



Kinross Newsletter

Founded in 1977 by Kinross Community Council

Published by Kinross Newsletter Limited, Company No. SC374361

www.kinrossnewsletter.org

www.facebook.com/kinrossnewsletter

Founding editor,
Mrs Nan Walker, MBE

ISSN 1757-4781

Issue No 425

December 2014

DEADLINE for the February Issue

5.00 pm, Friday
16 January 2015

for publication on
Saturday 31 January 2015

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(all emails will be acknowledged)

Post or hand in to:

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Letters



Editorial

I'd like to thank all the readers who started following our Facebook page recently after I mentioned it in this column last month. It's nice to know so many people read the Editorial!

As regular readers know, we do not produce an edition of the Newsletter for the start of January, so this is the time of year when members of the Newsletter team go off on extended skiing holidays and Caribbean cruises. (We wish!)

Wishing all our readers and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Note to Contributors

A great deal of the Newsletter comprises reports supplied by local clubs and other organisations. These reports are accepted in good faith. Clubs etc should ensure that reports are factually accurate and do not contain material which could cause legal proceedings to be taken against the Newsletter.

Letters Policy

Senders must supply their name and address, which will be published with the letter. Letters should be truthful and not contain matter which could cause legal proceedings to be taken against the Newsletter. The Newsletter does not necessarily agree with any of the views expressed on the Letters pages. In *special circumstances* addresses may be withheld from publication on request (but must still be supplied to the editor).

Note to Readers: Advertising

Inclusion of advertisements in the Newsletter does not imply any particular endorsement or recommendation of services or companies by Kinross CC or Kinross Newsletter Ltd.

Abbreviations:

PKC: Perth & Kinross Council
CC: Community Council
Cllr: Councillor
CCllr: Community Councillor

RSPB column in Scots or English?

Copy of a letter sent to Stuart Housden of RSPB Loch Leven at Vane Farm

We would be grateful for your help on a small but significant matter.

In the local "Kinross Newsletter" your reporter, Colin, has always written his RSPB article in Scots. He has recently changed to English in the October number, and we would be grateful if you would encourage him to revert to his old ways.

It has always given us particular pleasure to visit Vane Farm where the distinctive Scots language is used and enjoyed. We have an interest in the tongue as local writers and publishers of Scots and enjoy the fact that a very early Chronicle of Scotland was written, in Scots, on St Serf's Isle in Loch Leven.

Yours sincerely

Iain WD and Susan FG Forde
Main Street, Scotlandwell

Note from Editor: We have also had readers say that they do not read the RSPB column because they find it too difficult to understand when written in Scots. What do other readers think? Please contact the Editor with your comments, including your name and address. These comments are just to gauge opinion and won't be published (unless you ask for them to be published, which will be dependent upon space available etc.)

P&K Council Reorganisation?

Let me see if I understand the machinations of Perth & Kinross Council correctly?

In the process of P&K Planning Department considering the Persimmon Homes application for new housing on the former Kinross High School site, the P&K Council Conservation Officer issued a highly critical report – as, indeed, the officer was entitled to do since the application pertained to a designated conservation area. The Conservation Officer's report appeared on the P&K planning web site for a short time and was available for public viewing. Shortly thereafter the comments were removed from the planning portal. Why?

Now we learn from Cllr Giacoppazi's explanation in the November 2014 Newsletter that the Conservation Officers' reports were "external to the Planning Department" but that as a consequence of a P&K Council reorganisation, the Conservation Officer is now "embedded" in the Planning Department resulting in conservation reports only being published "at the discretion of the Planning Officer".

Surely this has the potential to result not only in a conflict of interests, but a cynic might even believe that this is a deliberate attempt to hide conservation issues and reports from public view? Hardly open and transparent governance!

George Lindsay
Whinfield Gardens, Kinross



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Council's spin on cost cutting

As we are all aware, the new Kinross High School and Community Campus was built at enormous expense to provide a variety of facilities for local residents.

Already we have seen the library's opening hours restricted and now Perth & Kinross Council have carried out a review of all six campuses in their control, "the aim of which was to ensure that these facilities were **meeting customer needs**" and to "**identify changes that needed to be made to achieve this.**" The conclusion they reached was to "reshape Campus opening hours to better reflect customer needs." This means that their idea of **meeting customer needs** is to completely deny public access to, for example, the gym facility, between the hours of 7am and 5pm five days per week!

I spoke to the Council about this ridiculous politician's style statement which is trying to make a very negative statement sound positive and was told this was a cost cutting exercise, though he was unable to elaborate on where the cost savings would come from. I would have imagined that the minimal staffing required would be covered to a large extent by staff already on the premises because of the school's operation, but surprisingly a decision has been made to revert to the original hours of opening when the school is closed for holidays!

I find it incredible that millions of pounds of public money are spent to provide such excellent facilities only for them to be gradually denied to the public. This is the same Council that only a few years ago went through FIVE Directors of Education in about seven years, some of whom were incompetent and one, it was discovered, was not even qualified for the job! All of them received "Golden Goodbye" compensation packages which we all paid for and continue to pay for in terms of early retirement pensions etc.

We, the long suffering public, always seem to have pay the price for the mismanagement of those paid to manage society on our behalf.

Alan Miller

Burnside, Wester Tillyrie, Milnathort

Reflections on the Referendum Correspondence

As a member of the founding editorial team of the Kinross Newsletter, I have been dismayed by the use of the 'Letters' section in recent months. Once again, in November, we have one councillor expressing his views at length in the 'Letters' section ("Final Reflections" from Councillor Barnacle). With a monthly publication, balanced dialogue is not easily come by through letters.

Recent events have shown greatly increased political interest throughout Scotland, and I suggest that the Newsletter might benefit from expanding the section 'News and Articles' to reflect 'News, **Views** and Articles'. Should a view be expressed, the editor could then seek an alternative view to provide balance in the same month's issue. The 'Letters' section the following month could then carry responses to both views.

This way, the Kinross Newsletter will offer space for a healthier debate.

The turnout in Kinross clearly showed that the community is widely engaged in the political process, and I sincerely hope it will continue that way.

Rosie Hopkins

9 Drummond Park, Crook of Devon

Are Councillors being routinely "Gagged"?

The front page story in the Perthshire Advertiser (PA) on 4 November was headed "Council official tried to gag me" and records a disturbing insight given by local Councillor Willie Robertson.

He said he was asked by a Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Officer to withdraw a motion he had tabled to the PKC Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee, then due to meet on 12 November.

The motion sought to make procedures in planning application processing more transparent in the aftermath of the exposure of failings in PKC processing of the Persimmon applications for redevelopment of the Old Kinross High School site.

Councillor Robertson described the interference by the Officer as "very unusual" and "weird".

The press report identified the officer as Ian Innes, PKC Head of Legal Services, one of a small group of Senior Officials who direct the functions of PKC.

Councillor Robertson told me and others that his motion was seen by this Officer as causing embarrassment to PKC and that was why pressure to withdraw it was being applied. I attended the Kinross Community Council meeting on 5 November and asked PKC Councillors Barnacle and Cuthbert (Councillor Robertson had left earlier), given the report in the PA, what was their experience of censure by PKC Senior Officials.

Councillor Barnacle responded that he had been threatened with censure by Senior PKC Officials after speaking out and criticising the inaccuracies and omissions at the PKC Committee meeting that determined the Persimmon applications. He had agreed to refrain from further criticism on the understanding that procedures would be improved. He said his position would, however, be subject to "review" if PKC processes were not improved.

Councillor Cuthbert said that he had been summoned by Mr Innes on at least six occasions and by PKC Chief Executive Officer Ms Malone twice and stated that "the problem is the Councillors' Code of Conduct."

However there is nothing in the Code that would exclude elected members such as Councillors Robertson, Barnacle and Cuthbert raising legitimate matters of concern in order to ensure that the information supplied in PKC officers' Reports to any Committee is complete, accurate and unbiased.

The essential duty of any elected Councillor is to uphold proper PKC governance.

I have suggested to these Councillors regularly that it is essential they challenge this interference in their exercising their democratic duties and suggested that the PKC Scrutiny Committee (of which Councillor Cuthbert is a member) would be the correct forum to address all issues of failing governance.

The remit of the Scrutiny Committee is "examining activities and performance across all service areas" in order that "issues are identified systematically and comprehensively and reported in a transparent manner." (Ref Scrutiny Committee 11 June 2014.)

In the public interest I would invite our Councillors to urgently bring forward relevant motions to that Committee in order to ensure proper governance is upheld at PKC.

Ken Miles

Turfhills, Kinross



News & Articles

New setting for war memorial

The war memorial in Kinross had a new setting for this year's Remembrance Sunday service, in this, the centenary year of the beginning of World War One.

In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday, a new access directly from the pavement was created, the former grassy area flattened and the area surfaced with sandstone paving edged with Scottish whinstone setts.

The landscaping followed the sale of the County Building by Perth & Kinross Council to Liberty Business Centres. The new paving defines the area still owned by the local authority. Liberty Business Centres kindly allowed access to their forecourt for the traditional remembrance parade led by Kinross & District Pipe Band.

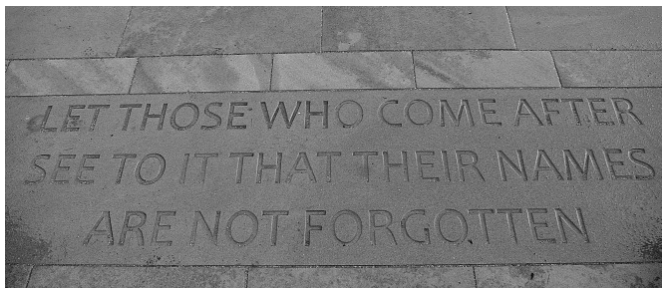
The service, led by Rev Alan Reid of Kinross Parish Church and Fr David Mackenzie Mills of St Paul's, was very well attended by members of the public.

Wreaths were laid by Cllr Robertson on behalf of Perth & Kinross Council and David Colliar on behalf of Kinross CC. Other wreaths were laid on behalf of ex-servicemen and youth organisations. There are still minor works to be carried

out to complete the public realm improvements to the civic area around the War Memorial, including planters and an electrical connection to provide power for the lights on the town's Christmas tree.



The wreath laying ceremony at the new civic space at Kinross war memorial



A carved inscription at the entrance to the war memorial

Appointment of local minister as moderator-designate welcomed

Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Member of the Scottish Parliament representing Perthshire South & Kinross-shire, has welcomed the news that Dr Angus Morrison, minister of Orwell & Portmoak Parish Church, has been nominated to serve as Moderator as the Church of Scotland.

Ms Cunningham said: "I am very pleased to learn that Dr Morrison has once more been nominated to serve as Moderator and happier still that this indicates a return to health following surgery and the ill health which forced him to stand down as Moderator Designate earlier this year.

"I know that Dr Morrison will be an assiduous and effective Moderator for the Church of Scotland and that his term of office will reflect well on the congregation to which he ministers and the community of which it is a part."

Dim view of new street lights

Residents in various parts of the Perth and Kinross local authority area are taking a dim view of new energy-efficient street lights being installed by the Council.

Residents are complaining that there are large patches of darkness between lamp posts, causing safety concerns.

A spokesperson for Perth and Kinross Council said:

"We are currently replacing older, less efficient street lights with modern LED lights in some areas of Perth and Kinross. LED lights provide a significant energy saving, in terms of both CO2 emissions and cost. In addition, the light output from an LED street light is more controlled. This means that light is concentrated on pavements and roads, reducing light intrusion into adjacent gardens and buildings. We're aware of the concerns raised and will be carrying out a site visit to examine the new LED street lights. Further adjustments can be made to the lights if this is required."

At a meeting of Kinross CC, the Muirs was mentioned as a particularly dark area, with foliage from mature trees reducing the low light levels even further.

A PKC senior engineer told the Newsletter that light installations can be enhanced or improved if required. Residents are being encouraged to report any problem areas to the Council. Please contact Scott Denyer on telephone 01738 476948 or email SDeny@pkc.gov.uk



Deadline for all Submissions
5.00 pm, FRIDAY 16 January
for publication on Saturday 31 January

Well Road, Scotlandwell Please tell us what you think!

by Scotlandwell in Bloom

The residents of Scotlandwell, led by Scotlandwell in Bloom, recently undertook a £100,000+ public project to carry out conservation works to the Well and Wash House in Scotlandwell and to bring the Wash House back into community use. The two buildings are owned by Perth and Kinross Council and are now cared for by Scotlandwell in Bloom for everyone to enjoy. This was the second phase of an environmental improvement project carried out by Scotlandwell in Bloom. The first phase was to create the small garden which you can see near the Well. The third and final phase of work is the conservation repair of Well Road. What you can still see on the road is the original surface laid in the 1850s as part of the original village improvement scheme initiated by local landowner Thomas Bruce. The setting of the historic Well and Wash House would be much enhanced by repairing the road and it would greatly improve access by pedestrians and those of us who are less mobile. The works will also enable us to provide level access to the Wash House so it would not be necessary to have the existing ramp.



Well Road, Scotlandwell

The road is not adopted by Perth and Kinross Council. They have been asked, but have declined. As a result of an initial legal search, ownership remains uncertain. This would have to be resolved if it is decided to take the project forward. It is difficult to estimate costs at this stage but we think they are likely to be between £50-100,000 (including VAT and fees) depending on the final design and selection of materials. Our intention would be to run a public fundraising campaign as well as seek capital funding from public bodies.

We are now consulting with residents and visitors and we would be grateful if you would complete our questionnaire. This is available on the website www.wellwashhouse.org.uk or from the Well Country Inn or the shop in Kinnesswood. Please return your completed questionnaire to Dr Karen McDonnell, Clunes, Leslie Road, Scotlandwell, KY13 9JE by Sunday 30 November 2014.

Depending on the results, we plan to hold an Open Meeting in early 2015. Please complete the contact details on the form so that we can invite you and keep you informed.

Thank you for your time, Scotlandwell in Bloom



Councillor Robertson

Community Safety

There have been ongoing problems caused by anti-social behaviour in various parts of Kinross over the summer. I met with the Police and representatives from PKC in early October to discuss how to improve matters. The main problems involved under age drinking, vandalism and breaches of the peace. Since then, extra Police patrols have been put in place and the Council's Community Wardens have started patrolling in Kinross. Since these actions have begun, the amount of calls to the police from Kinross residents reporting incidents have fallen dramatically. Both myself and the police are very keen to maintain this improved situation, so if you are aware of problems in your area please let the police know, either by phoning the non emergency number **101** or in case of emergency by **999**. These calls can be made in confidence. Only with your help can the police know what is happening. This greatly assists them to target problem areas.



Kinross Park & Ride

I have written to the Council's Public Transport manager asking if Kinross Park and Ride can be considered for an electronic sign which would advise passengers when buses are due. Because many of the buses serving the Park & Ride are long distance ones, they can often be held up and be running late. Currently waiting passengers have no idea if the bus doesn't arrive on time if it will be coming or when it will be coming. These signs operate in other parts of Scotland and would be a real benefit to the travelling public. Eventually I would like to see all our main bus stops equipped with them.

Motion on planning applications

As many of you will know, I was very unhappy with the way that the Council's planning department handled the application from Persimmon Homes for the former site of Kinross High School. The report from the Council's Conservation Officer, which was highly critical of the application, was published on the Council's planning portal then quickly removed. The 'disappeared' report was not made available to members of the Development Management Committee (DMC) when the application came before them for determination. The planning department recommended approval of the application. I sat on the DMC when it was discussed and moved refusal on numerous grounds. Thankfully it was refused unanimously by the committee.

However I did not like the fact that reports on planning applications from internal Council consultees were not made available to either councillors or members of the public so I lodged a motion at the Council's Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee held on 12 November. I requested that in future all reports from both internal Council consultees and external consultees be published on the Council's planning portal. I said that I wanted to make planning decision-making as open and transparent as possible. I am pleased to say my motion was passed by the committee so we should have a much healthier planning process as a result. *(See also article on page 10.)*

Christmas and New Year

Lastly, can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and healthy and prosperous 2015.

Councillor Willie Robertson

Milnathort – Proposal for a Conservation Area



The Kinross-shire Civic Trust Helping protect, conserve and provide a better built and natural environment

Kinross-shire Civic Trust has prepared a Report for a proposal for a Conservation Area within the boundaries of Milnathort and this was presented to Milnathort Community Council at their monthly meeting for November. The report was prepared by the Trust's Planning Committee. The seven-member Committee has a very broad base of experience in design, history and architecture and as such is very well placed to consider the proposal. It has also contributed in consultation with Perth and Kinross Council Conservation Group to the creation of most of the other five Conservation Areas in Kinross-shire. The proposal has the full support of the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

Kinross-shire Civic Trust has always been sensitive to the fact that Milnathort is one of the original old villages of Kinross-shire. This is displayed by its history within the County and the fact that it has many historic features and buildings within its boundaries. It already has some 35 Listed Buildings created by Historic Scotland and there are many more that could be worthy of Listing. However the Trust believes that the town warrants a greater recognition in order that the essential history and character of the village can be conserved for future generations.

Historic Scotland considers that the essential qualifications for a Conservation Area are its special historic and architectural importance. In this case Milnathort is eminently suited.

Situation

Milnathort sits close to the northwest corner of Loch Leven and on the Fochy Burn, which nowadays flows through the middle of the village. At one time the main road from Perth down to North and South Queensferry and onto Edinburgh passed through the middle of the town, but today it is bypassed by the M90.

Origins

The name Milnathort has many origins and on some old maps it is referred to as Mills of Forth. By the late 1790s there were two waulk mills and five grain mills as well as a distillery. In the early 19th century, handloom production of cotton goods was the principal industry, superseded from the 1830s by the manufacturer of woollens and linens. This reflected the sheep farming surround the area and the production of flax as an arable crop.

Market town

Milnathort was the old market town for Kinross-shire and as such had a very important place in the County. This is reflected in the number and different types of shops that were spread along the main streets.

There were two market sites in the town: one up Wester Loan, which explains why it is such a broad street, and one down at the south end of the town.

The main shopping street was South Street. In the 1930s, starting from the cross roads, there was a drapery, followed by a boot and shoe shop and then there was a stationer and camera shop, the proprietor of which provided many of the postcards which exist to this day and show what Milnathort was like in the early 20th century. Large volumes of coaching traffic delivered patrons to the many hotels in Milnathort, which principally gathered around the crossroads.

Important sites

Within and around Milnathort there are a total of 35 Listed Buildings. Of these, one, Burleigh Castle is a Grade A Listed building, 16 are Grade B Listed buildings and 17 Grade C(S) Listed buildings. This is a very high number of Listed buildings for such a small area and underlines the historical importance of Milnathort.

The Back Loan is an important little lane running behind the Town Hall and Road with several Listed Buildings along its length. Wester Loan runs north from the crossroads and widens out, splitting into two roads and was the site for one of the important market places.

Conclusion

Milnathort has a very important place in the history of Kinross-shire. There are very important historical buildings and areas within its boundaries, which are worthy of conservation. Conservation Area status would ensure that any future developments recognise the history of the area and are sympathetic to that history and architecture.

Milnathort CC would like feedback from residents in the area as to whether they think it would be a good idea to have a designated Conservation Area covering part of Milnathort. Contact Milnathort CC by email at:

MilnathortCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

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Council responds to planning complaints

Perth & Kinross Council has now responded to formal complaints lodged by Portmoak Community Council and the Kinross-shire Civic Trust over planning matters.

Portmoak CC complaint

Portmoak CC complained that PKC incorrectly validated a planning application for the erection of five houses on the site of the Lomond Inn, Kinnesswood. Under planning regulations, there is a requirement for a design statement to be submitted with applications for new development within conservation areas. No design statement had been submitted with the Lomond Inn application.

This complaint was upheld, with David Littlejohn, PKC Head of Planning and Regeneration saying: *"I would like to apologise that Planning Application 14/00707/FLL was incorrectly validated. Staff were reminded of the statutory procedure at a recent team meeting, and I can assure you that it will be strictly adhered to for all future applications."*

Portmoak CC had also complained that PKC withheld from the public planning portal the report of the Conservation Officer in relation to the same application.

Mr Littlejohn refused to uphold their complaint, at first saying that the Conservation Officer had not made any comments on the application in question. Portmoak CC had, however, received a copy of the Conservation comments some weeks earlier, simply by asking for them. When this was pointed out to Mr Littlejohn, he continued to refuse to uphold Portmoak CC's complaint point on the grounds that the Conservation comments did not refer to a complete application as some essential information, such as a design statement and economic viability statement, were missing. The applicant withdrew the application but it is understood that a fresh application will be submitted.

Civic Trust complaints

Kinross-shire Civic Trust had complained that the two planning committee reports for Persimmon Homes' applications for the former High School site lacked transparency, were biased and misleading. The two Civic Trust complaints contained numerous points and questions. A few of the complaint points were upheld, but most were not.

Again, conservation reports featured in the complaints. The Civic Trust complained that the Conservation Officer's opinion was completely omitted in one report (the Council said this was human error) and inadequately referred to in the other. The Trust also complained that the Conservation Officer's comments for Listed Building Consent had never been placed on the planning website, and the Conservation Officer's comments for the application to build 102 houses had been removed after a short time on the planning website.

Kinross-shire Civic Trust issued a statement saying, "After an initial analysis of the responses, we are unconvinced by PKC's explanations of many of the points raised" and confirmed that they would pursue their complaints.

As a result of a motion recently proposed by Cllr Willie Robertson at a PKC Committee, conservation comments should, in future, be published on the Council's website. (See article opposite.)

Planning consultation comments will be made public

All consultation responses regarding planning applications will be published on the Council's planning website following a decision made by the Council's Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on 12 November. This includes comments by internal consultees such as conservation, roads, etc.

Cllr Robertson decided to propose the motion after his disquiet at the disappearance from the Council website of the Conservation Officer's report for the Persimmon Homes proposal for the former High School site. (See also Cllr Robertson's column on page 7.)

The motion approved by the Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee was:

"The views of the Conservation officer in determining planning applications for listed buildings and building and land within conservation areas are important material considerations. The current manner of reporting the views of the conservation officer to committee in which the report author summarises the conservation officer's consultation response gives elected members insufficient information on which to base their decisions.

"In order to improve transparency of decision making and to ensure that full account of all comments can be taken, a summary of the comments should be included within the committee report. The comments should also be made publicly available in full on the planning portal.

"In addition should the matter be proposed to be dealt with under delegated powers and there remains unresolved issues, the Development Quality Manager may, for absolute transparency, exercise his right to bring the matter to the Development Management Committee for determination.

"The Executive Director (Environment) is instructed to implement the changes described above with immediate effect."

There was no counter motion so the motion was passed unanimously and is now policy.

While considering Cllr Robertson's motion, there was some discussion by the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee of a protocol which the Development Quality Manager had recently drawn up for planning officers to follow.

The protocol stated that internal specialist comments (such as those of a Conservation Officer) should not be made public until the planning officer had checked them for accuracy and was satisfied that they were "competent".

The protocol also stated that consultation responses would be "available for public viewing as early as possible and certainly prior to the Report of Handling being published."

Although any protocol has to adhere to the new Council policy as set out in the motion, it is not clear whether a published consultation response will be the "original" response by the specialist consultee or one which has been altered to conform to the planning officer's interpretation of "competent".

The protocol drawn up by officers also raises the possibility that consultation responses will not be available for the public to view until after the deadline for public comments on a planning application. The motion passed at the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee did not specify a time by which consultation responses had to be published.

News from the Health Centre



Christmas and New Year Closing

Over the Christmas and New Year period, Loch Leven Health Centre will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday 25 December

Friday 26 December

Thursday 1 January

Friday 2 January

On all other weekdays over the Christmas and New Year period we will be open as usual from 8am until 6pm. Out of Hours cover for evenings and weekends is provided by NHS24 and the Fife Primary Care Emergency Service. They will also be providing emergency cover on the Thursdays and Fridays when we are closed. They can be contacted on our usual emergency number, **111**. All calls will be recorded and we would ask patients to please only contact them with a medical emergency which cannot wait until we re-open. Thank you.

We would ask all patients to please make sure that they have sufficient medication to last over the Christmas and New Year period. If your **medication** will run out over Christmas and New Year, please ensure that you submit a request for your medication by **Friday 19 December**. We receive a greatly increased number of requests at this time of year and therefore need a bit of time to process them all. Repeat prescriptions may now be ordered online. If you have not yet signed up for this service, you can do so on our website: www.lochlevenhealthcentre.co.uk

If you have sufficient medication to last over this period, please do not submit a request for more. Prescription requests are all checked prior to issue, and where it appears that sufficient medication has been issued recently, further requests may be declined.

The doctors and all the staff at the Health Centre would like to take this opportunity to wish all their patients a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

PROFESSIONAL DRUM TUITION

Professional drummer available to take on private students in the Kinross-shire area. Very experienced in playing and teaching and can teach a variety of styles to a wide age range. Willing to travel.

All styles covered, rock, pop, metal, funk, hip hop etc.
Full PVG certificate.

Beginners to advanced, all ages.

Very competitive rates.

Contact: ANDY mob: 07901 601769.

Discover Loch Leven Website

To discover the myriad things to see and do in Kinross-shire and its neighbouring counties, visit www.visitlochleven.org

Active Schools

Active Schools needs you! Active Schools links with local primary schools and the High School to provide opportunities for pupils to get active and get involved in sport. To help with this we need volunteers to run sessions, from simple playground games, to sports such as Netball and Hockey. If you are interested and would like to help out at a lunch time or after school club, please contact Victoria Spence at vspence@pkc.gov.uk or on 01577867220. Placement in a school will be subject to a PVG check.



Budget Card scheme will prevent people getting into debt

The Council is backing a new scheme being offered by Perth and Kinross Credit Union to help local people manage their monthly budgets.

Housing and Community Care and Social Care clients who struggle to budget properly are being given the chance to use a budget card which will help them to manage their finances and pay their bills on time.

People who agree to use the budget card scheme will see their benefits and wages paid direct to the Credit Union, who will arrange for all bills to be paid by direct debit.

The Credit Union will then load the remainder of a client's cash onto a 'Cred-E-Card' for the client to spend. The cards can be used like normal bank cards to pay for goods and withdraw cash from machines.

People will have to join Perth and Kinross Credit Union to use the budget cards, but the sign-up process is fairly simple. For further information call 01738 624872 or visit www.pkcu.org.uk

Tenants invited to Winter Forum

All Perth & Kinross Council tenants are invited to attend a Tenants' Winter Forum event on **Thursday 11 December** to discuss proposed levels of rent for next year.

Housing and Health Convener Cllr Dave Doogan said: "I hope as many of our tenants as possible can make it along. It is very important for us to hear what our tenants think about the proposed levels of rent for 2015/16 and Council spending proposals for rent revenues."

To ensure that as many tenants as possible can come along, there will be two Tenants' Winter Forum sessions on Thursday 11 December: the first between 2pm and 4.30pm and then an evening session between 6pm and 8.30pm. Both sessions will be held at Dewar's Centre, Perth.

To book a place at one of the sessions, call 01738 476385 or email tenantparticipation@pkc.gov.uk by 5 December.

IAN DUGUID – MUSIC TUITION

Music tuition offered on Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Voice (inc. Musical Theatre), Music Theory And Music Technology.

All first lessons are free

Contact Ian Duguid on (01577) 862860, email iduguid@hotmail.co.uk

Or go to www.ianduguid.co.uk for more information

Councillor Cuthbert

On behalf of Councillors Barnacle, Giacomazzi and Robertson



Road work requests

Since the Local Council elections in 2012, your elected members have been working together with the roads department to carry out various works within Ward 8 (Kinross-shire).

There have been a number of things done over the last 2½ years, including improvements to roads and pavements (e.g. the new roundabout between Springfield Road and Station Road in Kinross).

Recently, a drive around was organised with three of the local members (the fourth had a prior commitment) and two of the senior roads engineers in order view first-hand the outstanding list of work we have requested. Listed below are the items we have requested.

There are no promises that all or indeed any of the items will be done, and timescales are being worked on at the moment, however it was thought that we should share with you what we had proposed to give you a chance to feedback to us your comments. Please feel free to pass these comments back to me by email dcuthbert@pkc.gov.uk and I will share them with the other ward members and officers.

Description	Comments
Junction Road and Clashburn Road, Kinross – Speed of traffic. Status: Pending	Width of road and limited frontage development encourage higher speeds than national urban limit (30mph). Southern section could be increased to 40mph. This would allow 30mph roundels to be erected approaching Levenbridge Place and Bridgend Industrial Estate.
Junction Road, Kinross between Station Road and Sainsbury's store – Pedestrian crossing facility. Status: Pending	Pedestrians have difficulty crossing Junction Road due to width of carriageway and volume of traffic. Traffic survey to be ordered to identify volume and types of vehicle (especially commercial). Site survey to assess width of road, queuing lengths and turning manoeuvres. Pedestrian facilities such as island or Zebra crossing to be considered.
B918 Station Road/Ochil View mini-roundabout, Kinross – Lack of compliance at mini-roundabout. Status: Pending	Failure to Give Way regularly observed. Central dome previously removed due to noise and vibration. Mini-roundabout ineffective as traffic management of speed reduction feature. Consider removing mini-roundabout.
B918 Station Road/Junction Road, Kinross – New roundabout. Status: Pending	Increasing flow of traffic from Station Road/M90 onto Junction Road. Roundabout would act as a speed reduction measure. Alternative would be to realign junction, giving priority to Junction Road.
B918 Station Road, Kinross between Junction Road and Springfield Road – Visibility obstruction. Status: Pending	Visibility of roundabout and direction signs obstructed by overhanging vegetation. Drivers require sufficient advance warning of road layout and direction signs to adjust speed and position accordingly. Community Greenspace to be advised.
A922 Springfield Road, Kinross between Wilson Court and Sutherland Drive – Footway obstruction. Status: Pending	Overgrowing hedges restricting forward sight distance and narrowing available width of footway. Hedges and vegetation to be cut back. Ongoing problem due to lack of maintenance by property owners. Community Greenspace to be advised.
A922 Springfield Road/Sutherland Drive mini-roundabout, Kinross – Speed of traffic. Status: Design	Kerblines to be extended on south side of Station Road to create deflection and reduce vehicle speeds.
A922 The Muirs/Sunnypark junction, Kinross – Restricted visibility to north from Sunnypark. Status: Design	Reduce lane widths on The Muirs and extend junction marking on Sunnypark to maximise visibility.
Loch Leven Community Campus – Waiting restrictions. Status: Pending	Traffic & Network to confirm previously agreed waiting restrictions from November 2013 meeting. RTO to be created.
A922 South Street, Milnathort – Build-out at Zebra crossing. Status: Design	Build-out on east side of street to enable pedestrians to see past parked vehicles.
A911 Burleigh Road, Milnathort – Speed of traffic. Status: Pending	Traffic calming discussed at Milnathort Placecheck but other areas of greater priority identified. Burleigh Road to be added to rotating list of vehicle-activated signs sites.
A911 Wester Balgedie – Extension of 40mph speed limit. Status: Pending	Vehicle speeds being assessed for possible extension of reduced speed limit at west of Wester Balgedie as a result of increased development at Pittendreich and Loch Leven's Larder.
A911 Wester Balgedie to Easter Balgedie – Extension of shared-use path on west side of A911. Status: Design	Site to be assessed for construction of new shared-use path on west side of road to connect to recently constructed path on east side linking Wester Balgedie with Easter Balgedie.
Main Street and Bruce Road, Kinnesswood – 20mph speed limit. Status: Design	Part-time, mandatory 20mph speed limit will replace advisory Twenty's Plenty on sections of Main Street, Bruce Road and Buchan Avenue in vicinity of Portmoak Primary School.

Description	Comments
Buchan Gardens, Kinnesswood – Parking restrictions. Status: Pending	Parking restrictions, limited to school times, to be considered in Buchan Avenue to ensure access for school transport.
A911 Scotlandwell to Auchmuirbridge and Greenhead of Arnott – 40mph speed limit. Status: Concluded	Road environment and vehicle speeds do not satisfy criteria for lower speed limit. 40mph speed limit introduced between Auchmuirbridge and Leslie by Fife Council due to poor alignment, lower speeds and collision history. Restricted visibility from west Bowhouse steading being investigated by Planning Enforcement.
B920 New Gullet Bridge – Restricted visibility from agricultural/commercial access. Status: Pending	Forward sight distance for drivers on B920 restricted by parapet walls of bridge. Traffic & Network to liaise with Planning regarding traffic movements.
B9097/B920 junction – Upgrade of traffic island. Status: Design	Wide junction difficult to distinguish in poor light or weather conditions. Road markings and bollard to be upgraded.
B9097 South Loch Leven Road – Carriageway defects. Status: Pending	Eastern section recently resurfaced. Request timescale from Roads Maintenance Partnership for further resurfacing.
B9097 Vane Farm access – Restricted visibility from access. Status: Pending	Visibility from access to east (nearside) restricted by vegetation. Traffic & Network to advise RSPB. Approaching drivers informed by direction and advance direction signs.
B996/B9097 junction – Restricted visibility from junction. Status: Pending	Visibility from B9097 (W) to south (nearside) onto B996 restricted by vegetation. Traffic & Network to investigate levels in order to lower verge height. Roundabout(s) on B9097 at top of Junction 5 slip roads on M90 not considered appropriate
B996 Gairneybridge – Speed of traffic. Status: Pending	In response to increased development, reduced speed limit to be considered. Options include extending existing 50mph speed limit from Gairneybank or introducing 50mph limit at Gairneybridge and lowering Gairneybank to 40mph. Traffic surveys to be ordered.
Hatchbank – Extension of 30mph speed limit. Status: Pending	Request to extend existing 30mph speed limit westwards beyond motorway bridge in response to recent housing development. Traffic surveys to be ordered in association with above Item.
B9097 Cleish and Carsegour – Flooding. Status: Pending	Surface water lying on carriageway following heavy rain at several locations. Traffic & Network to pass to Roads Maintenance Partnership for action.
A977 Main Street, Crook of Devon – Carriageway defects. Status: Pending	Carriageway defects and poor reinstatement creating noise and vibration for adjacent residents. Traffic & Network to pass to Roads Maintenance Partnership for action.
Waulkmill, Crook of Devon – Speed of traffic and lack of footway. Status: Pending	Request for 20mph speed limit not considered appropriate due to low traffic volumes and low vehicle speeds. Warning signs for playground to be upgraded along with park redevelopment. Footway extension on Waulkmill Road from Drummond Park to be considered.
A977/A823 junction Rumbling Bridge – Junction bollards to be upgraded. Status: Design	Junction bollard to be upgraded to increase conspicuity of junction.
A977 Rumbling Bridge to Powmill – Carriageway defects. Status: Pending	Carriageway defects and poor reinstatement creating noise and vibration. Traffic & Network to pass to Roads Maintenance Partnership for action.
A977 Mitigation Measures – Various. Status: Pending	Various issues discussed such as roundabouts at Saline Road, Blairingone and Cleish Road, Drum, Blairingone by-pass and vehicle-activated signs. These issues to be progressed as a separate project. Reference paragraph 7.1.18 of Local Development Plan.
U213 Tethyknowe stables – Passing places. Status: Pending	Concern expressed about length and construction of passing places along U213 as part of Tethyknowe Stable development. Issue to be raised with Transport Planning
A977 Balado Crossroads – Speed of traffic. Status: Design	Existing footway to be widened to create a hard-standing area for Safety Camera van. Additional site for enforcement at Balado Bridge to be assessed with Tayside Safety Camera Partnership.
A977 Turfhill – Speed limit. Status: Design	Site meetings with Bear Scotland have confirmed location of speed limit signs. Work still programmed for this financial year.
Swansacre, Kinross – Additional parking. Status: Pending	Landscaped area between High Street and School Wynd to be assessed for potential parking. Concerns about level differences and proximity of road junctions.
High Street, Kinross at Montgomery Street junction – Pedestrian crossing. Status: Pending	Site located south of the High Street environmental improvement scheme. Traffic and pedestrian surveys to be undertaken to determine whether a controlled crossing facility is required.

Councillor Giacobazzi

Proposal for a Milnathort Conservation Area

At last night's (13 November) Milnathort Community Council meeting, Alistair Smith of the Kinross-shire Civic Trust proposed the creation of a Conservation Area covering a large part of the village. Even before discussion, the Community Councillors seemed positive and receptive about the idea. However, I urged caution and, as Councillor Robertson said, his attempt to raise the issue years ago met with a response sufficiently cool to lead him to drop the idea.

If a proposal for a Conservation Area is to be taken forward, it is my concern that it must be done in full consultation with the householders affected. While I believe that consequences would be far reaching, the consultation laid down by law is minimal; hence the need for a full debate within our community.

Firstly, for those of you who have heard of the Civic Trust, but do not really know what it is, I offer this explanation. The Kinross-shire Civic Trust is a voluntary group of people which, among other things, is dedicated to 'help conserve buildings and monuments of historic interest'. It is not a democratically elected body and has no statutory powers, but exercises influence through the normal planning process.

What are the effects on householders within a Conservation Area? Mainly, householders lose their 'permitted development' rights. Permitted developments are those minor changes to properties which do not require planning permission, such as the installation of a satellite dish, solar panels, small extensions, replacement windows, double glazing, velux window, security camera, a gate, fence or garden wall, small conservatory, garden shed, painting your door in a colour of your choice or a minor demolition. However, householders within a Conservation Area must apply for planning consent which may, or may not, be granted.

When applying for planning consent within a Conservation Area, a householder must supply the following information to the Council: an application form, land ownership certificate, location plan, site plan, elevations and 'supporting information'. The last item relates to demolitions, where the householder must demonstrate a building is beyond economic repair. The cost of a full planning application is £401 since first November and £202 for minor applications. Whether consent is granted or not, there is a delay of eight weeks or more before a decision is issued.



The positive benefit of a Conservation Area is that it seeks to protect an area judged to have a special character by virtue of its distinctiveness and the quality of its townscape; a wholly subjective test. This is why every resident of Milnathort who is potentially affected by the proposal should carefully consider on balance whether to support the idea.

I sit on the Council's Local Review Body, comprising of three Councillors, which decides appeals from applicants who have had permission refused. One theme which recurs relates to refusals by planning officers for replacement UPVC windows within Conservation Areas; timber is preferred and, while I agree that it is superior, there is an extra cost.

In writing what I have, I do not offer any opinions, only facts. These can be checked on the PKC website under 'Planning'. I am only concerned that there should be a full consultation with all my constituents who will be affected by the proposed changes. So, if you have any views on the subject, for or against the proposition, please contact me or Councillor Robertson; or, indeed, any Ward 8 Councillor. You may wish to copy the CC into your response.

Milnathort Sewer Upgrade by Scottish Water

On Wednesday the issue arose at a meeting of the Environment Committee of PKC, giving me an excuse for a rant! Despite the cancellation of the original scheme two months ago, I have noted several Scottish Water operatives connected to the scheme moving ominously around New Road with clipboards.

My rant included criticism of the lack of consultation by SW with the community. I did try to engage them in a discussion at the time and, indeed, did get them round the table with the Council Leader and Deputy Director of the Environment Service, but I received little assurance. They seemed unwilling to enter into detailed discussion on possible alternative ways of proceeding.

The main concern relates to the installation of four way traffic lights at The Cross in Milnathort for at least twelve weeks, which would be a body blow to the village's relatively thriving commercial centre. If the scheme does proceed, I would insist that traffic management be done in a way to minimise disruption and not maximise it, as was the case last summer when a trial dig (which degenerated into farce) was done.

Time will tell.

Councillor Joe Giacobazzi

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Councillor Barnacle

Slightly abridged copy of a letter to Nick Brian and Peter Marshall, Development Quality and Strategy & Policy Managers, PKC Planning



Establishment & expansion of gypsy/traveller sites within Loch Leven catchment

In the context of the current discussions regarding the quality and standard of planning reports and relations with community councils, I wish to focus mainly on the Crook Moss site.

Between the first rumour of this site proposal in **May 2010** and the lodging of a validated planning application in **March 2012**, extensive site clearance works and development of the site was allowed by PKC.

There was significant objection from the community, local elected members (who had been advised by planning officers that a delegated refusal, which we expected, would keep the process of appeal within PKC) and SEPA to the application; meanwhile works continued on site in advance of any planning decision. My letter of 20 June 2012 to David Littlejohn highlighted community concerns on how his department were handling the Crook Moss/Greenacres sites and the policy approach to such developments, in particular the new "open-door" Policy RD5 that suddenly appeared without consultation in the Local Development Plan (LDP), I being wary of how it would be used by agents to support invariably retrospective applications that result in sites becoming established and proliferating, without adequate planning control. **I suggest my concerns have been justified since.** I noted that in May 2006, PKC planning stated that the potential of the Greenacres site had been achieved at 7 units; a site visit now would reveal about 5 times that in terms of capacity.

The Crook Moss site was brought to the Development Management Committee (DMC) on **1 August 2012** with a recommendation for approval (having been all but established already) to the amazement of local members who could not vote thereon, having declared opposition (I personally will never repeat that mistake). Fossoway Community Council (FCC) and local members addressed the Committee on the number of policies and reasons for refusal (in particular regarding landscape, settlement boundaries and residential amenity), along with ambiguities, inaccuracies and omissions in the report. After an extraordinary length of time questioning officers, a deferral for more information was agreed.

Cllr Cuthbert and myself met the SNP Convenors of the DMC on 13 August 2012 with our concerns on the outcome, process and standard of report presented to DMC and I prepared a number of questions/observations that arose that required to be addressed during the deferral period. None of this, including a request to visit the Greenacres site to establish need, was responded to and FCC lodged a formal complaint over the handling of the application, which I fully concurred with.

On **9 October 2013**, the application was brought back to DMC for approval, with a host of conditions, principally on the basis of Policy RD5 & Housing in the Countryside. FCC and local members again addressed same and I noted that most of the issues I had raised at deferral and since had not been addressed in the report, nor had mention been made of FCC's complaint (2 of which had been upheld).

The DMC chose to ignore the level of community objection and that of local members, granting planning approval as recommended. **The agent gave assurances his client would meet the list of extensive conditions within three months!**

On **10 October 2013** I wrote to yourselves and also to Legal Services on 26 November 2013, following a Kinross-shire CC's Forum meeting regarding the **Memo of Understanding for Planning Procedure for Applications in the Lochleven Catchment** agreed between PKC, SEPA & SNH (no local member involvement) reported at the E & I Committee of 28 August 2013. Cllr Robertson and myself had expressed concern at removal of Section 75 Legal Agreements and replacement by conditions, given our experience of lack of enforcement. Following the DMC decision of 9 October 2013 re Crook Moss, when this Memo Protocol was first mentioned, it became clear that 'it could not be adhered to where retrospective applications are involved' (seemingly encouraged by PKC) because development has already commenced on site without the necessary drainage arrangements being implemented in accordance with it. **I suggest strongly that the authorities, by their approach, are in breach of their statutory duty to protect Loch Leven under Policy EP7 of our LDP.**

Between February 2014 and current date, local members and residents have continued to make representations regarding the lack of enforcement of Crook Moss planning conditions and extension of deadlines to meet same. It is my understanding that currently there are no drainage or water supply arrangements in place that have a licence or comply, whilst noise conditions and the so-called landscape framework are breached. Whilst I recognise that enforcement is a discretionary power, I note that a top priority for same are breaches of planning control on matters of environmental importance on protected environments, along with impact on public visual and residential amenity. Given this failure by the applicants, I suggest strongly it is time to review this planning permission and consider its revocation.

In Summary and to Conclude

- **There is no Local Democracy inherent in our Planning System.**
- **The lack of any meaningful deterrent to retrospective applications being applied by PKC**, under directive from the Scottish Government, makes a mockery of the planning system, giving no incentive to applicants to follow correct due process.
- Loch Leven catchment policies are being undermined by the current approach and **I have no faith that PKC and its partners in the planning protocol will protect the loch.**
- **The community I represent wants to see a level playing field exercised**, which planning regulations stress but it would appear to me that, from any detailed examination in relation to this matter, the European Convention on Human Rights confers special treatment for certain so-called ethnic groups that produces the opposite in planning terms.

I will be interested in your responses, particularly as ward councillors are to meet with planning on 27 November to discuss Crook Moss, Greenacres & Mawcarse Gypsy/ Traveller sites.

*Cllr Michael Barnacle
Independent Member of Kinross-shire*

Loch Leven Community Library

Loch Leven Community Campus, Muirs, Kinross
Tel: 01577 867205 Email: lochlevenlibrary@pkc.gov.uk

Opening Times

Sun & Mon closed Fri 10am-6pm
Tue, Wed & Thu 10am-8pm Sat 10am-1pm

Festive period opening hours: See page 111

Regular Sessions for Young Children

No need to book, just come along:

Pre-school Story Time

Tuesdays 10.15-10.45am Thursdays 2.15-2.45pm

Bookbug Rhymetimes

Saturdays 10.30-11.00am Wednesdays 2.00-2.30pm

For further details of any of the events listed below, and to book where required, please contact the library. All events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.



Christmas Stories and Activities

Friday 5 December, 4.30pm-5.30pm

The library will be holding a short story time for 3-7yrs, followed by festive-themed activity workshop for children and families.

There will be the chance to hear Christmas stories and then design and make your own Christmas cards. Library staff will be on hand to help, and all materials will be provided. Why not come along and enjoy some festive, creative fun?

Youngsters may also like to make a greetings card for one of the library's housebound users. These cards will be delivered before Christmas as part of the RVS Books on Wheels programme.

Event suitable for children between 3 and 11 years (children 8 years or under need to be accompanied by an adult; Christmas stories suitable for 3-7yrs).

This event is free, but booking is required.

'You're Never Too Old ...' A Morning with Millie Gray Friday 12 December, 1.45pm

Join Millie Gray, the 'Arts Champion for Older People in Scotland', as she talks about her life's journey and latest novel, 'When Sorry is not Enough'. This is the sixth book in a string of novels based on life in Leith in the first half of the 20th century. Free event. (This is a rescheduled event, postponed from 22 October.)



MP schooled in fish skills

Gordon Banks, MP for Ochil and South Perthshire learned various food preparation skills when he visited Sainsbury's in Kinross recently.

Gordon was welcomed by Sainsbury colleague Paul Zarb at the fish counter and during the MP's time on the job he covered the importance of safety and hygiene while preparing food, as well as getting a few tips from trained colleagues on how to fillet a fish. The day is designed to highlight the various career opportunities retail offers, and the training available to colleagues.

This year Sainsbury's was awarded its second consecutive Gold Investors in People accreditation for supporting, developing and motivating its colleagues.

Gordon Banks MP said: "I really enjoyed my visit to Sainsbury's Kinross store, and observing Paul behind the fish counter was interesting as he made me aware of the skills involved and the safety and hygiene procedures required when preparing food. A lot of these rules are commonsense but it's important to be vigilant when you're serving the public.

"Likewise my time spent on the deli counter was really useful and highlighted the high standards that are demanded in delivering fresh food to customers.

"I was also really impressed by the obvious enthusiasm shown by the staff as they went about their work, and it was great to meet local customers too. I look forward to my next visit."



Gordon Banks (right) enjoyed learning food preparation skills from Paul Zarb at Sainsbury's

January Classes at Kinross Learning Centre



If the BBC's recent "Who Do You Think You Are?" series has inspired you to find out about your own family history, then the Routes to your Roots: Basic Steps in Family History could be just what you're looking for. From old parish registers and censuses to graveyards, websites and library and archive material, this ten-week course will look at a range of sources which will help you get started in finding out about your ancestry. In addition, the course will examine family memorabilia, statutory registration and naming patterns, all of which will provide clues in your search through the past.

If Great British Bake Off is more your thing, the Novelty Cakes class will provide tips and techniques to help you create stunning cakes for birthdays, children's parties and other special occasions. For those whose creativity is expressed through music, Learn to Play Guitar will help to improve basic skills. The course will cover rhythm playing, chord identification and accompanying for plectrum and finger style guitar.

Full details of all of the courses, which start in January, are detailed below. For further information, contact Maureen Ross, Learning Centre Manager on 01577 863863 or email pc.kinross.perth@uni.ac.uk.

Course	Start Date	Time	Weeks	Cost
LANGUAGES				
Spanish Beginners 3	Wed 14 Jan	1 – 3 pm	10 weeks	£68
Spanish Beginners	Wed 14 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 Weeks	£68
Spanish Improvers	Tue 13 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£68
Basic Everyday French	Tue 13 Jan	10 am - 12 noon	10 weeks	£68
French Improvers	Tue 13 Jan	1 – 3 pm	10 weeks	£68
French Advanced	Tue 13 Jan	10.30am -12.30 pm	10 weeks	£68
Italian Advanced	Thu 15 Jan	10am – 12 pm	10 weeks	£68
Italian Beginners 2	Thu 15 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£68
Russian Language & Culture (Beginners Welcome)	Tue 13 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£68
Russian Intermediate	Thu 15 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£68
Gaelic Beginners 2	Wed 14 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£68
COMPUTING				
Getting Started on your Computer	Tue 13 Jan	2 pm – 4 pm	8 weeks	£55
Introduction to Web Design	Tue 13 Jan	12 noon – 2 pm	5 weeks	£40
Get Connected: A guide to social media	Tue 17 Feb	12 noon – 2 pm	3 weeks	£30
Get to Grips with your Ipad	Mon 12 Jan	1.30 – 3pm	4 weeks	£35
ART & CRAFTS				
Painting with Acrylics	Mon 12 Jan	9.45 – 11.45 am	10 weeks	£68
Painting with Acrylics	Mon 12 Jan	1.15 – 3.15 pm	10 weeks	£68
Watercolours 4	Wed 14 Jan	1.15 – 3.15 pm	10 weeks	£68
Watercolours Beginners	Thu 15 Jan	1.15 – 3.15 pm	10 weeks	£68
The Art of Drawing Beginners	Wed 14 Jan	9.45 – 11.45 am	10 weeks	£68
The Art of Drawing 7	Thu 15 Jan	9.45 – 11.45 am	10 weeks	£68
Upholstery	Wed 14 Jan	4.30 – 6.30 pm	10 weeks	£80
Upholstery	Wed 14 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£80
Sew Smart (Sewing, Mending, Altering, Recycling, Tailoring)	Tue 13 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£80
Stained Glass	Tue 13 Jan	9.30am – 12 noon	8 weeks	£68
GENERAL INTEREST				
How to Buy & Sell Antiques	Fri 6 Feb	9.30 – 11.30 am	6 weeks	£45
Scottish Painting	Mon 12 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£68
Routes to your Roots	Thu 15 Jan	2 – 4 pm	10 weeks	£68
Cake Decorating: Novelty Cakes	Thu 15 Jan	12.15 – 2.15 pm	4 weeks	£40
Learn to Play Guitar	Tue 13 Jan	7 – 9 pm	10 weeks	£80

High Hedges

At 100 feet high and a third of a mile long, the Meikleour Beech Hedge is one of rural Perthshire's most unique attractions. Planted in 1745, the hedge is trimmed back every 10 years. It is said to grow towards heaven in honour of the men who planted it, many who were soon to die in the Battle of Culloden.

Tall hedges can bring joy to their owners and misery to their neighbours who suffer from the loss of light and reduced enjoyment of their gardens. For them, there is now hope in the form of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013.

The Act, which came into effect on 1 April 2014, was created in response to the growing number of disputes over high hedges in Scotland. While planning permission is needed for a fence over 2m, many homeowners plant hedges whose growth can exceed this height. Some trees,



Tall hedges can cause problems...

such as Leylandii, grow so rapidly, that they soon get out of control, causing angry, and even violent, disputes between neighbours. The new Act steps in where neighbours can't resolve a dispute amicably. By making a High Hedge Notice Application to the local authority, the council can take enforcement action against the owner to make them take remedial action and cut the hedge down to an acceptable size. If they refuse to comply, the council can then carry out the work and recover the costs from the owner.

The Government's definition of a high hedge, according to the Act, is "a row of two or more trees or shrubs". The variety of tree or shrub does not matter. If it blocks light and significantly impairs the amenity of a garden, then the neighbour will need to take action. The hedge does not even need to be immediately next to a property, if it is shown to impact on a nearby garden or house.

The cost for applying for a High Hedge Notice is a bit of a sore point. Anyone applying for a high hedge notice can expect to pay £300 [depending on the local authority] for the privilege and even more if the hedge has more than one owner. The council will expect that an applicant has taken reasonable steps to discuss the matter with their neighbour, either by discussing the matter directly, writing letters or using the services of a mediator if communication between the parties has broken down.

Once an application has been submitted, the council will then notify the hedge owner and send an officer to access the situation. Both parties will then be informed of the outcome and, if the hedge is deemed to be a problem, the owner will be given a deadline in which to take action.

As, in the case of the Meikleour Beech Hedge, where the hedge is part of a historic landscape or has cultural significance, the council can take this into consideration. A high hedge in itself is not a problem. It only becomes a problem if someone makes a complaint against it – let us hope the Meikleour Beech Hedge is left in peace!

Article by Karol Swanson

This article first appeared in the newsletter of the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS)

Surviving Christmas

Through all of the glowing lights, warm cosy nights in, games and laughter, Christmas can be a very challenging and tough time for a lot of people.

Long dark nights, excessive buying, increased alcohol and drug use and reduced services can make it difficult for people to have a sense of 'wellness' over the festive period, especially when it seems like everyone else is having a great time.

Some of us may choose to spend Christmas alone but unfortunately some of us do not, whether it's due to the loss of a loved one, broken relationships or an unpleasant experience that encourages you to avoid Christmas and many of its traditions. Understandably these emotions and experiences make it a troublesome and lonely time for many. Not surprisingly, the Samaritans get around one call every six seconds during the Christmas period.

Despite the challenges you may be met with at Christmas, it is important to remember that this time of year is very difficult for a lot of people, you are not alone and there are things out there that can help you along your way and to get through Christmas.

To find out more about ways to help you get through Christmas, please visit Mental Wealth Perthshire (www.mentalwealthperthshire.org.uk) or phone PLUS Perth on 01738 626242.

*Claire Thomson
Rural Involvement Worker*

Residents protest at bus stop move

Perth and Kinross Council held an exhibition of its proposed Kinross town centre improvements on 18 and 19 November at Loch Leven Community Library.

Several elderly residents from Causeway Court attended to speak to the Council officers present about their concerns over the bus stop being moved.

The plans for the new public realm works involve the removal of the town bus stop from the former Town Hall to a new location at the junction of the High Street and Swansacre.

Due to the building works currently taking place at the Town Hall, a temporary bus stop has already been positioned at the junction with Swansacre. The improvement plans would see the bus stop stay there, with the addition of a bus shelter on the corner of Swansacre.

Some residents from Causeway Court and surrounding area are finding the walk to this bus stop difficult, as it is uphill from where they live. One of the visitors to the exhibition also said that bus drivers do not like the new location of the bus stop.

However, the new town plans involve creating a 'town square' across the High Street at the Town Hall, and this means removing the pavements and having the whole area at road level. Buses, therefore, would not be able to stop in the "square" as it would be too big a step up from road level to get on a bus.

Several residents have signed a petition complaining about the changed location of the bus stop and have submitted it to the Council.

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

"One hundred years on, we are all connected to the First World War, either through our own family history, the heritage of our local communities or because of its long-term impact on society and the world we live in today."

(Imperial War Museum, First World War Centenary website.)

Throughout 2014, the Newsletter is featuring brief histories of some of the local men who died in WWI and whose names appear on war memorials in Kinross-shire.

Readers may be interested to know that there is a comprehensive history of Kinross-shire WWI servicemen, researched by Sgt Alastair G Smith, in the Kinross (Marshall) Museum at the Loch Leven Community Campus. This can be consulted during Museum Study opening hours (Thursdays, 10am-8pm and Saturdays, 10am-1pm).

William Coventry and George Coventry

The brothers were the sons of William and Eliza Coventry of 15 Mill Street, Kinross. Members of the West Church of Kinross, they are listed on the Church Roll of Honour.

William was the older brother, and before joining His Majesty's Forces was employed for five years in the Post Office. He enlisted at an early age in 1908 and formed, according to the local newspaper, "one of a noble band of Kinross soldiers who having completed their time in India returned home only to take up arms again in defence of King and country", the other local soldiers being Privates Alles, Greig, Affleck and Doig.

Whilst serving with 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Private William Coventry was wounded in the shoulder on 25 April 1915 and was sent to recover at the No. 1 Hospital, Armstrong College, Newcastle. In the same battle, fellow locals Privates Greig and Affleck were killed.

1917 saw William serving with the 10th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as a Corporal (Signaller). He was killed in action, aged 26, at Arras, on 14 April. A touching tribute was paid to his memory by the signalling officer, Lieutenant John Beattie. He wrote to William's father, on 17 April: "I grieve with you at the death of one of the most lovable, kindly men I have ever had the good fortune to know." Later in the same letter Beattie adds: "It may be of some slight consolation to know that your son's death was instantaneous and that he suffered no pain. He was in the trench beside his Sergeant and another Corporal when a shell struck your son and the Sergeant and severely wounded the other Corporal. His comrades gave your son a reverent burial and a little later the Chaplain said a service over the grave of the dear departed. We erected a cross over the grave and have registered the position of the burial place so that when circumstances permit it may be carefully

tended". Sadly, this grave was destroyed during later fighting and William Coventry is therefore commemorated on the Arras Memorial in France.

George, the younger brother, was employed in civilian life with Mr Scott, butcher, Kinross. He enlisted initially into 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) on 2 September 1914. He fought bravely for almost three years, with others from Kinross, on the battlefields of France, before being killed at the Somme on 25 March 1918, then serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Dragoons. The local paper reported on 20 April 1918 that members of his Battalion "deplore the loss of a brave soldier and true comrade". George is commemorated at the Pozières Memorial in France.

Profile provided by Anne Milburn



The Coventry brothers are listed on the Roll of Honour in Kinross Parish Church

Community Fund awards announced

The Bank of Scotland Community Fund results have been announced.

Following a public vote, the organisation topping the poll in this area was the Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme, which receives £3000 to assist with the running of its service. Burntisland First Aid Services Trust will receive £2000 to help towards making defibrillators more accessible in its local community. Our local amateur swimming club, Kinross Otters, will receive £1000 and the Kinross (Marshall) Museum will receive £500 for its memory bank project.



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Changes to Drink Drive Legislation

With effect from 5 December 2014, reductions in the drink drive limits come into force in Scotland.

Currently the breath limit is 35 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath and this will reduce to a limit of 22 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. (Limits for alcohol in blood and urine will also decrease).

Despite the change in legislation, our position on consumption of alcohol before driving remains the same, there are 'no safe limit' to drink driving. **DON'T RISK IT!**

Winter Driving

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Reduced daylight hours and the possibility of inclement weather place additional demands on all road users.

Tips and advice on staying safe this winter:

- Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition and well maintained. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing.
- Plan ahead. Check the forecast, road conditions and consider alternative routes. Allow extra time for your journey and check your planned route is free from delays.
- When did you last check your tyres? Tyres should be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure. (Check the vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre $\frac{3}{4}$ of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference (1 mm for motorcycles). They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears that will weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.
- Windscreens, wiper blades and windows must be kept clean and free from defects. Make sure it is properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Low sun can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse.
- All lights, including reflectors, must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order. This includes registration plate lights. Cyclists must have white front and red rear lights lit at night. Be seen and be safe.

Change the way you drive:

- Bad weather is often blamed for causing accidents, but the real cause is inappropriate driving for the conditions that exist.
- In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. Aquaplaning can be a frightening experience. This is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road

surface. The safest solution is to remove the pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed and the tyres to regain their grip.

- Keep well back from the road user in front in icy or snowy weather. Stopping distances can be ten times greater. When the roads are icy, drive at slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.
- High-sided vehicles are most affected by windy weather. Motorcyclists and cyclists can easily be blown off course particularly in open stretches of road exposed to strong crosswinds.
- When driving in fog, use dipped headlights so other drivers can see you. Fog lights can only be used when visibility is seriously reduced to less than 100 metres but they must be switched off if visibility improves. Be prepared for a bank of fog or drifting patchy fog ahead. Even if it seems to be clearing, you can suddenly find yourself in thick fog.
- Avoid driving in icy or snowy conditions unless your journey is essential. If you do, we recommend you take an emergency kit of: scraper, de-icer, torch, first aid kit, jump leads, shovel, warm drink and emergency food in case you get stuck or break down.

Extra points to remember:

- Cyclists should have suitable lights on their bicycles and wear reflective and fluorescent clothing and a cycle helmet.
- Parents of children who do paper rounds during the hours of darkness at this time of year should ensure their children are given this protection.
- Pedestrians should ensure they wear bright clothing, particularly in rural areas where the street lighting is either non-existent or very limited.

Police Scotland, local community

Telephone: 101 for non emergencies.

The community officer for Kinross-shire is **Sadie Allan**.

Email: taysidekinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

The Community Sergeant for Kinross,

Auchterarder and Crieff is **Sandra Williams**.

Email: sandra.williams@scotland.pnn.police.uk



Crime Stoppers – Telephone 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 you have information relating to a criminal activity of any sort. It is, if you wish, confidential and you cannot be contacted if you choose to remain anonymous.

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For further details see www.kinrossnewsletter.org or phone Ross McConnell on 01577 865885 or email

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Community Council News



The Community Council News is based on draft minutes of local CC meetings. Full draft minutes are posted on local websites and notice boards. In addition, Kinross CC minutes are lodged in the community library. Please note, the Community Council News is not a verbatim reproduction of CC minutes. In particular, where there are two months' worth of reports, there will be a considerable amount of editing.

Kinross Community Council

News from the November Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 5 November were: CCllrs D Colliar, M Scott, M Blyth, W Freeman, B Davies, G Thomas and I Jack; P&K Cllrs Barnacle, Robertson and Cuthbert; representative from the Police; David Jinks and Stephen Kelso, Persimmon Homes; Michael Morgan and Ross Fletcher, PKC; large number of members of the public.

Apologies were received from CCllrs West, Mackay and Watson and P&K Cllr Giacopazzi.

Declarations of Interest: none.

Minutes of Meeting of 1 October: Under correction of deletion of the duplicate attendance record re. CCllr Thomas and road widening should read "pavement widening", the Minutes were proposed by CCllr Thomas and seconded by CCllr Davies.

Police Report: The officer commented on home security and lighting, counterfeit notes of all denominations being circulated and scam phone calls to businesses purporting to be from banks. She also mentioned crimes detected.

Town Centre Regeneration: Presentation by Michael Morgan and Ross Fletcher. Plans were on display prior to the presentation. The presentation took the form of a question and answer session.

Cllr Barnacle commented on the loss of some parking in the High Street. A suggestion was made that the corner opposite the restored building in Swansacre could be considered as extra parking. Trees would require to be removed. Cllr Barnacle mentioned that he has a meeting on Friday morning with Roads and would ask them to look at this.

CCllr Davies addressed the narrowing of the roadway and widening of the pavement at the Salutation Hotel and questioned whether the pavement on the other side at the opticians could not be widened – the agreed width being divided between the two areas.

Other points or questions raised by CC members, councillors and the public members present included:

- Location of town square which is on a through road: a member of the public suggested that this be constructed in another area.
- Heavy vehicles not requiring access to the High Street should use relief road. Suggestion made that these be restricted by the use of signage.
- Traffic impact on the town while the works are being carried out – the representatives advised that advertising and other measures would be taken to minimise the impact.
- The proposed location of the bus stops will create chaos.
- A traffic trial was again suggested. The representatives advised that this was not necessary. The chaos during the recent gas works was mentioned. Concerns were also raised in relation to emergency services accessing the road. The representatives were asked if they could predict that the traffic flow will change when the scheme is in place. Currently there is a problem with traffic travelling from the link road along Station Road to Milnathort and this should be taken into account.
- Single track at Salutation: Concerns raised whether this would work.
- Crossings: No pedestrian crossings, only uncontrolled crossings.
- Parking: Some discussion was also held on this matter. The parking at the old school will be lost, however [former Social Work Dept at] Mill Street is to be demolished and turned into parking spaces.
- School run/new builds: traffic would be increased with the added traffic from the proposed housing estates.

Persimmon Homes, former Kinross High School site

David Jinks and Stephen Kelso were present with amended proposals. Plans were on display prior to the discussion. They advised that the three main points have been addressed with the entrance into the High Street being moved further north and brought into the centre, additional parking through the Church areas and the other point in relation to Chestnut House boundary being addressed. 91 houses are now proposed on the site. 20 car parking spaces have been allocated for use by the Parish Church who will also regulate this with 14 spaces at the entrance under the control of the Catholic Church.

A question and answer session followed with points raised as follows:

- Conservation Area: Not addressing this issue. The buildings are to be demolished with the stone being used for the front walls and the railings being replicated at the front entrance. It is not their company's policy to carry out refurbishments. Opposition to this was high. A comment was made that the Council should think about remarketing the site. Mention was also made to the fact that the policy is to preserve and enhance the conservation area.

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- **Traffic volume:** Concerns raised regarding the volume of added traffic from this proposed development. The school run was again mentioned with the possibility that traffic will cut through Alexander Drive and add to the current congestion.
- **Properties:** 70 houses are mentioned in the Local Plan, this is an increase of 30%. They answered that the numbers are down from the original proposal and that they are proposing 2/3 bedroom semi-detached properties to meet the current market. They continued that 70 is a guidance number, however it was confirmed that this is an indicative figure.
- **Historical:** Question raised as to what will reflect the past history on the site. This will solely be shown by the railings and stone work at the front entrance.
- **Cllr Barnacle** added that the application is covered by 3 policies: PM1A, PM1B and Conservation.

Matters arising from minutes of 1 October

- **Primary School traffic flow,** Bowton Road/Montgomery Street: we require to speak to Cllr Giacomazzi.
- **Mill Street:** The ground is owned by the Council and has been cleared.
- **The white van** at the bottom of the High Street has gone.
- **Street Lights:** Cllr Cuthbert commented on the street lights. Complaints have been received. It was added that a number are hidden behind trees.

Newsletter [charity] accounts: Draft accounts have been prepared but not yet approved.

Newsletter Fund disbursements: Thank you letters received from the Volunteer Group and Positive Choices.

Kinross Buildings: The former **public toilets** on the Muirs are the property of Montgomery Estates.

CC vacancy: There is no set time limit in which to appoint someone – left in abeyance meantime.

Planning applications submitted to PKC

14/01609/FL: Change of use from Health Centre (Class 2) to retail units (Class 1), nursery (Class 10) and five flats and erection of a block of 15 flats at former Loch Leven Health Centre. Copy of letter of objection received from Kinross-shire Civic Trust. The CC are to object to this application on the grounds of the height of the proposed building. The design is for a 3-storey level which is out of context scenically with the buildings surrounding it. It includes retail which is contrary to Policy 14 of the Local Plan, which states employment and low cost housing.

14/01735/FLL Kinross Social Work Office, Mill Street: formation of car park at Kinross Social Work Office.

14/01701/LBC The Cottage, The Stables, Kinross, erection of fence and walls.

14/01654/FLL Gellybank Farmhouse, Kinross: extension.

14/01700/FL The Cottage, The Stables, Kinross: erection of glasshouse, fence and walls.

14/01780/FLL Gowanlea, Pier Road, Kinross: alterations to dwelling house and installation of an air source heat pump.

14/01836/FLL 108-114 High Street: demolition of extension. This is in relation to the Town Hall. The snooker hall to be demolished which was applied for a while ago, also to now include the stairwell, toilets and other areas to the rear of the building. The developer invited the CC to the site.

14/01848/FLL High Street, Kinross: installation of street furniture and hard landscaping.

14/01820/LBC 108-114 High Street: demolition of extension.

14/01807/FLL 6 Argyll Road: alterations to dwelling house.

Planning applications approved by PKC

14/01597/FLL 39 Lathro Park, alt/extension.

14/01606/FLL 2 Police Houses, High Street, installation of solar panels.

14/01481/FLL Erection of garages (in retrospect), 4 and 6 Seaforth Drive, Kinross.

14/01252/FLL 46 Lathro Park, alt/extension.

14/01053/FLL Hatchbank Lane, change of use of landscaped open space area to garden ground, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

14/00941/FLL Monega House, Hatchbank: partial change of use from agricultural storage to storage of vehicles.

Reports from Perth & Kinross Councillors

Cllr Cuthbert commented on the path between **School Wynd and Brewery Lane**. An enquiry was received from a member of the public in relation to the gates being closed and it being a right of way. This lane is privately owned and not a right of way.

New Primary School: Thanked the other Councillors and people involved in this.

Lock up garage review: This has been carried out and affects both Green Road and Montgomery Road. The lock ups are to be demolished. Suggestion made that Green Road be converted to parking and allotments at Montgomery Road.

Day Centre: Update provided. This matter is currently with the officers and a meeting is to be held on 8 December with the Day Centre reps and local members.

Policing: Cllr Cuthbert addressed the lack of police presence at CC meetings and confirmed that a promise has been made for a better attendance. He also provided statistics from the Police/Fire Brigade Report and information of crime detection rates. A meeting with the police has been arranged for 26 November in the campus.

Rugby club: Cllr Cuthbert commented on the congestion on the Muirs on Sunday 2 November. He has asked if they could alert him of dates and he will try to arrange cones.

Landscape Areas: Cllr Barnacle reported on Landscape Areas/Ochil Hills and the fact that there are at least three large applications for wind farms. The Final Report should be available later this month and out for consultation.

A977 Mitigation: Cllr Barnacle has requested a meeting with Mr Valentine but there has been no response. This matter was discussed at Fossoway CC meeting last night. A meeting of local members, CC members and Council Officers was suggested.

Planning: Cllr Barnacle suggested holding a Kinross-shire CC Forum meeting at the beginning of the year to discuss this subject.

Discussion held in general regarding Council procedures.

Correspondence

Police mailbox address provided.

Primary school: confirmation of replacement school.

A977: Copy of email sent by Cllr Barnacle to PKC.

Electoral registration changes: notification.

Kinross town centre: notice of exhibition.

PAN notice for T in the Park at Strathallan.

Temporary Traveller encampments: document available for consultation. Deadline 14 November.

Copy of responses received by **Kinross-shire Civic Trust** to their complaints to PKC.

Well Road survey available online. This road is not adopted.

Annual insurance renewal papers received.

Kinross Curling: invitation for two representatives to attend official opening. CCllrs Blyth and Davies to attend.

Campus facilities: As from 27 October sports and play facilities at the campus have been withdrawn from Monday to Friday – 7am to 5pm. An approach to be made to the Council regarding this. It was suggested that we write to Ian Millar or contact Bob Band (Head of Services).

Other Competent Business

Remembrance Sunday on 9 November.

Fences: Contact Bear Scotland again.

Food bank: Graham Holden advised on the current situation regarding a Food Bank within Kinross-shire. This currently operates from the Day Centre on certain restricted times mid week and they do not have storage facilities, with any donations being taken to Perth and distributed between a number of facilities within Perth and Kinross. A private venue with storage facilities should be sourced. The Day Centre Food Bank is run by the Trussell Trust and a large number of people use this facility but have had to, with a number still requiring to, travel up to Perth. Mr Holden's wish is to organise a Committee who would run a local Food Bank from premises in the town. CCllr Freeman suggested the Drill Hall and the campus was another option. Other suggestions made included the garage in Mill Street – this is in the hands of Housing at Perth Council – Cllr Cuthbert would make enquiries. Cllr Cuthbert mentioned a container in Crook of Devon going free, however a site would be required. CCllr Thomas suggested an article in the Newsletter.

The Next Meeting of Kinross CC will be held on Wednesday 3 December 2014 at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall, Muirs, Kinross. The January meeting will be held on 7 January 2015.

Agenda for the meeting on 3 December

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. Minutes of meeting of 5 November 2014
4. Police report
5. Matters arising from minutes of 5 November
6. Newsletter fund disbursements
7. Kinross buildings
8. CC vacancy
9. Planning matters
10. Reports from Perth & Kinross Councillors
11. Miscellaneous correspondence
12. Other competent business
13. Date of next meeting (7 January 2015)

Note: Members of the public are welcome to contribute to discussion at meeting but if you wish to address the meeting, please advise the Secretary (Margaret Scott, 21 Ross Street, Kinross, KY13 8EF or email to mbs21@btinternet.com) as early as possible. You are also requested to supply a copy of any relevant documentation in advance, and a paragraph on what it is you want to raise, so the topic can be publicised.

Kinross CC minutes are posted on the webpage:
www.kinross.cc/cc.htm

Milnathort Community Council

News from the November Meeting

CCllr Hamilton, Chair, welcomed CCllrs Cottingham, Halford, Milne-Home, Bennet, Thomson and Smith to the meeting held on 13 November 2014. Also in attendance were P&K Cllrs Giacopazzi and Robertson and five members of the public.

Apologies were received from CCllr Pettinger; P&K Cllrs Barnacle and Cuthbert, and from the Police.

Police matters: The Chair read out extracts from the report provided by Police Scotland:

Counterfeit £10 and £20 notes have been passed in the Kinross area recently, of all Scottish banks and not very good counterfeit quality.

Thefts to commercial premises in Milnathort: detected to criminals from outside the area.

Theft of items from within vans of bikes and tools in Glenfarg.

Phone fraud scams: fraudster pretending to be from bank, persuades victim to move large amounts of money to another specified account due to supposed suspicious activity on their own account. Also ask victim to phone bank back on customer services number from bank card but fraudster does not hang up the call and stays on line.

Advice to residents is to not agreeing to move any monies and contact their bank on a different landline or mobile.

A number of people in Perthshire have received phone calls from a person pretending to be a police officer and asking for bank or personal details. Please be aware the police will never ask for such information so don't be coerced into passing on details.

Matters arising: The Chair stated that since the complaint by the Kinross-shire Civic Trust all relevant documents, in particular, the conservation officer's report, would now be available to the public and entered in their on line planning portal. Cllrs Giacopazzi & Robertson had been instrumental in making this happen.

The chair stated that he was now receiving reports from the police covering neighbouring Community Councils as well as Milnathort CC. Cllr Giacopazzi stated that police attendance at all community councils had been poor or non-existent and the community councils were unhappy about the situation. The chair advised that with regard to our CC attendance had been about 50% until recently. Cllr Giacopazzi added that a meeting with police had been

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arranged and that MCC should ensure attendance to put their points forward.

Planning applications: The following planning applications were discussed:

14/01750/FLL Erection of two replacement dwelling houses at 121-123 South Street, Milnathort.

14/01947/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house, 14 Old Perth Road, Milnathort.

MCC had no objections.

Planning applications determined: The MCC noted that the following applications had been approved by PKC:

14/01461/IPL Erection of dwelling house, land 50 metres south west of Sallyvonteen, Milnathort for Mr A Dawson.

14/00123/IPL Erection of dwelling house (in principle), land 30 metres South East of 40 Viewfar Road, Milnathort for executors of the late Arthur Falconer.

The MCC also noted that the following applications had been refused:

14/00468/FLL Erection of a wind turbine and ancillary infrastructure, Colliston Farm, Drunzie, Glenfarg, Perth for D A Baillie and Sons.

14/01467/IPL Erection of a dwelling house, land 40 metres South West of Sallyvonteen, Milnathort for Mr A Dawson.

Kinross-shire Civic Trust Proposal for a Milnathort Conservation Area

Alastair Smith gave a presentation on behalf of the Kinross-shire Civic Trust on the proposal to create a conservation area within the village of Milnathort. A brief history and origins of Milnathort was made, outlining its importance as a historic market town for Kinross-shire and of the historic listed buildings in the area. It was concluded that the aim was not to preserve the settlement in stasis, but ensure that any future developments recognise the history of the area and are sympathetic to that history. The Civic Trust sought the CC's support for this proposal. On discussion it was felt that the CC could not give support at the present time and that more public consultation would be required. It was felt that residents of the village should be given the opportunity to make their representations for or against this proposal. The Kinross-shire Civic Trust would be publishing this proposal in the local Kinross Newsletter and any local Milnathort residents should be encouraged to make their views known at the next MCC meeting by either attending or written submissions. This would be then discussed further at the next meeting and a final decision on whether to support this or not made at the MCC meeting in January.

New Matters and Correspondence

The MCC discussed the following:

- The Chair reported that he had received information from a member of the public that the **gym** at the Community Campus would now be closed for access by the public between the hours of 7am to 5pm from 28 October 2014. The MCC were astounded that the community centre was being restricted further for the use by the community and whether this was another step going forward to remove it as a community centre and make it into a school only. P&K councillors were asked to look into this further.
- The Chair reported details of a community safety meeting to be held at the campus on 26 November. The police and fire brigade will be in attendance and community councillors will have the opportunity to question them about local issues. CCllrs Hamilton and Thomson will attend.
- A Planning Aid for Scotland workshop had been arranged for Saturday 22 November at the campus regarding Gypsy/Travellers as young change makers. CCllr Pettinger attending.
- CCllr Mine Home reported that the ditches on the Stronachie road had again been deepened and cleaned but the run offs from the road had still been left blocked resulting in the road again flooding. It would appear that the extensive work cleaning and deepening ditches is being wasted by the lack of appropriate run offs to the ditch. CCllr Thomson stated that the work done on the road to Tillyrie had resulted in that road draining much better with the piped access to the ditch working better than just cutting a shallow runoff to the ditch. Cllr Giacomazzi stated he would take this up with roads department.

Comments/Questions from the floor

A member of the public reported that the new LED street lighting was very poor, leaving very dark areas on the roads and pavements to such an extent that some children were scared to go home along these areas at night and were having to get parents to uplift them. CCllrs agreed that the lighting appeared poor although they had been informed that the lighting was of a similar level to before. It would appear that the use of the old poles was incompatible with the new lights. (See page 4.)

The Next Meeting of Milnathort CC will take place on Thursday 11 December 2014 in Orwell Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Milnathort CC minutes are posted on
www.kinross.cc/milnathort/milnathort_cc.htm

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Portmoak Community Council

News from the November Meeting

In attendance at the meeting held on 11 November 2014 were: CCllrs M Strang Steel (Chairman), B Calderwood, R Cairncross (Secretary), R Williamson (Treasurer), S Forde and T Smith; Ward Councillors M Barnacle, D Cuthbert and W Robertson and 12 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor Joe Giacomazzi and a Representative of Police Scotland.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Stephen's Field: The Chairman reported that a date for a meeting with A&J Stephen was anticipated shortly.

Planning: 14/01620/IPL. The Chairman noted that PKC had appropriately notified the CC of the application and that a communications glitch had handicapped initial consideration.

Roads: There was no further information on the extent on the cat's eyes installation along the A911 other than it could begin within the next month.

Reports

Police: In the absence of a police representative the CC received the Report. Advice on scam phone calls and counterfeit notes was noted. In light of a recent spate of break-ins there is a need to review security measures in and around homes. The break-in at the Kinnesswood Shop had been detected. The lack of police attendance at CC meetings across Kinross had been raised with police authorities and an improvement could be anticipated. The CC would send representatives to the Community Safety meeting on 26 November. Police and fire services would be present.

Treasurer: The CC's accounts at the end of October 2014: a balance of £615.97 in the General Account and £1,696.19 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £2,312.16.

Planning

New applications: The CC considered the following new applications and agreed not to object to, nor to make comment, on:

14/01791/FLL Vane Farm Nature Centre: Alterations, regarding works, formation of decking and seating, relocation of storage compound, car parking and associated works.

14/01683/FLL Land 50 metres south of Causeway cottage, Scotlandwell: Modification of planning proposal 09/00936/FLL (erection of dwelling house - change of house type).

The CC considered the following new application:

14/01368/FLL Leven Cottage, Wester Balgedie: Extension

of dwelling house and formation of vehicular access and car parking area. It had no objection but agreed to comment on the access to the A911.

These were the unanimous decisions of the CC.

Progress with applications

14/00707/FLL The Lomond Inn, erection of 5 houses. To report on a complaint to PKC by the Council on the handing of the application.

The Chairman reported on two formal complaints to PKC: failing to secure and publish a Design Statement on validating the application in default of planning regulations: and withholding access to conservation reports. This first complaint was upheld; the second was dismissed because the comments did not refer to a complete application. However in any future application the Conservation Officers final comments on the full application will be made available on Public Access.

On 12 November PKC Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee will consider a motion from Cllr Robertson to the effect that to improve transparency of decision making Conservation Officer's views should be included within reports and also made publicly available on the planning portal.

14/00607/FLL Levenmouth, Scotlandwell: Erection of twohouses: notice of proposed new path to Heritage Trail.

The planning application had been amended to show the proposal for a new path. A planning decision is awaited.

Roads: The CC noted:

- that its letter of 24 April in respect of the series of accidents on the Scotlandwell to Bowhouse section of the A911 had still to be acknowledged. This will be pursued.
- that inquiries had been undertaken to find how far the contracts for snow clearing offered to local farmers were appropriate and if they were discouraging recruitment. Cllr Robertson would pursue the matter.
- traffic controls in and around the school. There were different elements to this and the matter remains under consideration.

Paths: Cllr Tom Smith reported that:

- Contractors had begun work to repair some of the upper stretches of the Michael Bruce Way. Continuing damage from cattle to some parts of the trail remained a concern.
- The Paths Group were reviewing paths across Portmoak and would prepare a priority list of those for further development.

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Closure of Levensen Nursing Home, Glenlond

The recent announcement that the nursing home with 68 care beds would close by 16 January came as a surprise. There would be an immediate effect on residents who were currently being re-homed and on the staff - around 100 - who travel from across Kinross and Fife and who would be made redundant. The loss of this facility at a time when community care is increasingly required should be considered. There will be an immediate impact on the community of 44 homes at Glenlond. The infrastructure of roads, ground maintenance and sewage is maintained by the resident group at Glenlond to which the Nursing Home make a significant contribution - approximately one fifth. Loss of that contribution would cause difficulty.



Levensen Nursing Home

As it appears that the current owner intends to dispose of the Home as soon as is practicable, there were a number of matters which were of immediate concern to the residents and the wider community: what is the future of the home (is it likely to continue as a nursing home?); and although the building will have 24 hour security from closure until disposal, there is a risk that it will lie abandoned for some time with no care and maintenance provision. What too are the implications were it to be sold for development other than as a nursing home?

The Glenlond Residents Association will meet with the owners shortly and there is an intention to hold a public meeting with the owners on Monday 15 December. The CC will write to interested parties to make them aware of the developing situation at Glenlond.

PKC Consultation on Management of Temporary Gypsy Traveller Encampments

The CC received this document for consultation. It recognised it as a comprehensive, practical and useful guide for managing these particular circumstances. It did not wish to comment.

Ward Councillor Reports

Cllr Cuthbert: Work was proceeding to establish new arrangements to better link Health with Local Authority services. The potential local impact of child sexual abuse was being reviewed.

Cllr Barnacle: Progress with developing the new Landscape supplementary guidance was slow and wider consultation may not now happen before the spring. He sought and secured the support of the CC for a pan-Kinross meeting of community councils.

Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor

A representative of the Portmoak Moss local committee explained that, although extensive renovation work had recently been completed, the intention was now to develop a new Management Plan for the Moss. There would be an opportunity to see what is proposed and to contribute to it at an open **drop-in session on Friday 5 December** between 6pm and 8pm at the Well Inn in Scotlandwell. All are welcome.

Christmas trees will be available at the Moss on **Sunday 14 December**. These are free but a donation would be appreciated.

Other Competent Business

Commissioning Superfast Broadband: This programme led by Digital Scotland and BT had meant that fibre-optic cables now follow the A911 throughout its length as it crosses Portmoak. Houses connected to "cabinets" in Kinnesswood were now able to access the service. It was unclear when and if the rest of Portmoak would be connected.

Kinnesswood Post Box: This long saga may be coming to an end as Royal Mail has informed the CC that a request for installation has now "gone out to a contractor" to carry out.

The Next Meeting of Portmoak CC will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at Portmoak Primary School.

Portmoak CC minutes are posted on the website
www.portmoak.org

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Fossoway & District CC

News from the November Meeting

In attendance at the meeting held on 4 November 2014 were: CCllrs T Duffy (chair), K Borthwick, A Lavery, A Cheape and G Pye; P&K Cllrs M Barnacle and D Cuthbert and 10 members of the public.

Apologies were received from CCllrs S Morrison and R Paterson; P&K Cllrs J Giacopazzi and W Robertson.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Police report: Yet again no Community Police officer was present, and neither was a Police report received, both of which are causing considerable concern to this CC and local Councillors.

Matters arising

Criminal Justice Unpaid Work Team: No response as yet from Cambo Village Hall to request for work proposals; Kevin reports that Crook of Devon Village Hall has asked for further details of what work could be done; they have been put in touch with the organiser directly.

Rumbling Bridge Hydro Scheme: Kevin passed on report from Hugh Wallace that the remaining landowner has still to give consent – an alternative route is being considered with a further meeting on 19 November to discuss. There is concern amongst residents of Station Road about the new route of the pipeline, although experience of other schemes is that underground pipelines do not create noise problems. Once a new route is decided on, then an amended planning application will be submitted. A tour of comparable schemes in the Dunkeld area will be arranged on 15 November; any interested parties are welcome to attend. A presentation to all members of the public will be held on 3 December to provide general project updates and to introduce the funding partner Energy 4 All.

Blairingone War Memorial: Cllr Barnacle reports that the PKC Tree Officer has inspected the site and decided that three trees should be felled to avoid any potential damage to the new wall.

Crook Moss Travellers' site: PKC's Enforcement officer (Eddie Jordan) has sent a summary of the current position (as of 26 September) with respect to the planning conditions at this site: very few, if any, have actually been complied with. Councillors are pressing the PKC Officers for resolution but with no success as yet. A member of the public suggested that the original planning application should now be returned to the DMC. The Councillors will also raise the issue with MSPs and MEPs. The CC will contact SEPA to find out the progress of the licence

application. Additionally, Nick Brian will be invited to a future meeting of this CC to explain why these conditions are not being enforced.

Glenquey Quarry: The applications (10/02181/FLM and 10/02182/FLL) are finally on the agenda for the 19 November DMC meeting.

Blairingone Community Workshop: We're still awaiting PKC's strategic plan.

Lambhill Chipping plant: Cllr Barnacle reports that he is still waiting for the meeting with Nick Brian and local representatives, but Mr Brian has at last said he will send possible dates.

Crook Moss community acquisition: No further action until position is clarified with landowner regarding future developments in this area; consequently this item will be dropped from the agenda for the time being.

Landscape areas in Kinross-shire: When this consultation document has been reviewed, hopefully towards the end of November, this CC will be able to comment.

A977 defects: Cllr Barnacle has been in conversation with Jim Valentine about this problem. Some of the problems have been laid at the door of Scottish Water.

Alternative views are held by Councillors about how to address the overall problem of traffic on the A977, especially heavy vehicles; however all Councillors continue to press the Council to implement a long-term solution, whether that consists of by-passes, traffic slowing measures or ways to encourage heavy traffic to follow more suitable routes. Possible short-term solutions could be the imposition of 20mph speed limits through the villages and/or speed cameras showing current speed. The CC could apply for finance to provide such cameras themselves.

Waulkmill Play Area: Is currently being refurbished; work continues. Next to the play area is a container holding football equipment which is no longer being used. Cllr Barnacle has arranged for the equipment to be moved elsewhere and for removal of the container. Once the play area is complete there may be an opportunity to create new parking for the Church.

New Business

Strathearn Forum of Community Councils: This forum has sent a strongly worded letter to Bernadette Malone raising concerns about administrative and strategic matters, most of which sound very familiar to this CC. A response is currently being prepared by the Chief Executive. Perhaps a meeting of the Kinross CCs should be held to share common concerns.

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Youth Crime Survey: A survey has been received on this topic from Strathclyde University, asking the community for response – it was completed at this meeting.

Community Council Business

Graham attended the exhibition about a proposed extension to the Green Knowes wind farm. The plan is to add a maximum of ten further turbines of up to 111m in height to the current 18 at the site. The turbines are likely to be located to the north-east of the existing site at Sim's Hill, Green Law and Rowantree Craig. The machines can be delivered to the site via the A9 and A823, finally using the existing access road. However a new control building and grid connection will need to be constructed. Currently this CC does not receive any of the Community benefit from the Green Knowes site; however there may be an opportunity for that to be addressed if this application is approved.

Councillors' reports

Cllr Cuthbert: Is concerned about how rarely the Police attend this meeting. Further, the detection rates for crimes in this area have dropped, it would seem that the Police now focus on major crimes and the sort of crimes occurring in rural areas are receiving less attention. The Police will be holding a meeting on 26 November to seek input from communities.

Cllr Barnacle: Nothing to report other than items previously discussed.

Planning Matters

Alistair responded to the Scottish Government's scoping request for the proposed North Hill wind farm, and mentioned transport, landscape, bio-diversity, and other matters.

Alastair reported on the progress of the complaints raised by Kinross-shire Civic Trust about the handling of the planning application for the old Kinross High School site. Several of the points have been defined as questions rather than complaints, one or two items have been upheld, but with no indication that any changes will take place.

14/01808/FLL Alterations and extensions to dwelling house Courtyard Cottage, Tullibole Mill Farm, Crook of Devon. New porch and room extension to existing building. No CC comment.

Correspondence: All the correspondence was available for viewing:

Other Competent Business

Verge cutting on A977 has involved what can only be described as mutilation of trees and shrubs. It is still policy to only cut verges a distance from the road to encourage bio-diversity. Additionally it is often difficult to ascertain ownership of land adjacent to roads, and it is the landowner's responsibility to trim their own trees. Cllr Barnacle has enquired about this and been told by Paul Summers that the current activity is a once every ten years cut in order to comply with Road Traffic legislation. Further, a separate contractor will be deployed to tidy up all the debris produced.

Overhanging trees outside the Moubray Hall are causing problems with gutters, etc. Do PKC own the trees? Cllr Cuthbert will look into this.

Draft Agenda for Next CC Meeting

- Welcome and apologies
- Declarations of Interest
- Community Policing
- Minutes of last meeting
- Matters arising: Unpaid Work Team, Hydro Scheme, Crook Moss Travellers' Site, Glenquey Quarry, Blairingone Community Workshop, Lambhill Chipping Plant, Landscape Areas in Kinross-shire, A977 Defects, Waulkmill Play Area.
- Community Councillors - Meetings Attended
- PKC Councillors' Reports
- Planning
- Correspondence
- AOCB

The Next Meeting of Fossoway and District CC will take place on Tuesday 2 December at 7.30pm in Fossoway Primary School, Crook of Devon. All Welcome.

Fossoway & District CC minutes are posted on the website
www.fossoway.org



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Cleish and Blairadam CC

Cleish and Blairadam CC meets every second month.

The next meeting is on Monday 1 December 2014 at 7.30pm in the Tabernacle Hall.

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Club & Community Group News

Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme



KVG&ROS held a Tombola and Lucky Dip at Dobbies on 25 October and raised £197.20. We also received donations of £45 from clients and drivers. We are holding another Tombola event at Dobbies on **Saturday 13 December** from 11am to 3pm. We also received £30 from the collecting tins.

A commemorative tree planting took place on 10 November in the grounds of the Loch Leven Health Centre to replace the original KVG&ROS silver birch, which can still be seen across the road at the former Health Centre.

The original tree had been planted by Mrs Chris Renton, founder member of the Group and the convenor for many years, to mark her retirement as town co-ordinator. A tree was selected because, during the Second World War, Mrs Renton was a Lumber Jill.



Left to right: Ken Paterson (KVG&ROS Chair), Ann Munro (KVG&ROS Co-ordinator), Lesley Nelson, Amanda James (Dobbies Community Champion) and Jane MacNaughton (Health Centre Manager).

Dobbies kindly donated the new tree and stake and Jane Macnaughton from the Health Centre arranged for the preparation of the site in the visitors car park.

The new tree was planted by Lesley Nelson, the late Mrs Renton's daughter.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support and donations to us during the last year:

- Dobbies, as their chosen charity; in particular very many thanks to Amanda for all her help.
- Bank of Scotland for their Community Fund Award of £3000. We would also like to thank everyone who voted for us.
- Kinross Newsletter (Kinross Community Council) for their financial support enabling us to purchase a new computer system for our co-ordinator.

Kinross Rotary Club for their recent donation of £300.

Christmas holidays: we shall be closed from the evening of 24 December and will reopen on Monday 5 January.

Annual Burns Supper: See notices, page 95.



Planting the original tree in summer 1995. L to R: Ann Munro, George Palmer (Vice Chairman), Nora Elliot (Chair), Chris Renton and Anna Ferrie (Treasurer).

Kinross Garden Group



Mr John Porter, Chairman, welcomed all members and friends to the November meeting and introduced Mr George Anderson MBE who spoke about "Both Sides of the Camera at Beechgrove Garden". The talk and slides were enjoyed by all.

The December meeting is on **Thursday 11 December** when **Mr Ken Cox** of **Glendoick Gardens** will join us and his title is **A Tour of Scotland's Best Gardens and Nurseries**. Payment will be taken for the January Lunch, which is on Thursday 15 January at Windlestrae Hotel, meeting at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm.

For more details contact Mrs C Rodger, 01577 863785.

Need Equipment for a Community Event?

Marquees, Gazebos, Chairs, Tables and more available to hire (or sometimes borrow).

Items are listed on www.kinross.cc at:

www.kinross.cc/equipment_hire/equipment.htm

If your community group has items it would be prepared to lend or hire out, please add them to the list.

1st and 2nd Orwell Guides

Our Guides have been hard at work this term, working on their Fitness badge, followed strangely, but not surprisingly, by the Chocolate badge. Girls carried out various activities at the hall to complete their Fitness badge. The Chocolate badge was definitely more enjoyable for most and started with a visit from Laura's Chocolates (Cowdenbeath), who gave the girls a brief history of chocolate, followed by a mini workshop. The girls have also had the opportunity to read information and report back to the unit some facts on the history of chocolate, followed by a taster night. This included milk, white and dark chocolate, Fairtrade and a few flavoured chocolates.

We have also had a Body Shop fundraiser and contributed 42 boxes to the Rotary Shoebox Appeal. Sincere thanks to all girls and parents who helped make these a success.



Kinross-shire 50 Plus Club



The next Club meeting is on **Thursday 4 December** when the speaker will be Professor David Munro who will give a talk entitled "Journeys on the Colder Side".

The January meeting will be held on **8 January** when Val Oswald will present a seated "Keep Fit" programme. Please remember to pay the balance of the holiday cost at this meeting!!

At the November meeting the fashion show was very well received, especially the orange haired flapper!

Away Day December 2014

11 December Museum of Childhood, Edinburgh. The coach leaves from opposite the Green Hotel at 0915 hours unless otherwise stated. Regrettably no advance bookings for trips can be accepted prior to the monthly meeting. Contact: Mary Muirhead on 01577 863564.

Holiday 2014

The holiday to Snowdonia is to the Victoria Hotel, Llanberis. There are still a few twin rooms available at a cost of £270 per person. The deposit of £30 is payable when booking, with the balance due at the January meeting.

Cheques should be made payable to Kinross 50 Plus Club. Contact Jean Beveridge on 01577 862655.

Friday Walkers

5 December Following Perth Mill Lade.

19 December Our usual end of the year walk from Deep Sea World to St David's Bay, and back again.

16 January Culross to Preston Island and back in time to have soup and sandwiches at the Red Lion.

30 January Gleneagles to Blackford and back.

Contact: Ian Simpson 01577 863691.

Friday Hill Walkers

12 December Christmas Walk Bill 0900

9 January Touch Hill Richard 0900

23 January Water of Leith Bill 0900

Activities

The following activities are open to all members of the Club.

Carpet Bowling: This group meets each Monday at 2pm in the Millbridge Hall. Contact: Helen Duncan 01577 863638.

Craft Group: This group meets each Wednesday at 2pm until 3pm in the Millbridge Hall. Contact: Elizabeth Smith 01577 861387.

Fly Tyers: This group finishes on Monday 15 December 2014. The class will re-commence on Monday 5 January 2015. New members are welcome. Contact: Ian Campbell 01577 830582.

Keep-Fit: This group meets each Tuesday at 2pm in the Masonic Hall. Contact Val Oswald 01577 864020.

The Line Dancers: The Dancers swing and sway every Tuesday and Friday at 10.30am in the Millbridge Hall. Contact: Betty Fergus 01577 866961.

L.U.S.T. The slimmers meet each Thursday, 9.30am to 10.30am in the Millbridge Hall. Contact: Norma Anderson 01577 863548.

Kinross & Ochil Walking Group

(Affiliated to Ramblers Scotland)

Days are short now but here's your chance to make up for any extra eating, drinking and lounging in front of the TV. Come out and explore new places, improve your fitness and meet people. Whether you're new or returning to walking or a regular walker, try out a walk or two to see if you'd like to join us. You will be made very welcome.

Saturday 6 December: Introduction to the Kelpies: 5 miles. Pleasant winter walk to see the new Kelpies Park, followed by a linear walk along the canal to Beefeater Bistro in Falkirk. Return by the same route.

Sunday 4 January: Muirscot & Gartmorn: 6 miles.

Gentle walk to ease us into the New Year. From Muirscot Farm Shop, down to Gartmorn Dam area and a flat walk on good paths. Back to Farm Shop for lunch.

Saturday 17 January: Perth to Stanley: 7 miles.

An easy walk along the Tay from Perth to Stanley, returning to Perth by service bus. Short section of road walking; minimal ascent.

In case it turns cold and wet, you do need appropriate clothing, including boots and waterproofs. Bring water and a packed lunch/warm drink too.

For further details and where to meet us, please call our Group Secretary Jacqui Ritchie on 01577 866813.

Kinross & Ochil Short Walks Group

(Affiliated to Ramblers Scotland)

Our fortnightly short walks on a **Tuesday morning** will continue throughout the winter, weather permitting. The walks are usually a maximum of 4 miles, 1½ - 2 hours, followed by a refreshment stop. These walks are aimed at people who are new to walking, would like to extend their walk from a health walk or who would simply like an opportunity to keep fit and enjoy some good company. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to try walking with us. Come and try a couple of walks and, if you enjoy them and would like to continue walking, we would ask you to join Kinross & Ochil Ramblers.

We meet in Kinross or you can go straight to the walk start points given below. We operate car-sharing but it is not essential to have a car.

Give it a go! Enjoy good company and some great walks. Just turn up on the day – you will be very welcome.

Tuesday 2 December: Loch Leven Heritage Trail. Loch Leven's Larder to Vane Farm (linear walk with return by car). Meet 10am at old Health Centre or 10.15am in Loch Leven's Larder car park.

Tuesday 16 December: Christmas Walk, Kinross to Loch Leven's Larder. Lunch then walk back. Meet 10am at old Health Centre.

Tuesday 13 January: Abernethy Glen. Meet 10am at old Health Centre or 10.30am at Abernethy Market Cross.

Tuesday 27 January: Dunfermline & Pittencrieff Park. Meet at bus stop outside Kinross Community School to catch 09.34 bus or 09.41 bus at Kinross Park & Ride.

For more information, please contact Edna Burnett on 01577 862977, via ednaburnett@fmail.net or mobile: 07946725074 (on morning of walks only).

Community Website

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



Kinross and District Art Club



The club has enjoyed an excellent year in 2014, with eight new members joining, making our overall membership just over 60. Our annual exhibition in September was very successful, attracting over 300 visitors and with healthy sales of paintings and crafts and many appreciative and complimentary comments made about our work.

The standard of work produced at the club continues to improve and impress, as members develop their skills through helping each other, by watching DVDs on painting techniques and by the demonstrations we have had from top artists in the area, each bringing their own distinctive style. During the year we have enjoyed interactive sessions provided by visiting artists Allan Perera-Liyanage, Janet Melrose, Claire Yarrington, Catriona Wallbutton and Dina Campbell, all of whom have websites where you can check out their work.



A demonstration by Catriona Wallbutton

Our resident Professional Adviser, Tom Sutton-Smith has given demonstrations as well as weekly individual tuition and support. Tom has also given demonstrations to the Perthshire Art Association and the Stirling Art Club this year. And Club Member David Cochrane held a very popular workshop on painting in sepia. In the spring we had an outing to the J D Fergusson Exhibition in Edinburgh and in the summer we had three outdoor painting sessions in inspiring nearby locations, organised by John Tydeman and producing some delightful new work for the exhibition.

KADAC provides a supportive learning environment for beginners, as well as for those aspiring to be exhibiting artists. Tom's work sells in galleries in Edinburgh and Fife and this year our Chairman Doug Hague and Membership Secretary Sybil Galbraith were both successful in selling their work at the prestigious Dunkeld Exhibition. If you are at all interested in painting, whatever the medium or style, you will find that KADAC is the place to share your interest with likeminded people!

You can learn more about us on our website at www.kadac.co.uk and if you are interested in joining, call Glenys on 07702 572664.

Club Correspondents

If sending your submission by **Email**, please put the name of your community group in the **Subject Line** of the Email message. Thank you.

Kinross and District Town Twinning Association



Summer 2015 sees the 40th Anniversary of our twinning links with Gacé in Normandy and to celebrate this occasion there will be a special week-long visit to our French twin town.

The open public meeting held in the Community Campus on Thursday 30 October saw two new families join in with existing members. The only costs involved for the visit will be the travel costs, as families will be hosted by a French family for the visit. It is also hoped that Liz Grant, Provost of Perth & Kinross Council can also make the journey for this special anniversary visit, meeting up with the 'Provost' of Gacé.

The 40th anniversary twinning visit is open to anyone and there are still spaces available for other Kinross-shire families (or individuals) to travel. It is hoped to have representation from the local organisations which were involved in the initial twinning visits (Kinross CC, Round Table, Rotary, Otters Swimming Club, BB, Scouts, Guides, Pipe Band, Kinross High School, Football Club and local churches).

The trip is planned to leave Kinross on the weekend of 11/12 July, traveling by coach to Hull for the overnight ferry crossing to Zeebrugge. Arrival in Gacé will be in good time for the national Bastille Day celebrations on 14 July. Other visits will be planned throughout the week, including Paris. We will leave Gacé on the morning of 20 July, driving to Zeebrugge. Arrival time back in Kinross is estimated to be around 4pm on Tuesday 21 July.

The annual general meeting of the association was held at the community campus on 18 November. Read all about it in the next Newsletter.



Lomond Antiques and Collectors Club



It was Members' Night at the club on 12 November and our volunteers were to talk for 10 minutes on something they treasured or was of particular interest.

We were not disappointed. The contributions were wide ranging: much treasured letters, a Jade golf trophy, a collection of Odes written by the speaker which gave an entertaining picture of life at work.

We saw a collection of 'half dolls' so common in the 20s, 30s and 40s gracing knitted tea cosies and pincushions and now destined for seven lucky grand daughters.

We examined rare stamps from Ceylon, a pretty Yardley soap stand, elegant Georgian sugar tongs and an unusual silver napkin ring and marvelled at the diversity of our interests.

I think we showed that the spirit of collecting is still very alive and we thank those who showed us their particular memories and treasures.

The Christmas lunch is on Sunday 7 December; information from Elsa.

The club welcomes new members. All queries to 01592 840437 or 01592 840368.

Kinross in Bloom



Another blooming year draws to a close, and us old bloomers are hibernating for a couple of months. It has been a good year again, and the flowers looked good right to the end of the season, thanks once again to the efforts of our volunteer waterers; we really do appreciate your time and effort. Due to the regeneration of the High Street, commencing in the spring, we have to remove the half barrels at various locations there, so no planting of pansies etc. However, once the work has been completed, we hope to continue our good work with new containers and planters.

Meanwhile the winners of our 200 club draw for November are as follows:

- | | | |
|----|--------|-------------------------|
| 1. | No. 82 | Mrs J Whyte |
| 2. | No. 44 | Elizabeth McBain |
| 3. | No. 39 | Ruth MacCalman |
| 4. | No. 9 | Andrew and Edna Burnett |

And for December:

- | | | |
|----|--------|-----------------|
| 1. | No. 78 | Cath Watson |
| 2. | No. 2 | Margaret Archer |
| 3. | No. 18 | Tom Duncan |
| 4. | No. 29 | Ian Hayles |

To all our supporters, may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a pleasant and joyful New Year.

Kinross-shire Day Centre

As winter begins to make itself felt, our activities have been indoors this month.

We are once more grateful to Ian Grinley for entertaining us on the piano and also to 'Party Animals' who returned with their snakes, spiders and birds of prey. Our service users are always game to hold an exotic animal and enjoyed the informative talk as well.

In mid-November, we took a full minibus to visit the Royal Yacht Britannia and everyone really enjoyed seeing over that beautiful and historic boat. We will almost certainly be called upon to repeat that trip for others next year.

We would like to say thank you to Loch Leven Community Campus who entertained us to a tea dance as part of their Celebrating Age Day. The day also gave us a chance to advertise our services to the wider public.

October would not be complete, of course, without a chance to let our hair down and make fools of ourselves at our Halloween party. Thank you to the in-house staff for organising that fun afternoon.

May we also take this opportunity to say a Great Big Thank You to all the groups and individuals who have given their support in so many different ways to the Day Centre throughout the year. We can't thank everyone individually as there are far too many to mention, but a special thanks must be given to our committee and all our wonderful volunteers.

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

If you would like to be involved with the Day Centre, as a service user, a volunteer or as a supporter, speak to Nan Cook on 01577 863869.

Portmoak Hall 100 Club

October Draw

- | | | |
|-----|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1st | No.65 | Ian Dandie, Kinnesswood |
| 2nd | No. 85 | Richard Green, Easter Balgedie |
| 3rd | No. 81 | Donald Shirratt, Kinnesswood |

Common Grounds



At a time when the news seemed to be highlighting the worst of human nature, it was inspiring to hear how there are people willing to give so much in time and effort, transforming the lives of those they are helping. Fiona Freeland, our excellent speaker at our Project Lunch in September, explained the role of the charity "Fighting Blindness in Ethiopia". A packed house, with welcome new faces, was very appreciative and generously raised the sum of £308.50. Thanks to our able speaker and as always, to our loyal volunteers and friends who provided such a tempting lunch, all home-made. If you haven't attended a Project Lunch, do come along and see what you've been missing!

During December our Christmas raffle will get underway so do remember to get your tickets! It will be drawn on Wednesday 24 December at 12 noon. All volunteers and friends are welcome to join in the festive fun. Apart from 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January, our doors will be open as usual to offer a cheery escape from the tinsel and jingles! Finally, a very warm Merry Christmas for all readers from Common Grounds. To the volunteers and our supporters, thank you for your hard work and commitment throughout 2014 – have a special Christmas and New Year. You all deserve it!

Project: Our project for October, the first of our new financial year, was an old favourite emergency relief charity, Médecins Sans Frontières, which was unanimously voted for by the Volunteers at the October meeting. MSF are probably the biggest and most well known medical emergency charity currently dealing with the Ebola outbreak crisis in West Africa. As they say on their website "Medical aid where it is needed most. Independent. Neutral. Impartial". Our next African project will be chosen at the Volunteers' meeting on 19 November, so details of that in the next issue of the newsletter.

Annual General Meeting: Our AGM will have taken place after the newsletter deadline so we will put details of committee members in the first issue of the Newsletter in 2015.

Donate to Common Grounds on MyDonate.Com and find out more on our **new** website (see end).

Our opening hours are still 10am – 1pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the Guide and Scout Hall, Church Street, Milnathort.

Contacts outside of opening hours are: Elspeth Caldwell (Convener) 01577 863350 and Linda Freeman (Secretary) 01577 865045.

www.commongroundscape.wordpress.com

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Dobbies Community Champion

We are all looking forward to Christmas now, with **Santa in his grotto** at weekends; bookings can be made in store or online at www.dobbies.com



Santa arriving at Dobbies on 16 November

Our fundraising efforts for **Together for Short Lives** are continuing with **guess the weight of the Christmas cake**, which will finish on 15 December.

The **Little Seedlings** meeting on **7 December** at 11am will be all about snow, with a little party, and we will have a visit from a special Christmas person with gifts! Please phone the store to book a place if you are a new member.

The January meeting on **4 January** will be about tea, coffee and chocolate, which all come from plants. February's is on **1 February**, about exotic tropical fruits.

In November we donated a young **silver birch tree** to **KVG&ROS**, who have been our local charity this year, and they have raised **nearly £900** since March. The tree was planted at the Health Centre. (See page 45.)

I have also made a donation of plants, gardening items and bird feeders to **Seamab School** at Rumbling Bridge, where they are planning to make a new garden area, protected from the local deer!

We have also had **visits into the store** from **Rosemount Nursery** and a **Kinross Primary 5/6 class**, and are also planning some small groups from Seamab. They have toured the store, and learned about planting bulbs and seeds, and about growing broad beans, and other healthy vegetables. If your school group would like to arrange a visit in the New Year, please contact Amanda James.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New year,

Amanda James, Community Champion
Email: community.kinross@dobbies.com
Telephone: 01577 863327

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SSAFA – Perth & Kinross Branch

We are the local branch of SSAFA – the national charity, which for 125+ years has been helping serving and ex-service men and women, and their families, in need. Eligibility is based on only one day's paid service.

Where are we?

Your local branch covers all the Perth and Kinross area, with a small office in Perth and a network of around 20 trained volunteers in the area, to look into cases with understanding and sensitivity.

What we do

We take action whenever there is hardship, or need. Our help and advice is totally confidential, and we help all ages. We work closely with other agencies and service charities, and help can vary hugely.

Contact

SSAFA, Queen's Barracks, 131 Dunkeld Road,
Perth, PH1 5BT
Telephone: 01738 625346
Email: perth@ssafa.org.uk

Scotlandwell in Bloom

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal 2014

Scotlandwell in Bloom held a 'wrap and fill a shoebox' evening in support of the Blythwood Shoebox Appeal on Monday 13 October in the Well Country Inn.

We would like to thank everyone who donated towards the Shoebox Appeal and to those who came along and gave of their time to help wrap and fill the shoeboxes. It was a fantastic turnout, and we are very grateful to Ronnie and Tanya for hosting the event and for the delicious mulled wine and mince pies provided – it was very much appreciated by all.

We wrapped and filled forty-one shoeboxes!

The shoeboxes, plus a donation towards fuel costs were handed over to the driver of the Blythwood lorry on Tuesday 21 October when the lorry made its regular visit to Kinross.

Well done, everyone.



Kinross & District Inner Wheel

In October the Inner Wheel welcomed Rotary President Eric Williamson, who gave a refreshing and committed talk on the aims of Rotary for this year, the current theme being "Light up Rotary." With the help of a short film he highlighted what Rotary achieves internationally in many different ways.

At the November meeting our guest was Joyce Leslie, from Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, which is based at Scone Airport - one of three in Scotland. It is totally supported by charity and in the past 18 months since it began has been called out over 400 times, showing how necessary and worthwhile a cause it is.

An appreciative vote of thanks was given by Doreen Blanche.



Kinnesswood in Bloom

Work continues into the winter months to do all the clearing up jobs; raking and sweeping leaves, splitting plants and final weeding of the year. The Saturday before Remembrance Sunday was spent tidying up the area round the War Memorial and Lavender Walk. It looked very neat and tidy when people assembled there. Pat and John laid a lovely wreath created and donated by Morag Hogg. This year Morag included sprigs of rosemary in the wreath, the traditional meaning of this plant being "remembrance".



A work party at the War Memorial

The Willow Golfer is to be moved up to the school to stand beside the willow tunnel. The school grounds group started recently and will be looking at what can be done during the winter months. Meanwhile the school area is part of the regular work parties and it is hoped to plant more bulbs soon.

Lavender has been gathered from Lavender Walk and made into lavender bags. These have been sold for Mary's Meals. Several of the mini golfers have been sold and some have been set aside to welcome the Open at St Andrews next year. Meanwhile there have been requests to buy some of the golf bugs and beasts. If John has time to make them we may have a few more robins for sale in time for Christmas.

The **Christmas tree** will be set up at the Picture Garden on **Saturday 13 December**. Please join us for mince pies and mulled wine (around 10am). We wish all the residents of Kinnesswood and district a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

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Recipe

supplied by Kinnesswood in Bloom

Potatoes, Spinach and Chickpeas

This is a winter warmer when fresh vegetables may be in short supply.

Ingredients

- 1 small onion
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- ¼ teaspoon turmeric
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 500 g potatoes, peeled and diced
- 250 g tender spinach leaves, washed
- 1 dried red chilli, crumbled
- 425 g can of chickpeas, drained and rinsed, or dried and cooked chickpeas

Method

Fry the onion in the oil until it begins to soften, then add the cumin seeds, garlic and turmeric. Fry for a further 2-3 minutes. Add the potatoes, spinach, chilli and salt to taste. Stir well, then cover and cook gently for 7-8 minutes until potatoes are tender. Stir often to prevent sticking. Finally, add the strained chickpeas and cook gently until heated through. Serve with warm naan bread, plain yogurt with fresh coriander, sliced tomatoes and mango chutney.

Kinross Museum



The Trustees of Kinross Museum were thrilled to learn that the Museum's *Memory Bank* project had received an award from the Bank of Scotland Community Fund. Many thanks to all who supported Kinross Museum in the Public vote during September-October.

The Museum has been collaborating with the Loch Leven Community Library in a series of events which in November included a special Remembrance exhibition and talk entitled "Lest we forget: reflections of the Great War". In the two months ahead we look forward to welcoming visitors at the **Christmas Craft Fair on 6 December** and the Friends of Loch Leven Community Library **Family Fun Activities on 24 January**.

The Museum is looking after a number of items on loan that were included in former exhibitions. If you have still to collect material lent to us, please drop by and pick it up on a Thursday or Saturday when volunteers are present in the Museum Study Room.

If you would like to support the Museum by becoming a Friend of Kinross Museum, please drop by and find out more about our local heritage activities.

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Loch Leven Community Campus

Muir, Kinross, KY13 8FQ

Website: kinross.myallocator.com

www.facebook.com/lochlevencommunitycampusevents

Tel: 01577 867200 Email: lochlevenreception@pkc.gov.uk

Tel: 01577 867119 Email: GMcGregor@pkc.gov.uk

Programme of Events

Fri 5 December: Christmas Stories & Activities. See Library news on page 20.

Sat 6 December: Campus Christmas Festival and Craft Fair. Free public admission from 10am to 3pm, with over 50 craft stalls selling Local Handmade Gifts including Glassware, Woodcrafts, Cards, Candles, Jewellery, Ceramics, Handbags, Artwork, Prints, Felt-work, Soaps, Clothing and Textiles, Natural Skincare Products, Christmas Decorations, Stocking Fillers and Knitted Goods together with craft demonstrations and workshops throughout the day. There will be a Raffle, Children's Craft Activities and Live Active Leisure Kids' Fun and Games, Children's Cartoon & Film Screenings, Children's Crafts and Christmas Collection in the Museum. Refreshments Available. So come along and browse the many stalls, pick up a unique handmade gift or treat yourself, all whilst supporting your local community.

Sat 13 December: Antiques and Collectors Fair. There will be buying, selling and valuations given. Admission will be from 9.30am to 4pm with entry fee of £1 per person. For exhibitors booking, contact Angus on 07944 416565.

Sun 14 December: Inter-Church and Community Service. This will be a community celebration of Christmas with songs, carols, readings and drama from 3pm. Doors open at 2.30pm.

Sat 17 January: Antiques, Vintage, Retro and Collectors Fair. There will be buying, selling and valuations given. Admission 9.30am to 4pm. Entry fee £1 per person. For exhibitors booking, contact Angus on 07944 416565. Stalls are £15 and will now include Vintage and Retro Stalls.

For more details on any of the above events please see our Facebook Page or go to our website (see header). Both are a great way to get the latest updates on all that is going on at the campus.

Festive period opening arrangements: see page 111.

There will be a full **Programme of Events** published in the next Newsletter. Events will include Craft Fairs, Indoor Table Top Sales, Antiques, Vintage, Retro & Collectors Fairs, Cycling, Brass Band & Pipe Band Competitions, Sports and Music Events and KLEO Events. If you would like to see anything in particular or have an idea for an event, then please contact Gerry McGregor to discuss options. We are also looking at holding a series of one-day workshops together with evening classes in a variety of Craft Activities in the New Year. If there is any craft you would especially like to see or you would like to hold a workshop or evening class, then please contact Gerry with your suggestions.

Appeal for Help! I am looking for any volunteers in 2015 willing to put a poster up in their village shop or on their Community or Group Noticeboard when we hold events here at the campus. Although I try to get to as many places as I can, it is not always possible to cover everywhere when there are a number of things events happening close together. If anyone would like to help, then please get in touch with me on the contact details above – it would be much appreciated. Thanks – Gerry.

Kinross Ladies Circle

Email: kinrossladiescircle@gmail.com

Website: www.ladiescircle.co.uk/kinross

www.facebook.com/kinrossladiescircle



Last month we had a stall at the Swansacre Shopping Night and a stall at the Winter Festival. Maybe you saw us there and we handed you our calendar for next few months?

In December we will be holding a **new members night** at The Kirklands, Kinross on **Thursday 11th**. Why not come along for a free glass of wine some nibbles and chat with us? Drop us an email (see header) to let us know if you wish to join us.

We've also been able to persuade **Santa** and his helpers to fly through **Glenfarg and Duncruevie** on **Tuesday 16 December**. Keep an eye on Facebook for up to date information.

Our diary of events keeps growing, so should anyone want to come along and join us to see what we get up to, then please email us. We're also on Facebook and have a website (see header).

Ladies Circle is open to anyone aged 18-45 who likes to mix fundraising and socialising. We have fun outings including comedy nights, dances, craft making, theatre trips, lots of meals and drinks out.

We continue to help out local organisations and welcome requests for funds.

We're always welcoming new members, so please get in touch.

Portmoak Film Society

Wes Anderson's wacky world of the Grand Budapest Hotel as Portmoak Films' November offering attracted an audience of 30 who rated the film highly enjoyable (80%).

On **Sunday 14 December**, the pre-Christmas film will be the 2011 drama, '**La Source**', the story of a North African village which has no access to fresh water ... until the women decide that it's time to withhold 'conjugal rights' until the men do something about it! The cinematography is gorgeous and indigenous singing enriches the soundtrack.

The first film of the New Year on **Sunday 11 January** will be '**Under the Sun**', the 2014 thriller starring Scarlett Johansson as an extraterrestrial seductress who picks up men and then disposes of them on a journey through Scotland. Not uncontroversial on release, it is adapted from Michel Faber's 2000 novel and famously involves unscripted encounters with real Glaswegians.

Membership cards for the whole season are still available - on the door or from Stuart Mackenzie (01592 840638). Entry on the night costs £5 and films start promptly at 7.30pm. Newcomers are most welcome and light refreshments are served afterwards.

For more info go to: www.portmoakfilmsociety.org.uk

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Portmoak Community Woodlands

Our focus is on Portmoak Moss this month, as we prepare for our popular Christmas tree event and think about the long-term future of the whole wood. In January, as usual, we'll turn our backs on outdoors activity in the woods and look forward to our annual Burns Supper.

We have been restoring the centre of the Moss as a lowland raised peat bog – now a rare habitat in the world. Thanks to funding from Scottish Natural Heritage, we have been able to grind down tree stumps and create truly boggy conditions for plants like the colourful sphagnum moss.

Owners, the Woodland Trust Scotland, have been overseeing the project and volunteers from the local community have saved and now re-seeded the bog with strands of sphagnum. (see picture).



Michael McGinnes of Kinnesswood with a bucket of sphagnum for Portmoak Moss

Our next task is to find a way to make all this restoration work sustainable, so that we end up with a carpet of sphagnum, with its acid greens and glowing reds, as well as plants like bog cotton. Damsel and dragonflies should also return in numbers. What we don't want is birch and pine regeneration, crowding out the delicate bog species. And then there's the rest of Portmoak Moss to think about – the trees, the paths and how we'd like it to look in future.

Woodland Trust Scotland will soon be drawing up their own five-year plan and the Community Woodland Steering Group decided this was a good time to come up with some of our own ideas. With money from the Heritage Lottery

Fund, matched by Scottish Natural Heritage, we've commissioned a strategic management plan and a team of specialists are looking at all aspects of Portmoak Moss.

Please join us on **Friday 5 December** at **The Well Country Inn, Scotlandwell**, for a **drop-in session**, starting at 6pm. This is everyone's opportunity to express views on the future of the Moss and our consultant will be there with maps and various ideas for you to comment on. The event will last for an hour or so and will be very informal.

The Moss is a very special place, in so many ways, for so many people and whilst not wishing to lose any of that we also want to explore the potential to create a much more diverse set of habitats and continue to restore the function of the moss as a carbon store and flood control mechanism.

Part of the restoration work has been the removal of conifers round the edge of the Moss and in the past many local people have helped by taking them away for use as Christmas trees. We've almost cleared the original Christmas tree area but have found other suitable sites. So, please come along on **Sunday 14 December**, 11am – 1pm for another **Christmas tree and mulled wine morning**. There are no fixed prices but your donations are welcome. Choose a tree, we'll cut it down and you take it away. Please come to the main entrance, by Scotlandwell, and wear stout boots!

Finally, something to look forward to after the festive period in the dark days of January. Our traditional **Burns Supper** will be on **Saturday 24 January** at 7pm for 7.30pm in Portmoak Village Hall. We've kept the ticket price at £23 and you can get them by contacting Louise and Dave Batchelor on 01592 840233. Tickets will also be on sale at Kinnesswood Shop.

This is the night the community lets its hair down, with entertainment by wonderful musicians, Mike Lithgow and Gerry Marshall, as well as the Portmoak Players, and the world's most eccentric address to the haggis, by Dr Bill Carr. Check out Youtube to see what he did last time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51qFnJ2qU4A>

Kinross Camera Club

www.kinrosscameraclub.org.uk

As we get into the new season we have had two external speakers, Denis Alyshev, whose sphere is 3D photography, and Lindsay Robertson, who specialises in landscapes and horse portraits. We also had an evening when two club members gave talks on their interests, illustrated with photos.

At the beginning of November we had a walk down memory lane when the club celebrated its 30th anniversary. Members had submitted photos they had taken over the last 30 years!

We have had a couple of interclub wins recently. Firstly in the Perthshire Alliance Competition, held between Perth CSSA, Auchterarder, Crieff and Kinross clubs, and secondly in a 3-way competition between Linlithgow, Kirkcaldy and Kinross clubs.

Stewart Niven was the winner of a competition held by SNH to celebrate their 50th anniversary at Loch Leven. His photograph, and several other submitted, will be included in the SNH 2015 calendar.

If you would like more information about the club please visit our website or contact the secretary: sallyroberts100@hotmail.com



Crook of Devon Village Hall

Upcoming Events

We hope you can come along and support our local village hall by coming along to some of these events:

December

12th Christmas wreath making, 9.30am-11.30am with Amanda James from the Potager Garden. Please call 840809 or 840852 to book a place. £15 inc materials.

14th Christmas wreath making, 2pm-4pm. Booking details as above.

19th Family Christmas Disco, 6.30pm-8pm. Family ticket £15; BYOB. Dancing, games and a Special Visitor for the children!

31st Hogmanay Party, 8pm-12.30am. BYOB. Disco and ceilidh music. * **SOLD OUT** *

Tickets for Christmas Family Disco on sale from the Village Shop or a committee member from 1 December. Please check out our website for more details: www.crookofdevonhall.com

Charity No: SC026692



Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

Busy times during Kinross-shire's Winter Festival

We hope you enjoyed the Kinross-shire's Winter Festival with numerous events organised by local community groups and businesses.

One of the events was the Kinross-shire's Got Talent Show on Friday 14 November, which was very successful with 12 excellent and varied acts proving once again what very talented children we have in our community. The overall winner was the band **Longstay** (Malcolm Swan, George Hughes and Callum Campbell), followed by accordionist **Scott Main** in second place. Third prize went to singer/



Scott Main plays his accordion

pianist **Bethany Langton** and the "one to watch" prize went to singer **Holly Notman**. Last year's winner G2 gave a brilliant performance at the end of the evening. Very well done to them and, indeed, to all those taking part! Our fantastic compère of the evening was Fergus McKenzie who kept us entertained during all the act changes.

Iain Hunter did a spectacular and swinging performance with the Eliot Murray Big Band on Saturday 15 November. The evening was very well attended and the audience had a lovely evening being entertained by Iain and band, tapping their feet, singing along or dancing on the dance floor!



Iain Hunter

The Choirs Together evening on Sunday 16 November was a great, varied event with several local choirs performing: St Serf's Singers, Cleish and Fossoway Choir, Hillfoot Harmony, members of Kinross Parish Church and Leven Voices.

By the time you read this article the Eddi Reader Concert, The Messiah in a Day and the Festive Street Market will have been and gone. We hope it will have been successful, enjoyable and not disruptive to traders and residents of The Muirs and the High Street.

There are too many people to thank individually but we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped us out during the events in November and December. An amazing number of people helped us out by distributing flyers and brochures door to

door in Kinross, Milnathort and other surrounding villages, selling raffle tickets and helping with ticket sales at the various venues. A fantastic effort from all of you, so thank you very much for your help! Also a special thanks to the staff of Macbeth Currie estate agent, the Post Office in Milnathort and to the Kinross Newsletter who carried our advertisements and put a mention on the November edition front cover!



Longstay, winners of Kinross-shire's Got Talent

Leven Voices

After the Christmas break, Leven Voices will start up again with a set of 10 weekly sessions in January. Leven Voices is a fun, informal drop-in singing group for anyone. No music reading or singing experience necessary – it is for anyone who just wants to sing and have fun! The first session is on **13 January** with Horsecross tutor Irene Railley, and will be running until 17 March – all at 7.30pm at the Kinross Parish Church. Enrolment fee is £6 (which will be used to pay for the hire of the hall) and £4 a session (concessions £3). Just come along, sing and enjoy!



Loch Leven Diamonds baton twirlers entered the talent competition

All photos by Vincent Johnston

Compassion Corner

Stories that heal

"We can all influence the life force. The tools and strategies of healing are so innate, so much a part of a common human birthright, that we believers in technology pay very little attention to them. But they have lost none of their power. People have been healing each other since the beginning. Long before there were surgeons, psychologists, oncologists, and internists, we were there for each other. The healing of our present woundedness may lie in recognizing and reclaiming the capacity we all have to heal each other, the enormous power in the simplest of human relationships: the strength of a touch, the blessing of forgiveness, the grace of someone else taking you just as you are and finding in you an unsuspected goodness. Everyone alive has suffered. It is the wisdom gained from our wounds and from our own experiences of suffering that makes us able to heal. Becoming an expert has turned out to be less important than remembering and trusting the wholeness in myself and everyone else. Expertise cures, but wounded people can best be healed by other wounded people. Only other wounded people can understand what is needed, for the healing of suffering is compassion, not expertise."

Kitchen Table Wisdom – Stories that Heal
by Rachel Naomi Remen MD

In the spring of this year the Compassion Group enjoyed reading and discussing a number of books, recommended by members, which carried great stories of healing.

We would like to list some of them for you as possible gifts you may like to give, to yourself or to another. We also bring our very good wishes for this festive season and wish you great times of peace, rest and rejuvenation amongst the hustle and bustle.

"The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle

"Awareness" by Anthony de Mello

"Why Kindness is Good for You" by Dr David R Hamilton

"Turning to One another" by Margaret Wheatley

"Loving Kindness" by Sharon Salzberg

Susan Bathgate

Milnathort Town Hall Association

50/50 Draw

October Winners: 1st no 15, Ferrier; 2nd no 7, Marshall; 3rd no 32, Tolson.

November Winners: 1st no 10, Wardell; 2nd no 1, Brown; 3rd no 6, McCalman.

Probus Club

Robin Alexander successfully passed on his enthusiasm for heraldry to members in a talk on 5 November entitled 'The Romance of St Georges Chapel, Windsor'.

St Georges Chapel is the spiritual home of the chivalric body the Order of The Garter, the oldest such order in the UK. The membership of the Order is the prerogative of the Queen and is limited to twenty-four members plus the Queen herself and the Prince of Wales. However, there are some, mainly diplomats of other countries in the Commonwealth, who have been made honorary members of the Order. The members are known as Knight Companions of the Order, which was founded in by Edward the Third in 1348 and was so named when Edward's son married the Maid of Kent whose garter fell down as she was dancing at the marriage ceremony. Edward forestalled any suggestion that the garter was a symbol of witchcraft, which of course was punishable by death.

The chapel itself is part of Windsor Castle, originally established by William the Conqueror and the largest of its kind in Europe, covering thirteen acres. The chapel was constructed over a number of reigns and was one of only two that survived the Reformation.

The chapel is the burial place of monarchs. The Order of the Garter holds their annual parade there. Each Knight Companion has his own Stall with a plate giving his details and with his Coat of Arms displayed. When a knight dies his Coat of Arms and other accoutrements are returned to his family but the plate is kept in the chapel.

Mr Alexander illustrated his talk with pictures of the chapel and pointed out the many beautiful architectural features. The vote of thanks was given by John Pleass.

The Club had an outing to the BBC Glasgow during the month, which proved to be most interesting and was well attended.



1145 DF (Kinross)

Aged 13 (12-S2) – 17? The Air Training Corps would like to offer you the opportunity to fly in a two-seater training aircraft, go gliding, Kayaking, climbing, mountain biking, Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, visit RAF Stations and see aircraft up close, leadership and volunteering. If you think this is for you, come and see at the Drill Hall Swansacre, Kinross on a Monday or Wednesday evening between 7 and 9.30pm.

Alternatively you can contact the OC, Kenny Brown, on 01577 861994 at the times listed above or e-mail oc.1145DF@aircadets.org



Lodge St Serf No 327

Next Regular Meeting

Tuesday 2 December at 7.15pm. Annual General Meeting of Lodge followed by Social Club AGM.

Sunday 7 December Children's Christmas Party, 3pm-5pm. Santa expected to arrive at 4.30pm.

General Committee Meeting Tuesday 9 December at 7:30pm. Arrange work for next Regular Meeting.

Regular Meeting Saturday 20 December at 4pm. Installation of Office Bearers for ensuing twelve months followed by Installation Dinner.



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Rotary Club of Kinross & District



Recent Club speakers have been of the usual high standard, and have covered a variety of interesting and thought provoking topics.

Jo Middlemiss from Kinross now spends the month of February each year in Ethiopia, delivering Medical Aid to women, many of whom have suffered prolapse. During her most recent visit, accompanied by her cousin, Maureen Burnett, she added the role of midwife to her range of talents. Jo's inspirational talk has resulted in the Club investigating ways in which a link could be formed with a Rotary Club in Ethiopia, with the aim of providing assistance for the valuable medical work being carried out.

A large delegation of visiting Rotarians from the Alloa Club was treated to an illustrated presentation of the history of steam railways in Scotland by Mike Birkett. A nostalgic trip down memory lane for many!

Kinross High School sixth year pupil, Jennifer Weir, was the only UK representative in a delegation of sixteen young people representing their local Rotary Clubs in a Rotary Youth Exchange delegation to Finland, and she provided a most interesting illustrated account of her experiences there.



Jennifer Weir presenting Club Vice President Cliff Megginson with a banner from the Finnish Rotary Club which hosted her during her visit

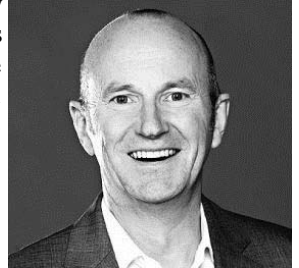
'Give Nature a Home' was the theme of a talk by Miranda Shephard, Community Engagement Officer with the RSPB based at Vane Farm, when she outlined the Loch Leven Futurescope project, which encourages the public to get outdoors and appreciate wildlife.

Two Club members have also been included on the list of speakers. Derek Copeland gave his 'job talk', and described his experiences during his long career in the electronics industry, which took him and his family around the world. Derek's travels were mainly to warmer parts of the globe, but the Club's Kiwi member, Sean Bolton, took us to the coldest of all, with a fascinating illustrated tour of Antarctica where he had carried out a tour of duty during his career as a photographer with the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Recent social events have included a very successful fund raising Race Night held at Orwell Bowling Club, and visits to the Jersey Boys production in Edinburgh and the recently refurbished Kirkcaldy Museum and Art Gallery.

THE BIG DINNER

On **Saturday 7 March 2015**, the Club will join other Rotary Clubs and organisations around the world in hosting **THE BIG DINNER**. The event is the initiative of the Charity '500 Miles', formed by Olivia Giles from Edinburgh, who has been a quadruple amputee since 2002 as a result of meningitis. The Charity supports amputees and others with mobility difficulties in African countries where no specialist support or equipment is currently available. The event consists of hundreds of separate dinners all over the world, some of which will be showcased in a special web-stream broadcast hosted by Fred MacAulay. The Kinross event will be held in the Windlestrae Hotel where, in addition to a big screen link up to this broadcast, there will be local entertainment organised by the Club to ensure a memorable evening for all involved, and tickets will be on sale to the public early in the year. Every dinner will bring new hope to



Fred MacAulay will host two live broadcasts during the Big Dinner

someone who needs an artificial limb or limb support. Joining the dinner in the Windlestrae will ensure that someone in Africa will be able to stand up and walk!

There will be two online broadcasts hosted by Fred MacAulay. Fred will guide viewers through a lively, fast-moving mix of dinner parties, short films about the inspirational work of 500 miles and talking heads – case studies of patients in Africa, dinner party hosts with personal reasons for getting involved and 500 miles staff on the ground. The first broadcast will go out early evening, and the second will show in the late evening.

There will also be celebrity entertainment slots.

These will include a performance with a difference of the Proclaimers' "I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)" – with new lyrics specially written for the **BIG DINNER**.

For more information, visit www.bigdinner.co.uk and www.500miles.co.uk.

Please contact the Club for booking enquiries (details below).

The Club meets at the Windlestrae Hotel each Monday at 6pm for a meal at 6.30pm. For more information, contact Secretary Neil Maclure. Email neil.maclure19@gmail.com

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Kinross-shire Historical Society



On 17 November, the members heard a very interesting talk on 'Kellogg Durland among the Fife Miners' by Hugh Hoffman. Kellogg Durland was an American who came to Kelty in 1901 and worked in the Aitken Mine and also in Kelty Brickworks. He was an early investigative journalist, trying to expose injustice, poor working and poor social conditions by working alongside those about whom he wrote.

In his teens, Durland so impressed the editor of the magazine for which he worked, that the magazine paid for him to go to Harvard as a special student. He then came to Edinburgh University in 1900 and whilst there realised that he did not know about the realities of the lives of miners.

This took him to Kelty in 1901 where he worked for the summer months. Whilst there he had lodgings with four other miners with a family of nine in a three-roomed house. For this he paid 12/- per week to include four meals a day, a 'piece' to take to work and his laundry done by the landlady. He wrote of the things which impressed him, the danger, the darkness, the hard work, the camaraderie, the sharing, the care for others and the community spirit.

Durland wrote a book "Among the Fife Miners" about his time in Kelty, which can still be found.

When he left Scotland in 1901 Durland went to Paris and then back to USA in 1902 during a miners' strike. The President had set up a Commission to look at the issues involved in this dispute. Durland became involved as Press Spokesman for the miners. The Commission granted many of the miners' requests and set up ways to settle future disputes.

Durland worked with the poor in New York, met leading social reformers and investigated child labour in the silk mills of America. Having heard of the poor conditions for immigrant groups coming by ship to America, he went to Italy and came back to America disguised as an Italian immigrant. On reaching Ellis Island he was temporarily refused entry.

He became a popular writer and lecturer. In 1906 he went to Russia. He was horrified that the poor were left to starve and predicted that a revolution would come. The next year he published a book on Russia 'The Red Reign' and he returned to Russia several more times.

In 1908 he married but the marriage did not last long. He sued his wife for divorce for adultery. When he realised that no reconciliation was going to happen, he committed suicide on a train and died in hospital in Boston. There was some doubt at the time as to whether he may have been poisoned.

After several questions from the members, Bill Blair gave the vote of thanks. He thanked Hugh Hoffman for a very interesting talk which described the influence of Kelty miners on the life of Kellogg Durland, a widely travelled man at a time when this was uncommon.

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The Kinross-shire Civic Trust



Helping protect, conserve and provide a better built and natural environment
website: www.kinross-shirecivictrust.org

Woodland Shield awarded

Kinross-shire Civic Trust is pleased to announce the award of its **Woodland Shield**. Inaugurated soon after the Trust's inception in 1991, the competition is open to schemes within the County of Kinross and Glenfarg Parish, to encourage environmental improvement schemes and a diversity of wildlife, including the planting and management of woodland and promoting public access for the benefit of future generations.

There were six entries for the 2014 Award with the winner being **Kilmagad Wood, Scotlandwell**, a community wood established jointly by the Woodland Trust and Portmoak Community Woodland Group.



Louise Batchelor of the Portmoak Community Woodlands Group and Gary Bolton of the Woodland Trust with the shield, and Len Yull, competition judge

The judges commented that "the new wooded area dovetailed into the relic natural woodland and that there were obvious signs of community involvement and useage."

A **Highly Commended Certificate** was presented to **Mr and Mrs Malcolm Curtis** of Easter Glendy, Glenfarg, who, "over a period of some thirty years, have transformed a derelict mill and a rather barren landscape into a small hamlet, sitting comfortably in a sheltered glen with abundant trees and hedges, rich in wildlife."

The judging panel comprised Mr Hamish Lochore of Blervie, Forres and Mr Len Yull, near Glenfarg, who said: "This judging exercise against specific criteria was exciting and exhausting. In every case, the enthusiasm and commitment of the six entrants was inspiring and the selection of the winner was by no means straightforward."

The Chairman of the Kinross-shire Civic Trust Awards Committee and a previous Shield Winner, Patrick Milne Home, added: "It was pleasing to note that the Shield had been won by a community group working in conjunction with the Woodland Trust and that there had been another community-led entry for a section of the Loch Leven Trail." He went on to highlight another entrant that had impressed the judges, **The Muckletoon, near Crook of Devon**, which has developed an open access policy, particularly for horse riders, in a difficult but dramatic situation which provided views from the East to West coasts!

After the presentations there was an opportunity to look at information on the schemes and to discuss these with the participants.

Boys Brigade

It has been a busy time for the Kinross Company with Battalion and National Competitions. Company section members won through to the second round of the BB national badminton, chess, table tennis and masterteam quiz and lost in the first round of the senior five-a-side football. The second round chess match saw the Kinross team lose by one match against the 6/8 Dundee Company winning three, drawing two and losing four. The second round ties for the other competitions will be played between mid-November and December with masterteam at Stirling, badminton and table tennis against two separate Falkirk companies.

All three sections paraded on Armistice Sunday with the Company's enrolment service taking place in the Parish Church the following Sunday.

Anchors and Juniors have been busy with craftwork and physical activities with both sections enjoying their annual Hallowe'en Fun Night. Juniors and Company section members will be competing in the Perth Battalion swimming gala at the end of November hoping to retain the five trophies they won last year.

All three sections along with the officer staff will be attending the Babes in the Wood pantomime at Glenrothes to finish off 2014.

The Company Section volleyball team opened the new season in the Perth District Recreational League by winning the league cup competition.



The BB team members who won the Perth & District Volleyball Recreational League Cup

The Company passes on its good wishes to Mr and Mrs Campbell who retired from active service in July, following the annual summer camp in Perth's twin town of Aschaffenburg. Thank you both for your help and support over many years with the Company.

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Crowdfunding explained at Business Breakfast

On the first Wednesday of November, as has become customary during the winter months in Kinross-shire, a gaggle of local businesspeople flocked to the shores of Loch Leven at sunrise. Not for them, however, the grassy fare that provides a nutritious breakfast for visiting geese at the nearby nature reserve – instead our eager entrepreneurs flew straight into the restaurant at Loch Leven's Larder, there to tuck into a full, cooked Scottish breakfast.

As coffee and tea were being sipped, and bacon and myriad other comestibles consumed, Kinross-shire Partnership Chairman Alisdair Stewart reminded those present that the board's annual planning meeting will take place on **Tuesday 9 December** and that if anyone wishes to suggest local projects which would benefit from support, they are encouraged to email KP administrator Karen Grunwell prior to the meeting (mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk).

Each attendee was then invited to introduce their business to the assembled group and to talk briefly about the service they provide. As ever, the mix of businesses represented was impressively eclectic – a fitting testimony to the rich diversity of entrepreneurial talent to be found in and around Kinross-shire.

After all the introductions had been completed, it was time for the morning's invited speaker, Derek Bond of Squareknot, to take to the floor and explain to an interested audience the principles and workings of crowdfunding – an increasingly popular method being used by businesses to raise investment for start-ups and projects.

Derek, a chartered accountant, set up Squareknot two years ago with his partners, after they had all become more and more frustrated by the failure of banks to lend businesses money and thus to support the business community in the way necessary to promote economic growth.

Squareknot aims to provide an industry-leading platform for registered investors to invest in viable opportunities, and one of the exciting projects for which they are currently seeking to raise funds is the Isle of Skye Brewery. Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, the company charges a 5% success fee if the funding target is reached, with a non-refundable £500 set-up fee being payable for each project – whether it is successful or not. Several questions from the floor followed Derek's presentation.

Costing just £10 a head, Kinross-shire Partnership's business breakfast events are affordable, welcoming and inclusive, offering a great opportunity to network with other like-minded professionals in this area.

The next event will be held at Loch Leven's Larder at 7.30am on **Wednesday 3 December**. If you would appreciate the opportunity to meet other local businesses in a relaxed and informal setting, why not come along and take a gander (metaphorically speaking...) for yourself. If you can't make December, you could always come to the one on **Wednesday 4 February** instead! Please email administrator Karen Grunwell to book your place on mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk.

Kinross High School



The Modern Languages Department at Kinross High has certainly been busy this year so far!

September marked the visit of our German exchange partners from Traunstein, Bavaria. Throughout their stay with us, the German pupils spent time with their Scottish partners and experienced the Scottish way of life, with a ceilidh and a trip to Stirling Castle being just some of the activities on offer.

October saw the return leg of this year's French exchange. Pupils of Collège Jean Moulin from Gacé, our twin town in Normandy, were reunited with their Scottish partners; among the activities organised were a walk up Bishop Hill in warm sunshine, a curling coaching session at Perth Ice Rink, a Friday night ceilidh, and a visit to Edinburgh, including a trip to the Scottish Parliament.

Both the French and German pupils were able to spend some time at school, and the staff of Kinross High pulled out all the stops to make sure they had a great experience.

In addition, we currently have two trips organised in December for our Advanced Higher classes, one to Paris and one to Berlin.

We were delighted to welcome back Sabrina, a former German exchange pupil, who spent some time in the Modern Languages Department, observing classes and helping out with our foreign visitors.

We are likewise fortunate this year to have visits on a Tuesday and Thursday from a Mandarin teacher, Mrs Zhao, who has been giving taster lessons to our S1 and S2 pupils as well as an insight into cultural differences between China and Scotland. Our S5 and S6 students will be embarking upon an SQA qualification and are already looking forward to a two-week visit to China in November.

The department has further exciting opportunities to look forward to. We are entering five teams from S3 into the 'Our Europe' film competition, run by the Scottish European Educational Trust, for which pupils will have to devise a concept for a film about what being a young European citizen from Scotland means to them. The winners will receive a four-day visit to Brussels, so fingers crossed for our teams! Still on the theme of Europe, we are hopeful that we will be able to send an S6 pupil to Strasbourg as part of the Euroscholar Rotary initiative.

We are also currently involved in numerous interdisciplinary learning (IDL) programmes with other departments throughout the school, including links with Drama and Home Economics, so that our learners can get the opportunity to use their languages in different contexts.

As a department, we pride ourselves on being able to make languages enjoyable for all of our pupils through the use of games and "out-of-the-box" activities. We always work to keep pupils active in our classrooms, from S1 right the way through to S6, and this seems to be paying off in our very healthy uptake numbers for Higher and Advanced Higher!

All in all, we are delighted with the continued enthusiasm and commitment shown by our pupils and look forward to a yet another successful year in Modern Languages.

*Joyeux Noël! ¡Feliz Navidad! Frohe Weihnachten!
Buon Natale! Shèngdān jié kuàilè!*



Kinross High School Parent Council



Clerk: Jennifer Sneddon 0794 667 9815

Email: jms927@btinternet.com

The big news is that the School has a new website! If you are struggling to find it, the address is www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk. You will find a great deal of highly useful information there. The Parent Council has a page in the Parents' section and there you will find our most recent meeting notes and an overview of our role. We hope to add to this as time goes on and expertise increases. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see displayed there. We had a discussion at our last meeting about where the Parent Council should be focusing our energies and if you have any views about what you would like to see your Parent Council doing, we would be delighted to hear them. Please email the Clerk or hand in to the school marked for the Parent Council's attention.

The day-to-day business of learning continues, and as ever the Parent Council supports the school in this. At our last meeting on 10 November, Mr Keatings described new initiatives taking place in the school to complement this learning in areas of achievement and employability. By now many parents and guardians will have received leaflets about the Key Challenge scheme which is intended to recognise achievements pupils make beyond those of education, for example in areas like health and wellbeing, working and life skills, citizenship, working with others and so on. Pupils will set their own challenges and goals and be encouraged by a challenge buddy to achieve these. In the area of employability, as well as essential work on CV development and interview skills supported by the local Rotary, visits have been organised to local businesses to see how subjects taught in KHS are directly used in industry. The Parent Council has been impressed by these efforts and is keen to support them as much as possible.

In the new year, **Parent Council meetings** are planned for **12 January, 9 March, 20 April** (to be confirmed) and **25 May**, with the **AGM on 15 June**. Meetings are held at the school. Any parent or guardian of a KHS pupil is welcome to come along. Parents are important and make a real difference to children's learning. When everyone involved in school life works together our whole school community can do better and achieve more. KHS Parent Council is part of this. Contact the Clerk if you are interested in joining us. Even if you cannot commit the time to joining the Parent Council, if there is ever a general issue you would like raised about the school, please contact the Clerk with details and it can be discussed. Specific issues relating to individual pupils should always be raised directly with the School in the first instance.

Office bearers of the Parent Council for the 2014-15 school are William Nicholls (Chair), Kay Mitchell (Vice Chair) and Allan Miller (Treasurer).

Scotlandwell Allotments

Secure allotments for rent with on-site amenities including members' clubhouse, toilets and private on-site parking.

Please call or email Alison for further information

07789 003604 or ali@greenshields.org.uk

Cleish Primary School

Children at Cleish Primary learned the real meaning of enterprise as our Primary 5-7 class ran a month long focus on raising money. The children worked in teams and over four weeks had to earn money by using their own skills and organising whole school events. Highlights included: a fun fair, loom band stall, craft stalls and bake sales all run by the children and supported by the whole school community. Group leaders motivated their teams and each group kept a running total of profit and loss. Overall, the class raised a fantastic £500.29, which they decided to donate to Macmillan and Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels. They learned valuable skills including cash handling, how to make a spreadsheet, leadership skills and coping with pressure! Thanks to all of the parents and members of the community who supported this venture.

Our committees have begun their invaluable work in improving the school. The Pupil Council are working on a video which will be on our website soon where they explain the School Improvement Plan and aspects of it that they are working on. Our Communications team are reporting on events in the school as well as recording our achievements in the yearbook. This year the Eco Committee will be focusing on promoting fair trade. Meanwhile, the Health Committee are focusing on a healthy mind and planning a day of fun and relaxing activities for the whole school and the Happy Helpers are helping around the school grounds and learning valuable skills.

Towards Christmas time we will be hosting a 'Christmas Crafternoon' where parents will be invited to join their children in school to make something special and we will also be going on a whole school visit to see a pantomime which everyone is looking forward to.

We are very keen to involve members of the local community in the life of the school. If you have any questions or have skills or expertise that would support and enhance learning at Cleish, please do not hesitate to get in touch at Cleish@pkc.gov.uk.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Cleish Primary!

Milnathort Primary School Parent Council

The newly elected committee 2014/15 is as follows:

Karen Grunwell, Chair; Morag Heneghan, Treasurer; Jan Leach, Secretary.

We extend our grateful thanks to the previous committee members for their invaluable work.

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Fossoway Primary School

All manner of colourful characters and fearsome looking ghouls roamed the school hall at Fossoway Primary's Halloween Disco in early November (and that was just the staff and parent helpers who dressed up to get in the spirit of the party!)

Primary 1 to 3 enjoyed party games and dancing early in the evening followed by P4 to 7s whipping up a frenzy of fright and high spirits later to music provided by Mercury Disco, with prizes awarded for best costume and best pumpkin.

A noisy energetic night was enjoyed by all with exhausted children and adults alike dispatched away home to their beds and dreams of Halloween fun!

Elaine Melville (on behalf of Fossoway PS PTA)



Above and below: scary creatures at the Fossoway Primary School Halloween Disco!



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Portmoak Primary School

I am writing this at a busy time in the Portmoak calendar. It is panto season here at Portmoak, with rehearsals in full swing for the upper school. Both nights look sure to be a sell out this year again. Our younger pupils are working hard on the Nativity, which is due to happen in the last week of term. We expect to have two sittings for this again as it remains a popular event in the calendar for parents, grandparents and friends.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers: A great result this year for vouchers – third in Perth and Kinross! We will be able to select sports equipment again to supplement the work of the school. Thank you to the members of the community who saved these for us. If you are offered vouchers with your shopping and you do not have a school that you collect for, please consider dropping them off to us at Portmoak. The children have benefited from new gym equipment such as bean bags, gym mats and balls previously and we will be looking forward to choosing items from the catalogue again this year.

Childcare and Family Information Directories for Local Areas: A new version of the Kinross Area Childcare and Family Information Directory is now available to download from www.pkc.gov.uk/families. This includes details of a wide range of services and organisations in the local area that we hope will be of interest to families and to professionals working with parents, carers and children.

If you know of any other services which it would be useful to include or come across anything in the directory that is inaccurate, then please let us know. Documents will be updated no less than once annually and entries are kept up to date on the national website www.scottishfamilies.gov.uk.

The set of directories complements the information available in the Perth & Kinross Childcare and Family Information Directory which was published in March 2013. Copies of this area-wide document are being distributed to families through Bookbug packs and Family Information Points and are available on request from the Childcare Strategy Team, telephone 01738 472350, E-mail childcare@pkc.gov.uk.

Twitter: If you haven't yet followed us don't forget to check @PortmoakPS and the Parent Council @FriendsPortmoak for updates.

Fundraising: We are raising funds at the moment to enhance the IT capability of the school. We would like to develop this in a creative way and are looking to buy a class set of iPads to enhance the learning and teaching experience. So far this term we have raised over £1500 towards this cause.

We raised over £500 from sales of tea towels with the children's faces on them.

Ladies' Night on 5 November made over £1000 – a big thank you to everyone who supported us with this event.

We will be having a collection for Perth Food Bank in the run up to Christmas. Details will be posted on Twitter. If there are any members of the community who would like to get involved in this please check there for info.

Thank you for reading our news. If you have time or expertise that you would like to share with our school, then please get in touch.

Louise Gordon, Headteacher



The tea towel with pupils' faces





Sports News

Kinross Curling

Green Road, Kinross, KY13 8TU

Tel: 01577 861821

www.kinrosscurling.co.uk

Email: Iceman@KinrossCurling.co.uk

www.Facebook.com/KinrossCurlingRink



Kinross Ladies Open: Fourteen teams took part in this competition on 21 October. The winners were: Jean Robertson (skip), Fiona de Vries, Laurie McKerrow and Allison Pirie. Runners up were: Wilma Brownlie (skip), Margaret Nelson, Pat McFarlane and Caroline Liddle. The event was generously sponsored by local outdoor play equipment company, Caledonia Play.



Sarah Bruce-Jones (centre) of sponsors Caledonia Play with winning team Fiona de Vries, Jean Robertson (skip), Laurie McKerrow and Allison Pirie

Swiss tour: Visitors from Switzerland started their two-week RCCC tour of Scotland at Kinross on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November.

Drew Drummond (Boreland) piped the curlers into the rink and May Raymann from Switzerland sang their national anthem and yodelled before play commenced.

Four Swiss teams played four Scottish teams made up of members of Area 7 Clubs. The scores added up to an overall Swiss victory of 27 to 23, though the games played were two to Switzerland and two to Scotland. One of the winning Scots' teams was skipped by Kinross Curling Trust Chairman, Bob Tait.

Once again the Trust is indebted to Claire Paton for her beautiful floral artwork, on this occasion created with bright yellow blooms. The tartan tablecloths added to the atmosphere and the excellent lunch of soup and sandwiches deftly served by Katrina and her team was much appreciated by all the curlers.

Thanks to Margaret Elspeth Harman for taking photographs, which can be viewed on the Kinross Curling website.

Perth Ladies Open: Players whose home rink is Kinross Curling scooped the silverware at this Perth competition held on 13 November. The winning team was Enid Brown (skip), Irene Baillie, Fiona Brown and Aileen Priestley. Runners up were: Valerie Inglis (skip), Maggie Scott, Jane Drysdale and Eileen Thomas.

Official opening: To mark the successful refurbishment of the rink, an official opening ceremony took place on 20 November. News of the event will be in the February Newsletter.

Ice times: Trustee Phil Barton, Business Development Chairman, says: "We want to increase ice usage, while aiming to provide the best ice at the best times for curlers, so we are keen to learn more about the wishes of clubs and curlers, as well as hear about any other ideas to expand the business."

Sponsorship: The Trust has designed a series of opportunities for companies, individuals and curling clubs to sponsor events at Kinross Curling. There are already several smart new advertising boards at the end of the rink. Anyone interested in sponsoring an event or advertising with Kinross Curling can pick up a leaflet at the rink or contact Phil Barton by email at phil.barton@starleyhall.co.uk or telephone 07920 030614.

Mixed Doubles: At the time of writing, one more team is sought for a new Mixed Doubles league to take place throughout the season, now expected to start on **6 December**. If interested, contact the icemen as soon as possible.

Kinross Open, 12-14 December: There are still some places available for this great weekend of curling, which is part of the Goldline Scottish Curling Tour. Both men's and ladies' rinks are welcome. The prize fund has been increased from £750 to £1250. If you are not competing, why not come along to watch? Tom Brewster, Hannah Fleming, Kyle Smith and reigning champion David Edwards are just some of the skips bringing teams to the event.

Hogmanay Pairs, 27-28 December: Entries are invited. If you'd like to play, simply contact the icemen with your name and email address and the draw will be sent to you.

Monthly Email Newsletter: To receive a monthly newsletter compiled by iceman Andy Macpherson, sign up on the Kinross Curling website.



Some of the participants in the Swiss tour matches at Kinross

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Kinross Curling School

www.kinrosscurling.co.uk



Try Curling at Kinross

Try Curling sessions are designed to introduce non-curlers to the sport by getting them on the ice with qualified coaches for a short taster all about the basics of curling. You only need warm, loose fitting clothing and a pair of clean-soled trainers to change into at the rink. We supply everything else you'll need to participate.

Our next Try Curling sessions will take place on **Saturday 3 January 2015** at 12.00pm, 12.40pm or 1.20pm. The sessions last 1 hour 10 minutes and cost £2 per person. Please book with Claire Milne.

Beginners Classes are run across three sessions and will extensively develop the skills learned at Try Curling. As well as advancing your skills, you will learn more about strategy and tactics, which will help prepare you for club curling.

Our next Beginners Classes will take place on **Saturday 17 January** (11.45am-2.30pm), **Saturday 24 January** (3.30pm-6.30pm) and **Sunday 25 January** (2.30pm-5.15pm). The cost is £50 per person for the block of three sessions.

For further information, or to register, please contact Claire Milne, telephone: 07789 646672, email: kinrossdev@royalcaledoniancurlingclub.org

Kinross Swimmers

Best wishes for the festive season from Kinross Swimmers to everyone but especially to those active swimmers who continue to support the club on a Tuesday evening. Our last session of the year will be on Tuesday 16 December, resuming again on Tuesday 6 January 2015.

On 16 December after the Tuesday night swimming some of us are heading off to the Kirklands Hotel, Kinross for a festive social gathering and general chinwag to wish each other the compliments of the season. Hopefully we'll have a little fun as a club, with our clothes on for a change. Everyone is cordially invited and it'd be great to meet you there.

Following on from that and if there is enough interest we are also hoping to have a proper social evening in the new year, probably taking the form of a meal at a local eatery. This is again just an evening of socialisation and a chance for club members to get to know the person behind the goggles.

New swimmers continue to come along and we would continue to welcome others. As usual we meet every Tuesday evening at the pool at Loch Leven Leisure Centre for a pool start at 8 until 9pm where our intention is to improve the stroke, stamina and style of those attending so that any other swimming is more worthwhile, effective and enjoyable. We welcome anyone looking to improve their swimming for whatever reason, all we ask is that you can complete four lengths. Experienced swimmers looking for a friendly but directed extra session are especially welcome.

For further information please either contact us on Facebook (Kinross Swimmers) or Ian Shepherd via email at shepherd_ian@hotmail.com or on mobile 07944503074.



Fossoway Curling Club



Our Fraser Cup competition is now well under way as is our new Pool Competition, which was created especially for those curlers who are unable to play games at 5.45pm, all the games being scheduled for 7.45pm and 9.45pm.

Our annual pairs competition was played on 25 October. Due to a shortage of players, we had to draft in a substitute from our sister club, Fossoway Ladies Curling Club. Our thanks to Barbara Nicholson who thought she was only playing one game but ended up playing four games and winning the High Road final with Tom McColgan. The Low Road final was won by Sid Grant and Willie Thomson. All players enjoyed what is always a very sociable day with lunch being provided by the club.

Fossoway are a small and friendly local curling club based in Crook of Devon, although our members come from far and wide. We play throughout the season mostly at Kinross, with a few games in Perth. We are always looking for new members (beginners and experienced) who will find a warm welcome awaiting. Coaching is available free of charge. Contact Alan on 840695 or Willie on 840405 for details.

Kinross Tennis Club

www.kinrosstennisclub.org.uk



Winter is a quieter season at the club, however there can still be plenty of tennis activity, weather permitting!

Indoor Junior Coaching for those aged 9 and under is taking place at Loch Leven Community Campus on Tuesday evenings from 5pm until 7pm. The sessions are 40 minutes long and the current block will stop on 9 December and a new block will start on 6 January and run till 10 March. Details can be obtained by emailing Siobhan at kinrosstenniscoaching@gmail.com.

Senior Club Sessions will run throughout the winter on Wednesdays from 6.30pm and Sundays from 10.30am – all members are welcome. Floodlights costs are £2 per person at winter club night sessions. The Thursday 1.30pm drop-in sessions continue weather permitting – members and non-members are welcome at this session.

Congratulations to **Calum Porter** for being selected to represent Tennis Tayside in the Inter Area Team Competition in Aberdeen on 21 December. We wish him great success.

Our **Christmas Dinner** will take place on **Thursday 18 December** at The Kirklands Hotel and is always a popular night, however the more the merrier so if you are interested in joining us, please let us know.

May we also take this opportunity to thank the owners and staff at John & JH Sands Ltd for holding our visitor key again this season – their assistance has been very much appreciated.

Enquiries as ever can be made to our secretary by email at kinrosstennis@gmail.com

Do you have

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you'd be happy to share with others?

Visit www.kinross.cc to find out how to add your photos to the Photo Library. The aim of the library is to provide a resource for promoting Kinross-shire.

Kinross Kobras Junior Hockey

It has been a busy month for the Kobras with teams playing at U10, U12, U14 and U16 levels. The club hosted a tournament at the end of October with around 180 kids coming from local clubs Grove Menzieshill, Dunfermline Carnegie, Perthshire HC, Blairgowrie HC and JHA Perth.

At U10s a young Kobras team won matches against Carnegie B, Grove Menzieshill A and drew with Grove Menzieshill B. They lost two games against JHA 1 and JHA 2 both JHA teams featuring Ollie Wilson who helped ensure that JHA 1 won the U10 section overall. Well done to the players Angus Montford, Bart Kuijpers, Ciaran McLeod, Finlay McColl, Struan Bennet, Lawrence Kuijpers, Zoe McColl and Caitlin Ritchie (Coach Andrew Montford).

Caitlin also played for a young U12s team that had some hard fought games against Carnegie A, JHA 2 and Grove Menzieshill B. After finding their feet in their opening game they competed strongly and secured a win over JHA 2 before losing a couple of very tight games against Grove Menzieshill B and Carnegie A. The U12s team was made up of Olivia Kuijpers, Matthew Bentall, Luke Volland, Lewis Bentall, Douglas Young, Caitlin Ritchie, Ben Volland, Andrew Clark and Ailsa Bennet (Coach Ian Clark).

At U14 we had Alex Wilson, Duncan Montford, Phoebe King, Hannah Marchant, Pollyanna Smith, Toby Smith, Yasmine Clarke, Zoe Price, Ella Keir (and Ollie Wilson) all coached by Neil Wilson. They started with a close 4-3 win over Blairgowrie followed by a tight 1-2 loss to Grove Menzieshill. After two rounds of games all teams had the same points and all had the same goal difference. In the final round of games Grove Menzieshill beat Blairgowrie 3-1 but an 3-0 win by Kinross over Perthshire meant they came out on top thanks to their better goal difference.

At U16 the club entered teams in the National U16 Club Championships. The girls' team, which combined players from Kinross with players from Perthshire HC, faced three strong teams at Peffermill in Edinburgh. They beat Hillhead from Glasgow in their first game, lost to Watsonians in their second before bouncing back to beat

Inverleith in their third game. Goals came from Lucy Smith, Katy Robson, Erin Stevens and Daisy Foniciello whilst Kara Shiels had a couple of great games in goal. Coming second in their pool places them well for some good matches on the "Finals Day" held in March at the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow.

The U16 boys, which combined Kinross players with players from Blairgowrie, played at Mayfield in Dundee against Western Wildcats from Glasgow and Highland - two very experienced sides with many Scotland and District players in them. Against Western Wildcats the boys played exceptionally well, only conceding in the last quarter of the game to narrowly lose. Special mention goes to Arthur Morris who played as keeper for the

day as the team had lost both its intended keepers to injury in the run up to the tournament. The second game against Highland was more ragged and resulted in a loss. As this was a first experience of national level hockey for many of the players, it was great to give established teams from big clubs a good game and ensures that they will get additional matches in the Finals Day in March.

Training has been disrupted by poor weather and poor pitch conditions over the past few weeks and the club is working hard with the KGV Committee to try and resolve the pitch issues. Hopefully we will get back into a pattern of regular Tuesday and Thursday night training again quickly and everyone is thanked for their patience.



Above: The U12 team at the Kinross tournament. Below: The girls' U16 team at Peffer mill.



Kinross Otters

Midland District Graded and Distance Championships, Olympia Leisure Centre, Dundee 7 – 9 November



These championships are a complicated mix of graded events (where second string swimmers or swimmers in their weaker strokes get a chance in the limelight for a change) and championship events (where the likes of **Stephen Milne** of Perth City, who represented Scotland in the Commonwealth Games and the UK in the European Championships, compete). If a swimmer swims a certain amount faster than the entry time, then they do not get a medal even if they come in the top three! Still with me? Anyway, the Otters sent 9 swimmers with 8 of those coming back with either a top three position or a medal. Quite an achievement.

Swim of the Otters' day must surely go to **Ryan Curtis** (15) who claimed a bronze medal in the 1500m boys 15-16 years championship event, taking a remarkable 82 seconds off his personal best in 17 mins 52.46 seconds, only four seconds off the Otters' club record held by big brother **Jordan**. He also gained a further two bronze medals in the 400 and 800m Freestyle championship events along with first, second and third places in the 200m Individual Medley, 100m Breaststroke and 100m Individual Medley respectively.

Tommy Adams (15) also had a great day winning gold medals in the 200m Freestyle (2.31.57) and 200m Breaststroke (3.05.10), knocking huge chunks off his personal bests in the process (39 and 33 secs respectively). There followed two silver medals in the 200m Individual Medley and 100m Freestyle and a first place in the 100m Breaststroke.

Amy Broadhurst (13) came first in the 200m Butterfly, second in the 200m Individual Medley and got a gold medal in the 200m Freestyle while **Jack Muncey** (11) got a gold medal in the 200m Individual Medley and a silver in the 100m Butterfly. **Duncan Crawford** (12) got a silver medal in the 200m Backstroke in 3.22.39 taking an amazing 51 secs off his personal best. He also got a bronze in the 100m Butterfly. **Mhairi Boyle** (17) and **Jack Watson** (14) both

came second in their respective 400m Freestyle events.

Last but not least was **Jordan Curtis** (18), the Otters' best ever Freestyler, who had the pleasure (?) of taking on world star, **Stephen Milne**, who barring a disaster will definitely be going to Rio. **Jordan** is on the long road to fitness again after a significant lay off and he performed admirably winning bronze medals in the 400m and 800m Freestyle events.

Fiona wins another award!

The Otters are delighted that their hard working Membership Secretary / Coach / Judge / Championships organiser and general good gal has won another award to add to her Perth and Kinross Volunteer of the Year Award across all sports.

This time Fiona was nominated by the Otters as Volunteer of the Year across all swimming in all of Scotland. The Scottish Amateur Swimming Association (SASA) agreed with us that Fiona had volunteered above and beyond that of even the most committed volunteer and that she deserved recognition in the form of the John Gunning Award for swimming's Volunteer of the Year. A big well done, Fiona!

Bank of Scotland Community Fund

The Bank of Scotland has a Community Fund that distributes money to deserving local organisations. Kinross Otters Amateur Swimming Club was one of only four organisations to be shortlisted from over 300 applications in the Perth and Kinross and surrounding areas.

The Otters came third overall after the public vote with 22.9% of the total votes and this means we will be awarded £1000. Congratulations to the Kinross-shire Volunteer Group & Rural Outreach who came top. Many thanks to all who voted for us and to the Bank of Scotland for the award.

Tayside Schools

Well done to all the Otters who we hear performed extremely well at the Tayside Schools event at Olympia Pool in Dundee on 10 and 12 November, swimming for their respective schools. The results at the time of writing and deadline are not available but we hope to see many Otters qualifying for the National Schools Finals to be held at the Aberdeen Sports Village on 31 January 2015.

Fossoway Tennis Club

Crook of Devon

Fossoway Tennis Club held a mini red fun tournament on a rather chilly but sunny afternoon. However, the cold didn't put the keen competitors off and the results were:

	Winner	Runner-up
Mini Singles	Isla Campbell	Jessica Evans
Mini Doubles	Jessica Evans & Archie Hepburn	Isla Campbell & Percy Evans

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Kinross Badminton Club



At the time of the Newsletter deadline the first of the season's competitions are about to take place and the results will appear in the February edition.

The junior club's last night of play before the Christmas break is Thursday 11 December and the last senior club night is the Thursday 18 December. Both clubs will start play on 6 and 8 January 2015 respectively.

The club president and committee wish all members a Happy Christmas and best wished for the coming New Year. We look forward to seeing players and hopefully new faces refreshed and eager to begin another successful year.

As always, for more information check out the club's Facebook page, or contact our President Rory Cooper on: rtc00001@students.stir.ac.uk.

New members of any ability are always welcome.



Volleyball

The Perth volleyball league season finally began in earnest on Remembrance Sunday at Bell's Sports Centre with Recreational League teams taking to the courts. It was good to see two new teams taking part this season with Mary Cook's Aberfeldy back in action after a season away and Finlay McIntosh's Perth High School B team.

Aberfeldy were first in action against Jamie Booth's Kinross BB who had Rodney Thomson and Euan Thomson in their ranks. The Aberfeldy side were a wee bit rusty in the first set, losing out 11-25, but they were more competitive in the second set and led 19-16 before a run of nine consecutive points saw the Kinross side finish as winners. The BB side wavered in their next game, losing to Hitting Bricks.

John Robertson's Motley Crew opened their season against League Cup winners Kinross BB Wildcats. Wildcats stormed ahead 9-3 with Mark Cathro and Adam Sweeney leading their front line attacks. Ian McGrath's guile got Crew back on an even keel as they climbed back into the game to trail by one point at 18-19. A run of points from Wildcats' Matthew Macdonald saw them take the first set 25-19. Wildcats were now playing well and took the second set 25-12 to start off their league season in positive style.

Lewis Crockett's Perth High A started their league campaign against Wildcats and the first set saw both sides making lots of unforced errors. Wildcats eventually ran out winners by the narrowest of margins 25-23. The second set continued with more errors and the score poised at 18 points apiece. Wildcats again pulled ahead in the final minutes to win 25-19, making it two straight wins in their attempt to win a league and cup double.

Claire Young's Kinross Mongrels opened their season against Motley Crew and this one turned out to be the match of the day. Both sides blew hot and cold in the first set, trading runs of up to five points apiece until the score reached 22 points each. Mongrels eventually scrapped their

way to win 25-22. The second set saw Motley Crew race ahead 13-5 but Mongrels fought back to 18 points each, before Crew levelled the match, winning 25-20. With only minutes remaining, the third set decider commenced and it was Motley Crew who stunned Mongrels by taking a 4-1 lead at full time.

	P	W	L	Pts
Hits & Giggles	3	3	0	25
BB Wildcats	2	2	0	20
Motley Crew	3	2	1	19
See Me	2	2	0	15

The Premier League sees two sides participating from Kinross and two sides from Glenrothes.

Scottish Cup Action

Kinross Volleyball Club hosted Su Ragazzi's second side at the Loch Leven Community Campus on Saturday afternoon. The home side struggled to field a team and drafted in youngsters Mark Cathro and Callum Law to their starting six. Brothers Jamie and John Booth, along with stalwarts Craig Donaldson and Craig Scott, made up the Kinross side. The Glasgow national league side dominated the first set to win 25-10. Kinross settled in the second set, leading for a spell but the experience of the national league side saw them scrape through 25-21. Su kept up the momentum in the third set to see them through 25-19.

Kinross now face an away tie to Volero of Motherwell to be played on 29 November.

It has been busy at Kinross High School volleyball wise with teams competing in the Grangemouth festival and in the Schools' Scottish Cup. Boys and girls teams from S2/3 and a boys' team at S4/5/6 have home ties in the first round to be played by the end of November.

The Kinross club has welcomed a number of new members on Monday evenings at the campus and anyone wanting to try volleyball should simply turn up in sports kit and trainers from 8.15 till 9.45pm.

Milnathort Golf Club

Junior Section

With the season virtually over, there has been less activity. Gareth Hutchison, Patrick Freeman, Sam Freeman and Daniel Reilly all played in the Crieff GC Junior Open and this helped confirm Patrick's place in the final of the "Race to Kingsbarns", which was based on players positions in the county Junior Opens over the year. This saw Patrick join 23 other players on a blustery but bright day on 25 October at Kingsbarns. They all battled through strong winds and returned credible scores in tricky conditions and had a great experience. This will be running again next year so all juniors are encouraged to keep up their golf over the winter to put them in the best of shape for a crack at this next year.

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Loch Leven, Fauna and Flora, Countryside,
Villages, Local Projects and Events.



News from the Rurals

KINROSS GROUP – The Kinross Group held their Autumn Group Meeting in Coronation Hall, Muckhart on 8 November 2014. After the business, Mrs Janey Buchanan of Powmill WRI was appointed as Honorary Vice President of the Kinross Group. Rev Ray Gaston then gave an interesting and informative talk/slide show of his time as a missionary in Madagascar.

MILNATHORT – President, Ann Reid, welcomed us all to the November meeting and after the business was read we were introduced to Colin Robb, District Liaison Manager of Angus West District of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The evening's talk was on Fire Safety in the Home and we were given a slide show which showed us the sad statistics of fires and deaths in Scottish homes due to accidental and deliberately set fires. We should all be careful not to overload plug sockets and extensions and it is imperative that we all have working smoke alarms in our houses and regularly change the batteries in them – even electric alarms wired into our homes have a back-up battery.

We can all request a Home Fire Safety visit, at no cost, where a risk assessment of your home will be undertaken. Smoke alarms and batteries can be given free of charge if you don't have any fitted.

The vote of thanks was given by Cathie Cochrane.

Competitions:

Flower of the month	-	Cathie Cochrane
Sausage rolls	-	Ena Thompson
Birthday card for male	-	Francis Shepherd

BISHOPSHIRE – Norma Smith, President welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jean Paterson who entertained with an evening of humorous Scottish Dialect poems and songs, thoroughly enjoyed by all members.

Competitions:

Soup	-	Joanne Cowan
Humorous SWRI Poem	-	Margaret Crighton

CROOK OF DEVON – President Alice Johnston opened the November meeting. After business, she introduced Amanda James who gave a talk and slide show about the Potager Garden.

Competitions:

Arrangement in a Wine Glass	-	Alice Johnston
Flower of the month	-	Isobel Mill

GLENFARG – Members visited the Fair Maid's House in Perth, headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society of Scotland. This is a treasure trove of books, maps and artefacts gathered by explorers over the years and the guided tour was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The evening was rounded off with refreshments at the Village Inn in Bridge of Earn.

Many thanks are due to President Mrs Margaret Scott and her committee for organising such an enjoyable night out.

POWMILL – President, Sharon Buchanan welcomed members to the meeting on 15 October. Members and guests enjoyed a very interesting and informative talk on wills and other legal matters by Hazel Johnson.

Competitions:

Hallowe'en mask	-	Anne McKay
Treacle toffee	-	Ella Shand
Garden gem	-	Margaret Broomfield

Powmill SWRI held a fun beetle drive evening with sales table on 29 October. The evening was well attended and £378 was raised.

President, Sharon Buchanan welcomed members to the meeting on 19 October. Members and guests enjoyed an informative talk and demonstration on fleeces and yarn by Linda Maitland Gardner from Strathearn Fleece and Fibre.

Competitions:

Scottish ornament	-	Mary Wilson
Flask of soup	-	Ella Shand
Garden gem	-	Mary Wilson

CARNBO – President Molly White welcomed us all to the November meeting.

After business, George Anderson from Sainsbury's in Kinross gave a talk on the company's principles and values.

Competitions:

Flower of the month	-	Linda Band
3 Pieces of Traybake	-	Christine Dawson

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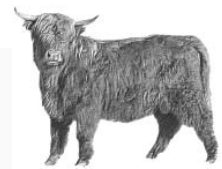
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- what's in the next issue
- reminders of some local events
- occasional breaking news

'Like' our page to be kept informed. Search for 'Kinross Newsletter' or go to:

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Out & About

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Hello again for the last time this year. Now then, just when you thought it was all over, it would appear that we need to hold another referendum! Michty me, says you!

The thing is, some people have said they want the column in English and ithers hiv said they waant it in Scots; in fact some sowl wrote an e-mail to oor Scottish director, nae less, and said they wur awfa scunnert that it's no been in Scots lately!

Since it's the year-end near enough, this last bit will be in the hame tongue. If onybody cannae understand it, ask me when yer in 'n' I will translate it fur ye. If you have any views yin wey or tother, e-mail me colin.shaw@rspb.org.uk or, dare I say it, Eileen wi your vote. (See also p. 2)

Richt then, back tae whaur a usually stert: the burds. Goose numbers hiv drappit a bit, wi family groups headin sooth tae spend the rest o' the winter in Norfolk and the like. We will still keep several thoosand here in the area, so ye kin still get yer fix o' winter's call on the loch. They wull be joint by anither winter soond, the distinctive call o' Whooper swans as they flee in tae roost oan the reserve at nicht. Duck numbers hiv also been increasing wi hunners 'n' hunners o' loads o' different species coming tae the sae haven the loch provides, as weel as the feedin opportunities. Pintail, teal wigeon, pochard, goldeneye, mallard 'n' a few smew hiv been seen awready along wi goosander 'n' red breasted merganser, the last three bein members o' the sawbill family cos thur beaks ur serrated tae help them catch and haud fish when they grab them.

Gairden birds hiv been startin tae come back tae feeders again and a lot o' folk thoct that sumthin hid happent tae them 'n' wur deid or whatever? The truth is there wiz plenty o' natural food fur them, they hid nae need tae expend energy fleein tae feeders so that's hoo they wurnae seen. But like Arnie "They'll be back" when the weather turns cauld, so ye will see them again. Weel if ye pit birdfeed oot fur them, that is.

The vegetation control oan the reserve hiz been pretty much done and the place is lookin quite guid. It is, tho, a never endin joab tae manage the habitat tae keep it in prime condition fur wur avian tenants.

We will still be haudin various events in the next month or twa, so check oor website or ask when yer in.

Durin the **festive period** the centre will be open daily except 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January. Every ithar day in atween we will be open 10am tae 4pm, including Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. All at RSPB Loch Leven wid like tae thank awe oor customers and visitors fur yer custom ower the last year. Oor very best wishes tae you and yours fur the Festive season. We hope tae see ye again in 2015.

Best Wishes; lang mae yer lum reek.

Colin

Introduction to Birdwatching

Tuesday 2 December, 10am – 4pm

Price: RSPB members £55, non members £65

Booking essential on 01577 862355

Loch Leven NNR



A peak count in October of 13280 was a respectable number of Pink-footed Geese at Loch Leven. Numbers fluctuate from year to year, and with record counts being recorded this year at both Montrose Basin and Loch of Strathbeg, the population of our charismatic goose continues to grow globally. A wetland bird survey in November revealed a few interesting counts, including 233 Golden Plover, 594 Lapwing and 12 Slavonian Grebes in winter plumage. The latter is definitely one to look out for during the summer months, with its spectacular golden crests and bright red eyes.



A "selfie" of volunteers after a hard day's work!

Over the winter we have a few projects lined up that you may notice when visiting the reserve. These involve removing small trees and scrub in order to maintain and conserve habitats like species rich grassland, once a hotspot for Holy Grass, and willow clearance around pond fringes to allow more sunlight in to the ponds and promoting a more diverse ecosystem within them. This will mean that from time to time you may encounter us with our group of regular volunteers, usually on a Wednesday, at various locations including Burleigh Sands, Mary's Knowe and Levenmouth. Apologies for any disturbance our chainsaws may cause you. Please remember that we are promoting a healthier environment for the future by managing the reserve in this way.

An update on last month's exciting discovery of a new species at Loch Leven; the Bearded Tits have been re-trapped, confirming that a small number of them have remained here. The discovery of a ringed individual from the Tay reedbeds also confirmed its origin, and it's thought that the majority of these birds will have arrived from there. It would be very exciting if they were to return to breed next summer, but we can only wait to find out if this will happen.

I hope some of you will have had the opportunity by now to have a look at the new Loch Leven Heritage Trail App, which is currently available through the Google Play store on your smart phones. The Apple version I believe to be still in development. The App serves as a useful guide to those circumnavigating the loch, or simply stopping in at one of the many access points around the NNR.

That's all for now folks. It seems a little early, but enjoy the festive season, and have a very happy new year!

Craig



Farming

I start this article with a distinct inferiority complex when comparing Fiona's tup buying policy to my own antics. You have read how a well thought out breeding policy works, so now I'll describe mine to show you how not to do it. If tup buying had an exam, this is how I think I would have scored in the three sections titled Start, Middle and End.

The one tup sale I managed to go to started quite well. There was a breed society sale of the breed of tup I was intending to buy, which should mean a good selection of quality tups to choose from. A good start: 9/10.

I was there in good time to have a thorough look at all the animals for sale and draw up a list of tups I would like to buy. A good middle: 10/10. (Teacher's comment; me doing anything in good time is an exceptional achievement and worthy of full marks.)

Then I watched the sale patiently until it was the turn of my selections to be sold, which were towards the end of the sale. So in it came to the sale ring, my top choice and the bidding got underway and the price steadily rose. I watched with baited breath, waiting for the right time to put in a bid, when suddenly, the price stuck well below the maximum budget I had set myself. "Right, stick your hand up and bid," I said to myself, but suddenly I had Giant Haystacks hanging off one arm and Big Daddy hanging off the other. "Anyone else?" shouted the auctioneer and suddenly I began to have doubts. Why was such a good tup going so cheaply? Was there something wrong with him that I hadn't seen? I got up on my tip-toes to get a better view but couldn't see anything wrong. He had good shape, good feet, good character. But the seeds of doubt had been sown, and Big Daddy and Giant Haystacks were pulling my arms down harder than ever. "One last time, anyone else?" shouted the auctioneer. "Sold!" and the gavel went down. I had missed my chance. A pathetic end: 0/30.

Since the "end" section of the exam is worth 60% of the overall mark, the overall result is an absolute fail, and I will have to re-sit the whole exam again next year. Sit in the corner with the dunce's cap on.

So much for my attempts at improving the genetic potential of our flock, but, as the saying goes, when one door closes another one opens. I was speaking to the auctioneer who sells our prime lambs and he said he had a few pure-bred tup lambs of the breed I was looking for so I went and had a look and came home with two. What their genetic potential might be like only time will tell, but they are "shapely wee lambs" and should be better than what they will replace even if it is just a stopgap. The best thing about the deal, though, is it is what I would call a 'carbon neutral' process, as the cost of the lambs should be offset by the sale of our two oldest, poorest tups, which cheers me up greatly.

After writing in my last article that I was disappointed with the growth of our lambs, they seemed to improve, so they must have been suffering from a post-weaning check in growth, rather than any particular ailment. They have been growing quite well and we should have three quarters of them sold by the time you are reading this.

The tups are all with the ewes (including the two young pretenders), and the ewes are generally in good condition, and since it has been quite good weather (although things are getting wet) with plenty grass, the cows and calves are still outside, although they will be inside in the next few days.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone,

John

Weather



October Weather Report from Kinross

Total rainfall	131.3mm = 5.25inches
Heaviest rainfall	29.2mm (3rd)
Total sunshine for the month	47.9 hours
Sunniest day	4.2 hours (1st)
Maximum temperature average	13.67 °C
Highest temperature	19.9°C (1st)
Minimum temperature average	4.55°C
Lowest temperature	-1.4°C (28th)

Exceptional rainfall in November: 31.4mm (approx 1½ inches) of rain fell on 6 November. The full report for November will appear in the February 2015 issue.

Loch Leven Circular Bus

Stagecoach Fife 203 (Sundays only, all year)

Take the bus for a walk! Service 203 is perfect if you want to walk just part of the Heritage Trail. As well as single journey tickets, Sunday stroller bus tickets can be bought on board the bus costing only £1.50 for adults, 75p for children and £3.00 for families. The stroller tickets allow unlimited travel for the day and so you can hop on and off the bus as many times as you want. National entitlement cards are also valid on this service. The bus is wheelchair accessible.

View timetable online: www.kinross.cc/Leaflets/Index.asp

Stagecoach Fife 203		Loch Leven Circular (Sunday Only)				
Milnathort Royal Bank	0940	1110	1240	1440	1610	
Kinross opp Green Hotel	0945	1115	1245	1445	1615	
Kinross opp Town Hall	0947	1117	1247	1447	1617	
opp Gairneybridge Farm	0952	1122	1252	1452	1622	
Vane Farm Nature Reserve	0957	1127	1257	1457	1627	
Findatie Café	0958	1128	1258	1458	1628	
Opp Lochend Farm Shop road end	1002	1132	1302	1502	1632	
Scotlandwell opp Friar Place	1004	1134	1304	1504	1634	
Kinnesswood Main Street	1006	1136	1306	1506	1636	
Loch Leven's Larder road end	1010	1140	1310	1510	1640	
Burleigh Sands	1013	1143	1313	1513	1643	
Milnathort Bridgefauld Road	1018	1148	1318	1518	1648	
Milnathort Royal Bank	1020	1150	1320	1520	1650	
Milnathort Royal Bank	1025	1155	1325	1525	1655	
Burleigh Sands	1030	1200	1330	1530	1700	
opp Loch Leven's Larder road end	1033	1203	1333	1533	1703	
Kinnesswood Main Street	1037	1207	1337	1537	1707	
Scotlandwell Friar Place	1039	1209	1339	1539	1709	
Lochend Farm Shop road end	1041	1211	1341	1541	1711	
Findatie Café	1045	1215	1345	1545	1715	
Vane Farm Nature Reserve	1046	1216	1346	1546	1716	
Gairneybridge Farm	1051	1221	1351	1551	1721	
Kinross Town Hall	1056	1226	1356	1556	1726	
Kinross Bank of Scotland	1058	1228	1358	1558	1728	
Milnathort Bridgefauld Road	1103	1233	1403	1603	1733	
Milnathort Royal Bank	1105	1235	1405	1605	1735	

FIDO'S FRIENDS

A

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Congratulations

DAVIES – Mathew and Natalie (née Smith) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of **LARA CHLOE** on Sunday 2 November 2014 at Ninewells Hospital. All Well. First grandchild for George and Winnie and second granddaughter for Barry and Karen.

Isla (née Hawksford) and Huw **ROBERTS** had a baby son, **FRASER JOHN**, on Friday 7 November 2014. A cousin for Eleanor and Euan and third grandchild for Guy and Morna.

Sergeant SANDRA WILLIAMS, community sergeant for Kinross, Strathearn and Strathallan, has received the community service award at Police Scotland's Scottish Women's Development Forum awards.

A judge for the event said: "Sgt Williams is at the heart of her community, both in a private and professional capacity, often putting the needs of the community before her own needs. She regularly provides the vital link between the local community and large-scale events such as T in the Park and the Ryder Cup."

Sgt Williams has over thirty years' service in the police force.

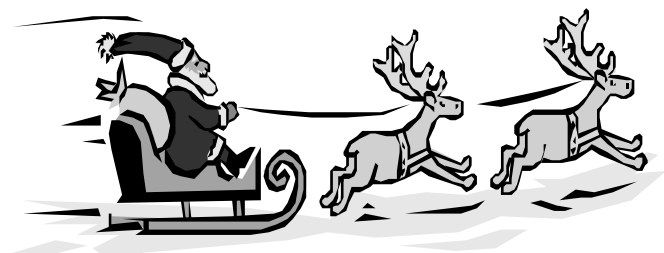
EILIDH CHILD of Kinross has been shortlisted, along with five other athletes, for the title Scottish Athlete of the Year, sponsored by Kukri. Eilidh won the title in 2009, 2010 and 2013. Eilidh also features on the shortlist of the extra award this year of Commonwealth Games Athlete of the Year. The winners will be announced on 22 November, as this Newsletter goes to print.

RSPB Loch Leven has won the Green Tourism GoldStar Award for best Nature Reserve.

GoldStar Awards recognise businesses and organisations that create and maintain a thriving, sustainable tourism industry. Sixty green tourism businesses from across the UK were shortlisted out of more than 2,400 entries.

Andrea Nicholas, Director of Green Tourism, said: "These finalists represent the best of the best, the top 3 per cent of Green Tourism businesses in the UK."

Landlords at **THE MUIRS INN**, Kinross, were delighted to receive a certificate in recognition of their excellent customer service, following two 100% passes in a mystery shopper test. Pub owners Belhaven also awarded a £50 voucher to the member of staff concerned. Husband and wife team William and Lynn McCord took on the tenancy of the inn a year ago.



Several pupils from local dance school **DANCE CONNECT** have auditioned successfully for parts in shows over the festive season.

Struan Robertson, already a Scottish Ballet Junior Associate, will dance with Scottish Ballet in their Christmas production of the Nutcracker to be performed in both Edinburgh and Glasgow. **Katie Fleming** from Dunfermline has auditioned successfully to dance with the pantomime at the Alhambra Theatre in Dunfermline, and **Catriona Robertson** will dance in the pantomime of Sleeping Beauty at Perth Theatre. In the New Year, Katie also takes on a lead role in the production of West Side Story.

Dance Connect principal Rachel Webb RAD RTS said: "We are very proud of all of their achievements, and hope as many of us as possible will attend their performances to support them."

Dance Connect offers dance classes in tap, ballet, jazz and street. The school teaches locally to Kinross, but will be fully based in Kinross from spring 2015. More information from www.danceconnect.co.uk

Thanks



Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Centre. Total proceeds from the Coffee Morning on 26 September was the splendid sum of £932.50. The support and generous donations are very much appreciated. Grateful thanks from Jessie Mitchell, Milnathort.

POPPY APPEAL in Portmoak: The total raised this year for Poppyscotland in the Portmoak area is £564.75. Sincere thanks to all the businesses who allowed us to have collecting tins on their premises.

KINROSS OTTERS would like to say a big thank you to all who supported their Christmas Fayre on 1 November, where a fantastic £815 was raised. Thank you to everyone who organised and helped at the event, especially our Fund Raising Convenor, Pamela Watson. Thanks to all who donated prizes for our raffle: Scottish Gliding Centre, Live Active Loch Leven, Perth Leisure Pool, Perth Concert Hall, Milnathort Post Office, Robertson's (Milnathort), Stewart & Smart, Davidson's Chemist, Giacomazzi's, Loch Leven's Larder, Todd & Duncan, Thistle Hotel, The Muirs Inn, Divito's Catering, Dobbies, Winski's of Kinross, Fife Sport & Leisure Trust, Baynes, J & JH Sands, Complete Look, McNab Sport and all stalls: Laura's Chocolates, The Gift Barn, Low Cost Bling, Avon, Kayleigh's Scents, Caroline Winn and GlitterBall Glassware. Thanks to you all.

Visiting Kinross-shire?

For information on Eating Out, Parks and Gardens, Historic Buildings and more, visit www.visitlochleven.org



Kinross-shire Churches Together

Kinross Parish Church of Scotland

*Following Christ IS spreading the Word
Serving the Community*



10 Station Road, Kinross KY13 8TG (Charity number SC012555)
Minister: Rev Alan D. Reid MA, BD Tel: (01577) 862952
Ordained Local Minister:
Rev Margaret Michie Tel: (01592) 840602
Session Clerk: Jaffrey Weir Tel: (01577) 865780
Church Office, Mon-Fri 10am-12 noon: Tel. (01577) 862570
Church E-mail: office@kinrossparishchurch.org
Church/Church Centre Lets: lets@kinrossparishchurch.org
Church website: www.kinrossparishchurch.org
Church office and church open : Mon-Fri 10am-12 noon.

Events listed below are in the church unless indicated otherwise.

Regular Services and events

Sundays: 10.30am: Morning Service with Crèche. Junior Church (age 3 to P7) and 'Jam Pact' (Secondary Age) meet at church centre from 10.15am, finish at church (except 21 December - all in church).

7.30pm, 'Crossfire' (S1 upwards) in church centre.

Tuesdays: 10am: Pram Service, during term time.

Wednesdays: 10.45am Service, church centre. 1.30pm Craft Group (not in December - restarts 7 January).

Thursdays: 2pm-4pm PS2 (Pram Service Two) - drop in for a coffee and a chat (contact: Evelyn Cairns 863990).

Fridays: The Brigade, church centre. Anchor Section 6 - 7.15pm, Junior Section 7 - 9pm, Company Section 8 - 10pm (Contact: David Munro 862126).

Saturdays: 10am - 12noon 'Coffee Stop': coffees, cakes and book sale at church centre most Saturdays.

Other Events and Services

December

Mon 1 8am Silent Meditation (30 mins.)

Tue 2 2.30pm Service at Whyte Court.

7.15pm Guild, church centre: Christmas Party.

Sun 7 10.30am Quarterly Communion Service.

6.30pm Evening Communion.

Wed 10 7.30pm Christmas Wrap: an evening to wrap parcels for Churches Action for the Homeless and for the families supported by Crossreach at Perth Prison Visitors' Centre.

Sat 13 8.30am Prayer Breakfast (names in advance to church office)

Sun 14 3pm Christmas Celebration, Loch Leven Community Campus.

Thu 18 9pm late evening service of Compline.

Sat 20 2.4pm Junior Church Christmas Party, church centre.

Sun 21 10.30am: All-age Nativity Service.

Wed 24 Christmas Eve: 4.30pm Crib Service for families.
11.15pm Watchnight Service.

Thur 25 Christmas Day: 10.30am: a short service for Christmas Day

Tue 30 2.30pm Service at Causeway Court.

January

Sun 4 10.30pm Morning Service followed by informal Communion
2.30pm Annual Bereavement Service.

Mon 5 8am Silent Meditation (30 mins.)

Tue 6 2.30pm Service at Whyte Court.

7.15pm Guild, church centre: 'Who is our neighbour?'

Thu 8 7.30pm Thursday Group, church centre: Nan Cook.

Sat 10 8.30am Prayer Breakfast (names in advance to church office)

Thu 15 9pm late evening service of Compline.

Tue 20 7.15pm Guild, church centre: 'A day in the life of a pot of honey'.

Sun 25 6.30pm United Service at Orwell Church.

Tue 27 2.30pm Service at Causeway Court.

Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church

Church of Scotland (Charity number SC015523)

Minister - Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Telephone: 01577 863461

Email: angusmorrison3@gmail.com

Website: www.orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk

Sunday Worship, Junior Church and crèche:

10am Portmoak Church,

11.30am Orwell Church.

All children welcome. Crèche available during Sunday Services.

Please note that joint services will be held on the first Sunday of each month from January in alternate churches at 10.30am. On 4 January the service will be in Portmoak and on 1 February at Orwell.

Prayer Meeting held 30mins before each service.

Evening Service at 6.30pm in Orwell Hall (1st and 3rd Sundays of month).

Service at Ashley House: first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm.

Morning Prayers at 9am

Each Thursday at Portmoak Church New Room.

Each Friday at Orwell Church.

Messy Church See church website for details of next event.

Dates and events for your diary

9 Dec Guild Christmas Meal in Orwell Hall.

12 Dec Oasis Ladies Group in Portmoak New Room at 10.15am: 'Thoughts for Christmas' by Rosemary Tolson.

16 Dec Guild meets in Orwell Hall at 7pm, Theme Night: 'A World to Serve'.

21 Dec Carol Service in Orwell Church 6.30pm.

24 Dec Family Service in Portmoak Church 6.30pm.

24 Dec Watchnight Service in Orwell Church 11.30pm.

25 Dec Family Service in Portmoak Church 10.30am.

28 Dec Family Service in Orwell Church 10.30am (No service in Portmoak Church).

4 Jan Joint service in Portmoak Church 10.30am.

13 Jan Guild meets in Orwell Hall at 7pm, 'A Journey to Vietnam' - J & H McLennan.

25 Jan 'Souper Sunday' at both churches.

27 Jan Guild meets in Orwell Hall at 7pm, 'Milnathort in Bloom' - Graeme Stewart.

30 Jan Oasis Ladies Group in Portmoak New Room at 10.15am - 'Life in Japan' by Lorna Ferguson.

1 Feb Joint service in Orwell Church 10.30am.

Everyone welcome

Church office & shop open Mon - Fri. 10am until 2pm.

29 South Street, Milnathort KY13 9XA.

Christian cards, gifts, bibles and books for sale. Printing and copying facilities available. Recycling for ink toners, stamps & batteries. Donations of food can be made for the local Foodbank.

Contact the Office 01577 861200
orwellportmoakchurch@gmail.com

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Fossoway, St Serf's & Devonside Church**Church of Scotland** (Charity number SC013157)

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse Telephone: (01577) 862937

Email: lissten@sky.com

Reader: Mr Brian Ogilvie Telephone: (01592) 840823

Email: brianj.ogilvie1@btopenworld.com

Session Clerk: Mrs Janet Harper Telephone: (01755) 840225

Email: aclassicsoul@aol.com

Sunday Services at 9.45am. All are welcome.**December****Sun 7** 9.45am Morning Worship followed by Refreshments. 6pm Service of Remembering.**Sun 14** 9.45am Morning Worship, Nativity Service.**Sun 21** 9.45am Morning Worship.
5pm Family Christingle service.**Wed 24** 11pm Christmas Eve service.**Thu 25** 9.45am Christmas Day Service.**Sun 28** 9.45am Morning Worship.**January****Sun 4** 9.45am Morning Worship followed by Refreshments.**Sun 11** 9.45am Morning Worship.**Sun 18** 9.45am Morning Worship.**Sun 25** 9.45am Morning Worship.

There will be a Junior Church and a crèche available during morning worship.

Café Refresh: Every Thursday, church hall, 2-4pm.
*A social time enhanced with tea, coffee and cakes.***House group:** Please contact Fred Aitken for details,
01577 840833.**Film Afternoon:** In the Church Hall, Friday 5 Dec, 2.30 - 4.30pm and 7.30 - 9.30pm. *Join us for a film, a cuppa and a blether, and even some popcorn.***St James' R C Church**

5 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AW

Father Colin Golden Telephone: (01577) 863329

Mass Times Saturday Vigil 7.00pm
Sunday 9.30am**24 Dec** Carol Service at 8.30pm, followed by First Mass of Christmas at 9pm**25 Dec** Christmas Day Mass at 11.15am

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

**PLANNING PERMISSION
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McNeil Partnership is a locally based practice with LOCAL knowledge providing drawings and processing applications for Planning permission and Building Warrants.

We specialise in Extensions, Attic Conversions, Conservatories, Porches and Internal and External Alterations.

Contact **Eric or Fiona McNeil**
01577 863000
For free advice**Cleish Parish Church****Church of Scotland**

(Charity number SC 003168)

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse

Telephone: (01577) 862937

Email: lissten@sky.com

Reader: Mr Brian Ogilvie

Telephone: (01592) 840823

Email: brianj.ogilvie1@btopenworld.com

Session Clerk: Gordon McMillan

Telephone: (01506) 825641

Email: gordon.b.mcmillan@tak21.com

Website: www.cleishchurch.org

Sunday Services

11.15am

December**Sun 7** 11.15am Morning Worship. Junior Church.**Mon 8** 3.15pm Messy Church in village hall.**Sun 14** 11.15am Morning Worship, Nativity Play.
3pm KCT Community Christmas Celebration in Loch Leven Campus.**Sun 21** 11.15am Morning Worship, Christingle Service.**Wed 24** 11.15pm Watchnight Service.**Thu 25** 11.15am Christmas Day 'Toy' Service.**Sun 28** 11.15am Morning Worship.**January****Sun 4** 11.15am Morning Worship followed by coffee in the village hall.**Sun 11** 11.15am Morning Worship, Junior Church.**Sun 18** 11.15am Morning Worship.**Sun 25** 11.15am Morning Worship.**Mon 26** 7.15pm Guild meeting in village hall.

All welcome

Kinross Gospel Hall

Montgomery Street, Kinross

Website: www.kinrossgospelhall.info

Sunday	10.30am	Breaking of Bread
	12.15pm	Sunday School
	6.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Monday	6.30pm	Gospel Meeting
	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting
	8.15pm	Bible Study

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DAY AND EVENING APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT CALL

Lyn Macpherson

BSc MChS

07888836961



Shona Simpson

BSc (HONS) MChS

07734347751

St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church*(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)*

Muirs, Kinross, KY13 8AY Telephone: 01577 864299

Email: office@stpaulskinross51.plus.com

Website: www.stpauls-kinross.co.uk

Fr David Mackenzie Mills, Rector Telephone: 01577 863795

Email: frdavidkinross@gmail.com

You can also find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross

St Paul's is open, friendly and welcoming to all age groups (whether regular churchgoers or if you're simply inquisitive about who we are and what we do.)

We are excited about the ways in which God is calling us to grow as a community, for the community. Our aim is to express our deep appreciation of both the spoken and sacramental Word with a lightness of touch and a smile. If you would like to give us a try, we look forward to meeting and greeting you and hope that you might enjoy becoming part of this faithful family of Christ.

Mondays and Wednesdays: 8am Morning Prayer in the Church.

Wednesdays: 3.30pm Midweek Holy Communion.

Thursdays: 10.30am Morning Bible study & Discussion Group.

All welcome

Thursdays: 3.30pm – 4.30pm Rector's Hour

December Services and Events

Refreshments are normally available in the Meeting Room after the Sunday 11am service.

Wed 10 & 17: Choir rehearsals, 7.30pm – 9pm, St Paul's Meeting Room. *Two evening rehearsals for the Christmas Carols and Christmas Day services. All confident singers welcome. Please contact the Rector in advance to help with planning.*

Sun 7 Advent 2 (Bethlehem and the way of the prophets). 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Sun 14 Advent 3 (Gaudete Sunday and John the Baptist). 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist. 6.30pm Evening Prayer with hymns for Advent.

Sat 20 Choir rehearsal. 2.30 – 4pm, St Paul's Meeting Room. *Final rehearsal for the Christmas Carols and Christmas Day services.*

Sun 21 Advent 4. 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist and Church Nativity. 6.30pm St Paul's Christmas Carol Service

Mon 22 3pm White Christmas. *A Carol singalong, with stories, poems, live music, mince pies and lots of Christmas cheer. Something for all ages. £8, £5 concessions and free for infants under 3.*

Tue 23 3pm Christingle Family Service.

Wed 24 **Christmas Eve.** 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Thu 25 **Christmas Day.** 8.45am Said Matins (1928). 10am Whole Church Sung Eucharist.

Sun 28 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist.

January Services and Events

Sun 4 2nd Sunday of Christmas. 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist.

Sun 11 The Epiphany (*transferred from the 6th*). 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist. *NB. Gifts and Talents Auction moved to Friday 27 February. More details soon.*

Sun 18 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany. 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist.

Sun 25 The Conversion of St Paul. 8.30am Holy Communion. 11am Sung Eucharist and the launch of St Paul's Fundraising Project.

Everyone welcome at all services**Kinross-shire Churches Together
Advent Prayer Journey**

During this busy season you are all welcome to take time out and visit St Paul's, Kinross, and travel on an advent prayer journey in which we pray that you will take away something special for yourself, that will help you draw nearer to Jesus as the centre of your Christmas. Along the journey you will find pictures and some words to reflect on and prayerful activities. You will be free to do whatever you want to and to take as long as you want. We want you to enjoy this quiet space.

St Paul's will be open to all on:

Monday 1 December	10am – 3pm
Tuesdays 9 and 22 December	2.30pm – 4.30pm
Thursdays 4, 11 and 18 December	3.30pm – 4.30pm

Kinross Christian Fellowship

Jesus said, *'I am among you as one who serves.'*

Sunday morning service at 10.30am (refreshments and blether at 10am), Millbridge Hall, Old Causeway, Kinross.

Lively praise (children participate), reverent worship open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, prayer, ministry and solid Bible-based preaching and teaching. An all-round family service for families, which includes Sunday School. Communion every second Sunday, as is our evening service at 6.30pm; a time for praise, worship, sharing and joy in The Lord Jesus. (Followed by light refreshments and more blether.)

Everyone is welcome to either service or to both, so please come and, *taste and see that the LORD is good.*

Contact Peter on 01577 863509, for further information.

KCF also runs the Talking Donkey café - see separate notice in the Newsletter. Additionally, the Friday evening Youth Group at the Millbridge Hall (Space) is also the responsibility of our Fellowship, and we are pleased to accept this privilege.

Healing Rooms Kinross and Loch Leven

Every Thursday from 10.30am to 12 noon

at 29 South Street, Milnathort, KY13 9XA.

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07531 435715 for further information.

www.healingrooms-scotland.com

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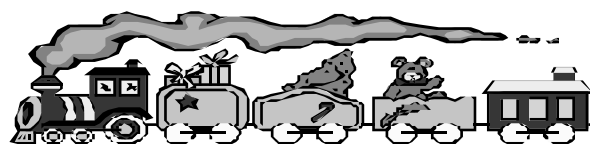
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Obituaries

MARGARET ROSE PAPIEROWSKA died at her home, Kirkland Court, Kinross, on 25 October 2014, aged 92 years.

Rose had been confined to bed for the last two years of her life but always remained cheerful. She was one of eleven children born to Rena and John Downie, who once lived above the dentist in the High Street, all her brothers and sisters gone before her.

Rose, as she was always known, made a very successful job of running the Bridgend Hotel, one of the most popular hotels in the town. She was very hard working, loved clothes and always liked to look her best. Not long after her husband Eddie died, she decided to retire and moved to Kirkland Court, where she led a quiet life. She always involved herself with her family and her little dog Mac. She always kept her sense of humour throughout and we will all miss her very much.

MARGARET SHARP of Green Road, Kinross, passed away suddenly but peacefully at Ninewells Hospital on Monday 13 October 2014.

Margaret was born and raised in Kinross with her three sisters, Jean, Sadie and Marion and her brother Billy. In 1964 she married Rab. They lived in the surrounding area until moving back into Kinross in 1975. Margaret worked in Kinross until her retirement. She had a full and happy retirement, enjoying her many shopping trips and holidays.

Margaret was predeceased by her husband Rab in 2011 and is survived by her son Gordon, his wife Alison and grandchildren Nicole and Ryan, and her daughter Pauline and partner Chick. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

GIULIA GIACOPAZZI

7 February 1916 – 4 November 2014

Giulia, who until her passing some weeks short of her 100th year, was one of the last of a unique generation who lived through two world wars which contributed to, arguably, the most momentous period in history.

Born in a mountain village in the province of Parma, Northern Italy, Giulia was only three when she lost her mother (the village school teacher) to the pandemic of Spanish flu then sweeping the world. She latterly described the current outbreak of ebola virus as being 'just like Spanish flu'. With her father working to support the family, Giulia's upbringing was entrusted to a series of grandparents and aunts.

Proving good at school, she took advantage of a government bursary to attend teachers' training college in Parma, where she gained her diploma at the age of twenty and immediately went to work. Lack of seniority dictated that her earlier postings were to remote village schools high in the Apennine mountains, often accessible only on foot.

Following a turbulent period after the outbreak of war, with the civilian population endangered by allies and Germans alike, she met and married Trentino Giacopazzi of Milnathort, who was on holiday in Italy, in 1948. In moving to Milnathort she abandoned her teaching career to work as a partner in the family business at New Road, a building which is now the Post Office. Many in the village will remember Giulia from that time.

Retiring from business in her sixties, Giulia spent the next

35 years in retirement living with her family, where she proved an invaluable asset as a baby sitter! Her great hobbies were preparing amazing cuisine for the family and dressmaking, at which she excelled.

She died peacefully at home with her family at her bedside after a short illness. The family would like to especially thank the Marie Curie nurse, district nurses and doctors for their enormous support at the end.

She leaves a son, Joseph, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Acknowledgements

SHARP – The family here and in New Zealand wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, support and many cards following Margaret's sudden death. Also grateful thanks to Stewart Funeral Directors for handling the funeral arrangements, and all who paid their respects at Perth Crematorium and gave so generously the sum of £868.37 in aid of Kinross Day Centre and Rachel House.

HARVEY – Lesley, Rowan, Robbie and Angus would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported, comforted, visited (and fed!) them in recent weeks since the death of their beloved husband and father, Bob.

With thanks also to those friends and neighbours who made visits to Bob in hospital and hospice at times when visiting was not an easy undertaking.

Lesley and her family would like to say a particular thanks to Rev. Alan Reid and his congregation at Kinross Parish Church who have been such a constant presence and support for them all during Bob's illness and since his death.

Thanks also to Stewart's Funeral Directors and Perth Crematorium for their help with funeral arrangements, with a special mention for their particular care of the boys, with whom they were compassionate and patient.

We would like to thank all who attended Bob's memorial service at Kinross Parish Church and those involved in making it such an uplifting and special occasion: Rev. Alan Reid for conducting the service, Ewan Cathcart for his audio-visual input, David Cairns for playing the organ, John Harvey, Isobel Watt and Claire Davidson for their readings, Tom and Brenda Fraser for their welcome duty and Frances Drysdale for general keeping of order.

The retiring collection of £1,406.20 has been gifted to the Cornhill Macmillan facility in Perth where Bob received outstanding care in his final weeks. Thank you, everyone.

THOMSON – **Aileen Thomson (née White)**, wife of Tom Thomson (deceased).

Aileen's family would like to thank all those who cared for her during her illness up to her death on 12 October 2014.

Much appreciation is given to the staff at The Victoria Hospital and Ian Eeles, Musselburgh, for the care and support given to Aileen, helping her to keep such a positive outlook throughout.

Many thanks to all the family and many friends who attended Dunfermline Crematorium on 20 October; it was a great comfort and an indication of Aileen's popularity and zest for life that so many came to pay their respects. Particular thanks to Denis Madden who conducted a touching and personal service.



Playgroups and Toddlers⁵⁶



Milnathort Babies & Toddlers

**Orwell Church Hall, Milnathort
Friday 9.30am-11.15am**

A relaxed and friendly group
Healthy snacks, tea & coffee
Children from birth to 3 years
(5 years if attending with younger sibling)
Great fun for the kids, mums, dads and carers!

PLACES NOW AVAILABLE!

To join in the fun
call 07745 804539
Email milnathortbt@gmail.com
Or find us on Facebook



GLENFARG BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We meet in the newly refurbished village hall, Greenbank Road, Glenfarg on Wednesdays, 9.30-11.30am.

Healthy snack for children, coffee/tea & biscuits for carer
Role play, jigsaws, physical toys and arts and crafts
Friendly support for all carers
First session free, £2 thereafter (£1 for additional children)
Contact Donna Smith on 07535 595430 or just come along!

LOCHLEVEN BABIES & TODDLERS

**Masonic Hall, The Muirs, Kinross
Session times (term time only)**

Tuesdays 9.30- 11.15, Fridays 9.30- 11.15
Contact Sylvia Flynn 07793 005732,
sylviaastewart@hotmail.co.uk

All Mothers, Fathers, and Carers are welcome to attend, with children aged birth to 5 years if accompanied by a younger sibling who shall be 3 years old or younger.

PORTMOAK UNDER 5s

Portmoak Hall – between Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell (only 10 mins from Milnathort and Kinross)



We are a friendly and relaxed playgroup welcoming children aged 2-5. We offer a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, dressing up, outdoor play and stories. We also on occasion arrange outings, parties and have special visitors who come to the playgroup!

Babies and Toddlers (birth- 3yrs), Tues 9.45am - 11.15am.
Sessions are £1.50 for first child and 50p for each additional child.

Playgroup (2yrs onwards), Mon & Fri 10am– 12noon.
£4.50 per session.

Contact Lynda Hardie (Play leader/Manager)
01592 840785 or 07594 328475

Email: portmoakunderfives@hotmail.co.uk
or find us on Facebook

SWANSACRE PLAYGROUP

21-23 Swansacre, Kinross
Kinross-shire Playgroup Association
Aka Swansacre Playgroup
Reg Scottish Charity No SC017748



Tel: 01577 862071 Mobile: 07592 392235

We provide a warm, friendly and stimulating environment in which children can learn and develop through play.

Playgroup: Children from age 2 years welcome.

Tue to Fri 9.15am - 12 noon. Fri 12.30pm - 3.15pm

Inbetweeners: Mon 9.15am - 11.45am with Lunch Club afterwards. Children from the age of 3 years welcome.

Rising Fives: Tues & Wed 1pm - 3.15pm with Lunch Club beforehand. Complementary to preschool Nursery.

For availability or more information, please contact:

Jen 07852 208220, enrolments.swansacre@gmail.com
or Playgroup on telephone numbers above.

Baby and Toddler Group – Thurs 12.45-2.45pm

Ante-natal to pre-school. Fun for children; coffee and chat for the parent/carers. For more information, please contact Playgroup on 07592 392235.

The premises are available to hire for **Private Functions**. For more information, please contact **Tracey 07557 051894** or the Playgroup on 07592 392235.

LOCHLEVEN TWOS CLUB

Masonic Hall, The Muirs, Kinross

Thursdays 9.45 to 11.15am (term time only)

A relaxed, friendly group for children from about 18 months to pre-school with their parent/carers. Play and pre-school activities, with a variety of toys. A snack is provided, plus coffee and tea for parents/carers. Younger siblings also welcome.

Contact Esther Blackburn on estherjkent@hotmail.com or
07812 757077 for further details,
or find us on Facebook: Two's Club Kinross

MONTGOMERY TODDLERS

Every Thursday 9.30am to 11am (term-time only)

The Gospel Hall, Montgomery Street, Kinross.

Contact Christina Smith 01577 840733 or 07792 260509

FOSSOWAY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Glenbank Cottage, Powmill



Partner-provider for P&K Education

Places available for 3-5-year-olds and Rising Fives
Sessions daily 9.30– 12 noon

Contact Pat Irvine 07703 177766 or
www.childcarelink.gov.uk/perthandkinross

Private Nurseries and Childcare

For private nurseries and childcare services, please see advertisements throughout the Newsletter.

Notices



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Boys Brigade

St Andrew's Day Coffee Morning

Church Centre, Kinross

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

10am – 12 noon

Bottle stall Raffle Cake stall and more

Festive Street Market and Light Up Kinross

Saturday 29 November

Festive Street Market

Muir, Kinross, 4pm – 7pm

- Market stalls • Carol singing • Christmas shopping
- Music • Mulled wine • Pipe band

Swansacre Playgroup's Countdown to Christmas
at The Windlestrae Hotel, 3pm – 7pm

Christmas Lights Switch On

County Building, 7pm

Lights to be switched on by Eilidh Child

Kinross Guiding

are to hold a

Coffee Evening and Body Shop Presentation

on

Monday 1 December

6.30pm-8.30pm at Millbridge Hall, Kinross

All welcome – please come along

This is a fundraiser for Guiding in Kinross

Ticket price for refreshments: £2 adult and £1 child

The Thursday Group

This is a women's group meeting on the first Thursday of the month in the Lower Hall of the Church Centre at 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact 01577 863421.

4 December *Christmas dinner*

8 January *Kinross-shire Day Centre*, Nan Cook

5 February *The Wee Pie Company*, Rose Martin

5 March *Charity fund raiser (TBA)*

2 April *40th anniversary celebration*

7 May *AGM*

Milnathort Primary School Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 6 December 10am - 12noon

Milnathort Primary School Hall

Craft & pocket money stalls • cake & candy

Pick & mix • MPS tea towels

Kids' Christmas crafts • tea & coffee

Mulled wine • tombola • raffle

Plus a very special visitor!

Children free

Adults £2 (including tea/coffee
or mulled wine)



The Gaelic Society of Perth

The Society will hold their **December Ceilidh** at St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, Perth on **Friday 5 December at 7.30pm**. Members of the Stirling Gaelic Choir will be performing a variety of musical arrangements. The first Ceilidh of 2015 will be on **Friday 16 January** with the McSween family and the incomparable duo of Stella Wilkie on violin and Joan Blue on piano. Admission is £5 for Members and £6 for Non-Members – for an evening's entertainment plus refreshments!

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary on 01577 864589.

Pamper and Craft Night

7pm – 9.30pm

Friday 5 December

Milnathort Guide and Scout Hall

Entry: £2 (pay at the door)

Pamper treatments, Christmas gifts, Phoenix Cards, Clairvoyant, Herbalife SKIN, Candles, Scarves, Arbonne, Jewellery, Forever Living, Confectionery and lots more.



Wine Tasting Fundraising Evening



Saturday 6 December

Portmoak Village Hall, Kinnesswood

8pm – 11pm

£10 per ticket (over 18s only)

Everyone loves a little glass of wine. Why not join the St Andrews Wine Company for a Wine Tasting Fundraiser for Portmoak Under Fives?

You can sample specially selected wines which are all available to buy for your wine rack or as a little Christmas stocking filler.

Peter, owner of St Andrews Wine Company, will be running the wine tasting and light nibbles will be supplied.

For tickets, please contact Ann-Marie on 07557 798840 or purchase them from Kinnesswood Shop.



King George V Playing Fields Management Committee

Annual General Meeting

Monday 8 December

7pm at the Rugby Clubhouse

All are welcome to attend. The KGV committee is a voluntary group that looks after the facilities used by many of the sporting groups in Kinross-shire and welcomes anyone who may wish to contribute something to the local community.



Business Breakfasts

Open to all Kinross-shire Businesses

Kinross-shire Partnership hosts Business Breakfasts at Loch Leven's Larder. Please do come along, everyone is welcome whatever size your business. There is no membership fee. It is a great opportunity for local businesses to meet each other. The Breakfasts will take place from **7.30am to 9am** on

Wednesday 3 December

Wednesday 4 February

The cost of attending a Breakfast will be **£10** per person and will include a full Scottish Breakfast, porridge, cereal, fresh juice, fresh fruit, toast, coffee and tea. Please pay by cash on the day. Receipts will be issued.

The aim is to allow local businesses of all sizes to network and to share business goals. Everyone will have the opportunity to introduce their business. Please bring your business cards and any brochures you wish to display.

To book your place at one or more of the Breakfasts, please email Karen Grunwell, Kinross-shire Partnership Administrator, at

mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk or call 07865193844

You can see more information about the work of Kinross-shire Partnership at:

www.kinrosspartnership.org.uk

www.visitlochleven.org

www.facebook.com/visitlochleven

www.twitter.com/VisitLochLeven

Christmas Crafts at RSPB Loch Leven

Come and join us for some Christmas crafting using natural and recycled materials.

Take home your very own mini birch wreath, twig star and festive wookie tree decorations!

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December

11am to 3pm

Suitable for families and individuals.

No need to book, just drop in!

For further details, contact Miranda Shephard on 01577 862355 or email miranda.shephard@rspb.org.uk



Santa's Sleigh Visits

With the help of the Round Table, Santa's sleigh will be making its annual appearances again this year:



Monday	8 December	Portmोक/Scotlandwell
Tuesday	9 December	Milnathort
Thursday	11 December	Kinross South
Sunday	14 December	Kinross North/CHAS
Tuesday	16 December	Glenfarg

All Santa's Sleigh runs will commence at approximately 6pm and will run no later than 9pm, with the exception of Kinross North which runs between approximately 3pm and 7pm. All runs are weather dependent. All collectors are local groups and will be registered.

Kinross-shire Historical Society

Meetings are held at Kinross Parish Church, Station Road, Kinross at 7.30pm. Membership entitles free entry to all six talks of the season, with tea or coffee included in the cost. Membership: Adults £6, Senior £5, Under-18 free. Visitors: £2 per talk.



Remaining Programme for 2014 -2015

8 Dec Down by the Kirkgate Shore: The story of the Kirkgate. **Prof David Munro MBE.**

19 Jan The Covenanters in Fife: The Militant Presbyterians who resisted the Stuart monarchs' attempts to control the Church of Scotland. **Dr Bruce Durie BSC, PhD, OIJ, FSA Scot, FColIT, FIGRS, FHEA.**

16 Feb Fife Trams: An illustrated history of trams in Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline. **Keith Mason LLB.**

16 Mar Invasion Defences of Fife: Fife defences against attack and invasion during the 20th century. **Steve Liscoe M Litt, FC Archaeological Unit**

(See also Club News p. 62)

Make your own Christmas Wreath at Crook of Devon Village Hall



Come along and amaze yourself with your creativity – make your very own Christmas Wreath! Your creation can be for your table centerpiece or to hang on your front door.

Also makes a lovely personal gift!

Friday 12 December 9.30am – 11.30am

Sunday 14 December 2pm – 4pm

Cost: £15 (all materials supplied). If you want to add an extra sparkle to your wreath, bring along some baubles or ribbons. Booking essential as limited places. To book your place, call Michelle Wight on 01577 840852 or 07764763407 or Amanda James on 07963 476803.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

Kinross Floral Art Club

Thursday 11 December

The Christmas Demonstration is in the Windlestrae Hotel at 7.15pm and will be presented by

Mrs Anne Buchan from Crieff

The title of the demonstration is 'Here comes Christmas'.

We invite all members and visitors to join us to watch Anne create beautiful Christmas arrangements.

Yes We Care Kinross-shire Tackling Poverty for All

will hold a **Public Meeting** to elect a committee

Friday 12 December 2014

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Loch Leven Community Campus

For further information, please contact: Tracey Ramsay, Senior Community Capacity Building Worker, Loch Leven Community Campus. Tel: 01577 867124 or email tramsay@pkc.gov.uk

Grants and Funding Websites

www.pkgrantsdirect.com

www.foundationscotland.org.uk

Crook of Devon Village Hall Family Christmas Disco 2014 Everyone is Welcome



Friday 19 December

Family Tickets £15 (2 Adults & 2 Children). Adults £5
Children £3. Squash & Crisps will be provided. 6.30pm –
8pm With Dancing, Games and a Very Special Visitor for
the Children. Fun for all. (Bring your own Bottle).

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CROOK OF DEVON
VILLAGE SHOP**



Kinross-shire Christmas Celebration

Sunday 14 December

at 3pm in the Assembly Hall, Loch Leven Campus

An afternoon of Carols for all, Readings and Choir Solos

sponsored by Kinross-shire Churches Together

All welcome. Doors open 2.30pm



Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme Annual Burns Supper

Windlestrae Hotel

Monday 12 January 2015

6.30pm for 7pm

Tickets: £17.50 available from Pauline Watson 862685,

Allan Dearing 863315 or Ann Munro 840196

Join us for an excellent evening
of Toasts, Recitation and Song



Kinross Floral Art Club Thursday 22 January 2015

The first meeting of 2015 will be an informal evening in
Heaven Scent in Milnathort at 7pm

Come along and, if you wish, bring a small bunch of
flowers, fresh, silk or dried, or just come for a chat and
refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there!

Funding Alert!

PKC produces a huge list summarising funding
opportunities for the voluntary sector. There are dozens of
Trusts and Foundations giving away grants.

The list will be posted on www.kinross.cc or go to
www.pkc.gov.uk and look for the voluntary sector page.

Contacts:

The P&K Grants Direct Team 0845 605 2000

Steve MacDonald, P&KC External

Funding Officer 01738 477963

(Contact Steve MacDonald if you would like to subscribe to
P&KC's regular e-funding bulletin.)

HOGMANAY CEILIDH & DISCO

Bring in 2015 with family, friends and neighbours

Crook of Devon Village Hall

Wednesday 31 Dec 2014

8pm - 12.30am

Ceilidh and Disco Dancing

Advance tickets **ONLY** (no ticket sales on the
night). BYOB, £1 coins (to win prizes!), nibbles and
party shoes!

SOLD OUT!

*****Entry by ticket only*****



**Children's
Hospice
Association
Scotland**

Children, young
people and
their families
at the heart of
all we do.

Children's Hospice Association Scotland

Get Festive at the Kinross CHAS Charity Shops

Check out the Christmas promotions in the Kinross CHAS
charity shops (76 and 88 High Street, Kinross).

We have lots of Christmas present ideas including toys,
jewellery, books, CDs, DVDs, scarves, novelties and a great
selection of eye-catching party wear at amazing prices.

Donations for the shops, fundraising and volunteering
enquiries can be made at 3 High Street, Kinross, Monday to
Friday, 9am to 5pm. Telephone 01577 865222.

THE KINROSS HUB A CAFE FOR CARERS

GUEST SPEAKERS

5th January 2015

Age Concern (Carole Anderson)

2nd February 2015

Scarf (Andy Little)

2nd March 2015

NHS Podiatrist (Allison Millar)

Speakers at 10.30 am

The hub cafe is
an informal
meeting place to
chat over a cuppa
with other carers,
cared for and
family
members.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HALL,
KINROSS
1st MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10am-12noon



Contact Gail Boath
or Annette Bond
Tel. 01577 867306 / 01738
567076



Friends of Loch Leven Community Library

present

Family Fun Activities

Saturday 24 January 2015

1pm till 3.30pm

Loch Leven Community Campus in the Library

Join in the Fun:

Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre:

The Three Giants Show & Puppet Making Workshops

Kinross Museum: Burns Connection Exhibition
and Children's Activities

Bagpipe Demonstration

Music & Dance, **Poetry Workshops**, Arts & Crafts,
Children's Treasure Hunt, Story Time, **Leven Voices**

and lots more for all the family

Please look out for further information locally

For further information, please contact:

Tracey Ramsay, Senior Community Capacity Building Worker,
Loch Leven Community Campus. Email tramsay@pkc.gov.uk
Tel 01577 867124 or Community Learning Base 01577 867177

Music in Dollar 2014-15

Concerts are held in the Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy, starting at 7.30pm except Opera Sunday on 18 Jan, which begins at 2pm.

A season tickets for all five concerts is £35, a saving of £15 compared to the 'on-the-door' price of £10 per concert.

18 Jan: At 2pm. Opera on a Shoestring - Opera Sunday. Opera on a Shoestring does what it says in the tin. It's a small-scale professional company based in Glasgow, which offers concerts, usually by four singers and a pianist, of a wide variety of opera and operetta arias and ensembles.

21 Feb: Whistlebinkies - traditional Scottish Folk Saturday. The Whistlebinkies have built a worldwide reputation over 40 years for their approach to Scottish music: letting the power and beauty of the melodies shine while achieving a rich blend of traditional instruments.

21 Mar: Royal Conservatoire of Scotland members - brass ensemble. Ten young players from the wealth of musicians studying at the Glasgow-based Royal Conservatoire of Scotland will be performing to bring the finest music ever written for brass.

Kinross Guides

There are vacancies for girls aged 10 - 14 within Kinross Guides. We currently meet on a Tuesday evening in Millbridge Hall, Kinross, from 7.30pm to 9pm.

The girls enjoy a variety of activities, work towards obtaining certificates and badges and have lots of fun!!! And all this for £1.00 per night - payment is made termly. Come along and try us out - we might surprise you!

Ceilidh Dancing

Come and join us from 2 till 3 every Monday in the Guide Hall, Milnathort, and learn to ceilidh dance. You don't need a partner and it is all very informal and great fun.

All proceeds go to the Scouts and Guides.
Just come along - the more the merrier. No age limit.

Discover Loch Leven Website

To discover the myriad things to see and do in Kinross-shire and its neighbouring counties, visit
www.visitlochleven.org

St Paul's Episcopal Church Auction of Gifts and Talents FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

7pm

There will be Supper, an Auction of Gifts and Talents followed by a Ceilidh at 7pm on Friday 27 February. (Venue to be confirmed.)

Price: £8.00 per person (Concessions on request).

Proceeds for the evening will go towards renewing the church's fabric.

Please mark this date in your diary as an evening not to be missed!

If you would like to offer gifts and talents, please send a note of these, and your name, address and telephone number, to Maggie Strang Steel so that a catalogue can be made up before the auction night.

Address: Greenhead of Arnot, Leslie, Glenrothes, KY6 3JQ

Email: Maggie@greenheadfarm.co.uk

Telephone: 01592 840459 or 0781 4094818.

Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme



Using a team of volunteer drivers, who are paid out of pocket expenses only, we provide transport and befriending to people in need in Kinross and the outlying areas. Please contact our co-ordinator Ann Munro: 01577 840196 for details on the service we offer. Current charges:

Health Centre from Kinross or Milnathort	£3
Health Centre from outreach area	£5
Perth, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline	£10
Stirling	£12
Dundee, Edinburgh	£18
Stracathro	£25

Enquire

Are you looking for information about your child's rights to support in School?

If so, contact **Enquire**, the national advice and information service for additional support for learning.

Enquire offer: a confidential telephone helpline and online enquiry service, practical guides, fact sheets and newsletters, helpful materials for children and young people with additional support needs.

For more information contact: tel 0845 123 2303

Website: www.enquire.org.uk

Enquire is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Children in Scotland

Perth & Kinross School Term Dates 2014-15

Term	Start	End
Winter	Mon 27 Oct 2014	Fri 19 Dec 2014
Spring	Mon 5 Jan 2015	Thu 2 Apr 2015
Summer	Tue 21 Apr 2015	Thu 2 July 2015

In Service Days and Occasional Holidays:

2015: 18, 19 & 20 Feb; Mon 4 May (May Day, tbc.)

Deadline for all Submissions

5.00 pm, FRIDAY 16 January
for publication on Saturday 31 January

COFFEE MORNING

For anyone who is affected by MS
including family, friends and carers



Loch Leven's Larder

10.30am - 12 noon

Every third Tuesday of the month

Website: www.perth-kinross.org.uk

Email: perthkinross@mssociety.org.uk

perthkinross.support@mssociety.org.uk

Phone: 07552 368216

Blythswood Care

(The Newsletter does not always have space to publish the full details regarding items which can and cannot be accepted, so readers may wish to cut out this Notice for future reference)

The Round South Truck accepts small items of furniture, clothing and bric à brac. The uplift of any larger items of furniture (e.g. sofas, beds, wardrobes etc) can be arranged by phoning Hillington on 0141 882 0585. All soft furnishings (e.g. beds, sofas, three-piece suites etc) donated to Blythswood Care must have a fire label with the British Standards code (BS7177) attached to it.

We regret that the Round South Truck cannot accept books. We are also unable to accept bikes, carpets, coat hangers, gas appliances, prams, televisions, small electrical appliances, exercise equipment or wall units.

The next collections will take place on
Tuesdays 16 December & 20 January
between 10.30am and 11am

in Sainsbury's car park

(if car park is full, van will park nearby,
e.g. Park & Ride or Ochil View)

100th Birthday and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

Do you know a Perth & Kinross resident who is celebrating their 100th or 105th birthday?

Do you know a Perth & Kinross couple celebrating their 60th, 65th or 70th wedding anniversary?

PKC would like to help celebrate the special occasion. PKC can arrange delivery of a basket of flowers or for a local Councillor to present a basket of flowers to the person or couple on their special day.

Tel: 01738 475051 Email: CivicServices@pkc.gov.uk

Kinross Community Council Newsletter Ltd Charitable Grants

All profits from the Kinross Newsletter are transferred to a charitable company and given away to local good causes. Local groups and individuals may apply to the charitable company, Kinross Community Council Newsletter Ltd (KCCNL), for grant funding. Decisions on disbursement of funds are made by Kinross CC at its monthly meetings.

Applications must comply with the purposes of KCCNL. These purposes, further information and an application form are available from the website www.kinross.cc

Applications can be made on line or by downloading a form to fill in.

If you do not have internet access and would like a form, or if you have any queries, please telephone CCllr Barry Davies on (01577) 865004.



Kinross-shire Fund
Grants available for local
community projects



e.g. Events, Information, Transport, Welfare,
Physical Amenities, Recreational Facilities, Support for
Care of the Elderly, Voluntary Organisations

For more information and to download an application form,
see www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/kinross-shire-fund or telephone 0131 5240300

PLUS Perth

www.plusperth.co.uk

Tel: 01738 626242

77 Canal Street, Perth



PLUS is a member-led local charity and social movement which gives hope and opportunity to those affected by disadvantage; in the main to those with experience of mental ill health and substance misuse.

The PLUS office is open Mon-Fri 9.30am – 4pm
for mental health signposting and enquiries.

Newbies

Every Monday, 2- 3pm

Loch Leven Community Campus

A new group for new parents and new babies!

Come along and meet other parents for a blether,
whilst the babies play.

Parents with babies 0 - 18 months FREE!

**Welcome to the Kinross-shire
Volunteer
Information
Point**

Located in the Loch Leven Community Campus Library
Muirs, Kinross, KY13 8FQ

Here you can find information about **Volunteering Opportunities**
available in Kinross-shire.
Take your time and see what is available. You will also find leaflets
in the folders explaining where you can go for further help such as
Voluntary Action Perthshire www.vaperthshire.org

If you would like to promote your **Organisations Volunteering
Opportunities** please hand your information into reception for
attention of: Tracey Ramsay (Community Capacity Building Worker)

Blank profiles are also available for your use if required. These are in
the organisation folder at the VIP alternatively follow this link:
www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=22228&p=0

The Volunteer Information Point has been organised and supported by
Partners of the Kinross-shire Community Learning and Development Group.

For further information please contact Tracey Ramsay 01577 867177 or email
Tramsay@pkc.gov.uk

LOCAL CHEMIST INFORMATION



Rowlands Pharmacy, Kinross

Mon - Fri: 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
Saturday: 9.00 am - 5.00 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

**Sundays: The nearest open pharmacy
is Asda, Dunfermline**



Kinross Recycling Centre

Bridgend Industrial Estate

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

Bicycles, cans (inc aerosols, biscuit tins, aluminium foil), car and household batteries, cardboard, cooking oil, electricals (WEEE), engine oil, fluorescent tubes, long life light bulbs, food and drinks cartons (Tetra packs), fridges, freezers, garden waste, glass, large domestic appliances, paper, plastic (rigid plastic packaging), rubble stone and soil, scrap metal, telephone directories, textiles (clothes and shoes), timber, tyres (maximum two per visit, strictly householders only) and non recyclable (general) waste.

Compost can be collected from the Recycling Centre, subject to availability. Maximum of 2 x 25kg bags per visitor.

The Bike Station

Donate unwanted bikes, parts and cycling accessories for reuse. Bikes are refurbished and sold on to the public at affordable prices. Poorer bikes are salvaged for parts.

Bikes can be donated at the Kinross Recycling Centre (Bridgend Industrial Estate) or at The Bike Station at Mid Friarton, just off the Edinburgh Road in Perth.

Bike Station opening hours: Monday to Saturday, 10.30am to 4.30pm and late opening to 8pm on Wednesdays.

Weekly bike sales: Fridays, 10.30am-4.30pm (children's bikes) and Saturdays, 10.30am to 12.30pm (adults' bikes).

Tel: 01738 444430. Email: perth@thebikestation.org.uk

Website: www.thebikestation.org.uk

www.greyhoundrescuefife.com



Greyhound Rescue Fife
wish all their Friends a
very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Homes Required urgently for our homeless hounds

Phone: 01577 850393 (evenings)
Mob: 07826244765 (daytime)
email us on ferniejimmyf@aol.com



Loch Leven Community Campus
The Muirs, Kinross
KY13 8FQ
www.pkc.gov.uk

Community Learning & Development Adult Learning Free local and friendly support with:

English as a Second Language

Would you like to improve your ability to:

- Talk to friends and neighbours
- Understand what people say to you
- Give information
- Talk on the phone
- Fill in a form
- Apply for a job

Adult Literacy & Numeracy

Reading Writing Spelling Numbers

"I can enjoy books now"

"I feel more confident"

"Filling in forms is less scary"

"I passed my driving test"

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

**If you would like further information
regarding any of the tuition please contact:**

Roseanne Gray

Loch Leven Community Campus

Email: rgray@pkc.gov.uk

Tel: 01577 867177

Hope Pregnancy Crisis Centre

based in the centre of Perth

Offers free, confidential, non-judgemental advice and support to anyone facing a pregnancy related crisis.

In a safe, secure environment we aim to assist women (or couples) in making their own informed decisions about their future and support them through the process if they require it. We offer confidential advice, free pregnancy testing, pregnancy crisis and miscarriage support, adoption advice and counselling for post abortion stress.

The office is open 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday and outwith those hours can be contacted on the office number 01738 621174.

On-line support and information can be obtained from our website www.careconfidential.com

Hope Pregnancy Crisis Centre

40 St John Street, Perth, PH1 5SP

www.hopepregnancy.co.uk

email: hope-pregnancy@btconnect.com

Helpline 01738 621174

We are a Scottish Charity SC037103



THE
TALKING
DONKEY

Every Friday 11am – 2pm
@ The Millbridge Hall

For further information, or if you want to be involved please ring 07766 515 950 or 07771 696 830

The Cafe where everything is

FREE!

 Soups 

 Snacks 

 Hot Drinks 

 Cold Drinks 

 Home-cooked lunches 

All brought to your table by our friendly staff

The Talking Donkey is a Christian venture so there will always be people on hand to offer

Prayer For Any Need



MINDSPACE COUNSELLING SERVICE

MindSpace Counselling Services are now able to offer counselling to adults and young people aged 11+ at The Loch Leven Health Centre on Mondays and Tuesdays. We offer counselling to people who are facing a wide range of difficulties or challenges such as: bereavement or loss; isolation, anxiety or depression; stress of work or in the home; difficulties in friend, family or intimate relationships; confused feelings. If you are interested in this service you can self-refer via email to info@mindspacepk.com, by telephone on 01738 631639 or by visiting our website at www.mindspacepk.com. You can also be referred by your GP.

MindSpace also offer counselling to adults (18+) at their offices in Perth. For more information visit our website at www.mindspacepk.com



Perth Samaritans

Need to talk? We'll listen.

Contact us by

phone on 01738 626666 or 08457 909090

Email us jo@samaritans.org

or **visit** us at 3 King's Place, Perth, PH2 8AA

Mondays 1630 – 2130 Thursdays 1630 – 1900

Wednesdays 0830 – 1100 Fridays 1000 – 1630

and 1930 – 2130 Sundays 0800 – 2130

No pressure, no names, no judgment.

We're here for you, anytime.

Perth Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Advice Surgery



The Kinross Outreach Advice Surgery is held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at St Paul's Church Hall, The Muirs, Kinross. The next visits are:

9 & 23 December and 13 & 27 January

No appointment is necessary as the surgery is a drop-in service. For complex issues a further appointment may be necessary. Perth CAB can help you – our advice is free, confidential, impartial and independent. Contact us: Advice line 01738 450580; Appointment line 01738 450581.

Perth Citizens Advice Bureau Benefits Advice in Libraries (BAIL)



Benefits specialist Sarah MacLean will be available at Loch Leven Community Campus Library on the **second and fourth Wednesday of each month** between 2pm and 4pm. Alongside the provision of general benefits advice Sarah can help with the following:

- Completing both paper and online benefit application forms;
- Conducting checks to see if clients are receiving everything they are entitled to, i.e. discounts for fuel, etc;
- Providing advice and support in instances where an application is refused or awarded at a lower level than expected.

Please note: Sarah is available **by appointment only**. To make an appointment, please call 01738 450599.

Perth Citizens Advice Bureau Debt and Money Advice Service



Perth CAB has a team of specialist debt advisers who can help you deal with your debts.

- Do you feel trapped in Debt?
- Don't want to open letters or answer your own phone?
- Are you losing sleep at night?
- Is debt affecting your life?

We can help you to:

- Find realistic and practical solutions for your own situation
- We can help deal with your creditors and negotiate on your behalf
- Help you manage your money better

"After seeing the CAB debt adviser, I could sleep at night again" - a quote from a relieved client.

Our advice is free, confidential, impartial and independent.

Talk to a specialist debt adviser today on 01738 450 590, TEXT us on 07535 836 817 with your name and number and we will call you back, or alternatively email zworkman@PerthCAB.casonline.org.uk

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

Community Councils

Kinross: Secy: Mrs M Scott (01577) 862945
KinrossCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk
Cleish & Blairadam: Secy: Patty Fraser (01577) 850253,
CleishCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk
Milnathort: Chair: Bruce Hamilton (01577) 830616
MilnathortCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk
Fossoway & District: Secy: Kevin Bothwick (01577) 840845,
fossoway.cc@gmail.com
Portmoak: Chair: Malcolm Strang Steel (01592) 840459,
PortmoakCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Portmoak Community Councillors

Robin G Cairncross	01592 840672
Bruce Calderwood	01592 840423
Susan Forde	01592 840128
Thomas Smith	01592 841160
Malcolm Strang Steel	01592 840459
Richard Williamson	01592 840538

www.portmoak.org

Perth and Kinross Councillors Kinross-shire Ward

Councillor Mike Barnacle (Independent)
Tel/Fax (home): 01577 840516.
Email: michaelabarnacle@gmail.com
Website: mikebarnacle.co.uk

Moorend, Waulkmill Road, Crook of Devon, Kinross, KY13 0UZ

Councillor Dave Cuthbert (Independent)
Tel (home): 01577 861681. Email: dcuthbert@pkc.gov.uk
8 Highfield Circle, Kinross, KY13 8RZ

Councillor Joe Giacopazzi (Scottish National Party)
Tel (home): 01577 864025.
Email: jgiacopazzi@pkc.gov.uk

38A New Road, Milnathort, Kinross, KY13 9XT

Councillor Willie Robertson (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
Tel (home): 01577 865178. Email: wbrobertson@pkc.gov.uk
85 South Street, Milnathort, Kinross, KY13 9XA

Mobile Library Service

**Visiting on Wednesdays 3 & 17 December and
14 & 28 January:**

Mawcarse		0930 – 0940
Kinnesswood	Shop	0950 – 1055
Portmoak	Community Hall	1100 – 1115
Scotlandwell	Leslie Road	1120 – 1140
Levenmouth Farm		1150 – 1210
Hatchbank Road		1225 – 1255
Cleish	Phone box	1405 – 1425
Powmill		1440 – 1500
Crook of Devon	Main Street, Inn	1505 – 1550
Carnbo	on main road	1600 – 1655

Visiting on Thursdays 11 December and 8 & 22 January:
Milnathort South Street 0930 – 1130

For more information about mobile library services, visit:
www.pkc.gov.uk/mobilelibrary or phone 01577 867205.

Local Correspondent

for Perthshire Advertiser and Fife Herald newspapers

Linda Freeman

Tel 01577 865045. Email: linda.freeman_64@btinternet.com

Kinross Community Councillors

Margaret Blyth	6 Muir Grove	
David Colliar (Chair)	10 Rannoch Place	864037
Barry M Davies	60 Lathro Park	865004
Bill Freeman	64 Muirs	865045
Ian Jack (Treasurer)	Burnbrae Grange	863980
Dot Mackay	17 Ochil View	864635
Margaret Scott (Secy)	21 Ross Street	862945
Gareth Thomas	50 Muirs	863714
Campbell Watson	7 Gallowhill Gardens	861544
David West	9 Leven Place	07824 313974
Malcolm Wood	The Woodlands, Hatchbank	850394

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire South & Kinross-shire Roseanna Cunningham MSP

New constituency office details, as from April 2014:
63 Glasgow Road, Perth, PH2 0PE
Telephone: 01738 620540

Email: Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Members of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

All MSPs can be contacted at the following address:

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Claire Baker MSP (Labour) Tel: 0131 348 6759

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

Jayne Baxter MSP (Labour) Tel: 0131 348 6753

Email: jaynebaxter.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Annabelle Ewing MSP (SNP) Tel: 0131 348 5066

Email: Annabelle.Ewing.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Murdo Fraser MSP (Cons) Tel: 0131 348 5293

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

Willie Rennie MSP (Lib Dem) Tel: 0131 348 5803

Email: Willie.Rennie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

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

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

Elizabeth Smith MSP (Cons) Tel: 0131 348 6762

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

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

www.gordonbanks.info

Email: banksgr@parliament.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.

Perth & Kinross Council www.pkc.gov.uk

Customer Service Centre Tel: 01738 475000
(Mon to Fri, 8am-6pm)

Out of Hours Emergencies Tel: 01738 625411
(Roads, flooding, environmental health and dangerous buildings)

Clarence (for non-emergency road and lighting defects) Tel: 0800 232323

Registrar Tel: 01577 867133
The Registrar is normally in Kinross only on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Loch Leven Community Campus

Kinross-shire *Day Centre*

64 High Street
Kinross
KY13 8AJ



**Film shows • Cards • Dominoes • Art Class
Daily Papers • Chiropody • Trips • Exercises**

Weekly Programme

Monday	Exercise Class	11am	Bingo	1.30pm
	"Stride for Life" Walking Group			2pm
Tuesday	Relaxation Class	1.15pm		
	Singing group with Alex Cant		1.45pm	(not Tues 23rd Dec)
Wednesday	Morning Worship	10.45am	Quiz Afternoon	1.30pm
	Dominoes & Games	1.30pm	Scrabble	1.30pm
Thursday	Art Class	1.30pm	Film Afternoon	1.30pm
	Dominoes, Scrabble, cards etc		1.30pm	
Friday	Dominoes	1.30pm	Bingo	1.30pm (not Fri 5th Dec)

Additional Events for December

Tai Chi
Chiropody

Beetle Drive
Reminiscence Afternoon
Walking Group Christmas Lunch
Rotary Club Concert
Prize Bingo and Christmas pies
Christmas lunch and concert
Trip to library
Trip to Pantomime
Carol Concert

Wednesday	3rd, 17th	1.30 - 2pm
Thursday	4th, 18th	9.30am - 12.30pm
(phone 01577 863869 for an appointment)		
Thursday	4th	1.30pm
Friday	5th	1.30pm
Monday	8th	12noon
Tuesday	9th	7pm
Friday	12th	1.30pm
Wednesday	17th	12noon
Thursday	18th	1.45pm
Friday	19th	1pm
Tuesday	23rd	1.30pm

Additional Events for January

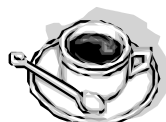
Chiropody

Tai Chi
Tea Dance by Inner Wheel
Burns Lunch and Music
Trip to library

Thursday	8th, 29th	9.30am - 12.30pm
(phone 01577 863869 for an appointment)		
Wednesday	14th, 28th	1.30 - 2pm
Thursday	15th	1.30pm
Thursday	22nd	12noon
Thursday	29th	1.45pm

There will also be other day trips that are yet to be organised!

Please note that the Day Centre is closed on 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st December, and also 1st and 2nd January



Coffee Bar open to the public 8.30 am - 4 pm, Older Adults Lunches Daily.
Our activities are open to everyone - please feel free to come in and have a great afternoon.

Phone: 01577 863869

Fax: 01577 863869

Email: kindaycent@tiscali.co.uk

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.**

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

Classified Adverts

The Newsletter publishes items for sale listed on the kinross.cc website. If interested in purchasing an item, we suggest **checking the website for current availability** (www.kinross.cc then 'Local Adverts' then 'Classified Adverts'). If interested in selling an item, please list it on www.kinross.cc and it will automatically be published in the next available Newsletter, subject to space.

Items for Sale

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Oil Tank | Free |
| 1200 litre heating oil tank. Plastic becoming degraded, so would be suitable for temporary oil storage. | |
| Seller Details: John Brady | 01577 842120 |
| 4 Winter Tyres | £100.00 for set |
| 4 Vredestein 225/50 R 17 98H tyres used on Audi A6 with 60% tread remaining. Cost new £120 each. | |
| Seller Details: Steve Hamblin | 01577 850252 |
| hamblis@aol.com | |
| Extending Ladder | £80.00 |
| 5 positions with platform, never used, still in delivery box. | |
| Seller Details: Margaret Arbuckle | 01577 840311 |
| billandmar@btinternet.com | |
| Artists Materials | £40.00 |
| Selection including paints, boards, papers, brushes etc. | |
| Seller Details: Margaret Arbuckle | 01577 840311 |
| billandmar@btinternet.com | |
| Super Ser Heater with 15kg Calor Gas Bottle (empty) | £30.00 |
| Portable Heater in good condition. | |
| Seller Details: Mike Huges | 01577 840385 |
| Girls Falcon Bike | £50.00 |
| Pink and silver girls bike would suit 9yr to 12yr old. It has 8 gears 12" frame is in new condition hardly used | |
| Seller Details: Violet Todd | 01577 863244 |
| oorvi@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Rockingham Crystal Simplicity Wine Glasses x 6 and Coaster | £55.00 |
| Brand new and unused. In original boxes. Beautiful glasses and wine bottle coaster RRP £140 for glasses alone. | |
| Seller Details: Debbie Kennedy | 07545 339494 |
| debileighs@hotmail.com | |
| Brand new 13.5tog Kingsize Duvet | £40.00 |
| Brand new, sealed Sleepmasters Just Like Down Kingsize Duvet 13.5tog. RRP £99. | |
| Seller Details: Debbie Kennedy | 07545 339494 |
| debileighs@hotmail.com | |
| Royal Doulton Lunar Goblets x6 | £50.00 |
| Brand new, unused and in original box. Make a lovely wedding/ anniversary/Christmas gift. RRP £120. | |
| Seller Details: Debbie Kennedy | 07545 339494 |
| debileighs@hotmail.com | |
| Black BMX Bike (not on kinross.cc website) | £200.00 |
| Sunday Spark 2011 – excellent condition, hardly used. | |
| Seller Details: Fiona Rae | 07510 540666 |
| RRZ irons | £200.00 |
| Description: Set of RBZ irons, 4 iron to approach wedge, graphite shafts, great condition. | |
| Seller Details: Jim Atkinson | 07976 981726 |
| Atkinsonjs4@aol.com | |
| Pine Single Beds | £60.00 |
| Description: Pair good quality Pine single beds (Take 90x190cm mattress). Pine headboard, frame and slatted base. | |
| Seller Details: Janet Irving | 01592 840359 |
| rosalind_irving@yahoo.co.uk | |

Situations Vacant

In conjunction with www.kinross.cc, the Newsletter is pleased to publish local situations vacant. Please go to the kinross.cc website before applying to **check whether a position is still available**. (Go to www.kinross.cc then click on 'Local Adverts' and choose 'Situations Vacant').

A2B Taxis, Kinross

We require a part time taxi driver for school contract one day a week, holiday cover and occasional other shifts. Full UK driving licence essential and Perth & Kinross taxi licence preferred. Anyone interested in this position should call Bruce on 07743 332237.

Hatrick-Bruce Ltd

Electricians required for industrial & commercial contracts in Fife and Tayside. Must have a clean driving licence. Apply by sending CV to: user@hatrickbruce.co.uk

J & G Wilson, 18 High Street, Kinross KY13 8AN

We will shortly have a vacancy for a part-time legal cashier with general accounting experience. Previous experience essential along with good Excel skills, and SOLAS qualification preferred. Salary will be based upon experience.

Please apply in writing with CV and covering email/letter to Eric J Williamson (e.williamson@jgwilson.co.uk)

Kirklands Hotel

Full Time Chef de Partie & Commis Chef required to join a team of 5 in our busy kitchen. All food freshly prepared in house, great opportunity to learn from head chef with five star experience. Split shifts 5 days from 7, salary negotiable depending on experience. Immediate start available for the right candidate.

Contact Anthony or Shona on 01577 863313 or email info@thekirklandshotel.com

Springwell – Wellbeing Support Team

Inclusion * Wellbeing * Recovery

Supporting positive mental health in Kinross-shire and Strathearn for adults from 16 onwards

We support people to improve the quality of their life and wellbeing, be more involved in their community, help them achieve their ambitions and manage their mental health. We support people how to improve their social contacts, be more active, access education or voluntary opportunities or work. The support and activities we offer are flexible and can change and develop over time, depending on what people need and benefit from.

For more information or an informal chat please phone

Charlie Wilson 01577 867320, or

Email charleswilson@pkc.gov.uk

MOUBRAY HALL, POWMILL

Do you need to hire a venue for your club or society meetings, family get-togethers, birthday parties or functions?

Then look no further than Moubray Hall, Powmill.

Available to hire all year round with new kitchen and disabled toilet.

For further details, please call 01577 840330.

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.



Christmas & New Year Holiday Arrangements

Recommended last posting dates

Airmail

Asia, Far East, New Zealand	Wed 3 Dec
Australia	Thu 4 Dec
Africa, Caribbean, Central	
And South America, Middle East	Fri 5 Dec
Cyprus, E Europe, Greece	Mon 8 Dec
Canada, Poland	Tue 9 Dec
USA	Fri 12 Dec
W Europe (excl Greece, Poland)	Sat 13 Dec

Within UK

Second Class	Thu 18 Dec
First Class	Sat 20 Dec
Special Delivery	Tue 23 Dec

Kinross Post Office (Co-operative)

Wed 24 Dec	9.00am-12.30pm
Thur 25 & Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Wed 31 Dec	9.00am-4.00pm
Thur 1 & Fri 2 Jan	CLOSED

Milnathort Post Office

Wed 24 Dec	9.00am-12.30pm
Thur 25 & Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Wed 31 Dec	9.00am-4.00pm
Thur 1 & Fri 2 Jan	CLOSED

Live Active Loch Leven

Fri 19 – Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Sat 27 – Tues 30 Dec	10.00am-4.00pm
Wed 31 Dec – Fri 2 Jan	CLOSED
Sat 3 Jan	Normal hours resume

Loch Leven Community Campus

Tues 23 Dec	Normal hours
Wed 24 Dec	7.00am-6.00pm
Thur 25 & Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Sat 27 – Tues 30 Dec	9.45am-4.00pm
Wed 31 – Fri 2 Jan	CLOSED
Sat 3 Jan	Normal hours

Loch Leven Community Library

Tues 23 Dec	Normal hours
Wed 24 Dec	10.00am-3.30pm
Thur 25 & Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Sat 27 Dec	10.00am-1.00pm
Sun 28 & Mon 29 Dec	CLOSED
Tues 30 Dec	10.00am-4.00pm
Wed 31 Dec – Fri 2 Jan	CLOSED

Need to consult an old Newsletter?

The Kinross (Marshall) Museum at the Loch Leven Community Campus houses a collection of every Kinross Community Council Newsletter ever published (July 1977 to the present day). Newsletters can be consulted when the Museum Study Room is open: Thursdays, 10am – 8pm and Saturdays, 10am – 1pm. Electronic versions of Newsletters from September 2006 to the present day can be downloaded from the Newsletter website: www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Rowlands Pharmacy, Kinross

Thur 25 Dec	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Thur 1 Jan	CLOSED
Fri 2 Jan	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Days outwith the above	open or closed as normal

Davidson's Chemist, Milnathort

Thur 25 Dec	CLOSED
Fri 26 Dec	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Thur 1 Jan	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Fri 2 Jan	CLOSED
Days outwith the above	open or closed as normal

Loch Leven Health Centre See page 13

Kinross Day Centre See page 107

RSPB Loch Leven See page 81

Waste and Recycling Services

There will be no domestic collections on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 December 2014 or Thursday 1 and Friday 2 January 2015.

Unless householders are notified directly by letter, the following will apply:

Collections due on	will take place on
Thur 25 Dec	Sat 27 Dec
Fri 26 Dec	Sun 28 Dec
Thur 1 Jan	Sat 3 Jan
Fri 2 Jan	Sun 4 Jan

There are no scheduled garden and food waste collections from 22 December to 4 January. Collection dates will return to normal from 5 January.

Recycling Centres

All recycling centres will be CLOSED on 25 and 26 December 2014 and 1 and 2 January 2015. Opening hours otherwise remain the same over the festive period.

Special Uplifts

The last special uplift will be 18 December. Normal collections resume on 5 January.

Newsletter Deadlines 2014/15

Please note, deadlines are on a **FRIDAY**. More deadlines for the months ahead can be found on our website.

In very rare circumstances it may be necessary to change a deadline at short notice. Check Newsletter website for latest information: www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
February	Fri 16 January	Saturday 31 January
March	Fri 13 February	Saturday 28 February

The Wash House, Scotlandwell

Visitors can look inside the restored, historic wash house by borrowing the key from the Well Country Inn at anytime during daylight hours.



November

Sat	29	St Andrew's Day Coffee Morning	91
Sat	29	Festive Market & Lights Switch On	91

December

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Mon	1	Guiding Coffee Evening and Body Shop	1
Mon	1	Cleish & Bairadam CC meets	42
Tue	2	Fossway and District CC meets	42
Tue	2	Introduction to Birdwatching Course	81
Tue	2	Lodge St Serf meets regularly	58
Tue	2	Round Table Dragons' Den	
Wed	3	Business Breakfast	63, 92
Wed	3	Kinross CC meets	33
Thu	4	Fifty Plus Club meets	46
Fri	5	Children's Christmas stories etc	20
Fri	5	Pamper and Craft Night, Milnathort	91
Fri	5	Portmoak Woodlands Drop-in event	54
Fri	5	Loch Leven's Larder Gourmet Evening	
Sat	6	Christmas Crafts at RSPB Loch Leven	92
Sat	6	Christmas Bazaar, Milnathort	91
Sat	6	Christmas Festival and Craft Fair	53
Sat	6	Wine Tasting Evening, Portmoak	91
Sun	7	Little Seedlings Club meets	51
Sun	7	Christmas Crafts at RSPB Loch Leven	92
Sun	7	Lodge St Serf Children's party	58
Mon	8	Santa and his sleigh in Portmoak	92
Mon	8	Historical Society: Down by the Kirkgate Shore	92
Mon	8	KGV Playing Fields Committee AGM	91
Tue	9	Citizens Advice Bureau visit	103
Tue	9	Santa and his sleigh in Milnathort	92
Tue	9	Portmoak CC meets	38
Thu	11	Kinross Garden Group meets	45
Fri	12	Library talk: Millie Gray	20
Thu	11	Santa and his sleigh in Kinross south	92
Thu	11	Milnathort CC meets	34
Thu	11	Ladies Circle new members night	53
Thu	11	Floral Art Club: Here comes Christmas	92
Fri	12	Yes We Care Kinross-shire public meeting	92
Fri	12	Christmas wreath making	54, 92

December continued...

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Sat	13	Fundraiser at Dobbies for KVG&ROS	45
Sat	13	Christmas tree, Kinnesswood	52
Sat	13	Antiques and Collectors Fair	53
Sun	14	Portmoak Woodlands Christmas trees	54
Sun	14	Community Christmas Service	53, 95
Sun	14	Christmas wreath making	54, 92
Sun	14	Santa and his sleigh in Kinross north	92
Sun	14	Portmoak Film Society: La Source	53
Tue	16	Blythswood Care collection	99
Tue	16	Santa and his sleigh in Glenfarg	92
Fri	19	Christmas Disco, Crook of Devon	54, 95
Tue	23	Citizens Advice Bureau visit	103
Wed	31	Hogmanay Party, Crook of Devon	54, 95

January

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Sat	3	Try Curling sessions	72
Sun	4	Little Seedlings Club meets	51
Mon	5	Kinross Hub Café for Carers	95
Wed	7	Kinross CC meets	33
Thu	8	Fifty Plus Club meets	46
Thu	8	The Thursday group: The Day Centre	91
Sun	11	Portmoak Film Society: Under the Sun	53
Mon	12	High School Parent Council meets	64
Mon	12	KVG&ROS Annual Burns Supper	95
Tue	13	Citizens Advice Bureau visit	103
Tue	13	Leven Voices choir resumes	57
Fri	16	Newsletter Deadline	1
Sat	17	Beginners' curling classes begin	72
Mon	19	Historical Society: The Covenanters in Fife	92
Tue	20	Blythswood Care collection	99
Thu	22	Floral Art Club: Informal evening, Heaven Scent	95
Sat	24	Family Fun Activities at Library	96
Sat	24	Portmoak Burns Supper	54
Tue	27	Citizens Advice Bureau visit	103

February

			Page
Mon	2	Kinross Hub Café for Carers	95
Wed	4	Business Breakfast	63, 92
Thu	5	The Thursday Group: The Wee Pie Co	91
Mon	16	Historical Society: Fife Trams	92
Fri	27	St Paul's Episcopal Church Auction of Gifts and Talents	96

