

## Robert has final word

THE third and last in a series of historical talks by a local man is set to take place this month in Alloa.

Retired lecturer and history enthusiast Robert Wingate will be bringing his short series of three talks to a conclusion at the end of November.

In the last instalment, he will speak about the End of the Stuarts and the butchery at Culoden on Monday, November 25, from 2pm at the Speirs Centre.

Previously, the historian tackled other subjects at Alloa's library on Primrose Street, focusing on some key periods of British history. The first talk in September was about the Romans in Britain and the Southern Tribes.

Mr Wingate then told the audience about the Romans in Caledonia and the final frontier.

Head to the Ceremony Room for the one-hour illustrated talk this month, which will be followed by a short discussion as well as a question and answer session.

Tickets to the event are free, but need to be booked at any CAP or library or call 01259 452 262.

# Mentorship programme launched in Wee County

By Ciaran Vance  
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A JOINT venture between Clackmannanshire Council and a national mentoring programme has launched in Wee County secondary schools.

The council has teamed up with MCR Pathways, a multi-award winning mentoring programme, to launch the Young Clackmannanshire Talent Programme.

All three high schools in the county will take part.

The school-based mentoring and talent development programme will help disadvantaged young people, including those who are care experienced or on the edges of the care system, fulfil their potential.

The core of the initiative will be a 50-minute weekly mentoring session between a young person and their mentor, who will listen and provide encouragement.

Nikki Bridle, Clackmannanshire Council's chief ex-

ecutive, believes this venture will be of benefit to the whole of the area and not just the young people involved.

She added: "We think Clackmannanshire has significant and distinctive features in terms of the number of disadvantaged people we've got.

"This is a proven approach which will allow us to create opportunities for young people to be the best that they can be and really realise their potential.

"It will also stimulate the economic performance of the area and create opportunities for young people for the future, so this is part of that journey."

Iain MacRitchie, founder of MCR Pathways, outlined the benefits for a young person's qualifications and their mental well-being.

He said: "First of all, young people are choosing to stay in school, which means we can take the number of young people getting their National 5 qualification from 58 per cent to 88 per cent.

"What we see as a by-product of that is that their con-



**WORKING TOGETHER:** Clacks council has teamed up with MCR Pathways for a new mentor project in schools

fidence, self-esteem and self-belief increase all increase."

The programme is looking for mentors to volunteer and Iain was happy to explain how beneficial the programme is for the mentors as well as the students.

"We underestimated the impact on the mentor," he said. "The evidence shows

not only are they feeling better, they are more engaged when they go back to their work.

"For me, it takes me out my comfort zone to a place I know matters to someone who needs what I can potentially offer so there's a sense of achievement and fulfilment."

Clackmannanshire Coun-

cil is hoping to recruit 250 mentors over the next two years.

There is no age limit for mentors and people from all walks of life are encouraged to join. Full training and support will be provided by MCR.

Anyone who is interested can visit [mcrpathways.org](http://mcrpathways.org) or call 0141 221 0200.

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[www.alloafirst.co.uk](http://www.alloafirst.co.uk)

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## Time to go 'outrageously orange' for Maggie's

CANCER charity Maggie's Forth Valley is encouraging people to "go outrageously orange" this Friday in a fundraising drive.

The centre, which aims to support people diagnosed with cancer based on the grounds of Forth Valley Royal Hospital, is taking part on the fundraising event for the first time.

People are being encouraged to wear orange and raise cash at the office, school or at local groups.

Yvonne McIntosh, centre head at Maggie's Forth Valley, said: "I can't wait to see the wonderful events that people in Forth Valley come up with to help make our very first Go Outrageously Orange a success.

"Maggie's Forth Valley relies entirely on voluntary donations to allow us to keep on developing our unique programme of free support for all those living with cancer in the area."

Visit [maggiescentre.org/goorange](http://maggiescentre.org/goorange) for details.



People are being encouraged to dress orange for the day

## Art workshop in Alloa

ALLOA ART CLUB is running a workshop by a local artist this month.

Karen Strang, who attended Tillicoultry Primary School and Alloa Alva Academy, will host their latest workshop.

The artist went on to attend Glasgow School of Art and now has a studio in Marcelle House in Alloa.

She said: "A studio is as important as paint and brushes to a painter. I love my studio at Marcelle."

Karen has been an artist for more than 30 years and has delivered art projects for the former Central Region and current Clackmannanshire Councils.

Her workshop is entitled Exploring Techniques with Charcoal.

She said: "As a painter, charcoal is a tool towards developing work for large scale cartoons, but its material

quality is good to exploit in its own terms."

For the workshop, participants are encouraged to bring along charcoal, a soft cotton cloth, soft round brush, putty rubber, eraser, masking tape, chalk if using toned paper and hairspray and baby wipes are also recommended.

For surface materials, lining paper or the back of scrap wallpaper will suffice.

The workshop is open to all adult artists from beginner to the more experienced.

It takes place at Resonate Arts House, Alloa, on Monday November 11.

Attendees are asked to arrive at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. The fee for the class is £5. Booking is required and closes mid-day on Saturday November 9.

To book, contact [deren-zalloa@gmail.com](mailto:deren-zalloa@gmail.com) or call 0789699224.

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Please call for further information  
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