Strathard News is grateful for funding received from Stirling Council

THE VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

The Day the Earth Moved!

At 6.44 a.m. on the morning of Friday 20 June the Aberfoyle area was hit by what sounded like a dull explosion and our whole house shook so badly that the bedroom windows actually rattled. Our dogs, sprawled across the floor around the bed (I know-don’t ask), jerked their heads up. That was all. Realising that it was not breakfast time, they settled down once more. It was us humans who were more apprehensive. My first thought was that the gas tank had exploded. My wife and I both sat in stunned silence but nothing further happened. The ceiling had not fallen in on us. The house still stood. So we waited for the sirens because surely somewhere there had been a dreadful accident. Still silence. I then said to my wife that it must be one of two things: either it was a controlled explosion or it was an earthquake. I was told not to be so silly. Whoever heard of an earthquake in Scotland, for goodness’ sake! Well, that day the earth moved for me – I won an argument with my wife, an occurrence as rare as hens’ teeth.
The earthquake fortunately caused no injury or damage to property. There were two further tremors that morning, both lesser in intensity.

In the wee small hours of June 27 there were three further tremors. These did not seem so violent in intensity as those of the previous week. It seemed like a ‘wooshing’ sound, like thunder in the distance. “ ‘Er indoors” slept through it all. When I mentioned what I had heard the following morning, she opined it was thunder. She was wrong. 2-nil. It can’t last!

Dougie McPherson

Aberfoyle lad causes a ‘spectacle’

Stewart Sunderland (19) is now the face of the new Specsavers Advertising campaign which is launching its new poster nationwide on billboards and shop windows. And it all came about purely by chance.

Stewart, who is a student at St Andrews University, was on a short visit to London when he was approached by a talent scout on the lookout for a male model for their new Specsaver advert. Being a student, Stewart thought the extra money might come in useful.

His mother, Anne, was apparently sceptical when he mentioned on the telephone that he had been approached by a model agency. She changed her mind when Stewart was flown out to Tenerife for the shoot. Needless to say, he thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Look out for his poster in a shop window near you!
The Queen Elizabeth Forest is no stranger to charity events, many taking place throughout the year. The latest, held on Saturday 7 June, was organized by TRAAG (The Trossachs Riders Action for Access Group) which held a sponsored ride in Loch Ard Forest. Over 40 riders turned up to participate from villages all over the Trossachs: Port of Menteith, Callander, Balquhidder, Drymen and, of course, Aberfoyle. The ride was organized into four routes to serve riders of varying abilities, with the majority taking the 7-mile route. All participants received rosettes on completion and the younger riders were given bags of treats for their ponies. It was well organized, safety being paramount, with road marshals in attendance on public roads, marshals in place through the forest trails and assistance with the initial reception and parking. The Scottish Wool Centre at Aberfoyle very kindly provided hot and cold drinks as well as cakes for all those participating. The sponsored ride was on behalf of The International League for the Protection of Horses and the British Horse Society and over £700 was collected. A successful and enjoyable day out.

If you would like to take part please call the Trust on 01555 660388 or email lanark@nospam.anthonynolan.org.uk

Strathard Country Pursuits Arts and Crafts Exhibition
Attention!
Painters, Sculptors, Potters, Knitters etc
This is a reminder that our annual exhibition will be held in the Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle on the 25th and 26th of October 2003. Here's your chance to show off your skills and maybe sell some of your wares. So while you're soaking up the summer sun you can be producing some wonderful articles to exhibit.
(Please note: these need not be finished to a professional, “mass-produced” standard, as we want to showcase individual local talents and skills.)
For further details please contact
Gillian Wallace Tel 01877 382024
Margaret Neufeld Tel 01877 386258

Rainfall in Strathard 2003

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Community Council Report

Since the last edition of Strathard News we have managed to fit in two Community Council meetings, one in June at Inversnaid and this month in Aberfoyle. We were very pleased to welcome Owen McKee, our elected representative on the National Park Authority, at the meeting in June. Owen is a member of the planning committee and wanted to talk to us following the demolition of the Teapot which was highlighted in the last edition.

The Community Council response to the planning application to extend Bulburn Cottage included a request to preserve the Teapot because of its local historical interest. Information regarding its history was requested by the planning department and duly sent to them. We heard no more until the demolition took place. Owen explained that since this building was not listed, then demolishing it was not illegal. He urged us to seek to identify other properties which we felt should be listed, to try and prevent another such loss. Whilst acknowledging that there was no legal reason why the demolition should not have taken place I must admit to being disappointed that the Park Authority could not have called interested parties together to discuss the issue before it was too late.

I was delighted to see that the Strathard News had already suggested compiling a list of properties deemed worthy of protection, in the last edition. I look forward to seeing the list growing.

Amongst recent planning applications has been one to open a hot food takeaway at Viewforth. A lot of people were greatly in favour of this, particularly since we no longer have a chip shop. Many felt however that this building was not listed, then demolishing it was not illegal. I urged the community groups within the area, and representatives from Scottish water, the National Park, Forest Enterprise, RSPB and other stakeholders within the area. The aims of the day were to highlight local concerns about the future and to look at ways for all groups to work together particularly for the benefit of communities at Inversnaid, Stronachlachar and Brig o’ Turk, whilst producing a unified plan for managing tourism within the catchment. Several actions were agreed including looking at developing a heritage centre, integrated transport, development of paths and trails, and signage.

The time has come, we are all agreed, to produce a new local phone directory! The whole process takes a while to complete so we are setting up a sub-group of the Community Council to take this on. One or two people have already volunteered to help (or have been volunteered). We would be grateful for the assistance of one volunteer from Gartmore and one from Port of Menteith to help with their numbers. Please contact Norman Quirk on 01877 387210.

I hope readers will not mind if I use this space to pick up on a couple of points made on the letters page of the last edition. Traffic calming measures on Manse Road; there are no plans to introduce any scheme here as far as I am aware. The only mention of traffic on Manse Road was following points made in the Community Futures surveys. The Community Council does receive frequent comments about the danger to children playing at Manse Road, particularly now that there are so many more young people living there. It is for this reason that we have led the drive to fund some sort of footbridge across the Forth, to prevent a child being crushed on the existing bridge. Forest Enterprise have also reassured us that the majority of logging traffic using Manse Road will eventually be able to use the new access directly on to the Glasgow Road, thus removing a lot of the danger and heavy traffic from Manse Road.

With regard to the purchase of the field in Manse Road - the community has been offered the chance to purchase this field for the community to use as it feels best. One suggestion has been a wetland site to protect the environment enjoyed by the existing wildlife. Other possibilities have also been put forward, but these are all up for discussion. At the moment the structure to set up a Community Trust is being put in place. If the community wants to use a trust and go ahead with ideas such as the purchase of the field, then that will be the time to bring all ideas together and decide how best to proceed.

Everyone in Strathard is entitled to contribute and you will be asked to do so!

And lastly - thank you Kate, for saying in the last edition that we must have more local participation in decisions made in the community. On the Community Council we are at a loss as to how to do any more to encourage participation. Meetings are advertised, agendas are posted, reports are published in this paper, letters are sent to interested parties, councillors names are on local noticeboards with contact details. The rest, as they say, is up to you folks. To get the full picture, come and find out for yourselves. You will be most welcome.

OK - my mistake - that wasn’t the last thing. But this definitely is - traffic calming. We have consulted, and discussed and communicated; with residents, with the Council, with police, with the Accident Prevention Unit. We have conveyed all comments between parties. We have discussed the subject at meetings in February, March, April, May, June and July. In all this time only one resident came to a meeting to raise his concerns; in all this time only two residents have written to us to convey their points of view. Nothing said has been ignored. We remain in contact with the traffic management department. We are here to act as a channel for information between parties, which we have done. We can do no more. I hope that I will not repeating all this in a month’s time!

See you all in Kinlochard Hall at 7.30p.m. on Thursday August 7th. Ros
Where were you when the Earth shook in Strathard on Friday the 20th of June at approximately 7.45am, then again at 7.50am? I was standing by the kitchen table putting my flask and pieces into my bag before rushing off to work.

I felt the vibration run through my feet and up my legs as the house shook violently. It was all over in about 4 or 5 seconds, followed by a second tremor 5 minutes later that was a little less dramatic.

There’s something reassuring about the fact that no matter how advanced our civilisation becomes, or how mankind seems to think that Nature is his to control and manipulate, that Nature, in whatever form, can quickly and subtly put us back in our place. I once heard the late Bobby Blair tell a story that the snow doesn’t lie very long in Aberfoyle because it’s too close to the Mouth of Hell.

Demand for copies of the Strathard News is becoming very encouraging with Distribution Outlets consistently running out. This means that we may have to increase our publication from 800 copies per month to over a thousand.

At each distribution point you will find a Strathard News collection box. All donations are greatly appreciated and are needed to help cover our printing costs and to make improvements to future publications.

We would like to thank all the Local Businesses who are supporting us by placing regular advertisements and to those who are helping by providing us with distribution facilities. We are also encouraged by the slow but steady increase in the number of people who are showing their support by placing their names on our postal subscription list.

Phone Box – Out of Service!

Stirling Council have written to the Community Council to inform us that BT are taking out of service those phone boxes which are seldom used, and which are close to an alternative payphone. The Queens Crescent box comes into this category. BT stress that they are committed to maintaining a network of phone booths in all areas, but that they cannot afford to retain those which, in these days of mobile phones, are under-used. The box in Aberfoyle Main Street will still be available for public use. We have been given a short period of time in which to respond. Would anyone who feels that is important to retain this box please call me, Ros Dingwall, on 382668 or 382231, or drop a note in to the Post Office and I shall pass on your comments. Responses must be in by 5th August.
"Before the farmer could rise to say grace, the ploughman jumped to his feet, and said the grace."

"Rabbits young, and rabbits old, Rabbits tender and rabbits tough, I'll thank the Lord no more, I've had enough!"

The room erupted with laughter. Hamish looked round the table with glee, as he finished his tale. It was the first time I had heard this story, and I enjoyed it. Some of the others must have heard it several times, and they enjoyed it. Hamish's wife, getting ready to serve our dinner must have heard it dozens of times, and she was laughing with the rest of us. She obviously enjoyed the reception we gave Hamish's story.

I was in the dining room at Drumlean about to have a meal with a roomful of people I had known for less than three hours, and I felt completely at ease. This was an unusual situation, for me, anyway.

"Hamish is taking his hay in tomorrow. Do you fancy going up and giving him a hand?"

"Aye, I think that would be fine."

That was how the conversation went the night before, and those few words took me there.

We cycled up the Loch Ard road, past Dun Dubh wood, and turned off into Drumlean. The road-end put me off for it seemed to lead into a scrubbly wasteland which held little promise. I followed on through the gate, now doubting what lay ahead, but it was too late to back out. Emerging from the trees, we found ourselves in the oasis that was Drumlean.

The farmhouse was well set up with a walled garden, and the outbuildings were tidy and well looked after. The fields round the steadings had a luxurious growth of grass which seemed greener than any seen before. At one end of the walled garden was a tree laden with Victoria plums.

The mornings work had been meat and drink to us. Jimmy and I worked as a team. He drove the grey Fergie out to the field. I rode on the empty trailer. He lifted the bales onto the trailer, I built them, and rode back on the full load.

We took great pride in building big square loads, as high as we could.

Usually, with long runs through the haughs, we would go eight-gang high, and would have gone higher if hay-forks had been longer. Here at Drumlean the hay-field was close to the steadings, and although the ground was hilly we didn't bother with ropes. Besides that, the entrance to the hay shed wasn't high enough for big loads. At the hayshed Jimmy backed the trailer into the shed, and I unloaded the bales for Donald, who built them in the shed.

The hay was in fine condition. It was dry and green, with the sweet smell of summer pasture. This scent would remain with the hay throughout the year, and would provide unexpected surprise and delight, even on miserable winter days, invoking memories of summer.

This hay had been made in the old fashioned way, cut, turned, dried for a day, forked into coils, and finally rucked. This labour-intensive way of hay making meant that the hay was safe once it had been put into coils, and the quality was often better, especially in our summer weather.

Hamish had no need for his own baler, so he contracted Wattie, once a year, to bale his hay out of the ruck. Hamish's brother Cha, also had some hay, and when Wattie finished at Drumlean, he and his baler went to Cha's rucks at the Milton.

Hamish was now on another story, again about grace at a farmers table. In this case, the farmer always used the same form which omitted the ploughman and the servant.

The ploughman was upset but was unable to do anything except silently feed his anger.

As Hamish got into his stride his wife's expression changed, and she stared at him pointedly, as if daring him to continue. I could see that Hamish was aware of the change in his wife's expression, but he chose to ignore it anyway, pretending he hadn't seen her.

"Every Saturday, the farmer would get up before the meal, and say the grace."

"Here's to me and mine, Here's to our John and his. For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful, Amen."

"This went on for weeks, till the ploughman returned from his Saturday off, more refreshed than usual. As the farmer was about to speak, the ploughman rose to his feet."

"Here's to me and the servant lass, You and yours can lick my ..."

"HAMISH!" But it was no use, Hamish continued without a pause.

"For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful, Amen." The laughter was even louder for this story, and even Hamish's wife, whose expression had become a scowl, had to retire into the kitchen to hide her mirth.

By the late afternoon, we were finished, or so I thought. I wasn't aware that Wattie had set off for the Milton, until Cha arrived to commandeer the workforce. I hadn't signed up for this, but wouldn't have missed it anyway, so we loaded our bikes on the trailer, and set off for the drama which awaited us at the Milton.

Drumlean, like many places is steeped in stories. I have only read the introduction to a chapter on Drumlean. I am compelled to re-visit these story-places, and have returned to many, but have never gone back to Drumlean.

When I drive past Dun Dubh wood, I look to Drumlean, and feel the urge to stop and go in. The road looks even more unpromising now, with the deer fence, and six-foot gate, but I suppose no-one would mind.

There is an even more compelling reason not to go, for the people I knew seemed to have a contentment and happiness which is not evident today. I might find that the spell cast on me by the place all these years ago was broken, and that would be an unhappy ending.

The countryside is littered with interpretation boards for visitors. These only impart the information someone has chosen to display, implying that that is all there is. Worse than that, they often blind people to the story that is there to be read.

For those fortunate enough to be able to look beyond the boards, there is a wealth of information.

Every individual interprets it differently, and every one reads his own story.
**St. Mary’s Episcopal Church**

Life at St Mary’s is very busy and the visitors coming to the services are always impressed with the interesting exhibits that the Church has on display. Episcopal Churches do have ornaments and statues of Religious significance on display and at St Mary’s there are statuettes of the Blessed Virgin Mary after whom the Church is dedicated. There are also pictures and the very old Chancel panelling which came from Auchentroig House near Buchlyvie which was gifted by the Crawford Family of whisky fame. It pre-dates the present house which was rebuilt after a fire and in recent years has been the home of the St Patrick Mission, better known locally as the Kiltegern Fathers. The house is now on the market. Following our last report Mrs Margaret Johnson has received some valuable information about the Stone Cross that is now on the roof of the Fanshaw Chapel. It was carved by David Mackenzie, the Grand Uncle of Peter McColl of Aberfoyle who loaned a picture of David which we have the pleasure in showing with this article. He was a local craftsman of great distinction as the workmanship of the cross shows all too well. Thank you Peter, for your contribution.

Margaret would like to hear from anybody who now lives in the Strathard area who are descendants of the slate quarrymen who used to work in the quarry or for the railway during the late 19th and early 20th century.

**Bill Richardson**  
Fabric Team Leader  
10th July 2003.

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**The Ranger’s Corner**

It’s Party Time!

Preparations are now in place for our anniversary celebrations, with an incredible array of events and fun-filled activities to take part in at the David Marshal Lodge during the month of August.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a detailed outline of what’s on show. I don’t know about you, but the helicopter flight sounds like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Many of you, I’m sure, are eagerly awaiting news of our osprey family. We are proud to announce that THREE (hungry) chicks are now in place on the nest and currently doing very well. As a result of our competition, Mr & Mrs Osprey are officially known as ‘Romeo and Juliet’. Our lucky winner will be informed by post. 

Hope to see you at the party. Can you afford to miss out?

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**Aberfoyle Surgery**

**Care in the Sun**

Summer holidays beckon and many of us are hoping for warm and sunny days, either at home or abroad. Most of us enjoy relaxing in the sunshine, but excessive exposure can cause heat stroke, sunburn, eye damage, premature ageing or even skin cancer. Sunburn is very painful, but the good news is that it is 100% avoidable if you use common sense and the Sun Safety Code.

- Be aware of the risk of sunburn, even if it is cloudy.
- If the sun is hot, wear loose fitting cotton clothes. Tight fitting synthetic fibres are hot to wear and can cause prickly heat.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses.
- Apply sunscreen liberally BEFORE going out in the sun - and re-apply after swimming, or every 3-4 hours.
- Use a HIGH FACTOR sunscreen or sunblock on all exposed skin.
- Babies and children have particularly sensitive skin so be especially vigilant. FACTOR 30+ should be used.
- Remember lips burn so use a sunscreen lip balm.
- Stay out of the sun between 11am - 3.00pm.

**Don't let sunburn ruin your holiday!**

Wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

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**Hib Booster**

Hib disease causes many problems, including meningitis. A booster vaccination for Hib has been introduced for all children between the ages of 6 months - 4 years. Any parent wishing more information, please pick up a leaflet from the surgery or contact the Health Visitor.

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The centre offers a multitude of activities to groups and individuals. All activities are under the supervision of qualified staff, and all necessary equipment can be provided for a safe and enjoyable day out.

**open to everybody….with something for everyone!**

**EQUIPMENT HIRE**

There is a wide range of equipment at the centre available for any activity which you may wish to pursue.

**BOAT HIRE**

Sailing Boats - Wayfarers, Toppers, Optimist, Dart, Laser II and RS400

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**Rev Kirk – Away wi’ the Faeries**

It isn’t often that Strathard attracts media attention but it did in June when television cameras were seen at Doon Hill, less than a mile from Aberfoyle. BBC Scotland had commissioned a drama documentary on the Rev. Robert Kirk, the 17th century churchman who had an interest in the occult and who was the author of ‘The Secret Commonwealth’, which charted the lives of fairies and elves.

Doon Hill is where,legend has it, the Rev. Kirk was kidnapped by the fairies. He certainly died in mysterious circumstances in 1692.

The programme ‘Kirk Away With The Fairies’ is to be shown on BBC Scotland later this year. For those wishing to probe deeper, a copy of Rev. Kirk’s book, ‘The Secret Commonwealth’, is held at Drymen Library.
Traffic Calming Lochard Road

Unfortunately I have to clarify a few points which have been written in the May and June editions of the Strathard News.

Consultation – The Strathard Futures representative in the June edition agrees no consultation took place prior to the 29th January with the Lochard Road residents. He then goes on to say a meeting took place in January with the traffic management officer, representatives of Community Futures, the Community Council, School Board and the Head Teacher. Is this not the required consultation prior to a proposal being formalised, and why were no residents of Lochard Road invited to attend?

As stated in the May edition the local knowledge and competence of the above noted parties is questionable, in identifying the concerns to be addressed, i.e. Flooding, Congestion, and Noise. This is paramount in the implementation of a successful project. It is also clear that a ‘nerve’ has been hit with regard to consultation or rather the lack of, and I still believe there is an ‘arrogance’ within these groups, taking no regard of what the local community actually want or require.

Correspondence – Correspondence has been exchanged with the various parties (Stirling Council and Community Council) and what is apparent is the contradictions within their letters. For example in a letter of the 12th February Stirling Council state that congestion is “Sporadic and Minor” then in a letter of the 8th May from the chairperson of the community council the following statement with regard to congestion, “I agree that it is bad. It has been for a long time and particularly since the opening of the nursery and the higher numbers of children due to increased housing”. How can a successful scheme be implemented with this level of competence and confusion? I would also like to highlight that I am still awaiting a reply to a letter sent to the community council chairperson on the 4th June 2003; a reminder was sent on the 1st July, a holding reply was received on the 2nd July from the secretary, and a further letter was sent by myself on the 8th July. To date I have had no reply and I wonder if this is communication by a seemingly faultless body operating in your best interests. I do have a letter from Stirling Council dated 30th June suggesting noise readings will be taken, but no action, as yet!! – Surprise?

Present Situation – The points of my initial concern and those of other residents are coming to fruition.

Drainage – We have poor roadside drainage due to the structures, but no major flood as yet, this will come and will severely curtail access to Lochard Road. On a positive note the flood will solve the speeding problem for a short period at least.

Speed – The speeding problem has not been resolved by £20,000 of taxpayer’s money hence the police have been trying to detect/deter speeders (locals and visitors) on the 15th/16th May. Road Rage has been experienced on the 23rd May.

As stated in the May and June editions of the Strathard News. Why is there no reporting on activity or detail of meetings in the Stirling Observer, or suitable prior notification of meetings on the community council notice board?

Concentration – There was total congestion on the 24th May and a number of calls were made to the police who indicated there was nothing they could do. Similar congestion, to a lesser extent has been experienced during busy periods, i.e. Good Weather at Weekends.

Finally I would like to reiterate that consultation appears to be a big problem and John Clow made a valid point in the May edition, which still has to be effectively addressed by the various groups. It may be addressed in this edition of the Strathard News. Why is there no reporting on activity or detail of meetings in the Stirling Observer, or suitable prior notification of meetings on the community council notice board?

Manse Road

I would also stress to the residents of Manse Road to be fully aware of any proposed traffic calming in their area to avoid a repeat of the debacle on Lochard Road, which no-one now wants to take the responsibility for. Likewise the community groups should be meeting with residents on site to consult not assume that consultation is taking place…

Then there is Macgregor’s Field, where any extra recreational activity could affect the residents’ quality of life and property values never mind the protected wildlife habitats which could be destroyed for ever. Has anyone consulted you direct, if the Lochard Road scheme is anything to go by, the answer is more than likely to be NO!!

Residents of Manse Road please heed the warning as these people believe that no participation is a “Yes Vote” however they then ignore any positive concerns when raised. I will let you make your own deductions on this point.

If you have any complaints on the Lochard Road Traffic Calming or wish to report an accident or near miss please contact the relevant community council or Strathard Futures representatives, if you actually know who they are!!

Douglas Hyslop

Resident, Lochard Road

Sir,

I am writing with regard to the Traffic Calming issue on Lochard Rd. I realise I am coming in to this in the middle of the discussion and have not been fully aware of the furore which this matter seems to have raised, so forgive me if I overlap other peoples points.

It is a sad reflection on our society that people need such measures to make them behave responsibly. It sometimes appears that no-one nowadays is prepared to accept responsibility for their actions, we live in a society where everyone demands "their rights" but seem to forget that the obverse of that coin is "their responsibilities."

As a resident for more than 25 years of Lochard Rd, and having been associated with the school for that same period of time I have been appalled at the driving of some people passing the school and have complained "long and weary" to anyone who would listen.

Sadly the traffic calming has had only a limited effect. If the road is clear I have watched drivers "centring" themselves up and tearing down the middle of the road at speed on many occasions, I have also witnessed drivers on the approach to the "nibs" speed up to try to get through before the other person. I have deliberately chosen to use the term drivers rather than vehicles, as it is people who speed not vehicles. These "drivers" are often local people and/or wood lorries. If anyone would like to dispute this I will be happy to have them accompany me in the mornings when I am opening the school or at any time in the evening. I am restricted to commenting on these times as I work away from the village in the daytime and so therefore cannot comment on the traffic at this time.

However although I acknowledge that the critical time is when the children are making their way to and from school, as far as I am aware the 30mph restriction is not "time limited" and is in force at all times, as it should be, as there are children coming and going at various times for a variety of reasons including to use the football park. Although I am in no way minimising the importance of the children, there are other pedestrians to be considered.

Lochard Rd is fairly narrow and has little margin for error, anyone losing control of a vehicle would almost certainly mount the pavement with potentially deadly results.

The "nibs" are useful, but they are not the be all and end all for the foregoing reasons. What is needed is for people who are after all the problem to act responsibly and drive within the law (both Civil and Moral). Perhaps a "name and shame" policy of people convicted of speeding may work, although I can imagine the response of the human rights lobby to such an idea.

In conclusion the traffic calming sadly has it's place, but it is the people (you know who you are) who will make it work or not, so please take your responsibilities to our community seriously which will reduce the dangers of speeding and then we can start working on the visitors.

L. Gilmour

Resident, Lochard Road

Dear Editor

A risky business………….

While I agree with the objector to the traffic calming measures in Lochard Road that they are the wrong measures, I totally disagree with his method of objecting. By parking his vehicle right on one of the road narrowings to make his point, he may well be achieving his objective but perhaps at the expense of a life. There are more effective and less dangerous methods of slowing traffic in the area of the school.

Sadly, this objection only compounds the hazard. The question is at what price?

Fergus Wood, Ledard

Letters to the Editor

……..have your say!

What do you think? If you have something on your mind, let's hear it. There’s no better way to reach all the residents of Strathard than through the Strathard News. Send your comments to The Editor, Strathard News, Kirkton House, Duchray Road, Aberfoyle FK8 3XB, or email: editor@strathardnews.co.uk
The Community Futures programme was established in Strathard in 2002, after all the residents in the area were asked for their views on what they wanted for the community in the future. Six Action Groups were formed to take forward the suggestions and deal with the concerns raised by the community questionnaire and developed by the Community Workshop. A Community Action Plan was drawn up detailing the priority areas for action and distributed to every household in Strathard. The Groups are still hard at it, pushing for change and improvements on your behalf. This page is their vehicle for keeping you informed of their progress. Should you have questions, suggestions or concerns please contact the group’s chairperson. Action Groups meetings are open to all and dates of future meetings will be published on this page.

Readers of the Strathard News will recall the Spring '03 articles of the Local Economic Group pleading for local craftspeople to come forward with their products for souvenirs and giftware... the result is the sales plinth in the Trossachs Discovery centre bristling with locally produced goods - a good result perhaps, signal that we have plenty of skill in our community with commercial application - but this is only the beginning.

The second phase of this project has already been discussed with AILLST, our Area Tourist Board, who are to extend the project Park-wide and beyond; potentially across the country. The plan is for the ATB and the suppliers to work hand in hand to develop and evolve a range of products and a volume of sales to suit the needs and capacity of everyone involved... for anyone aspiring to expand their business, this second phase will be the perfect chance to do so. In conjunction with professional providers such as Stirling Enterprise Park (STEP), your Economic Development Group will be on hand to help by providing advice on business growth management and training etc to anyone in Strathard.

The third phase of the project will be to bring together all the suppliers involved in the scheme at an open day during the off-season. Every gift shop proprietor and retail outlet of the National Park will be invited to this showcase event - local producers meeting local sales outlets one to one; the aim is to promote sole-outlet /sole supplier status - individualised products from each supplier for each outlet - small businesses outdoing major suppliers with business agility and enthusiasm.

Having started this project, the Local Economic Development Group needs more enthusiastic members of the community to take part in the growth of the programme; even if you have no experience of schemes of this kind but would like to help grow the local economy, please contact me.

Do you like working with others and compiling databases? (maybe you'd like to learn about relational databases with a practical project).... the Economic Development Group has a terrific project waiting for you... this is a very interesting task - vital to the growth of our community - you can really be part of it. All you need is time on your hands, above average intelligence and enthusiasm.

Economic Housing - we've got to do something ourselves! The Economic Development Group is looking for derelict buildings and sites - absolute wrecks are ideal, just as long as there was once a structure there... please let me know of anything you can think of and who owns the site if you know - who actually owns the land is less important than the location at this point - I want to make up a map of such sites with a view to future redevelopment in groups.... done right, we'll kill many birds with one stone - not least to provide economic homes in Strathard which are not jammed-in cheek by jowl - with some fat cat developer taking all the profit out of our area.

The "Futures for Recreation" Group's role is to develop our local environment to benefit the young people of the area; to encourage our children to take responsibility for their surroundings; and to celebrate and develop the skills of our children. After initial consultation with the youth of the Strathard area the overwhelming request was for the improvement of the play park facilities. We took this to be our first challenge. We are now making steady progress on this development. After asking the children what they would like to see in the play park, an initial detailed plan for the play park in Aberfoyle was developed in collaboration with Stirling Council. This is an exciting design which incorporates a skate park at one end of the park and an integrated play area for all ages, from toddlers to early teens. We were delighted with the initial proposals. We then presented these designs to the youth of the area, through the local schools and youth groups, for their response. We also publicly presented the plans at the opening event for community futures in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. Almost everyone thought the plans were excellent, although there were still a number of constructive comments (including quite a few requests for places for Mum's, Dad's, and Grandparents to sit down). All of these have been passed on to the team at Stirling Council who have now produced a final design. We will very soon know the real cost of this development - which will certainly be more than £100,000. The next stage is to raise the funds and although this is a large sum of money we are confident that we will raise it! We will be trying to raise the majority of the funds through grants. However, we will have to look to the community to help raise some of these funds. Towards the end of the summer we will be putting up posters for our first two fund raising events: A sponsored cycle for the kids and a sports dinner (with a celebrity after dinner speaker) for the adults. Your support in these events will be essential if we are to make progress. We on the committee of the Recreations Group are always keen to hear from the community - especially if you are offering to help with fund raising, organising the events, or on the committee. We will be posting notices of our meeting in the Strathard News and the Stirling Observer, please feel free to come along.
**Action Groups Update**

The Steering Group comprises one representative from each of the Action Groups - normally the chairman of each group but not necessarily so, together with our Community Agent whose work is funded by the National Park. Administratively, the Steering Group acts to ensure that each of the Action Groups pursues the changes to our community as defined by the democratically created Action Plan, and that Action Groups are mutually supported in their work. Networking meetings are held seasonally involving all the Action Groups in the National Park so that folk can share ideas and identify problems and their solution. Anyone living or working in Strathard is welcome to attend Steering Group meetings, especially if they have bright ideas - we are always looking for willing volunteers to help drive our community forward. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held in Memorial Hall, Aberfoyle at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29th July. The following meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26th August.

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**Environmental Improvements**

Contact: Ros Dingwall  
Tel: 01877 382668  
rositrossachs@aol.com

**Priorities:**
- Upgrade Main Street in Aberfoyle  
- Improve pedestrian links between Main Street and Car Park  
- Appropriate signposting  
- Picnic tables and other improvements at Riverside

The funders are very clear that this is our village and they want to take on board the wishes of our community. They are making a significant investment in Aberfoyle and it is important that we all take the chance to have our say in what is to be done. The budget may not allow us to do everything on our ‘wish list’ and it is therefore important that everyone has their say in making the decision on the priorities for this initiative.

**Tourism & Visitor Management**

Contact: Lesley Quirk  
Tel: 01877 387210

**Priorities:**
- Establish management rules, encouraging sympathetic co-existence in relation to access and use of lochs and rivers, and other leisure activities  
- Information points on all facilities  
- Traffic management and signage improvements  
- Provide a greater range of visitor accommodation  
- Develop circular walk/cycle routes Aberfoyle to Kilmichael  
- Explore ideas for new visitor attractions

In the Strathard Community Futures Action Plan, a priority for the Tourism Group is to “Explore Ideas for New Visitor Attractions” We are therefore pleased to announce that we have persuaded Stirling Council and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley to fund a study to look at possibilities for a new visitor attraction in Aberfoyle. One idea is to look at having a transport system which could link the village with the David Marshall Lodge and then take people up to the old slate quarry. Other ideas will also be considered.

I want to stress that at this stage we are only looking at possibilities but we have to start somewhere and we do want to think of something special to make Aberfoyle an even better place for residents and visitors alike.

I hope to be able to report on the outcomes of this study in the next issue of the Strathard News and meanwhile I would welcome any ideas you may have and also offers from anyone interested in joining the Tourism Group.

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**Social & Community Issues**

Contact: Jimmy Campbell  
Tel: 01877 382210  
jimmykirkton@aol.com

**Priorities:**
- Get the Strathard News published again  
- Set up more social events, classes and courses in the community  
- Expanding on the Welcome Pack for newcomers

...........continued on page 13

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**Roads, Transport, Safety, Paths & Trails**

Contact: John Digney  
Tel: 01877 382636

**Priorities:**
- Footbridge over the Forth at Manse Bridge  
- Better road maintenance  
- Integrate transport links  
- Aberfoyle/Loch Katrine/Callander  
- Park & Ride scheme to link Aberfoyle, Inversnaid & Loch Katrine  
- Passing places on road to Inversnaid  
- Create a core path network  
- Improve footpaths Milton to Kinlochard

Like most folks at this time of year we’ve been pretty quiet due to the holidays, but there has been some progress with the footbridge at Manse Road in that we have received confirmation that funding is available for a feasibility study. This will investigate the most suitable site for a bridge and will be carried out by engineers from Ferguson McIlveen who are already working on the environmental improvements project in that area. We are still waiting for feedback from the Transport Department of Stirling Council to our transport survey. We are also waiting to hear from the Park’s Access officer about a date for a public meeting at which it is hoped you will have a chance to identify footpaths and trails which could be improved or opened up to make access easier for pedestrians and cyclists. Several people have already expressed an interest in trying to re-open the old military road to Inversnaid and we hope to get them all together soon.

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Things are really moving forward now on this major initiative. It’s been a couple of years since the steering group started discussions with Stirling Council and Scottish Enterprise Forth valley about how we could improve the village centre for visitors and local residents. Now the funding is almost fully in place, although we still have to wait for final confirmation from European funds, and the funders have formally commissioned Consultants, Ferguson McIlveen, to undertake the management of this project. They are now producing costed designs for the various proposed elements of this scheme – The Riverside Walkway, the upgrading of the pavement on the south side of Main Street, the upgrading of the walkway from the car-park to Main Street at the rear of the Forth Inn and improvements to the car-park to make it more user-friendly and more attractive. Everyone will soon have the opportunity to look at the designs and give their comments. The drawings will be on public display for a week from 26th to 29th August in the Tourist Information Centre in Aberfoyle. All your comments will be collected and the designs will then be discussed at a public meeting on Tuesday 26th August in the memorial Hall in Aberfoyle from 6.30 to 8.00pm. The steering group and the consultants will be there to give information on the proposals, answer questions and discuss your ideas before the final designs are agreed. Please do take the opportunity to look at the plans and either write your comments and put them in the suggestion box or come along to the Public Meeting on Tuesday 26th to air them in person.
National Park News
Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn is nan Tròisichean

It is now a year since the Park Authority had its very first board meeting which took place at Gartmore House. At that meeting we decided that we should restrict the period of office of our convenor and vice convenor to a period of one year. After all, few of us knew anything of the other members’ strengths and weaknesses. Our meeting on 23rd June saw us in Strachur (It is the Board’s policy to visit each part of the Park on a regular basis. Please also note that all the meetings of the Park’s Board and Committees are open to the public) and the very first decision we had to make was the election of a convenor and vice convenor. I am very pleased to report that Gillie Thomson and Sir Peter Hutchison were re-elected to the posts unopposed. In other words the board has been more than satisfied that they are doing their jobs well and we would like them to continue for the next three years.

The possibility of a seaplane operation on Loch Lomond was the subject of another decision. That decision reached the National Press but I fear that there was more than a little ambiguity in the reporting. To clarify matters may I give a little background and detail the decision made. A seaplane is treated as a floating craft when on water and as such does not need planning permission when landing on water, when floating or taking off from water. On the other hand any land based activity associated with the commercial operation of a seaplane e.g. a ticket office, an access pier or the like certainly do need permission. As a prelude to applying for planning permission the proposed operator had suggested that he would be prepared to utilise a plane on the loch in a non commercial basis for a number of flights to allow the Board the opportunity to assess the environmental impact on the loch. After discussion it was decided (the vote was 11 for and 10 against) that there was little merit in the demonstration exercise and so we would await the actual planning application before examining the proposal.

A meeting of more local interest took place on 24th June at the Memorial Hall Aberfoyle under the auspices of Scottish Water. This meeting was in the nature of a workshop and was attended by a number of local associations. The purpose of the meeting? Scottish Water is under instruction from the Scottish Executive to withdraw from non core activities which are non profit making. We have already seen the withdrawal of sheep from the Loch Katrine catchment. A group was formed - Trossachs and Loch Katrine Advisory Group - with the aim to ensure that the local community was involved in any decisions that Scottish Water made that impacted on local employment, social, business and environmental conditions. Any such decisions would necessarily be important in a National Park context and consequently we wanted to be involved. The workshop proved that there is a lot of local enthusiasm for the community’s involvement in the decision process. The group has tasked individuals to investigate a number of ventures prior to a further meeting in September. I am sure that only good can from this process. The Group also has the support of our MSP Dr Sylvia Jackson. The message coming through is that the community does matter. Please therefore make your views known.

by Owen McKee
I can be contacted as follows:
Post - Taigh Na Bhuth, Lochearnhead, FK19 8PR
Phone: 01567 830214
email: owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Gartmore House
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- Plants for health
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- Writing skills
- Silk painting
- Country crafts

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e-mail: mail@gartmorehouse.com
www.gartmorehouse.com
The summer season is now in full swing with tourist all over the constituency with many bed and breakfasts and hotels picking up business. Tourism in Scotland has shown a dramatic rise over the past number of months, with estimates that it has increased by over 30% as European tourists desert the high priced, high speed, so-called delights of London for the more leisurely Scottish cities and countryside. Tourists spend money and we should be making it easy for them to access their funds when on holiday. That is why I am seriously disappointed that some of the large banks in Scotland are not allowing customers to withdraw cash from the Post Office through a Switch, facility unless they have a special account. As a customer of one such bank for many years, I shall be asking my bank to explain their decision. The Government is keen to ensure that local Post Offices, particularly in rural areas, are able to offer a whole range of services, including cash withdrawals. Local postmasters in the constituency have told me that the cash facility has been a great attraction and has been welcomed by those bank customers who have signed on for the service. If your own bank doesn’t offer the facility, I would ask them for an explanation.

Talking of money, I was watching the Parliament channel at the weekend, (I know, sad person, can’t watch the Simpsons like ordinary folk!). However, this broadcast was really quite exciting. It was the Treasury Select Committee and they had before them the big credit cards companies, trying to explain their high rates of interest in a low interest rate economy. I have to say it was quite enjoyable as MPs asked all those questions that customers have been asking for years. Next week, the big players in the provision of store cards are before the same committee. So if you have access to the Parliament Channel it might be worth it to watch if last week is anything to go by!

Finally, mobile telephones have been a great boon to us all – although sometimes I think they make us all too accessible. However, the one thing that annoys nearly everybody is the use of the mobile when people are driving. It has been proved to be dangerous, yet many drivers still persist. I was struck with horror recently seeing a lorry driver going round a roundabout with a mobile in one hand. If he had lost control, the result would have been disastrous for him and any other vehicle in his way. I am therefore delighted that the Department of Transport has announced that they will be introducing legislation to make it illegal to use mobile phones while driving, although the use of properly fitted handsfree equipment will still be allowed. Hopefully drivers will take the hint.

I am always delighted to hear from constituents. You can contact both Sylvia Jackson MSP and myself at the Parliamentary Advice Office, 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling FK8 1UA, telephone 01786 446515. If you have access, then my e-mail address is mcguirea@parliament.org.uk and my web site is www.annemcguiremp.org.uk

Anne McGuire MP

The Strathard Earthquake

It’s usually a bump at night,
When we awaken with a fright,
But when we’re up and wide awake
And household items start to shake
Together with expensive noise
Imagination has a choice:
Leaving you with worried notion
Of a neighbour’s gas explosion
Or forestry commission’s blast
But then the first was not the last,
Another – in due course a third,
Not as alarming, could be heard.
The Richter Scale recorded: “three”,
That was enough we all agree,
And are extremely glad of course
Ben Lomond has no Lava Source!!

Sigrid

The Garden
by Wellie Boot

There will be no gardening column this month because Wellie Boot is on holiday. You know what that means – twice as much to do in the garden next month!
Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, which now forms part of The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, was designated in 1953, its name commemorating the Coronation of the Queen the same year.

Everyone is invited to the party when the park celebrates its 50th birthday during the month of August with a wide range of exciting events which promise not only to be fun-filled but also highly educational. Most events will be free to join and highlights include:

A 50th anniversary prize draw, with free entry to anyone visiting The David Marshall Lodge (The Forest Park Visitor Centre) near Aberfoyle in August or September, or attending one of the August events. Main prize is a spectacular helicopter flight over The Forest Park. Other prizes include a short break in a forest holiday cabin, a remote-controlled Land rover and forest shop vouchers.

Saturday 2nd/Sunday 3rd August
Forest Park Discovery
The two-hour minibus tour of The Forest Park will reach parts of the forest the public don't normally reach, and guests will learn about how the woods are managed for wildlife and people. They will also get up close and personal with the amazing giant machines that fell trees and remove timber from the forest. The tours start and finish at The David Marshall Lodge.

Saturday 23rd/Sunday 24th August
Fun in the Forest
No experience - just a sense of adventure - is necessary to have a go at the range of exciting activities planned. There will be a family orienteering event with Forth Valley Orienteers on the Saturday, trailquest (orienteering on bicycles) with The Glasgow Mountain Bike Club on the Sunday, kayaking on Loch Drunkie with Dounans Outdoor Centre and abseiling at Milton Crag. Bicycles will be on hire from The David Marshall Lodge all weekend to enable visitors to ride along the seven-mile Achray Forest Drive which was built to commemorate The Forest Park's Silver Jubilee in 1978.

Saturday 9th/Sunday 10th August
Wood Fair
A celebration of Scotland's sustainably produced wood. There will be demonstrations and "hands-on" traditional and contemporary willow weaving, a wooden and percussion workshop, chainsaw carving and turning demonstrations, woodcraft stalls and an exhibition of hardwood furniture made from Scottish native wood.

Saturday 16th/Sunday 17th August
Wild in the Woods
An opportunity for visitors to see and learn about the wildlife that lives in The Forest Park. It will include a Birds of Prey display on the Sunday with Perthshire Falconry, live on-screen osprey viewing at The David Marshall Lodge, a chance to meet the local Forestry Commission team of wildlife rangers and join them on an evening deer safari by Loch Katrine, fun and games with National Park rangers to learn about local wildlife, display put on by The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to raise awareness of wildlife crime, a chance to learn some first aid for injured wildlife with Hestlehead Wildlife Rescue and an exhibition and guided walk to learn about bats with the local bat group.

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The committee have focussed all their efforts on getting the Strathard News up and running again. Our aim is to develop the News so that it remains topical and relevant to the community. We think it is getting there, thanks to all the contributors. But we would like more! We can only print what we know about, so please remember to tell us of your events, celebrations and achievements. Our reporter has done a sterling job, producing interesting articles about local people. He will soon be armed with digital camera and dictaphone, so expect even better copy in the future. As far as the other priorities on the list are concerned, we have to be honest and say that we have not turned our attention to them yet. If anyone feels strongly about the lack of progress in these areas perhaps you could help to get them started by joining our group.

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---

**Comin’ & Going at The Post Office!**

Feedback across the P.O. counter suggests that there are still a lot of concerns about the phasing out of allowance, benefit and pension books. Most importantly - don’t panic! The process will take at least until 2005, so if your partner or neighbour has received a letter about the changes and you haven’t - don’t worry; they will get to everyone eventually. You need to wait until you are contacted and then phone or write back telling the Department of Work & Pensions your preferred method of payment. Keep that original letter. Once you know the details of your chosen account, then fill in the details and post it to the DWP. We are discovering that some of the literature is not very clear on the choices available.

**Option one:** you like to keep your benefit separate from the rest of your money and would prefer just to collect the cash each week. If this is the case then ask for a P.O. Card Account. With this account you receive a card and a 4-digit pin number (which can be a number you choose) in place of your book. You can draw your money when it suits you at any P.O., but you cannot pay any other funds in to this account.

**Option two:** You would prefer to have your money paid into an existing account with the bank of your choice. In this case fill in the form sent with your letter, giving the bank details, and send it to the DWP. You will no longer be able to collect your cash at the P.O. unless your account is with one of the partner banks that already use the P.O. Check with your bank.

**Option three:** You would like to open an account into which your benefit could be paid, which allows direct debits, but you don’t need overdraft facilities. It would be useful if you could also draw cash at the P.O. In this case ask your chosen bank for a BASIC bank account which allows these features. Most of the major banks offer these basic accounts. Again, once you have these account details fill in that form and send it to the DWP. Still not sure? Then come and ask us and we will try to answer your questions. If you are worried about holding up the queue then we can arrange a more suitable time to talk to you.

Good news for Lloyds TSB customers is that they can now use their card and PIN number to withdraw cash at any P.O. This facility is already available to Alliance & Leicester customers.

**Staff changes at Aberfoyle PO** - We were sorry to say goodbye to Fiona who was only with us for a short time, but was so cheery and friendly that I am sure she will be missed. And for the first time ever Tom has had to admit to defeat. You can’t jump out of planes, get eight screws in your ankle and still expect to go back to working 6 days a week, eight hours a day without the arthritis catching up with you; well not at his age anyway. (I’m allowed to say that!) So Tom is retiring earlier than he intended and can we take this opportunity to thank the many people who have asked after him since his accident brought him, quite literally, down to earth.

---

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Eat slugs, snails and mainly grass, but thrives on poultry corn. Great fun, all individual characters. Need night-time security from foxes. Ready now, expect 100 eggs (£40 worth) per year per duck from next Spring - sorry but as duckling it's pot luck on gender! £10 each - min order 2 but we suggest you take 4 for company?
Tel: Ann Epps 01877 382726

Wanted
Man Wanted: (not for relationship!) for Grass Cutting Contract in Inversnaid. 4 gardens in need of attention. Regular work. Excellent rates.
Tel: 01301 702970

Announcements

Kirk News
The Guild Sale takes place on Saturday 16th August at 2 pm in Kirk House. Please come and give your support.

Sunday Services
Port of Menteith – 10 am
Aberfoyle – 11.15 am
Bring a friend along!

Trossachs Highland Gathering
Sun 24th & Mon 25th August
Kirkton Farm, Aberfoyle
Info: Sir Hamish Davidson
Tel: 01555 850228
Mob: 07751 747468

Clubs & Organisations
Does your club meet on a regular basis? It costs nothing to place an advert in the classified section to publicise your club or organisation. Contact us on: 01877 382508 or email clubs@strathardnews.co.uk

1st Aberfoyle Brownies
Meet every Wednesday 6pm till 7.45pm in Church House. If you wish to contact a Guider they are:
Jackie Gerlach 01877 339942
Trisha Roberts 01877 382705

Aberfoyle Bowling Club:
All new members & visitors welcome. For more information contact Irene Finlayson on 01877 385278

Strathard Community Council
meets at 7.30pm on the 1st Thursday of every month.
Next meeting, 7th August in Kinlochard Village Hall

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For assistance and advice on layout contact Marion Back Tel 01301 702972 marionback@compuserve.com
Hello Children,
What a lovely summer we are having. Grandpa Otter said it would be a scorcher this year. Some days have been hotter here than in the South of France. Since the school holidays started we have spent most of our time in the water, trying to keep cool and having lots of fun.

Early one morning the twins, Duke and Katrine, got up very early and wanted to go on a great adventure. Sizzler, our Dad, suggested a day exploring the aqueducts built over a hundred years ago to take fresh water to Glasgow. My sister, Braeval, helped Mum to make a pile of trout sandwiches for a picnic and off we set. We swam down the Forth from our hole where we live, up the Kelty Burn to the edge of the Strathard Forest. Here we found the two aqueducts, one finished in 1859 and the other completed in 1895, capable of taking 500 million litres of water a day from Loch Katrine. We couldn’t decide which aqueduct to take, so we ended up doing both! Grandpa Otter took mum and the girls into the old pipeline, a lot of which is above ground with great views as it crosses over high above a number of hollows and little valleys. Duke and I would go with dad, up the 1895 line to Royal Cottage on the south side of Loch Katrine and meet the others there for our picnic. We squeezed through the iron bars of a locked gate, into a large, round tower and went down a lot of steps into a deep, dark tunnel. When Duke squeeked with fright there was a strange echo...echo...echo! Swimming against the gentle flow of water we passed through little pools of light each time we came to another tower. At Royal Cottage mum had already laid out the picnic of sandwiches and fishcakes. As we munched our lunch, in the distance we could see a few puffs of smoke. Was that Mr Ferrie having a bonfire, or was it the Dragon of Strathard?

Bye for now,
Milton
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Hand completed crossword into A2Z before 16th August. First correct answer drawn wins a £10 voucher to spend in A2Z.

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Across
1. Animated film loses nothing on the box (6)  
4. A weed grows very quickly (1,1,1,1)  
8. Headless primate causes mischief (3)  
9. Catching in the fabric (7)  
10. Air passes through it. Did it pass through air? (4)  
11. Sweat out excess (5)  
14. A green French foil (5)  
16. Kill off the head of the island (4)  
18. EU never returns money (7)  
20. Strain 18 Across (3)  
21. You can bet on this bag! (4)  
22. Fun and games in boat around the harbour (6)

Down
1. Snack for the golfer (4)  
2. Beat about before snub (7)  
3. Jump quietly off lightweight (5)  
5. Risking a fracture in this sport (3)  
6. The swine hired out his baby! (6)  
7. Puts liquid back into casserole (4)  
12. Start P.E. exercises with a splash (7)  
13. Birdie is level score? Rubbish! (6)  
15. Exquisite Chinese taste (4)  
16. Strong inclination to soak in water (5)  
17. Cabs lose front hub (4)  
19. Check out this surgeon (3)

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Next issue
Deadline
22nd