

Oor Team Walks The Walk

Loch Lomond Kiltwalk Success



**ALSO INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Celebrating Park People, Callander at a Crossroads, Park News *and more*



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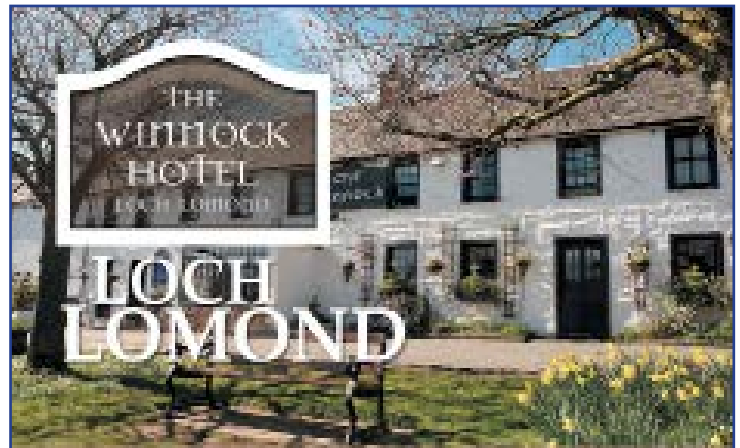
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The Voice

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 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

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Cover photo of Autumnal Balmaha Bay, Loch Lomond courtesy of local photographer Paul Saunders. Some of Paul's beautiful photographs of the National Park are available to purchase as framed or canvas wrap pictures from our online shop at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org.uk



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

www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk

Message from the President



Dear Friends,

What a splendid summer it has been with statisticians telling us this was the second hottest July on record and bumper numbers of people enjoying the delights of our National Park. This has been a welcome change after a dreadful summer last year and an extra long winter and I hope the autumn months are as pleasant as the summer months.

I continue to be fragile on the health front but recently celebrated my 99th birthday. I have enjoyed the vibrant colours in the garden over the summer here on Loch Lomondside. I have also enjoyed my regular chats and updates with George and James on the activities of the Friends and current issues relating to Loch Lomond and the wider National Park area. The Friends are in good shape and we are active on a number of fronts doing our bit as a volunteer group to help protect and promote this special place.

I was interested to hear about the success of our AGM, which was hosted for us by Luss Estates and our Honorary President Sir Malcolm Colquhoun, at the impressive Loch Lomond Arms Hotel in Luss that is such a great asset for Loch Lomond since its extensive and tasteful refurbishment last year. The talk at the AGM by Professor Tom Furniss of Strathclyde University on the literary giants of the National Park was very well received with an interesting insight to some of the journeys and writings of a plethora of writers who contributed to the popularisation of the area and its spectacular scenic beauties.

I was delighted that our involvement in the charity Kiltwalk between Hampden and Loch Lomond in the spring was such a great success with 130 folk of all ages participating in the Friends team and raising an impressive sum to support local and national children's projects. Some of the funding was quickly put to good use to support the installation of what is proving to be a very popular children's nature play area at Moss o' Balloch and to introduce some youngsters from urban areas to the Park's great outdoors with adventure activity days. A big thank you to those who participated and to the dozens of volunteers who helped out on the day and our many business sponsors who supported our fundraising efforts.

I was also pleased to receive a visit from John Beveridge of the Loch Lomond Steamship Company and to hear about the sterling efforts being made to raise sufficient funds to re-introduce sailings of the PS Maid of the Loch, which used to be such an impressive sight as she plied up and down the loch past my front windows. Good progress with the fundraising seems to be being made and I was pleased to provide a donation from my Trust fund. They still have a considerable sum to raise but it is encouraging the Steamship Company are receiving such great support from so many quarters and they deserve to succeed.

I am hoping that our efforts to secure improvements at the Stoneymollan Roundabout at the A82 entrance to the Park get underway soon as it is a year since I was advised by the Park Authority work would be starting and it is very disappointing that despite a funding package being in place nothing has happened on the ground. Meanwhile, it is encouraging our partnership with the Park to tackle removal of stretches of the Loch Lomondside tree tunnel is going from strength to strength.

*All the best,
yours aye Hannah*

Dr Hannah Stirling MBE

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Chairman's Introduction

WELCOME TO THIS AUTUMN EDITION and a selection of articles that aim to capture the special heritage qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. In this edition we reflect on how the area has coped with high levels of visitor pressure through unusually prolonged spells of hot weather over the summer and the controversial plans for further commercialisation announced by the Park Authority in response to anticipated future planned public sector funding cuts. There are also updates on topical issues, including some of the activities of the Friends and others working to make the Park a better place.



We continue to be proud that we are the only truly independent conservation and heritage charity covering the National Park as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of our formation in September 1978. It is testament to our 99 year old founding President, Dr Hannah Stirling, the many trustees, staff, volunteers, members and supporters over the years that the Friends have continued to be such a dynamic and relevant independent force helping ensure the Park remains a special place for people and nature. The National Park area has been in the news regularly over the summer months and, sadly, sometimes for the wrong reasons as some of the popular visitor hotspots such as the village of Luss and lochside beaches, and supporting car parking and road infrastructure, have struggled to cope with peak demand. The irresponsible behaviour of a growing minority of people has also spoilt the enjoyment for many in some of these more popular areas. Mopping up after busy spells has clearly been a challenge for hard pressed public sector bodies and there is a need for a review of how to better deal with, and more adequately resource, some of the basic visitor management issues such



as litter clearance and strengthening the welcome, and now well established, Operation Ironworks Initiative during the more popular periods. Some commentators and others consider there is a need for a stronger police presence and a return to deploying litter hit squads at hotspots at busy times. There is also an urgent need to re-visit the visitor management arrangements for some of the more popular Loch Lomond islands where acute littering and toileting issues have been so prevalent this summer. On a more positive note the East Loch Lomond camping and outdoor drinking byelaws introduced a couple of years ago, and associated coordinated visitor management arrangements, helped ensure what previously was a chaotic situation was much improved and it was encouraging to see violations of the byelaws being tackled head on by the Park Authority and the Police. The recent completion of the National Park's investment in the Loch Lubnaig car parks and future plans for infrastructure investment in the five lochs area with Scottish Government support should also help make a difference. Our new Heritage Lottery 'Celebrating Park People & Stories' initiative, the now well established Friends of OUR Park scheme and other fundraising efforts such as the Caledonian Challenge, the Hampden to Loch

Lomond Kiltwalk and Bill Mouldsdale/Friends golf charity event have been a great success this year. There is now a real momentum behind these going forward with many practical projects and events being supported on the ground. We are particularly pleased that Scottish Enterprise has recently confirmed £40,000 worth of support for the future development of Friends of OUR Park and Celebrating Park People and Stories and are hopeful that future funding commitments from other partners will be in place soon. It was encouraging to see such large turnouts for our series of Celebrating Park People and Stories events with the cruises on Loch Katrine and Loch Lomond and the West Highland Railway journey through the National Park being particularly popular. Storytellers, actors and musicians all contributed greatly to the success of these events and brought to life many aspects of the heritage qualities of the Park. We have also produced a fascinating series of video film podcasts featuring a range of people from different walks of life throughout the Park and they will be launched at our Celebrating Park People and Stories Conference taking place on 26th October in Gartocharn. This should be an enjoyable event for anyone interested in the rich heritage of the National Park. See details on page 22 for booking. Have an enjoyable Autumn and Winter exploring the National Park and I look forward to seeing you at our some of our future events. Thank you for continuing to support the work of the Friends, which is very much appreciated.

All the very best.

James Fraser
Chair - Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs



Left: Salloch Bay campsite on East Loch Lomond
Inset: The challenge of clearing up after busy spells



Three Lochs Way Celebrations



Above: Lt. Col. Donald Ross cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Glen Mallan bridge watched by, from left to right, Friends Trustee John Urquhart and David Robertson, the Access Trust Chairman

Above left: Jimmie Macgregor and John Urquhart admire one of the new Three Lochs Way information panels at Arrochar

Helensburgh and District Access Trust's (HADAT's) latest phase of improvements to the Three Lochs Way and the publication of an attractive and informative guide to the long distance footpath, linking communities on Loch Lomondside and along the Clyde Sea Lochs, were marked with a couple of successful launch events at Glen Mallan and the Three Villages Hall in Arrochar.

The new bridge at Glen Mallan was formally opened by Lt. Col. Donald Ross (retired), and dedicated to the memory of Dave Markland, a Gurkha Officer who helped the Trust with the planning of the 'Gurkha Bato', a road constructed by Gurkha Engineers which forms an important part of the route to the south of the bridge. Sadly, Dave was killed in Afghanistan shortly after this.

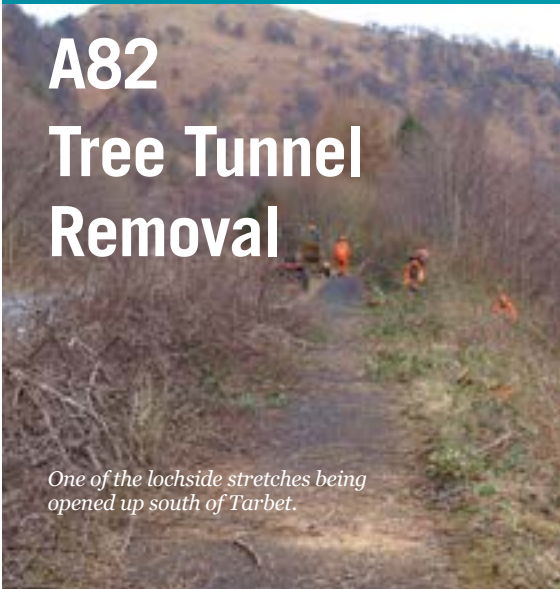
Longstanding Friends member and well-known folk singer and outdoors enthusiast, Jimmie Macgregor, launched the new guidebook and unveiled one of the new information panels which show visitors to the area where they can access the footpath network in the Arrochar/Tarbet area. Jimmie was very complimentary about the guide being so comprehensive with lots of interesting interpretation as well as navigation details.

Friends Trustee and Access Trust member John Urquhart has been heavily involved in delivering this latest phase of works and said: "It has taken 9 years and a lot of dogged determination on the part of HADAT's volunteers to get this far and we are grateful to the Friends for contributing £5,000 to the latest £30,000 package of works that has included installing information panels, signposts, self-closing gates and a footbridge as well as publishing the official *Three Lochs Way Guidebook*."

Copies of the new guidebook priced at £9.99, written by John, are available from local outlets including Balloch, Helensburgh and Tarbet VisitScotland information centres or online at www.threelochsway.com.



A82 Tree Tunnel Removal



One of the lochside stretches being opened up south of Tarbet.

The second phase of works, led by the Friends with support from the Park Authority, to remove a further 1,000 metres of trees and shrubs alongside the A82 to open up some of the best views of Ben Lomond and the loch between Luss and Tarbet, is due to be completed before Christmas. This follows on from the success of opening up of two stretches south of Tarbet earlier this year that has led to many favourable comments from visitors and locals about being able to enjoy views of the loch again.

For many years the Friends have lobbied for action to tackle stretches of the A82 'tree tunnel' that blocks out some of the best views of Ben Lomond and the loch and it is encouraging that the Park Authority is contributing £10,000 towards the latest planned phase of works. While this direct action is welcome, the Friends are continuing to press for a proper ongoing tree and shrub management plan for what is one of the busiest scenic tourist routes in Scotland.

Recent survey work also highlighted considerable deterioration in the condition of the stone dyke beside the A82, the regional cycleway and the loch and joint representations are being made by the Friends and the Park Authority to Transport Scotland as some of the works required relate to road settlement and structural repairs.

Charity Golf Day Success

A big thank you to David Mouldsdale and his Optical Express team, and the staff at Dundonald Golf Course in Ayrshire, the sister course of the Loch Lomond Golf Club, for ensuring the third Mouldsdale Foundation and Friends charity golf event was such a great success with 22 teams of four battling it out for honours in perfect conditions.

Thanks to the many participating team sponsors that included Optical Express, DM Design, Capital Radio and XL Tech. A number of national and local companies also offered their support, a particular thanks to 200 St Vincent Street, ITV, Slaters, Sweeney's Cruises, Loch Lomond Cruises, Lodge on Loch Lomond and Venachar Lochside who donated some of the prizes as part of their annual contribution to supporting the work of the Friends.

The Friends were one of two charities to benefit from the golf charity event that David Mouldsdale organises each year in memory of his late father, Bill Mouldsdale.

In the tradition of Bill's efforts to ensure disadvantaged children had the opportunity to enjoy days out, at the golf charity event dinner, James Fraser, Chairman of the Friends outlined how the bulk of the funds raised were being used to support adventure breaks for children in the National Park and in particular, at Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre which had recently been saved from closure and was now playing host to over 2,000 children a year.

David Mouldsdale, Chairman and CEO of the Optical Express Group said: "I am pleased we were able to support the Friends again with funds raised from the golf charity event. The Friends undertake great work protecting the special scenic qualities of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park but I am particularly impressed with the work they are progressing under their Young Friends initiative which is helping to ensure children's life chances are improved through residential outdoor activity and team building breaks."



He added: "Providing kids with the opportunity to enjoy such a special area and learn some life changing skills at the same time, is a great use for the monies raised from companies participating in what was again a very enjoyable golf charity event."

Tuesday 25th June

Above: The winning team Continental Eyewear celebrate their success



Walk in the Woods for Park Kids

The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and the Callander Youth Project have joined forces to go an extra mile - or 13 miles in Queen Elizabeth Forest Park near Aberfoyle to be precise - as part of a partnership with The Kiltwalk to help reach the target of raising £1million for Scotland's children's charities and to support some local children's projects in the National Park.

As part of a special Year of Natural Scotland Kiltwalk Weekend six forest walks are planned in Scotland's beautiful forests and are being supported by Forestry Commission Scotland and *The Sunday Post*.

We are encouraging anyone with an interest in supporting the youth of the National Park and the efforts to raise funds for children's projects locally and nationally to join the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and Callander Youth Project team and take part in an enjoyable 13 mile stroll through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park on Sunday, October 27. For further details contact Sandra Dyson on 01436 677733 or email info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk or simply drop into the Callander Youth Project building at Bridgend in Callander and pick up a leaflet.

Alternatively, you can register online at www.thekiltwalk.co.uk and but it is important you pass on details of your name, contact details and registration number to Sandra at the above email address.

Half of the funds raised will be used to support the Callander Youth Project, which delivers a range of practical services and projects for the benefit of young people in Callander and a wider area covering 400 square miles. The priority project identified for funding support is the creation of a 'Grow with CYP indoor and outdoor wheelchair accessible garden' with poly tunnels for use by a variety of local youth groups and organisations. The Grow with CYP initiative will be offered to local schools and organisations as an educational resource.

If sufficient funds are raised roofing repairs to the Youth Project building at Bridgend will also be supported as this would open up more areas that cannot currently be used for youth activities. The other half of the funds raised will be used to support the work of well-known national children's charities including Yorkhill, CHAS and CLIC Sargent.

Cove Wind Turbine Scheme Falts

The controversial scheme for five 92.5 metre wind turbines above Cove has faltered at the eleventh hour and within weeks of a planned public hearing. The scheme has been withdrawn, allegedly on the grounds agreement couldn't be reached between the landowners and the applicants. In an usual twist a local farmer has recently submitted a scheme for a single turbine.

The Friends were gearing up to back a group of Cowal Community Councils at the planning hearing and had previously submitted a strong objection on the grounds that the Cove development, if approved, would have a major detrimental visual impact on the scenic landscapes of the western part of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and the maritime gateway to the Park. Evidence had also been gathered to present at the hearing on adverse tourism impacts.

Corrie Aqueduct

150 year old Water Viaducts Restored

A £7 million scheme to upgrade two 26 mile-long viaducts that have carried fresh water to Glasgow from Loch Katrine in the heart of the Trossachs for over 150 years was completed in August. The investment saw improvements to tunnels and 21 bridges along the route. This included tunnels in some challenging mountainous areas in the shadow of Ben Lomond and bridges over the valleys of the Duchray, Endrick and Blane watercourses.

Commenting on the completion of the restoration scheme, General Manager of Scottish Water Operations, John Rae, said: "These aqueducts, which were part of a scheme by Queen Victoria in 1859, were a feat of engineering of their day and remain an outstanding example of sustainable civil engineering public works construction, which have stood the test of time."



Lodge Forest Visitor Centre Facelift

Following a £1.6 million upgrade Forestry Commission Scotland has recently re-opened the former David Marshall Lodge above Aberfoyle in the heart of the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The Lodge makeover includes an impressive new forest interpretation and orientation area as well as a café and gift shop. This is also the starting point for walking and cycling trails that have been upgraded. The Centre is open from 10am to 5pm throughout October.

Pictured right: Much-loved actors Timothy West and Prunella Scales visited the Maid on 9th August, and threw their support behind the campaign to return her to steam operation. Tim & Pru have been supporters since their first visit in 1999, when they gave a sell-out performance on board the Maid to raise funds.

Maid Appeal Steams On



The first phase of the latest Loch Lomond Steamship Company's public appeal for funds to return the PS Maid of the Loch to steam has generated over £90,000 with the help of the Friends and many others. This follows on from £1.7 million raised and invested since 1996. The Maid has been in the national and local media regularly over the last 6 months and is due to feature shortly in the BBC TV "Grand Tours of Scotland" series. The appeal is also now being supported by De Vere Cameron House, JJR Print, the Winnock Hotel, Lord McFall, and Friends President, Dr. Hannah Stirling.

The Steamship Company had a busy summer, with increased visitors to the ship and 18 events/functions with a Halloween Night on 26 October being the last. New children's trails have been introduced and a successful schools' painting competition was held, with over 250 entries. The Maid is now open at weekends, and on Saturdays only from November.

The Maid's hull has now been completely repainted and the ship has been looking very smart all summer, complete with flags flying. In July, Garvel Clyde Ltd. painted the ship's name on the bow free of charge. The handrails around the promenade deck have been scraped and varnished, bringing them back to the original condition when the Maid was sailing.

The Appeal is still open and the Steamship Company is looking for help to reach the £100,000 mark before the end of the year. You can donate via their website at www.maidoftheloch.com or by post to "The Maid of the Loch Appeal", P O Box 9401, Gourrock PA19 1NB.

Forest Holidays Invest in the Park

The successful spin off company from the Forestry Commission - Forest Holidays - that develops and promotes forest holiday experiences, opened the latest phase of their forest log cabins holiday retreat at Ardgartan in the Argyll Forest Park earlier this summer.

Following a £4.5 million investment, the number of luxury log cabins has been increased from 16 to 40 on the former Camping and Caravanning Club site. All the cabins have external hot tubs and there is also a forest retreat café. A range of activities is available rooted in the natural world of the forest including ranger lead walks and cycle hire. Forest Holidays have also linked up with a number of local operators to provide other activities and experiences within the National Park.

Further upgrading work has taken place at Forest Holidays sister site in the National Park at Strathyre. Remarkably, both sites have been achieving over 90 per cent year round occupancy as more couples, families and groups of friends discover and enjoy the changing seasons of the National Park's forest settings.

See www.forestholidays.co.uk for full details.

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Callander at a crossroads

THE LARGEST SETTLEMENT in the National Park is facing a number of major challenges in repositioning itself to take advantage of its status as the unofficial capital of the National Park. Here we reflect on some recent setbacks for the town and how the community is planning for a brighter future.

Following the popularisation of the Trossachs in the 19th century with the writings of Sir Walter Scott and the publication of *The Lady of the Lake* over 200 years ago, the attractive historic town became a major tourist centre. This continued through the 20th century with a further boost in the 1960s and 1970s from the hugely popular TV series Dr Findlay's Casebook that was filmed in the town. Today Callander is still a popular tourist destination, but less so, as it has to compete with changing trends and emerging competitor destinations where serious coordinated investment has taken place.

Callander has also suffered a series of setbacks with the loss of tourist accommodation, the closure of shops and now the closure of the Rob Roy & Trossachs Visitor Centre which has been such a major hub for tourism and important focal point in the heart of the town in the converted former St Kessog's Church. Over 3.5million visitors have passed through its doors over the past 23 years and the small theatre was a popular venue for locals including the local film club who were regular users of the venue. Commenting on the closure, James Fraser, Chairman of the Friends said: "The imminent closure of the iconic and popular Rob Roy & Trossachs Visitor Centre marks a very sad day for Callander and greatly weakens Callander's role as the unofficial capital

of the National Park and the Park's main tourist service centre. It is a major setback for the local community and those who are working to make Callander a better place to live, work and visit. It also throws into doubt the level of commitment of some of the stakeholders to help deliver the bright new future set out in the charrette report developed almost two years ago and so enthusiastically endorsed by the local community."

He added: "There was an opportunity here to pool the resources and talents of bodies with tourism responsibilities and the local community to sustain this strategically important heritage and tourist centre which now faces an uncertain future. It also serves as a timely reminder that coordinated action is needed now to strengthen the heart of the town and ensure Callander fulfils its undoubted potential as a must visit year round destination in the National Park. It simply cannot afford to fall behind other National Park gateway towns where millions are currently being invested"

Meanwhile, some early actions in helping to deliver the Callander of the future are underway and the inclusion of some of the more ambitious proposals in the National Park's next Development Plan will be an important milestone as will the commitment of some serious resources by the public and private sector.

The first phase of improvements to Ancaster Square is due to start this autumn and the community has agreed a vision for developing the north square for events and community use, including an all-weather canopy. Scotland's first community-owned hydro scheme will soon be built by a company owned by Callander Community Development Trust.

A Town Co-ordinator was appointed in April with part funding from Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER, Stirling Council, the National Park Authority and the Scottish Government's People & Communities Fund. Sheila Winstone has been busy meeting with the many organisations active in Callander and is excited about the challenges ahead. She said: "It's easy to think that things are bleak, but we have a fantastic opportunity. This summer alone we've seen a vibrant new retail outlet opened by a group of local artists and crafters, supported by Callander Enterprise and Community Development Trust. Another group of volunteers has completed a community friendship garden and others are gearing up for the 8th annual Callander Jazz and Blues festival in October, which draws visitors from around the UK."

While there is a wealth of voluntary action in the town, it has never been more important for the agencies to work together and with the community to deliver a bright future for Callander.



The popular Rob Roy & Trossachs Visitor Centre is facing an uncertain future following the decision by Stirling Council to close the building and put it up for sale.

The Lake POETS

Local historian and literary expert Louis Stott writes about the Lake District poets who loved Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and were inspired to write striking poems about the area's special scenic landscapes.

“A laugh was on every face when William said we were come to see the Trossachs; no doubt they thought we had better stayed in our own homes.”

Dorothy Wordsworth
Recollections 1803

LOCH LOMOND and the Trossachs National Park is the setting for a dozen of Wordsworth's most striking Scottish poems. In 1803 William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the observant Dorothy Wordsworth, rode through Glasgow towards Dumbarton. They participated in the growing appreciation of the Scottish countryside, although it was always somewhat overwhelmed by their long association with the English Lakes. They loved Scotland: Burns delighted them, they paid homage to Smollett, they influenced and were influenced by Scott.

The 'Lake School' of poetry, is Scottish in origin. The editor Francis Jeffrey originally used it in the Edinburgh Review as a term of disparagement. The "school" consisted, in essence, of three poets, Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey, together with Charles Lamb, Charles Lloyd, and a rumbustious Scotsman, John Wilson ('Christopher North'). By and large it is Wordsworth's poems which account for the impact that the Lake Poets had in Scotland, but Dorothy Wordsworth's *Recollections* depict the inhabitants of the country, and their way of life. In combination they are unsurpassed. A feature of the *Recollections* is the way that Dorothy appears to set the scene for William's poems. What we cannot always know is which of the two of them saw it that way first, although, in a revealing passage about the Garrison of Inversnaid, Dorothy comments that she 'thought so before he said it'. Dorothy was often enthusiastic about Scottish scenery; for example, she praised the intimacy between land and water amongst the islands of Loch Lomond, calling it 'exquisitely pleasing'. However, both of them were also prone to compare Scotland with the Lake District, almost always to Scotland's disadvantage.

Wordsworth, believed that 'it must be more desirable, for the purposes of pleasure, that lakes should be numerous, and small or middle-sized, rather than large' and that in Loch Lomond 'the proportion of diffused water is often too great'. The three have high praise for the Trossachs. Indeed, Coleridge pays the place the highest compliment he can think of, by likening it to Borrowdale, one of the most sublime parts of the Lake District. In Coleridge's *Table Talk* [1836] he asserted that two of the five finest things in Scotland were the view of Loch Lomond from Inchtavannach, and the Trossachs. The 1803 visit produced *Memorials of a Tour in Scotland, 1803*, consisting of fifteen poems, including *To a Highland Girl*, *Stepping Westward*, *The Solitary Reaper*, and *Rob Roy's Grave*. With much justification Francis Jeffrey considered some of the poems rather slight, and *Rob Roy's Grave*, which has one or two memorable quatrains, silly. For his part Wordsworth was ridiculously conceited about it. Someone said that the next Waverley novel was to be *Rob Roy*, at which Wordsworth read to the company *Rob Roy's Grave*; and then observed 'I do not know what more Mr Scott can have to say upon the subject'.

The Solitary Reaper

Behold her single in the field
Yon solitary Highland Lass,
Reaping and singing by herself -
Stop here or gently pass.
Alone she cuts and the grain
And sings a melancholy strain.
Oh listen for the Vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.

No nightingale did ever chaunt
So sweetly to reposing bands
Of travellers in some shady haunt
Among Arabian sands
No sweeter voice was ever heard
In spring-time from the cuckoo-bird
Breaking the silence of the seas
Beyond the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings?
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
Of battles long ago;
Or is it some more humble lay -
Familiar matter of today -
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain
That has been, and may be again.

Whate'er the theme, the maiden sung
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er her sickle bending;
I listen'd till I had my fill,
And as I mounted up the hill
The music in my heart I bore
Long after it was heard no more.

of the National Park

However, Inversnaid inspired one of the finest of Wordsworth's Scottish poems, *To a Highland Girl*:

And these grey rocks; that household lawn

Those trees, a veil just half withdrawn

This fall of water that doth make

A murmur near the silent lake;

This little bay; a quiet road

That holds in shelter thy abode

In truth together do ye seem

Like something fashioned in a dream

Some of Wordsworth's best poems about Scotland were 'recollected in tranquillity', for example, the first three lines of *Kilchurn Castle* came to Wordsworth at once, but it was many years before he completed it. What is often regarded as Wordsworth's most haunting Scottish poem, *Stepping Westwards*, was composed on 3rd June 1805 in the Lake District.

A neighbour in the Lakes, Thomas Wilkinson, inspired *The Solitary Reaper*, probably Wordsworth's most distinguished Scottish poem:

'Passed by a female who was reaping alone, she sung in Erse as she bended over her sickle, the sweetest human voice I ever heard. Her strains were tenderly melancholy, and felt delicious long after they were heard no more.'

Wilkinson was talking about a scene he had seen at Loch Lomond, but it was near Loch Voil that the Wordsworths saw reapers in the fields. It contains some fine imagery and reworks a theme Wordsworth returned to again and again: the way nature stays in the mind's eye.

The Solitary Reaper reflects Wordsworth's own philosophy of poetry; that a poem should be a 'spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings, recollected in tranquillity'. The visit of 1814 produced a curious poem, *Suggested by a Beautiful Ruin* upon one of the Islands of Loch Lomond, about a hermit's cell, based on a story told to Wordsworth at Pulpit Rock. He returned to the theme in 1831 with *The Brownie*. A beautiful sonnet, *The Trossachs*, was also composed in 1831. It is, perhaps, the most compelling of Wordsworth's poems associated with the National Park. *The Highland Hut*, published in 1831 must be 1803 'recollected in tranquillity'. Other poems are rather less important but there are verses about *The Rest and Be Thankful*, *Tyndrum* and *Killin*.

Wordsworth journeyed to Scotland five times – to attend a wedding in Glasgow in 1801; with Dorothy and Coleridge in 1803; with his wife and her sister in 1814; driven by his daughter Dora in 1831; and with his son John and Henry Crabb Robinson in 1833. Southey traversed Scotland in 1819, and Dorothy revisited the country in 1822. Wordsworth travelled to find emotional stimulus, the mainspring of his poetry. Scotland as a whole provides the setting for about sixty of Wordsworth's verses. In a letter to Scott on 7th November 1805 Wordsworth said 'I long to see more of Scotland, both north and south; it is (not excepting the Alps) the most poetical country I ever travelled in'.



Wordsworth in 1806

THE TROSSACHS

As recorded in my sister's Journal, I had first seen the Trossachs in her and Coleridge's company. The sentiment that runs through this Sonnet was natural to the season in which I again saw this beautiful spot; but this and some other sonnets that follow were coloured by the remembrance of my recent visit to Sir Walter Scott, and the melancholy errand on which he was going.

*There's not a nook within this solemn Pass,
But were an apt confessional for One
Taught by his summer spent, his autumn gone,*

*That Life is but a tale of morning grass
Withered at eve. From scenes of art which chase*

That thought away, turn, and with watchful eyes

*Feed it 'mid Nature's old felicities,
Rocks, rivers, and smooth lakes more clear than glass*

Untouched, unbreathed upon. Thrice happy quest,

*If from a golden perch of aspen spray
(October's workmanship to rival May)*

*The pensive warbler of the ruddy breast
That moral sweeten by a heaven-taught lay,*

Lulling the year, with all its cares, to rest!

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Commercialisation and the Park

The National Park Authority announced plans in June to step up efforts to raise more commercial income to support their activities and this led to a flurry of coverage in the national and local media over the summer months. Below the Park Authority's Chief Executive Fiona Logan explains more about the plans and Bill McDermott, Chairman of the Scottish Campaign for National Parks and a former Director of the Peak District National Park cautions against going too far down the commercialisation route.



Fiona Logan,
Chief Executive of the National Park

The National Park Authority's (NPA) role is to protect and care for our National Park because of its outstanding natural beauty and diverse natural and cultural heritage. Central to this is working closely with partners in the public, private and third sectors to secure resources and investment for the area.

The current economic climate is challenging and the reality is that public funding alone is very unlikely to keep pace with the increasing costs of delivering services and facilities to the high standard our visitors and residents expect in an internationally renowned National Park. The NPA must rise to this challenge and be open to appropriate commercial initiatives that reduce running costs and increase income streams to both safeguard the Park's future and create an excellent visitor experience. We are committed to finding innovative and creative ways for the National Park to become more self-sustaining to allow future generations to enjoy the Park as we do today.

We have been actively investing into the visitor infrastructure of the National Park over the last few years, in line with our National Park Partnership Plan, endorsed by Scottish Government. In tandem, we run a huge range of conservation and visitor management initiatives alongside our public and third sector partners. This strategy has generated confidence from the private sector which is now responding by offering a wider range of services to our 4 million annual visitors. This allows the National Park Authority to continue investing in conservation and visitor infrastructure. As a result, we are seeing tangible benefits for our communities and for the many visitors who enjoy this very special place.

I want to stress that 'privatisation' is not a goal or word I would ever use in relation to the National Park. We are not wholesale selling off public assets and there will always be services and facilities that will be delivered through public funding.

This debate is about finding additional opportunities to supplement our income through different funding streams to ensure we have the resources to manage and protect a very special place for future generations



Bill McDermott,
Chairman of Scottish
Campaign for National Parks

Entering the debate about how far the National Park Authority should go in commercialising its assets, I want to make one thing clear at the outset. When visiting the National Park or making use of its facilities, there are plenty of opportunities to pay for services rendered, whether it be going into a souvenir shop, buying a cup of tea, having a boat trip or joining a guided walk.

But if the reportage in *The Herald* is to be believed, the discussion taking place within the National Park Authority on seeking commercial opportunities go far beyond that incidental spending by visitors. We are led to believe that the Authority can be self-financing within ten years. Now that does introduce a new dimension to the debate and it is one that needs teasing out.

The first thing that comes to mind when discussing national parks around the world is that they represent the best natural and cultural heritage on offer from the host country. They offer what amounts to a guarantee of quality. They are shop windows to the world. They are a statement of pride in what a nation can present to its visitors. That all costs money, but being in the forefront of the nation's affairs, as they should be, scrimping on quality to save money is not an acceptable way forward.

A consequence of that stance is the need to present national parks as a public good. This is not about knowing the cost of everything and the value of nothing or following the vagaries of the market. Good managers will, of course do all they can to find imaginative ways of seeking value for money, but conserving the heritage which we all come to see should always be uppermost, and governments as the main funders should be in no doubt that national parks need to be largely funded from tax because they exist for the public good. They are part of our commonweal.

Concentrating on finding more and more ways to make money in a drive to be self-financing will inevitably lead to contortions unworthy of the national park brand. That brand cannot be sold. It belongs to us.





Keith Graham writes about the impact of changing seasons on wildlife, including the mass migration of birds and dramas in the National Park glens.



Nature of the

The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us. It is a time of significant change. Throughout the National Park, creatures both great and small are readying themselves for approaching winter. For many of course, this will be the first major challenge of their short lives, for most of them face that challenge alone, bereft of parental guidance and succour. There is of course much movement to witness. Whilst the vast hordes of summer visitors to the park have bidden us farewell to fly south, following the sun, others are beginning to arrive.

Out of those first autumn mists have already arrived the vanguard of the masses of pink-footed geese that will spend the winter here. The first to make landfall here were the non-breeders but the clamour will intensify as the bulk of them descend, mostly in October, including this year's progeny. For them too the flight across the North Atlantic is the first major challenge of their lives. However, by the very nature of goose society, they will be led and protected by the more experienced adults. Geese do things together, for they live in tight knit and often, substantial communities.

In October too, white fronted geese from Greenland will arrive on Loch Lomond's ample waters. And as the days shorten, the resident mute swans may find their watery territories invaded by the slightly lighter and smaller whooper swans as they arrive from Iceland. If the geese may sound a trifle raucous with their constant gabbling conversations the whoopers

bring a softer tone with their mellow fluting. They are also considerably more athletic in take off and flight compared with the lumbering mutes.

Viking Raiders

There are many other migrants seeking solace here, retreating from their northern breeding grounds as winter frosts begin to paralyse their food sources. Short-eared owls come across the North Sea, tiny goldcrests, snipe and woodcock, which, according to ancient myth they say, spend their summer on the moon! And many more, indistinguishable from our native birds also make the journey to take advantage of our Gulf Stream warmed winter climate. And flocks of the Viking raiders, fieldfares and redwings descend upon many parts of the park to strip what remains of the berry crop, especially the red, red rowans.

With so many rivers, burns and lochs within the park, there is always life to be discovered right through autumn and winter. Where burns and rivers rage there you will find hyper-active dippers, ever bobbing and curtseying, their nervous energy somehow matching the restless, churning waters. More stoic are the herons as they wait patiently beside calmer water, on a river-bank or on some loch-shore waiting, ever waiting to strike with the speed of a serpent when small fish come within range. Otters betray their presence in a swirl of water or slip quietly down a river-bank and sudden

flashes of blue and orange betray the presence of kingfishers. Where there's water, there's always plenty of action!

Throughout the park as September gives way first to October and then November, the illuminations are switched on. Autumn gold and autumn red fill the landscape with so much brilliant colour as to surely rival the famous artificial light shows put on by the folk of Blackpool. These are our illuminations and they are literally breathtaking in their splendour. And although this blaze of colour tells us that the lives of the leaves, the brackens, the grasses, hedgerows and woods are ebbing as winter nears, this is not really an ending but a new beginning. If winter's icy pall nears it nevertheless will not be that long before the first signs of new green shoots begin to show themselves.

Stag Dramas

And of course, there are yet dramas to be played out. Up in the Highland glens, as the year approaches its final phase, there is evident, a restlessness and a distinct change of mood. Throughout the year the red deer stags and hinds have lived separate yet corporate lives, the stags, enlisting in their single sex herds and the hinds with their calves likewise. Now, among the stags tempers are like the days, shortening as preparations for the battles that surely lie ahead are made, for as October dawns, the climax of their year is at hand.

Speculation about global warming seems



e Park

to have become a national, nay a global pastime! The world's climate has and always will remain volatile, constantly changing and we are without doubt in a period of rising temperatures and rather more eccentric weather conditions. Recent evidence points to global warming bringing that climactic event, the red deer rut, forward. It is also thought that the stags are casting their antlers in the spring, marginally earlier and that the startling new growth of new antlers they exhibit during the summer months, is resulting in slightly bigger antlers. These of course, are the weapons that will be employed in no uncertain manner in the glens as the sap within these mighty warriors, rises.

Thus as October days pass, will those glens echo to the challenging roars of the stags and perhaps resound to the hard clash of those mighty heads as battle is joined. Such is the passion generated that a casual observer would perhaps consider calling for psychiatric help as the stags almost seem to be out of control, so excited and emotional do they become! The master stags patrol their stances, chivvying their harems of hinds yet are always looking for the challenge to come from other masters. Each protagonist seeks to gain the advantage and when two well matched stags meet, mighty heads tangle and there is much shoving and pushing in great tests of physical strength. Who dares wins! This is the red deer rut and it is a moving experience to say the least!

Spirit of Adventure

And above this clamour sail the likes of eagles, at last freed of the responsibility of producing and rearing the next generation. Now this year's young must find their own way in the world. That same spirit of adventure is also evident in the park's Lowland woodlands for the hooting and screeching of young tawny owls indicates that they too are seeking a place in the world and of course finding that a difficult proposition where their seniors are well established. Eagles do not enjoy such luxuries as paternity or maternity leave. Whilst this year's job is done, preparations for next year will already be in hand before the year turns. Eagles pair for life and after this short autumnal break, thoughts will already turn to the choice of eyrie for next year's main event.

After an extraordinary year, marked by a long and bitterly cold spring which delayed the arrival of many migrants and indeed the breeding programmes of many of the more sedentary birds, summer suddenly bloomed in its full glory. For many, productivity soared but for the early nesters success was to say the least, mixed. Now the cycle, after a brief pause, during mid-winter, will begin again. Meanwhile, we may be entertained by the birds that now flock to our gardens, to partake of our generosity, which I guess, is fuelled by our curiosity. And we will surely rejoice in the cheerful voices those eternal songsters the redbreasts and perhaps by the amazing bursts of song that emanate from tiny

wrens. Astonishingly in a song lasting for no more than five seconds, well over fifty notes ensue from the throat of that minuscule bird.

If that duo of robin and wren alone, keep us in touch with birdsong during the depths of winter, it will not be long before others begin to anticipate the coming of spring as days at last begin to lengthen. The strident calling of great its is often one of the first to be heard. I well remember a blackbird bursting into song one Christmas Eve and sometimes the merle as it is popularly known, can be so precocious as to give us excerpts of his song very early in the year. The growth of great spotted woodpecker populations within the park is signalled by the drumming sound of their feverish pounding. As each day provides those extra moments of light others too greet every hint of spring and a momentum begins to gather.

Catkins form and tiny fragments of life begin to emerge as slowly the park begins to breathe new life and fulfil Nature's eternal promise. A new cycle slowly gathers pace despite the eye being constantly drawn towards the icing sugar snow capped peaks, which always provide us with that dramatic backdrop. Even if Jack Frost may sometimes seem to have us in his grip; even if the snows persist, the increasing hours of daylight steer us inexorably towards the new dawn of spring. Hope and indeed Nature springs eternal!

Spring and Summer OUR park activities

Our flagship scheme Friends of OUR park continues to grow with new partnerships forged with a variety of additional businesses, organisations and community groups in our quest to make a positive and practical difference to this outstanding area of Scotland. It is heartening to see increasing numbers of businesses and volunteers supporting efforts to improve the wonderful heritage of the National Park through the scheme, as well as those who are already involved looking at new and innovative ways to contribute.

Friends of OUR park funding partners – We gratefully acknowledge the continued support of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Natural Heritage in developing the Friends of OUR park scheme which is going from strength to strength



Caledonian Challenge (June)

Once again our hardy volunteers helped marshal this 54 mile sponsored walk which finishes in the northern area of the Park at Strathfillan. Our volunteers worked through the night to support the walkers as they neared completion of their hike, and raised a tremendous £1,200 for Friends of OUR park in the process!

Our Support Officer Sandra Dyson with volunteer marshal and the Caledonian Challenge mascot



Glenfinart Walled Garden (July & August)

Assisted with creating a new sensory garden at The Glenfinart Walled Garden just outside the village of Ardentiny in Cowal. The garden was designed by the BBC's Beechgrove Garden Team and will provide sensory opportunities for sound – such as grasses to maximise the impact of wind, touch – such as 4 seats each incorporating a different texture, sight – strong colours of red, yellow, lime and orange and smell – a variety of sweet smelling plants for every season. Creation of the garden was recently broadcast on BBC.

The Garden also comprises an orchard, children's garden and vegetable plot producing affordable fruit and vegetables. The Garden is now open to the public every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 3pm.

For more information please visit www.ardentiny.org.

Celebrating the completion of the Sensory Garden

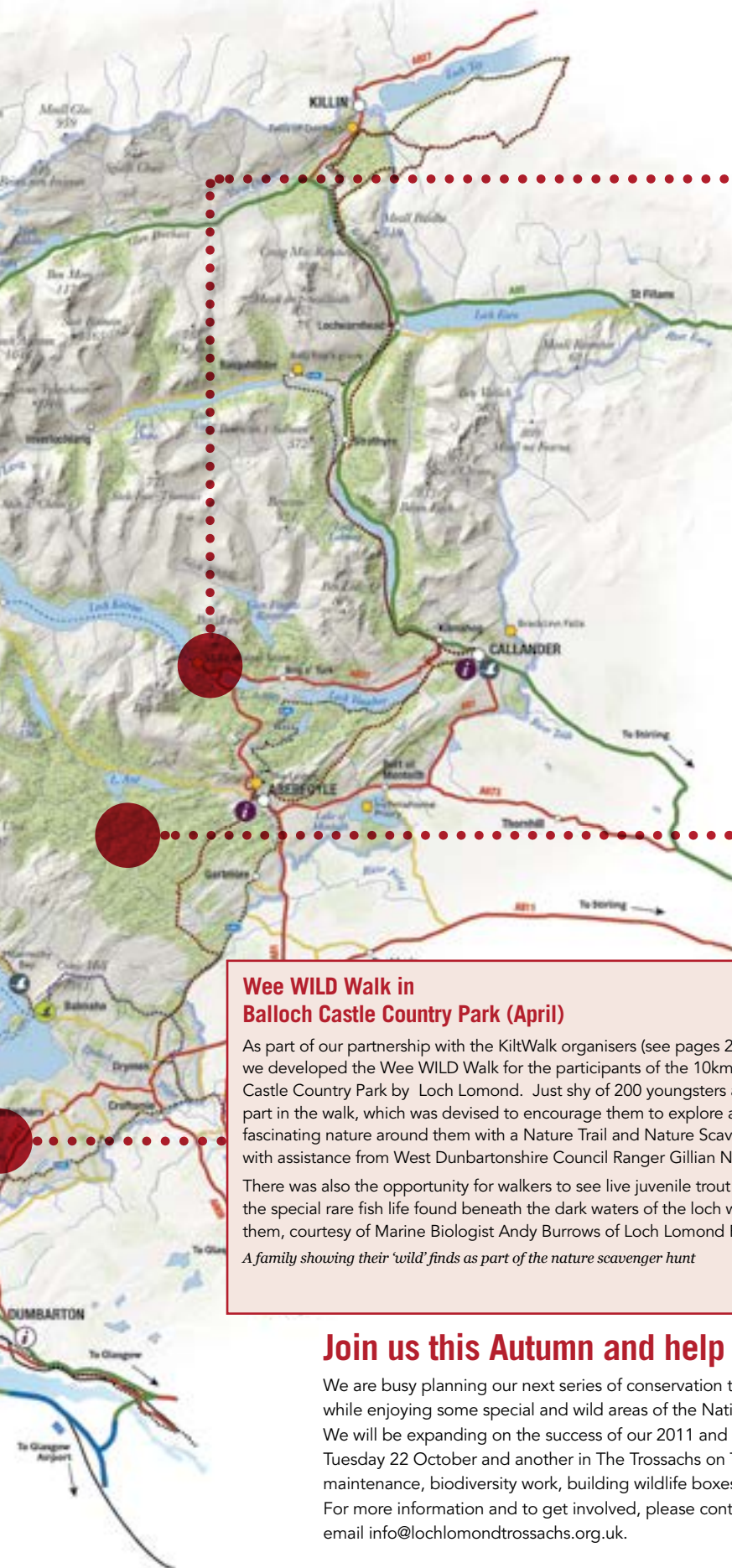


Luss Spring Clean (March)

Worked with Luss Development Trust in March to assist with their annual clean-up removing litter from the beach and village as well as improving the extensive local path network by cutting back overgrown vegetation.

Some of the volunteers on the day with local MSP Jackie Baillie (left)

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Trossachs Clean Up (April)

Joint event with the Trossachs Development Trust involving 35 volunteers in April clearing over 100 bags of litter from the shores of Loch Achray and Loch Venachar as well as Glen Finglas and the village of Brig o' Turk. Other larger items removed that had been discarded in more inaccessible areas of the lochsides included a double duvet and a sewing machine
Removing drink cans tossed from passing vehicles on the road side between Loch Achray and Loch Katrine

Water Vole Surveys (Spring/Summer)

Some of our volunteers joined the Trossachs Water Vole Project at Loch Ard Forest to assist with surveying the population of 1,000 water voles introduced in to the area between 2008 and 2011. The survey data will provide vital monitoring information on the spread of the population for this ground-breaking project, which is the first water vole reintroduction programme in Scotland.

Wee WILD Walk in Balloch Castle Country Park (April)

As part of our partnership with the KiltWalk organisers (see pages 24-25 for more on this) we developed the Wee WILD Walk for the participants of the 10km Wee KiltWalk at Balloch Castle Country Park by Loch Lomond. Just shy of 200 youngsters and their families took part in the walk, which was devised to encourage them to explore and discover some of the fascinating nature around them with a Nature Trail and Nature Scavenger Hunt, developed with assistance from West Dunbartonshire Council Ranger Gillian Neil.

There was also the opportunity for walkers to see live juvenile trout and find out more about the special rare fish life found beneath the dark waters of the loch which swept in front of them, courtesy of Marine Biologist Andy Burrows of Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust.

A family showing their 'wild' finds as part of the nature scavenger hunt



Join us this Autumn and help make a difference!

We are busy planning our next series of conservation tasks for people to come out and make a positive difference while enjoying some special and wild areas of the National Park.

We will be expanding on the success of our 2011 and 2012 Make a Difference Days with a day in Cowal on Tuesday 22 October and another in The Trossachs on Thursday 24 October. Tasks planned include path maintenance, biodiversity work, building wildlife boxes, ancient tree location as well as some litter clearance tasks. For more information and to get involved, please contact Support Officer Sandra Dyson on 01436 677 733 or by email info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk.

Business Fundraising Highlights

Business Support Grows

Robert Hamilton of Vigour Events said

"We are delighted to have partnered with Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs for our outdoor swim series in the National Park. As an Event Organiser committed to the sustainability of the environment within which we operate, it makes complete sense to give something back to the stunning local area. Involvement with the Friends of OUR park is an obvious and excellent way for us to do this."



Businesses across the National Park are continuing to demonstrate their commitment to protecting and enhancing the special heritage of the area, with new members joining OUR park over the summer. We are also delighted to see a number of current members expand the way in which they support the scheme to make a difference.

As always, we are extremely grateful to all our business members for their commitment to fundraising for this very special part of Scotland, and for giving their customers the opportunity to support vital projects.

We are also thankful to the growing number of businesses who have contributed great raffle and auction prizes for our partnership fundraising events such as our annual golf charity event and the popular Hampden to Loch Lomond KiltWalk.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- The newly refurbished **Loch Lomond Arms Hotel** is now donating £1 on sales of their haggis, neeps and tattie main meal dish, and have raised over £600 in just a few months!
- Outdoor swimming event organiser **Vigour Events** are now offering all individuals participating in one of their four outdoor swims in the National Park the opportunity to fundraise for Friends of OUR park as part of their swim challenge. **Vigour Events** are giving participants in their swims the opportunity to make their swim count by fundraising for OUR park as well as making a contribution of £1 from each post-swim massage. They also plan to incorporate a donation from the registration fee of each participant.
- **Monachyle Mhor Hotel**, one of our earliest supporters, went live in August with their opt-out of £1 at check-out. Every guest staying in their luxury boutique hotel has given the donation to date.
- **Venachar Lochside Restaurant & Cafe** at Loch Venachar are sponsoring a menu item from their new seasonal menu.
- **The Oak Tree Inn** in Balmaha, not content with their already very successful £1 opt-out on accommodation bookings, have now expanded their support of the scheme by donating £1 from every sale of their 'Clansman Burger' – an indulgent burger with haggis and a whisky sauce.
- We are also pleased to welcome upgraded members **Cruise Loch Lomond** who are now offering guests booking a Loch Lomond cruise online the opportunity to donate to the scheme.
- Other members who have recently upgraded their membership over the summer are **Balquhiddar Braes Holiday Park** and **Glendaruel Caravan Park** who are now offering their guests the option to make a donation at booking.



Project News Update

We continue to support a range of conservation, wildlife and paths projects throughout the Park and a growing area of activity is supporting Young Friends projects linked to our involvement in the KiltWalk that was supported by over 150 volunteers who either participated in walks or volunteered as marshals and raffle ticket sellers (see pages 24-25 for more details). We are also pleased to have recently assisted two community groups with their local green spaces projects – the Callander Friendship Garden and the first phase of the Balmaha Village Improvement Scheme.



Callander Friendship Garden wall building
Photo by Susan O'Boyle



People enjoying the new Callander Friendship Garden
Photo by Lesley Hawkins

Callander Friendship Garden

Hilary Gunkel of Greener Callander describes the background to the Callander Friendship Garden, which has been taking shape over the summer. There has been human settlement in Callander for over 6,000 years and visitors have often become residents, creating a lively and varied community.

Greener Callander (part of Callander Community Development Trust) has drawn upon this in creating the new Callander Friendship Garden in South Church Street. The site was formerly occupied by public conveniences, demolished by Stirling Council in late 2011. It lies between Callander Kirk and the Library on a well-used route between Main Street and the river, on the safe walking route to both schools. The undulating drystone wall, echoing that of the nearby Frerichs memorial garden, was built by a team of local and West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association volunteers this July. Puddingstone boulders and logs extend the line of the wall and wooden benches invite people to linger. The plants used in the garden are predominantly native species, including some that would have been around 12,000 years ago when glaciers created the Callander Moraine. There is a miniature version of the Auchenaich Cairn, topped with turf, wild strawberries and thyme.

The labyrinth of granite setts encloses white pebbles representing the history of pearl fishing

in the River Teith, hence Pearl Street. Perhaps the most important feature of the Friendship Garden, and the one which justifies its name, are the 35 stepping stones of Caithness stone, etched with the logos of the clubs and organisation of the town who have sponsored them.

We are extremely grateful for the early award of £1,000 from Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs' OUR Park scheme to help turn our plan into reality. The project was also funded by Awards for All Scotland, Airtricity, Stirling Council Community Pride scheme and CSV ActionEarth.

By mid August the hard landscaping and most of the planting had been completed, with only the community stepping stones still to arrive. It was thrilling to watch people's reactions as the parking cones and tape were removed; within minutes a local man sat on a bench to eat his lunch, followed by a family group of ten visitors with a picnic. As children and mums returned from school in the afternoon, the garden's play possibilities were explored, with kids walking along the logs and round the hex bed or tracing the labyrinth.

The Friendship Garden was officially opened by Friends' Chair James Fraser on the afternoon of Sunday 29 September to celebrate our efforts over the last eighteen months and to hand over this exciting new public space to the town.

Balmaha Village Enhancement Update

We are pleased to have awarded £1,500 to Buchanan Community Council for the first phase of their village enhancement improvements on the public site of the old toilet block in Balmaha, to create a more welcoming and pleasant central focus in the village. Plans include removing tree stumps and re-landscaping the area, adding a deer sculpture and an interpretation board giving more information on the Islands of Loch Lomond.

Joe Twaddle, Secretary of Buchanan Community Council said "We are very grateful, and it is appropriate that our first grant for the project should come from the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs-friends indeed. This will allow us to make an early start on the ground preparation."



Presentation by our Chair James Fraser and local OUR park fundraiser Sandy Fraser of The Oak Tree to Joe Twaddle of Buchanan Community Council with the £1,500 grant award. Also with OUR park Advisory Group Members Paul Roberts of SNH, David Robertson of Forest Commission Scotland and Charlie Croft of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority.

Managing Visitor Pressures in the Park



Inspector Gerry McMenemy of Police Scotland explains how the agencies working under the umbrella of Operation Ironworks coped with bumper visitor numbers at hotspots this summer.

We've all witnessed somewhat of a rarity this year – a proper summer, even now the warm temperatures are still with us! The prolonged exceptional weather has brought record breaking numbers of people to the National Park which is fantastic for local businesses although it does raise some challenges in terms of how we ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time in the Park. Because of the immense popularity of the National Park, often huge numbers of people can come together in particularly pressured areas. Operation Ironworks was launched six years ago to tackle any incidents where visitors and communities see antisocial or irresponsible behaviour. Working together in partnership with the National Park Authority and Forestry Commission Scotland, Ironworks is a 6-month initiative across the National Park. This year is the first under single service Police Scotland which has given us even more opportunity to share our resources across the Park. Police officers and rangers teamed up throughout the season to target issues such as vandalism, litter, noise disturbance and irresponsible use of vehicles on the road network within the Park. I'm pleased to say that the majority of visitors coming to the National Park behaved responsibly and enjoyed

the fantastic scenery Loch Lomond & The Trossachs has to offer. Inevitably with such increased visitors, we will come across some anti-social behaviour. We've had extra police officers patrolling until the early hours of the morning and have worked with other departments including the dog section, roads policing unit and marine unit to cover land and water. The courts have taken our reports of incidents from within the National Park very seriously and on the very few occasions where an individual has been arrested as a result of anti-social behaviour or disorder, the courts have implemented bail conditions preventing people from entering the National Park. This sends out a clear message that anti-social behaviour or disorder will not be tolerated. East Lomondside has been more popular than ever with few incidents reported throughout the summer. It was great to see so many family groups enjoying the area. The Trossachs saw a surge of visitors and we dealt with a number of issues relating to camping and irresponsible parking. It has also been incredibly busy on the west side of Loch Lomond with litter continuing to cause a nuisance; not only here but in other areas of the Park. Unfortunately, we still come across people who think it's acceptable to ruin a good view with litter.

As part of Operation Ironworks, I met regularly with my colleagues both within Police Scotland and partners and discussed issues including litter and other areas or locations that need a shared approach to ensure that visitors and residents have an enjoyable and safe experience. We will continue this work and in particular seek to discuss and implement measures that will assist in dealing with those who litter our environment. We are fortunate to live in one of the most spectacular parts of the country and that is why the area is such a big attraction to so many people from all corners of the globe. It is an absolute privilege to help look after Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Making sure this special part of Scotland remains a safe and enjoyable place to visit is only possible by continuing the partnership approach with key organisations such as the National Park Authority, local authorities, communities and partner organisations.



Police officers and National Park rangers on joint Ironworks patrol



Great Scottish Swim

On Saturday 24 August, the National Park and Loch Lomond in particular played host to the Great Scottish Swim for the first time in the event's history.

The swim attracted 1900 participants from novice swimmers to top elite athletes, and offered the choice of competing in half mile, one mile and two mile swims.

The National Park worked closely with organisers Nova International to secure Loch Lomond as the venue for Scotland's biggest open water swimming event. The day was an exceptional success and saw over 8000 people visit the area, with over 50% of visitors coming from outside Scotland, bringing a welcome boost to the local economy.

Commonwealth gold medallist and TV presenter, Iwan Thomas MBE, who completed the one mile distance said, "I thoroughly enjoyed it. Swimming in the open water is so much fun - an amazing event in an incredible location."

Edinburgh-based Keri-Anne Payne, world 10k open water swimming champion, took part in the elite women's 1 mile race and, after taking an early lead, went on to win with a time of 18:19:26. The other podium finishers in the tough women's challenge were Rebecca Smith from the Isle of Skye who came in second, and Camilla Hattersley from Glasgow who was placed third.

Keri-Anne said, "It's such a nice course and a beautiful location. I was really pleased to win, it was great!"

The extremely competitive elite men's race was won by Alex Studzinski of Germany in a time of 16:46:99. Chad Ho from South Africa finished a close second, followed by Christian Reichert of Germany who was placed third. Commonwealth Games pool swimming gold medallist, Robbie Renwick from Glasgow, was 10th in his second ever open-water event.

For more information on results from the Great Scottish Swim or to find out information about other events in the Great Swim series visit www.greatswim.org/scotland



2 mile green wave starts © SNS Group



View from slipway © Ruth Cope



Iwan Thomas © SNS Group



Keri-Anne Payne © SNS Group

Mairi Bell, Head of Visitor Experience for the National Park said, "We were really proud to host this fantastic event for the first time. It was great to see so many people enjoying themselves in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. With visitors coming from around the UK, the Great Scottish Swim has had a positive impact on the local area and has showcased the very best Scotland has to offer."

Alex Jackson, Great Swim Series Director at Nova International said, "It was an absolutely incredible day at Loch Lomond. The enthusiasm and excitement of swimmers, supporters and spectators provided an amazing atmosphere from start to finish."

CELEBRATING PARK PEOPLE

With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Enterprise, the Friends have stepped up efforts to showcase the rich and varied stories of people past and present associated with the National Park. The busy programme of activity over the past year has been a great success and has included a series of interesting storytelling visits, concerts and events as well as a series of video films of Park people and their stories.

Details of some of the highlights and future events are covered here.



APRIL ■ A CELEBRATION OF CONTEMPORARY SCOTS MUSIC AND SONG

More than 40 people enjoyed the first in the series of Celebrating Park People & Stories events, with local singer and songwriter Ken Campbell and Linsey Aitken on cello and vocals. They spent a pleasant afternoon in the stunning surroundings of Ardoch at Gartocharn overlooking Loch Lomond listening to some distinctive vocals and original songs, including enchanting music inspired by the views from the south end of the loch where Ken and Linsey both live.



Above: Linsey and Ken relax in the grounds of Ardoch after a very successful concert.

MAY ■ TALK ON THE LITERARY GIANTS OF THE NATIONAL PARK

The recently refurbished Loch Lomond Arms Hotel, Luss hosted a fascinating talk from Professor Tom Furniss of Strathclyde University on the literary giants who contributed to the popularisation of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs area. Tom provided an interesting and humorous insight to the writings of dozens of writers inspired by the scenic landscapes of the Park.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE ■ A CELEBRATION OF THE LOCH KATRINE STORY

Almost 100 people enjoyed a magical evening in perfect weather conditions on the Steamship Sir Walter Scott at Loch Katrine with local storytellers David Kinnaird *above* and John Barrington, who once farmed the loch's shores, giving unusual insights to the stories associated with Loch Katrine. They were joined on the atmospheric evening by pipers from the Strathendrick Pipe Band. The event was made possible by the great support from the staff of the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Ltd.

JULY ■ PARK PLAYS

As part of National Parks Week two outdoor theatre performances took place at Loch Lomond Shores. Audiences were treated to entertaining and interactive outdoor plays on the themes of Whisky Galorious and a Celtic Tree Walk. The plays provided a novel way for the audiences to learn more about the natural and cultural heritage of Loch Lomond and were supported as pilot events by Scottish Enterprise.

Left: The Walking Theatre Company re-enact some historic Loch Lomond stories.

AUGUST ■ A CELEBRATION OF LOCH LOMOND ISLANDS CRUISE

Another magical event that was enjoyed by 100 people in pleasant weather conditions with a cruise around Loch Lomond's islands listening to music featuring Loch Lomond songs and ballads by local band, Hell for Leather, and some new island poetry by Ann MacKinnon. This event was jointly promoted with the Lennox Literary Society and was supported by Sweeney's Cruises.



Above: Some of the guests who enjoyed the Loch Lomond islands cruise.

SEPTEMBER ■ A CELEBRATION OF THE WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY STORY

A group of 50 enjoyed a railway journey with a difference on the spectacular West Highland Railway as it wove its way through the National Park from Helensburgh to Crianlarich and Loch Awe and back. Local historians Stuart Noble and Alistair McIntyre told interesting stories associated with this historic and scenic railway and an enjoyable buffet lunch was kindly provided by Lochs and Glens Holidays at the Loch Awe Hotel.

PEOPLE AND STORIES



PARK PEOPLES STORIES ON FILM

A cross-section of people from different walks of life feature in a new series of video film shorts and capture what is special for them living and working in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. They are also filmed in their favourite spot in the Park and give interesting insights to Park life. The films will be launched shortly and are being backed up by a mobile exhibition, which will be on display in the National Park offices in Balloch before it goes on tour to local libraries and local events.

A taster of the people who feature in the films and what is special to them follows.

STEVE GILLEN

Education Ranger,
Forestry Commission Scotland

Home: Dunoon

Work: Based in Glenbranter,
working across Cowal Peninsula

"I came here and fell in love with the area and why wouldn't you, with this all around you? Probably the most important part of my job is to engage with the public when they are here."



SANDY MACFARLANE

Owner, Balmaha Boatyard
Home & Work: Balmaha

"My family have lived here since the 1700's so the connection with Loch Lomond goes back a long way. You go out of the loch and realise what a fantastic place to live this is – you see Scotland in all its seasons."



VICTORIA CARROLL

Owner, Lochend Chalets,
Port of Menteith

Home & Work: Port of Menteith

"The National Park is an ever changing picture – you never tire of it. You're very much a custodian of a place like this because it is just so special."



NEIL MCCHEYNE

Garden Supervisor,
Benmore Botanical Gardens

Home: Blairmore

"Working at the gardens means so much to me, partly because I have invested so much of my life to it. You feel like you're leaving a legacy for people in the future."



JENNY ALLEN

Administrator, Ardroy
Outdoor
Education Centre,
Lochgoilhead

Home: Aberfoyle

"There's a real feeling of being at one with nature – there's just so many places to discover and have adventures. I love taking people outdoors and showing them what I love about it."



TOM LEWIS

Joint Owner and Chef,
The Mhor Group

Home: Loch Voil,
Work: Loch Voil,
Balquhiddier

and Callander

"This is a living breathing National Park that is evolving, moving and constantly changing. It's the people living in the park that make it so special."



AMY WARBRICK

Waitress & Volunteer
Home & Work: Callander

"Every time you go for a walk it's different, it is constantly changing."



WILLIE NISBET

Farmer, Gartocharn and
Member of National Park
Authority Board

Home & Work: Gartocharn &
Loch Lomond

"It's just a fantastic place to be – I'm very privileged to work here. It's on my doorstep, it's where I was brought up and it's the most wonderful sight you could possibly imagine."



DANI GRANT

Shopkeeper

Home & Work: Killin

"Everybody looks out for one another. The geography creates a strong community spirit."



Celebrating Park People & Stories Conference-Book Now

A packed day on October 26th of inspiring talks and practical workshops at the Kilmarnock Millennium Hall in Gartocharn for anyone with an interest in telling stories about our cultural heritage. This free conference is a joint event with Loch Lomond and Trossachs Community Partnership and is part-funded by the National Park Authority and Heritage Lottery Fund.

For programme details see www.lochlomond-trossachs.org.uk

Literary Landscapes

The Friends have joined forces with the Lennox Literary Society to produce an attractive and informative literary landscapes trail of the National Park and its hinterland. The leaflet has been researched and written by well known local literary expert Louis Stott who brings to life the stories of dozens of writers and poets inspired by the scenic landscapes of the National Park and the surrounding area



Above: The enthusiastic group of Friends kiltwalkers before they set off from Hampden

LOCH LOMOND KILT WALK A HUGE SUCCESS

As a result of 130 local volunteers participating in the Hampden to Loch Lomond KiltWalk as Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs team members, an amazing £35,000 has been raised to support a range of children’s projects locally and nationally. This represents the largest amount raised by any team taking part in the 2013 Kiltwalk that attracted around 3,000 walkers overall.

Projects benefiting from this funding include new themed nature play areas; provision of adventure days out in the National Park for hundreds of disadvantaged children and children with special needs; safe Park trails for children and assistance with the purchase of a wheelie boat for disabled children to enjoy fishing on National Park lochs.

Commenting on the fundraising effort, Friends Chairman James Fraser said: “The level of interest in the KiltWalk fundraising event from local residents and Park businesses has taken us by surprise, but it has been very encouraging to see so many people getting so enthusiastically involved to raise funds for an impressive range of children’s projects locally and nationally.

He added: “The funds raised will make a real difference in helping to provide opportunities for children to enjoy Scotland’s first National Park and to enrich their outdoor experiences.

In addition to the 130 hardy souls who walked the full 28 miles or took part in the half walk or wee walk, dozens of Friends volunteers helped marshal the wee walk and sell raffle tickets at Loch Lomond Shores. Many of the Friends Business Supporters also provided some fabulous prizes for the raffle and the online auction, which generated £4,500.

WHAT A GREAT TEAM EFFORT AND A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED DELIVER SUCH A WONDERFUL RESULT.



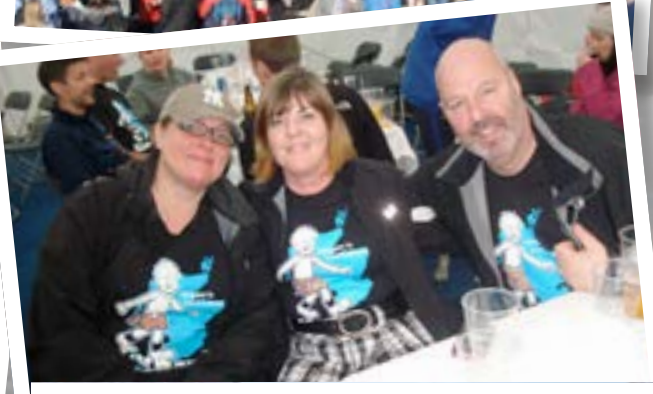
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the KiltWalk

walking for Scotland's children
with SUNDAY POST

Photographs showing the busy scene at the KiltWalk finish at Loch Lomond Shores and kiltwalkers relaxing in the 'recovery' marquee.



AND HERE'S WHY WE DO IT...

Below: The new children's nature play park at Moss o Balloch supported with KiltWalk funds raised, and also children's adventure days out are being supported with KiltWalk funds

Above: Some of the Friends kiltwalkers join Sandy, Ben and Lucy Fraser (far right) of the Oak Tree Inn, Balmaha to toast the success of the special KiltWalk beer they brew to raise funds to support Yorkhill where Ben is currently being treated for leukemia



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE 2014 KILT WALK ?

At a special ceremony for representatives of Hampden to Loch Lomond KiltWalk, the date for the 2014 event was confirmed as Sunday 27th April and a target to double the number of KiltWalk participants from 3,000 to 6,000 was announced as the event grows in popularity.

If you are interested in taking part as a Friends team member next year please contact Sandra Dyson on 01436677733 or at info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk. Please register online at www.thekiltwalk.co.uk

Roaming in the Gloaming with Lochs and Glens Holidays



Gartocharn based, and Friends Business Supporters, Lochs and Glens Holidays have brought a new meaning to 'roaming in the gloaming' with their high quality and good value inclusive coach touring holidays and they are now the largest provider of coaching holidays in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. Here we explore what is a major success story and the importance of coaching holidays, which is an often misunderstood sector of the local tourist industry.

The Wells family founded Lochs and Glens Holidays in 1981 when Mike and Ann Wells bought the run down Loch Long Hotel in Arrochar and roped in their young school age sons Neil and Ian to help out.

The company has grown out of all recognition since then and owns and operates seven coaching hotels, including four in stunning National Park lochside locations at Ardgartan, Arrochar, Inversnaid and Loch Achray. These days Lochs and Glens is successfully led by Neil with brother Ian managing the recently built 128 bedroom Ardgartan Hotel. They are supported by General Manager, Alison Moore and Jenny Baker, Area Manager who have worked their way up through the ranks since they joined the company in 1983.

The company is a major employer with 387 staff and hosts 78,100 visitors and 366,000 overnight stays annually. Their visitors enjoy scenic touring holidays on a year round basis in and around the National Park in their fleet of 26 luxury coaches and are responsible for generating an annual group turnover of £19million and at least a further £6 million spend locally.

Neil Wells, Managing Director of Lochs & Glens said: "I believe our company's success is down to remaining resolutely focused on the coach tour market and providing high standard

holiday experiences at competitive prices which ensures we are full throughout the year and have sufficient resources available to continually reinvest in the business."

We take great care in providing varied itineraries that allow our visitors to enjoy the natural heritage qualities of the National Park and further afield. Our guests are very appreciative of the tranquil locations of our hotels and the stunning and ever changing landscapes that they tour through that make the National Park so special. They also enjoy the interesting and unique towns and villages and attractions they visit. Highlights include cruises on Loch Lomond or Loch Katrine and visits to nearby historic castles and gardens."

He added: "We are pleased to be able to support the work of the Friends who do so much along with the Park Authority to protect and promote the special qualities of the National Park for current and future generations to enjoy. The Friends are also an important independent voice to champion a range of issues in the National Park such as ensuring the Park remains a no go area for large wind turbines, and lobbying to help ensure the needs of all sectors of the visitor market are catered for as part of Park management plans."

There are many misconceptions about the coach

market and the truth is very different. Lochs and Glens customers are on the whole aged 55 and over and are coming on a coach holiday for a number of reasons:

- The cost of touring Scotland by car is now prohibitive and it has been decades since our road were a joy to drive on during the summer months;
- as a way to take a short break, it is not expensive and there is no need to suffer the hassle and stress of an airport. Just board the coach in your home town or village and relax; and
- it can be a very social experience for those that want it to be, but there is none of the enforced jolliness that some imagine;

Coaching holidays are a very eco friendly way to travel and have been transformed with modern, comfortable and fuel-efficient 57 seater coaches. Based on customer booking patterns, a coach removes the equivalent of 24 cars from the roads and if the 78,100 customers enjoying Lochs and Glens Holidays each year travelled as couples in cars this would equate to 37,050 cars on the roads. Interestingly, if a couple were travelling by car, it would have to be capable of doing 313 miles per gallon to be as fuel efficient as a full coach.

'Roaming in the gloaming' on a Lochs and Glens coaching holiday is clearly a great way to enjoy the best of the National Park.

For further details see www.lochsandglens.com



★ Lochs and Glens Holidays Staff Pen Profiles ★ Lochs and Glens Holidays Staff Pen Profiles ★

Alison Moore

Alison joined the company in March 1982 at the age of 21, since that time she has been the manager of the Inversnaid, Loch Achray, and Loch Awe Hotels. Since 1991 Alison has run the holiday sales operation and is now the General Manager of Lochs and Glens Holidays with responsibility for our fleet of 16 coaches, the organisation and sale of 78,000 holidays each year and our telesales office in Gartocharn. She lives in Arrochar with her husband Fred and her two children.

Jenny Baker

Jenny joined in 1983 to run the kitchen at Loch Long. Within a year she was running the Inversnaid Hotel which is a very challenging operation with 16 miles of single track road and a ferry service to contend with. By 2006, Jenny had been promoted to Area Manager with responsibility for six hotels.



Foundation Supporters £500 MINIMUM

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Telephone: 0800 023 20 20

email: enquiries@opticalexpress.com

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

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Tel: 01389 713 713

email: enquiries@lochsandglens.com

www.lochsandglens.com

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

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www.loch-lomond.co.uk

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• LOVE LOCH LOMOND

email: info@lovelochlomond.com

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.

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email: robert@ardoch-scotland.com

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Business Plus Supporters £250 MINIMUM

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• DEEPSTREAM DESIGN

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Tel: 07795 156681 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.

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www.venachar-lochside.co.uk

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Unfinished Business

National Parks in Scotland



SCOTLAND'S LANDSCAPES rank amongst the best in the world in their richness, quality and diversity. We have wild mountains, pristine rivers and lochs, ancient forests and stunning coastline and islands, all rich in wildlife and history. Our landscapes enhance our quality of life and our well-being; they give us inspiration, refreshment and enjoyment. They provide great opportunities for outdoor recreation, including walking, cycling, canoeing and mountaineering. They are one of the main reasons why people visit Scotland, so they support important economic benefits through tourism, our largest industry.

So with landscapes of such quality you might expect Scotland to have several National Parks – the principal tool used across the world to safeguard and manage fine landscapes. However, although the world has over 3,500 National Parks, including 60 in Canada, 29 in Norway and 14 in New Zealand, Scotland has only two.

The Scottish Campaign for National Parks (SCNP) and the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) have been campaigning for National Parks in Scotland for over 60 years. Both bodies feel that more of Scotland's landscapes deserve designation as National Parks. We think that the Scottish Government should have a strategy to implement its 2011 Manifesto commitment to 'work with communities to explore the creation of new National Parks'.

Our joint report *Unfinished Business*, launched in April 2013, summarises the benefits which National Parks bring and recommends improvements to the operation of the two existing and any future National Parks. It sets out criteria against which any future National Park should be assessed, and proposes seven further areas (see map below) which we consider meet these criteria and therefore merit National Park status, including at least one coastal and marine National Park. We are now campaigning

for the Scottish Government to implement our proposals. You can read our report at www.ruralscotland.btck.co.uk/Projects/ScottishNationalParks or ask me to send you a copy.

'National Park' is the leading internationally-recognised designation for places of the highest national importance for natural or cultural heritage, including landscape, wildlife and recreation. It is the highest accolade which can be given to a place within its national context. Many are truly wild; others, as in Scotland, are wholly or partly lived-in, working landscapes. The sort of world-renowned places designated as National Parks include Jotunheimen in Norway, Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the Galapagos islands in Ecuador, Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, the Karakoram in Pakistan and Yosemite in the USA.

We believe that National Parks bring many environmental, social and economic benefits: they provide a clear focus on a particular place, mechanisms to stimulate and co-ordinate positive conservation management and additional resources to reflect its importance to the nation. They benefit from an agreed plan designed to safeguard the area's special qualities for future generations whilst managing competing pressures such as tourism, transport, energy, agriculture, forestry and fishing in integrated and positive ways.

The Scottish Government provides national funding to sustain communities in and around National Parks, encouraging jobs which support and look after these special places and their ways of life. National Parks bring visitors to remote areas, benefit tourism, farming and fishing interests and generate new commercial and marketing opportunities. National Parks supplement and add value to existing designations rather than duplicate or replace them. National Park designation is permanent: other arrangements may come and go, but National Parks are rarely abolished.

Given this wide range of benefits, the two existing National Parks represent remarkable value for money at a combined cost about £14m per annum. Several of our proposed National Parks would cost even less than this, as they would cover smaller areas and would require less complex management structures and fewer staff.



Please contact me on scnp-aprs@btconnect.com or 0131 225 7012 for a copy of *Unfinished Business* or to support our efforts; the best way to do so is to join SCNP or APRS, which you can do at www.scnp.org.uk or www.ruralscotland.btck.co.uk.

JOHN MAYHEW Project Manager



1 **2** **3**

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The next edition of VOICE will be published in early **March 2014**.

We would welcome your contributions - for these to be considered please contact the editor by 15th January 2014.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following funders for the 'OUR park' scheme:
Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Natural Heritage.

We also acknowledge the funding support of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, David Mouldsdale of Optical Express and Dr. Hannah Stirling MBE for the Friends new website: and the generous support of the companies in our Business Supporters' scheme.

And a most special thank you to our members who are the basis of this charity and our work.

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Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, The Old Station, Balloch, Alexandria G83 8SS
Telephone: 01389 298008
Email: info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS WORK AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Help us by becoming a member of the Friends or donating today. Buy our new DVD providing fascinating insights to the lives of Park people and what is so special to them about the National Park. A range of other DVDs and informative guides are also available. Support our efforts in the knowledge every penny is reinvested in protecting the special qualities of Scotland's first National Park.

A Track Record of Achievement over 35 Years

For over 35 years we have been working to protect, promote and provide for this special part of Scotland that extends to 720 square miles and embraces precious mountains, lochs and landscapes made famous by writers and artists over many hundreds of years. The area is enjoyed by large numbers of visitors and locals each year and to ensure everyone can continue to enjoy and celebrate the special landscapes of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs we need your support.

There are a number of practical ways you can support our efforts and make a difference:

Becoming a member for a modest £20 – use the form below and not only help fund our work but add the

huge value of your name behind all we are striving to do for Loch Lomond and The Trossachs



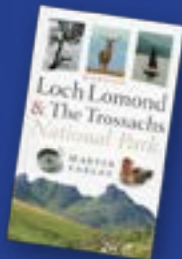
Make a donation many of our members do this each time they renew, adding £10 or so to their cheque and this gives us the funds to fight the dreadful proposals for wind farms with 100 metre high turbines all around the Southern edge of Loch Lomond, or you can just make a one off donation at any time.



Volunteer for a day we organise a range of litter pick-ups and other activities in the National Park – register with us and we'll let you know what opportunities to keep this place special are coming up!

Purchase Friends Merchandise

Buy a copy of our new Celebrating Park People DVD or or one of our informative publications as a gift for a friend or a relative.



Just donations can help us to...

- plant a native tree with protective tubing and stake – **for £12**
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- sponsor a red squirrel feeding station & feed **for £25**
- restore or create a metre of footpath **for £45**
- help a child's life chances with an inspiring environmental and outdoor activity **for £40**



To help make a difference please tick the relevant boxes below and complete your details. If you prefer you can send us an email us at info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk or phone us on **01389 298008** with the details of your order and we will get back to you within a couple of days. Further details of membership rates and benefits can be seen on www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk

- I am interested in becoming a Friends member- please contact me
- I am interested in volunteering opportunities
- I would like to make a donation of £

I would like to order:

- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Scenic DVD £9** plus £2.00 P&P
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- Christmas Cards - Design 1 / 2 / 3 (circle) £6.00** plus £1.50 P&P
- Celebrating Park People & Their Stories DVD £9** plus £2.00 P&P

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Contact tel. no.

Please return completed form with any cheque/remittance to:

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