

The Ticket

YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO GOING OUT AND ABOUT

LENNOX



The journey begins...

The Lords of the Rings was an epic adventure. Now prepare for an incredible journey. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey is the first of three annual returns to Middle Earth over the next couple of years. See page 22.

Prizewinners

Lucky Lennox readers

Winning a bottle of Ballantine's Whisky is G McCallion, 41 Ashton View, Dumbarton.

A £20 butcher meat parcel goes to J Findlay, 35 Bruce Street, Dumbarton.

The Mall Teaser crossword winner is D Hansen, 56 Honeysuckle Lane, Alexandria.

For a chance to win a pair of tickets for Clydebank's Empire Cinema just answer the question below and send it, along with your name and address, to: Cinema competition, Lennox Herald, One Central Quay, Glasgow G3 8DA.

Entries should be with us by first post on Friday, December 21 and editor's decision is final.

Question: Which actor starred as Ebenezer Scrooge in The Muppet Christmas Carol in 1992?

Last week's winner is Bridget Thomson, 152 Leven Court, Dumbarton, who will receive the prize soon.

Festive fun

Shopping at the Shores

Loch Lomond Shores is hosting an evening of relaxing Christmas shopping tomorrow (Thursday) with all the shops open until 8pm.

There will be special offers and discounts, live music, a Christmas wrapping service, tombola and raffle with proceeds going to Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS), and complimentary festive drinks and mince pies in the mall.

On Sunday Jenners host their annual Sparkle Day to raise funds for CHAS. Tombolas and raffles offering fantastic prizes as well as delicious food and drink tastings from Valvona & Crolla are just some of the attractions in store on the day.

Live music

Cheers gig

Loch Lomond Studios and Cheers Dumbarton present the first of two live music events at Cheers nightclub tomorrow (Thursday). Doors open 7pm with Hylo, Metropolis, Morning Sons and more acts to be confirmed.

Tickets, £4, are available from band members, Cheers, The Clipper or Loch Lomond Studios.



Jamming Performers at this month's acoustic night

Acoustic nights strike a chord with musicians

Dumbarton's got talent – and a monthly jamming session in the town aims to prove just that.

Alistair Ferguson, who runs a record store in the town's Bell Centre, is the man behind Dumbarton Acoustic Music Nights.

The series of fundraising gigs only started in July – but have already proven so popular that a waiting list has had to be drawn up for performers wanting to entertain.

The first charity donation has also recently been made, with a £500 cheque presented to Kinship Carers.

And Alistair, 51, hopes that after a successful start, the musical nights at St Augustine's Church can keep going for some time yet.

Monthly gigs

He said: "We get a lot of people visiting the record shop who can play guitar but it was difficult for them to get somewhere."

"It was initially difficult to get a venue but we settled on St Augustine's and they have been very helpful in getting us up and running."

"It's mainly for people who play acoustic guitar in any style – from folk music to pop music."

"And it's also a platform for any instrumentalists. There is no obligation to sing as you play and we have had some great instrumental performances."

"The standard has risen so much that everybody is trying to up their

game – and there is also a waiting list for slots on the bill."

"We try to raise money for local charities and we were glad to be able to hand over the donation to Kinship Carers at December's concert."

"We have also raised over £500 for the church since the nights started."

As well as performers, the concerts have also enjoyed a healthy turnout of audience members, with some nights being attended by over 100 people.

And musicians are travelling from far and wide to be part of what is a growing music scene in the town.

Alistair added: "We've been getting quite a steady audience – and per-

formers have come from as far afield as Rosneath and Balfron.

"There has also been a musician from Glasgow who has already been in touch wanting to play in February."

"People give up their time to be part of the entertainment – there is no money in it for them. Each night we have about six or seven acts who play for about half an hour each. We have had performers as young as 12 giving fantastic performances."

"We've had 50 to 130 people attending each event as paying customers. People may not want to head out during the winter months but even in November we had a very good turnout."

Alistair can be contacted for more information on 07787 310391.

Drama and violence explode in tense thriller

Book review

A love of remote places and Buddhism took Mark MacDuff to the tiny kingdom of Bhutan in the 1990s. At that point the writer had mainly produced articles on wine but this unique area nestled in the Himalayas provided plenty of inspiration for his first book.

Now almost 20 years on, the father-of-three from the Scot-

tish Borders has completed his novel 'The Dragunov Deception', a thriller set in the Buddhist nation devoted to peacefulness. And that backdrop provides a stark contrast to the drama and violence that explodes in his recently released book. Main character Michael Harding travels to eastern Russia to write about the plight of the Siberian tigers but stumbles upon the wholesale theft of religious artefacts and the Russian

authority's seemingly valiant attempt to bring the criminals to justice.

Meanwhile, Yantar Valesky is an undercover agent for the Russian Federal Security Bureau pursuing a criminal gang who are stealing Buddhist art treasures. Caught in a deadly web of corruption and murder and to survive they need each other. The Dragunov Deception is available at Amazon.co.uk for Kindle or eReaders for £4.49.

Party into 2013

Hogmanay is coming up – and some of the area's top venues have celebrations planned for revellers to see in 2013.

The Milton Inn is staging a Hogmanay party from 8pm to 2am, with tickets costing £4, which includes a buffet. Call 01389 761401 to book.

And band 'Dignity' are set to get party-goers in the mood before the bells with a concert at Dumbarton Golf Club in the early evening on Monday, December 31.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting staff at the club on 01389 732830.

