



Carron Valley and District

Community Council Newsletter Spring 2010

Public Transport Survey

In the 2009 CVCC Survey, one of the issues raised was public transportation. In response we enclose the Southwest Rural Stirling Public Transport Questionnaire being circulated by Stirling Community Planning Partnership. If you would like to use public transport, please complete the questionnaire and return it as indicated on the reverse, or you may complete it on line at bit.ly/swtransport.

KIRK O'MUIR FUNDING APPLICATION SUCCESSFUL!

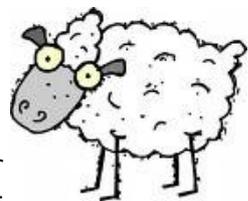
The Community Council submitted an application to the Earlsburn Windfarm Fund managed by Scottish Community Foundation to commence the upgrade of the access to the Kirk 'O Muir burial ground. The panel met on 31st March to make the decisions on the distribution of funds for this round of applications **AND WE WERE SUCCESSFUL!** It is hoped that the upgrade to the car park and the use of a Public Address system will be deliverable in time for the August ceremony. Due to the limitations of the amount which can be applied for in any one application, it is proposed that this will only be the first phase of intended improvements and that Heritage signage and further improvements can be applied for in future rounds. The closing date for the next round of applications is 20th August.

CVCC wishes to encourage local groups to apply for funding. The money is available to be used for our community. 

A Few things in this issue...

Who to call?	2
Windfarm Updates	2
Another Valley Far Away	3
Carron Chefs Column	3
Tights Lines Fishing Column	4
Forestry News	4

A WORRYING TIME FOR OUR SHEEP



Please remember this time of year many sheep are pregnant, a bit hormonal and very vulnerable. They abort easily when scared. Please keep dogs out of fields with lambs or big heavy sheep.

THE LAW: Near livestock, dogs must be on lead. Dogs can be legally destroyed over this. Read up on the law: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A1067834>.

Every year some 24,000 sheep are either killed or injured by dogs. You can be prosecuted under the 1953 Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act, under which a farmer has the right to shoot your dog on sight or demand it be destroyed by a vet at a later date. Your dog — and the sheep — are counting on you to be a responsible dog owner. 



WE NEED PHOTOS!

Are you a good photographer? We always need photos of our beautiful area. We also welcome your recipes for "Carron Chefs" (pg 3), fishing tales for "Tight Lines" (pg 4) and letters to the editor.

SUMMER ISSUE DEADLINE: 15th May, email to davidgillespie243@btinternet.com or call Sheila on 01324 823158.

Photo: Carron Reservoir Vicki Bisset © 2010

WHO TO CALL? CVCC Members Issue Contact List: At the recent CVCC meeting, it was agreed that, to help the CVCC to function more efficiently and effectively, the following areas of concern are assigned to the following individual members on which to concentrate their efforts, to communicate and report:

Roads and Transport - David Petch, Glenhead Farm, Stirling Rd, Carronbridge FK6 5JJ
01324 825654, incomebusy@aol.com

Wind Farms - John Bisset, 14 Carron Valley, Carronbridge Nr Denny FK6 5JL 01324 824170

Planning Issues - Crawford Logan, Wester Craigend, Stirling FK7 9PX 01786 475025,
crawfordlogan@hotmail.co.uk

Paths & Access Issues – Dorothy Breckenridge, Howlands Cottage, Sauchieburn, Stirling FK7 9PZ
01896 812355 dorothy@sauchieburn.plus.com

Community Newsletter & Local Heritage – Sheila Laidlaw, Craignannet Farm, Carronbridge Nr Denny FK6 5JL
01324 823158 Sheila.laidlaw@virgin.net

All issues and any concerns not mentioned above. Molly Forsyth mollyforsyth1@gmail.com and
David Gillespie davidgillespie243@btinternet.com

Due to recent resignation of a member of the Community Council, we would like to invite a member of the community to come forward and become a co-opted member. Additionally we have a vacancy to Co-opt a youth member so encourage any under 18 year olds to come forward and join.

“One day there came some engineers...”



Due to the large amount of wind-farms springing up in Scotland, people are very aware of the perceived harm being done to our countryside, especially to the scenic beauty of the Carron Valley. However, 70 years ago the inhabitants of the Valley were

worrying about other works spoiling the area’s natural beauty—the Carron Reservoir completed in 1939. Here James Adam, who was born at Muirmill Farm in 1899, puts pen to paper to say it actually wasn’t so bad! It also may be worth remembering that windfarms are not a permanent change on the landscape; their life span is between 20-25 years.



WIND FARM UPDATES:

Craigengelt

Craigengelt reports that all 8 turbines were successfully erected prior to Christmas 2009. They have now undergone internal fit-out and commissioning works before commencing their initial pre-testing operations. Craigengelt is currently undertaking the operational testing and proving phase. Once this is successfully completed they anticipate the project will be taken over on time, before the end of March 2010.

Discussions have been held with the highways authority regarding remaining works on the C10 and C55, the scope of this work has been finalised, and will be undertaken once weather conditions improve. This will include improved identification of the site entrance. Nick Kay, Corporate Development Manager, wishes to thank the Community Council for their understanding through this busy period and says that Craigengelt Windfarm looks forward to the community benefiting from the operation of the project.

Earlsburn Extension

Permission was granted for an additional 9 wind turbines at Earlsburn during a public planning meeting in Viewforth on 9th March. It was clear at the meeting that there was widespread support by all the local communities for this extension and it is recognised that this had a significant influence on the decision. It was considered that, if wind turbines were going to be the way forward for renewable energy in the immediate future, then extensions to existing sites would make more sense than the potential disruption which could be created by entirely new developments. A community wind turbine is an integral part of the extension and meetings will be arranged soon to progress this. The community council will keep you informed of the details and timescales of activity in due course.

CVCC confirm that our support of the extension to Earlsburn was submitted before the community survey was conducted and felt that the planned community turbine would be desirable, however we ensure that all future considerations of Wind farm proposals will be made in line with the results of the survey and will invite the views of the community at large.



Thoughts on Carron Valley Reservoir

However far a man may roam,
No matter what great sights he’s seen
His mind aye turns to his first home,
With happy thoughts and longings keen.

It was my privilege to be
Born in a house among the hills;
Though little’s left for eye to see
The site can still to me bring thrills.

This vale of peace, where Carron flows
And “peeweeps” cry so weird and sweet,
Where whin and broom and gowan grows
And hills stretch up the sky to meet.

Was one of Nature’s beauty spots,
Where river flowed so full and free,
There was no room for troubled thoughts,
And life was good as life can be.

One day there came some engineers,
With long poles and Theodolite;
Our wonder rose, and also fears
That they might spoil this vale so bright.

And sure enough it was decreed
That distant towns required more water,
And beauty must give place to need,
And sentiment and peace don’t matter.

It was resolved to dam the flow
Of Carron which had aye been free,
And as we saw the building grow
Our hearts were sad as sad can be.

Old Carron lifted up her voice
And swore she’d ne’er imprisoned be;
‘Twas vain, there was no other choice,
Her waters piled up like a sea.

But in the end it somehow chanced
That though the dam had changed the scene,
We found the beauty was enhanced,
And hill and dale as they had been.

By Ex-Baillie James Adam, formerly Agent of The Clydesdale Bank, Ltd., Denny, a native of Carron Valley District –November 1941. Adam, born into a farming family, showed great promise as a scholar at Muirlands School. Employed by the Clydesdale Bank and active in Falkirk Council, he walked to Denny every day to catch the train to work.



ANOTHER VALLEY FAR AWAY

It is said that, once seen, Afghanistan weaves a spell on the traveller which is never broken. This, I can say, is true.

Nowadays it is always in the news. We are told that our future security depends on 'solving' its problems, usually by military means, and despite the evidence of history.



Carron Chefs

Chocolate Fudge Squares

Oil for greasing	To finish:
175g soft margarine	25g butter
175g caster sugar	100g dark chocolate
150g self-raising flour	25g icing sugar
25g cocoa powder	2-3 tsp milk
1/2 tsp baking powder	dolly mixtures or candy-coated
3 eggs	chocolate sweets to decorate

Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4. Brush square shallow cake tin w/ a little oil, line base w/ greaseproof paper and brush lightly w/ extra oil. Put all cake ingredients in mixing bowl and beat w/ a wooden spoon. Spoon into tin, smooth flat and bake cake for 25-30 minutes until it is well risen and browned and the top springs back when lightly pressed. Leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes, then loosen sides w/ a round bladed knife. Turn out onto a wire rack. Remove the lining paper and leave to cool completely.

Frosting: Heat butter in saucepan until just melted. Break chocolate into squares, add to pan and heat gently til melted. Stir in icing sugar and heat gently til glossy, then stir in enough milk to make a thick spreadable icing. Quickly pour over the top of the cake, spread into an even layer. Decorate w/ the sweets and mark into 16 squares. Leave icing to harden for 30 minutes. Cut cake into the marked squares and store in an airtight tin for up to 2 days (if it lasts that long!). (Makes 16)

—Moira Gallagher

The hills and valleys in the north, under a blue sky, are heart-stoppingly lovely. Though higher and more grey in colour, they are not so very different from our own.

But of course a world apart. No-one to call up there to report the hole in the road—there are only tracks often impassable to vehicles, negotiated instead on foot or by donkey. Ten miles may take five hours.

Water. Think of our Carron Reservoir. In those regions, it would be a miracle if your village had a well. By hot summer's end, most are drinking from stagnant pools shared with animals.

School bus? Forget it! In fact, possibly forget the school. And if you're a girl, almost certainly forget it (though not everywhere).

The first Afghan I met was a border guard in fatigues, blessed with an enormous moustache. He leaped from his hut, spread his arms wide, and shouted "Welcome to Afghanistan!". Dark tribal divisions may run deep, but warm hospitality is compulsory.

There you may expect to live to 44—average. And your mother may well have died from complications in childbirth—Afghanistan has the second-highest rate of maternal mortality in the world.

This terrible fact can only be addressed by those things we take for granted: education, hygiene and reasonable roads. Even if we don't feel as though we have the last at the fag-end of this winter!

If this interests you, please feel free to contact me.

~ Crawford Logan, Wester Craigend, Stirling FK7 9PX
crawfordlogan@hotmail.co.uk 01786 475 025



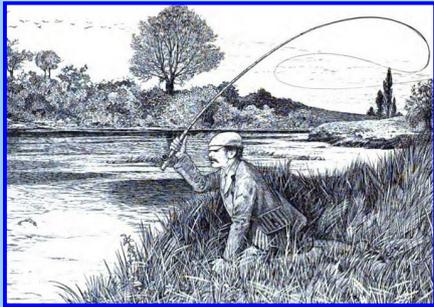
THANKS FOR THE HELP!

Several people have mentioned their gratitude to Mike Bisset for clearing the ice that had built up at the Drum Corner during the big snows this

winter. Countless requests to Stirling Council to remove it had met with no response but Mike and Vicki saved the day!

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AROUND THE FISHERIES This has been a difficult start to the fishing year. Fishing normally begins 14/15 March on the Carron Reservoir and North Third Trout Fishery, but for the first time in 25 winters George Holdsworth at North Third has had to delay the opening day. Hopefully by the time you read this the season will be underway. George would like to remind you of his new booking number 07767831197. Fishing finishes 17th October.

On the Carron Reservoir the ice was 9" thick in places but is beginning to open up - as of publication date of this newsletter, fishing started on 19th March. The usual competitions will be taking place on the dam. The S.A.N.A. heats and semi-finals and the Sun Newspaper Competition in conjunction with Daiwa - fishing tackle and rod makers.

Morna at Swanswater says fishing continued over the winter and the fishery is open all year apart from two weeks in January when the weather was at its coldest. Despite ice and snow the fish came through the winter well and things are looking good for the coming season.



FORESTRY NEWS:

Forestry Car Park A new bridge is being built over to the picnic island. There will be disabled access and the tables will be able to accommodate wheelchairs.

A special plastic matting is being laid on the grass around the picnic tables to enable wheelchairs to be pushed without sinking into the ground. The grass will grow over this mat and give a firm surface, allowing normal grass-cutting to take place.

Power will shortly be taken into the toilet block and to the Clanranald office. The Clanranald palisade is taking shape - hopefully to be open by the summer.



- Andy Gallagher

WWW.DENNYORALHISTORIES.CO.UK

Although the Denny Mills Oral History project, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, is almost finished according to the terms of the funding application and award, it has developed a life of its own. Mill workers continue to surface, bringing their memories and memorabilia to the Denny and Dunipace Heritage Society and CGI, who co-sponsored the project. Old friends have rediscovered each other, new cross generational friendships have formed. A visit to the project website gives a flavour, the turning of each month's page in the project community calendar, "The Working Hours" gives a hint...and a DVD on the project will be released in May 2010. Carron Valley locals Rebecca Bisset and Crawford Logan took part in the project - Rebecca as an oral history interviewer and Crawford by reciting poetry at the successful 6th February Oral History Celebration at The Heritage Rooms in Dunipace. For more info: stewartnmi@blueyonder.co.uk



Congratulations to **GREEN DOG WALKERS**, a Dunipace project originally funded by a grant from Earlsburn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. In February, this anti dog-fouling campaign won the Kennel Club Dog Recognition Award. CGI project leaders Christine Bell and Michelle McCallum travelled to London for the award ceremony. In March the project was featured on Crufts TV, and is being licensed by Falkirk Council to local authorities all over the UK.

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