

What's on in Carr-Bridge

Mike Maran Productions presents...

NOVECENTO

Tuesday August 29th
Carr-Bridge Village Hall @ 7.30pm
Tickets £8/ £5 under 16
Carr-Bridge Community Arts Ticket Line:
01479 841211
Tickets also available from the
Old Bakery Coffee Shop.
Tickets can also be booked online at
www.thebooth.co.uk

Another guest who is coming direct from the Edinburgh Fringe is renowned actor/ storyteller Mike Maran who takes the stage at Carr-Bridge Village Hall with his production of Novecento.

The tale tells of a transatlantic liner which buzzes with rumours of an extraordinary pianist. They say he was born on the ship and never once disembarked but no-one knows why.

Danny Boodman, one of the ship's engineers, found the baby in a box on top of the piano in the first class ballroom on the first day of the last century. Danny named the boy, 'Novecento' (Nineteen Hundred), and he grew up to become the pianist on the ship and those who heard his music say he was the finest pianist who ever lived. Is it true that he never once set foot off the ship?

CARR-BRIDGE LIVE

Wednesday Sept 20th - Sunday Sept 24th

A showcase festival providing an eclectic combination of traditional music, spectacular street carnival and jazz. The programme also includes music workshops, an Open Mic young bands stage, a guided walk and mountain bike tour to places of local historical interest as well as a golf competition, T-in-the-Hall with members of Duthill Church and a primary school's shinty tournament. The confirmed programme so far includes Mull Theatre's production ART, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's Wind Section, traditional music with Charlie McKerron and co from Session A9, jazz from Sax-Ecosse with graduates of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the ever-popular Orkestra del Sol. Further details will be posted on-line via the community website at www.carrbridge.com

MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK

Carr-Bridge Village Hall @ 7.30pm
Thursday September 7th
Tickets £12/ over 60 - £10/ Family £30
school pupils £5
Carr-Bridge Community Arts Ticket Line:
01479 841211
Tickets can also be booked on-line at
www.thebooth.co.uk

BLAS (the Festival of Highland Music) will be coming to Carr-Bridge on Thursday September 7th with Michael McGoldrick - one of the greatest flute players of all time - playing live at the village hall. Programme also includes the Feis Spe Ceilidh Band.

Mull Theatre present.. ART

Carr-Bridge Village Hall
Wednesday September 20th @ 7.30pm
Ticket £7/ £5 for under 16
Carr-Bridge Community Arts Ticket Line:
01479 841211

ART - one of the funniest, most successful and enjoyable plays of recent years and an international success story. This comedy opened in London's West End in 1996 to rave reviews, winning an Olivier Award and the Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy.

Is a white painting art? How much would you pay for what is essentially a blank canvas? Would it matter who painted it? Serge has just bought a very expensive painting. It's about five feet by four, all white with white diagonal lines. Marc can't forgive his friend for spending so much money on it, but Serge insists Marc isn't capable of judging art. Another friend, Ivan, although burdened with problems of his own, is eager to please and says he likes the painting. Lines are drawn and these old friends square off over the canvas, using it as an excuse to batter one another relentlessly over various failures. Friendship is finally tested when Serge hands Marc a felt tip pen and dares him: "Go on." An hilarious, dark, sometimes riotous, study of friendship.

Lochanhully Woodland Club

Entertainment Programme

Monday @5.00pm Whisky Tasting
Tuesday @ 8.30pm Fun Family Bingo
Wednesday @ 9.00pm Family Quiz Night
Thursday @ 9.00pm George Gordon Live
Friday @ 7.00pm B. B. Q. Disco at 9.00pm
David Hood Live on August 15th
All Entertainment open to non-residents

Councillor Black's Say

In October 2004 the Highland Council joined the Scottish Executive community ownership programme starting a process that will lead to a ballot of council tenants whether or not to transfer ownership of their homes to a (non profit) registered social landlord (RSL) called Highland Housing Association (HHA). HHA will be run by a representative committee and I am one of the five Highland Councillors elected to serve on this shadow committee. If the tenants should vote against these plans the HHA will stand down.

I regarded the proposal to transfer the housing stock with a degree of caution; I believe Highland Council has a good reputation as a landlord and during the consultation process many tenants let us know how much they value the council housing staff. Councillors (like myself) who were members of the former district councils, at the time when a considerable building programme was in action, felt that with debt cancellation to councils and a reconsideration of right to buy, we could have an almost ideal local solution to future social housing. However, the Scottish Executive made it clear to councils throughout Scotland, including Highland, that long-term treasury policy does not allow this. Looking at the transfer proposals in detail has convinced me they represent a marvellous opportunity to Highland tenants; giving them more chance of having a say in the management of their homes and the certainty of increased investment in improvements, at a guaranteed affordable rent.

If the ballot is successful the Scottish Executive will cancel most of the Highland Councils housing debt, the remainder being paid by the HHA to buy the stock. The association will have much less debt than the council saving 41p in the pound to service the Council's large debt so much more of the rent will be used to help finance improvements in kitchens, bathrooms, energy efficiency, footpaths, landscaping etc. The same dedicated and committed HC staff will continue to deliver the service and will transfer to HHA. Tenants' rights would remain exactly as they are with the council, and entitlement to housing benefit will stay the same.

Because of the diversity of the Highlands, the HHA is aiming to develop a decentralised service with six area associations, Badenoch and Strathspey will be in the 'South Highland' association along with Nairn and rural Inverness-Shire. Tenants will be encouraged to become members of the association and its area committees, with representation on the management committee which should give tenants more direct involvement in the management of their homes and in future investments. HHA will be an industrial and provident society run for the benefit of the tenants. Every penny of surplus will be re-invested in better homes and services.

There is no doubt that some people will object to this proposal on the grounds of principle or political dogma, and whilst I respect their views, I see no good argument against; only a huge opportunity lost if the vote's result is negative.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

Anyone who has ever sat down to write a funding application will know how much time it takes and how much research is needed before you can even start. Carr-Bridge has therefore been fortunate to have had the assistance of a community support worker who, over the past year, has managed to secure more than £25,000 of additional funding for village projects. This includes helping the community council to secure Awards for All Lottery money to purchase two new village marquees, obtaining funding for new chairs and tables for the village hall and securing sponsorship for village events. The community support worker post was funded through the European Community Economic Development Programme with the support of the Cairngorms National Park Authority. As well as submitting funding applications and attending village meetings, the community support worker has also been working behind the scenes on a number of other local initiatives. This includes the re-launch of the World Porridge Making Championships and the introduction of the fun run, the enhancement of the Carr-Bridge community website and linking it to numerous other external sites, helping source an architect to assist in the first stages of the redevelopment of Carr-Bridge Village Hall, organising risk assessment training for local events and setting up an on-line shopping website www.buy.at/carrbridgecommunity whereby all commission made can be put towards future village projects. The community support worker post, which was set up in partnership with a similar post in Boat of Garten, has been managed by the community development company, Carr-Bridge Ahead. Efforts are now being made to see if further funding can be found so that this community support worker post can be continued.

HEATHER HOPPER

The Heather Hopper bus service, linking Strathspey with Strathdon and Deeside has made a welcome return. During the summer months (July – September) visitors and residents will have the opportunity to explore the National Park using public transport. The 501 service run by D&E Coaches will depart Inverness going via Carr-Bridge, Dulnain Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey, Tomintoul, Colnabaichin and Strathdon to Ballater. The D&E Coaches bus will offer free bike carrying facilities, also Stagecoach Bluebird is introducing a commercial service to complement the 501, which will connect you to Aberdeen and Perth. Our Highland Councillor Mr Stuart Black launched the service in July saying, "Access to suitable public transport in rural areas is an issue that comes up time and time again, and of course, is not unique to the National Park". The Heather Hopper will depart Carr-Bridge 9.42 Monday to Friday arriving in Ballater 11.50, returning from Ballater 13.30 and arriving back in Carr-Bridge 15.16. Bus Time Tables and Tariffs are available from D&E Coaches.