

# Luggiewatch

*The Summer edition*



## Cleaning Up!

Recently, the Luggiewatch team carried out a river clean-up exercise which bagged an enormous number of tyres, some car wheels, a bike frame, lots of plastic bags, bottles and - last but not least - a kitchen sink!

It is a pity that so many people seem to have no regard for the river, its appearance and its wildlife. But it is also heartening to know that a lot of local people around the river care passionately about it and are prepared to get their feet wet to clean it up!

Many thanks to Karen Chesney, who did a sterling job organising us all, and to Lisa Giffen and Archie's shop for providing very welcome tea, cake and sandwiches at the end of the event.



## Parliamentary Hearing

There was, recently, a hearing held by a civil servant from the Scottish Parliament. The hearing was aimed at getting answers to some issues raised in relation to East Dunbartonshire's local plan.

We decided that a representative from Luggiewatch should attend the event - the Chair, James Carmichael, went along. The participants were there by invitation - so it was not an open discussion - only those invited were entitled to give evidence and argument in relation to the specific questions the hearing was to address.

The participants were: East Dunbartonshire Council (4 officers were present), Milton of Campsie Green Belt Preservation Society (2 representatives), Milton of Campsie Community Council (1 representative) and a number of individuals (about 10) representing the interests of 2 house-building groups, a housing association and a group of landowners.

The discussion amounted to criticisms of East Dunbartonshire's plans. The builders and landowners argued that the plans did not go far enough or release sufficient land for building to meet government targets. The community groups argued that the plans went too far, released too much land for building and were far too ambitious.

It was clear that the landowners and builders were presenting a unified front. They seemed to have a set of common aims and objectives and they seemed very confident that they would get what they want.



# Luggiewatch News

## The Canal Festival

Luggiewatch will be running stall no. 15 in the Barleybank car park on the 21st of August. We will have all sorts of items for sale - mugs, tote bags, novelties and much more. Come along, have a chat with the team and pick up some Luggiewatch mementos!

We will also have some information about the wildlife around the Luggie and framed photos taken from our very popular calendar collection.

## Research

Luggiewatch has begun the process of identifying who owns the land about the Luggie Water.

### Why do we need to know who owns the land?

We need to find out who the landowners are so that we can build a relationship with them and work with them to improve and maintain the area.

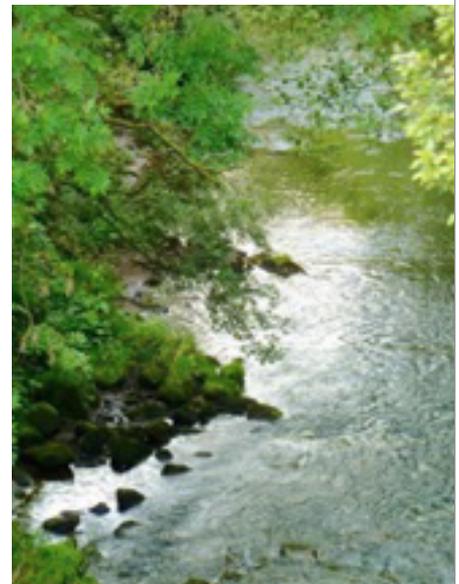
### Is it difficult to find out who owns land?

The Scottish Land Register holds a record of land transactions. It has been in operation since 1979. Prior to that, the Sassine Register was the main (though not the only) record of land ownership. So, any land in the area that was bought or sold after 1979 will have a record in the Land Register, and with that record will be a map of the land concerned.

From the Register we have discovered that a lot of the land around the area is owned by Wimpey Land Holdings Ltd (not to be confused with Taylor Wimpey house builders). A company that owned land at the entrance to the village (the area that includes the 'horse field' down to the river and along to Market Road) and another stretch of land past the playing fields on the way out towards Cumbernauld on the Waterside Road folded and their land went up for auction in 1994. Wimpey Land Holdings bought all that land for £15,000.

They also own land on the south of the river; all the land behind the Miners' Club stretching down into the field past Archie's shop belongs to Wimpey Land Holdings, with the exception of a small patch of land that belongs to a trust.

Clearly landowners have expected for a long time that the lands around Waterside will be available for house building.



## Planting Wild Flowers

Would you like to see some of the open patches of land around the Luggie and around Waterside village bloom with wild flowers and plants? Changing the planting from plain grass to something more like a wild meadow would be good for our bees, butterflies and insects (and good for birds, voles and other wildlife) and we would have poppies, orchis, campion, vetch and a host of other colourful and increasingly rare plants right on our doorstep.



Go along to a Community Council meeting and let your representatives know that you support the idea of planting wild flowers around the village.



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Luggiewatch meets at the Subscription School in Waterside on the second Monday of each month. Our meeting starts at about 7.30 and all are welcome.

Check out our Facebook site, or go to our website. Alternatively you can send an email to [luggiewatch@gmail.com](mailto:luggiewatch@gmail.com).