

# The Voice

The magazine of the Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

---

## VISTA & VIEW PROJECT UPDATE



HISTORY  
HERITAGE &  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
• 2017 •

ALSO INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

Friends of OUR park, Park News, Nature of the Park, Treasure Islands of Loch Lomond *and more*





LOCH LOMOND ARMS HOTEL



ENJOY FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE

*Join us for seasonal menus with locally sourced ingredients, a fantastic wine list and hand-pulled craft ales.*



01436 860420 lochlomondarmshotel.com

LOCH LOMOND ARMS HOTEL MAIN ROAD LUSS G83 8NY  

INVERBEG HOLIDAY PARK

5 STAR HOLIDAY PARK ON THE SHORES OF LOCH LOMOND

Wake up  
to this

Book your adventure now at [inverbeg.com](http://inverbeg.com)  

LUSS  
SEAFOOD  
BAR



The finest Scottish seafood, served alongside a splendid wine list created by expert Matthew Jukes.

01436 860420 [luss-seafoodbar.com](http://luss-seafoodbar.com)

LUSS SEAFOOD BAR PIER ROAD LUSS SCOTLAND G83 8NY



LUSS GENERAL STORE



SCOTTISH INSPIRED GIFTS AND HOMEWARE  
FROM LOCAL ARTISANS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

01436 860820 [lussgeneralstore.com](http://lussgeneralstore.com)

LUSS GENERAL STORE PIER ROAD LUSS SCOTLAND G83 8NY  

Fabulous  
LOCH LOMOND

Activity Hub

BIKES  
KAYAKS  
SPEEDBOAT



GORGE WALKING  
BOAT TICKETS  
CANYONING

LUSS CARPARK LUSS LOCH LOMOND



Scottish Highland arts and crafts  
in the oldest cottage in Luss



Shore Cottage • Luss • G83 8NZ  
[www.theclanshop.com](http://www.theclanshop.com)  



## Chairman's Introduction

**WELCOME TO THIS AUTUMN EDITION OF VOICE,**  
*with interesting articles about different aspects of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and news on recent activities of the Friends and others working to make the Park a better place for people and nature.*

As the only independent conservation and heritage charity covering the National Park, we continue to strive to make a difference through campaigning, fundraising and volunteering activities, working closely with partners such as the Park Authority, local communities and tourism groups.

After such a promising good spell of weather in April and May it is disappointing that the summer was one of the wettest on record with an average of 16 inches of rainfall across the National Park during the June-August period. Hopefully, as we move into autumn and winter there will be some good spells of weather so that locals and visitors can enjoy the splendours of the National Park.

The adverse weather meant it was not ideal conditions for camping and overall the numbers of campers in the National Park were well down this year while, in contrast, the number of campervans on the move or staying overnight in the National Park continued to grow rapidly. The new camping arrangements introduced as part of the National Park Authority's Your Park initiative had a promising start in the spring but were not fully tested due to the long periods of poor weather over the summer months.

Despite the weather, the weak pound - which was at its lowest for 7 years - meant that large numbers of visitors still came to the National Park this year and some of the visitor infrastructure struggled to

cope at peak times. This was reflected in the number of complaints from visitors and local businesses about the inadequate litter clearance arrangements in some of the more popular villages such as Balmaha and Luss and in lay-bys along the A82 beside Loch Lomond. We made representations on this topic to the relevant authorities. Also in our detailed response to the draft Park Partnership Plan for the next five years we stressed the importance of prioritising a 'back to basics' agenda covering issues such as better and more effective litter management and toilet arrangements.

It is worth noting that the National Park celebrated its 15th birthday this year and I well recall the excitement and sense of anticipation in the build up to the launch of the National Park back in 2002. Many individuals and bodies, including our late President Dr Hannah Stirling MBE, campaigned long and hard for the creation of Scotland's first National Park to protect and better manage the special qualities of the most visited countryside destination in Scotland with additional national funding.

While the National Park Authority has its critics, there is no doubt the creation of the National Park has made a real difference with over £100 million invested over a 15year period by the public sector in furthering the Park's four aims. This has also been matched with a similar amount invested by tourism businesses in providing new and upgraded visitor

facilities. We are fortunate in having the largest ranger service in the UK which has helped improve some aspects of visitor management and people's enjoyment of what is a truly special place.

As the National Park Authority strives to make a difference moving forward it is important that efforts are made to protect its annual budget and priority visitor management issues are adequately resourced. Understandably, due to the scale of Scottish Government budget cuts, there has been a trend for some time now of local public-sector bodies reducing their investment in important services such as litter management and toilet provision and, sadly, the impact of this is beginning to show on the ground. Also, as the Park Authority tries to stretch its budget further, it is important strengthened arrangements are put in place to protect the quality of visitor services provision when public visitor facilities are put out to franchise.

I hope you will enjoy reading Voice and thank you for continuing to support the work of the Friends. If you are not already a member please do consider joining as the more members we have the more we are able to do to make a difference in this very special part of Scotland.

All the very best.

**JAMES FRASER**

Chair - Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs



Articles published in The Voice do not necessarily represent the views of The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs. Charity No. SC015389

The Voice is printed on 100% recycled paper supporting the re-use of forest resources and in accordance with FSC standards only using post-consumer recycled wood and fibre

Designed and printed by  
The Inglewood Press Ltd, Alloa, Scotland  
[www.inglewood-press.co.uk](http://www.inglewood-press.co.uk)  
email: [inglewoodprint@gmail.com](mailto:inglewoodprint@gmail.com)



The Voice is the magazine of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, the only independent conservation charity working to protect, promote and provide projects and services for this most precious part of Scotland – The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. To join us or to find out more about our work please visit [www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk) or use the form inside.

The Voice is published biannually in spring and autumn. Submissions on topics relating to Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park are welcome. Please send submissions to the editor at the address below or email [info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](mailto:info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)  
Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs; Carrochan; Carrochan Road; Balloch G83 8EG  
Telephone: **01389 727761** Email: [info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](mailto:info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)  
[www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)

Cover photo - Autumnal photo of Benmore Botanic Gardens in Cowal.



## New Friends Promotion at Loch Katrine



Gordon Allan and James Fraser are pictured beside one of the new attractive posters at Loch Katrine

With the support of the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust the Friends have installed three attractive promotional posters at busy visitor hubs on the shores of Loch Katrine. Two of the posters promoting the work of the Friends are now installed on the attractive pagoda beside Trossachs Pier and a third is on the noticeboard at Stronachlachar. Membership leaflets are also being distributed at shore outlets and on the steamship. A donation post has also been installed following the success of the ones located at Tom Weir's Rest in Balmaha last year. Any funds raised will be used for heritage and access projects at Loch Katrine.

Commenting on the Friends awareness raising project Gordon Allan, Managing Director of the Steamship Company, said: "We have worked closely with the Friends over the years and they have done a great job supporting worthwhile projects through the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme which we have been pleased to support."

He added: "These new displays will be seen by the 250,000 visitors who visit Loch Katrine each year and hopefully will raise awareness of the Friends as well as generating funds for projects around the loch which will increase their enjoyment of this special place."

## Ecotourism Potential



As part of the Friends' exciting new ecotourism initiative, a series of ecotourism seminars were held in April and May in Killin, Luss and Callander. The purpose was to raise awareness of the business opportunities to capitalise more on the ecotourism potential of the National Park and the Clyde Sea Lochs. The seminars were delivered with the support of Dr Kathy Velander, Director of the Centre for Ecotourism and Wildlife Management at Edinburgh Napier University, and featured local guest speakers. They highlighted good examples of ecotourism businesses and the outstanding ecotourism resources available for local business on their doorstep to make more of.

As part of the seminars, participants were introduced to ecotourism factsheets, prepared by the Friends Ecotourism Project Manager and Dr Velander. The factsheets introduced the concept of ecotourism, listed simple ecotourism tips and provided numerous local examples of how businesses were enhancing their customer's experience through connections with the stunning local landscapes and the rich and diverse stories they have to tell.

Jared Bowers, Ecotourism Project Manager for the Friends, said: "The beauty and sheer diversity of landscapes are at the heart of the tourist appeal of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and the Clyde Sea Lochs. These seminars were a unique opportunity for tourism businesses to learn some practical tips on how to promote local ecotourism experiences to their customers to enhance and extend their stay."

The factsheets can be easily accessed online at [www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)



## Arrochar Community Hydro Scheme Support



The Friends have contributed £1,000 towards the construction of a Community Hydro Scheme near Arrochar as part of their wider efforts to support eco-tourism initiatives in the National Park. The 123kw hydro plant is to be located above the village at Loch Long, with the local community, as well as residents of nearby Luss and Arden, given the opportunity to purchase a stake in the scheme. The electricity generated from the run of river scheme will be sold on to the National Grid, and income generated will be given to Community Development Trusts for ongoing projects and future community benefit. The Arrochar and Tarbet and Luss and Arden Community Development Trusts are working alongside community energy specialists Energy4All, Local Energy Scotland and landowners, Luss Estates, to develop this project. The scheme was initiated by Luss Estates in support of the local communities, with land being leased for a peppercorn rent. Over £600,000 has been successfully raised to finance the project. The Friends have been able to make a contribution from funds raised through the Friends of OUR park visitor giving project, which involves more than 100 businesses throughout the National Park offering visitors ways to donate to generate funds for a variety of conservation, heritage and access projects.

John Urquhart, Vice-Chairman of Friends, said: "This is an excellent initiative for the lochside villages which we are delighted to support."

The Community Development Trusts need to generate new income streams to support a range of local projects geared to improving village amenities and we are certain that this new hydro scheme will be a major benefit. We appreciate the help of the many local businesses now involved in the Friends of OUR park project, and their customers, who have helped to make this donation a possibility."

Duncan MacLachlan, Director of Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust, added: "We were delighted when the Friends agreed to support this project, as it is vital that as many residents and public bodies as possible get behind the scheme. We are confident that the hydro scheme will make a big difference to groups like ours and we are keen to move to the next stage with this exciting project."

Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss, Chairman of Luss Estates, said: "Community involvement is increasingly at the core of what we do, and Luss Estates is proud to have been involved with An't Sreang from the start, both as the project's instigator and by effectively gifting the land to the local community for this pioneering venture. For me, it is projects such as this that point the way forward for co-operation between landowners and local communities, and I hope to see many more of them in the future, both here and across Scotland. I congratulate all those who have contributed to the success of this scheme, and wish it well."

## Campsite Staff Save German Tourist's Life



Quick-thinking staff at a campsite near Balmaha saved the life of a German tourist recently thanks to the availability of a public access defibrillator nearby, put in place three years ago by Trossachs Search and Rescue Team with funding support from the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and the Frasers at the Oak Tree Inn. The visitor collapsed at Millarochy Bay Camping and Caravan Club site and was barely breathing and unconscious. One member of staff tended to him while another rushed to the Oak Tree Inn to grab the public access defibrillator from its outside cabinet. On returning the man had stopped breathing and his lips were turning blue. The device was switched on and following a period of CPR he started breathing again in time for an ambulance arriving. Still unconscious, but breathing he was then airlifted to hospital in Glasgow where he made a full recovery. Trossachs SAR chair said: "The staff undoubtedly

saved this man's life through their prompt and correct actions and this follows on from three lives being saved last year by members of the public using defibrillators at Thornhill, Kinlochard and Luss."

Oak Tree owner and supporter of the Friends of OUR park voluntary visitor giving scheme, Sandy Fraser praised the campsite staff and said: "This incident proves the worth of having the defibrillator available in this community."

Chair of the Friends, James Fraser, said: "We have worked closely with Trossachs SAR on the rollout of a park-wide public access defibrillator scheme that has helped secure an impressive total of 105 units that they regularly maintain and back up with training people locally in CPR and how to use defibrillators. We are delighted to hear that the Balmaha unit is the latest to be used successfully."







*Pictured (left to right) are Friends Chairman James Fraser, Paul Saunders (Business Supporter of the Year), Joe Twaddle (Hannah Stirling National Park Award winner), Ross Anderson (Chairman, Scottish Campaign for National Parks), John Beveridge (Volunteer of the Year), Willie Nisbet (Vice-Convenor, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority) and John Urquhart (Friends Vice-Chairman).*

## Top National Park Awards for Making a Difference

THE FRIENDS HAVE RECOGNISED THE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY A LONG-SERVING EAST LOCH LOMOND COMMUNITY CHAMPION, A LOCH LOMOND-BASED JOURNALIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER, AND A FOUNDER OF THE LOCH LOMOND STEAMSHIP COMPANY FOR THEIR WORK MAKING THE NATIONAL PARK A BETTER PLACE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE AND NATURE.

At the annual general meeting in May, awards were given to former Buchanan Community Council secretary Joe Twaddle, Paul Saunders, who runs his media and photography business around Loch Lomond, and John Beveridge, who is one of the main driving forces behind the restoration of the Maid of the Loch steamship at Balloch Pier. All three were recognised as having made an enormous difference to the visitor experience in the National Park in recent years.

### HANNAH STIRLING AWARD

Joe Twaddle, who runs Passfoot Bed and Breakfast in Balmaha with his wife Betty, was given the third Hannah Stirling National Park Award in recognition of his hard work, commitment and outstanding service over many years to the well-being of East Loch Lomondside. Joe, who originally came to live in the area 50 years ago to work at the University Field Station at Rowardennan, had served as secretary of Buchanan Community Council for 37 years before standing down last year. His work in this role included contributing to successful initiatives including sensitive wood extraction and haulage from the area; working with the National Park Authority on the introduction of successful camping byelaws; securing the former toilet block site in the centre of Balmaha for a village green improvement scheme and campaigning for much needed affordable housing in the village. He continues to be an active member of East Loch Lomond Community Trust, which is currently progressing plans to improve Balmaha Village Green. The Hannah Stirling National Park Award was established by the Friends in 2015 in honour of its late former President.

At the award ceremony Joe said: "East Loch Lomond has been part of most of my life and helping to keep it beautiful as part of Scotland's first National Park is a pleasure to me. I am therefore delighted to pick up this award for simply doing something that I enjoy and am determined to keep doing for as long as possible. East Loch Lomond is a key area in the National Park and, with the help of many others, the Community Trust will continue to work towards its goals."

### BUSINESS SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

The National Park Business Supporter of the Year award went to Paul Saunders in recognition of his contribution to the success of the Tom Weir's Loch Lomond Wonderland project and the Friends of OUR park scheme. The Tom Weir's Loch Lomond Wonderland project saw the production of an innovative, eye-catching and colourful booklet and exhibition telling the story of the broadcaster's life featuring contributions from 300 local primary schoolchildren, co-ordinated by Paul. He has been a business supporter of the Friends for several years, making monthly contributions to the fundraising Friends of OUR park scheme, and assisted with other projects, including the Celebrating Park People and their Stories programme in 2013. Paul said: "It is strange to be on the other side of the camera, but a great honour to be recognised in this way. The projects the Friends have involved me in have been a pleasure to be part of and, most recently, the Tom Weir's Loch Lomond Wonderland booklet has made an excellent contribution towards visitors to the area. The Friends are going to continue to work for people and nature in Scotland's first National Park and it's something I'm keen to be a part of to the greatest extent possible."

### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Last but by no means least, the Friends recognised the tremendous voluntary efforts of John Beveridge, who for the past 35 years has been at the helm of efforts to get the steamship Maid of the Loch sailing again. John, of Helensburgh, has been involved with the Maid since 1982 when she was advertised for sale. Ten years later, when the owners were placed into liquidation John, who at the time was a Director at Dumbarton District Council, persuaded the local authority to buy the boat. He then helped set up the Loch Lomond Steamship Company in 1995. Since then the Maid has been refurbished and become a popular static tourist attraction, with the pier rebuilt and the slipway restored. As voluntary project manager working with a range of consultants, John has also recently managed to secure a significant funding pledge towards this cause from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

John said: "Ever since that day in 1982 I have been determined to ensure that the Maid of the Loch can operate to the best of her ability, and it is a determination I will retain for many years to come. The interest shown in the Maid every year shows how vital it is that she is maintained, and that every avenue is explored for improvement. I am delighted that I have been recognised in this way by the Friends, and I am looking forward to continuing our successful relationship."

Friends Chairman James Fraser said: "These three award winners are fully deserving of their recognition and we are delighted for every one of them, as they have helped make a real difference on the ground and have contributed to making the National Park a better place for people to enjoy. We had no hesitation in deciding that all three should receive these awards and we hope they will continue to make contributions to enriching the National Park with the many hundreds of volunteers who are active with the Friends and other bodies throughout Scotland's first National Park."

TRIBUTE

# Rhona Weir

14 March 1920 – 31 May 2017



Rhona was a one-off who shared her love of the mountains and writing with her husband Tom, as well as a real passion for Loch Lomond which was reflected through them both being Friends of Loch Lomond founder members. She led an unbelievably rich and varied life, retaining a keen interest in all her favourite causes up to her last days.

Personally, I'll remember Rhona as my primary school teacher of four and a half years, both at Ardoch Bridge Primary and Gartocharn Primary where she became head teacher when it opened in 1970. School trips in Rhona's day involved climbing mountains, usually followed by a fish tea. One exception was a trip to London for the P7s where we walked around every tourist site over five days. For us country kids it was an eye opener, but that's what Rhona did for children throughout her career – she expanded their horizons.

Rhona was a lifelong member of The Red Cross and was awarded for her service, and rightly so. This was someone who spent the night of her 21st birthday (March 14th, 1941) tending to the wounded of the Clydebank Blitz in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

In Gartocharn she was involved in every aspect of the community from the Community Council, where she was the first secretary, to the Gardening Club (she loved her garden at Drumgannach). She even visited the former First Minister Alex Salmond in Bute House to campaign against wind farms and generated extensive national publicity. She was 92 at the time. She was also a great supporter of the plans for a memorial to her husband Tom at Balmaha and had the large crowd enthralled with her infectious stories at the unveiling ceremony.

A 90th birthday party was held for her in Kilmarnock Millennium Hall which was very close to her heart. That was an evening to remember. Rhona was a wonderfully eloquent speaker and thrilled all of us with a totally off the cuff speech. She was also a very gifted writer, as anyone who read her 'stravaiging' articles in the Dumpling Times would attest to.

Rhona loved life and she lived it to the full. We will all be poorer for her passing, but far richer for being part of her life.

*Contributed by William Nisbet a former pupil, close friend and neighbour of Rhona who is currently Vice-Convenor of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.*



## BRIDGING GAP IN PATH NETWORK

A key section of the walking and cycling route, which forms part of the Cross Scotland Pilgrims Way, has been officially opened in the community owned woodland at Dalrigh, Tyndrum. It creates a circular loop from Tyndrum, allowing cyclists to avoid the busy A82.

The path has been created by the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust in partnership with Sustrans Scotland, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Tactran, Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER, the Brown Forbes Memorial Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Strathfillan Community Development Trust.

The route takes in impressive views of Ben More, crossing the river Cononish with views of pine forest.

Speaking at the opening, Natalie Stevenson from the Countryside Trust said: "It has long been an ambition of the communities of Tyndrum and Crianlarich to not only provide a safe access route between the two villages but also to offer new local links to nationally

recognised long distance walking and cycling routes such as the West Highland Way and National cycle routes.

"This ambition ties in with long term plans to create a network of paths running from the east of the National Park at St Fillans to the west at Tyndrum."

Gordon Watson, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, said: "The creation of this new pathway in Tyndrum is another fantastic example of routes being improved or created through the National Park.

"This project was a key action in our Outdoor Recreation Plan, which also aims to improve the health of people living in and around the National Park. The new pathway contributes towards the delivery of the National Walking and Cycling Network which is a National priority for Scotland." The new path is suitable for cyclists, horses, buggies and walkers and includes a new bridge connecting the communities and businesses of Tyndrum and Crianlarich. The Countryside Trust hope to start the next phase of the east west link later this year.



## Tom's Fans Pay for Care of Statue Site

Visitors have donated £4,000 in 15 months to help maintain the Tom Weir's Rest in Balmaha.

The Loch Lomondside picnic area has hosted the statue of the Tom since December 2014 and donation posts were put in place in May 2016. The sum raised is enough to ensure that Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs can meet the annual costs of site insurance and maintenance, along with any other necessary work. Friends Chair, James Fraser, said: "When we put the donation posts in place at the Tom Weir's Rest site, we had no specific

fundraising targets in mind, but to raise £4,000 in 15 months is hugely encouraging and speaks volumes about the generosity of visitors to this site. It also shows just what high regard Tom was held in, with so many people keen to ensure that his statue remains a legacy for years to come. "We would like to thank all those who have donated, who no doubt come from all corners of the globe, and assure them that every penny they have contributed will be used for the upkeep of this special site in Scotland's first National Park."



# SCENIC ROUTES STRUCTURE

## OPENS AT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

*Dr David Beaumont, RSPB Scotland; Ann McKechn, ScottishPower Foundation; Marc Hillis, architect; Gordon Watson, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park*



A new Scenic Routes structure was officially opened to the public in July at RSPB Scotland Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve near Gartocharn.

The structure, named Gaels View, was designed and built by Marc Hillis, a 5th year architecture student from the University of Strathclyde. The structure forms part of the wider Scenic Routes Initiative, funded by the Scottish Government via the National Parks. Paula Baker, RSPB Scotland's site manager at Loch Lomond, said: "There have been some great changes taking place at RSPB Scotland Loch Lomond this year. Our new paths opened at Easter, allowing better access for visitors, and now we're able to launch this amazing new structure where people can sit and look out over what must be one of the best views in Scotland!"

"Loch Lomond is such a special place for wildlife, so it's great to be welcoming people to the site and providing them with facilities which really do complement the natural environment." Gordon Watson, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, said: "This is another great addition to the Scenic

Routes viewpoints we already have at key locations around the National Park. These are all unique designs by talented young architects, who I am delighted we have been able to support through this project.

"These viewpoints provide fantastic opportunities for people to stop off on their journeys and enjoy the stunning surroundings of the National Park. RSPB Loch Lomond is a fabulous location with an iconic view and I am sure this will add to a great visitor experience." The new paths at RSPB Scotland Loch Lomond were also officially launched. The paths were funded by the ScottishPower Foundation, which is also supporting the development of a pond-dipping area on site. Staff from ScottishPower have also been volunteering at the reserve throughout the year.

**RSPB Scotland Loch Lomond is now open seven days a week from 10am to 4pm, with car parking facilities, a nature hub, and easy-access paths. Guided walks take place every weekend, and regular special events happen throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.rspb.org.uk/lochlomond](http://www.rspb.org.uk/lochlomond) or call 01389 830670.**

# Cultural Heritage in Focus at Gathering

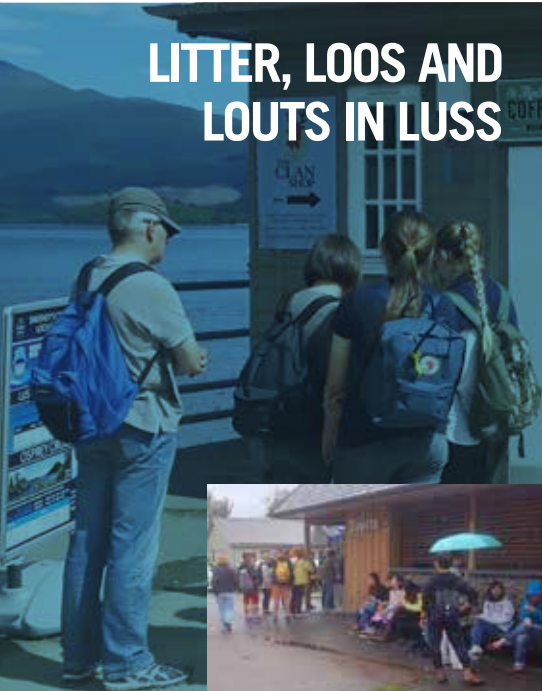
Making more of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the National Park is the theme of this year's Community Partnership Gathering at the Millennium Hall in Gartocharn on Saturday 4th November between 9.30am and 4.00pm. The Gathering programme 'Heritage: sharing experience, creating legacy' is designed to inspire and encourage the development of heritage initiatives throughout the National Park and includes a range of interesting speakers and workshops with plenty of opportunities for networking too.

2017 is a special year as it marks the 250th anniversary of the translation of the bible into Gaelic and at this event the contribution of the local ministers across the National Park who were all involved will be celebrated in a talk by guest speaker Professor Donald Meek. Professor Meek is currently working with the Community Partnership in the park-wide project entitled Celebration of the Role of the National Park in the Gaelic Bible funded by Bord Na Gaidhlig and this includes the production of a community heritage exhibition and a film that will be on show at the Gathering.

If you would like to attend the free event please book a place by contacting Marie Harvey at the Community Partnership telephone: 01389 722639 or email: [info@thecommunitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@thecommunitypartnership.org.uk)



# LITTER, LOOS AND LOUTS IN LUSS



Sadly, the popular tourist village of Luss has been in the news for the wrong reasons this summer due to visitor pressures and the associated visitor management issues with toilets struggling to cope, shortcomings in litter clearance at busy weekends and loutish behaviour at Luss Pier on sunny days. This has led to a regular mailbag of complaints and letters appearing in the press but, more importantly, it has impacted adversely on the quality of the visitor experience and the daily lives of local residents.

In response to the deteriorating position representations were made to Argyll and Bute Council, Police Scotland and the National Park Authority by a group of concerned businesses and the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.

On the litter front some actions were taken to improve the litter situation at busy times and local businesses have also been augmenting the litter clearance efforts of the authorities by undertaking volunteer litter picking efforts near their premises. A consortium of businesses also came together to jointly fund the opening of free but limited toilets at Luss Pier kiosk. Meanwhile,

the public toilets at Luss Visitor Centre remained closed and the main toilets beside the public car park regularly have snake-like queues of coach passengers scrambling for change for the coin operated turnstile in operation there. There clearly are still some visitor management issues that require to be addressed in Luss and particularly on the public safety front at Luss Pier. A longer-term solution to public toilet provision and management is also required to overcome current shortcomings. One option being explored by the community is making a bid to transfer car parking and public toilets to community ownership/management with all income generated being retained locally to improve visitor infrastructure and related management.







## LOCAL HISTORIAN RECEIVES MAJOR UK AWARD

At a well-attended award ceremony held at the Forth Inn in Aberfoyle on 16th August local historian, Louis Stott, who is a regular contributor to the Friends Voice magazine, received a prestigious award from the British Association for Local History. It was one of the Association's six UK-wide awards for Personal Achievement for Local Historians. Louis was the single Scottish recipient for 2017.

Local historians who have made significant voluntary contributions to the subject in their own areas and more widely are publicly honoured by the BALH Awards for Personal Achievement.

Alan Simpson, the Lord-Lieutenant for Stirling and Falkirk, presented the award and paid tribute to Louis Stott's longstanding voluntary effort:

"Louis has made an extraordinary contribution to local history over very many years by carrying out rigorous research into different aspects of local history and publishing his findings in an interesting and accessible manner. In addition, he has written books on Scottish history and literature and is always only too glad to pass on his knowledge through lectures, discussions, letters or his blog. For Louis to receive this award from the British Association of Local History is a well-deserved recognition and endorsement of his dedication to local history in this area."

Upon receiving the award Louis said: "I want to thank the British Association for Local History and those who nominated me. My longstanding interest in local history began in Watford when I set up Exploring Hertfordshire. Involvement in setting up courses in various parts of the UK has been important is establishing future historians and then a major move in Dumbarton on the Quality of Life Experiment. Laterally this beautiful area has given me a rich vein of material to explore and describe. Receiving an award which does not bring any tasks or obligations is a relief since it will allow me to continue my efforts in local history."

Louis is the author of a number of books on Scottish history and literature including Scottish history in verse, a unique anthology of over 200 poems and songs marking the glories and tragedies of Scottish history. Locally, he has published many books on topics as diverse as the Aberfoyle slate quarries and the enchantment of the Trossachs.

*Pictured above: Lord Lieutenant Alan Simpson, Louis Stott, James Kennedy and Friends Chairman James Fraser at the award ceremony in the Forth Inn*

*Photo by Phil Crowder*

## Ardroy Success Story Continues

Since the successful rescue efforts by a group of volunteers in 2011, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre at Lochgoilhead has gone from strength to strength. The centre was closed by Fife Council in summer 2011 as part of budget savings. It was re-opened under the management of the AOEC Trust, a charitable organisation overseen by a board of seven trustees who placed the centre on sound footings.

The centre was being subsidised by Fife Council to the tune of around £300,000 per annum before it closed but consistently over the past six years this has been turned into healthy annual surpluses which have been used to carry out much needed property improvements. More importantly, it has enabled almost 3,000 young people each year to experience and benefit from learning in the great outdoors of the National Park. Numbers increased

by 8% in the last year and by 25% since 2011. This is a real success story and demonstrates what a motivated group of people with dedicated and professional staff can achieve. Whilst Ardroy operates under the leadership of the Centre General Manager David Thorpe, the Board of Trustees has a vital part to play in terms of governance, agreeing the strategic direction and monitoring the delivery of service and forward development plan. If you would like to play a part in the ongoing success of Ardroy, there are vacancies for two new Trustees, particularly with skills in financial management and education. However if you have other skills Ardroy would also be happy to hear from you. If you are interested please contact David on 01301 703353 or email david.thorpe@outdooreducation.co.uk for further information.



## Work Begins on Second Phase of Peatland Project

Work has begun on the second phase of a major project to tackle climate change by restoring vital peat bogs on Luss Estates to the west of Loch Lomond.

The joint project between the National Park Authority and Luss Estates will see six weeks of work carried out on Beinn Dubh and Mid Hill above Glen Luss.

Scotland's peat bogs store ten times the carbon of all Britain's forests combined, the equivalent of 16,200 million tonnes. In addition, bogs in good condition are great regulators of water as they can store and release water slowly and steadily, lowering flood risk.

The £65,800 project, funded by Scottish Natural Heritage's Peatland ACTION fund, will involve blocking gullies, building peat dams and establishing vegetation over areas of bare peat to prevent peat from drying out and releasing carbon into the atmosphere.

It will also see the trial of innovative Sphagnum plug planting on two areas of bare peat.

Luss Estates and the National Park Authority successfully collaborated on the first phase of work in 2015.

Simon Jones, Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, said: "Peatlands take thousands of years to form, but with the rapidly changing climate it's absolutely vital that we take action to protect and restore them now."

"Working in partnership with landowners to tackle the effects of climate change is one of our key aims so we are delighted to be working with Luss Estates on the second phase of this project to provide environmental and public benefits."

Mountain bog restoration is one of five key projects for Wild Park 2020, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park's biodiversity action plan.

## Action Plans Launched

The Community Partnership has been very busy over the summer with the launch of the Community Action Plans in St Fillans, Strathard and Callander and the preparations for five new CAPs across the National Park with local communities.

Anne Sobey of the Community Partnership said, "New CAPs are now underway in Gartmore, Trossachs, Killin and Lochgoil and we will also be beginning the process in Benmore and Kilmun over the next few weeks."

The Community Action Plans are entirely led by the community and are focussed on actions which are deliverable within the lifetime of the Plan. All sectors of the community are involved in the process, including people who live and work in the area, businesses, landowners, land managers and key agencies.

Anne added, "This gives us a very complete vision for the community and economic development of the area over the next five years, rooted in the wishes of the community but involving all those who might contribute to making it a reality."





## NEW TROSSACHS PIER Eco Lodges



Eight stunning eco lodges, which form part of the £250,000 eco-camp beside Trossachs Pier at Loch Katrine, opened for business at the beginning of October. This follows on from the installation of 12 hooks ups for campervans in the car park a few months ago to give campervan users easy access to electricity and water supplies as well as WiFi. The final phase of the project involves providing eight camping pitches in a lochside setting along with upgraded and additional toilet and shower facilities. The eco-camp is being supported by a grant from the Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER European Programme and is being taken forward by the Steamship Sir Walter Scott charitable trust to generate new income streams to support the continued operation of the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott

Billy Petrie OBE DL, Chairman of the charitable trust, said: "For over 200 years visitors have enjoyed the scenic splendours of Loch Katrine on boat trips and they will now be able to extend their stay in this special place by booking an overnight break in our new eco camp which we are confident will prove to be very popular, particularly with couples and families."

The eco camp was developed in response to the growing demand for glamping facilities in the National Park and partly in response the Park Authority's call for more camping facilities to coincide with the Your Park camping initiative, which recently led to the introduction of camping management zones covering most of the lochsides in the Trossachs.



## Loch Lomond's Newest Addition Arrives Safely

Loch Lomond's newest passenger cruise boat, the MV Lomond Monarch, completed the final leg of the epic journey to arrive at her new home at the beginning of July. The vessel, acquired by Cruise Loch Lomond, started her journey in Loch Ness and has made her way through some of Scotland's finest waterways to her new base on the western shore of Loch Lomond. The last stretch of the journey involved overland transportation by local haulier Galt Transport which saw the vessel travel from Dumbarton to Balloch before being lifted onto the loch by crane.

Weighing 50 tonnes, the vessel measures 16.5m long, 5.3m wide and 6m high and will carry up to 120 passengers on busy tour programmes. The vessel was craned out of the River Leven at Sandpoint Marina and onto Galt's specialist trailer with the journey overland beginning at dawn the next day. Travelling through Bonhill, Jamestown and

onwards to Balloch the boat was lifted and lowered onto Loch Lomond by mobile crane when it arrived at the lochside.

Stuart Cordner, Director of Cruise Loch Lomond, stated: "We are delighted with the latest addition to the fleet offering increased capacity for travel trade and flexibility for private and corporate functions on board. The company has experienced a marked increase in visitor numbers in the last 12 months both from the domestic and overseas visitor markets. This can be attributed to several factors such as favourable exchange rates, successful overseas and destination marketing campaigns as well as an increase in flight connections to Scotland. Coupled with private sector investment in the tourism sector to extend the product offering and innovative new collaborations with local businesses have all helped to make 2017 a positive year to date."

## New Balmaha Pier Pontoon

Plans for a new £100,000 pontoon adjacent to Balmaha Pier took a giant step forward recently following the successful outcome of protracted legal negotiations between Montrose Estates, Stirling Council, the National Park Authority and the project promoter, Sandy Fraser of the nearby Oak Tree Inn. Work on the new floating pontoon is due to be complete in time for the main 2018 tourist season. It will open up opportunities for disabled people to get easy access to boat trips and result in additional boat trip services being introduced on the east side of the loch to complement existing services provided by Macfarlane's Boatyard and Sweeney's Cruises.



## Link Completes New Affordable Housing in Luss

Link Group Ltd's affordable development at Beinn Dubh View in Luss has been officially opened by Cllr Robin Currie of Argyll and Bute Council.

The £1.045 million construction of five homes for social rent commenced in September 2016, using £535,335 from the Scottish Government, £80,000 from Luss Estates and £60,000 from Argyll and Bute Council. The land for the development, worth £150,000, was gifted by Luss Estates.

Built by J R Group Ltd, the five homes include four three-bedroom homes and one two-bedroom accessible unit. Link worked closely with Luss Estates to ensure the design and look of the properties could blend in with the surrounding conservation area.

Each property has been designed to achieve the Building Regulation Silver Standard, with high levels of insulation and Biomass heating systems, creating comfortable, energy efficient and economical homes.

Chief Executive of Link Group, Craig Sanderson, said: "We are very pleased to have been supported by the Scottish Government, Luss Estates and Argyll and Bute Council to enable us to build these new, high quality homes which we hope will encourage growth in the local community."

Simon Miller, Chief Executive Officer of Luss Estates, added: "Luss Estates is delighted to have gifted a parcel of land for this affordable housing development, as well as supporting the funding of the build. This is part of Luss Estates commitment to attracting and retaining new families in the community."

Cllr Robin Currie of Argyll and Bute Council, said: "I was delighted to visit Link's recently completed development at Luss. The five homes look great, and fit in well with the surrounding area. Developments such as Beinn Dubh View are extremely important to small villages and we are delighted that Argyll and Bute Council was able to fund part of the project."



# Inchtavannach Beech Trees

This article has been contributed by Mary Jack  
and is kindly reproduced from parkwatchscotland.

Perhaps one of the best travel books ever written about Scotland is *The Companion Guide to the West Highlands of Scotland* [1968] by W.H.Murray. Early on he touches on Loch Lomond:

*"The banks of Loch Lomond are clothed by deciduous woods. Oak, beech, chestnut, larch, and birch predominate ... That the banks of Loch Lomond have remained so long free from the forester's axe and from impairment by tourist development appears well-nigh miraculous. Their preservation has been due to the rule of enlightened landowners, principally the Colquhouns of Luss, who have sacrificed personal profit."*

All this changed in 2015 when a heritage organisation was accused of carrying out 'wanton vandalism' on the island of Inchtavannach on Loch Lomond. Scottish Natural Heritage is said to have poisoned hundreds of beech trees, some of which were 300 years old.

Luss Estates, who own the island, said SNH had entered into an agreement with the tenant of Inchtavannach in 2013 to remove rhododendron from the island. That agreement also provided for the mature beech trees to be felled gradually over a five-year period. But it is said SNH had decided to ring-bark and poison the beeches instead.

At the time Sir Malcolm Colquhoun was quoted as saying, "I simply cannot understand why the supposed guardian of our natural heritage has killed off these wonderful trees for no apparent reason." SNH were reported as stating they "didn't appreciate" the effect this would have on the landscape.

## SO WHY WERE THE 300 YEAR OLD BEECH TREES KILLED?

The agreement between SNH and the tenant apparently included measures to remove "non-native" beech and this was included in the Management Statement for the island which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. While SNH claimed the beech trees were non-native, elsewhere it had written: "The importance of a wood for biodiversity is closely related to its age. In Scotland, Ancient Woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750." (Source: *History and ancient woodlands—Scottish Natural Heritage*)

Moreover, according to the Woodland Trust (what does native and non-native mean?): "The term native is used for any species that has made its way to the UK naturally, not intentionally or accidentally introduced by humans. In terms of trees and plants, these are species that recolonised the land when the glaciers melted after the last ice age and before the UK was disconnected from mainland Europe."

While according to Forestry Commission Scotland (Source: *What are Scotland's native woodlands?*) "Ancient woodlands usually have a high value for natural and cultural heritage because of their long history of continuous woodland cover. Ancient and semi-natural woods (i.e. those where the current stands appear to be naturally regenerated rather than planted) are the woodland category that generally has the highest biodiversity value.

"Native tree species are those which arrived naturally in Scotland without direct human assistance as far as we can tell. Most of our native tree and shrub

species colonised Scotland after the last Ice Age (which ended roughly 9,000 years ago), with seeds dispersed by wind, water, and animals.

"Although not native to Scotland, the beech – or *Fagus sylvatica* in Latin – is a common tree across much of Europe. It's thought beech trees arrived on our shores during the Bronze Age."

Conflicting or what? So ancient woodland sites are important to conserve but need to be cleansed of beech trees which have been there for 300 years?

## AND NOW WE HAVE BEEN TOLD ...BEECH TREES ARE NATIVE TO SCOTLAND AFTER ALL, SCIENTISTS DISCOVER

According to research published on 4 July 2017: "Beech trees should be considered native to Scotland – despite a long-running debate over their national identity, researchers at the University of Stirling and Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) report. The team examined the DNA of more than 800 beech trees at 42 locations across Great Britain and made direct comparisons with trees growing on mainland Europe."







*Felled beech trees on the island of Inchtavannach, Loch Lomond, can be seen along most of the west shore.*

*Photo Credit MM Jack*

The study, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), shows almost all of the beeches growing in Great Britain that the researchers tested, are derived from native populations and, as a result, could not have been planted from abroad.

Professor Alistair Jump, of the University of Stirling's Centre for Environment, Heritage and Policy, said: "The beech tree has been experiencing an identity crisis in Scotland. Evidence shows that the European beech was mainly confined to the south-east of England after the last Ice Age. However, this tree now occurs throughout Scotland and has been considered 'not native' by many land managers.

"This tree can colonise ancient woodland in Scotland, and is sometimes removed because it poses a threat to the persistence of other native species. Our study shows that beech should be considered native throughout Great Britain, including Scotland."

The research, entitled 'Understanding the legacy of widespread population translocations on the post-glacial genetic structure of the European beech', is published in the Journal of Biogeography.



*Photo Credit MM Jack*

### **THE CURRENT POSITION AND QUESTIONS THAT NOW NEED TO BE ANSWERED**

A great many of the poisoned beech trees are still standing in 2017 (August) whilst some have been felled and a few shredded and left lying, making the view of the island from land and water unsightly to say the least. It is devastating to see all these once beautiful, healthy trees dead and abandoned.

If beech trees now belong in Scotland, the destruction on Inchtavannach, looks even more scandalous.

Here are some questions the public authorities concerned, SNH, the National Park Authority and Forestry Commission should answer:

- *Do you agree that the poisoning and subsequent felling of beech trees on Inchtavannach was a terrible mistake?*
- *Was anyone in your agency aware of the research being conducted at Stirling University and that beech trees might, after all, be classified as native?*
- *Were the NPA, as the Planning Authority (with the power to create Tree Protection Orders), consulted about the beech trees on Inchtavannach and if so, did they sanction the removal of the trees?*
- *Did SNH have a felling licence from Forestry Commission Scotland, to remove the mature trees, or was the poisoning a way round the need for that?*
- *Why were all the trees dealt with in one fell swoop (pardon the pun) rather than over the five-year period as agreed?*
- *Was felling/shredding/removal just too expensive given that they are on an island?*

Whatever the answers, what has happened on Inchtavannach smacks of complete and utter incompetence.

### **THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

The foremost statutory duty of the National Park Authority is the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the area. Clearly, they should have been involved in the Inchtavannach decision.

Moreover, one of the objectives of the National Park Plan 2012-17 is:

Forest design that is sympathetic to the Park's landscapes, designated sites and ecosystems. This includes restoring Planted Ancient Woodland sites and where appropriate, increases the area of the National Park under continuous cover forest management.

How does what happened at Inchtavannach fit with that objective?

And, according to the Forestry Commission : 'Planning authorities are public bodies who are subject to the biodiversity duty in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, which requires all public bodies to further biodiversity where it is relevant to their functions. Development planning and management take account of native woodlands as priority habitats under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.'

So how was the poisoning of the Inchtavannach beech trees able to take place in a National Park? One suspects that, had the public been consulted, commonsense or an intuitive understanding of how the Inchtavannach beech trees added to the landscape would have prevailed over scientific dogma, dogma which has now been shown to be false.



Louis Stott was born in Brighton in 1934 and now lives in Aberfoyle. He is the author of a number of books on Scottish history and literature, including *Smollett's Scotland*, two volumes on Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Enchantment of the Trossachs*, *Literary Loch Lomond* and *The Waterfalls of Scotland*.

Local historian and literary expert Louis Stott takes us on a historical tour of some of the main roads in the National Park.

# Takin' the High Road

Looking at the roads of the National Park



**T**HE ROADS of the National Park number one or two Roman Roads. Of these the intriguing line from the Roman fort at Malling to Bochart near Callander, now a part of the Rob Roy Way, is perhaps the most appealing; long abandoned as a road it provides a direct route between Braeval and Loch Venachar. There may well have been a Roman road, too, between Drumquhassle near Drymen and Balloch. However, the modern road system of the National Park dates from the establishment of Military Roads in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The line of these roads forms the basis for a rather more elaborate network of Turnpike Roads. This is not to say that there were no medieval roads foreshadowing modern routes some of which were replaced by the military roads.

There are four principal military roads in the Park: Dumbarton to Inverary (A82/A83); Stirling to Dumbarton (A811), Stirling to Fort William (A84/A85) and the road from Inversnaid, on Loch Lomond, to Ruthven in Badenoch. Of the four, three foreshadow modern trunk roads; the intriguing Inversnaid to Ruthven road is now followed by discontinuous roads and hill paths. The Military Roads are frequently called "Wade Roads" because it was Major-General George Wade who planned them. They were to facilitate the movement of troops during the Jacobite risings, but Wade was not responsible for the building of any of the roads in the National Park. Indeed, the Inversnaid road pre-dates him, while two of the others were built after 1740 by his successor, William Caulfield. Each road has a number of places of interest which visitors should acquaint themselves with.



There are few traces of the military road beside Loch Lomond, but visitors will encounter the charming Culag Bridge between Luss and Tarbet, and then, beyond Firkin, walkers can seek out a stretch of the old military road beside which is Stuc-an-t-lobert, Robert the Bruce's tree, which marks a somewhat undignified episode in the great warrior's career, involving an unbecoming crossing of Loch Lomond. The road leaves Loch Lomond at Tarbet to reach Arrochar and, eventually, Glen Croe. Here a new road climbs the side of the Cobbler while the old military road daunders along the foot of the glen before climbing steeply by zig-zags to its head, the Rest and Be Thankful. By a great irony from time to time land slips have blocked the carriageway of the new road, causing modern traffic to revert to the old road. The old road has long been used for hill climbs. At the head of the pass there is a granite military headstone dating from 1768 inscribed "Rest & Be Thankful", and, further on at the edge of the National Park, there is





a fine segmental arch bridge called Butterbridge on the military road.

The Stirling to Fort William military road leaves Callander and climbs the Pass of Leny to reach Loch Lubnaig. At the foot of the loch there is a particularly bad bend on the A84; the old military road adopts a much more sensible line by Anie. At the head of the loch, opposite Laggan Farm is another regimental stone associated with the King's Own Royal Regiment, inscribed 1769. Beyond Kingshouse there is a substantial stretch of military road passing Edinchip House, and there are hints of the old road in Glen Ogle. Beyond this there are few traces of the military road in Glen Dochart and Strathfillan, but at Tyndrum the delightful Drochaid Bhan is situated on the line of the 1748-53 Stirling to Fort William military road.

## The Regimental Stone on the A84

Of the four main military roads the latest is the Stirling to Dumbarton Military road built 1770-80. The first road went through Gargunnoch



and Kippen; the present line of the A811 succeeded it. The road was built when the military roads were about to be taken over by local authorities. Indeed the present headstone at the Rest and Be Thankful notes that the road was under repair by the military in 1768 but was transferred to Commissioners for Highland Roads & Bridges in 1814. Other roads were Statute Labour roads established by an Act of 1669 to repair unimproved roads for heavier traffic. Statute Labour was later converted into money, but eventually tolls had to be imposed by a succession of Turnpike Acts. These gave rise to two significant elements in the roadscape of the Park: toll houses and milestones.

One or two milestones remain on the Dumbarton to Inverary road, but both the Stirling to Port of Menteith (A873) and the Strachur to Dunoon (A819) roads provide almost unbroken stretches of milestones. An intriguing group of milestones are those between Whistlefield on Loch Eck and Ardentinny, reflecting the former significance of ferries in Cowal. The Dumbarton to Arrochar road also has one or two milestones. However, by far the most interesting group are to be found in the Trossachs. These include the Callander-Trossachs road (A821) and the road from Aberfoyle to Stronachlachar (B829); both roads have several almost

unbroken sequences of mileposts of a distinctive design. They are not shown on the original OS map, suggesting that they may have been erected for Queen Victoria's visit of 1869. An absorbing curiosity is that the milepost in the Pass of the Trossachs indicates the distance to Ellen's Isle as if it might be reached by road. Further historical curiosities on the B829 are that the sequence of mileposts and the designation of the road as the B829 come to an end at Bruach rather than at Stronachlachar or Inversnaid. The reason for this is that the Duke of Montrose for long maintained ownership of the road to derive income from the coaches which plied between Loch Katrine and Loch Lomond.

There are numerous toll houses in the Park, among the last of which to be closed were at either end of the Duke's Pass. There is a distinctive toll house of about 1830 at Port of Menteith. One might express surprise that the Menteith Turnpike finished here rather than at Aberfoyle. Perhaps this was because at one time it was intended to take road directly to Blane Smithy from the Port. There are other toll houses at Kilmahog, Ardoch Cottage, Gartocharn, Luss and Ballyhennan, near Tarbet.



# THE VISTA AND VIEW PROJECTS

# Proposal Prioritisation

*In this feature representatives of the two power companies with electricity infrastructure in the National Park (SSEN and SPEN) provide an update on the ambitious plans to reduce the visual impact of power lines in some of the more sensitive scenic areas.*

Since the last feature in Voice on this topic 18 months ago good progress has been made with furthering the aims of the VISTA and VIEW projects being promoted by Scotland's two transmission owners (TO's), SSEN and SPEN.

Key to the progress and identification of a shortlist of practical proposals to be taken forward as part of funding bids to OFGEM has been a collaborative approach between the two TO's and interested local and national stakeholders including representatives from the National Park Authority, the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, local communities and individual landowners.

Despite the enormous complexity of the task at hand and the remarkable sensitivity of the areas in question both TO's have worked hard to find creative and innovative solutions to the identified areas of highest impact.

## SSEN Proposals – Euan Smith, Project Manager

A number of proposals have been considered by our engineering and environment teams with input from consultees. Two engineering projects and a landscape enhancement project, which forms a joint scheme with SPEN, have been identified for further investigation. These schemes have been deemed technically suitable from a networks operation perspective, ensuring that network reliability and security of supply will not be constrained if the schemes are successful in obtaining regulatory funding from Ofgem.

A summary of SSEN's engineering proposals is set out below and you can find out more about our VISTA project on our website:

[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/sustainability-and-environment/vista/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/sustainability-and-environment/vista/)

**Glen Falloch** Remove overhead line infrastructure from the Glen Falloch, by installing underground cables in place of the current 132kV overhead line. The project will initially examine a study area between Inverarnan substation and Crianlarich.

**Sloy** Reduce the quantity of steel tower overhead line infrastructure within Glen Sloy and the Inveruglas area by installing underground cables in place of some of the current 132kV overhead lines. The project will initially examine a study area between Loch Sloy Dam and Inveruglas Power Station focusing on the parallel overhead lines running broadly east-west between them.

**Glen Fruin – Arrochar (Three Lochs Way) Case study - joint proposal** The Three Lochs Way scheme is a joint scheme being taken forward in collaboration between SSEN and SPEN that would see the introduction of large scale landscape enhancement in Glen Fruin to the South and Arrochar in the North.

## SPEN Proposals – Grant Douglas, Project Manager

Stakeholder's involvement in helping to shape the development of SPEN's VIEW project proposals was viewed as a vital part of the process.

The schemes we have selected to progress for further development predominantly use a green network approach that has the potential to have a lasting positive impact.

Our priority projects are summarised below and more information on our proposals can be found at our VIEW webpage:

[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/view\\_project.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/view_project.aspx)

**Glen Gyle** The proposed scheme would see SPEN work collaboratively with stakeholders and land owners to develop a modified walking route through the glen utilising the riparian way. Large scale landscape enhancement would over time serve to screen and soften views of the existing overhead line.

**Stronachlachar** The development a strategic and sensitive landscape enhancement project in the area around Loch Katrine and in the settled area around Stronachlachar Pier. In addition work has been progressed to develop a proposal aimed at introducing a natural viewpoint reinforcing views down through the Loch.

**Inverarnan** SPEN have developed two separate proposals, one which would see minor re-routing of the existing overhead line and another which would seek to screen views of the line from the West Highland Way. SPEN are working with a range of national and local stakeholders to assess the potential impacts and benefits of each scheme.





**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

## VISTA Project

### Visual Impact of Scottish Transmission Assets

SHE Transmission's aim is to plan, develop, operate and maintain a safe and reliable electricity network in the north of Scotland. The towers, overhead lines, substations and other infrastructure that we own and maintain in the north of Scotland are at the heart of this network. A lot of our infrastructure runs through some of the country's most remote areas, including National Parks and National Scenic Areas.

[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/view\\_project.asp](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/view_project.asp)



**SP ENERGY**  
NETWORKS

## Changing the VIEW Project

### Visual Impact of Existing Wirescape

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) Visual Impact of Existing Wirescape (VIEW) Project represents an opportunity to contribute to the success of Scotland's National Parks and National Scenic Areas by accessing a share of a £500 million OFGEM fund, for the positive enhancement of existing transmission infrastructure in our most protected locations.

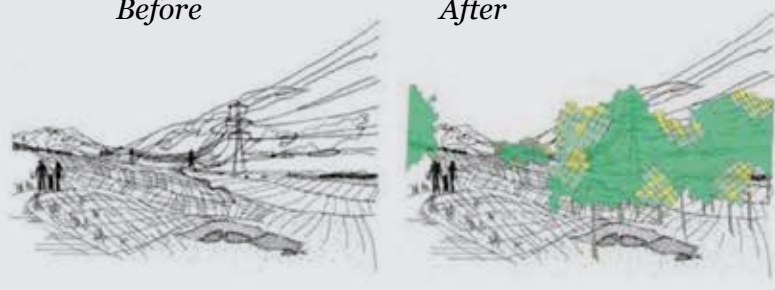
[www.ssepd.co.uk/vistaconsultation/](http://www.ssepd.co.uk/vistaconsultation/)

### Artists impression of SPEN's Glen Gyle Proposal

Large scale landscape enhancement would over time serve to screen and soften views of the existing overhead line.

*Before*

*After*



## The Next Steps

With the final list of schemes now selected over the coming months SPEN and SSEN will be working with smaller reference groups, including land owners and land managers to develop the finer detail around each scheme before finalising funding bids to OFGEM and sharing the results of that work very soon.

[www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)

# Alternative Three Lochs Way Route and Landscape Enhancement

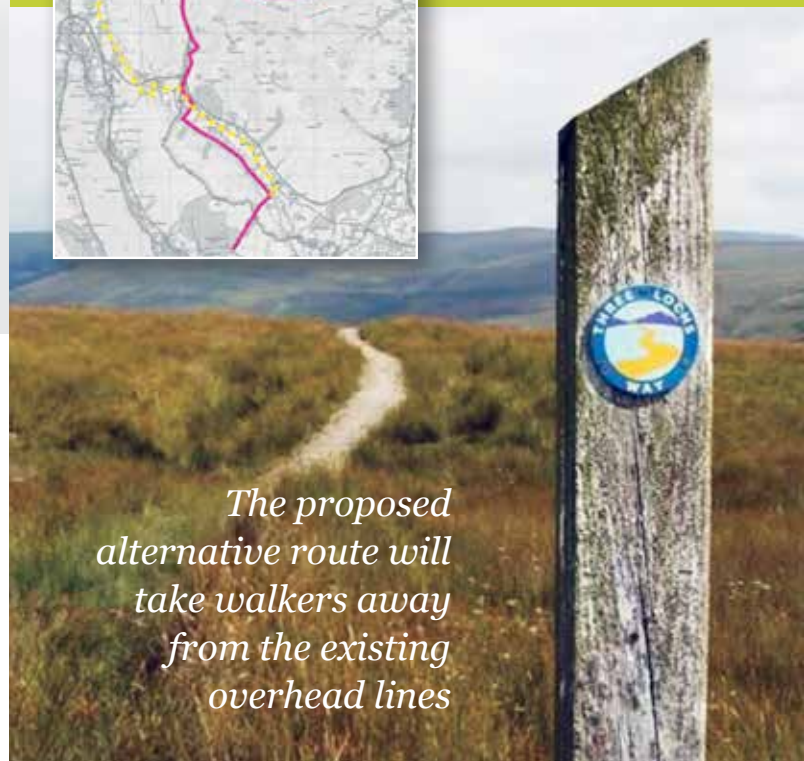
The proposed alternative route was jointly developed by the Helensburgh and District Access Trust, The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and Luss Estates Company. The proposed alternative route will take walkers away from the existing overhead lines which run parallel with the eastern shore of Loch Long, and offer access to the Luss Glens and Hills, making use of existing historic rights of way through Auchengeich Glen, Glens na Caorainn, Molloch and Glen Douglas. The route will then pass over An-t Sreang which forms a high pass between Glen Douglas and Arrochar. This alternative route will also provide a link between the existing route and the settlements of Luss and Inverbeg, presently unconnected by the Three Lochs Way. In addition to the alternative route further enhancements are proposed to this existing section, and will include improvements to the path surface, watercourse crossings and signage/interpretation, to

improve the experience of the Three Lochs Way and Hidden Heritage Trail.

*The alternative Three Lochs Way route shown in red and existing route shown in yellow.*



*The proposed alternative route will take walkers away from the existing overhead lines*







# THE OAK TREE INN BALMAHA LOCH LOMOND

## Muddy Boots Welcome



The Oak Tree Inn, fine Scottish food with local ales & whiskys • Balmaha Village Shop  
St Mocha Coffee Shop & Ice Cream Parlour, artisan roasted coffee and homemade ice cream  
A range of accommodation available

Tel: 01360 870357 | Email: [info@theoaktreeinn.co.uk](mailto:info@theoaktreeinn.co.uk) | [www.theoaktreeinn.co.uk](http://www.theoaktreeinn.co.uk)



@oaktreebalmaha



Facebook.com/theoaktreeinn

# St Mocha

COFFEE SHOP & ICE CREAM PARLOUR

LOCH LOMOND  
*Luxury* ICE CREAM



Artisan Roasted Speciality Coffee • Teas  
Own brands of Loch Lomond Luxury & Bal-Moo-Ha Ice Creams  
Lunch Menu • Snacks & Home Baking.



[www.theoaktreeinn.co.uk](http://www.theoaktreeinn.co.uk) - Next to the Oak Tree Inn & Village Shop, Balmaha



Facebook.com/StMocha



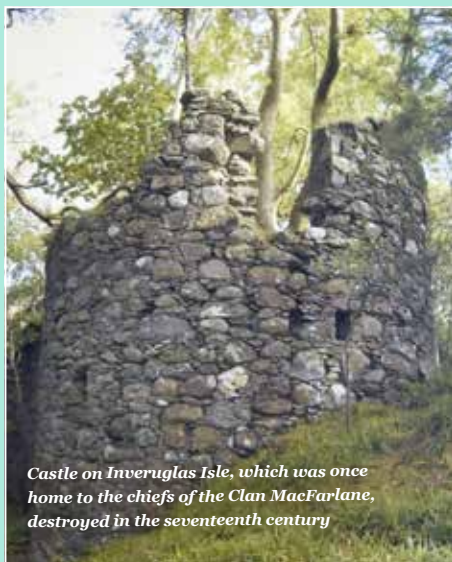
twitter.com/stmochacoffee



The second in a series on Loch Lomond's islands contributed by John Urquhart, Vice-Chairman of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs. The article in the last edition of Voice gave a brief overview of the 390 archaeological sites which were identified in the Friends' sponsored archaeological study of 1990s. Here John tries to give context to some of the more outstanding findings, specifically looking at the theme of the islands as places of sanctuary and defence.



# STONES AND BONES ON LOCH LOMOND'S TREASURE ISLANDS



Castle on Inveruglas Isle, which was once home to the chiefs of the Clan MacFarlane, destroyed in the seventeenth century

## The Northern Islands

There are three principal islands in the narrow northern reaches of the loch, named, from north to south, Island I Vow, Inveruglas Isle and Taret Isle. None of them is especially large, indeed they are more properly islets than islands, none being anywhere near the scale of the archipelago of 11 substantial islands which decorate the loch's broad southern reaches. Yet despite their diminutive size, each of these northern outposts harbours the remains of at least one substantial building. All have associations with Clan MacFarlane and in every case the archaeologists interpreted the principal function of the buildings as defensive. This is especially clear on Inveruglas Isle, where the ruin of a miniature castle still sports clearly identifiable turrets with gun loopholes. This particular stronghold met an explosive end at the hands of Cromwell's parliamentary troops in 1654.

Zooming out to the wider geography, the reason for their defensive role becomes clear, for each islet can be seen to command an important access route to and from Loch Lomond, which, in those lawless days before proper roads, was a strategically important waterway between the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland.

## The Southern Islands

Sanctuary, defence and the guarding of strategic routes was clearly also an issue further south. All that remains of the castle on a prominent knoll at the southern end of Inchmurrin is a single wall, but still it stands as a gaunt reminder of the power of the Earls of Lennox and their desire to control access to the loch's broad southern waters. A little further north, near Rosdhu, Inchgalbraith's now crumbling keep still commands the approaches to the three navigable channels which lead northwards between Inches tavannach, connachan and moan.

While most of the other archaeological and historical remains on these southern islands are perhaps less obvious than these two relatively prominent redoubts, for many the theme of sanctuary remains a constant.

Down through the centuries, whether it was to protect early Christian holy men and women from unfriendly locals or Viking raiders, deer from poachers (or wolves), or illicit whisky stills from the attentions of the excise men, the islands were seen as safe places and each activity has left its own kinds of touchstone.

Both Inchcailloch and Inchtavannach were used by 7th century Christians as monastic bases. Inchcailloch is particularly rich in remains, some of the grave stones in the island's atmospheric burial ground stretching back to mediaeval times.



Inchcailloch Graveyard

And in the case of the deer, the animals are still there, living breathing evidence of mediaeval times when continental Fallow Deer were introduced to the islands to provide sport for the new Norman aristocracy brought in by David the 1st in the 12th century.

Coming up to more recent times, the abundant tumbled remains on Inchfad are a testament to the importance of the "Long Island" as a major centre of the loch's 18th and early 19th century trade in illicit whisky. The map of the island's remote south western end shows the clusters of ruins interpreted by the archaeologists as relating to whisky distillation.



## Crannogs

Loch Lomond has more crannogs (lake dwellings) than any other loch in Scotland. The archaeologists identified nine definite sites, all of them dating back 2,000 years to the Iron Age and all sited around the shallow margins of the loch's broad southern waters. Again it was safety from attack which was the main impetus for the construction of these timber and thatch round houses, their platforms resting on rot resistant alder logs pile driven vertically into the loch's soft muddy bottom. It is thought that intertribal warfare driven by population pressure and competition for resources may have been a factor in the popularity of these unique buildings.

So far as I know, none of the crannog sites has ever been properly excavated.







Experience the serenity of the bonnie banks on one of our award winning cruises Rambler; Explorer; Discovery or Capercaillie.  
Departures from Tarbet, Luss, Inversnaid and Rowardennan

- CYCLE HIRE • WEEKLY RSPB CRUISE
- TWO LOCHS EXPERIENCE: LOCH LOMOND & LOCH KATRINE



Telephone **01301 702356**  
[www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk](http://www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk)

**CRUISES : WATERBUS : BIKE & HIKE : WILDLIFE**



- Located in **Loch Lomond National Park**, just minutes from the water's edge
- Mouthwatering **Restaurant & Bar Meal Dining**
- Regular **Scottish Nights, Ceilidhs & Murder Mystery Events**



...Great Rooms



...Great Food



...Great Breaks



...Great Times

CALL TO ENQUIRE ON: **01360 660 245**

[www.winnockhotel.com](http://www.winnockhotel.com) **AA**

# SWEENEY'S CRUISE CO LOCH LOMOND

DAILY CRUISES • PRIVATE CHARTER • WATERBUS



[SWEENEYSCRUISECO.COM](http://SWEENEYSCRUISECO.COM)

E: [INFO@SWEENEYSCRUISECO.COM](mailto:INFO@SWEENEYSCRUISECO.COM)

T: 01389 752376



# National Park Looking to the Future

We may be approaching the end of the year, but here at the National Park Authority our eyes are very much on the year ahead and beyond with the finalisation of the National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23 for submission to Scottish ministers for approval.

The plan sets out a shared vision of how we and our partners will work together over the next five years to widen the social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits of the National Park.

It outlines priorities including youth employment, supporting a thriving visitor economy, addressing the impacts of climate change, investing in towns and villages, health and wellbeing and protecting the area's natural resources and special landscape for future generations.



We ran a 12 week consultation on the draft plan earlier this year and I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback on this. This Partnership Plan is very much based on shared goals and partnership working so it was vital to capture the views of as broad a range of organisations, groups and individuals as possible.

I'm proud of the plan we have jointly produced and am excited to see it being put into action over the next few years.



A key area of focus as always will be how we continue to improve how we manage the most popular areas of the Park to protect its precious environment and quality of visitor experience.

2017 has undoubtedly been a big year for the Park Authority in this respect, with the new seasonal camping byelaws being introduced

in March to address long-standing issues of environmental damage and antisocial behaviour on our fragile lochshores. We are using the Autumn-Winter period to carry out a detailed review of how the first season has gone but overall I am very pleased with how well the byelaws have been received.

We have been gathering feedback from day one through online surveys sent to everyone who books a permit and through on the ground engagement with visitors, communities and partner organisations. There has been a strong response rate to the surveys, and the feedback, collated from 1st March to 31st August, has been overwhelmingly positive with 86% of respondents saying they would recommend staying in one of the new permit areas and 93% finding it easy to buy a permit.

The Park Authority's Rangers experienced a largely positive response on the ground with the vast majority of visitors adhering to the new byelaws, fewer abandoned campsites and less irresponsible fire-lighting.

Community feedback is also invaluable and we are pleased to hear from some communities noting changing attitudes and increases in day visitors.

As with any new system there have been snagging issues and some negative feedback which we continue to use to inform improvements for next year. This includes continuing to develop more camping options within the National Park.



I am confident that we will continue to see more of the positive impact of the byelaws as we move into next season.

**Gordon Watson, Chief Executive**  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Find out more at [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org)

find us on facebook, follow us on twitter, watch us on youtube





# Autumn leaves



Keith Graham writes about the rich variety of wildlife in the National Park and how different species respond to changing seasons.



**O**UR CLIMATE has always been subject to change and unquestionably always will be. After all, some ten thousand years ago, the area now covered by our Park, was, like the rest of Scotland, covered by a huge ice sheet of which lay up to five thousand feet deep. And if ten thousand years may seem a long time ago, bear in mind that the geological feature, known as the Highland Boundary Fault, is still a prominent physical characteristic of today's landscape, cutting its way right across the National Park. It can be readily traced through Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and it was formed some four hundred million years ago!

Such spans of time are extremely difficult for us to reconcile, yet look down from Conic Hill on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond and you will see a line of islands stretching across the southern reaches of the Loch, running along a south west – north east axis. They clearly mark the line of that fault. Then turn to look to the east and you will find you can trace the line of that fault very easily as it heads away north eastwards. North and west of that fault line lay the Highlands; south and east, the Lowlands. Thus, is the Park part Highland and part Lowland.

*Happily the red squirrel population is prospering in the Park*

## Climatic Conditions

Of course, the nature of the landscape also influences climatic conditions, inevitably harsher in those Highland areas than in the 'softer' Lowlands. However, over much shorter and more comprehensible periods of time, our climate has constantly shown signs of change. There is, for instance, a record of a cricket match being played on the icy surface of Loch Lomond in the nineteenth century! Yet the climate these days, as we are repeatedly told, is warming, so the chances of the sound of leather on willow being heard upon the Loch in the foreseeable future seem pretty slender.

However, the summer is now behind us and the year is declining as autumn takes over. Many would argue that this is the time when the Park really does look at its most spectacular best. The colours strengthen and the landscape glows in the glory of this golden season. These changes manifest themselves, with falling leaves, shorter days and the sense that nature is preparing for the approaching winter. Further signals come with lowering temperatures and eventually the first frosts and snowfalls as autumn progresses into winter. Autumn itself is renowned for its golden nature, green giving way to the yellows, golds and reds that gradually burnish our landscape. Yet this is not, as you may think, an ending. Rather is it a beginning for this is when both nature and mankind begin to prepare themselves for next spring and that season of re-birth. The falling leaves for instance, slowly rot down, to provide the raw materials for new life. The farmer's harvests are reaped as giant dinosaur-like machinery brings in the grain harvest. But soon, the plough prepares the ground for next year's crops. And nature too, has its own harvest to reap followed by its own preparations for next spring.

However, many of the summer's migratory birds to which the Park played host during the summer, have, during September, already left on their epic journeys to Africa, the work of producing and rearing new generations completed for another year. Some, like the house martins, may linger into October but by and large most of them have by now departed these shores. And yet migration is very much a two-way street. As some depart, others arrive. Most summer migrants are insect eaters and as autumn creeps across the



landscape, much insect life becomes dormant, thus a scarcity of food impels those birds to leave. But others come here to find respite from advancing winter farther north.

From Scandinavia and indeed from Eastern Europe, as temperatures begin to fall, other travellers fill the void, fleeing the oncoming winter in their northern strongholds which are now locked down as frosts bite hard. Most obvious are the noisy skeins of geese patterning the skies. The vanguard of geese, generally comprising the non-breeders, arrives in September, the bulk in October. Pink-footed geese represent the main influx but on the southern stretches of Loch Lomond look out for Greenland White-fronted geese, grey geese with prominent white flashes across their foreheads just above their beaks. The black and white Canada geese you may also see, have been indigenous here for centuries, largely imported all those years ago to grace estate ponds and lochs. They have since become feral and are not therefore migratory.

## Migrant Birds

Other incoming migrant birds to arrive in the Park include short-eared owls, largely settling for the winter months on open moorland or along marine shorelines. Also arriving during October are the brilliantly camouflaged woodcock – woodland birds of course – and tiny goldcrests, fairly plain and minuscule wee birds, decorated with colourful head crests of black, orange and yellow. Goldcrests are denizens of our coniferous forests.

Also often making their presence felt loudly, are the mixed flocks of Scandinavian thrushes, fieldfares and redwings, which typically rampage in loose flocks across our landscape like erstwhile Viking raiders. They scour our landscape for berries, such as rowans, that have not been consumed by the resident thrushes and blackbirds and also descend upon farmers' fields looking for grubs and worms.

And, will this be a waxwing year? Every few years, usually when the Scandinavian berry crop fails, we experience 'irruptions' of these exotic looking birds. And even if they come from the wildest parts of the north they are easy to observe, being surprisingly tolerant of people. They usually arrive as winter really starts to take hold and are most often to be seen stripping berries from shrubs and trees planted in towns and villages.

The animals of the Park prepare for the winter in very different ways, migration not being an option. Some, such as hedgehogs and bats – there is a wide variety of bats present in the Park – bed down for the winter months and sleep through the worst. As a consequence, hedgehogs need to lay down substantial stores of body fat which will sustain them during their 'big sleep', so autumn is a time to eat almost as much as possible! Both hedgehogs and bats slow down their life



*Although they do not hibernate badgers lie up for days when the weather turns.*

metabolisms during hibernation, their heart and pulse rates falling until they are barely perceptible.

Badgers also ignore the advice of weight watchers and increase their bulk through the bounty of the autumn harvest. They do not hibernate, although when the weather turns hard, may lie up for days relying on their bodily reserves of fat to survive. They often betray their winter activity, by leaving tracks in the snow. Happily, Scotland is currently bovine TB free, so here at least there are no conflict between them and cattle farmers.

## Red Squirrels

Look out for red squirrels, which during the glut of food in the autumn, famously lay down caches of nuts and beech-mast for consumption later in the winter. Happily the red squirrel population is prospering in the Park, largely due to the increasing presence of pine marten which are effectively reducing the population of the alien grey squirrels. Grey squirrels, first imported into Scotland from America in the early years of the twentieth century, had become so well established that, because of their larger size were able to dominate food sources at the expense of the native reds. They also carry a disease to which they are immune but which is deadly to reds. However, predation on grey squirrels by pine marten has enabled reds to re-colonise many parts of the Park.

Our largest land mammals are of course, the 'Monarchs of the Glen', our magnificent red deer. For them, the onset of autumn triggers the climax of their year as they enter the rut. During autumn days, master stags compete dramatically for places in the pecking order. Their challenging roars echo across the glens and sometimes you may hear the clash of antlers as well-matched stags do battle to determine which of them will claim victory in the age old contest to achieve dominance. The reward for the victors is the right to mate with as many hinds as they can muster.

Some of our indigenous birds are precocious and it is not uncommon for blackbirds to build nests in January and even lay eggs, although they seldom come to anything. Apart from the geese, whooper swans and those Scandinavian thrushes, in winter time there is

a kind of muffled silence broken only by the sweet voices of cock robins and the rattling volleys of jenny wren, both pronouncing winter feeding territories.

Yet, surprisingly quickly, once the winter solstice is passed just before Christmas, signs of approaching spring become increasingly evident. The year has turned and animal and bird minds are slowly awakening to the approach of another season of re-birth. Often the assertive piping of great tits seems to trigger a feeling of optimism. The new season can start surprisingly early in the bleaker, more Highland sectors of the Park. High in the mountains, with eggs already being incubated as early as February, not only are golden eagles are preparing themselves for the long slog of producing a new generation – a procedure which carries on right through the spring and summer – but ravens may also be sitting on eggs.

So even where conditions are harsher, the urge to enter another season of re-generation, is impelling. Foxes and badgers also enter the spirit of spring early, their young usually born during early March by which time the winter migrant birds are beginning to feel restless, the urge to return northwards an instinct they must inevitably and eventually follow. Meanwhile, those birds that face a perilous journey out of Africa, will soon be preparing themselves for their epic travels. Ospreys return to the Park in late March after spending their winter in West Africa. They, perhaps in the most spectacular way imaginable, represent the vanguard of the millions of birds that will return to the land of their birth during the early spring. They will arrive with one ambition in their minds – to produce further generations.

Nature is never still. That need to survive the winter, whether spent here or far away on the Dark Continent and establish or re-establish partnerships, will take over their entire lives. Winter is merely a time when nature holds its breath before starting the age-old impulse to do it all over again. As spring begins to breathe new vitality into our beautiful landscape, all creatures great and small and the landscape itself will come gloriously alive once more! Listen, as spring advances, to the rising chorus of music!



Friends of OUR Park is a very successful voluntary visitor giving and volunteering initiative led by the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs with support from 100 local businesses, Scottish Enterprise and the National Park Authority. Here we briefly feature recent grant awards and profile one of the OUR Park businesses helping to make a real difference in the National Park.



Friends Trustees visit Trossachs Mobility as part of their annual study visit



Attractive new flower beds and stone walls have transformed the village centre.

## Balmaha Village Facelifts

**THE Friends have helped to fund two facelift projects in Balmaha with grants totalling £3,500 from the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme.**

During the summer a grant of £1,500 was given to East Loch Lomond Community Trust to assist with its ambitious £30,000 plans to improve the village green in the centre of the popular tourist village.

The Trust has made good progress with landscaping the former village toilet block site with attractive boundary stone walling, paths and seating areas and a Loch Lomond feature to create an attractive focal point in the heart of Balmaha. They also have also installed three storyboards featuring the nearby Highland Fault Boundary and Loch Lomond.

A further grant of £2,000 was provided to upgrade all the heavily used paths and gathering area at nearby Tom Weir's rest which has now welcomed over 300,000 visitors to this Lochside site. Some further heather planting in Tom and Rhona's Mountain Garden has also taken place.

Most of this funding has come from visitor giving donations collected by the Oak Tree Inn who have been strong supporters of the OUR park scheme since its inception. Sandy Fraser of the Oak Tree Inn has also provided direct sponsorship of over £10,000 for the village green improvement scheme that has transformed the heart of this popular lochside village.

## Children's Play Area Upgrade

PLANS for improving a popular children's play area in the village of Crianlarich have taken a step forward with funding support from the Friends to the tune of £500, and help from Stirling Council.

Strathfillan Community Development Trust is bidding to rebuild the facility for young residents and visitors to Crianlarich after the removal of its equipment by council chiefs in December 2016 following safety concerns. The facility had also been well used by younger visitors using the Youth Hostel next to the playpark in the village.

The funds were raised through the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme by local businesses such as the Artisan Café, Portnellan Chalets and Strathfillan Wigwams.

This is the fourth children's play area in the National Park supported by the Friends in recent years.

# Callander on the Move

**FOUR projects in Callander have benefited from recent Friends of OUR park visitor giving grants totalling £2,550.**

The Friends of OUR Park visitor giving scheme has gone from strength to strength in Callander with additional catering outlets recently joining and helping to raise funds for local projects from visitors.

The innovative and impressive Trossachs Mobility initiative has been awarded a £500 grant to help visitors and locals with mobility issues to access the countryside around the Trossachs more easily. The funds were used to support the opening a shop/info point and the purchase of more all ability motorised trikes.

These all-terrain vehicles can be hired by visitors and locals for a donation and they are helping to transform outdoor experiences for the less abled bodied people who can now access some of the more challenging local terrain. Guided tours are also arranged.

The now well established Callander Summerfest, coordinated by Sheila Winstone and Callander

Community Development Trust with support from a range of local groups, has also benefited from OUR park funding. This festival has become increasingly popular with a varied programme of cultural and recreational events during a busy part of July over recent years, and received a £400 grant.

The Callander Landscape Partnership was awarded a funding pledge of £1,500 over a three-year period to help with a raft of projects to capitalise on the stunning landscape setting and rich cultural and natural heritage of the Callander area.

This ambitious project won a stage 1 HLF funding approval and over the past two years a Project Officer supported by a team of locals and various agencies has been working up a detailed costed programme of activity that has gone forward as a stage 2 funding bid to the Heritage Lottery.

And last but by no means least, the recently re-established Callander Highland Games was given a £150 sponsorship donation to assist with the costs of running this year's event.

## BLISS Art Trail Award

A £1,000 Friends of OUR park grant has gone towards signage for the award-winning BLISS Art Trail, which links a series of impressive art installations along a route linking the four National Park villages of Balquhiddier, Lochearnhead, Strathyre and St Fillans.

The Loch Earn Tourism Information group (LETI), who successfully launched the trail last year to wide acclaim, has used the grant award to install signage in order to recognise artists who have contributed to the exhibits on the BLISS Trail. Twenty-four artworks are being highlighted as part of the signing scheme and a promotional drive led by LETI to provide a further boost to the local tourist industry. The trail has already won a prestigious Thistle Award for its 'Working together for Tourism' project that involved businesses across a geographically dispersed area collaborating to deliver an appealing tourist trail that successfully combines art features and stunning landscapes.

Kim Proven, Chair of Loch Earn Tourism Information, said: "It is vital for us to have funding available to take on projects like this and we are extremely grateful to the Friends for their support. We are delighted that the BLISS trail has already been recognised with a regional Scottish Thistle Award but we must keep working to ensure it remains an iconic attraction in this beautiful part of Scotland. Work on the evolving trail, including two new installations for 2017, will continue to promote the area in a positive manner and boost the local economy."

Tom Lewis, owner of Monachyle Mhor Hotel in Balquhiddier Glen, has been one of the major supporters of the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme and his guests have contributed over £3,000 to local projects from donations collected as part of their hotel bills.

He added: "It is a pleasure to see our guests' generosity contributing to worthwhile and practical projects like this. We are delighted to support this sort of scheme and we applaud Loch Earn Tourism Information for their efforts in creating a popular and quirky tourist trail. I would encourage other local businesses to join the Friends of OUR park scheme and to get in touch with the Friends – you can see just what a difference your support makes."



Friends Ecotourism Project Manager Jared Bowers presents the cheque to Kim Proven





## New Loch Lomond Education Pack

*Friends Vice-Chairman John Urquhart is pictured with Stuart Corder at the launch of the education pack*



The Friends have helped a major cruise operator on the loch with the development of a new educational resource pack to enrich the experience of many thousands of passengers, particularly student groups. Cruise Loch Lomond recently launched its new online education pack, which provides background information about the history and environment of the Loch Lomond area.

The Friends supported the development of the resource pack by contributing text and editing expertise as part of its current ecotourism project. The Friends also contributed £250 towards its production through a grant funded by the Friends of OUR park programme, which sees businesses from all over the park contribute financially through the collection visitor donations. Cruise Loch Lomond is a member of the scheme and is also a business supporter of the charity.



## Luss Highland Games Equipment Boost

THE Friends contributed more than £1,000 towards the cost of an important new piece of equipment for use at Luss Highland Games on Loch Lomondside.

At the 2017 event in July, charity Chairman James Fraser handed over a cheque for £1,125 to games athletics co-ordinator Bobby Lennox in the presence of Games chieftain and Friends Honorary President Sir Malcolm Colquhoun. This is due to be Sir Malcolm's last year as Games Chieftain before he hands over the duty to his son Patrick Colquhoun, Younger of Luss. The money has gone towards the purchase of a new landing mat for the high jump event at the Games, with the old equipment needing replaced.

Sir Malcolm said: "It is great to see such generosity from visitors contributing to the Friends of OUR park project being used to such great effect. Luss Highland Games is a fixture in many people's calendars and it is important that it has the equipment needed to make it a safe and enjoyable day. The Friends' gesture has certainly made a big contribution towards that."

*Above: James Fraser presents the cheque to Bobby Lennox and Sir Malcolm Colquhoun*

## More Businesses Back OUR park Scheme

Following a fresh recruitment drive a number of business have agreed to join the Friends innovative voluntary visitor giving scheme, Friends of OUR Park. 'OUR park' provides a platform for local businesses and their customers to make a positive contribution towards conserving and enhancing the local environment for everyone to enjoy.

In Callander, Applejacks Café, Callander Hostel and the Old Bank Café have recently signed up to support the Friends of OUR park project. Between them, these businesses welcome thousands of visitors each year, and they were keen to join the Friends in helping to make a difference in Scotland's first National Park.

Nearby, at Kingshouse at the entrance to Balquhidder Glen, the popular Mhor 84 roadside café and hotel has recently joined the scheme, following in the footsteps of its sister property, Monachyle Mhor Hotel whose owner Tom Lewis is a long-time supporter of the project.

In the Loch Lomond area, a mixture of new businesses have also joined the scheme including the Loch Lomond Arms Hotel from Luss Estates who are also long-time business supporters of the Friends, Fruin Farm and their impressive restaurant and the high quality self-catering units at Mansfield Studios.

Commenting on the latest recruits, James Fraser, Chairman of the Friends said: "It is great to have these businesses on board raising funds from their visitors to support worthwhile projects throughout the National Park."



## Focus on Business

THE INN ON  
LOCH LOMOND



**Niall Colquhoun**, owner of **The Inn on Loch Lomond**, talks about the business and its involvement with the Friends of OUR park scheme.

### What attracted you to do business at The Inn on Loch Lomond?

We bought the Inn in June 2007. This was following an expansion at The Lodge on Loch Lomond into the wedding business. We needed more accommodation and being only three miles away was perfect. We closed the Inn during September 2007 for a major refurbishment, reopening in July 2008. During this time we added a further 20 rooms and eight suites in the Beach House, an idyllic spot on the shores of Loch Lomond. During the Springtime of 2010 we built and opened an additional 13 bedrooms. We are very pleased with how things have gone over the past 10 years since we bought the premises.

### Tell us about your inspiration and plans for The Inn on Loch Lomond?

Our idea for the Inn was to keep it simple with good food, attentive service and comfy beds. This winter we are refurbishing the Beach House of the Inn and using the colours surrounding the Inn for inspiration. The hotel is also famous for its regular music evenings and informal and fun dining experiences, and this is something we intend to keep going and possibly even expand.

### Why do you support the Friends of OUR park project?

We are delighted to support a project which assists so many great causes in the National Park – including many projects which are right on our doorstep here on Loch Lomondside. The Friends of OUR park is a very useful method for us to demonstrate our passion for the environment which surrounds us – and the process of helping it is as simple as ticking a box. It is so easy for our patrons to make a small financial contribution which can end up making a huge difference.

### What is particularly special for you about the Loch Lomond area?

Having been born here, married here and bringing up our children here, Loch Lomond is the centre of our lives. The mountains, the water and the air are all pure energy. They inspire me to swim, to paddle, to climb, to breathe, to exult in the beauty around us. Between us – visitors, residents and businesses in the area – we can all pull together to not only keep the area beautiful, but even further enhance its natural beauty and keep it one of the jewels in the crown of Scotland. It is a privilege to continually welcome visitors to Scotland's first National Park.

## SHARING RED SQUIRREL STORY

A project at Balmaha Visitor Centre showcasing red squirrels and their fight for survival has been given a funding boost from the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme

The Friends contributed £500 towards a joint initiative with the National Park Authority which highlights the story of red squirrels and the real threats facing their survival in a new interactive display and is linked to a nearby Squirrel Scurry Trail where visitors can discover more about one of Scotland's favourite wild animals.





# Help us Make a Difference



We are passionate about protecting and enhancing the special qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park for the benefit of people and nature. If you are too, join us and help keep it beautiful, accessible and unspoilt.



For details of membership please  
call 01389 298008 or  
visit [www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)

*Christmas at  
Ross Priory*

Mince Pies, Mulled Wine,  
Music and Mini Craft Fair

**On Sunday 26th November, 2017**  
2.00pm to 4.30pm  
Tickets £8 each.

The musical entertainment this year will be provided by *Lomond School*.

Some local craft workers will have stalls to sell jewellery and tablet (cash sales only)

To avoid disappointment book early as this event is normally a sell out.  
Tickets available now.  
Tel Andrew Galloway on 01389 727761  
Tues – Fri 10.00-16.00 or email [info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](mailto:info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)

**Cowal  
—FEST  
ARGYLL**

One of Scotland's  
largest walking  
and outdoor festivals

**10 Days of walks and events  
in Cowal, Argyll  
from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

[www.cowalfest.org](http://www.cowalfest.org)  
email: [info@cowalfest.org](mailto:info@cowalfest.org)  
phone: 01369 830 793  
See website for updates



# A WALK ROUND Argyll's Bowling Green

Friends member, Alistair McIntyre, takes us on the second leg of a walk round Argyll's Bowling Green from Lochgoilhead to Coilessan.

## The Low Road or High Road

Walking south from Lochgoilhead you have a choice of route: the 'Low Road', the public road by the shore, or the 'High Road', a forestry road which runs parallel to it a little higher up the hill and mentioned in the first instalment. Personally, I'd take the latter. If you do take the 'Low Road', the coastal Victorian architecture at the start is worth noting. Keep a map or GPS handy as the key junction for the Duke's Path is unmarked. On the 'High Road' it's just a case of looking out for any signs marked 'Duke's Pass/Path'. The Forestry Commission is to be commended for not requiring you to scramble across burns as all are bridged. The waterfalls above Inverlounin are well worth a photo.

For quite some time we proceed through plantations of mainly Sitka spruce, but the many streams encountered generally have good stands of broadleaves alongside. Views are somewhat restricted, but this allows a better focus on more immediate surroundings, while those glimpses of hill and loch that do appear are all the more seductive. Look out especially for the village of Carrick on the far side, with its historic castle. The gradient has been very easy for some time, but in due course it begins to steepen significantly. This hints at emergence from the forest, and suddenly we are there, and what a scene! A wild and primeval landscape announces that we are now at the heart of the famous Argyll's Bowling Green. So just how did such a distinctive name come about? There are at least three leading theories, but perhaps the absence of a clear winner just enhances the sense of mystery.

## The Saddle and Corran Lochan

The route skirts the hill known as the Saddle, and ahead you may catch a glimpse of Corran Lochan. On my most recent visit, I overtake a colourful character, a huge bright green caterpillar, with impressive golden cross-bands. This will soon transform into the large and equally impressive emperor moth. Suddenly there is a marmalade-coloured flash, the dark green fritillary butterfly, one of the largest and most handsome of that family. Several others appear, and I notice they are feeding on the flowers of marsh thistle. In fact, this is insect heaven and I am escorted by large golden-ringed dragonflies, as well as by red and blue damselflies.

Corran Lochan is the obvious place to stop for lunch, sheltered and with impressive vistas. Munching a sandwich, I inadvertently cough, disturbing a teal from the reeds, and causing her to make a dignified paddle to the other side. I am reminded that on another occasion, I could make out something swimming across the loch - the tip of the dreaded water-horse or water-bull of Gaelic mythology? Intrigued I walked to the far bank to await the arrival. What emerged was a frog!

I simply cannot resist the temptation to climb the Saddle. Walking over the moor, heather is out in full bloom, and I become intoxicated with the honey-like scent. It looks a great place for grouse, and indeed ripe blaeberrries are all around, yet I've never seen any here. Reaching the summit, I am reminded somewhat of Tom Weir's favourite, Duncryne Hill, in that, although neither is notable for height, the vistas are absolutely superb. I drop down towards Loch Long. This takes me past a group of shielings, and as I stop to take a photo, I realise I can include a peacefully grazing red deer hind. Soon, I reach the forestry road from Corran Lochan. It is now simply a case of continuing north along this road, with its open landscapes, until we arrive back at Coilessan Glen car park.



## WHY BOWLING GREEN?

The first explanation is that the name is an example of West of Scotland ironic humour, given that the rugged terrain is about as far removed from a real bowling green as can be imagined. The earliest rendering would appear to be in a map thought to have been published around 1735.

The second explanation, much quoted, is that the Bowling Green name is in fact a corruption of the Gaelic phrase "Buaille nan Grián", which translates as "sunny sheep-fold". The trouble is that the Gaelic form does not appear on any old map or written document, though that does not necessarily mean it wasn't in use. In fact, this explanation derives from a suggestion by Harry R.G. Inglis, made in a 1914 issue of the Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal (SMCJ).

The third, and most prosaic theory, is that it comes from a flat piece of land by the old track over the Peninsula known as the 'Duke's Road'. This route came by its name through occasional use by the ducal party en route to the south from Inveraray, or vice versa, prior to the building of the military road over the Rest and be Thankful in the 1740s.

A fourth might be something to do with the Gaelic, 'Goil' which translates as 'Boil', not too far from 'Bowl'.

**We will leave you to decide which is best.**

Ardgoil Peninsula - a translation might be 'Boiling Heights', a reference to its knobbly profile.





## Foundation Supporters £500 MINIMUM

### • CAMERON HOUSE

Loch Lomond, Dunbartonshire, G83 8QZ  
Tel: 01389 755 565 Fax: 01389 713 281

[www.cameronhouse.co.uk](http://www.cameronhouse.co.uk)

A magnificent baronial mansion surrounded by 100 acres of woodland, Cameron House on Loch Lomond, blends traditional Scottish influences with sumptuous contemporary décor to offer guests a memorable stay in the finest surroundings. This is your lochside Baronial mansion and much more with our Carrick resort our 18-hole championship golf course and luxury spa.

### • TIGH MOR TROSSACHS

Telephone: 0800 2300391

[www.hpb-trossachs.co.uk](http://www.hpb-trossachs.co.uk)

Tigh Mor Trossachs is the Scottish flagship of the Holiday Property Bond ([www.hpb.co.uk](http://www.hpb.co.uk)). It was formerly the Trossachs Hotel which by 1990 had fallen into a state of disrepair. Tigh Mor was completely renovated in 1992 and now has 76 properties, an indoor swimming pool and extensive leisure facilities.

### • OPTICAL EXPRESS & MOULSDALE FOUNDATION

Telephone: 0800 023 20 20

email: [enquiries@opticalexpress.com](mailto:enquiries@opticalexpress.com)

[www.opticalexpress.com](http://www.opticalexpress.com)

The Mouldsdale Foundation & Optical Express are proud to support the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs. For 35 years, the friends have been working to protect the area's environmental heritage, promote it as a most special part of Scotland, and provide for its future through a range of projects for people and for wildlife.

### • ROSS PRIORY

Gartocharn G83 8NL 0141 548 3565

Ross Priory, on the banks of Loch Lomond, the Staff Educational and Recreational Centre of the University of Strathclyde, is proud to support the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs.

### • LOCHS & GLENS HOLIDAYS

School Road, Gartocharn, G83 8RW

Tel: 01389 713 713

email: [enquiries@lochsandglens.com](mailto:enquiries@lochsandglens.com)

[www.lochsandglens.com](http://www.lochsandglens.com)

Lochs & Glens Holidays are proud to support the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

### • LODGE ON LOCH LOMOND HOTEL

Luss, Argyll, G83 8PA

Tel: 01436 860 201 Fax: 01436 860 203

email: [res@loch-lomond.co.uk](mailto:res@loch-lomond.co.uk)

[www.loch-lomond.co.uk](http://www.loch-lomond.co.uk)

The 4-star Lodge on Loch Lomond Hotel has a unique lochside setting. It offers stylish accommodation, some with en-suite saunas and private balconies, Colquhoun's, a 2 AA rosette restaurant with panoramic views of the Loch and mountains and leisure facilities with swimming pool.

### • LOCH KATRINE

Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine, By Callander,

Stirling FK17 8HZ

Information and Reservations - (01877) 332000

[www.lochkatrine.com](http://www.lochkatrine.com)

Loch Katrine - a special experience for everyone to enjoy. Cruising Loch Katrine in the heart of The Trossachs is a special experience - on the classic steamship 'Sir Walter Scott', or on 'Lady of the Lake'. Visitor amenities include lochside walks, shopping, cycle hire and Katrine Café. Cruises depart daily (April until October), with the first sailing at 10:30am.

### • LOVE LOCH LOMOND

email: [info@lovelochlomond.com](mailto:info@lovelochlomond.com)

[www.lovelochlomond.com](http://www.lovelochlomond.com)

Love Loch Lomond is a recently formed industry led Destination

Organisation that operates in the Loch Lomond, Strathendrick, West Dunbartonshire and Clyde Sea Lochs areas. It is dedicated to working on a collaborative basis to capitalise on the area's strong tourism potential.

### • ARDOCH

Gartocharn G83 8ND 01389 710401

email: [luke@ardoch-scotland.com](mailto:luke@ardoch-scotland.com)

[www.ardoch-scotland.com](http://www.ardoch-scotland.com)

Ardoch is an exceptional venue for business seminars and family reunions. There are 18 bedrooms and numerous meeting rooms in a mix of traditional and contemporary spaces most of which overlook Loch Lomond. Hire Ardoch on an exclusive basis and be assured of total privacy. Phone Luke for details.

### • LUSS ESTATES

Luss Estates Company, Arnburn Arden

Argyll, G83 8RH

email: [estateoffice@lussestates.co.uk](mailto:estateoffice@lussestates.co.uk)

[www.lussestates.co.uk](http://www.lussestates.co.uk)

One of Scotland's greatest Estates, spanning 40,000+ acres and eight centuries of continuous ownership by the family of Colquhoun of Luss. Today we combine farming, forestry, tourism, property and power generation - protecting, preserving and developing the estate to enrich and ensure the future of the land, resources, villages, communities and people which are at our heart.

### • ARGYLL HOLIDAYS

Lochgoilhead PA24 8AD 08454596412

[www.argyllholidays.com](http://www.argyllholidays.com)

The Campbell family have developed quality holiday parks and hotels in seven stunning scenic locations in Argyll with a number in, or close to, the National Park. They are all easily accessible and just within an hour from Glasgow. As part of their growing emphasis on green and active holidays, Argyll Holidays are delighted to be supporting the work of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.

## Business Plus Supporters £250 MINIMUM

### • THE OAK TREE INN BALMAHA

Glasgow, G63 0JQ Tel: 01360 870 357

email: [info@oak-tree-inn.co.uk](mailto:info@oak-tree-inn.co.uk)

[www.oak-tree-inn.co.uk](http://www.oak-tree-inn.co.uk)

Family run inn on east side of Loch Lomond adjacent to WHW, serving good food all day with bunk, standard and deluxe accommodation available

### • THE WINNOCK HOTEL

The Square, Drymen, Loch Lomond, G63 0BL

Tel: 01360 660 245

email: [info@winnockhotel.com](mailto:info@winnockhotel.com)

[www.winnockhotel.com](http://www.winnockhotel.com)

The Winnock Hotel in Drymen is the perfect choice for everything from a delicious bar meal through to a fun-filled party-night, ceilidh or special event.

### • BEST WESTERN BUCHANAN ARMS HOTEL AND SPA

23 Main Street, Drymen, Glasgow G63 0BQ

Tel: 01360 660 588

email: [info@buchananarms.co.uk](mailto:info@buchananarms.co.uk)

[www.buchananarms.co.uk](http://www.buchananarms.co.uk)

One of the finest and most popular small hotels in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, with a character and charm which sits peacefully and calmly with the qualities of its surroundings.

### • CRUISE LOCH LOMOND

The Boatyard, Tarbet. Loch Lomond, G83 7DG

Tel: 01301 702 356

email: [enquiries@cruiselochlomond.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cruiselochlomond.co.uk)

[www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk](http://www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk)

Experience the serenity of the bonnie banks through the winter on award winning cruises - Rambler; Explorer; Rob Roy Discovery, Ben Lomond Hike. From Tarbet, Luss, Inversnaid, Balmaha, Rowardennan.

### • SWEENEY'S CRUISES

Balloch, Loch Lomond, G83 8SS

Tel: 01389 752 376

email: [info@sweeneyscruises.com](mailto:info@sweeneyscruises.com)

[www.sweeneyscruises.com](http://www.sweeneyscruises.com)

Scottish Tourist Board 4-star tours on Loch Lomond. All cruises have live commentary, bar and toilet facilities. Open 7 days a week all year round.

### • BALMILLIG B & B

64B Colquhoun St, Helensburgh, G84 9JP

Tel: 01436 674 922

email: [anne@balmillig.co.uk](mailto:anne@balmillig.co.uk)

[www.balmillig.co.uk](http://www.balmillig.co.uk)

Superb 4 star accommodation minutes from the National Park's southern edge. An environmentally committed business also offering bespoke guided tours - day walking and mountain guiding.

### • LOMOND LUXURY LODGES

Croftamie, By Glasgow G63 0EX

Tel: 01360 660054

email: [info@lochlomond-holidays.co.uk](mailto:info@lochlomond-holidays.co.uk)

[www.lochlomond-holidays.co.uk](http://www.lochlomond-holidays.co.uk)

5 Star luxury lodges located within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park making this family-run business an ideal base for touring this truly exceptional area.

### • CALLANDER ENTERPRISE

email: [cal-ent@incallander.co.uk](mailto:cal-ent@incallander.co.uk)

[www.twitter.com/incallander](http://www.twitter.com/incallander)

[www.incallander.co.uk](http://www.incallander.co.uk)

Callander Enterprise is dynamic business group with ambitious objectives to benefit the entire business community in the area. The 200+ members cover the largest settlement within the National Park

### • THE MYRTLE INN HOLIDAY COTTAGE

Tel: 01877 330 919 Mobile 07703838800

[myrtleinn@btconnect.com](mailto:myrtleinn@btconnect.com)

New on the self-catering list - cottage sleeps up to five, only a few minutes from all the shops with a handy Spar even closer and a brand new coffee shop opening in May!

### • DEEPSTREAM DESIGN

Coach House Cottage, Station Rd, Rhu G84

Tel: 07795 156681 [pyko@me.com](mailto:pyko@me.com)

Coming from an experienced blue-chip background. Deepstream offer a full range of graphic design services. Friends supporters receive a 15% discount on first project.

### • LOCH LOMOND SEAPLANES

PO Box 26613, Helensburgh G84 9YG

Tel 01436675030

[info@lochlomondseaplanes.com](mailto:info@lochlomondseaplanes.com)

Fly in a luxury seaplane back to the halycon days of travel with a first class seat over the most magnificent landscape in the world. Take off from the romantic shores of Loch Lomond. Discovery tours from £129 to £169. Flight vouchers make the perfect gift.



Would you like to become a Friends supporter?

Please contact us today...

**Friends of Loch Lomond**

**and The Trossachs**

**Carrochan, Carrochan Road,**

**Balloch G83 8EG**

**Telephone: 01389 727761**

**Email: [info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](mailto:info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)**

## Business Supporters £100 MINIMUM

### • POPPIES HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Leny Road, Callander FK17 8AL

Tel: 01877 330 329

[www.poppieshotel.com](http://www.poppieshotel.com)

### • VENACHAR LOCHSIDE

Loch Venachar, Callander FK17 8HP

Tel: 01877 330 011

[www.venachar-lochside.co.uk](http://www.venachar-lochside.co.uk)

### • WHEELS CYCLING CENTRE - BIKES / HIRE

Invertrossachs Rd, Callander, FK17 8HW

Tel: 01877 331 100 [www.scottish-cycling.com](http://www.scottish-cycling.com)

### • THE KILTED SKIRLIE

Ben Lomond Way, Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch

G83 8QPTel: 01389 754 759 [www.kiltedskirlie.co.uk](http://www.kiltedskirlie.co.uk)

### • MAID OF THE LOCH

The Pier, Pier Road, Balloch G83 8QX

Tel: 01389 711865 [www.maidoftheloch.com](http://www.maidoftheloch.com)

### • PAUL SAUNDERS PHOTOGRAPHY

7 Gartness Court Drymen, Glasgow G63 0AX

Tel: 01360 661029

[www.paulsaundersphotography.com](http://www.paulsaundersphotography.com)

### • FOREST HOLIDAYS [www.forestholidays.co.uk](http://www.forestholidays.co.uk)

Argyll Forest and Strathyre Tel 08451308223

### • ASHTINS AROMATICS Loch Lomond Shores.

Tel: 01389 720888 [www.ashtins.co.uk](http://www.ashtins.co.uk)

### • DELI ECOSSE

Ancaster Square, Callander FK17 8ED.

Tel: 01877 331220 [www.deliecosse.co.uk](http://www.deliecosse.co.uk)

### • WWW.HOLIDAYCOTTAGES.CO.UK

Tel: 01237 426287

[www.holidaycottages.co.uk/scotland](http://www.holidaycottages.co.uk/scotland)

### • APPLEJACKS

2 Ancaster Square, Callander FK17 8ED.


Tel: 01877 330370

### • FORTH INN Main Street, Aberfoyle.

Tel: 01877 382372 [www.forthinn.com](http://www.forthinn.com)





 The Steamship Sir Walter Scott is fully wheelchair friendly

**Bypass the ticket queue and book online**  
[www.lochkatrine.com](http://www.lochkatrine.com)

- Classic steamship cruises on *Sir Walter Scott*
- Legends of the Loch cruise on the *Lady of the Lake*
- Family friendly special events throughout the year
- Walking & cycling on the shores of Loch Katrine
- Brenachoile Café • Katrine Gifts - Souvenirs & Crafts
- Katrinewheelz - Cycle Hire • Borg Grech Photography
- Pier Café - Stronachlachar



**Fireworks Cruise**  
**4th November**  
 Live music from Shaky and complimentary burgers and hotdogs from our BBQ followed by fireworks set against the background of the Trossachs National Park.

**Sail with Santa** (weekends)  
**9th - 17th December**  
 A day to remember with a gift for every child and mulled wine for adults.



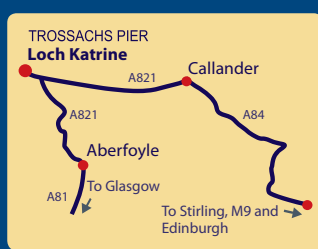
**New Year Cruise**  
**1st & 2nd January 2018**  
 Ceilidh band and a complimentary wee dram to toast the New Year!

**STAY & SAIL BREAKS AVAILABLE**



Stay in one of our Wee Eco Lodges from only £40.00 per night\*

Leave the hustle and bustle behind and enjoy a short break in one of our lochside eco lodges. The lodges are fully insulated, with a double bed and either two bunk beds or a bed settee, together with a compact kitchen, television and some have en-suite facilities.



\* Date restrictions apply.

**Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine, by Callander, Stirling FK17 8HZ**  
**T: 01877 376315/6 • E: enquiries@lochkatrine.com**  
**www.lochkatrine.com**



SUPPORTING  
 year of young people  
 bliadhna na h-òigridh  
 2018



# TWO HOTELS, ONE STUNNING LOCATION



## THE LODGE ON LOCH LOMOND HOTEL

Introducing our new menus with a taste of Scotland,  
from Afternoon Tea to Traditional Sunday Lunch

Join us for lunch, dinner or even just a drink  
and enjoy free mooring on our new Jetty

For more information or to book  
Visit [www.loch-lomond.co.uk](http://www.loch-lomond.co.uk)  
or Call 01436 860 201



LODGE ON  
LOCH LOMOND  
★ ★ ★ ★



## THE INN ON LOCH LOMOND HOTEL

The perfect stop for coffee, lunch or dinner  
with live folk music every weekend.

For more information or to book  
Visit [www.innonlochlomond.co.uk](http://www.innonlochlomond.co.uk)  
or Call 01436 860 678



THE INN ON  
LOCH LOMOND

