



KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue No. 42 January 1998

Never Mind the Grade, Feel the Quality! Tourism 1997



Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond. Stirling and the Trossachs Tourist Board was the first of all the STB regions to have 1998 Accommodation Brochures available for potential visitors, and with plans to invest over £800,000 on its advertising campaign for 1998, we must hope that this bodes well for tourism in the area. We are lucky that this huge and diverse area offers almost everything a holiday-maker could want.

In 1997, although our Tourist Board was second only to the Highlands, in the number of requests for tourist information, each smaller area, and each individual business, must still be prepared to market its own potential. Depending on your honesty, or how much you want your competitors to know, 1997 was either a very good year or a poor one! To be serious, some areas experienced a very poor tourist trade in 1997, as visitor numbers to Scotland fell, in general, compared to recent years, with the strong pound, the building society windfalls, and no "Rob Roy" or "Braveheart", all contributing to the fall. There does appear to have been a noticeable decline in "passing trade" in 1997, while there was a general trend towards

more advance booking. There is no question that visitors are becoming more discerning and want holiday accommodation of some quality. All Area Tourist Boards are now insisting on participation in the Scottish Tourist Board's new Grading and Classification Scheme, as a condition of accommodation membership. This will not please everyone but it must be seen as a very positive move to improve the quality of service offered to the tourist. As an added incentive for our Board members, the STB waived its joining fee for those applying before 30th November, 1997.

The STB have plans for a similar scheme to improve the provision of Food. The Natural Cooking of Scotland seminars have been attempting to encourage more use of local and fresh produce in the preparation of meals, but the problem with such a scheme, is that the majority of those attending are already "converted" and it does not reach those who have yet to discover what fresh produce is!

A new development is the Green Award, which may be given to those establishments that are demonstrating an aware-

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ness of environmental issues and could encourage local people to take more care of their environment. Litter is a real problem around our countryside.

All the STB schemes, whether we are for or against them, are there to improve the quality of service for the visitor, in what is a very competitive market on both a national and international level. Perhaps there is a case in the future, for all establishments offering accommodation to be registered with the local council, as happens in some countries.

We should also remember, in the end, that all the schemes in the world are no substitute for a friendly smile, good food, comfortable and clean accommodation, and the willingness to go out of the way to make the visitor feel really welcome, whatever part of the trade you work in.

Killin Community Council

The meeting was held in McLaren Hall on 9th December, 1997 those present were:

William Rew (Chairman), F Stewart (Secretary), William Douglas (Treasurer), J McPherson (Vice Chairman), P Christie, C Grant, C McRae, J Mallinson.

Three members of the public were present

Park Convenor: Charles Grant was voted on as Parks Convenor for a period of one year.

Community Council Meetings - A minimum of 6 meetings per year as required. It was decided that the meetings would take place every second Tuesday of every month, starting on 10th February. J Mallinson asked if it was possible to encourage more members of the public to attend the meetings. More notices will be distributed around the village two weeks before the next meeting. A Walker informed the committee that there was a community council notice board in the village situated outside the Breadalbane Park for which he has a key.

The committee decided to inform Members of the public to address any questions to be sent to the Chairman, Mr William Rew, or the Secretary, Mrs Fiona Stewart.

The Chairman brought to the committee's attention the problem of lack of progress on housing at the Mart. Work had started on the flat beneath Mr J Gaulds house. The Chairman thought that Stirling did not have much control over the Mart, as it was privately owned.

Toilets in Breadalbane Park - The Chairman thought that this issue would be controlled by the Environmental Services. J McPherson thought a letter should be written pointing out that children using the new play area were expected to cross a busy main road to reach the nearest public toilets.

Council to be asked about a Handrail at the entrance to the Public Toilets at the top of the village. J McPherson said it should be pointed out about the acci-

dents that have happened recently. The Chairman suggested that an estimate be obtained and the possibility of a grant be applied for from Stirling Council.

Dochart Bridge - Scrub and trees are now obscuring the view across the Dochart Bridge. This is hazardous to traffic using the bridge, especially in the summer months. Stirling Council are coming up after Christmas to advise on which trees should be removed.

C C T V - The proposed installation of the C C T V at each end of the village is on hold at the moment. The police have a mobile unit which will be brought up now and again for use in the area.

Ballechroisk Terrace - A complaint was received from a resident in Ballechroisk Terrace regarding the damage to the kerb on the corner by the Bin Lorry. Although the first three houses in the terrace are council owned, the others are not and therefore the road is not council owned. The council should be liable for repairs to the kerb. A letter to be written to the Council regarding this matter.

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park - P Christie brought to the Council's attention the proposed Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The Boundary Line possible stopping at Lix Toll but a map of the proposed area to be acquired. A further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Wester Lix Holiday Chalets - Enquiries to be made regarding a Right of Way through Wester Lix as the road had been blocked off about halfway through. Some doubts were raised as to whether the road went through the Estate.

Water Contamination - C Grant raised

the issue of the recent tap water contamination. He stated that the new water treatment plant was not obviously able to cope with what is required. There was also the problem of people not being informed until hours later. At least one elderly person was admitted to hospital caused by water contamination. The distribution of drinking water was slow and some people did not receive any. The priorities of this distribution was all wrong with businesses receiving water before householders. Explanations for this to be asked for from East of Scotland Water. A report on the contamination is also required.

Planning Application - C MacRae informed the committee that there had been four planning applications and no objections had been. The Old Esso Garage - a few months ago the new owner had applied for planning permission to change the garage into a Hot Take Away. The application had not been approved by the Planning Authority.

Next meeting -
Tuesday 10 February 1998.

Strathfillan Community Council

Our 'new' Community Council is in fact the same as the old one. but with the welcome addition of Irene Graham. Bill Paulin has resigned after years of hard work as Treasurer and as creator and editor of our local newsletter 'Strathfillan By the Way'. The decision was made to separate the 'By the Way' from the Community Council, and we are pleased that Bill will continue as Editor.

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Next Issue

The Killin News Production Committee would like to wish all our readers, writers and advertisers the very best for 1998. We especially thank our advertisers without whose support the paper would come to an end. We try to keep our advertising rates from increasing, but we do offer a real positive advantage in that the Killin News is delivered by hand to every household and business in the area - and that beats all the national and provincial papers!

Copy and advertisements for the next issue which will be distributed towards the end of March 1998, should be with us by the end of February and can advertise things happening in April and May.

Killin Primary Remembers Dunblane

You may have noticed much activity in the Killin School Garden on recent Wednesday afternoons! Much weeding was required before the pupils of P6 and P7 planted rose bushes in memory of the children and their teacher at Dunblane Primary who so sadly died in March 1996.

Three bushes named 'Innocence' which should have apricot blooms, were planted for the children in front of the infant room and the others for Gwen Mayor (peach) are in the plot to the right of the school steps.

AW

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Vintage Cars Visit Killin



This picture shows unusual visitors to Killin this summer. It is not every day that we are able to see 6 vintage cars on their way from Northern Ireland to Glamis Castle to participate in a 3 day vintage car extravaganza. The photograph shows the group during an overnight stop at the Dall Lodge, Killin.

From left to right: 1933 Austin Harley - James & Elizabeth Forgrave; 1927 Austin Heavy 12 - George, Danis Lauren & Mark Fulton; 1926 Humber 12/25 - Des & Ella Ballentine; 1939 Rover 6/10 - Sam & Shirley Marsden; 1933 Austin 12 - George & Sadie McCaig; 1928 Austin 6 - Pat, Anna & Patrick Morgan.

The route from Ireland took them on the new ferry from Ballycastle to Campbeltown, through Argyll and onto Killin, thereafter to Aberfeldy and onto Glamis. The return was via Oban and Inveraray - not bad for these hearty old cars.

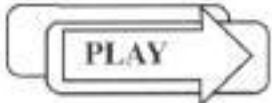
David Wilson, Dall Lodge, Killin

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The Natural World



Tim and his dogs

The pheasant shoots are over after almost half of the last year spent feeding, rearing and protecting the birds. Some have been shot and maybe forty percent will finish up as someone's dinner. The others will live wild and rear broods on their own as best they can (a pheasant's best is not very good, they are awful parents!).

Over also are the apres shoots for the beaters. These provide rare occasions for neighbouring keepers, fishermen and



Fox sleeping

others concerned in the countryside to get together for a good blether. At such times the blether inevitably comes round to foxes. Denning will not be far away and stories are exchanged from years past. I'm sure that this is because the fox really is the smart guy portrayed in children's" stories from all over the world. Not so much the sly fox - as the clever fox. Similar to dogs, the fox follows generally the same inherited behaviour patterns but each animal is an individual and you never know exactly how he or she will react to any given situation. Hence all the foxy stories told over again - back to the days of old Fred Simpson!

The fox is a canny adversary and has the

respect of all who hunt him. They are not only clever but beautiful and graceful animals. Anyone who has had the chance to see one on the hill - maybe finding and chasing mice, is privileged indeed.

We have so much folklore about Mr Fox - but unfortunately they need to be controlled. They do take lambs and not always sickly ones. Foxes are resourceful and adaptable, as can be seen by their spilling into urban areas. A few can be shot but this could never be the whole answer because of the type of ground and its vastness. One of the most successful ways of keeping foxes within workable limits is by Hushing them from their dens at breeding time by putting terriers down the holes. The running fox can then be shot. Many of the denning holes are known, some over three thousand feet! People ignorant of the ways of the countryside will only think of this as wanton cruelty, but I'm afraid that this is real life. Just like when you watch wildlife films where the lions are killing antelope and crocodiles are dragging down zebra, like foxes eating mice and lambs, like the average family cat bringing in wee birdies and little fluffy bunnies. Of course the fox population might be naturally controlled to smaller numbers than exist today. This would be by starvation and inability to rear cubs due to lack of available food. But man has so changed the environment, by planting alien forests, urbanisation, and farming practices that natural population control no longer works. We have created the situation so we must control it.

It is a fact of existence that cruelty exists: alongside factory farming, veal crates, battery hens, commercial fishing, and pesticides - the hunting of foxes with terriers seems welt down the cruelty charts, don't you think?

Tim Frost

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The Plight Of The Red Squirrel

North & South Loch Tay

There are two communities of Red Squirrel, based in the old Scots Pine Forests around Loch Tay. The forests near to Ardeonaig and from Killin to Morenish were both felled and replaced, post 1940, with blanket Sitka Spruce plantings. Up until the late '80's red squirrels were occasionally seen around the Loch side but in recent years there has been an increase in sightings. Unfortunately most were seen dead on the road. The death rate on the road is now so noticeable as to affect the remaining stock. Between March and September this year 9 bodies were seen dead on the road from Killin to Morenish and 11 on the road from Killin to Ardeonaig. Two of these squirrels had a young squirrel in arms!

Along the roadsides there are lots of

Hazels and open forest trees and the squirrels constantly cross the roads seeking food. Their movement has increased lately due to the blanket felling of trees on both sides of the Loch. Provided you are not driving fast, the squirrels can cross safely, but



with so much fast traffic and heavy service lorries on the road, they have little chance of crossing safely.

Written requests have been made to the Regional Council for a Red Squirrel Warning notice to be set up but the

Regional Council have not replied. The death toll will continue unless road users can be made aware of the squirrels presence and interest aroused by the general public in these unique survivors of the old Caledonian Forest. Otherwise the small Red Squirrel communities in this area are in danger of extinction.

The variety of mammals and birds killed on these short sections of road is disturbing. In the last few years they have included badgers, pinemarten, roe deer, tawny owl and sparrow hawk.

The Regional Authorities are not slow to erect large expensive road signs informing the public of twinning arrangements with obscure foreign towns, perhaps they could be persuaded of the need to erect similar signs asking drivers to slow down and thereby avoid the continuing decline of the red squirrel.

Pat Sandeman

Killin Agricultural Society

All livestock exhibitors
are invited to a
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to be held on
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"Designed to Care"

Last month the Government published its plans for "Renewing the Health Service in Scotland". Essentially, this ends the "internal market" in the NHS. with the planned phasing out of fundholding. The white paper is long on "vision" but short on practical details. It seems clear that there will be two main changes which may affect you.

The number of hospital trusts in Scotland will be reduced. That will probably mean an amalgamation of Stirling and Falkirk hospitals. There is a lot of duplication between these units in, for example, specialities such as Obstetrics and Accident and Emergency. There is almost bound to be some "slimming down" of facilities. That might mean that you have to travel further for your care. Or you might feel that Perth or Oban are nearer than Falkirk...

Primary Care will be organised by a Primary Care Trust which will be sub-divided into "Local Health Care Co-operatives" Since a Co-operative will cover some 25,000 - 150,000 patients, they are likely to be based on the existing "Locality" structure, which, in our case means being linked with Bridge of Allan, Dunblane, Doune and Callander. Some of

the priorities in these areas might be different from yours. We will do our best to make sure your needs, for example for hospital transport, are recognised.

One of the main problems for all the new organisations will be how to get "a quart from a pint pot" in a service which is strapped for cash. No doubt the co-operatives will be blamed for poor planning and inefficient use of resources. Of course doctors are trained to look after their patients' best interests rather than to undertake financial planning but that's another story...

The past few years have seen a number of changes in the way health care is organised. The great comfort to me in all this is that my main job of helping people to deal with their health by a basic process of listening to a story, performing an examination and coming to some sort of conclusion. That hasn't changed since doctoring started, so yet another government pronouncement isn't likely to make much difference!

Happy 1998

David Syme

Support Your Local Tourist Association

The Tourist Information Centres throughout Scotland continue to provide an excellent service for travellers and our own Breadalbane Folklore Centre has a huge number of visitors passing through its doors. However, 1997 has seen a large decline in the number of accommodation bookings being made through TIC's. visitors preferring to gather the information on accommodation and then choose for themselves. Perhaps this will at last dispel the belief that TIC's exist to provide them with guests!

You can not make someone stay somewhere the TIC says is next on their list. In a market that is more and more competitive, it is up to the individual business, with support from their local Tourist Association and the Area Tourist Board, to sell themselves. Area Tourist Boards and Local Tourist Associations, would both like to see an increase in support and membership from the non-accommodation business sectors. Too many people view the two bodies as serving only accommodation providers and do not recognise the wider implications for all types of business. The response from many is to ask, "What is there in it for me?"

Perhaps they should take time to reflect on the business that already comes their way, both directly and indirectly, as a result of tourism. Each year, our local Tourist Association receives a grant from the Area Tourist Board and a percentage of the local membership fees. In the Killin area, this is spent on promoting the district to the potential visitor and encouraging them to stay longer, through the annual What's On Leaflets, Events Posters, plus the production of other tourist literature giving general information on the area, local walks, local history etc.

Unfortunately, the Killin and District Tourist Association is in great danger of being disbanded, due to a lack of positive support from Association members. Even recent Committee meetings have been unable to form a quorum. In 1997, the Association had 63 names on its list of members but only a handful, continue to show any real interest in what the Association does. Too many people adopt a negative attitude because they receive few referrals from the TIC or gain no business from the Folk Festival etc., and therefore think they are "getting nothing" from the Tourist Association. Perhaps it is timely to point out that the Tourist Association has nothing to do directly with either and works quite independently to promote the whole area, not just the village of Killin. The Association needs more people who are prepared to help it continue its work.

in what is fast becoming a very competitive, global market place. It is no good sitting back waiting for the buyers to appear at your door, as if by magic!

Tourism is essential to the economy of Scotland, and much as we all enjoy the relative peace and tranquillity in the quieter months, if the tourists ceased to come, many communities such as ours would struggle to survive. More liaison and less isolation might help. However, that can only happen if there is a willingness on all sides to meet together, listen to what others have to say and then work positively towards a goal. Any new initiatives, must be in sympathy with the wonderful environment in which we live. This does not mean that we should be negative and unwilling to try new events, to encourage new activities or to repeat something that failed the first time. Whatever we do, should be viewed within the whole structure of the community, with a view to strengthening and benefiting the community, and complementing the area.

Santa visits the 'Wee Ones'

On 18th December the Killin Playgroup and the Mothers and Toddlers held their Annual Christmas Party in the Hall. Much fun was had by all in the various party games which



were followed by a good and appropriate banquet. When that was over the big event took place - the arrival of Santa Claus, who had in his 'sleigh' a present for everyone (see photo).

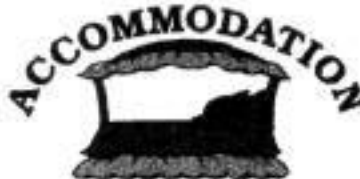
Thanks go to all who made the party so successful, and particularly to Charlie Methven of Balquhidder, who took on a role far more important than the Dame in last year's panto!

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Thank You Arleen and Lydia

Music lovers had a treat in the McLaren Hall on Friday 5th December when a well balanced selection of classical and lighter music was presented by Arleen Barlow (soprano), Lydia Buttigieg (piano) and the McLaren High School Orchestra, which included Killin's own Jamie Callan, Janet Kennedy and Gillian Ferguson.

With compositions by Mozart, Grieg, Chopin, Lehar, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Scott Joplin, it was an evening which pleased a wide range of tastes, and the orchestra youngsters' enthusiasm fitted in well beside the ladies' experience. Highlights included Arleen's 'Velia' and the orchestra's premiere performance of 'Star Wars', while Lydia sparkled in Albeniz 'El Puerto', playing on a splendid Kawai grand piano hired from Edinburgh.

Arleen and Lydia, whose rapport came through clearly, perform together regularly, more or less dividing the time between Lydia's Malta and the U.K. where Arleen's sister Barbara Riley lives in Tyndrum. It was this neighbourhood con-

nection which prompted Arleen and Lydia to put on an evenings entertainment, free of charge, to benefit local activities. The Killin Drama Club, well versed in staging productions in the McLaren Hall, readily agreed to organise and promote the occa-

Our thanks go to all concerned for a most enjoyable evening, which was successfully rounded off when the McLaren High School Orchestra and the McLaren Hall were each presented with a cheque for £150 which rose to £200 after a final count, and as Ian Milligan, orchestra conductor, remarked, the Killin musicians would get home early for once after a concert!

I.L.

New Indoor Riding School at Morenish

An enormous building of Olympic proportions was officially opened on 13 December. Part of the overall development at Morenish on Loch Tay side, this indoor riding school will greatly enhance the existing equestrian centre.

There was a varied and skillful display of horsemanship in front of some 250

spectators. The former Olympic performers Joanna Jackson on Mester Mouse (a Dutch Horse) gave a great performance of dressage to musical accompaniment, the horse appearing to almost dance to the music.

Pamela Booth and Kirsten Uhlenbrock opened the event with a pas des deux, two horses moving through an intricate pattern as one. Pamela riding on Mr Fox has been doing well in competition.

For me the highlight was a formation ride of local children who belong to the "Saddle Club" some of whom have not been riding long. They provided a good sometimes hilarious display. I noticed one or two proud mums beaming in the audience. Well done to Laura Mitchell, Jonathan Campbell, Hollie Alexander, Jamie Callan, Karen Simpson, Sarah Thomson, Katrina Tickner, Gillian Fleming and Madeline Moffat.

How big is the Indoor Centre? I suggested to Maureen (Cruachan) that you could probably get a lot of sheep in there. Maureen replied. "It would cover the whole farm!", - or words to that effect!

Some £487 was raised for the Riding for the Disabled Association.

AW

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1997- A Closed Book

What a year it was for Killin Football Club. Numerous success's were rewarded by promotion into Perthshire Amateur League Second Division. It was the year which heralded the (welcomed or un-welcomed?) arrival of the wheely bin. It saw the massive planting of hundreds of white bollards throughout the area (except at Lix Toll!).

Several "firsts" come to mind - the launch of the Heritage Society's first Killin Video, 28 February 1998 will be the first birthday of Costcutters official opening. Flooding of the Dochart Bridge was another first as were the new traffic calming measures and village signs for Crianlarich. Our throats are burning to tell you that Hazel Guild has completed her first year as a non-smoker! Killin residents were for the first time instructed to "boil water" as heavy rain had apparently contaminated the new £900,000 East of Scotland Treatment Works! The "advent" of the Rev. John Lincoln as the first minister for the combined parishes of Balquhider, Killin and Ardeonaig.

During 1997 AMC Motors closed it's doors for the last time. The dedicated services of Bill Stitt as Chairman of the McLaren Hall Committee were relinquished after 17 years. Close to our hearts were the retirals of Audrey Weaver, District Nurse and Health Visitor in Killin for over 20 years and School Teacher Sheena Chisholm after 15 years teaching in the area.

Within the Killin News we have undergone some changes during 1997. The resignations of Jan Willison and Richard Shand were a big loss to the team but we

look forward to Ian Lithgow, Bill Douglas and David Blaney's participation as new Committee Members. Our "beloved" Editor, Sinclair who helped conceive the Killin News is also looking forward to well earned retirement from the paper. Our aim has been to report and inspire debate without passing judgement or taking sides (not an easy task) though we never cease to be amazed by what sparks off a deluge of letters compared with articles which pass quietly without comment from you. In 1997 the dispute concerning Dall Lodge and the Sports Pavilion was probably the most lively piece in the immediate locality whilst the article about short stay coach parking brought surprisingly controversial opinions from further afield. We regret if flak was received by any participants in the "Bus Stop" article, but thankfully you have not "consigned us to the dustbin!". The itchy article on the lifestyle of ticks really stirred up a "hornets" nest, whilst BSE passed without comment.

In 1997 we involved ourselves with the dilemmas of Jake and his long awaited barrow and Gladys with her ice cream trailer. We hope you enjoyed Tim Frost's regular articles about life up the Glen, and Alex Stewart's Angling Club News. We are indebted to Helen Cole for "The Green Team". Dr. Syme for "Surgery News", Ian Donaldson for "Police News" and to Mervyn for the weather.

At this the start of the New Year, we find ourselves wondering if the Killin Drama Group can possibly surpass last year's Robinson Crusoe - we will report in the next issue - Oh yes we will! Can we say of 1997- "It's behind you!?".

Killin Arts and Crafts Exhibition 1998

The Killin Art and Crafts Exhibition will be held in the Lesser McLaren Hall, Killin, during the first week of August, 1998. This advanced notice will allow anyone who may be interested to think about possible exhibits.

Painting and Crafts may be entered for exhibition only, or for sale, if the exhibitor so wishes, in which case a commission on any sale will be charged.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs E. Lumsden, Secretary, Tel: 820404, or Mrs H. MacNeill, President. Tel: 820514.

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Terry Goes for a Naval Career

Terry Douglas, Manse Road, Killin aged nineteen has recently successfully completed the first stage in his quest to make a career for himself in the Royal Navy.

Terry applied to join early in 1997, after a six months wait he was advised in August that he was to report on 1 September to HMS Raleigh, near Plymouth to start 14 weeks of basic training as an Artificer Apprentice. Together with 71 other young men and 2 young ladies he started an intensive programme of instruction which, during the first week included how to wash and iron clothes, sitting a technical assessment test, taking the RN swimming test, getting an initial taste of parade training and a first look at an assault course. There then followed 13 weeks of general training which Terry said was especially hard at the beginning when the day started at 5.30 am and frequently finished after 9.00 pm. A keen sportsman, Terry particularly enjoyed the physical training and was awarded



the trophy for the Best Apprentice in Gym Work. Also as sports representative of Burgess Division he received on their behalf the Challenge Trophy awarded to the Division achieving the greatest success at sport.

Terry successfully completed his training and a proud Mum, Dad and two brothers travelled to Plymouth to witness the Passing Out Parade on 5 December where Terry with his colleagues of Burgess Division formed the Guard of Honour.

After the Christmas break, Terry has gone to HMS Collingwood, near Portsmouth to continue his 4 year apprenticeship.

Thanks to Judge Stroyan for our Village Christmas Tree

Judge Stroyan, as usual, provided the village with its Christmas Tree, as well as those at the McLaren Hall. Kirk Care and the School - all of course delivered by Tim Frost. Thanks are due also to Willie Stitt and the "Boys" who, under the watchful eye of Jimmy Gauld, got the tree up, and to Scott Semple who fixed the lights. We are also grateful to the Episcopal Church for the use of their electricity.

Lodge Breadalbane St. Fillans No. 815

The Lodge held its annual installation of Office Bearers in the Masonic Hall on Friday 3rd December. Douglas McRobbie was placed in the Chair of the Lodge as Master, by P.M. Eddie Chant of Lodge Almondale No. 1658 assisted by P.M. Alex Stewart of the Killin Lodge. Supper was taken at the Clachaig Hotel when the traditional toasts were honoured, followed by an enjoyable harmony.

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Annual General Meeting of the Killin Initiative Committee

The meeting was held with J. Mallinson in the chair. In addition to the Committee itself, eight members of the public attended.

The Chairman began by expressing his disappointment that there was little representation from local hoteliers who in fact gained the immediate benefit from the events that were run: and this in spite of notices being distributed to every hotel and shop in the village.

The Secretary reported that the year, in spite of difficulties, had been a considerable success with the Folk Festival and the Highland Games now firmly established on the calendar. The subcommittees running these events had done a tremendous job. but more help was still needed for both events. She also stated that due to other commitments she was obliged to resign as secretary.

The Highland Games Chairman (C.Grant) said that although the Games were a success more sponsorship was needed, and more help needed from the village.

The Folk Festival Chairman (J. Mallinson) said that many top Artists in the U.K. and Ireland thought that Killin was the best festival they had been to. It was certainly successful as a festival, although it had its financial difficulties. Some problems occurred this year, but these had been discussed with the police and further meetings would be taking place and he hoped that next year's festival would be problem free. He also hoped for more

participation and co-operation from Hoteliers.

The Treasurer's report was distributed to those present. It was noted that the Folk Festival had made a small loss and the Highland Games a small profit. Although the figures did not seem 'life threatening' the Initiative Chairman said the financial situation would have to improve considerably if the events were to continue. Again he asked for a greater degree of support and sponsorship from the village itself, as well as businesses outside the village.

New Committees were Appointed as follows: Initiative Committee: Chairman, J. Mallinson; Vice-Chairman. C. Grant; Secretary. A. Aitken; Treasurer. D. Reid, and seven ordinary members.

Highland Games Committee : Chairman. C. Grant; Secretary, F. Stewart; Treasurer. D. Reid, and four ordinary members.

Folk Festival Committee : Chairman, J. Mallinson; Secretary. A. Stewart; Treasurer, D. Reid, and four ordinary members.

The Initiative Chairman brought up the subject of future fund raising. It was the general feeling that the local hotels should try to raise money for the festival, since they were the ones who made the profit. J. Mallinson and A. Aitken agreed to liaise and letters would be sent to all concerned.

Glen Dochart Adult Education Group



Spring Courses:

Computing for Beginners - Crianlarich: for 10 weeks starting Monday 19 January 1998 - 10 places. To book phone: 01567 820753

Computing for Beginners - Killin: for 10 weeks starting Tuesday 20 January 1998 - 10 places. To book phone: 01567 820753

Aerobics - Killin: for 10 weeks starting Wednesday 21 January 1998. For information phone: 01567 820472

Yoga - Killin: for 10 weeks starting Thursday 22 January 1998. To book phone: 01567 820374

Further Courses: Communication Skills - i.e. Reading, Writing, Listening, Talking. If anyone is interested in attending a 10 week course in the above please phone 01567 820374

AGM

Since our second AGM in December the new committee is as follows:

Chairperson: S McRobbie
01567 820374

Treasurer: C Russell
01567 820472

Secretary: J Rhys
01567 820753

Committee: K Riddell. A Cloud.
G MacNicol.

Also, we want to hear from anyone about courses they are interested in attending or teaching. If you have any good or mad ideas then please contact one of the committee members.

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Killin's First Diamond Wedding



On the 3rd January, 1938. Annie Scott and Willie Allan were married in the Bridge of Lochay Hotel by the Rev. Donald Thomson. Willie went off to the navy shortly afterwards.

wedding also attended. Just to make sure no one was left out grandsons Brian Allan and Graham Cowan phoned from Australia and the Falkland Islands respectively.

This January 3rd Willie, Annie, and their large family, some 50 people including children, grandchildren and great grand children, had a magnificent party in the Coach House Hotel, and they were honoured by a letter of congratulation from the Queen,

Like any other party including Willie and family there was much singing - from Willie of course - but others too (even Douglas!). The finale was in fact a "singing group" consisting of great grand children singing 'Caledonia, I'm coming home'. The music for the do was provided by a delighted Roger Sharp.

For the record 7 grandchildren (out of 9) and 9 great grandchildren (out of 11) actually attended; and Danny Allan (Willie's wee brother) best man at their

We offer Willie and Annie our heartiest congratulations.

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Comment

We notice that an 'Alternative News' has appeared in the village. 'The Dochart Times' has, we notice, as yet a very limited distribution. This office did not receive a copy!

However lets' not be unwelcoming. We look forward to the next issue! So far it has been kind enough to offer some faint praise to this publication, but accuses us of too much sitting on the fence, being neutral too often. Well, it remains the policy of the Killin News not to take sides, except where the interests of the village are under threat or are ignored.

In the Comment Column of Issue No. 40 for example, we took the East Of Scotland Water to task over the "Boil Water' notice. and asked them to explain why such a costly filtration plant led to the first instance of contamination in recent memory. They have not replied; they were sent copies of the paper. For the record also, we do provide in the letters column and elsewhere plenty of opportunities for those with strong views to express them. See this issue's letter column. Finally, why is the Dochart Times anonymous?

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THANK YOU

Annie and Willie Allan wish to thank most sincerely all those who gave gifts and sent cards of congratulation on the celebration of their Diamond Wedding on Saturday 3rd January 1998.
Willie Allan.

Margaret MacKenzie would like to thank friends and neighbours for all their kind wishes, cards, flowers, gifts and visits which she received during her recent stay in Stirling Royal Infirmary. Thanks also to the local doctor and nurses.

Mairi & Ian Hunter and family would like to thank all who sent cards, letters and flowers and also those who offered words of condolence on their recent sudden bereavement. Fiona, Claudia and Stephanie have been comforted by the cards and letters sent to them in German) on the loss of a dear husband and father. Thanks to all.

David Main would like to thank all those kind friends in the village who sent cards and good wishes during the time he was in hospital and also for the support received following his return home.

Gilbert and Pat would like to thank most sincerely everyone who sent gifts and cards on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding.

Helen MacGregor would like to thank everybody for the beautiful flowers, gifts, cards and good wishes received during her stay in hospital. What a nice boost when she was feeling down.

Sponsored Parachute Jump

Scottish H.A.R.T. (Heart at risk testing) for schools. I would like to thank all those in Killin who gave so generously in support of the charity. The incredible sum raised by the village was £333. The overall total was £2,200. Thank you all.
Elizabeth Todd (Fulton)

My neighbours Jimmy and Joan are now living in Strathyre. I would like to thank both of them for being such wonderful neighbours. Jimmy is a marvellous postie as well as an excellent golfing friend. Both he and Joan have helped me in many ways during the past year.

I could not have wished for better neighbours and I hope they will be very happy in the community in Strathyre.

Jean Henderson
Fingal Road. Killin

OBITUARIES

Violet Cameron died in Bellsdyke Hospital after a long illness. Although living in Killin most of her life, she was born in Newcastle. Orphaned at an early age she came to her grand father Alexander Cameron the saddler. Brought up by her Aunt Susan who owned a newsagents shop, there is a historic photograph of Violet aged five outside the shop, with the bill boards proclaiming the start of the 1914 Great War.

Violet was restless by nature, she loved the hills and was a great walker and travelled extensively. She served during the wars with both the N.A.A.F.I. and the Church of Scotland Canteens in Germany and the Canal Zone as manageress.

She could be regarded as representing an older Killin where the pace of life was different. She was the first Lady Captain at Killin Golf Club. Her surviving relations in Killin are Alan Walker and Helen Shearer.

LETTERS



Dear Morag and Killin and District.

R.H.S.C. Leukaemia and Cancer Research Fund.

It was a lovely surprise to receive your letter and cheque for £2,700 raised on behalf of Lauren from her parents yesterday. Lauren's parents tell me that this huge amount of money has been raised throughout the year by yourself and friends at Killin and District with a wide range of activities including a bar-becue, a very successful auction. I believe a stall at the Highland Games and also a sale during the summer. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your fantastic support year after year and please pass our thanks to all your friends who have put in a huge amount of effort to raise this large amount of money.

As you know, your donation will be used to provide care, research and support for children with cancer and leukaemia and their families treated here in Edinburgh. We remain very grateful to you for your continued support and it was a great pleasure to see Lauren looking so well.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. With kind regards,

*Hamish Wallace, MD FRCP Edin.
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist,
Sick Children's NHS Trust, Edinburgh.*

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*The Residents and Staff would like to thank all our
Friends and Neighbours for their support and good wishes
over the past year and wish everyone
a Very Happy New Year*

Dear Sir,
Wind Farm For Glen Ogle

Consumers of electricity pay a 10% levy to help pay for alternative methods of generation. There is strong evidence to suggest that we are subsidising white elephants and if there is any suggestion of a wind farm in this district, we should vigorously oppose the idea. Many of us have practical experience of wind turbines and I can vouch for them being excellent as domestic novelties for pumping water over rock gardens and no more. Recent publicity might easily give the impression that generating electricity from a windmill is as easy as grinding corn in the nineteenth century. It is far less economic and a lot more complex. We once leased residential premises near Folkestone in Kent and the owner installed an elaborate wind turbine which was calculated to save him huge sums of money by providing all the electricity for himself and us, his tenants. We had to suffer the autumnal blustery weather with radiators that reached a lukewarm hand-heat in a force 10 gale and remained stone cold if the wind dropped. I looked at the complex electronic switching bravely trying to compensate for the wildly fluctuating voltage and I shook my head in disbelief when the owner told me he had paid £9,000 for the installation. That was in 1950 - even today, £9,000 buys an awful lot of electricity properly delivered at a constant pressure and current potential.

Would we have the benefit of cheaper electricity from wind turbines? Even supposing it were cheaper to produce, that would be extremely doubtful. I once argued the case with the Hydro-Electric Generating Board that energy

generated by falling water should result in much lower unit costs - progressively reducing as the loan capital is gradually decreased. Even with inflation and depreciation, a nil fuel cost would logically result in this. Unlike the vagaries of wind pressure, water power is accurately calculable and predictably constant. But despite this truly euphoric answer to an environmentalist's dream, Scottish Hydro Electric consumers still pay the same price per kilowatt/hour as do consumers who rely on fossil fuel generators. (Actually, they pay more if they use a lot at off-peak prices - which is an anomaly if ever there was one!). The classified explanation is that it would be politically unsound for prices throughout the UK to vary by more than a few pence. Would it not be the same if they augmented the supply with wind power? Doubtless they would argue that capital investment has to be recovered but there is, to my mind, irrefutable proof that the capital cost of wind turbines is never recovered. The gains are marginal, spasmodic and unreliable. And with a useful life of about 12 years, unit replacement is required long before the economic break-even point is reached. We might also be tempted to ask why they build wind farms near residential areas and where the wind velocity is only moderate. Why not coastal areas? The official answer here is that too much wind DAMAGES the turbine! - and that's efficiency!?

I once attended a conference sponsored by Seeboard in Thanet and was able to talk frankly to their engineers about wind-power. Faced with a barrage of technical implausibilities they said, and I quote: "Pressure groups had been making waves in local authority circles and this conference was a public rela-

tions exercise designed to placate the so-called green environmentalists who were getting a little to fashionable". I make no further comment.

Alan E Jenner
Ge Leith, Manse Road, Killin.

Dear Sir,

Wind Farm For Glen Ogle

I write to express concern over the error in your lead article in Issue Number 41. It was stated that "the farm would in fact be out of sight of both villages, and probably not visible from the main road". For your information, it is demonstrated in the plans that the wind farm will be CLEARLY VISIBLE in the approach to Lochearnhead from the South - effectively from the Braes of Balquhidder down the length of the A84 to the edge of Lochearnhead village. It will also be clearly visible from the South Loch Earn Road from Carstraan almost to Ardvorlich (3 miles). Needless to say, it will also be clearly visible from all the surrounding hills above this level.

Ian J Orrock
Edinample House, Loch Earn.

Correction

In our last issue the report of St. Fillans Episcopal Church stated that "Mrs Audrey Weaver was presented with a book token". This should have read "Mrs Audrey Symon was presented with a book token".

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Mervyn's Weather



The glorious early Autumn of 1997 gradually slid from view under the mists and drizzle of November and December. Most late autumns have their fair share and more of dark misty, sunless days, but in particular December 1997 was remarkable for its lack of sunshine. On only fair days during this unexciting month did the sun recorder here at Ardtalnaig have a brief mark burned in its cards. On the other hand during these two months frost was practically absent. What there was consisted of quick and short-lived pre-dawn descents below freezing level, which of course produced patches of black ice so detrimental to motorists. Snow did not fall on the lowground and only the highest hills were intermittently dusted. This itself is unusual as normally December produces at least a short spell of snow and frost, almost always gone before Christmas.

The rainfall finally rectified itself as late Summer and Autumn had produced a considerable deficit, but the heavy rains of late December brought the annual total to within 2 inches of the average.

Now 1998 has started with a series of deep depressions giving heavy rain and southerly gales, so that already (6th January) almost 4 inches have fallen. Should this pattern continue for another 10 days or so there might be a possibility of a cold, drier spell late in the month.

Mervyn K. Browne.

Killin Football Club

Killin have continued their successful start to the season. Since the last report up to 25 October, another 7 games have been played with Killin recording 6 wins (5 league and 1 cup) and 1 defeat. The defeat against Vale of Earn was the team's first in the league for more than a year. This year's league record reads played 12, won 9, drawn 2, lost 1, goals for 34, goals against 14.

Games since 1 November-
Killin 4 v Blairgowrie 0
Killin 6 v Ballinluig 0
Killin 4 v Methven 0
Breadalbane 0 v Killin 1
Killin 3 v Perth Caley 1
Killin 5 v Burrelton 2
Vale of Earn 3 v Killin 2

Bill Douglas, Secretary

Killin Carpet Bowling Club

The Killin Club held it's annual Invitation Pairs Tournament on Saturday 6th December, when forty pairs took part. The competition was fierce but friendly with an unusual number of games being decided on an extra end, an indication of the high standard of play in the ties. The result was a win for the Balquhidder pairing of Brian Perks and Dave Campbell with our own club President Jock Guild and his wife Hazel taking the runner-up spot. Brian Scott and Jimmy Johnstone from the Crook of Devon and Hugh McLeod and Eddie Holland from North Connel filled the play-off places. The consolation singles was won by Jimmy Hermiston from Camserney, with Alex Stewart from the Killin Club the runner-up. The next Open Competition is the rinks on the 7th February, spectators are welcome to come along and see the fun.

W.R.I.

The November meeting took place in the Lesser McLaren Hall. President, Mrs Liz Lambert welcomed members and guests from Dull and District, who showed examples of Swedish Christmas Decorations. Ornamental Metal-work and read Poetry. They also challenged members with a quiz about 'Sweets and Chocolates'.

Competition winners were:
Filled Baked Potato - 1. Monica Naismith. 2. Ellen Stewart. 3. Elizabeth Woods.
Favourite Postcard - 1. Ellen Stewart. 2. Liz Lambert. 3. M. Twigg.

Votes of thanks were given by Mrs Kate Winton. Hostesses were Mrs Winton and Mrs Naismith.

The December meeting took place in the McLaren Hall. Members and visitors from Balquhidder and Ardeonaig Institutes were welcomed by President Mrs Liz Lambert.

The speaker for the evening was Mr A. Jasper who informed us of the health and nutritional properties of Aloe Vera and also of Bee Products from the deserts of the U.S.A.

Prizewinners in the competitions for Mince Pies and Christmas Crackers were as follows: Mrs Ellen Stewart and Mrs Monica Naismith.

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Gun Club

36 guns turned out for the last Club Shoot for the year. The Club has been well attended throughout the year. Many thanks to all our Members and supporters for all their effort in helping the committee on shoot days.

Shoot results for 9th November, 1997.:

Class (A) D.T.L. 1. E.McAllister. - 74. 2. G. Coyne. H. Campbell & R. McC. - 69.

Class (B) D.T.L. 1. D. Stewart - 65. 2. B. Donaldson - 63. 3. G.Muller & R. Mills - 60.

Class (C) D.T.L. 1. R. Lewis - 63. 2. K. Campbell - 51 3. E. Paterson & V.Carrisi - 47.

Class (A) Sporting. 1. E.McAllister - 72. 2. H. Campbell - 69. 3. R.McC - 66.

Class (B) Sporting. 1. D. Howson - 45. 2. S. Christie & S. Argo - 39.

Class (C) Sporting. 1. R. Lewis - 42. 2. I Fullarton - 42. 3. M. Howson - 39.
Continuation - G. Coyne - 30. Veterans. - Lennox - 94. Class (C) - R.Lewis - 105.
High Gun - E. McAllister - 146.

End of Season Trophies 1997. D.T.L. Class (A) G. Coyne - 391. Class (B) Jas. Sinclair - 303. Class (C) R. Lewis - 265. Sporting Class (A) G. Coyne - 356. Class (B) J. McKay - 292. Class (C) I. Fullarton - 257. Agg. Shield - E. McAllister - 544. Runner-up - G. Coyne - 523. Currie Rose Bowl - E. McAllister - 290. Junior Agg - R. Lewis - 367.

G.D. Coyne, Secretary.

Killin Breadalbane Angling Club A.G.M.

The annual general meeting of the Killin/Breadalbane Club was held at the Killin Hotel on Monday 10th November, 1997, with Mr Alex Stewart in the chair.

Minutes - the minutes of the 1996 meeting were read and approved.

Office Bearers - Neil Cairns proposed that the office bearers remain as they were and this was seconded by Donald McLarty. All office bearers agreed to serve for another year. It was then proposed that the committee should be increased in number and this was agreed. Kevin O'Reilly proposed that Gregor MacAulay be included in the committee and this was seconded by G. Main and accepted by Gregor. Neil Cairns proposed that Taff Mantle be included in the committee and this was seconded by Ian Downie. Taff accepted the nomination. The committee were elected as follows:

President: Mr Alex Stewart. Vice-president : Mr Kevin O'Reilly. Treasurer : Mr Angus Inglis. Secretary : Mr Dave Murray. Competition Secretary : Mr Ian Downie. Committee : D. Twigg, S.Gillies, N. Cairns, C. Booth, J. Scougall, T. Mantle, and G. MacAulay.

Balance Sheet - The annual balance sheet was presented by Mr Angus Inglis and its acceptance was proposed by J. Scougall and seconded by G. Main.

Annual Subscriptions - Mr N. Cairns proposed that the subscriptions for the year remain as at present i.e. £10.00. per

annum for trout and £20.00. for salmon. This was seconded by Ian Downie. It was unanimously agreed that visitors permits should remain as at present, viz. £4.00 per day or £5.00 if issued by bailiffs or on the water, £12.50 per week and in all cases a 50% reduction for OAP's, Juniors and the unemployed.

Salmon Fishing - Rule Change - Donald McLarty proposed that the rules regarding fishing times be changed to allow workers to fish in the early mornings prior to commencing work i.e. from 15th January to 15th October, 1998. from one hour before sunrise to 12.00 hours and from 14.00 hours to when the street lights are switched on. This proposal was seconded by Jack Scougall.

A.O.C.B. - The meeting wished to record their thanks to Mr John Hewitt for allowing the club the use of his shed for repairing the club boats and to Mr Jim Callan for his help in repairing the boat engine.

The meeting decided that the AGM should be held in a different hotel each year and the Fishers Hotel will be asked to allow the meeting at 7.30 pm on Friday 6th November. 1998, followed by a buffet supper.

The secretary was instructed to write to Mrs Francis Taylor, the Killin Show Secretary to get permission to hold the casting competition at the venue of Killin Show. He was also instructed to write to the Council Lighting Department to have the settings on the floodlights at the rear of the Capercaillie Restaurant changed to keep the lights from shining into the pool.

Mr J. Scougall asked that the committee investigate the possibility of having electric power installed at the Boat Shed.

Mr Gregor MacAulay has kindly offered the use of rods and reels to any youngster interested in taking up the 'NOBLE ART'.

There being no other business the meeting closed, with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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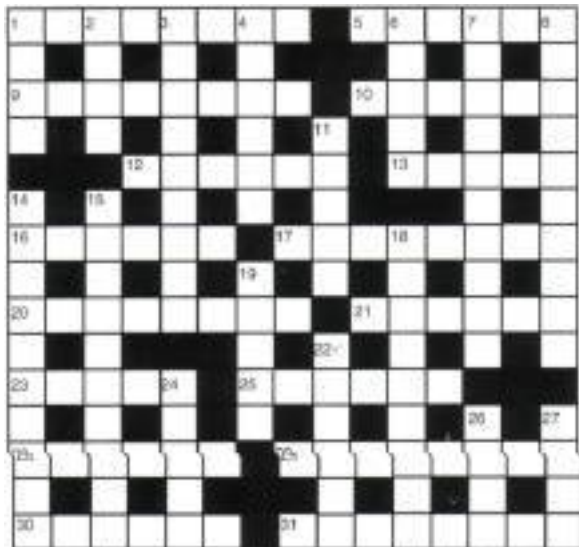
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Crossword By Safarian

ACROSS

DOWN



1. Glasnost initially and Russian roulette giving us confidence (8)
5. Supporters absorbing in grey matter (6)
9. Saucy awe constructed to provide link across the water (8)
10. One slept troubled but soft-hued drawing appeared (6)
12. Sharpened pencil eagerly displays the language in return (6)
13. The big deer also found in Scotland, but much smaller (5)
16. Split personality? But damage anyway (6)
17. What you might see through a telescope (4,4)
20. North Eastern device important legally. (8)
21. Redraw and reassign the man from Peterhead, possibly (6)
23. Flower of Spain and Portugal (5)
25. Top teams speaking sotto voce? (6)
28. Initially no good removed and changed ignoring the source (6)
29. Transport obtained from the French chives (8)
30. The Spanish draw a team (6)
31. Tea dress declared out of order (8)

1. Electrical discharges seen initially in any reactive current system (4)
2. Short command on parade - easy this is not (4)
3. Concerning an old pit but look again closely (2-7)
4. Change first navigation and relay. That's close enough (6)
6. Domain located in secure Alma Mater (5)
7. A double ration of 5 but can't decide (2,3,5)
8. Arrange view sale involving Rolls-Royce for these valuables (10)
11. Noble young descendant possibly (5)
14. Recipe for soup of the day - chop up one German monster and mix together (10)
15. March hare leaping around? (10)
18. Source of wine the way it's rumoured (9)
- 19,22- Rulers of the waves? (5,6)
24. Odds in the East - now that's backbone (5)
26. Look in the road for this groove (4)
27. American journalist all finished up (4)

Christmas Prize Crossword

We are sorry to have to report that this year there were **NO** correct solutions submitted for the Prize Crossword. Consequently, we have decided with the Bank of Scotland's agreement to donate the £40 prize money to the Killin Brownies.

The correct solution to the crossword is as follows:-

Across: 1. pensioners 8. exempts 9. woven 10. open 11. Oslo 12. roe 14. antler 15. petrol 18. ivy 20. nice 21. bloc 23. nacre 24. dormice 25. storm cloud.

Down: 1. present 2. nope 3. insist 4. newcomer 5. rover 6. decorations 7. interlocked 13. reindeer 16. rallied 17. acidic 19. yacht 22. ergo

NB Letters commenting on Crustacean's last crossword should be sent in a sealed envelope!

Editorial Policy

The Killin news is a free community newspaper produced and distributed every two months by volunteers to households and business in Killin and District. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertainment journal for those who live, work and visit in this area. Letters and articles published in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Production Committee and the Editors reserve the right to shorten, edit, or not publish, any particular article or letter. Contributions will only be published if accompanied by a contact name and address.

Should you wish to make a donation or have any suggestions on how to improve the Killin News, please feel free to get in touch with the Editor or any member of the Production Committee.

The Pyrenean Mountain Dog

In the last issue we mentioned the memorial to a dog on the slopes of the Tarmachan range. Duncan McDonald tells us that the dog belonged to David McKenzie who was one of a large family living on old Grey Street.

AW

J.R.NEWS

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