

# THE FURNACE PRESS

*Lochfyneside community newsletter*



The Furnace Press is a collection of news, views and announcements submitted by members of the community and is published by Furnace Amenity Assoc which also owns and runs Furnace Village Hall as well as staging community events throughout the year.



*There is no set charge for The Furnace Press but your donation helps meet the cost of production.*

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**August 2017**  
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## FURNACE GALA 2017 FRI-SUN AUGUST 18-20th

We have a full programme of fun-packed events to entertain this year, with a great mix of old favourites and some exciting new ones to look forward to. **Full programme on the back page!**

### FASCINATING FURNACE FASCINES

I'd been wondering how to overcome the very muddy steps on the Leacainn Walk leading up from near the main road to the path that runs behind North Craleckan and on to Auchindrain.

I mentioned it to Richard Joynson, who has been doing sterling volunteer work on the walk over the past few years. "What you need is fascines!" he said. To save me reaching for Google, Richard explained that fascines are rolls of timber poles laid over soft ground to stop vehicles getting bogged down. They are used by the military to get tanks over boggy ground and by foresters who lay rows of logs for heavy machinery to drive over.

Richard thought that rolls of wooden fencing bound together with wire could be rolled over the boggy ground and save the Leacainn Walkers from sinking in the mud. Furnace Amenity Association approved the funding and Richard, and his young assistant Norrie McNab (with his trusty quadbike) carried out the work. And what a great job they did.



Furnace Community Council & Amenity Association meeting and AGM

Thursday August 25th 7.30 pm in Furnace Hall.

All are welcome to attend and take part in the meeting.

# **Church News**

## **Services in August**

Whenever there are five Sundays in the month, there is a morning service in Lochgair church on the first and fifth Sunday, so there are services in Lochgair on the 31<sup>st</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Sunday services:** In Lochgair Church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 10 am.  
In Cumlodden Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 10 am.  
Monthly Gaelic service in Lochgair Church at 3 pm. Learners of Gaelic always welcome. Tea to follow in Church Hall.  
In Cumlodden Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 10 am.  
In Cumlodden Church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 10 am.

We are grateful to Margaret Sinclair for conducting services while Rev Dr Roderick Campbell was away from home. We welcome Dr and Mrs Campbell back with us and we extend our sympathy to them during this difficult time for the family.

## **Annual Inter-Village Quiz**

This year's annual Inter-Village Quiz, with teams from Lochgair, Minard, Furnace and Inveraray, was once again an enjoyable and successful occasion. This year the Furnace team were the winners. The winning team consisted of Duncan Beaton, Linda Biggar, Karen Baird and Alma Smylie. The evening raised £260 for church funds. Well done.

## **Church Choir**

The Church Choir continues to meet each Tuesday in Cumlodden Church at 6.30 pm. New members are always welcome.

## **Many Thanks**

Roddy MacLeod would like to thank so many friends for their messages of congratulations received personally, by letter, telephone call and e-mail, on the occasion of being awarded the MBE in the Queen's Honours list.

## **FROM OUR MINARD CORRESPONDENT**

Looking forward to my weekly treat of a full Scottish breakfast, I couldn't find the black pudding. "Oh, I binned it" says she who must be obeyed, "it was past its sell by date". Oh dear, here we go again. Sell by dates and use by dates are only there to protect the supplier - whatever happened to common sense?

I once asked a chef why he didn't keep his eggs in the fridge. "Listen ya eejit" (chefs have a way with words) "which part of the hen's anatomy does the egg come from?" - "Its nether regions" says poor me. "Correct" he said "and where in the shop do you find the eggs - not in the chilled department! Eggs are a sealed container, waterproof and airtight and you don't need to store them in the fridge"

Passing on this wisdom to my dearly beloved, I can see she's not convinced. "Listen," I said "eggs might have a wee bit of bacteria on them and some free range ones have the odd feather - although that's probably just to convince you they really are free range - but they're fine as long as you use them properly. Anyway, leave my black pudding alone, it has salt, spices and blood wrapped in a plastic sleeve OK!

On the subject of eggs, those of us of a certain age will remember when eggs came with a little lion stamped on them. I used to wonder how clever these hens were to pop out an egg already stamped with a little lion. Any suggestions to [dafteejit.com](http://dafteejit.com).

Next issue: The Minard race track for timber lorries.



## SCHOOL NEWS

We ended a very busy session with a week of visits and treats to round up the year.

*We started the last week with a visit to **Inveraray Castle** where our guide, Jack, told us all about the history of our local castle. On Tuesday we made our own pizzas for lunch. Everyone decided they taste much better if you make it yourself. We then did the first half of the **Leacainn Walk to AuchIndrain** and had a look at how quickly the fire damaged area is regenerating. Isn't Mother Nature wonderful? We had a trip to **Hunter's Quay** in Dunoon, where we had a go at the climbing wall and aeroball, which is like 2 player basketball on trampolines.*

We finished our week by inviting parents and friends to join us for our annual **prizegiving**. All children received certificates for achievements during the year and Nicola was presented with a pen, dictionary and leaver's book to mark her transition to high school. Good luck in August Nicky, it will be strange not to have you with us. A small presentation was also made to Ms McIlroy who is leaving us temporarily. (see below) Our two **main awards** were as follows:  
Robert Sanderson ICT trophy: Andrew Boyle  
Outstanding Achievement trophy: Chloe Taylor  
Congratulations to both our winners.



### Staffing changes:

As you

may know Ms McIlroy is leaving us temporarily to take up a seconded post as an Area Education Officer. The Authority have now appointed an Acting Head Teacher to run things in her absence.

The Acting Headteacher's name is Gill Mackenzie. She has been Headteacher at Kilchattan Primary School on the Island of Colonsay for the past five years.

Ms McIlroy will remain in post at Minard and Furnace for the first few weeks of the new term, until Gill can be released from her post at Kilchattan. We look forward to welcoming her to the school after that.

**School will resume on Wednesday 16 August at 9am.**

By the way, if you left a tartan broly behind at our concert, it is still in the box in the school porch!



## **KEEPING WELL IN FURNACE**

Belly Dancing, Tai Chi, Badminton and Boccia are just a few of the activities tested for the fun factor by the Keep Well Furnace Group.

Arising out of discussions about health and how to keep well, the Group was originally intended to run for just six weeks, but members have agreed unanimously that they would like to keep it running indefinitely.

Helped out by a grant from the Windfarm microfund, we meet every Monday in the Furnace Village Hall. We start off with a half hour of gentle warm up exercises using therabands, aimed at improving flexibility and balance, and end with a cuppa, a well earned biscuit and a blether. In between are the taster sessions and the keynote is having fun whilst keeping well.

We don't plan too far in advance, but there will be a Tai Chi session on 19 June and there is no meeting on 26 June, as the Hall has a previous booking. There is the offer of a massage session on 7 August and most folk would like a return of the Belly Dance and the Boccia. We are looking into inviting other dance based exercise teachers, but any ideas will be taken up.

Everyone is welcome, just turn up on the day. 11.00 – 12.00 (approx.)

# FURNACE GALA 2017

## FRI-SUN AUGUST 18-20th

7.30 pm



The usual monthly session with super cash prizes.

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup>**

6.00 pm

Bar open as usual.  
A good time to get your teams organised for the events



**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup>**

**12.00 pm** Meet at the football field to take part or watch the competitions. As last year, teams of 2 compete in all the events for points. The team with the highest number of points after all events will be the winner.



FLY FISHING - **BOULES**  
GOLF - **PENALTY SHOTS**  
**BUCKING BRONCO** - **COCONUT SHY**  
**2.30 pm** All teams will take part in the  
**3 LEGGED EGG & SPOON RACE**



**3.00 – 5.00 pm TABLE TOP SALE**

£5 per table (book in the shop to secure your table)

ALSO FACE PAINTING, BOTTLE STALL, SHARON'S WHISKY SAFE, SPLAT A RAT



**5.00 pm BBQ** - **6.00 pm BEETLE DRIVE**

**7.00 pm PRIZEGIVING AND 200 CLUB DRAW**



**7.30 pm FAMILY FORTUNES**

Families or groups of 4 compete in the well known game with a main meal for 4 at SKIPPERS BISTRO as the fabulous 1st prize!

**HOT COTTAGE PIE ON SALE AT THE INTERVAL** - **BAR 3.00 pm to MIDNIGHT**

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

**2.00 pm WALKING FOOTBALL** A re-walk of last year's very popular event at the football field. Join in or just watch the fun - all welcome.

**3.00 pm DUCK DERBY** The Furnace ducks' annual outing on the Leacainn Burn. Meet at the bridge to cheer on your duck.



**3.30 pm BBQ** at the hall

**4.00 pm TREASURE HUNT JUDGING**  
COMPETITORS DISPLAY THEIR FINDS IN THE HALL TO SEE WHO GOT THE MOST POINTS.

**BAR open 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm**