



# Killin News

Killin and District Community Newspaper

FREE

Issue No. 1 : April 1991

## Another ruin for the village?



### THE OLD MILL PROJECT Killin Old Mill - Action at Last!

The news, at last, is good! St. Fillan may now rest in peace - the famous "Healing Stones" will again have a safe and dry resting place.

Work is now starting to save the Old Mill by the Falls. Money has at last been found to make it at least windproof and watertight - at a cost of £60,000 even if we can't persuade the various funding bodies to provide more, at least we'll have a historic building which can be refurbished to provide the rudiments of a heritage centre and tourist information point.

Remember the heady days of 1989? A firm of Edinburgh designers came up with an imaginative scheme to turn the Old Mill into a heritage and tourist show-piece - audio-visual presentations, heritage museum, exterior walkways by the Falls. The estimated cost was a mere £350,000 in the Spring of 1989; by Spring 1990 it was £450,000! Perhaps the most surprised man at this escalation of plans and costs was villager Stan Mudd who first put up the idea, in fairly modest terms.

But things were rolling. A committee was formed who, along with District Council staff, set about looking for funding. We were at this stage already financially committed. Interested villagers raised, from loans and donations, £11,000 towards the purchase of the building - the District Council having put up the larger part. The Council also made promises of £100,000, if other monies could be raised, hopefully from such as the Gannochy Trust, the Scottish Tourist Board and the Scottish Development Agency (SDA).

But things became difficult. Public money was hard to get. In short, the various funding bodies couldn't get their act together - and the SDA was in the throes of being disbanded. The committee sought the help of M.P's, Scottish Office Ministers and others, but the project ground to a halt.

No work, absolutely none, was to be started. Meanwhile the building crumbled!

And then, praise be, at the last moment the new Forth Valley Enterprise Board (successor to the SDA) has come up with enough to make a start - at least to save the building.

There is now real expectation that we will after all have that village heritage centre by the Falls, albeit considerably reduced from the original grandiose plan.

We shall keep you informed.

### TROUT FARM FOR ARDEONAIG

A planning application has recently been made to Stirling District Council for the development of a fish farm offshore at Dal Farm near Ardeonaig. It is intended to have - at least to begin with - two fish cages and certain on-shore buildings. The developers, Ben Vorlich Fish Farms, intend to buy part of a field from Dal Farm. The development will create full-time work for four or five people. While it is admitted that there is initially a pollution risk, they hope to minimise this by carefully monitoring the fish diet and by good management.

There are already indications that many people and societies in the Killin area will try to stop this development. Apart from the pollution risks, and the danger to native brown trout stocks from the escaping predatory rainbows, such fish cages have in other areas, notably Loch Earn and Loch Awe, led to crowds of anglers and poachers littering the countryside and causing a general nuisance.



Following last year's successful sponsored clean-up, we are planning another one in Killin on Saturday 27th April. Adults and children will work together to clear areas around Killin.

The project is registered with the National Spring Clean, a nationwide campaign organised by The Tidy Britain Group and promoted in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Children may seek sponsorship for the hours they work, to aid PTA funds. Money raised last year helped the school to buy an additional computer.

All additional volunteers will be welcome - you do not need to be a pupil, parent or teacher. Please meet at school at 10.30am with outdoor clothing, wellies etc. and safety gloves, if you have them.

## COMMENT

Welcome to this first issue of the KILLIN NEWS. We hope you enjoy it and feel that it fills a need in this community.

Our production team are all amateurs with no previous experience of Journalism; the only thing we have going for us is enthusiasm. But with help from Stirling District Council's Resource Centre we aim to turn out a paper every two months.

We have no political axe to grind. We are not a campaigning group. Our principal purpose is to keep you, the people of Killin and district, well informed.

We shall of course express our opinion, particularly in this column, to promote debate and provide a forum for your views on any matter of importance to the village and the surrounding area. So please write, there will be space for your letters.

## THIS IS YOUR PAPER

Ultimately, we should like you to think of the Killin News as your paper; so please don't hesitate to tell us how we can make it better, what you would like to see in it, even what's wrong with it for starters. The names of the Production Team are on the back page - most of you know most of us. And while we welcome criticism, we really want your support to make the Killin News a regular and useful part of our community.

We also want to help you publicise what you're doing, so if you're running a jumble sale, or a coffee morning, or holding a meeting, or organising a skateboard charity race round Loch Tay - tell us about it.

Finally, if you feel like making a donation - we'll be happy to accept it. It does cost money to produce a paper - even a modest one like this - and although we hope our generous advertisers will help to defray the costs - your financial support would be appreciated.

## KILLIN SURGERY

As from 1st March 1991, we have been operating an "appointments only" system in the surgery, to reduce the waiting time for our patients. With consultations increasing, patients sometimes had to wait for over an hour. The new system appears to be working well, although emergencies or consultations which take longer than expected can mean that patients aren't seen on time but we are monitoring the system. Everyone should get an appointment within 24 hours of a request and urgent cases can be fitted in.

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MRS. DANI HUNTER

## COMMUNITYCOUNCILNOTES

The next meeting of the Killin and Crianlarich Community Council will be held in Crianlarich School at 7.30 pm on 9th May.

Your Community Council also covers Ardeonaig and Tyndrum. It meets every 6 weeks and all its meetings are open to the public.

The Council exists to express to the Local Authorities for the area (and to public authorities), the views of the community it represents on matters for which those authorities are responsible.

Therefore, if you have complaints or suggestions to make, you should either attend a meeting or have the matter brought up by one of your elected Community Councillors.

The Council has recently arranged for the bottle bank, located at the municipal car park and presently, along with the Region and the District, is initiating improvements to the parking in Killin. It recently arranged for the public meeting at Tyndrum to discuss the proposed goldmine at Cononish. It arranges and pays for the Christmas lights on the Christmas tree in Killin. It looks after Breadalbane Park and is now having new bench seats built for it.

If you've got a complaint or a suggestion for the village, button-hole one of your local councillors - or better still go to one of the meetings.

Your Councillors are Peter Henderson (Chairman); Mrs P. Christie (Vice Chairman); S. Aitken (Treasurer); W. Stitt, J. Taylor, W. Anderson, I. McGregor, Dr. M. McColl, Mrs. M. Rodger, Mrs. E. Coffield, Mrs. M. Clement, Mrs. F. Kennedy. (Those underlined represent Killin and Ardeonaig).

We welcome suggestions or comments, so if there's anything you feel strongly about or would like to see done differently, please let us know.

Dr. David Syme      Dr. David Blaney

## LOCHTAY COTTAGE KILLIN

### SURGERY HOURS FROM 1st MARCH 1991

Mon. - Fri.	0900 - 11.00
Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri.	18.00 - 20.00
Sat. (urgent only please)	0900 - 10.00

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## WHAT KIND OF HOUSES FOR THE OLD MART ?

The old mart still looks much like a derelict bomb site. Those who venture round behind the main road towards the "famous" sewage works will no doubt have seen it. And still no signs of building work.

It's widely accepted that it is an ideal site for house building, but what kind of houses and how many? Do we want more of the relatively cheap "kit built" houses that some people feel are out of keeping with the village - or something more fitting? At least one planning application has been turned down by Stirling District Council. It proposed up to 12 small three bedroomed houses in the mart ground but was considered to be too high a density for the site and unsuited to the character of a highland village. Presumably the builders, who are not from this area, have gone away to think again.

## Words of Wisdom from the Minister

Maybe our District Council has been listening to the words of wisdom of Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the environment minister at the Scottish Office. He has announced a major Scottish Office initiative to provide planning authorities with guidance to curb unacceptable rural development. Environmentalists and planning pressure groups have protested bitterly in recent years over the rapid spread of "kit built" houses in the Scottish Highlands, often installed with little regard to their surrounding countryside and indigenous architecture.

The Minister also expressed particular concern over the practice of allowing villages to develop along main approach roads. Well, we've already got a bit of that sort of thing at the east end of Killin!

But let's hope the mart fares better in the next round of planning decisions. In some ways it's not an ideal site - not much in the way of views, and altogether too near the sewage works. Some of you will know of the foul smell that emanates from it in certain weather conditions, and of the petition sent by villagers to the District Council to do something about it. Rumour has it that they "improved" the smell with a "perfume" of some kind.

We hope, however, that when they do build on the site, the builders and planners will have a thought to create something that suits the character of the village.

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## SCHOOL PRIZE WINNERS



**Top Row** L - R:- Douglas Ferguson, Debbie MacAlister, Marie Donaldson  
**Bottom Row** L - R:- Terry Douglas, Kelly Twigg, Andrew Donaldson, Iona Campbell

### MAJOR FILM AWARD FOR KILLIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year seven children from Killin Primary School were presented with the International Cinematographers Award - Young Film Maker of the Year, last won by a school in Cape Town. Four of the children and their teacher, Mrs. Inglis, attended an award ceremony in London to receive their shield now on display in the School. The production of the film was initiated by Leslie MacKenzie of West Highland Animation sponsored by Central Region.

The five minute film is based on a local legend in which Finn falls in love with a beautiful girl but finds he has a rival. His opponent challenges him to leap across Loch Dochart but as Finn jumps back again (backwards) his enemy chops his head off. The remainder of the story is an exciting chase by Finn's men to exact revenge.

The background and figures of the film were made by the children in Killin and the words were provided by the gaelic-speaking group of children at the Maclaren High School. The production of the film involved a lot of hard work as it included making a background of scenery - mountains, lochs, rivers, waterfalls and the like - and figures for each character. Finn is a dramatic red-headed individual and his opponent has a shock of black hair and a luxuriant moustache whilst the lady in question is a stunning blonde! Every single movement of each character then had to be shot separately before being run together as a film.

Congratulations must go to all the children involved and to their teacher, Mrs Inglis. The choice of a local legend also has much to commend it.

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**May we wish the new newspaper every success.**

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## A VIEW FROM THE HILLS BY RACHEL HUNTER

### HILL SHEEP

The in-bye or park lambing is usually drawing to a close when hill lambing starts in the last week of April. Lambing is intensive for three weeks then gradually tails off over another three weeks or so.

The park sheep have usually been pregnancy scanned and fed concentrates according to their needs. A ewe carrying twins will require more nutrition than one carrying a single lamb.

Some hill sheep are given supplementary feeding but the majority of hill ewes survive the winter unaided and rear the lamb they have been carrying since early winter.

Although the Blackface sheep is indigenous to the midlands of England, it is interesting to see how the breed has been manipulated to suit human needs. A hundred years ago they were short legged and long woolled. Meat was not widely eaten in those days; in fact the butchers' trade did not exist in Scotland until early this century.



#### Prize-Winners:

*How the Blackface breed has changed*

Wool was another story. There were no man-made fibres in those days so wool was valuable. Prices were better then than now. In 1920 good Blackface wool was worth 50/- per lb. (112p per kg.). In 1991 the market value will probably be about 56p per kg.

Long wool and short legs are not an asset in a snowstorm, so by breed selection a shorter fleeced, longer legged sheep evolved.

Where will the much maligned sheep go from here? The hill ewe is an efficient and cheap converter of low quality grazing into high quality meat. Alternatives such as forestry and tourist developments require high investment, do not use the ground efficiently, and contribute little towards the perpetuation of rural communities.

## JOHN M'RAE

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## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### Brownies

On Saturday 16th March, Killin Brownies did a sponsored walk from Monemore Car Park to Daldravaig Farm, approximately 4 miles. So far the response has been very good - about £147 has been received to date.

We have about 18 Brownies at the moment. Any girl between the age of 7 and 10 is welcome to join us.

Mrs Annie McNee, Brownie Guider.

### Guides

The 1st Killin Lone Patrol came into being the second week in February and by February 22nd the girls and their Young Leader entertained the Brownies, parents and friends to a Thinking Day party - no small achievement! The girls meet together weekly with an adult in attendance. They are working towards a Cook's Badge as a Patrol. They are kept in touch with Guiding in the area by Mrs. Leslie in Dunblane.

Mrs G. Farquharson

### Curtains for Killin

Once again Killin Drama Club trod the boards to produce its annual extravaganza. Besides entertaining its public there was a sting in the tail this year. Everyone was asked to dig deep in their pockets to support the "New Stage Curtains" campaign. Replacements will cost over £2,000. "Dodger" has gallantly volunteered to cycle to Oban,\* so sponsors please be ready to support YOUR hall on April 28th.

\* (despatched by yet another blow from his mum's weighty handbag?)

### Killin Gun Club

Killin Gun Club, which was reformed in 1984, uses the Stance at Luib as their shooting ground, given for their use by Mrs J. Bowser. The Club has become popular in the area, with about 50 members made up of Juniors and Adults (including a few ladies). The first shoot of the club year was held on Sunday 24th March - in aid of charity. £ 106 was raised for cancer relief.

We hold six shoots per year for club members and visitors. There are also two Open Shoots - one Sporting and the other Down the Line. Next Shoot 5th May. Information from George Coyne, Auchlyne,(Secretary).

## J. LEWIS

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## LETTERS

Sir,

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the launch of your newspaper for Killin and the surrounding area. I'm sure that it will be informative and entertaining and will be a useful forum for local views. Producing such a publication takes a great deal of time and effort but will be well worthwhile and much appreciated by the community. I wish you all every success in the future.

Yours etc.

Penny Scott

Stirling District Council

## KILLIN SPORTS AND LEISURE CLUB

For some time a group of local people along with Stirling District Council's Community Services Department, have been discussing the upgrading of the sports facilities in Killin. The plans included building a Sports Pavilion with changing rooms, showers, toilets, club-room, kitchen etc., and a kiosk for the putting green and tennis courts. The tennis courts are to have an all weather playing surface with floodlighting, and the football pitch will be properly drained.

All this is projected to cost about £175,000 and depends on grant aid from the Football Trust, Gannochy Trust and the Scottish Tourist Board plus a loan from Stirling District Council to be repaid over 21 years.

To date the Steering Group in conjunction with Stirling District Council can now confirm that £35,000 has been promised from the Gannochy Trust and £30,000 from the Football Trust. We wait to hear from the Scottish Tourist Board who originally stated that assistance would depend on the other organisations promising funds.

The venture will need local support and to date around £900 has been raised in local fundraising events. Donations have also been promised from other local organisations.

Work on the Sports Complex is due to commence in early summer and is presently out to Tender.

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## GOLDEN PROSPECTS FOR TYNDRUM?

The Cononish area looks set to become a gold mining centre despite environmental objections.

Stirling District Council will decide on May 8th whether to grant planning permission for the £11 million project in the shadow of Ben Lui.

But the people of nearby Tyndrum made it clear at a public meeting that they want the gold mine to go ahead. It would provide a valuable alternative to tourism for the local economy.

Fynegold Exploration plans to mine 500 tonnes a day from a seam at Cononish Farm.

The Company - a subsidiary of Irish-based Ennex International - says the mine will provide 100 jobs over an eight-year life.

But its geologists are still hunting the continuation of the gold seam - broken by a geological fault - which they must find to make the mine viable.

And the mining start date remains uncertain. Gold prices have slumped, threatening the overall viability of the project.

## CHURCH NEWS

Some of us were privileged to join with 580 young people at a "Youth Praise Night" in Glasgow on 23rd March. The Church is involved in the Billy Graham Mission Scotland 1991: and there will be a **coffee morning** in the Lesser McLaren Hall on Saturday 27th April, 10.00 am - 12 noon. Come along and hear more about it.

Mrs G. Farquharson and Mrs M Bedwell: Church of Scotland, Killin.

## KILLIN NEWS PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

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