



# New Academies Showcase

**H**undreds of local families flocked to the open weekends held at the new Alloa and Alva Academies.

The schools, which opened their doors to pupils earlier this year, held open weekends, a chance to showcase the state of the art facilities to the whole community.

The new sports and leisure areas, which are available to hire after school and at weekends, proved popular with visitors and many people took the chance to have a fitness induction in the gym.

There was also dance displays, theatre performances, martial arts, yoga, belly dancing, craft demonstrations, magic and musical family shows and cheerleading. Outside youngsters tried football and rock-it-ball on the artificial pitches. More on page 3.

To book any of the school facilities call 01259 213131.



Inside VIEW...



Rugby P4



Healthier Lives P9



New Health Centre p11



Homecoming p12



# Twin Town Exchanges Now Open to Adults

**L**ocal adults residents are being invited to support a new exchange initiative with Clackmannanshire's twin towns in France and Spain.

The Council has been twinned with Vendargues in the Languedoc Rousillon region of Southern France and Espartinas in the Andalucian region of southern Spain for the past three years.

Originally the purpose of the twinning arrangement was to develop youth exchanges during the summer months and so far two successful trips have been organised involving more than 40 young people from across Clackmannanshire.

This summer, six young people aged 12 to 15 will be visiting Vendargues with a further nine going to Espartinas.

And now the Council is now hoping to expand the opportunities by setting up adult exchanges with the towns.

The Council would be interested to hear from any adults living in Clackmannanshire who would be keen to visit either of the twin towns for a long weekend or three or four days who would be willing to stay with a French or Spanish host.

The Council would work with the twin towns to match people up and assist with travel arrangements.



Montpellier, France



Seville, Spain

## ePLANNING A STREAMLINED PROCESS

### Planning System Goes Online

Clackmannanshire Council's online planning system has been improved.

**L**aunched by the Scottish Government, e-planning is a national project involving all local authorities which aims to stream-line the whole planning process and make it more accessible to more people.

E-planning lets local residents submit an application, view planning applications, comment on them, track their progress and check the final decision all online.

Planning applications previously had to be submitted and the fees paid by post or in person. Thanks to the new e-planning system, planning applications can be submitted online via [www.eplanning.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.scotland.gov.uk). With intelligent forms, a fee calculator and document loader, all elements of submitting a planning application can be made electronically.

The Council has also recently adopted the Scottish Government's standard forms for all types of planning applications and these can be downloaded from the same website.

The information available on ClacksWeb is also being enhanced to coincide with the launch of e-planning to include all submitted forms and drawings, any correspondences, objections, consultations and decisions that are taken. You can also comment and/or object on current applications via the website [www.clacksweb.org.uk/eplanning/](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/eplanning/)

ClacksWeb also has an archive of all planning applications received by the Council since 1985. You can search by a whole range of criteria including case number, address or postcode, date received, status, applicant name or agent name. You can also use the mapping facility to search via location. The site also stores all scanned in documents (forms, drawings, correspondences, objections, consultations and decision notices) dated from 2000 onwards, and gives you the ability

to search historical applications back to 1985.

The Council is aware that not everyone has regular access to a computer at home or at work, so e-planning can be accessed from the network of Web 4 U computers at the libraries in Alloa, Clackmannan, Sauchie, Tullibody, Alva, Dollar, Menstrie and Tillicoultry.

The move to an online system hasn't replaced paper copies of plans. People are still more than welcome to access applications at the Council's offices at Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. And applicants can continue to submit a paper application and pay by cheque. Payments can also still be made via ClacksWeb or by calling the Council on 450000 even if your agent has submitted the application online. In other words, you, or your agent, can submit your application online and pay for it at the same time or later by cheque or on the phone, or you can submit a paper application and pay for it online, by cheque or on the phone.

Anyone wishing to take part would have to pay for their own travel and any other expenses incurred during the trip. They would also need to be prepared to provide hospitality for a French or Spanish host during a reciprocal visit to Clackmannanshire.

Espartinas has a population of around 10,000 people and is 15km from Seville while Vendargues has a population of just over 6,000 people and is near Montpellier.

For more information, contact Council Policy Officer Jane Adamson on 01259 452196 or by email at

[jadamson@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:jadamson@clacks.gov.uk)

More information on the twin towns can be found on the following websites:

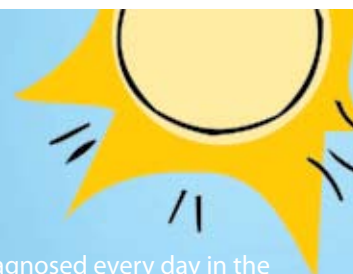
[www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk)

[www.espartinas.net](http://www.espartinas.net)

[www.vendargues.fr](http://www.vendargues.fr)



## Wear Your Sun Screen



200 new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed every day in the UK, and melanoma is rising faster than any other type of cancer. Of 6,000 referrals to the Forth Valley dermatology service, 40% were suspected skin cancer.

In as many as 4 out of 5 cases, skin cancer is a preventable disease. Taking care in the sun will help to protect you from skin cancer.

You can enjoy being in the sun safely by:

- Seeking shade between 11 am and 3pm
- Wear sunscreen with an SPF (sun Protection Factor) of at least 15 that also provides UVA protection, and re apply frequently, especially if in and out of the sea/water.
- Cover up with clothing and don't forget to wear a hat that protects your face, neck and ears.
- Eyes need protection too – wear sunglasses
- Never let your skin burn
- Children need extra care – use sunscreen, cool loose clothing and shade
- Keep babies out of the sun

For more information see [www.sunsmart.org.uk](http://www.sunsmart.org.uk)





# 21st Century Schools on Show

Local communities across Clackmannanshire are benefitting from the new school based sports facilities available at the new Alloa and Alva Academies.

Staff and pupils have settled well into their new state-of-the-art classrooms with all agreeing that the new building create an inspiring learning environment. Pupils at Lornhill Academy don't have long to wait for their move - the new school will open its doors in August.



Councillor George Matchett, Inclusion Portfolio Holder said: "As a Council we have delivered on our promise to invest in education. The opening of these new schools demonstrates the commitment we have to providing the best possible environment for teaching and learning. We are making an unprecedented investment in the education of our young people now and for future generations. By the end of 2009 all secondary pupils across Clackmannanshire will be learning in a brand new school!"



Councillor Bobby McGill, Sport and Leisure spokesman, said: "These new top class facilities will benefit all local people. The public reaction to the sports facilities in the new schools has been remarkable. There is already a real demand for the services they offer and we can only expect that this will be the case when Lornhill opens. The summer holidays are a great opportunity for the wider community to use the meeting rooms, sports and conference facilities."

These people visited Alloa and Alva Academies during the open weekends and were most impressed with the facilities on offer.

## Allan Ritchie - Alloa Academy

*My main reason for being here to day is the gym induction deal. I live just round the corner so it's really handy.*

## Wendy Duddy - Alloa Academy

*The facilities on show today are excellent - very good. My six year old did rocketball and kickboxing in the main hall and the gym hall and I've never seen such a red face! I'll be coming back to use the gym as it's extremely reasonable.*

## Craig White - Alloa Academy

**Craig White and his daughter Lauren - who attends Alloa Academy - went round the whole school and pronounced themselves very impressed.**

*The gym deal is a really good saving. It's a great deal in the current climate. I'm going to try and use it as much as possible.*

**Lauren:** *I use all the halls and rooms at school and they're great, much better than the old ones.*

## Jim MacDonald - Alva Academy

*We think the school is very good - and very big! The primary school can book sessions here so the kids will get used to it. It'll be good to have the new centre where the pool is too - I've seen the plans and it'll be a nice place.*



## Jackie MacDonald - Alva Academy

*We were very impressed, especially by the big assembly room.*

**Kirsty MacDonald and Lucy Corkish - said they were looking forward to coming to school here.**

## Katie Warner (11) - Alva Academy

*There were good activities and it was good that you could either watch or join in. I did the cheerleading at both schools. I like Alva Academy because there are signposts so you know where to go.*



## Stewart Crossan - Alva Academy

*I came for a gym induction - we stay just down the road. I play with Hillfoots Rugby Club and they might hire the pitches - they're good pitches with everything there you need. It's a lovely looking school.*

## Caitlin Crossan - Alva Academy

*It's really big and there's lots to do. I saw the dancing.*

## Susan Crossan - Alva Academy

*It's nice to see because we watched it being built. It's really bright and open.*

## Helen Walker - Alva Academy

*I'm interested in the evening classes because it's near at hand. It's a good idea to use the facilities out of hours. Aye, it's brilliant!*



# Rugby Development's Efforts are Converted

**T**he Council's commitment to rugby development is paying dividends. Clackmannanshire has a great tradition of playing rugby with two long established clubs in the county - Alloa RFC and Hillfoots RFC.

The Sports Development Team at the Council have gradually increased their commitment to rugby over the past decade and are now reaping the fruits of their labour.

From grassroots to the National Player Pathway Programme, rugby is thriving in Clackmannanshire at every level.

Clackmannanshire Council's Rugby Development Officer is Ben Hanvey who works with Kristoffer Burney, Assistant Rugby Coach, and the four full time rugby apprentices to promote rugby in the area.

The Council's first Rugby Development Officer was former Lornshill Academy pupil John Manson.

The work he began in the county's schools has been built on and there are now hundreds of children of all ages enjoying rugby every week as part of the curriculum.

We start them young, and most children can experience rugby in their local nursery. Specially trained staff deliver a nursery specific rugby programme which develops fundamental physical skills.

In all primary schools, TAG rugby is currently taught to P7 pupils as part of the PE curriculum.

The primary schools play three times a year in their cluster TAG rugby festivals held at both Alloa and Hillfoots rugby clubs, with the opportunity to play at Murrayfield at the end of the season.

There are also a number of lunch time and after school rugby clubs in most schools for

P4 - P7 age groups where they are coached by specialist rugby coaches.

Secondary school rugby is played across the Central belt under the banner of the Central Schools League.

Clackmannanshire is represented in the league by Alva Academy, Alloa Academy and Lornshill Academy. Each of the three schools have a Rugby Champion who co-ordinates and organises teams and fixtures within the school.

## Something For Everyone

Kristoffer focuses a lot of his attention on S1 and S2 pupils - this is a transition period when levels of sport participation traditionally go down. But thanks to lunch time and after school clubs Kristoffer's efforts are paying off and young people are retaining their interest in sport, particularly rugby.

Girls rugby is growing in popularity and the Clackmannanshire Girls Team has gone from strength to strength since it was formed in 2007. The membership are from S1 - S6 from the local secondary schools and new members are welcome to join them at a training session on a Thursday at Tulligarth between 4-5pm. Alva Academy also have their own girls team.

The local rugby team for children with additional support needs is called the Dream Team. The team competes in mainstream events including the rugby festival and the sport helps to develop the youngsters' social and behavioural skills.

More information is available from Rugby Development Officer Ben Hanvey on 01259 222353.



Street Rugby has recently come to Clackmannanshire courtesy of the Scottish Government's 'CashBack for Communities' programme. This programme is funded through assets seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Rugby sessions are held throughout Clackmannanshire on Friday nights.

The role of grassroots rugby in the county is filled by the hugely successful mini sections at Alloa RFC and Hillfoots RFC. Mini rugby is for youngsters aged from 8 -12 years and the sections train once a week under the watchful eye of Head Coaches Jim Shaw at Alloa and Michael Power at Hillfoots. Training sessions are at 10am on Sunday mornings at Alloa and 9.30am on Saturday mornings at Hillfoots. New members are welcome.

## Combined Youth Sections

The Clackmannanshire Colts are the combined youth sections of Alloa RFC and Hillfoots RFC. They currently have four teams U14, U15, U16, U18 and the calibre of players has steadily increased since the Colts were formed in 2006. They currently have 96 members across the different teams. The Rugby Development Team also support the weekly training.

The U14 team plays as part of the Central festival programme and the other teams compete in the Midlands Leagues.

The Colts teams aim to go on an annual tour - the U14 and U15 teams competed in Wales earlier this year and the U18 squad went on tour to Belfast.

The Colts welcome new players - come along to Tulligarth on Wednesday evenings from

7.30pm and join a training session. Games are played in a positive family atmosphere at the weekends at Alloa RFC and Hillfoots RFC alternatively.

## Top Level Players Hail From Clackmannanshire

A total of seven current Scottish youth team players hail from Clackmannanshire - a third of the team. This brings the total number of national age grade players since 2005 to come from Clackmannanshire to 13.

Elite players from Clackmannanshire who have shown potential can progress from secondary school and club level to the National Player Pathway Programme. Kristoffer assists in the organisation and coaching of the Central Crusaders U15 and U16 squads. These teams are made up of the best players from Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas. They play against four other teams from the Caledonia area which includes Fife, Tayside, the North East and Highlands and Islands. A total of 16 boys from Clackmannanshire currently compete at this level - 13 who have graduated from the Colts and three who have benefited from the School of Rugby programme.

Players can then progress on to represent Caledonia at U16 and U18 levels.

Kick off the season in style with four action packed days of coaching and playing from 10th-13th August at Hillfoots RFC. The summer camp will include top coaching from qualified SRU coaches. The cost is £40 - book by calling 01259 213131.



Clackmannanshire  
Healthier  
Lives

# Helping You Make The Changes That Matter

Clackmannanshire Healthier Lives is a community based programme which offers support and advice to people in Clackmannanshire to help them make changes that can improve their health and well-being.

The programme is funded by Fairer Scotland through the Clackmannanshire Alliance and builds on the success of other Clackmannanshire Health Improvement projects. The main aim of CHL is to improve health and employability through the provision of assessment and tailored packages of support designed to meet clients' specific needs.

CHL provides a full range of services from holistic health assessments and confidence building to how to increase your physical activity, support to stop smoking and healthier food shopping, cooking and dietary skills.

The Team of key workers are:

**Health Assessor** - Will offer you a holistic health assessment and provide advice and support on health issues.

**Food Development Worker** - Can give you support and advice on food shopping and budgeting, cooking skills and general dietary advice.

**Health and Wellbeing Mentor** - Promotes personal development and confidence building to give you the essential skills you need for change.

**Physical Activity Worker** - Offers advice and support on physical activity and runs a number of free exercise and activity classes throughout Clackmannanshire.

**Stop Smoking Support Coach** - Will give you help and support to gain the confidence to stop smoking completely and cope with your everyday life.

**Alcohol Service** - There to help you overcome your dependency and improve your quality of life. You will be offered the chance of volunteering, training and employment.

We offer one to one appointments and also group sessions in local venues across Clackmannanshire.

CHL, also works in partnership with a range of services and organisations.

For more information about CHL or to make an appointment with one of our key workers, please contact Andrena Young on 01259 728604 or Nicola McGann on 01259 452201.

## Forthbank landfill site could be a new source of energy

Clackmannanshire Council has teamed up with Partnerships for Renewables to investigate renewable energy projects on the Forthbank Amenity site.

### What is Partnerships for Renewables?

Partnerships for Renewables is a company set up by the Carbon Trust to develop renewable energy projects on publicly owned land.

### What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is energy that comes from wind, wave or solar power - sources that won't run out.

### What are the options in Clackmannanshire?

The Forthbank site consists of an old landfill site and local recycling services. There is potential to generate gas from the landfill and to harness wind energy by building wind turbines.

Alan Mathewson, Development Director for Partnerships for Renewables, said "We have been working with Clackmannanshire Council to assess the best way of generating renewable energy in the region. While the landfill gas studies have just started, our initial wind energy feasibility work suggests that the Forthbank site could host up to four commercial wind turbines."

### How much energy could the site produce?

A development of four 2.5 megawatt wind turbines would be expected to generate an amount of electricity equivalent to that used in around 5,600 households - 85% of the households in Alloa.

### Is work going to start soon?

This investigation is at a very early stage and more detailed environmental and technical work will need to be done to see if the site is suitable. This work will take more than a year.

Alan Mathewson said, "If the results of studies continue to be positive, we could submit a planning application for wind turbines late 2010, with the wind turbines potentially operational in 2011."

### What say do local people have?

The local community will be fully involved in the process. Partnerships for Renewables is keen to work with local people throughout the development process to ensure that any application is suitable.

### Who will pay for the development?

Partnerships for Renewables will cover all of the costs associated with developing and constructing the turbines.

### What benefit is there to the people of Clackmannanshire?

If it goes ahead, the development would make good use of a redundant site. Any development would generate additional revenues for the Council and for the immediate community, as well as renewable energy.





# Oot and about

Clackmannanshire Alliance is encouraging more people to get out and enjoy the fantastic outdoors environment we have in Clackmannanshire. They're running two competitions, to nominate a potential beauty spot in need of a clear up, and to suggest an active day out in the county.

## Clean up Clackmannanshire!

Do you know of a local spot that could do with a real clean up? Oot and About wants you to write in and nominate a spot that could make a beautiful outdoors place to visit - with a little help! We'll pick three top spots and join Alliance partners and the local community in clearing vegetation, picking up rubbish and restoring natural beauty. Just write to:

Freepost TY805, Clackmannanshire Council, Greenfield, ALLOA, FK10 2AD. Please mark your envelope 'For the attention of Oot and About'.

Or email [press@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:press@clacks.gov.uk)

## Get active in the outdoors!

What's your idea of a good day out in Clackmannanshire? Do you enjoy walking, bird watching, or horse riding? Perhaps some more high-adrenalin mountain biking or kayaking floats your boat? Clackmannanshire has it all!

We're looking for the best day out in the county: two activities, with a break for lunch. Fill in the form below and return it to the Freepost address provided: four winners will see their ideas printed into suggestion cards and distributed across the county!

## Oot and About Days Out

### Morning activity:

(For example, 'Walk up Dumyat to enjoy the fantastic view across the county')

### Lunch stop:

(For example, 'Stop off in Alva for fish and chips')

### Afternoon activity:

(For example, 'Visit Gartmorn Dam for a spot of fishing and look out for rare waterfowl')

### Useful information and travel tips:

(For example, parking areas, permit prices, bus times etc.)



Clackmannanshire  
Alliance

Or email [press@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:press@clacks.gov.uk)



We had a great response to the competition in the Spring View to win an emergency kit courtesy of SEPA. The winner was a delighted Margery McGowan of Brucefield Crescent, Clackmannan, who is pictured collecting her prize.



ATTENTION COUNCIL TENANTS

## Paying rent is not optional

### Three easy ways to pay

- Online at [www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk) using Visa, Mastercard, Switch, Eurocard, Delta
- By Direct Debit
- In person at any CAP or at Lime Tree House reception

If you are struggling to pay your rent please call us on 0845 005 7070.



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

# Going for Gold

Athletes competing in the Special Olympics GB National Summer Games will be given a super send off from Alloa Academy on Friday 24th July.

The Forth Valley team will leave from Alloa Academy at 9.30am, driving to Leicester where they will join over 2,700 athletes from all over the UK.

But before they go they will receive the best wishes of the Provost of Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk on behalf of their home counties. A piper will send them on their way.

The Forth Valley team of 55 athletes will compete in eight sports at the Special Olympics GB National Summer Games - athletics, indoor bowls, boccia equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics and swimming. The games will be held in Leicester between 25th and 31st July. Athletes travel to Leicester from 19 UK regions.

The Forth Valley team also has 32 volunteers, coaches and carers who will join 1,200 coaches and 1,500 volunteers over the seven days of the games.

Of the 55 Forth Valley athletes, 20 are from Clackmannanshire and 10 of the volunteers and coaches are also from Clackmannanshire.

The youngest athlete is aged nine and the oldest is 60.

This is the largest team Forth Valley has ever sent to a Special Olympics and they have set their sights high and hopes to bring back a collection of medals.

Many of those travelling to Leicester, previously competed at the 2005 games in Glasgow and the 2001 games in Cardiff, although for some this will be

10 gold, seven silvers and five bronze medals.

The strongest representation of Clackmannanshire athletes is in the gymnastics squad, where seven of the nine members are from Clackmannanshire. The team trains at the Speirs Centre. There are also Clackmannanshire athletes competing at swimming, boccia and football.

Graham Harvey, Forth Valley Disability Sport branch co-ordinator, said: "We hope to get a medal in each sport and if we can do better than we did in Glasgow that would be a huge success for the team. All the athletes train at least once a week and are keen to do well."

Forth Valley Disability Sport has raised £50,000 through a variety of fundraising events over the past two years in order to send the team to Leicester.

If you wish to help out with fundraising, please email Forth Valley Disability Sport at [info@fvds.org.uk](mailto:info@fvds.org.uk)

The Special Olympics are for athletes with a learning and intellectual disability.



their first experience of the Special Olympics.

At the previous Special Olympics GB National Summer Games in Glasgow in 2005 the Forth Valley Team of 28 athletes were represented in five sports and returned with a fantastic haul medal and ribbons. The gymnasts did particularly well, winning 12 gold, eight silver and four bronze medals, while the swimmers brought home

## Online Payments Flourish on Clacksweb

More and more people are using the Council's website to pay bills such as Council Tax, rent and invoices.

Over 1,000 local people use ClacksWeb every month as a quick, safe and convenient way to settle their bills.

The facility for payments to be made online has existed since March 2004 - during that month 27 transactions were made totalling £5,285. In comparison, in April 2009 there were 1,260 transactions, totalling £164,647.

During the financial year 2007/08 over £1.6 million-worth of

payments were made online, compared to £1.1 million in 2006/07.

It is possible to pay Council Tax, rent, business rates, Council invoices and planning application fees online, so take a look at [www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk)

## Gas Safety

The Council, as a landlord, has a legal duty to service all Council owned gas appliances in Council houses every year.

The Housing Service takes this responsibility very seriously and 100% of properties where the Council has a record of gas appliances have a valid safety certificate.

If you have installed a gas appliance such as a central heating boiler or gas fire and have not notified the Council, please tell us now so we can update our records.

If you are planning to carry out any improvements to your Council house you should apply to the Housing Service for permission before carrying out any work.

If you want to know more about this please call us on 01259 225165 or email [pcmteam@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:pcmteam@clacks.gov.uk) for more information.

## Electrical Testing



By law, Clackmannanshire Council is required to carry out electrical testing on all of its properties over a 10 year cycle to ensure electrical installations are in safe working order and meet legislative requirements. This year electrical safety checks were carried out to 447 properties.

Following a national Health and Safety alert and as part of the Council's ongoing programme of regular maintenance checks, thermostats on 438 central heating boilers have been checked and replaced if required. This work was carried out by a specialist electrical contractor.



# Healthy Outlook for County Patients

## The new Clackmannanshire Community Healthcare Centre is moving towards taking its first patients

Contractors Robertson Central have completed building work on the £20 million project in Alloa, which will provide a cornerstone of healthcare provision in the area for a population of more than 49,000. Commissioning of the facility by NHS Forth Valley has begun.

Once this is finished patients and staff will relocate to the new building. First to move in will be the adult mental health resource centre followed by Clackmannan and Sauchie Hospitals and then Alloa Health Centre. It's expected patients will be treated at the new Community Healthcare Centre by summer.

Kathy O'Neill, general manager of Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership (CHP) said: "This represents a key milestone in delivering NHS Forth Valley's Integrated Healthcare Strategy to bring care closer to people's homes. This is a modern community healthcare campus set in a mature landscape with all patients being treated in single en-suite rooms and will provide the very best clinical care for the people of Clackmannanshire."

Councillor Sam Ovens, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, and chairman of the Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership, said: "The new Clackmannanshire Community Healthcare Centre is a very important project, and should be seen as part of an overall health care strategy designed to bring continuing health improvements throughout the whole of Forth Valley. The facility brings together under one roof a new 45 bed hospital, the new Alloa health centre and our own



adult care social work and adult mental health resource centre. The project is the culmination of excellent joint working between Forth Valley Health Board and Clackmannanshire Council."

The centre will contain a replacement for the current Alloa Health Centre and outpatient area, which will include three GP practices (16 GPs) community nursing, podiatry, dental, physiotherapy and dermatology outreach. It is anticipated that the centre will see around 800 patients a day and offer primary care to 25,000 people.

The 45 in-patient beds will be used primarily for frail older people, including provision for intermediate care and rehabilitation, palliative care and continuing care of those with complex needs. A day therapy unit will offer a falls prevention scheme, while providing specialist services for those with both mental health and physical needs.

## Community policing has taken on a new shape in Clackmannanshire

Across Central Scotland Police, eight new teams of community constables and sergeants have been established to tackle crime in towns and villages.

In Clackmannanshire, Sergeant Graham Cadden and 15 Constables are responsible for communities in the Wee County. Four of those Constables work with Community Wardens tackling issues affecting quality of life in our neighbourhoods.

Community officers will meet and engage with their communities to identify what they believe to be the main issues of concern. These will then be drawn into PACT (Police and Communities Together) priorities and action plans which will help deal with these issues. Whilst they can be dealt with at community council meetings, specific PACT meetings can also take place.

PACT meetings can be held and priorities will be set and reported on a monthly basis to any PACT group. Community councils or community groups already meet on an almost monthly basis in most areas and generally the police have an input at each meeting.

This is a structured process which allows the community to have an input and community officers will use this as the basis for consultation.

Any member of the public can form part of the PACT process. It can be done by visiting their local police office, speaking with their community officer in person or by phone or by e-mail through the My Area section of the website [www.centuralscotland.police.uk](http://www.centuralscotland.police.uk)



## Clackmannanshire has welcomed a new community policing inspector

Inspector Malcolm McEwan will take charge of Alloa and Sauchie. In Tullibody and the Hillfoots, Inspector David Johnston is responsible for community policing.

Clackmannanshire Area Commander Superintendent Andrew Price said: "Policing the communities in a positive and proactive way and engaging with the public across Clackmannanshire is essential to making sure the area is a welcoming and safe place to live, work and visit.

"The community team are at the forefront of dealing with community issues in partnership with the public. We can only achieve safe communities by working with the public and I would encourage people in Clackmannanshire to engage with their own community officer and get involved.

"Malcolm is a welcome addition to the team here in Clackmannanshire and together with Inspector Johnstone, will help drive forward our efforts at tackling crime, antisocial behaviour and other issues to enhance the quality of life here."

# SIZZLE SAFELY THIS SUMMER



## Are you hot stuff or a silly sausage when it comes to barbecue food safety ?

A total of 43 cases of food poisoning have been reported so far this year to Clackmannanshire Council. Each of these cases was investigated by the Food Safety Team at the Council's Environmental Health Service.

During the summer months there is a surge of food poisoning cases in the UK. Of particular relevance at this time of year is the need to follow food safety advice when barbecuing.

Bugs such as E.coli O157, salmonella and campylobacter can cause serious illness. But you can steer clear of food poisoning by taking some simple steps. When you're barbecuing, the biggest risk of food poisoning is from raw and undercooked meat.

Always make sure you cook chicken, pork, burgers, sausages and kebabs until they're steaming hot all the way through, none of the meat is pink and any juices run clear. If you're barbecuing for lots of people, you could cook meat indoors and finish it off on the barbecue for added flavour. Remember, when you reheat food on the barbecue, always make sure it's steaming hot all the way through before serving. Also:

Wait until the charcoal is glowing red, with a powdery grey surface, before you start to cook.

Make sure frozen food is properly thawed before you cook it.

Turn the food regularly, and move it around the barbecue, to cook it evenly.

Check that the centre of the food is steaming hot.

Don't assume that if meat is charred on the outside that it will be cooked properly on the inside.

Keep raw meat away from ready-to-eat food.

Raw meat can contain food poisoning bugs. So if raw meat touches or drips onto food that is already cooked or ready to eat, the bugs can get onto that food. Bugs can also transfer onto food from your hands, chopping board, knife or tongs. This is called cross-contamination. You can prevent it by doing the following things:

Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling raw meat.

Use separate utensils for raw and cooked meat.

Never put cooked food on a plate or surface that has been used for raw meat.

Keep raw meat in a sealed container away from ready-to-eat foods, such as burger buns and salads.

Don't put raw meat products next to cooked or partially cooked meat on the barbecue.

Don't add sauce or marinade to cooked food if it has already been used with raw meat.



For more food safety advice or to report food poisoning contact Environmental Health by calling 0500 545 540 or email: [ehealth@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:ehealth@clacks.gov.uk)



# Food Festival offers a taste of Scotland



**ScotFest** is a one day festival highlighting just some of the amazing food and drink produced in Scotland as well as celebrating a range of talented designers within arts and crafts.

It takes place in Alva's Cochrane Park on Sunday 20th September from 11.30am to 4.30pm.

There will be a broad mix of specialities to enjoy on the day. Meet the designers who will happily discuss their methods and inspiration for their designs. All food and drink exhibitors will have free tastings so that you can sample all that they have to offer.

The toughest job is yours - just what should you buy and how much can you carry home!

A fully licensed beer tent will be serving real ale and fine wines along with a choice of tasty homemade dishes for you to sit down and enjoy.

Live entertainment and music is free throughout the day and there will be plenty for younger visitors to enjoy including face painting, bouncy castle, a



designated children's zone full of arts and crafts for them to take part in and exhibitors who are specifically for the younger audience.

All exhibitors will be under fully covered marquees, so even if the weather turns wet, the event will continue in the warm and dry.

**Tickets are sold on the gate.**

**Seniors (£2) Adults (£4) 8-16 (£1) Under 8 (Free)**

To find out more of what is happening on the day and a list of exhibitors visit [www.scotfest.co.uk](http://www.scotfest.co.uk)

## We want your views on...View!

This is the third issue of Clackmannanshire View, the Council's quarterly newspaper to all residents in the county. We started the paper because research showed that you wanted more information in this format. The paper is funded from savings in other Council publications, such as leaflets and adverts.

We'd like to make sure we're including the information you need, and that you find the paper useful and entertaining.

**How did you get this copy of View?**

☐ It was posted to my home ☐ I picked it up in a Council building

Other, please state: \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 to 5, with one being the least and 5 the most, how much do you agree with the following statements?

	1 Completely disagree	2 Somewhat disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Somewhat agree	5 Completely agree
I read View and find it informative					
View is a good way to find out about Council services					
Clackmannanshire Council meets or exceeds my expectations in communicating with me					

**What would you like to see more of in View?**

☐ Facts and figures about Council performance ☐ Information about Council services  
☐ Articles about local people and events ☐ Articles about Council staff  
☐ Letters and opinions ☐ Photos and illustrations  
☐ Events listings

Other, please state: \_\_\_\_\_

**View is currently produced four times a year. Do you think this is**

☐ Too often ☐ Not often enough ☐ About right

**How else do you find out about Council services?**

☐ ClacksWeb - the Council website ☐ Local papers ☐ Leaflets ☐ Word of mouth  
☐ Contact with Council workers / coming in to a Council office

Other, please state: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your input

## Theatre comes to our historic kirkyards

The historic kirkyards of Clackmannanshire are the last resting places of many people who helped to shape the history of the county. From the famous to the unknown, they all made a contribution to the life of the county and deserve to be remembered.

As part of Clackmannanshire's celebrations in the year of Homecoming, three theatre performances will take place in the atmospheric surroundings of the old kirkyards of Alloa, Alva and Tullibody.

The events will be staged by award-winning The Walking Theatre Company. They encourage their audience to get involved in the performances. The performances in our kirkyards will focus on some of the people who are buried there and who are 'brought back to life' to tell their stories.

### Maids, Merchants and Magnificent Men - A Few Tales of Tullibody

*Tullibody Old Kirkyard*

*Friday 4th September 3pm and 7pm*

Tullibody is an ancient parish with a fascinating history.

This performance will focus on the tragic tale of forbidden love between a 15th century priest and the 'Myretoun Maid'; the influential Abercromby family and Sir Ralph, its most famous son; the Knox family, who established a brewery in nearby Cambus, and Robert Dick, the self-taught botanist and naturalist. The narrator will be his mentor, the baker William Aikman.

### Silver, Soldier and Spice - Stirring Stories of Alva

*Alva Old Kirkyard*

*Saturday 19th September 3pm and 7pm*

St Serf's Church once stood in the old kirkyard of Alva. The burial vault of the Erskine family, once the lairds, is still there. The stories of three brothers - Sir John Erskine, who made and lost a fortune in silver; Dr Robert Erskine who was physician to Tsar Peter the Great; Charles Erskine, Lord Tinwald, who became Lord Justice Clerk - are remarkable. In 1775 John Johnstone, who had made his fortune in the East India Company, bought the estate. He built a new mausoleum in the kirkyard

and his grandson James Johnstone gave the Johnstone Park to the people of Alva for their health, recreation and enjoyment.

### Earls, Engineers and Entrepreneurs - Exciting Events in Alloa

*Alloa Old Kirkyard*

*Thursday 5th November 3pm and 7pm*

The Earls of Mar and many other people were buried in and around the old medieval church of St Mungo. The church was enlarged and the tower built in c.1682 by the mason Tobias Bauchop, whose house still stands in Kirkgate.

Of the many people who helped Alloa to become one of the first industrial towns in Britain, this performance will 'bring to life' the visionary 6th Earl of Mar; Robert Bald, the enlightened mining engineer and some of his contemporaries; the Paton family of Kilncraigs Mill and one or two others who also have their stories to tell!



**Tickets: Adult £7 Concession £5**

**To book tickets please call 01259 213131**

Tickets are limited to 50 for each performance, so please book early to avoid disappointment. You will be moving about, but please bring a folding seat if you need to sit down and a torch for the evening performance in November.

## Take a Walk on the Wild Side

### Clackmannanshire Walking Festival - 17 to 21 September 2009

Clackmannanshire's second walking festival takes place in September.

Following the success of the inaugural event in 2008, organisers are looking forward to welcoming those who joined in last year and newcomers.

There will be 21 free, guided walks over four days through the most picturesque parts of Clackmannanshire.

The Festival has been organised by Clackmannanshire Tourism in partnership with a number of organisations including the Council, Braveheart, Tullibody Healthy Living Initiative and the Army.

The walks range from a gentle, three mile stroll along the Auld Stirling Road out of Tullibody to conquering four hilltops in the Ochils.

Whether you know Clackmannanshire well or are a first time visitor, the walk leaders will open your eyes to the county's magnificent scenery, heritage and wildlife by taking you on these walks which cater for all ages and abilities. Many of the walk leaders are

Clackmannanshire residents who wish to share their knowledge and love of the county with visitors and residents alike.

While the walks are free, there is an admission charge for Castle Campbell and Alloa Tower, and there are also costs associated with the refreshments on the Real Ale Walk.

A Walking Festival brochure with details of all the walks will be available in July at various outlets in Clackmannanshire as well as being accessible online at ClacksWeb.

For further information you can also email: [rangers@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@clacks.gov.uk)

As some of the walks have restricted numbers or are available only to adults it is advisable to book in advance - you can do this through the Contact Centre on 01259 450000.

