on the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.

The A977 petition has now been presented to Parliament. However, the Clerk to the Petitions Committee has power to

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hold this up. The Petition is not put forward if he thinks it is not appropriate and at the moment this has been stored as the Clerk believes it is the Council's responsibility. Cllr Barnacle stated that members of the Transport Infrastructure Committee and Public Petitions Committee, Gordon Banks, and Keith Brown, are all supportive. Cllr Barnacle has a meeting with Transport Scotland and the Council this week. [See Articles for recent news of the A977 Petition].

Boundary sign: Cllr Barnacle advised that Kinross Partnership have agreed to cost the provision of a sign at the Northern boundary of Kinross-shire. They introduced a sign for Kinross-shire on the southern boundary of the motorway.

Other Business

Planning Training: CCllr Richardson attended the recent meeting at the Birmam Institute held by Planning Aid Scotland. He provided a report.



Three CCllrs attended the 2008 Remembrance service

Remembrance Day: CCllr Colliar reported that the decision was reached by the Parade Commander and himself to cancel the Parade owing to the inclement weather. The representatives laying the wreaths attended at the Cenotaph. CCllr Colliar stated that he was disappointed at the poor turn out of CC members, only three being present for the service.

Light Up Kinross: Owing to technical difficulties regarding electricity and health and safety reasons, the erection of pea lights at Gacé Gardens was not possible.

A977: CCllr Jack reported on the atrocious conditions of the A977 recently and his concerns regarding this.

T in the Park: Cllr Baird gave details of an application to the Licensing Committee. The planned changes for consideration are: a proposed increase in the number of campers, increase in number of tickets and admission of local people on Friday (who do not require to camp). No adverse comments from the Police or Fire Service were received. Cllr Baird stated that we should have received a letter in relation to this; this has not been forthcoming. Some of the issues still causing concern are parking issues and marshalling. Cllr Barnacle advised that the public were also asking for police presence on the campsite in view of the incidents last year, however praise was received in relation to the traffic management scheme which was adopted. Only two meetings are planned for next year.

Town Hall: Cllr Baird advised that a selling agent has been appointed.

News from the January Meeting

Chairman D Cuthbert welcomed CCllrs M Blyth, D Mackay, S Bathgate, M Scott (Secy), D Colliar, I Jack, B Davies and J Richardson to the meeting held on 7 January. Also in attendance were P&K Cllrs W Robertson and S Miller, two police representatives and six members of the public. Apologies were received from CCllrs C Watson and L

McKay and P&K Cllr K Baird.

Police Report: Matters had been quiet over the holiday period, apart from break-ins to cars at Burleigh Sands and a house. Lines of enquiry are currently ongoing. PC Child confirmed that there had been recent cases of arson involving waste bins and a person had been detected for this offence. Inspector Patience reiterated that the Police welcome calls from members of the public who witness anything suspicious and confirmed that all will be actioned.

Levenfields: Cllr Robertson reported that P&KC is unable to force the developers to re-open the path. He had checked the planning consent which was not conditional. An approach to the Council Access Officer to register this as a right of way was also unsuccessful; the Officer stated that this would take some years to process. The CC received no response to their communication to G S Brown and it was agreed to forward a reminder and ask for a meeting. Cllr Robertson will hand over the information he has collated.

Provost's Lamp: CCllr Mackay mentioned that this was again lying open. CCllr Colliar will contact Neil Scott of P&KC.

A977: CCllr Jack enquired if the CC had written to P&KC following the last meeting. No decision was reached at that time, however after discussion it was agreed that the Secy should write to the Roads Dept to enquire why gritting of the road was not taking place early on Saturdays and Sundays as there was heavy use of the road on these occasions.

Kinross-shire Forum: A member of the public raised this matter. CCllr Cuthbert reported that he had attended the meeting as he was unaware that a firm decision had been reached by the CC not to become involved (not having been present at the previous CC meeting). He explained that only informative meetings had been held in the past, however there were proposals to formalise the group. It was proposed that the Forum would concentrate on issues that affect the whole area, such as the A977, Housing in the Countryside etc. He confirmed that if the Forum were to be constituted, the members would be represented by two CC members from all five CCs and that this would exclude the Civic Trust and FORK who would only be treated as consultees. No decisions would be reached by the Forum without first being given a mandate by the various CCs, with the CC representatives on the Forum Committee reporting back to their individual CCs. It would be imperative that the issues undertaken by the Forum are specific and all agreed by each CC.

A Constitution has not been formalised, but once a draft was available this could be circulated around the CC members. The basis for formalising a Forum was as a means of providing more leverage in dealing with the Council who, at present, would appear to ignore comments made by CCs on planning applications and often fail to respond to correspondence. The current policy for planning applications also proved unsatisfactory as it was believed that any comments made by the CC were ignored. CCllr Cuthbert reminded those present that five individual objections from householders required to be received and as the CC was not considered a household, objections raised by them did not constitute a formal objection. Cllr Miller stated that Portmoak CC had asked him to intercede re. objections to a planning application. He met with them on site to discuss the matter. He believed that CC comments were not ignored, but that other criterion was taken into account in determining applications. CCllr Jack and other members of the CC believed that the formulation of a Forum would not make any

difference and Cllr Colliar stated that meetings had previously been held with other CCs in Kinross-shire to discuss various matters.

Cllr Miller stated that he was neither for nor against this and could see the benefits of providing a single voice or body to approach the Council about certain issues.

Cllr Robertson advised that Council Officials are obliged to respond to the CC and to meet with them if requested.

Roland Bean was invited by us recently to meet with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to tour the Town and discuss various issues causing concern to the CC. He has replied that he recently attended a Forum Group meeting to discuss matters, although not involving Kinross town, and was planning to meet with a number of CCs and could not envisage being in a position to meet with our members for some time. He suggested that some of the issues could be dealt with by correspondence. We are to reply that we would prefer if he arranged to meet with us face to face. It was agreed that we should send him a further copy of the Questionnaire Results highlighting those areas which we would wish to address, i.e. the High School site, Town Hall etc.

It was also mentioned that Peter Marshall had given a similar response when he was invited to speak to the CC, stating that he had recently attended a meeting in the area and could not add to this briefing and despite a second request we have still to arrange a meeting with him.

The Secy advised that Cllr Barnacle is to forward a letter outlining the proposals for establishing the Forum and on receipt she will circulate this to the CC members.

After a full and lengthy discussion it was agreed that the decision reached last month should not be overturned and Kinross CC will not become members of the Forum.

Swansacre: An email was received from Swansacre /Pipers Row Residents Association asking for an update on the position. Cllrs Robertson and Miller are to approach the Council for the present position. The Chairman has not found the time, as yet, to prepare an article for the Newspaper. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would contact P&KC and speak to Tessa Hart. If an appropriate answer is not available then he would ask the Newsletter Editor to include an article in the next issue.

Planning Application: Erection of a conservatory at 9 Maree Place: no objection.

Autocross: Information had been downloaded from the Internet disclosing eleven planned events over the next year, with the first to be held on 12 April. No decision has been reached by P&KC on their planning application despite it

being some nine months since it was registered. It was agreed that we write to the Director of Environmental Services and the Enforcement Officer outlining our concerns at the running of these events when no decision has been reached. It was commented that an Events Licence would be required and we should ask to see a copy of same.

Balado Sand & Gravel: Cllr Cuthbert asked Cllr Miller to make enquiries regarding this application, and to represent our objection to the request to change of hours. We are opposed to this request as the operators have failed to adhere to all the planning conditions set in the original consent.

Applications determined: A list of applications approved was read out.

Report from Perth & Kinross Councillors

Heritage Trail: Cllr Robertson, Chairman of TRACKS, reported that feasibility studies were being conducted on the stretch between Vane Farm and Kinross. A good response was received to his article in the Newsletter regarding a **circular bus**. He has approached the Transport Manager at P&KC regarding funding. Cllr Miller stated that some funds might be allocated from the Tourism Project with Kinross Partnership who assist with capital expenditure and that this might help with ongoing costs regarding the circular bus.

Toilets at Kirkgate Park: Cllr Davies commented that the Kirkgate Park had been busy over the holiday period and that toilet facilities were desperately required. Cllr Robertson confirmed that an application had been submitted for one toilet facility at Kirkgate Park.

Cllr Bathgate commented that it was a shame that large numbers of visitors would be attracted to the area to walk the trail and would then think the town unkempt by comparison.

Questionnaire

The results were circulated by Cllr Cuthbert. There were 324 completed forms; the results clearly indicate that the public would like to see improvements in the town centre. Cllr Robertson advised that work should have commenced on producing an Environmental Improvement Scheme for Kinross, which was being drawn up by John McCrone. Once a scheme is in place and priced, funding should be available to do this type of work. Full funding is in place for the link road, which was planned for this year. Cllr Robertson had written to the Council last year, following the election, complaining about the state of Kinross. Cllr Davies suggested that we hold a meeting with John McCrone regarding this Questionnaire and the upgrade of the town centre in a couple of months' time. This was agreed.

The Cllrs will read over the results of the Questionnaire and

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discuss the results at the February meeting. The results are to be circulated to the newspapers (P.A. and Scotsman), the Newsletter and Ian Miller of P&KC. The CC will ask P&KC to address the statistics and respond.

Cllr Miller questioned the statement on the CC questionnaire which stated that the Primary School was over capacity. Cllr Cuthbert explained that this was the understanding of the CC at the time the questionnaire was written. Cllr Bathgate stated that the Scottish Government proposal to reduce class sizes would mean the school would be over capacity. Cllr Colliar pointed out that the school is over capacity as many of the classes are held in portacabins and the main building's flat roof leaked in heavy rain.

Correspondence

Tactran: Regional Transport Strategy 2008 - 2023 Summary. Full document is available from www.tractran.gov.uk.

P&K Structure Plan Alteration - Population and Households Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment: The Council state that the draft Alteration suggests that there is a need to identify land for a further 7,600 houses across the Council area in the period to 2020. Draft Alteration and Environmental Report enclosed, comments required by 28 February. Information available on www.pkc.gov.uk (Planning and the environment).

Forestry Commission - Climate Change and the National Forest Estate: Asking for comments on the document by 27 January.

Stagecoach: Response received advising that at this time without withdrawing the route from other areas they do not feel the service would have enough time to service the Park & Ride. Given that there are still some interchange options in Kinross onto the Citylink network they feel that this is the best option in terms of the majority of customers on the entire route. It was agreed that we should bring this matter to Brian Soutar's attention. It was also suggested that we raise this matter with an MSP. It was noted that we also received a copy of the Regulation of Bus Service Bill Consultation Document.

Road Access/Junction at New School/Health Centre: Response received from P&KC describing the planned measures. It was agreed that as the explanation is a little vague we should ask P&KC for a visual plan of the proposed layout.

Planning Applications: In response to our request for an extension to 28 days for consultation, P&KC explain that it would make it difficult for the Council to determine even straightforward applications within the statutory two month period. The 21-day period is the extended period, from the

14 days laid down in Statute, in which the Council guarantee not to determine the application. They also have a policy to take account of any comments received up until the final recommendation is prepared, even if they are submitted beyond that 21-day period.

Light Up Kinross: Cllr Colliar stated that despite efforts by both the Chairman and Treasurer, Cllr Jack's request to the Newsletter Treasurer for funding was unsuccessful. The Newsletter Treasurer had requested a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting agreeing to this. An amount of £1,000 had been agreed previously to be transferred to Light Up Kinross and we would now wish these funds to be transferred. The Chairman was also requiring a payment of £250.00 in respect of the publication of leaflets. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that these sums should be paid from the Newsletter fund as soon as possible.

The Minister of Transport is to attend the next CC meeting. It was agreed that we should raise the matter of the 23 Service Bus with him and also the dilapidated state of the fencing at the entrance to Kinross (off Motorway). Cllr Colliar stated that banners were again being displayed by Somerfield on the fencing, the grass in the area is unkempt and the entire wooden fencing requires to be replaced. It was noted that BEAR Scotland are responsible for this fencing. It was further suggested that we obtain photographic evidence.

War Memorial: The CC will write to Andy Clegg, Environment Services, to ask if it would be possible to arrange for a rail to be erected around the War Memorial to hold the poppy wreaths in place.

Kirkgate Park: Cllr Bathgate described problems with the play equipment. She asked Cllr Robertson if he could deal with this and is to pass him a list of the problems.

Curling Academy: Cllr Davies asked if the CC was supporting this venture. Cllr Colliar replied that he was in favour of the idea, however was opposed to the location of same in the Market Park. Cllr Miller stated that this would be beneficial to the town. It was agreed that this matter would be dealt with when the planning application came before the CC.

The next meeting of Kinross CC is to be held in the Masonic Hall, Muirs, Kinross on Wednesday 4 February at 7.30 pm.

Members of the public wishing to address Kinross CC are requested to contact the Secretary in advance and supply a copy of any relevant papers.

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Milnathort Community Council

News from the December Meeting

CCllr Cottingham, Vice-Chairman, welcomed CCllrs Smith, Lamont, Bennet, Thomson and Porter to the meeting held on 11 December. Also in attendance were Minute Secretary E Rougvie, P&K Cllr Robertson, two members of Tayside Police and two members of the public. Apologies were received from CCllr Giacomazzi, Chairman.

Police matters: PC Graham Stephen reported that another car had been broken into at Burleigh Sands. Anyone parking there is reminded that valuables should not be left in the car and the public are urged to report any suspicious activities. There didn't seem to be a pattern to the thefts but the police have put measures in place to try to catch the culprits. PC Stephen then drew the CC's attention to the After Dark Campaign, whereby people are reminded to leave lights on in the house if they are going to be out after dark so that it looks occupied, and to the Winter Safety Campaign, which involves stopping vehicles for seat belt and mobile phone offences. On a positive note, PC Stephen said there had not been any recent break-ins due to an increase in police activity.



Burleigh Sands car park - valuables should not be left in cars

Matters arising: It was noted that P&KC had now dropped plans to impose a £6000 levy on all new houses, although they did not agree that the proposed policy was of dubious validity.

Community Campus: Dick Keatings, rector of Kinross High School, was in attendance in place of Derek Morris to provide an update on the progress of the new high school/community campus and gave information about all the facilities that will be available for the community. Mr Keatings explained that Mr Morris was involved in a process of community engagement and would be attending CC meetings throughout the area to raise awareness and answer questions. It is P&KC's intention to establish a community campus management group four to six months before the building opens and a new post of community integration manager will be created. Mr Keatings said that P&KC had tendered for a new on-line booking system, which prompted discussion among CCllrs, who felt that it must be "user friendly" and efficient and that the pricing policy must be flexible and affordable. Mr Keatings went on to say that the actual building work was ahead of schedule, with some basic internal work now taking place. It was a very orderly site for which the builders deserved credit. There followed a discussion about road safety and Mr Keatings said that the school would be actively encouraging parents to help ease congestion around the area by dropping their children off farther away, which he described as a

"park and stride" policy. As health and well-being are key areas in the new Curriculum for Excellence, the school would also be working with primary schools to try to encourage more children to cycle. There is also to be a community-based event on the issue of traffic which will be well publicised. Mr Keatings stressed that he and Mr Morris were quite prepared to talk to CCs about any queries they had about the campus, or any questions can be directed to dmorris@kinrosshigh.pkc.sch.uk CCllr Cottingham thanked Mr Keatings for his full and informative presentation.

Kinross-shire Forum: No MCC representative had attended the meeting the previous week and, after discussion, it was agreed that the CC would follow the example of Kinross CC and not become involved in the forum in its present form. It was felt that the CC system was in place so that people could air their concerns and that the forum should be for CCs, not for bodies who were not democratically elected.

Correspondence: An e-mail was received from Kinross Road Runners offering to contribute towards a bench for Tillywhally Wood as many of the members enjoyed using the area. The CC very much appreciate the gesture and it was agreed that CCllr Bennet will reply suggesting that the matter is pursued in the spring and that a small plaque is erected in recognition of the group's contribution.

Questionnaire from Tayside Fire & Rescue Service: CCllr Smith will complete this. Anyone who would like a fire audit carried out in their home can call the service on 01382 835804, text "CHECK" to 61611 or visit www.taysidefire.gov.uk. During the audit, any fire risks will be pointed out and a smoke alarm will be fitted free of charge if necessary.

Planning matters: Craigow: the chairman had provided information to the effect that he had received two letters and one phone call objecting to the proposed development at Craigow on the basis that although part of the development site was identified as a building site in the Local Area Plan, part of the proposed buildings were to be built outside the site boundaries. It was noted that three objections had been made directly to P&KC.

Steading development at Blainmathort Farm, comprising 11 dwellings, garages and rental unit: noted after discussion.

Relocation of existing shed and erection of shed at Blainmathort Farm: noted.

Erection of house on land to the rear of 38-40 New Road: noted after discussion.

Alterations and extension to The Manse, 3 Perth Road: noted.

Other Business: The Chairman had reported that the Kinross-shire Fund has awarded two grants, one to a village hall and the other to a sports club.

Several other matters were raised by CCllrs and a member of the public but the meeting had to be closed as it was after 9pm. These included the cost of sheltered housing, inappropriate routing of core paths and dog fouling in Donaldson Park.

Meetings: Milnathort CC was due to meet next on 8 January. The next meeting after that is expected to be

Thursday 12 February.

Portmoak Community Council

News from the December Meeting

A meeting was held on 9 December 2008 at Portmoak Primary School. In attendance were J Shepherd, M Hally, S Garvie, A Smith, M Wilson, Elizabeth Smith MSP, P&K Cllrs M Barnacle, K Baird and S Miller, PC Child and several members of the public. The Chair was taken by Margaret Wilson.

Police Report: The Police would have their usual extra patrols over the Christmas and New Year period.

Kinross Forum: There was additional discussion on the formation of the Kinross-shire Forum. Cllr Barnacle tabled a draft constitution prepared by FORK. The CC felt there needed to be a mission statement as well. This will be discussed further at the January meeting.

Core Path Network: Discussion and response. The CC would like to see that a path from Lochend Farm down to the Heritage Trail through Levenmouth Farm be added to the Core Path network. They would also like to see added the old adopted Right of Way from Wester Balgedie down to the Balgedie Tavern.

Michael Bruce Way: There had been a site meeting to the MB Way above Kinnesswood by CCllrs Smith and Garvie and Niall Lobley of P&KC to look at the source of flooding to the houses at the back of Kinnesswood during very heavy rainfall. Work needs to be done to providing a drainage ditch above the path to carry the water away. CCllr Garvie will write to various sources for a provision of money for this work.

Roads Matters: So far no work has been carried out on the provision of high friction **grip surfacing** to Auchmuir Bridge and Wester Balgedie, though this was due in October. **The B920** was closed for two weeks for re-surfacing work. The road planning took place on 1 December but no further work has taken place. The Secretary will write to P&KC Roads.

Planning Matters

08/02111/FUL Alterations and extension to house Woodlands, Main Street, Kinnesswood. The CC had already written a letter of objection to this application, but following discussion it was decided to change the letter to one of comment rather than objection.

New Structure Plan – Growth Figures. The P&K Cllrs are due to have a presentation from Development Control on the proposed growth figures for the new Structure Plan. There will only be 4 Structure Plans for Scotland and Kinross-shire will be part of the Dundee Plan. There is

considerable concern by the CC at the proposed growth figures for Kinross-shire, which are much higher than anywhere in Perth and Kinross.

New Local Plan. Following the implementation of the new Planning Act, it is proposed that there will only be one Local Plan for the whole of Perth and Kinross-shire. The CC is totally opposed to this as it feels very strongly that Kinross-shire is a unique situation, bearing in mind that it focuses more towards Edinburgh than Perth.

Elizabeth Smith MSP

MSP Elizabeth Smith stated that she was very interested in the problems that had been raised during the meeting. A great majority of the mail she receives is to do with road safety, road accidents and speeding, which has been a bone of contention by Portmoak CC for very many years.

Perth & Kinross Councillors

Cllr Barnacle informed the meeting of the reasons for his resignation from the Liberal Democratic Party and confirmed that he would continue to stand as an Independent Councillor.

Post Box

There was great concern that the new Post Office Mail Box had not been installed. This has meant that the shop in Kinnesswood has had to provide mail bags in the shop to deal with the Christmas mail rush.

The next meeting was due to take place on Tuesday 13 January at 7.30pm in the Portmoak Primary School.

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Fossoway and District CC News from the January Meeting

A Morrison, A Lavery, T Duffy, H Wallace, H Johnson and I Farquhar and eleven members of the public attended the meeting on 6 January in Powmill. Apologies were received from Cllr Barnacle.

Community Policing: No report was given at the meeting, but later Sgt Rankine phoned to apologise for his absence (he was caught up in an accident). He wanted to warn the community to be cautious, because Tayside Police thinks property crimes are up slightly. Also there have been car break-ins yet again at Burleigh Sands.

A977 Petition: It was highlighted at the last CC meeting that there had been some difficulty experienced with the Petitions Committee. Gordon Banks, Keith Brown and Mike Barnacle have all given support. Gordon Banks in particular has given additional support and has written to the Clerk and the Chairman of the Petitions Committee. The petition will be given consideration on 13 January. The matter can be given consideration if it is deemed a matter of principle rather than a general debate. This is being considered on the basis that, as the Scottish Executive has responsibility for major infrastructure works, it should look at other areas which are affected as a direct consequence of that remit ie it can be argued that the SE therefore can be expected to make a contribution to the cost of the mitigation measures. The matter will hopefully thereafter be passed to the Transport Committee. *[See page 5 for a report on the Petitions Committee outcome].*

Anecdotally, traffic volume does appear to have increased. It was confirmed that in making the case to the SE, the CC has used official figures for the projected increases. It is noted that 1200 new houses are going to be built at Forrestmill.

It was also pointed out that there will be restrictions in 2010 on the Forth Road Bridge which will last approximately 20 weeks and will inevitably lead to an increase in the volume of traffic in this area.

Forum: Trudy and Sandy have attended another meeting of the Kinross-shire Forum. There has been some debate about the structure of the forum and in particular whether this will diminish the role of the CC. Essentially the Forum is a CC organisation.

At the last CC meeting there was much debate about the Core Paths. In the next two months there will be attempts to resolve issues where possible. The CC will assist where possible in this process.

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Kinross-shire Fund: It was confirmed that Cambo Hall has received funding from the Kinross-shire Fund much of which comes from T in the Park. It was confirmed that such funding could be made available to other halls including Moubray if an application is made - it is not too late to do so.

Planning Applications

08/02301/OUT New dwelling house adjacent to Knocktinny, Drum for Mr and Mrs Shanks. The application is for the development of the site being part of the plot of the dwelling Knockintinny. Conclusion: Recommend refusal on the grounds that the development is outwith the settlement of the Crook of Devon, not in accordance with the current KALP, and inadequate evidence has been provided in support of the application. It is considered that the "home working" concept is not a substantive element of the application and consequently is not a relevant matter.

08/02310/FUL Alterations and extension to a dwelling house Westermuirhead Farm, Solsgirth for Philip and Anne Coles. Conclusion: Recommend approval.

08/02312/FUL Proposed substitution of a stable block design/ layout at the proposed commercial racehorse facility for Samantha Penman. This application is for a change to the design and layout to the stabling facilities only and the addition of a feed store in one block. The former courtyard stable block is replaced by a linear block of stables, nine on each side and a food store all in one building. The other elements in the approved proposal appear unchanged. It is noted that whilst the approved application was for a non-commercial race horse facility, this application refers to a commercial facility. The drawing states that the design of the race track will be the subject of a further application. Conclusion: Recommend approval (as recommendation can be made in respect of this proposed change to the approved plan only and not the application as a whole). The original application was passed under delegated powers. Concern was expressed at the meeting that the application has been made in stages rather than a comprehensive proposal. No provision has been made for passing places which is also of concern.

Other Business

There was a query as to whether the application for planning at **Wester Aldie** has been approved as the terms of letters to at least one neighbour from P&KC are conflicting on this point. The CC has received no notification as yet on the outcome.

Sandy reported that he had been in discussion with the Roads Department about **overhanging trees** in Drum. A supervisor from P&KC had visited and spoken to the land owner. There is to be a further visit as the landowner indicated that due to disability he would not be able to take action himself.

At the next meeting consideration will be given to an application for a **wind turbine** at Hoods Hill. The proposed structure will be 18m high. A similar structure has been erected on the Low Road at Culross.

Nothing further has been heard about the proposed windfarm at Blairingone - it appears that this is still at the stage of information gathering.

It was confirmed that an application has been granted for Craiglaw. The CC did not receive notification in time for the application to be discussed.

The next meeting will be the AGM to be held at Blairingone Primary School on Tuesday 3 February 2009.

Cleish & Blairadam CC

News from the December Meeting

The CC met on Monday 8 December in the Tabernacle Hall, Blairadam, and was attended by five CCllrs, P&K Cllr M Barnacle, seven members of the public and the Cleish & Blairadam Newsletter Editor. In the absence of the Chairman who had submitted his apologies, the Vice-Chairman took the meeting.

Previous Meeting: Approval of the Minutes was proposed and seconded, subject to the amendment under "Roads" – the water flowing down the hill from Templeton had been due to felled trees, not tree felling.

Crime Prevention: Unfortunately no member from Tayside Police was able to attend.

There had been an incident of rubble being dumped near Hardiston at the entrance to the gas station. The shooting tenant had reported this, but in the meantime was removing it.

Mr and Mrs Birrell from Middleton Park attended for a short time; they told the meeting that it was hoped to form a Residents' Association at Middleton Park which would be welcomed and of course all are encouraged to attend CC meetings.

Arising from discussion the Chairman said it was vital to report any matters or incidents giving rise to unease or suspicion to the Police at once, not an hour later or the next morning.

Tracks and Trails: The Draft Core Path Plan was being considered by the members of the CC and was available for inspection. It was thought that there should be a more substantial link between Cleish and Fossoway and also between the Loch Leven pathway and Cleish. Although the comments of the CC had already been noted it was agreed

they should be re-submitted.

Community Councils: Cllr Barnacle explained that he was no longer a member of the Liberal Democratic Party but would represent his constituents as an Independent. He said that none of the issues he had raised had been noted either by the Party or by the Administration, particularly concerning the cumulative effect of the many planning issues. This matter will become no easier. He advised that it was essential that copies of all comments on planning issues sent to the Planning Department should in addition be sent to the elected members: Kathleen Baird, Sandy Miller, Willie Robertson and himself.

All comments must be received by 4.30pm by the Planning Services Committee on the Friday previous to the meeting if a deputation is to be allowed. Letters from CCs do not count as one of the five letters of objection.

Finally he advised that letters were preferable to e-mails, convenient as those are. The CC and the community must be rigorous in ensuring that every communication with P&KC was in writing.

Kinross Forum: Cllr Barnacle thought that the idea of a Forum should be supported although neither Kinross nor Milnathort CCs appeared to be in favour. Sandy Morton had attended the most recent meeting and said it was thought that the 4 elected members should be ex officio members and that possibly representatives from FORK and the Civic Trust could attend as and when the occasion arose, possibly as Associate Members. Such a Forum if formed, would probably meet quarterly. A draft constitution could be drawn up for circulation to CCs.

It was agreed that Mr A Smith, the Secretary of Portmoak CC, who had some knowledge of Forums, should be invited to come to the next meeting of the Cleish & Blairadam CC to give the benefit of his experience and advice.

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Development Plan

Cllr Barnacle said that if we wish to retain our own Local Plan and not be “tucked in” with Dundee, as had been mooted, we must lobby our elected members now.

Planning Applications

Site adjacent to B996 on opposite side of road to the north area of Greenacres: change of use to form storage/hard standing area – the CC agreed to object on grounds of road safety and its inappropriateness for the rural area.

Mentions was made of a previous application which had been submitted on time and not acknowledged as such. It was proposed and agreed that the CC should write to the Chief Executive and the Convener of Planning querying the procedure on this occasion. (see Nivingston below)

Pending Applications

Approved: Flockhouse, Blairadam; The Forge, Blairforge; Woodlands, Nivingston House, Cleish – despite the objections having been lodged on time; 2 Greenacres, Blairadam.

Gairneybridge – application returned.

Still pending: Cleish Mains Steading: new house and garage; Land north of Hatchbank Farm: 12 affordable houses – 33 objections; Chance Inn Farm: demolition of steading and erection of 21 houses and garages; Cleish Mill Farm – erection of 2 dwelling houses with access and landscaping; Dunvegan: erection of 1 house; Site of former Birchwood Cottage, Blairadam: house and garage.

Nivingston House, Cleish: Site visit has taken place.

Roads

Margaret Traylor read a long letter which she had received from Stuart D’All in reply to her submission on the state of the roads between Keltybridge and Maryburgh. It is too long to quote but a brief summary is that there is no money. Road at Templeton between Templeton Farm and Templeton Houses – this is subject to flooding and is

extremely dangerous when the surface freezes. The ditch on the south side of the road is choked and needs to be cleared which might help with the problem.

Cllr Barnacle

Before the meeting closed, the Chairman expressed the appreciation of the whole meeting for all that Cllr Barnacle has done for the CC; he had been most conscientious in his attendance at almost all the meetings at which she had been present and had at all times been very supportive. All those present agreed.

Cleish School

The proposed logo was discussed and it was reported that the design was going to be simplified; the CC look forward to being involved in the finalisation of a design.

It was felt that closer links between the School and the CC could be forged and that the children should have some input into issues such as the core path networks, road safety, and forestry at Blairadam.

The Cleish & Blairadam Newsletter Editor said that the whole community was very proud of their school and she would be grateful to have any news from the School which could be reported in the Newsletter. The C&B Newsletter goes to every household in the Parish of Cleish and Blairadam and beyond, and not all readers are school parents.

The Chairman agreed to contact the Head Teacher on this matter.

The next meeting of Cleish & Blairadam CC will be held on TUESDAY 10 February in Cleish. Please note the change of day.

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Down Memory Lane



Kinross & Milnathort Rifle Club, c1930s? photo courtesy of D. Miller



Mac's Mandoliers, photo courtesy of D. Miller
l to r: ? Tod, R Lister, J Scott, ? Tod, G Liddle, E MacIntosh



Club & Community Group News

Kinross-shire Historical Society



Professor David Munro MBE gave the December talk, his 38th talk for the Society, 'By Ruin'd Amot' to a large gathering of members and friends. Although there is not a great deal of written record of the Amot family, he spoke of some of the many colourful characters in the family over 900 years. Amot Tower, with walls of dressed stone six and a half feet thick, was probably first built in the late 15th or early 16th century. An extra tower was added in the 16th century but has now gone. Professor Munro spoke of disputes between landowners over boundaries, which continued for centuries. The lowering of Loch Leven and the 'Cut' changed the low-lying land from bog to improved farmland. In the 19th century, Amot Reservoir was created for supplying water to Fife. The estate was purchased by William Bruce in 1705 when Kinross House was being built, and at that time the Amot land became Kinross-shire instead of Fife. In the Kirkgate Cemetery in Kinross, there are stones commemorating some of the Bruces of Amot. In 1878 Amot House was built by Thomas Bruce and a beautiful garden created. Although not much explored, the Amot land is a fascinating part of the county. Mr Bill Blair thanked Professor Munro on behalf of the Society for a very interesting and informative talk. See also Notices p. 40

Kinross Camera Club

The Kinross Camera Club meets every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the Church Centre, Kinross. Non-members are welcome.



February

- 5th** Annual General Meeting - all members are invited to attend.
- 12th** Changing Light - Robert Fulton. Landscape photography broadening out to include sports, nature and creative photography.
- 19th** Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kinross inter club Competition - judged by David Hay.
- 21st/22nd** Scottish Photographic Federation Projected Image Competition.
- 26th** Practical Session.

Digital Group: An informal sub group of the Camera Club, which meets once a month at the Stables Lounge, Crook of Devon to discuss and demonstrate digital photography techniques at a beginners and advanced levels. The next meeting is on **25 January** at 7.30pm.

MUSICAL STEPS

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For more information please contact RHONA on
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Kinross in Bloom



The daffodils will soon be emerging on Station Road to give us, hopefully, a good display in Spring. The committee has been busy choosing plants which are now ordered for the summer hanging baskets and barrels.

Thank you to Rotary and the Cricket Club who have offered help. Planned activities are:

Sat/Sun 25/26 April: Plant up the hanging baskets at Hattonburn.

Sat 30 May: Move hanging baskets outside to harden off

Fri 5 June (evening): Put up the hanging baskets (strong males required).

Sat/Sun 6/7 June: Plant out the barrels and 3-tier planters.

200 Club Winners

November: £20 Sandy Fraser; £10 Elizabeth McBayne; £5 Bill Sinclair; £5 Teresa Bowstead.

December: £20 Kate Francis; £10 Pauline Watson; £5 Margaret Lyon; £5 Nora Elliot.

Kinross Boys & Girls Brigade



A total of 96 members thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime at Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline as their last meeting of 2008.

With girls now "officially" being accepted into the Brigade as from January, the Kinross Company looks forward to having their girls eligible to compete in Battalion competitions. Coming up in the coming months will be the Battalion drill competition with Kinross the current drill medal holders. This will be followed by the Battalion volleyball cup competition and again Kinross are the current holders of this trophy and hope to retain it. There is also an international challenge competition where teams from companies all over the world compete in a range of physical, mental and fun activities. The highest standing reached by Kinross to date is 25th out of over 200 entries. The bugle band is preparing to enter the national band competition in March.

A number of senior members have been participating in Perth Battalion's "Seniors' Sunday" which has seen them take in a day of fun activities for those in S3 and above.

Three senior members of the company have taken part in a national leadership training course at the Scottish Headquarters in Carronvale.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Company's bagpacking at the local Somerfield supermarket over the festive period. A total of £500 will be forwarded to the local CHAS charity.

Preparations are also underway for the Junior Section weekend camp in May and the Company Section summer camp which will take place over the last week of July at Kincaig near Aviemore.

Kinross-shire Visitor Information Points

Loch Leven Fishing Pier; Robertson's of Milnathort;
Kinnesswood Village Store;
Fossoway Stores, Crook of Devon

Kinross High School

Positive Behaviour Awards

Kinross High School held a Positive Behaviour Awards ceremony on 16 December. Pupils achieved the Gold Award after receiving the highest number of nominations from teaching departments.

Mr McIntosh, Depute Headteacher, presented the awards and read out a letter from Prime Minister Gordon Brown, addressed to the School. Mr Brown commented that Kinross pupils had worked very hard to achieve these awards and said how pleased he was that their achievements were recognised.

Gold Awards were presented to: Jenny Dunne, Lori Kellett, Stefanie Kidd, Russell Malcolm, Anna Masson, Gemma Matthews, Magnus Pickering, Callum Purves, Jennifer Saxton, Luke Smith, Amy Studders, Lillian Swanson, Rebecca Thomson, Liam Todd and Ross White.

Extracts from Rector's December Newsletter

In his December 2008 Newsletter to parents, Mr Keatings described 2008 as: "A year which has seen Kinross High School continue to achieve excellence in a number of areas. A year in which HMI visited us and reported on the many ways in which we do a good job, whilst also reminding us of a few areas in which we could do better. We are working hard to do exactly that." He said that "hardly a week passes by where a pupil of this school does not distinguish themselves" and went on to praise the high achieving staff. Mr Keatings looks forward to the completion of the new Loch Leven Community Campus in 2009, saying:

"This will be a truly amazing facility and one that I hope the communities of Kinross-shire can embrace and do wonderful things with. Planning will be the key and I am informed that P&KC intends to have a management group in place by May. At that time we will be saying a lot more about the new facility and the opportunities it presents."



Lomond Antiques and Collectors Club



Once again members met for a highly entertaining Christmas Party. Joe's seasonal challenge was inspired by recent activities on a certain luxury yacht. The three teams took great delight in selecting irritating people to banish to an inhospitable spot. Among those deservedly banished were Lord Mandelson, Jonathon Ross, Cherie Blair, Victoria Beckham, Alex Salmond, Gordon Brown, Fred the Shred, Donald Trump, Donald Findlay and Sarah Palin. Sadly, I couldn't persuade my group to banish Jeremy Clarkson.

As ever, members brought along a wonderful variety of dishes for the buffet. Thanks, once again, to our President and Treasurer for their warm hospitality.

J. MILLER

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Portmoak Film Society

You pays your money and you takes your choice

December's film "Lawrence of Arabia" was not just a test of endurance (the film is almost four hours long) but a real treat for fans of the epic genre. You could let yourself be sucked into the mesmeric beauty of African desert landscapes under a searing sun and forget about the howling wind and rain outside... and afterwards everyone agreed that it was great to have the opportunity to see this 1962 classic on the Film Society's new big screen.

January's offering, on the other hand, was the very recent "Black Book" set in Nazi-occupied Holland. It wasn't shown long on the commercial circuits, possibly because of the subtitles, but this didn't stop ¾ of the audience giving it an "excellent" or "good" rating. A member of the audience commented afterwards that she wouldn't normally have chosen to see this film but as a PFS member she puts the date in her diary and goes along, whatever is showing. So PFS helps you discover new films and keep an open mind!

February's film, showing on **Saturday 14th**, is "Pierpoint", directed by Adrian Shergold and starring the wonderful Timothy Spall as Albert Pierpoint, Britain's last Official Executioner who was responsible for hanging over 400 people. It may not be the most romantic way to spend Valentine's Day, but it's bound to be a fascinating film.

PFS is nothing if not democratic and at the January film night, we voted to bring the current mega-hit "Mamma Mia" to Portmoak as our surprise film in March (more of this in the next report).

We still have one more film to pick for our last performance of the season in April, so if you want to have your say, come armed with your suggestions and make sure you're at February's film night! Films start punctually at 7.30pm and cost £4 for visitors.

For further information about your local film club, visit our website at www.portmoakfilmsociety.org.uk

Kinross Garden Group



Our December meeting, attended by 55 members and visitors, was addressed by Julia Corden, Garden Manager of The Explorers Garden, Pitlochry who gave a talk on Scottish Plant Hunters. Many of the plants brought back from North America, South Africa, China etc can be found growing in Scottish Gardens today.

We are meeting at the Windlestrae Hotel on 15 January for our Festive Lunch.

Our next meeting in the Millbridge Halls, Kinross, is on **Thursday 12 February**. Our speaker will be Jim Christie who will be giving a talk on "The work of the Woodland Trust".

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Probus Club



The speaker for the meeting on Wednesday 19 November was Mrs Stephanie Little who is a Countryside Ranger with Fife County but who has been seconded to the Torry Bay Nature Reserve. She gave a graphic description of the Nature Reserve and illustrated her talk with some beautiful pictures of the wild life there. The Reserve stretches from the original high water mark to the low water mark between the Longannet jetty and the MOD pier at Crombie. A major feature of the reserve is the reclaimed area called the Valleyfield Ash Lagoons. Ash from the Longannet Power Station is mixed with water and pumped along the coast to these artificial ash lagoons which are already above the water level. This area has been created so that wild life can flourish. The rest of the Reserve are mud flats, which may look pretty barren, but this is deceiving. It has been estimated that a square mile of mud may contain up to 60,000 Laver Spire snails or thousands of Ragworms. These invertebrates provide an essential source of food for numerous birds, especially for those who overwinter at Torry Bay.

Members of the Probus Club were shown a lovely series of pictures of the wildlife, starting with the plants both those that grow on the ash lagoons above sea level and those which grow in pockets of saltmarsh. This led onto some of the insects which inhabit the Reserve followed by pictures of the birds which feed off the food there, culminating in some of the animals, such as rabbits and foxes which can be seen in the Reserve. Torry Bay is a veritable treasure trove for the person wanting to see both common and uncommon plants, animals and birds. Mike Thorn proposed the vote of thanks for an informative and enjoyable afternoon.

The speaker for the meeting on 3 December was Garry Stagg who gave a very interesting talk on the Knockhill Racing Circuit. He started off by giving a brief history of the place. The track was initially opened in 1974. Between 1974 and 1983 the circuit had a number of different owners but in 1983 a Mr Derek Butcher took over the enterprise and invested a lot of money in it and now the track is 1.3 miles long and 10 metres wide and is able to host most of the major British car and motorbike championships such as the British Touring Car Championship and the British Superbike Championship. On racing days the place is thronged, but Knockhill has more to offer than just the racing. In fact 80% of the revenue for Knockhill comes from other sources, such as:

1. **Driving Experience.** Knockhill has a variety of sports cars and some single seat racing cars that people can hire for a test run round the circuit. Garry Stagg told us that the instructors from the central control can simply turn down the speed. Seemingly each car is radio controlled from the centre and the radio control over-rides the manual one in the car.
2. **Accident Courses.** As part of the complex there is a skid pan area where the surface is smooth, and it is easy to make the car skid. The learner driver has to learn how to get out of the skid.
3. **Go Karting and 4) Business Training, etc.**

Ron McDonald gave the vote of thanks.

On Wednesday 10 December the Probus club held its Christmas lunch at the Windlestrae Hotel. Their President, Alex Johnston, welcomed the members and their guests (85 in total) to this annual event.

The first Meeting of the Club in 2009 was on 7 January when we were entertained by a fascinating talk on the training of racehorses by Mrs Dorothy Thomson. She told us that during her childhood on a farm she was familiar with Clydesdales but had no interest in racehorses until one day she watched one of her aunts, a very quiet person normally, become so excited while watching a steeplechase that it made her feel she was missing something. She acquired a foal named 'Rebel' and spent many hours working with him and he became a very good jumper until at the age of ten he fell and broke a bone in his foot and she was told he had only a 50/50 chance of recovery. After 18 months he was racing again until years later he fell again and broke a leg and had to be put down. She took a long time to recover from that and she emphasised very much the importance of establishing a feel-good factor between the groom and the horse. A horse will quickly realise if the groom is unhappy or displeased and will not give his best. She said that training will not improve a horse's speed but will improve his stamina and a careful training programme with steadily increasing distance, mixed with gallops and jumps, is essential to prepare a horse for a race.

Dorothy told us that at the age of 50 she became a professional trainer but she has now handed over her business to her daughter, still operating in the Tillyrie Stables near Milnathort. She has had problems in getting the staff that she needed, not helped by the introduction of the National Minimum Wage, and now some stables are using staff from Eastern Europe or Eire. She gave us an example of her busy daily work schedule with every hour filled up between her family, her housework and her horses but always with Sunday as a rest day both for her and for the horses.

Dorothy told us several stories of horses that she bought at sales, sometimes for quite modest sums that she succeeded in training to become successful in races. One highlight was a horse she bought for only £620 which she took to Cheltenham and entered in a race with 12 runners, though eight were withdrawn before the race. She chose her jockey with care and gave instructions to hold her horse back because she felt sure some of the others would fall and sure enough two went down at the last fence so she got a second place! She was given permission to use the Royal Box and came home with a tasty hamper of food from the box!

There were some questions afterwards and a Vote of Thanks proposed by Sandy Braid and members joined in a warm tribute to Dorothy for her interesting talk.

Finally Arthur Wallace presented a tribute to Bill Cooper, the founder of the Club, who died in early December. Bill had already started a Probus Club in Kirkcaldy and when he moved to Kinross he called a meeting in 1980 at which 38 men came and so the Club began and has prospered ever since. Arthur showed a short video of Bill speaking at the 21st Anniversary of the Club and spoke very warmly of his leadership and his sense of achievement in the way that the Club had grown and provided a place of friendship and fellowship in Kinross and District.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter

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For further details see www.kinrossnewsletter.org or phone Ann Harley on 01577 864512 or email

subscriptions@kinrossnewsletter.org

Kinross-shire Round Table

Before we look ahead to a new year of Tabling, let's have a quick review of 2008.



We had contrasting experiences of camping from the sublime (managing the bottle exchange, etc at T in the Park) to the ridiculous (our own camping weekend in the wettest weekend in Borders memory). I think those two are the right way round!

We also managed to fit in karting at Knockhill, dinghy sailing, outdoor catering for cyclists on the Edinburgh to St Andrews event, pub games, quizzes, Light Up Kinross and the odd convivial evening over a meal.

The highlight had to be our 3rd Annual Charity Beer Festival which allowed us to hand over our biggest ever single cheque - £6,000 - to CHAS in December.

We rounded out the year with the Santa Collection, which ran over seven nights and included a visit by Santa to the Crook of Devon Youth Club party. Our thanks go to all our fantastic helpers who made the collections in support of local good causes and charities possible. We do try to cover as much of Kinross-shire as possible with the sleigh but time, the number of helpers available on the night and the sheer size of the 9m long rig mean that we can not get everywhere.

We have a full programme running up to our AGM in April including 10-pin bowling, a St Patrick's Day celebration and an inter-Table quiz.

We are actively seeking new members so if any of the above sounds like the sort of thing you would like to become involved in then give us a call. Make it part of your plan for the year to get out, have fun and put something back into your local community. Round Table is an organisation for young men of 18-45 and has a sister organisation in Ladies Circle for young women.

Our full programme and details of events are available on www.kinross-shire.org.uk and you can e-mail us on Table@macpherson.plus.com or call on 864713.

Kinross & District Town Twinning Association



Holiday in France this summer in beautiful Normandy?

It is the turn of Kinross-shire residents to benefit from town twinning with a planned visit to Gacé in Normandy this summer, staying with a French family for a week.

Sample French cooking, lovely wines, cider, calvados and cheeses as well as the beautiful countryside. A day trip to Paris is also planned during the week. All you need to pay for is your travel to and from Gacé. Your host family will also take you on other visits in and around Gacé. We are always made very welcome by our Norman hosts.

The party plan to leave Kinross on Sunday 26 July, returning on Monday 3 August. Travel arrangements have not been finalised until numbers are confirmed. Anyone interested in participating in this summer's visit should contact secretary David Munro (tel: 01577 862126).

A photographic history of our twinning (since 1974) is being compiled by Michel Brodin, president of the Gacé Jumelage Committee and anyone who has photographs, slides, video or film footage is asked to contact David Munro so that copies can be made and forwarded to Michel. A Quiz Night is being planned for mid February (with a Valentine theme) at Milnathort Bowling Club - watch out for posters with more information.

Kinnesswood in Bloom



Britain in Bloom

We're very pleased to announce that Kinnesswood has been selected to represent our region in this year's RHS Britain in Bloom UK finals: an excellent opportunity but also a huge challenge and we hope that we can continue to rely on you all to help the village do well.

Judging for this year's Britain in Bloom competition takes place during the first fortnight of August. The three core pillars are: horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation, so anyone with any suggestions or ideas, give us a shout please!

Recent awards

Last year we were delighted to win Best Kept Large Village in the Take a Pride in Perthshire competition for the second year in a row and a silver-gilt award in Beautiful Scotland 2008 (our first attempt in the main competition).

Progress reports

We plan to keep you up to date with our progress, so please check the village noticeboard for the latest KiB news. We are working on a few interesting new projects this year and will update you on those as plans progress.



This year you can look forward to seeing the historical tiled map of the village in the picture garden

Help needed

We're always looking for new recruits and would love to see some new faces at our monthly meetings (Lomond Country Inn, 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month) but, if you can't make meetings or they're not your thing, why not join one of our work parties or agree to help out for an hour or so now and again when you have the time? You don't have to be an expert but if you're willing to help with any of the following:

Weeding, Dead heading, Grass cutting, Strimming,
Watering, Planting, Digging, General maintenance

have a word with Dave Goodwin at the garage or call him on **840727**. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Kinnesswood in Bloom team

Grass Cutting, Rotovating
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I. Robertson, Station Road, Crook of Devon
Telephone : **Fossoway 01577 840526**

Common Grounds



It is the hope of Common Grounds that your New Year is off to a good start; we send you our good wishes for 2009.

We continue to be fairly busy and our thanks to the Parents and Toddlers who go some way to fill our space and of course our coffers.

At the time of writing we are desperately in need of the services of someone who would be willing to fill the role of Treasurer. Also if there are, outwith our circle, people who could be Volunteers do come along and see for yourself what Common Grounds is about. Even if you can only spare an hour we do need you.

The project lunch in December went very well and made a good bit of money for us and we must thank the Milnathort Primary School pupils for their delicious soup (made from their own produce) and for their help at the lunch.

The money raised in the December Project went toward The Born Free Appeal Kenya, under the auspices of UNICEF. For just 68p for medication a child can be born free of the HIV virus even if the mother has HIV. Thus thousands of vulnerable children can get a real chance in life.

The guest speaker at the Wednesday 14 January Project Lunch was George Devine of Scouting International, who gave a talk on the Sunrise Malawi project.

The money raised will go towards this project which helps to refurbish buildings and toilets at a training centre in Malawi. This training centre trains young people to acquire new skills to assist them in finding employment.

Project: At the time of writing this article the project in front of us for our next donation is the charity "Sightsavers" who provide drugs to combat river blindness in Cameroon.

Fairtrade: We now have a really tasty selection of Fairtrade chocolate plus a comprehensive range of fairly traded goods and presents.

Book Club: At the moment we have a full membership but please feel free to phone Marlene Whyte on 01592 840371 to put your name on the waiting list.

Common Grounds is a wonderful place to visit, you will enjoy our real fire and please if you can help we are still in need of firewood.

We can be found in the Guide and Scout Hall, Church Street, Milnathort; look out for our board pointing the way on the path opposite the Royal Bank in South Street. We are open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 3pm.

Contacts outside of opening hours are: James Henry (Convener) 01577 864452 and Linda Freeman (Secretary) 01577 865045.

A last word - Spring is just round the corner!

Caption Competition

Our December Caption Competition is still open (remember those penguins!) so please do send in your entries. Either bring in your idea to Common Grounds at the Guide and Scout Hall, Church Street, Milnathort or send your ideas to The Secretary, Common Grounds, 64 Muirs, Kinross, KY13 8AU by **28 February 2009**, in not more than 25 words.

Prizes: 2 x £10 Vouchers to be spent in Common Grounds.

We will need your Name and Contact telephone number. Names of winners will be published in a later edition of the Newsletter.

Kinross-shire 50 Plus Club



At the December meeting, Jim Paterson, Gallowhill Farm, gave an extremely interesting talk on a very different Kinross. He described all the businesses and buildings that made up Kinross in the earlier years. A fascinating talk to the newcomers of Kinross and a reminiscing for the members who have always lived here. We also enjoyed our New Year party on 8 January with entertainment being provided by "Andrew Nairn's Concert Party".

Friday Walks: About 30 came to the Monument at Falkland for the "Sair Heid Walk", and celebrated our first walk of 2009 in traditional style. The weather was very kind to us, and we all returned to Warbeck's in the village, for soup and sandwiches. Sadly this will be the last time we will be able to enjoy the hospitality there, as Warbeck's has been bought by a firm of chemists.

6 February: From Cramond Ferry, up the River Almond to Cramond Brig, Barnton and Lauriston Castle grounds, and back by the Promenade. This is about 6 miles and is along waymarked paths and tarred roads.

20 February: From Clackmannan to Kennet Pans and back, to view the new Kincardine Bridge from the old gin distillery. This too is about 6 miles, and is along a variety of paths and roads.

Hillwalkers: For our last perambulation of 2008 we held our traditional eight mile Christmas Lunch walk from South Queensferry to Cramond Ferry and back. This was achieved in rather cold and eventually wet conditions, so we were very pleased to get back to the Hawes Inn in the early afternoon for a very enjoyable lunch.

13 February: We are planning to walk the eight mile circular route from Tayport to Tentsmuir Forest and Kinshoddy Beach.

27 February: This time we will tackle the eight mile circular walk from Glen Devon, up and round Glen Sherup, about eight miles and 1300 feet of ascent.

February Meeting: At the meeting on **5 February** the speaker will be Andy Paterson on "The Worthies of Perth".

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Kinross & Ochil Walking Group

(affiliated to The Ramblers' Association, Scotland)

Whether you're new to walking, returning to walking or a regular walker, take advantage of our winter programme to try out a walk with us before joining the Ramblers' Association. Walks are led by volunteer leaders from the group members. For February we offer three walks - two week end and one midweek.

Saturday 7 February: Dollar Circular, 5 miles. A gentle walk from Dollar to Vicars Bridge via Pitgober, then Mains of Blairingone, Dollarbeg and back to start. Accompanied children and dogs welcome. Meet alongside Castle Campbell Hotel, Dollar at 10am.

Wednesday 11 February: Lochend to Portmoak Moss, 4 miles. A walk along part of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail from Lochend Farm to Portmoak Moss and back. Lunch at Lochend Farm shop if desired. No dogs or children. Meet at the Lochend Farm shop car park at 10am.

Sunday 22 February: Myreton and Colsnaur Hills circuit, 5 miles. A circuit taking in two of the relatively rarely visited Ochil peaks. Fine views throughout. 600 metres of ascent. No dogs or children. Meet at Ochil Road, Menstrie at 10am.

Particularly at this time of year, walks require appropriate clothing and equipment, including boots and waterproofs. Weekend walks are of up to 4.5 hours duration and a packed lunch/warm drink should be brought.

For further information on walking with the group, or joining the Ramblers' Association, see our group website www.koramblers.org or the Ramblers' Association website www.ramblers.org.uk

Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

2009 Events – Give us your Ideas!

Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation - or KLEO as we hope you'll all get to know it! – is turning its attention to 2009, following the successful Summer's End Market last October. The organisation aims to promote directly, or work with others to promote, events and entertainments for the community in and around Kinross. To do that, we really need to know what the community wants! You'll find ways of contacting us below – please throw in your ideas.

A number of possible events are under consideration. We may help the Kinross Road Runners add some family events to the Loch Leven Half Marathon in May. We would very much like to assist the new Loch Leven Community Campus with its opening celebrations in October. A third possibility is a summer outdoor event, which could build on previous events in Kirkgate Park or, more ambitiously, be a Mid-Summer open-air concert/picnic. Finally, we do believe there is scope for a local celebration of Hogmanay.

Then again, you may all have different ideas, so why not contact us and let us have them – anything from events to venues, times of year to local talent able to take part. And if you'd like to help with the events, then you'll be made most welcome.

Keep an eye on our developing website www.kleo.org.uk, where you'll find contact details, or get in touch by e-mail susan@kleo.org.uk.

We know that people already value the great quality of life here in Kinross-shire, but with your help we'd like to make it even better. We look forward to your ideas.

Kinross High School Parent Council



The Kinross High School Parent Council combines the activities of the old Kinross High School Board and the Parents Teacher Association into a single body. Within the KHSPC the Events & Fundraising Committee looks after the activities of the old PTA.

The objectives of the KHSPC are broadly to represent the views of the parents of pupils at the school in the areas of education and welfare. We wish to work in partnership with the school to create a positive and proactive environment which supports pupils, staff, and parents.

The elected officers of the KHSPC for the 2008/2009 academic year are:

Chair	Andy WILLIAMS	Tel 01577 861682
Vice Chair	Jaffrey WEIR	Tel 01577 865780
Treasurer	Denis SWEENEY	Tel 01577 861651

The Clerk to the KHSPC is Helen Glover.

If you wish to raise any issue regarding the KHSPC and parental involvement in the High School, please don't hesitate to contact one of the above officers. Alternatively you may write to the Clerk care of the school address noted above.

Milnathort School Association

Our annual Christmas Bazaar was a great success – fun was had by all. Santa did a great job working his way round all the children. A special 'thank you' to all our volunteers – the day wouldn't have been such a success without you – you all know who you are!

We would like to thank the following businesses for contributing to our raffle: Highland Spring, South Lissens Pottery, Gavin Anderson Photography, Milnathort Post Office, The Zen Zone, Heaven Scent, Davidson's Chemist, Kirklands Hotel, David Sands, Sporting Chance, Mandy's Hairdresser, Bridges the Butcher, Complete Look Salon, Kintronics, Advanced Denture Company, Dobbies, Todd and Duncan, Loch Leven's Larder, also all the parents that handed in items for the Hampers.

Watch this space and school bags, for news of our forthcoming events.

The Milnathort School Association would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2009!

Fossoway Primary School Association

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas Raffle a great success. We would particularly like to thank the following local businesses who helped by selling tickets or by donating prizes – your contributions were greatly appreciated: Baxters, Loch Leven's Larder, Demijohn, Shell Garage, Crook of Devon, Village Shop, Crook of Devon, Complete Look, Salon 62, Le Jardin at Dobbies, Dobbies Garden Centre, Perth & Kinross Leisure, Muckhart Golf Club, Sporting Chance, Caledonia Play, Knockhill Racing Circuit, Body Shop, Partylite Candles, Laura's Chocolates, Tootsie & Fudge Children's Clothes, Phoenix Cards, Bunty Anne Gifts and Interiors, Bridges Butchers, Kirklands Hotel, Tracy Gow Photography, Powmill Milk Bar, Blockbuster Video, Nandos, Beauty by Brenda and Over Dalkieth Stables.

Kinross-shire Civic Trust

The Trust is looking forward again to having a successful year.



Programme for 2009

- Wed 11 Mar **Trust Annual Dinner and Talk** at the Kirklands Hotel at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Dr Debbie May, Head of Listing, Historic Scotland.
- Wed 15 Apr **The Annual General Meeting** at the Windlestrae Hotel, at 7.30pm. This will be followed by a talk by Rachel Haworth, Conservation Officer for P&KC.
- Sun 21 Jun **The annual Midsummer Walk** led by Professor David Munro, President of the Trust: Kinnesswood and the Michael Bruce Way.
- July/August **Annual Best Kept Village Competition.**
- Sat 22 Aug **Visit to The Drum**, Bo'ness courtesy of Mr Bill Cadell, who gave the trust a very interesting talk on the development of the Drum.
- Autumn **Bi-annual Architectural Award** (new build) competition.

Trust Annual Dinner and Talk. We hope as many members will be able to attend as possible. The dinner will be followed by a talk by Deborah Mays, Head of Listing at Historic Scotland. She advises Ministers on the listing of buildings, shapes policy and manages the listing programmes. Her experience is built on a degree in Modern and Art History and a PhD, and includes grant advice and consent work. She has published widely on Scottish architecture. Onetime Secretary to the Society of Architectural Historians, she is a member of the IHBC, and a Fellow of the RSA. The Title of her talk is *'Protecting the Legacy: the Listing Process'*. There are many Listed Buildings around Kinross-shire and this will be a very interesting illustrated talk about what is important about these buildings, which are a very vital part of the heritage of Kinross-shire. Dinner will be £22 per head. Please apply to Bridget Lindsay, 01592 840252.

The Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Windlestrae Hotel on Wednesday 15 April at 7.30pm. The meeting will be followed by a talk by Rachel Haworth, a Conservation officer with Perth and Kinross Council. Rachel's talk will be illustrations about Conservation Areas. P&KC re-established the Conservation group within the Development Control group three years ago and the Council is in the process of re-visiting the Conservation Areas within Perth and Kinross. The Trust will be taking an active involvement in this with the Council.

How well do you know Kinross-shire? The Trust will be starting to publish in the Newsletter a monthly series of photographs of sites of interest throughout Kinross-shire and these will be accompanied by a description.

The Objects of the Trust. The objects of the Trust are to stimulate public interest in, and care for, the good appearance of the towns, villages and rural environment of Kinross-shire, to maintain the essential character and identity of Kinross-shire, to encourage high standards of architecture, amenity and planning, to help conserve buildings and monuments of historic interest and to eliminate and prevent ugliness in the form of bad design, neglect and pollution. If you are interested and care about Kinross-shire, please come along to any of our events. We would be very pleased to see you. The Trust is always looking for people to help in running the Trust. Contact: Alistair Smith, Chairman 01592 840215.

Kinross & District Rotary Club



Dr Arthur Morris was the speaker at the meeting held on 17 November. His subject was the "BMA et al". Dr Morris, now retired and living in St Andrews, gave an interesting and amusing account of his time as a plastic surgeon in Africa and his close association with the British Medical Association. The vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Kelvin Reay.

The following week the speaker was Pat Doran, the Community Link Worker at Kinross High School assisted by Active School Co-Ordinator, Cath Davanny. Pat explained how much of her work was with involved in ensuring a smooth transition from primary to secondary school for those pupils and parents who had concerns and anxieties over the move. Pat told how she was also involved in arranging residential courses and holiday activities designed to build confidence and self esteem in those attending.

Dan Gunn, Governor of Polmont Young Offenders Institution, told the Club Meeting held on 8 December that Polmont provided secure custody for young male offenders in a safe, supportive and learning environment designed to facilitate change. If the rising prison population was to be tackled then a range of multi agency solutions and targeted interventions were required to be introduced. Being an emotive subject, Dan's talk prompted a range of questions and interesting answers and the vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Stanley Bayne.

The Magic of the Marathon was the subject of Dr Roger Stark's talk to the Club on 15 December. A veteran of over 20 marathons, Roger related the history of the event from the cave man escaping his predators to the current day major charity events raising up to £300 million pounds and attracting entries of 35000 plus. Roger told that the event was named after Pheidippides, a Greek messenger who died after bringing the news of victory at the Battle of Marathon to the citizens of Athens. The marathon was one of the original modern Olympic events in 1896, though the distance of 26 miles 385 yards did not become standardized until 1921.

The Club's Christmas Dinner Party was held at the Windlestrae Hotel on 22 December when those present enjoyed the entertainment provided by a group from the Kinross Youth Musical Theatre supported by Lynn Caldwell, Jill Campbell and Isobel Miller.

Rotary International's main campaign this year is entitled "Makes Dreams Real". The campaign aims to reduce the 300,000 deaths of children under the age of 5 that occur worldwide every day from preventable causes. If you would like to help with this and other international and local campaigns, why not consider joining the Rotary movement? Your local Rotary Club welcomes visitors and will be happy for you to join a few meetings to get to know the Club and its members without any obligation to join. We meet every Monday evening at 6.30pm in the Windlestrae Hotel, Kinross. If you would like to come along please notify Kelvin Reay at reay849@btinternet.com so that we can look out for you. Further information can also be found at www.rotary-ribi.org.

Need to check something in an old Newsletter?

Consult our electronic archive at

www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Issues from September 2006 to three months ago available



Sports News

Junior Otters

Championship Winners 2008

9 & under Stroke Dev Girls:

1st Georgiana Jessiman;

2nd Kirsty McCloskey; 3rd Iona Crawford

9 & under Stroke Dev Boys: 1st Finlay Nesbitt;

2nd Ben Cormack

10 & over Stroke Dev Girls: 1st Molly McKenzie;

2nd Anielia Henry; 3rd Sophie McKay

10 & over Stroke Dev Boys: 1st Ross Messenger.

9 & under Junior Girls: 1st Rebecca Hardie;

2nd Rebecca Saxton; 3rd Katy Robson

9 & under Junior Boys: 1st Conor McCormick;

2nd David Elder; 3rd Ewan Boyle

10 & over Junior Girls: 1st Rachel Brisbane;

2nd Lauren Miller; 3rd Iona Stevenson

10 & over Junior Boys: 1st Aaron Gillon;

2nd Ewan Scougall; 3rd Angus Gibson

Stroke Dev. Girls: 1st Iona Crawford

Stroke Dev. Boys: 1st Ben Cormack

Barracudas Girls: 1st Zoe Shepherd

Barracudas Boys: 1st Christopher Wilcox

Dolphins Girls: 1st Lauren Miller

Dolphins Boys: 1st Ewan Scougall

Barracudas 100m IM Girls: 1st Rebecca Douglas

Barracudas 100m IM Boys: 1st Ross Cormack

Dolphins 100m IM Girls: 1st Rebecca Saxton

Dolphins 100m IM Boys: 1st Angus Gibson

Coaches Award Stroke Dev: 1st Blythe Johnston

Coaches Award Barracudas: 1st Rosario Gibbons

Coaches Award Dolphins: 1st Andrew Beveridge



Senior Otters

Championship Winners 2008

10 & under 50m Girls: 1st Fiona Thomson;

2nd Clare Moloney

10 & under 50m Boys: 1st Cameron Nelson;

2nd Gregor Malcolm

11 & over 50m Girls: 1st Alexandra Galloway;

2nd Tabitha Mills; 3rd Jennifer Weir

11 & over 50m Boys: 1st Adam Blaikie; 2nd Jordan Curtis;

3rd Lewis Gordon

10 & under 100m Girls: 1st Laura Manson;

2nd Amy Baker

10 & under 100m Boys: 1st Cameron McCloskey

11/12 Years 100m Girls: 1st Samantha Caulfield;

2nd Eleanor Muncey; 3rd Mairi Mulhern

11/12 Years 100m Boys: 1st Callum Deas;

2nd Callum Baker; 3rd Jamie Mather

13/14 Years 100m Girls: 1st Laura Muncey;

2nd Kayleigh Reid; 3rd Eilidh Gibson

13/14 Years 100m Boys: 1st Michael Antoniewicz;

2nd Robbie Blaikie; 3rd Ewan Simpson

15 & over 100m Girls: 1st Ruth Miller;

2nd Rachael Sikora; 3rd Laura Duncan

15 & over 100m Boys: 1st Rory Paterson;

2nd Ross Ballingall; 3rd Stuart Elder

Eels Girls: 1st Tabitha Mills

Eels Boys: 1st Jordan Curtis

Piranhas Girls: 1st Eleanor Muncey

Piranhas Boys: 1st Brodie O'Kane

Sharks Girls: 1st Kayleigh Reid

Sharks Boys: 1st Ross Ballingall

Eels 100m IM Girls: 1st Emily Longstaffe

Eels 100m IM Boys: 1st Callum Simpson

Piranhas 100m IM Girls: 1st Jennifer Saxton

Piranhas 100m IM Boys: 1st Jamie Mather

Sharks 200m IM Girls: 1st Eilidh Gibson

Sharks 200m IM Boys: 1st Ewan Simpson

Open 100m IM Girls: 1st Ann Malcolm

Open 100m IM Boys: 1st David Haig

Coaches Award Eels: 1st Kay Turnbull

Coaches Award Sharks: 1st Ross Ballingall

Swimmer of the Year Girl: 1st Laura Muncey

Swimmer of the Year Boy: 1st Forrest Hamilton

Kinross Adult Otters

Readers will probably know all about the Kinross Otters swimming club because of the large and active junior membership - but there is also an adult section! We swim on a Tuesday evening from 8pm to 9pm at the pool, and have over 30 members with around 10-20 at each session. It's a good way to burn some post-Christmas calories, and we're a friendly bunch. You don't have to be an expert swimmer - the lanes are graduated for different speeds and there is an 'easy' lane. We have a reduced rate of £2 for entry to the pool for club members. If you are interested please come along to the pool on any Tuesday.



Kinross Otters proudly show off their trophies!

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Kinross Volleyball Club

The Kinross teams are still in with a chance of winning both the Premier and Recreational Leagues in the Perth District League.

Kinross Scotrange have lost only one game to date and are poised in second place to take the top slot if leaders Hitting Bricks slip up between now and the end of the season.

Kinross BB currently lead the Recreational League but are closely pursued by Dunfermline Phoenix.

Kinross Scotrange II have had a number of good results and should finish in the top five by the end of the season. The Kinross Boys and Girls Brigade team have blooded a number of youngsters this season and although they are at the foot of the table they will come good over the next year or so.

Training has resumed at Kinross High School games hall on Monday evenings from 8-10pm. (Junior coaching from 8 till 9 pm.) New members are always welcome.

Kinross Ladies Hockey Club

The latter part of 2008 proved to be very frustrating, with the "all weather" pitch permanently frozen for weeks on end. Both training and matches had to be abandoned because of safety concerns. As a result we have come into 2009 with five or six games outstanding for both teams. The plan had been to have no games in January, and then restart with cup matches only in February and March. The Midlands Hockey Committee are currently considering how to deal with the over-run, and it is likely that matches will be rescheduled for the coming weeks.

The Midland Knock Out Cup starts on 14 March - our 2nd XI play St Andrews Uni., whilst our 1st XI have a bye to next round. The next round of the Scottish District Cup (one team only from Kinross) is on 15 March away to Linlithgow.

Unfortunately the start of 2009 has seen Sue McCutcheon stand down from her temporary role as coach. We are very grateful to Sue for the commitment she showed in travelling large distances on a very regular basis. As a result we are again looking for a coach, and we would be keen to hear from anyone who has experience and willingness to take this post on.

Weather permitting, training will continue on Wednesday nights from 6.30pm - 8pm at the all weather pitch at KGV playing fields. New players welcome. For further information see www.kinrossladieshockey.co.uk



Kinross United AFC



Despite the recent poor weather, the Club has managed training sessions and also played friendlies with the Junior side Ballingry Rovers and also Benarty Amateurs.

On 10 January Kinross United faced the very strong Cupar Hearts. Hearts are top of the Kingdom League and also have their sights set on winning the Scottish Cup. In atrocious conditions Kinross took the lead with a goal from Brian Duncan and led until the second half when Cupar fought back to win 1-3. It was a very encouraging game for Kinross as the newcomers to the Kingdom Caledonian League. We are now participating in a higher standard of play and the players are raising their game to meet the challenge.

Recently games have been stopped by the referee due to dogs faeces on the pitch even though on Saturday the committee had already removed eight deposits. This is totally unacceptable and we urge dog owners to ensure that they bag the deposits and place them in the bins provided. We have also had to allow two youngsters into the pavilion to get showered and changed after falling in dogs' dirt. Please help us to eradicate this problem.

As the Club continues to develop, more players and Committee members are required. If you are interested in coming along in either capacity, please phone Alan Fraser on 01577 862018.

Kinross Curling School



The After Schools Clubs started back on 12 and 15 January. If you have children between 8 and 12 years who could be interested in curling either on the Mondays 3.30 - 4.30pm or Thursdays 4.00 - 5.15pm, please get in touch with me.

Our first **Curling Clinic** is not until **18 February**: we are holding this one on daytime ice at 12.15pm, will be going over your curling delivery and the correct way to hold the curling stone. If interested, then get in touch with me.

There will be another **Curling Clinic** on **Thursday 26 February** at 5.45pm.

If you would prefer one to one coaching or a couple of friends want to come and try, I am available most days during the week.

For any more information please contact me, Ena Stevenson, tel: 07974826563, Email enastevenson@aol.com

New Wee Springers Classes at Loch Leven Leisure Centre

Wee Springers is a gymnastics based movement class held at Loch Leven Leisure Centre. Classes are for 18mths - 3yrs and 3 - 5yrs. Early booking is advisable, please call **01577 863368** to book a space or for further information.

Monday

10.45-11.15 18mths - 3yrs
11.45-12.15 18mths - 3yrs
13.00-13.45 3 - 5yrs
14.00-14.45 3 - 5yrs

Wednesday

10.00-10.45 3 - 5yrs
11.00-11.30 18mths - 3yrs

Gymnastics

Recreational gymnastics classes teach basic gymnastics skills in a fun and safe environment. Early booking is advisable, please call 01577 863368 to book your space.

Monday

16.00-16.55 Primary 1 - 3
17.00-17.55 Primary 4 - 7

Wednesday

16.00-16.55 Primary 1 - 3
17.00-17.55 Primary 4 - 7



News from the Rurals

CLEISH - Mrs Kilpatrick welcomed all members to the November meeting. After completion of business she invited our speaker Stuart Skinner to tell us of 'Behind the Scenes of T in the Park', dating from 1997 when he was first approached by the organisers for items such as seven miles of pink string, up to the latest concert. He spoke of the huge growth and therefore added problems including childcare, car parking, road management and much more. It was an eye opener for us and most interesting, generating a greater understanding of some of the problems experienced by living near to such an event.

After the talk the usual refreshments and raffle took place.

Competitions:

Flower of the Month	- Mrs S Webster
Decorated Wellington	- Mrs D Morris
3 Cheese Scones	- Mrs F Barnfather

December: Mrs Margaret Kilpatrick welcomed all members and guests to the Cleish Coffee, Cake and Carols evening. As usual the Cleish Hall was filled to capacity for the occasion. We enjoyed an evening of entertainment by twenty four members of the Fossoway Singers led by Don Finlay, and the genial companionship of fellow SWRI members of the area. We felt that it gave a very pleasant start to the Christmas festivities.

MILNATHORT - Mrs Jessica Munro presided at our meeting on 20 November. After business Mrs Kate Imlay gave a very interesting talk on the many crafts she has done over the years. Lots of beautiful work was displayed: patchwork, quilting, fabric painting etc.

Competitions:

3 Fruit Marmalade	- Frances Shepherd
Flower of the Month	- Cathie Cochrane
Pin Cushion	- Senga Marshall

December: Our Christmas party was held in the Clubhouse at Milnathort Bowling Green. Our President gave members a handmade Christmas card and a little box with truffles. After the meal we then had Charades and a recitation by Jessica. A good time was enjoyed by all.

BISHOPSHIRE - For their Christmas meeting the members enjoyed a delicious meal at the Lomond Country Inn. Beautifully wrapped toys were donated to the Salvation Army in Glenrothes, for children's Christmas.

Competition:

Thimble	- Jeanette McLennan
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Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

Is looking for a part time events co-ordinator

Approx' 10 hours a week, fee to be agreed.

Requirements: experience in event co-ordination, Good communication, administration and organisational skills, Good PR / social skills, Computer literate,

For further information please call Dave Cuthbert on 01577 861001 or Susan Bathgate on 01577 864742

POWMILL - President Mrs Janie Buchanan welcomed members to the meeting on Wednesday 19 November in Moubray Hall, Powmill. Mrs Anne McKay introduced her Kinross High School colleagues Lynne Caldwell and Euan McKay, who gave a very interesting illustrated talk on their visit with three students to Livingstonia Secondary School in Malawi which is in school partnership with Kinross High School. Mrs Maz Thorn gave the vote of thanks and a lovely supper was served by Mrs E Shand and Miss G Carver.

We would also like to thank everyone who ventured out on such a wet and windy day to support our Autumn Fayre on Saturday 25 October which raised £428.26.

Competitions:

Plain Gingerbread (iced)	- Mrs J Buchanan
Small Knitted Toy	- Mrs E Johnston
Garden Gem	- Mrs J Buchanan

GLENFARG - Lesley Murison provided hilarious entertainment at the December Christmas Party. Excellent catering was provided by Powmill Milk Bar.

Competitions:

Decorated Christmas Gift	- L Kyle
Two Mince Pies	- A Messenger

Margaret Scott, Glenfarg president, welcomed members and guests to the January meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ella Fisher, a retired Marie Curie nurse, showed slides and talked about her challenging cycle from Krakow to Warsaw in Poland (397 miles), raising £12,000 for the Marie Curie Fund.

Competitions:

Slice of Christmas cake	- M Blair
Cross-stitch bookmark	- A Messenger
Potted Plant	- A Quartermaine

CARNBO - President Eileen Thomson welcomed members to our Christmas Party. Our Host for the night was Scott from Heaven Scent, along with his little Elves who did a grand job serving all the ladies, the meal was enjoyed by all, and a vote of thanks was given by the President. This was followed by the distribution of presents, then each member was invited to light a tea candle, during the singing of the Carol Singing. A good night was had by all.

Competitions:

Mincemeat Pie	- C Dawson
Flower of the Month	- F Drysdale

BLAIRINGONE - President Fiona Clark welcomed all visitors and members to our open meeting on 12 November in Moubray Hall, Powmill. An enjoyable evening was had by all at a Beetle Drive. There was also a sales table and competition results were as follows:

Plain Scones	- Mary Ramsay
Prettiest Candle	- Moira Cousar
Flower of the Month	- Fiona Clark

Please mention The Newsletter when answering advertisements



Out & About

Vane Farm



Aye, aye – anither year startit; hope ye awe hid a grand time.

We hiv been continuin wi bits n pieces o work oan the reserve wetland tae create mair watter. Cos o awe the rain lately the flood is lookin huge noo that we hiv hid the bund built back up, which hiz been grand fur the burds wi big numbers o whooper swan feedin n laofin aboot, weel, apairt fae the days it wiz frozen ower when a pickly o them went fur a skite oan their bahookies as they tried tae land. Teal, mallard, pintail, wigeon, lapwings, curlews, pinkies ... mighty me! It's been like an airport runway wi things fleein in n oot. As weel as birds, a few roe deer n foxes are dodgin aboot as weel ... nice.

Breakin News fae the shoap: the much saucht effer windae feeders are back in stoack, finally! Think we hiv probably phoned the people wha hid them oan order but if we hinny got a hoad o ye yet, they are here, waitin, wi yer name oan them. We even hiv mair fur sale ower n above so if ye wid like tae get close up n personal wi yer gairden birds come along n purchase yin fur yersel. Talkin aboot feedin yer gairden burdies, we hiv a new type o bird food in cried "Feeder Mix Extra", a grand lookin mixture wi a few extra seeds added in based on the popular "Feeder Mix".

Noo then, bees – no in the bumblebee meadow this time, bit in Raymondo wur shop commander's bannet. Ye see it's awe tae dae wi fat baws; he hiz a personal hatred o the yins wrapped in green nets cos they hiv the potential tae cause bad injuries and sufferin tae burds like goldfinches fur wan!! The advice is, dinny buy fat baws in these nets. Why bird food manufacturers still produce them is a mystery; they shidnae, cos the problem is weel kent. All RSPB yins are net-free as ye wid expect cos where burds are concerned "Trust us to Know" so gonnæ no buy them that wey. If ye dae, please remove the nets and dispose o them in a safe and environmentally freendly manner. Ta very muckle and ye will save the Raymeister fae getting premature grey hair – guid fur him, guid fur the burds, deep joy!

Oor Ecover refill scheme seems tae be gettin mair popular so why no gie it a go. Bring yer bottle, fill it up for a very reasonable sum o siller n dae yer bit tae save the planet.

Next Events comin up are "**Burns and the Black Grouse**", an evening o poetry, whisky sampling o the new blend Black Grouse frae Matthew Gloag, n haggis n stuff oan **Sunday 25 January** at 7.30pm.

"**A Scottish Island Warden**" on **Wednesday 4 February** at 7.30pm. A talk by oor warden Chris Rodger on his roving wardening life on some o wur Scottish islands.

Saturday 7 February: "Birdwatching for Beginners" – Wintering Wildfowl frae 10am – 4pm. An all day course with mornin coffee n lunch includit.

Saturday 14 February it's a luv thang goin on wi a "**Valentines Day Singles Walk**" which apparently is a nature walk oan Vane Hill wi fun n games eh, aye, ok then, say nae mair then. Book awa, you singles oot there!!

Fur details, prices (sum are free fur members) or tae book ony o this year's events, phone 01577 862355. Or visit the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide then look oan the Vane Farm bitty.

Ta ta till the next time.

Colin

Loch Leven NNR



After a busy festive season, 2009 swings into action at Loch Leven with a series of volunteer activities and events planned for the next month. Our first volunteer involvement of the year was an organised litter pick in partnership with the Plastic Bag Free Campaign for Kinross-shire. The local group, led by Sarah Eaton of Scottish Natural Heritage, was joined by our team of volunteers to have a seasonal clear up around the newly opened heritage trail. Thanks to all who attended and took the time to learn more about the local PBF campaign, to meet some local volunteers and to enjoy the sights afforded by the new trail.

A reminder also for our first Volunteers' Meeting of the year, to be held at **Millbridge Hall**, Kinross on **Wednesday 28 January** at **7.30pm**. The guest speaker will be David Pickett from Flanders Moss National Nature Reserve, and we look forward to learning more about one of the more local NNRs to Loch Leven both in terms of its natural heritage and management issues.

The following weekend plays host to two separate events. On **Saturday 31 January** at **10am** Jeremy will be leading the second of our two Winter Bird Walks from the **Kirkgate Watchtower**. We'll expect to see a nice suite o winter ducks, geese and swans, as well as other migrants like Fieldfare and Redwing.

On **Sunday 1 February** we are hosting our annual **Tree Sparrow nest box building day**. The day has proved very popular in the past with children and adults, and gives all the opportunity to create their own nest box, and take part in the installation of it on the reserve. We'll be meeting at **The Pier** at **10am** for a morning session of box-building, followed by an afternoon session of installation and bird-watching. All are welcome, so if you would like to take part in some practical conservation on a National Nature Reserve, please feel free to come along with a packed lunch and suitable clothes and boots in the event of bad weather.

For all aforementioned events and activities, please contact the reserve office on 01577 864439 to book your place.

That's all for now folks. A very Happy New Year to all!

Craig

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Farming



The Selling of the Lambs

Scotland has a national sheep flock of over 7 million. The offspring from the breeding sheep population are either retained for breeding to join the flock or sold for human consumption. Scotch Lamb has a reputation as possibly the tastiest in the world and is a favourite with chefs in the UK and abroad. A stress free life roaming the heather hills or grass fields, favourable climate and high welfare standards are the reasons it tastes so good.

Producing a good quality product takes time and devotion, and selling this product is an important part of the process. Whatever method of sale is chosen, the farmer needs to know exactly what it is that the buyer demands and ensure the lambs are the correct specification for that market. The sheep must be very clean. At this time of year, the lamb's belly will be shorn to remove wool that could contain any harmful bacteria. Lambs must also be tagged to ensure they can be traced back to the farm of their birth.

Selling on Market Day is an easy way to sell livestock; markets are held on the same day each week, and local farmers will take livestock to Perth, Stirling or Forfar. The sale will attract a portfolio of buyers who will bid against each other for the stock, but the farmer has to accept the price on the day or take the stock home. The auction company provide prompt payment of the consignment and remove the risk to the seller but charge a commission.

Or, the lambs can be taken directly to an abattoir. This is often chosen to cut out the middle man - sellers arrange with the abattoir directly a convenient day and time to bring in the animals. The price will be agreed beforehand on carcass specification. Local companies in Stirling, Perth and Aberdeen will receive lambs direct from Kinross-shire farms. The farmers will be paid directly and also receive feedback on the lambs, providing information on the muscling of the carcass and scale of lean to fat. This information can assist the farmer when making choices on the next consignment for sale.

Cooperative Marketing is another option, and some farmers have joined together to form marketing groups. The group benefits from economies of scale and consistency of supply, and can also benefit from a stronger negotiating position when dealing with abattoirs or supermarkets. The group aims to provide better returns for their members, and higher levels of customer satisfaction.

Lamb in a box schemes, farmers' markets, farm shops or just selling to friends and family is a way in which a farmer can develop a niche market for their own lamb from their particular flock. The lambs still require to be killed at the abattoir but can be further processed by a local butcher and packed up for the customer. This method of selling usually involves small batches and requires intense marketing activity to build up brand awareness. The farmers that do it successfully are making the most out of their product as possible and the consumer is allowed the opportunity to reduce food miles and enjoy a tasty local product. Fiona

SHOP AT THE GREEN

FANTASTIC ONE DAY SALE

Thursday 19 February

9.30am – 7.00pm

SPECIAL SALE LUNCH AVAILABLE

Weather



November Weather Report From Carnbo

November 2008 was a rather cold, dry month. Most outstanding feature was the very cold spell towards the end of the month, this leading to a very early fall of snow on the 21st, also a very heavy deposit of ryme on the 30th, with a minimum temperature of -8°C.

Rainfall for month	67 mm (67% of normal)
Heaviest fall	10.7 mm (14th)
Highest temperature	11°C (14th)
Lowest temperature	-8°C (30th)
Average temperature	2.6°C (low)

3 days with maximum temperature above 10°C

1 ice day (maximum temperature below 0°C)

Ground frost 19 nights (very high)

Air frost 10 nights

1 snow day depth 4cms lying

2 days with snow lying

Sunless days 5 (low)

Cloud cover 50%

December Weather Report From Carnbo

December 2008 was the coldest December of recent years. Outstanding features of the month: first 10 days mainly dry but very cold, milder and much wetter weather 11th to 20th, from then to the end of the month dry and very cold.

Rainfall for month	121 mm (102% of normal)
Heaviest fall	23.8 mm (19th)
Highest temperature	9°C (21st)
Lowest temperature	-8°C (1st)
Average temperature	1.5°C (2007 – 2.3°C)

No days with maximum temperature above 10°C

5 ice days (maximum temperature below 0°C)

Ground frost 24 nights

Air frost 19 nights

4 snow days 3 days lying total depth 5cms

Sunless days 12

Cloud cover 62%

2008 The Vital Statistics

The most outstanding features of 2008 were the very heavy rainstorms and mild temperatures of mid February, the cool rather wet weather endured during most of the Summer, and the sudden onset of cold weather at the end of October, this lasting to the close of the year.

Total Rainfall	1550 mm (130% of normal)
Heaviest fall	74.6 mm (25th Jan)
Wettest month	January 374mm
Driest month	May 20mm
Highest temperature	22°C (27th July)
Lowest temperature	-8°C (1st December)
Average temperature	7.3°C (2007 7.6°C)
31 snow days	total depth 18cms (very low)
Thunder on 2 days	very low

P.S. During the last weeks of the year, two unusual strangers were spotted near the village by sharp eyed residents, one was a sea eagle being mobbed by the local rooks, not happy with this interloper on their territory. The other surprising visitor was a pine marten quite close to the house. What next? A panther, maybe!

Congratulations



Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of **ANDREW**, elder son of Andy & Evelyn **JACKSON**, Balfour Crescent, Milnathort to **JENNIFER**, daughter of Tom & Mary **GRAHAM**, Muirs, Kinross.

PAYNE – FRYER Patricia and David Payne are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter Shoena to Justin Fryer from South Africa on Saturday 18 October 2008. The wedding took place at Abernethy Parish Church, with the Rev Ian McIlroy officiating, followed by a reception at Fingask Castle. It was a wonderful day. The happy couple reside in Edinburgh.

MORRISON – PATERSON Congratulations to Andrew and Kirsten who were married in Las Vegas on 27 December 2008.

LAURA DAWSON and **ALAN PORTER**, 20 Morlich Place, Kinross were married on 29 December 2008 at Kinross Parish Church by the Rev E Cairns.

GIACOPAZZI – Congratulations to Peter and Charlotte (née Rougvie), whose daughter, **EMILIA RUTH**, was born on 8 December 2008. A lovely wee sister for Elizabeth and second granddaughter for Joe and Ann Giacopazzi and Liz Rougvie.

HUDSON – In Cairns, Australia on Sunday 4 January 2009, to Chris and Darani, the gift of a son, **LEATHAN DEREK JOHN** – first grandchild for Derek and Rosemary Hudson, “Craigwell”, Kinross.

Cadet Staff Sergeant **MHARI BARNES** (17) of Kinross has been appointed the Lord Lieutenant’s Cadet for Perth & Kinross. Now the senior cadet at Kinross detachment and playing a full part in recruiting more cadets, her achievements include a silver Duke of Edinburgh’s Award as well as participation in various sporting activities. She is currently completing her BTEC diploma in public services.

Several Strathallan pupils from the local area achieved success in the recent Schools Festival organised by Perth Burns Club: **CHARLIE MEARNES**, Milnathort, was a joint winner of the Grampian Cup for recitation by pupils under-15; **MURDO ELWIS**, Kinross, was the overall winner in the accordion classes, taking the Dalriada Cup; In the LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) exams, **MORAG ELWIS**, Kinross, received a Distinction award for gold medal public speaking.

JACKSON BROWN of Kinross Boys & Girls Brigade won the Perth Battalion BB Chess competition at Blairgowrie in December. The 1st Kinross Company has now won the trophy for a record ten years, 1998-2008.

PROFESSOR DAVID MUNRO of Kinrosswood has been presented with an MBE by the Prince of Wales at an investiture in Buckingham Palace. The award is for services to the environment and the community over the past forty years. Professor Munro is honorary president of the Kinross-shire Civic Trust and Chairman of the Michael Bruce Trust.

Thanks



JOAN & JIM SIMPSON would like to thank very much all who sent cards, flowers, telephoned and offered all manner of help during Jim’s recent stay in Ninewells Hospital. All much appreciated.

ALASTAIR and **WENDY TURNBULL** wish to thank all the family and friends who donated very generously to raise £576.85 for CHAS on the evening of their joint 40th Birthday Party held at the Windlestrae Hotel on 14 November 2008. A Happy New Year to all!

A big thank you to **ORWELL OLD FOLKS COMMITTEE** who gave a lovely Christmas Party for a large number of our over-70’s. A delicious meal was followed by excellent entertainment provided by Gordon Menzies. A visit from Santa laden with gifts completed a much enjoyed evening.

The Kinross studio of the **HELEN O’GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY** raised £250 for Children in Need in November when a “Bring a Grown Up Day” was held.

The **DAY CENTRE** staff and users would like to thank **KINROSS HIGH SCHOOL** pupils and the PE department for their kind donation of £224.45, raised by paying 50p to wear fancy dress during their last social dance lesson.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2008: Many thanks again to all those who participated in the packing and checking of shoeboxes. Each shoebox was kindly donated and contained Christmas-time presents for young children, teenagers or adults who live in deprived circumstances. At this time it would be good if the donors of the shoeboxes here in Kinross-shire learnt where all of the many shoeboxes from all over Scotland go. Over 30,000 boxes were sent to India, approx 36,000 boxes to Romania, 10,800 to Albania, approx 8000 to Ukraine, 6300 to Bulgaria (this was the destination of the 600 boxes from parts of Fife and Kinross-shire), 5550 to Moldova, 4200 to Hungary and an additional container filled with shoeboxes to Sri Lanka. All of these tens of thousands of kindly donated gift shoeboxes are containerised in a warehouse in Hillington, Glasgow prior to shipment. Blythswood Care have asked us to “please pass on our sincere thanks to all who donated boxes or who helped in the checking and packing of boxes and let them know how much we appreciate their time and efforts”. *P Payne and S Wales.*

Mrs H MacLachlan and **Mrs L McGuigan** would like to say a very big thank you to their P4/5 class and to the P2 children of **FOSSOWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL** for a very special day on Friday 12 December. It was a pleasure to take you to Fossoway Parish Church to finish our topic, ‘Come to a Scottish Wedding’ and afterwards at the ‘reception’ in Fossoway School Hall. Many thanks too, to the adults who came to help, walking us to the church, making up the congregation and serving and clearing up at the ‘reception’ in the afternoon. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the following people for their contribution before and on the day: Rev Joanne Findlay, Fossoway Parish Church; Anne Steedman, Green and Windlestrae Hotels; Hayley Allcoat, 1st for Balloons; Hermes Manos and last but not least Mrs K Pirrie who made a DVD of the event. Once again our thanks to you all.

*For additional Thanks see also
School Association entries on page 29.*

Kinross-shire Churches Together



Kinross Parish Church of Scotland (Charity number SC012555)

Station Road, Kinross
website: www.kinrossparishchurch.org

E-mail: kinpc@tiscali.co.uk Tel: (01577) 862570
Rev Alan D. Reid MA, BD
Reader: Margaret Michie Tel: (01592) 840602
Session Clerk: Mrs Linda Williamson Tel: (01577) 862789
15 St Mary's Place, Kinross

All Sunday morning services include a crèche (age up to three), Junior Church (three to Primary 7) and JamPact (Secondary age).

Sunday morning service 10.30am

Pram Service: Each Tuesday at 10am in the Church. All under 3s and carers welcome. Children's worship followed by coffee and juice. Contact Evelyn Cairns tel. 01577 863990.

Time to Pray: Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 7.30pm in the Church.

Midweek worship: Each Wednesday in the Reading Room of the Church Centre, 10.45am – 11.15am.

Whyte Court: First Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm.

Causeway Court: Last Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm.

All are welcome to these services.

Saturday break: Most Saturday mornings at the Church Centre, tea, coffee and fresh baking are available, 10am-12 noon. A second-hand bookstall is usually open.

Crossfire: A fun evening (7.30pm to 9pm) on Sundays at the Church Centre for Secondary 1 age upwards. Contact Jaffrey Weir 01577 865780.

Premises to lease: The church welcomes the use of its premises by the wider community. It provides a suite of halls, meeting rooms and a kitchen at the Church Centre (contact Helena Cant, telephone 862923 or email helenacant@aol.com) and the main auditorium and two meeting rooms at the recently modernised church (contact Anne Miller, telephone 865610).

St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church

Muirs, Kinross, KY13 8AY

Rev Dr Marion Keston Telephone: (01577) 866834
Website: www.stpauls-kinross.co.uk

February Services

Sun 1 Epiphany 4, 8.30am, Holy Communion.
11.00am Sung Eucharist.
Sun 8 Epiphany 5, 8.30am, Holy Communion.
11.00am Sung Eucharist.
Sun 15 Epiphany 6, 8.30am, Holy Communion.
11.00am All age Communion service.
Sun 22 Sunday before Lent, 8.30am, Holy Communion
The Transfiguration, 11.00am, Sung Eucharist.
Wed 25 Ash Wednesday, 10.30am Holy Communion
with imposition of ashes.
7.00pm Penitential service.
Thu 26 9.30am, Service of prayers for healing.

Junior Church and Crèche during the 11.00am Services.

Thursday Morning group Bible Study. Everyone welcome. For further information, please contact Sarah Oxnard, telephone (01577) 864213.

Cleish Parish Church Church of Scotland

Rev Joanne Finlay Telephone: (01577) 850231
E-mail: joannefinlay196@btinternet.com
Reader: Mr Brian Ogilvie Telephone: (01592) 840823

Sunday Services 11.15am
Crèche 11.15am
Junior Church 11.15am

January

Sun 25 11.15am Preacher: Rev. Joanne Finlay
6.30pm Evening service with
informal communion

February

Sun 1 11.15am Preacher: Rev. Joanne Finlay
Sun 8 11.15am Sacrament of Baptism
Sun 15 11.15am Preacher: Mr Brian Ogilvie
Wed 22 11.15pm Preacher: Rev. Joanne Finlay
2 February: 7.30pm Kirk Session
23 February: 7.15pm Guild AGM, Speaker Mr Brian Ogilvie

Fossoway Parish Church Church of Scotland

Rev Joanne Finlay Telephone: (01577) 850231
E-mail: joanne.finlay196@btinternet.com
Reader: Mr Brian Ogilvie Telephone: (01592) 840823

Sunday Services at 9.45am
"Wrigglers Group" (0-3 year olds), Junior Church and
Teenage Group 9.45am
Tots Music: Friday mornings in hall, 9.30am-10.30am
Children's Yoga: Mondays 3-4pm, church hall
Housegroup/Bible Study group:
contact Margaret Hamblin (01577 850252)
Fossoway Church Choir rehearsals:
Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm-9pm
Wednesday evenings: Joint choir rehearsals

February

Sun 1 9.45am Preacher: Rev. Joanne Finlay
Sun 8 9.45am Preacher: Rev. Joanne Finlay
Sun 15 9.45am Preacher: Mr. Brian Ogilvie
Sun 22 9.45am Preacher: Rev. Joanne Finlay
8 February, 7.30pm - Junior Church Meeting.
24 February, afternoon Women's Group (in hall).

Kinross Christian Fellowship

Further information: (01577) 863509

Jesus said, "I come among you as one who serves."

Church and Children's Sunday Club

Every Sunday at 10.30am
in the Millbridge Hall, Old Causeway, Kinross.
During each service there will be a time for
ministry and prayer for healing.

Need to check something in an old Newsletter?

Consult our electronic archive at

www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Issues from September 2006 to three months ago available

Looking for Contact Details?

For listings of local clubs, businesses, public services
and more, visit **www.kinross.cc**

Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church**Church of Scotland**

Rev Robert Pickles Telephone: (01577) 863461

E-mail: robert.pickles1@btopenworld.com

Sunday Worship, Junior Church and crèche:

10am Portmoak Church, 11.30am Orwell Church

Prayer Meeting held 30mins before each service**Service at Ashley House:** first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm**Services at Levenglen:** first Tuesday of the month at 4pm**Oasis** Ladies' meeting in Portmoak New Room.

10.15 - 11.45am last Friday of the month.

Fusion Orwell Hall, Mondays 6pm**@spire** Orwell Church Hall, 2nd & last Fridays 7.30pm**February****Sun 1** Formal Communion - Portmoak

Elders' Conference, The Monastery, Kinnoull

March**Sun 1** Formal communion, Orwell**St James's R C Church**

5 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AW

Father Colin Golden Telephone: (01577) 863329

Website: www.stjameskinross.co.uk

Mass Times Saturday Vigil 7.00pm

Sunday 9.30am

Please look out for other information on other parish activities in the Sunday newsletter.

Saturday Night Worship**Last Saturday of each month, 7.30 – 10pm**

Millbridge Hall, Kinross (parking available)

Heart felt praise and worship Prayer for healing

Opportunity for testimony Refreshments

Books and resources Open to all

For further details contact Sarah Corsar 07795313864

Acknowledgements

COOPER – Jean and the Cooper family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who have shared their thoughts and memories with the family at this time of the celebration of Bill's lifelong ministry. We were all uplifted by the warmth and love shown to us at the special service at Kirkcaldy Crematorium, and the service of Joanne Finlay and Clifford Kelly. Thanks are also due to our local doctors, Osborne and McCracken, and to the exceptional care given to Bill in St Margaret's Hospital, Auchterarder.

MILLER – Julie, Jade, Abbey, Rachel and Christine wish to thank all relatives and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, letters and flowers received following Johnny's death. Special thanks to the staff at Ninewells Hospital and Perth Royal Infirmary. A very special thank you to the local doctors, district nurses and the Macmillan nurses for their care and attention. Thanks also to Jack Boyter for his kind words and comforting services and to all who paid their last respects to Johnny at the graveside. Many thanks to all who donated to the collection for CHAS. Lastly, thank you to Stewart Funeral Directors for their empathy and support.

Kinross Gospel Hall

Montgomery Street, Kinross

Sunday	10.30am	Breaking of Bread
	12.00pm	Sunday School
	5.45pm	Prayer Meeting
Monday	6.30pm	Gospel Meeting
	7.15pm	Prayer Meeting
	8.00pm	Bible Study
Wednesday	6.30pm	Children's Club (term time)

Obituary

The Reverend WILLIAM COOPER, Church of Scotland Minister, died on 4 December 2008 in Kinross, aged 94. Bill Cooper was born on 21 July 1914 in Leith and brought up there. He attended Leith Academy, where he excelled at his studies and took on the role of head boy, with the various responsibilities this entailed. He attained an MA at Edinburgh University and thereafter undertook further studies at New College to become a Church of Scotland minister.

During the Second World War, Bill diligently served overseas with the Church of Scotland "hut and canteen", taking provisions to Scottish troops and offering spiritual counsel and pastoral care where it was required.

Before taking up his first charge, in Applegarth and Sibbaldie on 7 January 1944, Bill was heavily involved with the Iona Community, working on the island and in the housing schemes in Glasgow. The work of the Iona Community remained important to him throughout his life.

In 1949, he was inducted as minister to Abbotshall Parish Church, Kirkcaldy. During his 30-year ministry there he oversaw the union with Raith and the restoration of the church building.

Bill had a passion for young people, ensuring that their place in the church was honoured and valued. He built up an enviable and strong youth fellowship.

Bill understood the work of the church as integral to the community which it served and throughout his ministry he strengthened links between the parish and the church, ensuring that the church was not only acceptable to the parish, but was at the heart of it.

Bill will be remembered for his good humour, his dynamic leadership and his fierce enthusiasm, which was manifest in the churches he served.

On retirement to Kinross in 1979, Bill maintained the same enthusiasm for church and community that he had shown throughout his ministry, becoming an asset to the community in Kinross and to the churches in Kinross-shire. He will be long remembered by many as one of the founder members of Kinross and District Probus Club. It was with great pride that he took up the appointment as the first president of the club in 1980.

Bill's hallmarks were a deep personal faith, good humour, humility, respect for others, graciousness and a genuine love of people. These attributes were evident throughout his life and in every aspect of his living.

No account of Bill's ministry would be complete without mention of his long and happy marriage to his beloved Jean, who shared fully in every aspect of Bill's ministry and life, and of his son, George, of whom Bill was immensely proud.

Joanne Finlay

Playgroups & Nurseries

PORTMOAK UNDER 5s

Babies and Toddlers (up to 2.5yrs)
Tues 10.00am-11.30am

Playgroup (2.5yrs onwards)
Mon & Fri 10.00am-12.00am

Rising Fives (Pre School Year)
Mon 12.45 pm - 2.45pm

Contact Carolyn Robertson 01383 831129
Venue - Portmoak village hall

LOCHLEVEN BABIES & TODDLERS

Masonic Hall, The Muirs, Kinross

Session times

Tuesdays 9.30 - 11.15, Fridays 9.30 - 11.15
Contact - Lesley 01577 865191

All Mothers, Fathers, and Carers with children aged birth to 3 years are welcome to attend.

LOCHLEVEN TWOS CLUB

Masonic Hall, The Muirs, Kinross
Thursdays 9.30 to 11.15am

Parents/Carers can bring their children aged 2 yrs to pre school age for a morning of fun in our stimulating, child centred environment. We have lots on offer including sand and water play, dressing up, crafts, story and song time! A healthy snack is available. We invite you to come along and make some new friends!

Contact Pam Jones 01577 864839 or Sophie Butcher 01577 863288 for further details

FOSSOWAY TODDLERS

The Institute, Crook of Devon

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. - 11.15 am

All Mums to-be and Mothers, Fathers and Carers with children aged birth to 3 years are welcome to attend.

Contact - Lucy Lomas 01577 864868

FOSSOWAY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Moubray Hall, Powmill

Partner-provider for P&K Education

Places available for 3-5-year-olds and Rising Fives
Sessions daily 9.15 – 11.45

Contact Pat Irvine 01577 840584 or
www.childcarelink.gov.uk/perthandkinross



SWANSACRE PLAYGROUP

21-23 Swansacre, Kinross

TEL: 01577 862071

www.swansacre.co.uk



Swansacre Playgroup provides a warm, friendly and stimulating environment in which children can learn and develop essential social skills through play.

Playgroup sessions – Mon to Fri 9.00-11.30am

Children from the age of 2 yrs welcome.

Storycraft Mon 1.15-2.45pm

Storytelling, craft & puppetry for 3-5yrs

Rising Fives Wed 1.00-3.15pm

This is complementary to Nursery

Wee Swans Fri 1.15-2.45pm

Children from the age 1 1/2yrs with parent/carer

For more information please contact Alisa 07796 213312 or Playgroup 862071.

Baby and Toddler Group – Thurs 1pm-3pm

Ante-natal to pre-school. Fun for children, coffee and chat for the parent/carer. For more information contact Caron 861607.

The premises are available to hire for **Private Functions**. We now have an Entertainments License For more information contact Kate 863309 .



MILNATHORT BABIES & TODDLERS

Orwell Church Hall

Thursday & Friday, 10.00 - 11.30 am

Contacts: Liam Saunders 0788 2147524

GLENFARG BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Village Hall, Greenbank Road, Glenfarg

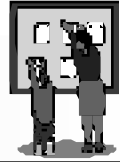
9.30am to 11.30am during term time

A health snack is provided for children and tea/coffee and biscuits for carers.

First session free and £1.50 thereafter. All welcome.

Contact Claire on 07796 320182 or just come along.

Notices



Orwell Bowling Club

SCOTTISH NIGHT

Saturday 24 January

Performance by THE TWO ROBINS
7.30pm for BINGO at 8.00pm
HAGGIS, NEEPS AND TATTIES
will be served at £1.50 per head
Entry £2.00 for non-members

BINGO TEA

Wednesday 18 February

7.00 for 7.30pm

Entry £1 (Bring Your Own Cup Please)

SOCIAL EVENING

Saturday 28 February

Dancing to Bill Smith
Bingo 8.00pm
£2.00 entry for non-members.

Dollar Music Society

- 7 Feb** **The Davinci Piano Trio** (violin, cello, piano).
Programme to include works by Brahms, Mozart, Ravel.
- 14 Mar** **Ceol Alba** (flute, violin, harp, bass, piano).
Programme to include Early French Dances, Scottish Pieces (Bruch), Piano solo, Mozart, Bizet.

Concerts take place in The Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy and start at 7.30pm. Admission is £7 per adult (no charge for children). Concerts normally last about 2 hours with an interval for refreshments. Membership of the Society available. For more information please contact Andrea Ross tel: 01259 742014 or Sarah Herdman tel: 01259 742761.

Lodge St. Serf No. 327

February

- Tue 3rd** Regular meeting at 7.15pm. Fellow Craft Degree with candidate, worked by Office Bearers.
- Tue 17th** Regular meeting at 7.15pm. Fellow Craft Degree with candidate, worked by Office Bearers.



COMEDY NIGHT

hosted by

Kinross Ladies Circle

Saturday 28 February

7.30pm onwards
Milnathort Town Hall

£10 per person
Licenced Bar and Hot Food Available
Contact 01383 838291/01383 831544 for tickets



Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service

The next blood donor sessions at the Millbridge Halls, Kinross will take place on

Monday 23 February 3.30pm to 8.00pm
Tuesday 24 February 5.00pm to 8.00pm

The Service is most grateful for the support received from Kinross-shire.

Kinross-shire Historical Society



Meetings are held in Kinross Parish Church, Station Road, Kinross at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month.

Subscriptions: Adult £6; Senior Citizen £5. Visitors £2 per talk. No charge for Under 18s.

- 16 Feb** **Guddling among the Graves (part 2):** The background, history and practicalities of Scottish graveyards and their artistic importance. Dr Hamish Brown MBE.
- 16 Mar** **Risky Business:** A history of General Accident Insurance and some amusing claims. Susan Payne.
Annual General Meeting.

Children's Hospice Association Scotland



Children's Hospice Association Scotland
Sharing the Caring

CHAS Shops

Bazaars Need Your Unused Gifts

Your donation of just £10 worth of unused Christmas gifts to our CHAS Bazaar charity shops in Kinross would pay for two story CDs, helping young children get more out of their time in our hospices at Rachel and Robin House.

Volunteering with CHAS

Volunteers in our CHAS shops and mail order enjoy serving customers and arranging displays or helping behind the scenes, answering phones, carrying out admin tasks or sorting and pricing donations. Whatever your preference, just two hours volunteering a week could make a huge difference to you and CHAS.

Please call Frances Todd on 01577 865557 if you are interested in volunteering with CHAS.

Cleish Village Hall

Friday 20 February at 7.30pm

Jim Alcock and his group STEAMER LANE will treat the Community of Cleish to a musical evening of
"Soft Rock Harmony"

Tickers £6.00 including supper and drinks available from
Patty Fraser, Freda Whalley and Jackie Everitt.

All proceeds to Cleish Hall Funds.

World Day of Prayer

Friday 6 March

Services will be at

2pm in the Church Centre, Kinross and at

7pm in Fossoway Parish Church, Crook of Devon.

All will be welcome to come and participate in the Services and Refreshments will be served at the end of each Service.

Kinross Floral Art Club

Thursday 26 February

At the Windlestrae Hotel, Kinross
at 7.15pm prompt

Demonstration by Mrs Moyra Turnbull entitled
'Caribbean Connections'

New members and visitors welcome.

Kinross-shire 50 Plus Club

Charity Concert

(In aid of Peruvian Street Children)

East Fife Male Voice Choir

in Parish Church

Friday 27 February at 7.30pm

Tickets £5

Blythwood Care

Somerfield's Car Park

17 February between 10.30 am and 11 am

Further details from 862258

Kinross District Counselling Services

Kinross District Counselling Services offers a new, fully supervised, confidential counselling service brought to you in association with The Web Project.

It is open to all-comers.

To make an appointment call Hilary 07930 682902 or Wendy 07762 892252 (donations welcome to cover costs).

You can see us at "The Web", 28 New Road,
Milnathort, KY13 9XA.

Recently bereaved? Needing some support?

AMONGST FRIENDS

(Bereavement Group)

meets at the Health Centre, Lathro, Kinross
on the last Friday of the month, 2.30pm to 4pm

A warm welcome awaits all

For details phone

Hazel 01577 863461 or Marg 01577 863557

BRUSH STROKES

Painting and Decorating

Interior and exterior painting service

A Local Tradesman you can rely on

Tel: 01577 680012 Mob: 07932631973

4 Castle Buildings

New Road

Milnathort

KY13 9XZ

The Kinross Floral Art Club & The Smiddy Singers

invite you to an 'Evening of Song'
at Kinross Parish Church Centre

Wednesday 1 April

at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £4 including refreshments and raffle.

Rotary Club of Kinross and District



Citizen of the Year Award 2008/9

The Rotary Club's "Citizen of the Year" award is presented annually to an individual (or team of individuals) for a significant positive contribution to community life in Kinross and district.

The Rotary Club motto, **Service above Self**, should be the basis of such an award and nominations received will be judged on this criterion.

Nominations can be made by individuals or organisations and should be received by the Rotary Club before **28 February 2009**. The Council of the Rotary Club will consider all nominations received and the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award will be made in June 2009.

To nominate someone for the award, please write to the Secretary of the Rotary Club with the name of the person you are nominating and the reasons why you believe that person should be **Citizen of the Year**.

No letters of nomination will be returned and the Council's decision, which will be final, will be made known as soon as possible in the Newsletter. All correspondence will remain confidential.

Malcolm Mapp, President

Please address all nominations to:

Kelvin Reay, Secretary

Rotary Club of Kinross and District
c/o Windlestrae Hotel, Kinross

Free Energy Saving Advice

Freephone 0800 512 012

Free, impartial advice on energy efficiency in the home, sustainable transport choices, small-scale use of micro-renewables etc. Advice to individuals, communities and small businesses.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Surgery held on

the second and fourth Tuesday of each month
at St Paul's Church Hall, The Muirs, Kinross,
1.30pm to 3.30pm

No appointment needed. CAB services are free,
confidential, independent and impartial.

Any enquiries about the service, ring 01738 564304.

Healing Rooms Kinross

The Healing Rooms (part of an international organisation) takes place every Thursday from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm in the Millbridge Hall. Healing Rooms is manned by a team of Christian volunteers from every denomination freely offering their time and prayers. Everyone is welcome and no appointment is necessary.

For further information please call 07766515950 or 07732485305 or visit www.healingrooms-scotland.com

Community Councils

Kinross: Secy: Mrs M Scott (01577) 862945

mbs21@btinternet.com

Cleish & Blairadam: Secy: Mrs M Traylor (01383) 830059,

prvtraylor@ukonline.co.uk

Milnathort: Chair: Mr J Giacomazzi (01577) 864025

joseph.giacomazzi@btopenworld.com

Fossoway & District: Secy: Trudy Duffy-Wigman (01577) 840669,

duffy.wigman@btinternet.com

Portmoak: Secy: Mr A Smith (01592) 840215

Kinross Community Councillors

Susan Bathgate	42 High Street	864742
Margaret Blyth	6 Muir Grove	
David Colliar	10 Rannoch Place	862678
Dave Cuthbert (Chair)	Highfield Circle	861001
Ian Jack (Treasurer)	Burnbrae Grange	863980
Laura Mackay	Brunthill Farm	07809232740
Dot Mackay	29 Green Park	864635
Margaret Scott (Secy)	21 Ross Street	862945
Campbell Watson (Vice Chair)	70 Muirs	862685

Perth and Kinross Councillors

Kathleen Baird, Easter Clunie, Newburgh, Fife, KY14 6EJ

Tel (home): 01337 840218.

Email: kbaird@pkc.gov.uk

Michael Barnacle, Moored, Waulkmill Road, Crook of Devon, Kinross, KY13 0UZ. Tel/Fax (home): 01577 840516.

Email: Michael@mabarnacle.freeserve.co.uk

Sandy Miller, c/o Perth & Kinross Council, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH. Tel (business): 01577 840462.

Email: SMiller@pkc.gov.uk

William Robertson, 85 South Street, Milnathort, Kinross, KY13 9XA. Tel (home): 01577 865178.

Email: wbrobertson@pkc.gov.uk

Fossoway and Cleish Community Office

A service for the Community, open:

Thursdays 2 pm - 4 pm

Saturdays 10am -12 noon

Out of hours there is an answering machine

Tel: 01577 840185 Email: fcco@pkc.gov.uk

Waste Paper Kerbside Collection

Next uplift in Kinross, Milnathort and Glenfarg:

Thursday 26 February

You can recycle the following materials in your blue-lidded bin: Brochures, leaflets, magazines, newspapers, office quality paper and the contents of junk mail. Do not put envelopes or plastic wrappers in this wheeled bin. Place bin on kerbside by 7.30am on morning of collection.

Kinross Temporary Library County Buildings, High Street

Tel & Fax: 01577 864202

Email: kinrosslibrary@pkc.gov.uk

Opening Times

Mon	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm	
Tue	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm	6pm - 8pm
Wed	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm	6pm - 8pm
Thu	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm	6pm - 8pm
Fri	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm	
Sat	10am - 1pm		

Member of Parliament for Ochil & South Perthshire Constituency Gordon Banks MP

www.gordonbanksmp.co.uk

Email: constituency@gordonbanksmp.co.uk

For dates and locations of regular advice surgeries, or to raise any concerns you may have, please contact the constituency office: telephone 01259 721536, fax 01259 216761 or write to 49-51 High Street, Alloa, FK10 1JF.

MSP for Ochil Constituency Keith Brown MSP

will be holding regular

surgeries throughout his constituency area.

For information on dates, locations and to book an appointment time, please contact his assistant on **01259 219333**.

Keith can also be contacted by email at

keith.brown.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

or by writing to **80 Mill Street, Alloa, FK10 1DY**

Members of the Scottish Parliament

All MSPs can be contacted at the following address:

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

MSPs for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

Claire Baker MSP (Scot Labour) Tel: 0131 348 6759

Email: Claire.Baker.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Ted Brocklebank MSP (Scot Cons) Tel: 0131 348 5610

Email: Ted.Brocklebank.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Murdo Fraser MSP (Scot Cons) Tel: 0131 348 5293

Email: Murdo.Fraser.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Christopher Harvie MSP (SNP) Tel: 0131 348 6765

Email: ChristopherHarvie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

John Park MSP (Scot Lab) Tel: 0131 348 6753

Email: John.Park.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Dr Richard Simpson MSP (Scot Lab) Tel: 0131 348 6756

Email: Richard.Simpson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Elizabeth Smith MSP (Scot Cons) Tel: 0131 348 6762

Email: Elizabeth.Smith.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Mobile Library – Blairingone and Milnathort Every Second Wednesday

Next visits: 28 January, 11 & 25 February

Blairingone 9.30am - 9.45am

Westerloan, Milnathort 1.45pm - 3pm

Bridgefauld Road, Milnathort 3.05pm - 4pm

Any queries telephone AK Bell Library 01738 444949

Regular Library Sessions for Children

Story Telling for pre-school children takes place in Kinross Library **every Tuesday morning** from 10.30am to 11am, and **every Wednesday afternoon** from 2.15pm to 2.45pm. No need to book, just come along.

Rhythm and Rhyme sessions take place on the **last Wednesday of the month** at 9.45am at LOCH LEVEN LEISURE. All babies, toddlers and carers welcome. No need to book.

Bookstart Book Crawl for children aged 0 to 4: on each visit to the library, children are given a sticker. After collecting five stickers, they are awarded a certificate.

Perth Association for Mental Health

PAMH is a community based non-profit organisation providing services for people recovering from mental health problems. PAMH offers Counselling, Day Services and hosts a Depression Support Group and Bipolar Support Group. For more information telephone (01738) 639657. Website: www.pamh.co.uk

Kinross-shire *Day Centre*

**Table Tennis • Carpet Bowls • Videos • Cards • Dominoes
Daily Papers • Chiropody • Trips • Exercises**

Weekly Programme

Monday	Elderberries	1.30 pm	
Tuesday	Bingo	1.30 pm	
Wednesday	Morning Service	10.45 am,	Quiz Afternoon 1.30 pm
Thursday	Art Class	1.30 pm,	Film Afternoon 1.30 pm
Friday	Carpet Bowls	11.00am,	Scrabble 1.30 pm



Coffee Bar open 9 am - 4 pm, Senior Citizens Lunches Daily

Telephone: 01577 863869



LOCAL CHEMIST INFORMATION



Rowlands Pharmacy, Kinross

(opposite David Sands)

Mon - Fri: 9.00 am - 6.00 pm

Saturday: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Sunday: 12.00 - 1.00 pm

Tel: 862422

Davidson's Chemist, Milnathort

Mon to Fri: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm &
2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Saturday: 9.00 am - 12.30 pm

Tel: 862219



Kinross Recycling Centre Bridgend Industrial Estate

Opening Times: **Mondays to Fridays 9am to 7pm**
Saturdays and Sundays 9am to 5pm

Aluminium & Steel Cans, Car Batteries, Cardboard, Engine Oil, Fluorescent Tubes, Electricals (inc Fridges, Freezers, Televisions & Monitors), Garden Waste, Glass Bottles & Jars, Inert Waste, Metal, Paper, Phone Directories, Plastic Bottles, Textiles, Wood.

School Holidays 2009

	<i>start date</i>	<i>end date</i>
Spring Holiday	Mon 6 Apr	Fri 17 Apr
Academic year ends		Wed 1 Jul

In Service Days

Tuesday 17 February, Monday 20 April.

Other Holidays

May Day: Monday 4 May (to be confirmed).
Friday 13 and Monday 16 February.

Support Websites

Samaritans	www.samaritans.org.uk
Breathing Space	www.breathingspacescotland.co.uk
Childline	www.childline.org.uk
Perth Assoc for Mental Health	www.pamh.co.uk

PEACHY CLEAN

Are you tired cleaning your own house?

Leave it to the professionals to make life easier.
Daily, weekly, fortnightly, any variation.
Designed around your own requirements.

We do regular cleans; one off cleans; spring cleans,
moving in/out cleans and after party cleans.

Ironing and dog walking included.

**Please phone Carol on 01577 861208
Mobile: 07872175315**

Are you suffering from Macular Degeneration?

A meeting is held by the Support Group at The Blind Society, New Row, Perth on the last Wednesday of the month. If you are interested or require further details, please contact **Hazel Rennie, telephone 01738 442358.**

THINK-A-HEAD HAIRDRESSER

Hairdressing done in the comfort of your own home
by an experienced stylist

**CUT AND BLOW DRY
TINT, FOIL HIGHLIGHTS
PERMS**

Special rates for OAPs and children

Call Elaine on 01577 840043

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