

Luggiewatch



Cleaning Up!

A beautiful bright Sunday (9th October) and another river clean-up event!

Once again Karen Chesney (who has since become Karen Chesney-Bathie - congrats Karen!) organised a Luggiewatch river clean-up, and once again it was a great success!

A dozen or so volunteers waded in (quite literally) fishing more tyres, cans, bits of plastic and lawnmowers out of the Luggie. Three considerable heaps of garbage were hauled out and piled up on the main road awaiting uplift by the Council. Luggiewatch would like to thank all those who helped clean up our river; a special thanks goes to Callum (the Tyre king) and Cameron, who kept us all cheerful.

And a big thank you to Palmaris, who are sponsoring our calendar again this year. David Hardy, one of their managers, turned out to help with the clean-up.

If you haven't joined a clean-up crew, come along to the next one; we have a great time, it's very satisfying work, and at the end, thanks to Archie's and Lisa, there's a great lunch.

Luggiewatch calendars now on sale!

After a lot of work by members of the Luggiewatch committee, two brand-new calendars have been produced and printed.

We were delighted that we could use as many photographs this year as we did last year, but the task of selecting photos was a considerable one. There are so many high-quality photos on the Luggiewatch Facebook page the task of narrowing down the selection was daunting.

Once again, we had to select photos that fitted the landscape lay-out of the calendar, and photos that would stand to be enlarged to fit the frame. Unfortunately some of the photos we liked had to be rejected either because they just didn't fit the frame, or because when enlarged they lost some detail and definition.

Everyone agrees however, that both of our calendars are up to the standard of last year's and the quality of the production and the photographs is outstanding.

And this year thanks to the generous support of Palmaris, we are in the fortunate position to offer our calendars at a lower price! The price for a single calendar is just £6. If you buy two - the price is £10.

Luggiewatch Stalls

On Saturday 3rd December Luggiewatch will have a stall at the Twechar Christmas fair.

On Saturday 17th December we will be in the Regent Centre in Kirkintilloch, and we will be there on Thurs. 22nd and Thurs 29th. Come along and get your Luggiewatch calendars, mugs, fridge magnets and much more!

Protecting the Luggie

Editorial comment from the Luggiewatch Chair.

Britain as a whole has lost more of its open, wild land than most other developed countries. The range of bird, insect, plant and animal species that are 'at risk' across the country is frightening.

This situation has led to the formulation of a biodiversity policy, developed and published by the Scottish government, aimed at trying to preserve and improve the range and variety of wildlife living across Scotland. That policy has produced *The East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*, which aims to 'put biodiversity at the centre of everything we do in East Dunbartonshire for ourselves and for future generations.'

At the same time however, we have plans for development and house building in East Dunbartonshire on a huge scale driven by government targets, an historic shortage of affordable homes and by high levels of demand for housing in the area.

The current development plans emphasise the importance of creating 'sustainable communities' but it is not clear how that will be achieved. Building great swathes of detached or semi-detached properties with garages and monobloc driveways does not amount to creating balanced sustainable 'communities' - far from it.

Rather it is the case that if plans go ahead and the areas handed over for development are built up, the result will be greater pressure on local roads leading to congestion, which will push further road building, and more and more open land will disappear forever under concrete, tarmac and brick.

On the one hand we have shrinking resources of open land and wildlife, while on the other we have a shortage of affordable housing and a high demand for new homes.

New houses will be built - that is inevitable - but we cannot simply ignore the fact that areas like the land around the Luggie are becoming rare. Once we build on land, once we strip away the trees, drive out the wildlife and build, that resource, that biodiversity, is lost and will never be recovered.

We can always knock down buildings and put up new ones, but once we destroy the natural environment it is gone.

The rhetoric of East Dunbartonshire's Biodiversity Plan, the idea of 'putting biodiversity at the centre of everything we do', does not seem to translate into action.

We have a precious resource in the Luggie, one that is under huge pressure and is increasingly valuable and rare. Along the river is a fragile community of wildlife and plants that future generations will treasure, if they get the chance.



Local News

1. The bridge over the Luggie has been closed due to safety concerns. At a recent Community Council meeting, representatives from East Dunbartonshire Council explained that the bridge had become unsafe and that very extensive repairs would be necessary. That being the case, the bridge will probably not be usable for many years.
2. Luggiewatch has made inquiries and is looking into the possibility of building an alternative crossing until such time as the bridge is repaired or replaced. We have made contact with the Mugdock Rangers, and we are planning to set up a meeting between representatives from East Dunbartonshire Council, the Mugdock Rangers and ourselves to look at what might be done. More information will be passed on in due course.
3. It has been confirmed that the historic subscription arrangement that supported Waterside Subscription School has come to an end. It is sad that the almost unique arrangement that supported the school hall has been dissolved and that the ownership of the school has passed into private hands. It seems that the hall has serious structural problems and the subscribers were unable to cope with the costs of repair, so it had to be sold.

Check out our Facebook page, or go to our website. Alternatively you can send an email to

luggiewatch@gmail.com.