



Every two months

FREE

# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue No. 31 April 1996

## Village Enhancement Project



*A scene of disruption at the entrance to Breadalbane Park.  
Incidentally we heard that the paving sets were imported from Holland!*

It is now some time since we've had a report on this project but on Tuesday 13 February, a meeting was arranged for village representatives to hear the latest news from Hugh Lightbody of Stirling Rural Partnership - in effect, the "manager" of the project.

First, of course, not really news, is the major item in the Enhancement Plan, the entrance to the park which is well underway. Some of us think it has been underway for a long time. It looks, however, as if we shall see it completed by the end of March (fingers crossed). All sorts of views have been expressed

about what is being done, some for, some against. We are in no doubt that the end product will greatly improve the bit of wasteland we had before. Fools and bairns shouldn't see a job half done.

On the continuing topic of **Coach and Car-parking**, another major item in the Enhancement Project, the news is that Central Regional Council and Robert Lewis of the Capercaillie have agreed a price for the large parking area. The word is that some administrative hoops have still to be gone through, but it really looks now like plain sailing and work should begin soon to convert the "waste

ground" into a coach and car park with an acceptable entrance. It should be ready hopefully by May or June, just before the peak of the tourist season. The planned "Village Trail", being masterminded by Helen McPhie (Stirling District Council) is at the moment being held up during consultation with land owners over access, not quite plain sailing. However, we are informed that there is reason to be hopeful as the new Unitary Council may be recruiting an "Access Officer". It is also reported that the Council will have a strong "Environmental Action Team". We shall wait and see.

The new children's play area is definitely going to be relocated in Breadalbane Park in the area between the round house and the putting green. Not only that, but it will be greatly enlarged and improved along modern lines. Again we await signs of action. Other small "enhancements" originally suggested for the Main Street have now been dropped. No trees "hiding" the school; no landscaping of the McLaren Hall car park. For the latter we are encouraged to seek Community Council grants, as well as for any other small, low cost improvements.

### Killin News Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Killin News will be held in the Killin Hotel on Wednesday 10 April 1996 at 8.00 pm. We cordially invite our readers and advertisers to attend.

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*Things not happening. The melancholy scene overlooking the site of the old mart and cattlepens.*

## J.R. NEWS

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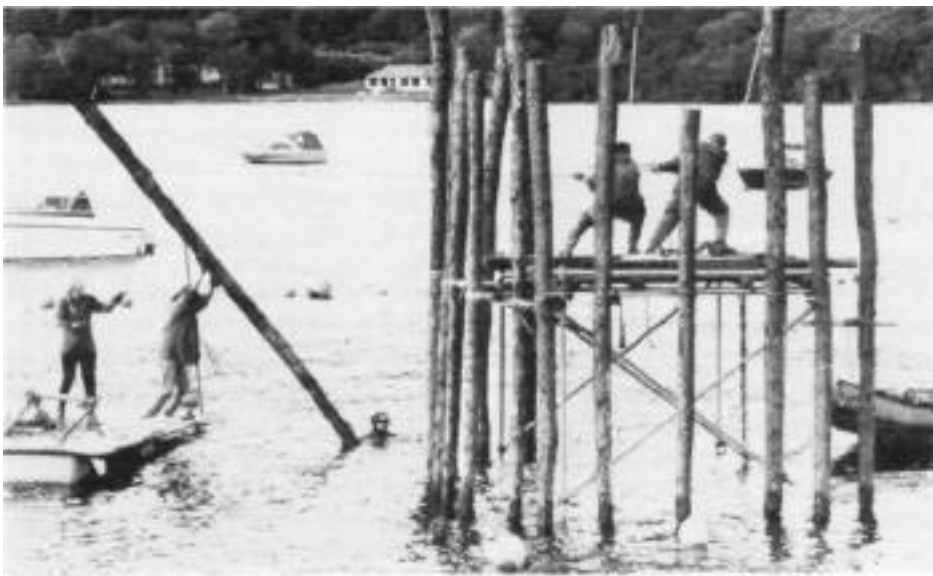
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## The Crannog at Croft-na-Caber



*In the beginning there were few*

*... Now there are many!*



The new Crannog at the Kenmore end of Loch Tay grows apace. Now! From a previous issue of the Killin News you should know about Crannogs. However to refresh your memory:- there are about 19 artificial islands in Loch Tay, most of them are literally in the Loch below the surface, occupied in the late bronze age about 2,500 - 3,000 years ago.

At Croft-na-Caber, on the south side of the Loch, archaeologists and helpers are busy recreating a timber structure on piles of Alder wood. At the beginning of December, an open day was held in aid of funds and intrepid travellers from Killin found an interesting scene. The lake dwelling now has a platform of logs that you can walk on - interwoven hazel screens kept out the wind from the Loch. The house, or whatever one can call it, will be circular, roofed beehive fashion and have some room for one or two sheep pens. On the site for the open day were exhibitions of weaving, wood carving, video display and making stone cup marks. The gentleman making the stone cup marks also lit a fire in two minutes flat by using a bow and string to rotate wood, the friction igniting wood shavings.

The Crannog, when it is finished, will be well worth a visit to give an insight into the way of life on Loch Tay 2,500 odd years ago. *Is the platform safe?* It ought to be. It has planning permission, building control warrants and modern engineering consultation based on an original design used at Fearnan along the Loch a long time ago. Readers will remember that one of the chance by-products of the enterprise was the discovery of a 2,500 year old 30 foot long dug-out canoe, which is being left where it is as Scotland does not have the facilities to store and preserve such a find.

## Comment

Just when you think nothing is happening, you notice that changes are and have been taking place over the five years that Killin News has been on the go. We have tried to keep a diary noting these changes - one can make a non inclusive list. A new clinic; new houses; sports pavilion; tennis courts; McLaren Hall refurbishment; A & B Forestry; Agricultural Engineering; retirement home for the elderly; Heritage Centre and Tourist Office in the transformed St Fillans Mill etc.

There are now other physical signs of change. The entrance to the Breadalbane Park, the change of use at MacCreavy's Garage, Horwoods (formerly Archie Aitkens) now under the auspices of the National Trust for Scotland. Other changes are outlined in the Village Enhancement Project.

Despite encouraging on the ground changes and a healthy list of village activities and charitable work, there is, however, some scope for behavioural changes. We know the News has been grinding on about litter and dog fouling (improved by the work of the village officer, not by the inhabitants).

How about cars pulling out from parking into the face of oncoming traffic on the narrow main street rather than waiting a moment; travelling at speed through the village where there is a blind corner; a school and an old folk's home in close proximity; parking, with usually diesel engines left running, whilst the drivers nip into the shops, not a dreadful sin but very annoying for bed and breakfast establishments and others who live on the main street.

In other words, all we drivers need to be is a bit more considerate!

## Community Leisure Centre

At a public meeting in Killin Primary School on 13 February, notice of which was given in the last issue of the Killin News, the architects and some directors of the company set up to build and manage the Leisure Centre, gave a presentation with detailed and attractive illustrations. What we saw looked a well designed complex with a great range of sports facilities. Most of these have already been described in the January issue of the Killin News but at that time, we forgot to mention that in addition to the games hall (big enough for four badminton courts) there will be two squash courts.

Those who made the presentation were considerably disappointed at the very small turn out - about 15 or so adults and some young people. It seems not to have been publicised effectively. Those who did come, however, formed two "workshop" groups to discuss various aspects of the centre and its use by outlying villages. The question of the size of the swimming pool was raised but we were informed that after much consultation and advice, it had been unanimously agreed to install a 20 metre pool in the centre. The good news is that the project has been given a welcome boost - £731,000 from the Lottery Sports Fund.

A Rubbish Skip will be available at the Station Car Park on the following dates:-

<i>Delivery Date</i>	<i>Uplift Date</i>
14 May	20 May
20 August	26 August
19 November	25 November

## Killin and Traders' Association

At the AGM on 28 November 1995, there was a very poor attendance of members, less than one third. After some discussion, it was proposed to disband the Association. The Traders' Association was formed to deal with matters which could affect the businesses in the locality and to explore avenues which might improve the trading environment. Whilst some progress was made, there were insufficient members on the Committee to justify the effort. The Committee spent most of its time and energy organising two successful events, namely the Highland Games and the Folk Festival.

There appears to be some concern regarding the adoption of the proposal passed and whether it was correct for such a small representation to make that decision. Therefore, before any final step is taken, all the members are asked to respond, in writing, to this article expressing their views on the central issue - should the Traders' Association continue or disband?

Replies are to be made to the interim secretary, Mrs Fiona Stewart, 2 Dochart Road, Killin by the end of April. A non-reply shall be recorded as such and the result of the survey intimated by Public Notice. A decision on the next course of action will appear in the May edition of the Killin News.

## Area Ranger Service

Did you know that Stirling District Council employs Countryside Rangers? One of these Rangers covers this area and in addition to wider duties can:-

- 1 Advise on rights of way and access issues.
- 2 Increase environmental awareness through ranger-led walks and talks.
- 3 Environmental education for school groups.
- 4 Site management.
- 5 Visitor information.

Any queries or information, contact Stewart Easthaugh, Community Services, Stirling District Council, Beechwood House, St Ninians Road, Stirling, FK8 2AD or telephone him on (01786) 432365.



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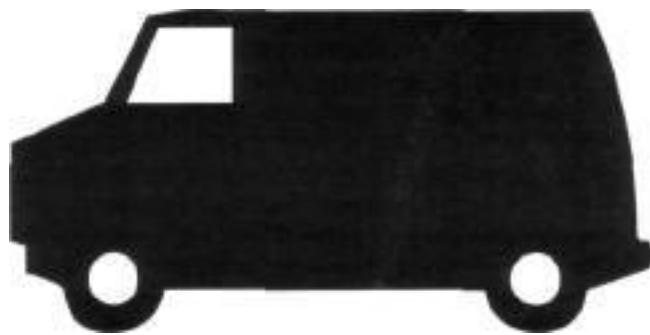
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## Killin Nursery



*Councillor Wallace and Jenny Todd with some of the children*

On 27 February Regional Convener, Anne Wallace, performed the official opening of the Killin Nursery. A small group of local people, mostly mothers of nursery children, met with Regional and District representatives, local builders and the staff themselves to listen to Councillor Wallace make a short speech thanking all those who had been involved in getting the nursery off the ground. The Regional Council's Head of Early Years' Education also spoke and said that (he development was a result of excellent co-operation between Education and Social Work Department. The opening ceremony consisted of Councillor Wallace "cutting the cake" surrounded by some of the nursery children and Jenny Todd, the Nursery Co-ordinator.

**Jenny Todd**, co-ordinator and teacher, now has the help of the recently appointed **Margie Hinks** from Zimbabwe (via Aberdeen) and **Alma Walker** (from Balloch) on secondment until Easter. Both are fully trained Nursery Nurses and Alma is also doing some research on the needs of the under threes. In the photograph there is also a **parent helper**, on this occasion, **Wendy McKellar** from

Crianlarich. Most parents take a turn at this job. The children themselves come from Killin, Crianlarich, Tyndrum, Balquhidder and Lochearnhead. about 40 in all, although there is never more than 20 at any one time. They attend the nursery two days per week and the playgroup for one day. All seem to enjoy themselves, are well looked after and kept busy. Under Jenny's supervision, they make brown bread nearly everyday and eat it with fresh fruit - no sweets, crisps or biscuits! Just a healthy diet and fresh air when possible. Jenny is also keen that people from the local community should come and visit, if they let her know first.

## Killin Library

**Children's Easter Event** - Thursday 4 April 10.30 am to 12 noon. Tickets available at the Library. For ages 5-10 years. Could those who have not already done so, please register with the Library in order to get their new card as the Library is now computerised. A reminder to all that there is a fax machine, a photocopier and also a good variety of videos prices from 75p to £2.

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## Police News

Even though evenings are getting lighter, parents are reminded to ensure that their children's bikes are fitted with lights (which work). Also, although there has been a great improvement, some children are still cycling and leaving their bikes on footpaths and parents are asked to advise their children of the dangers of doing so. A few motorists are still continuing to park on double yellow lines. These lines are there because it is dangerous to park at these areas. Any driver continuing to do so will be twenty pounds poorer.

In January a drugs operation was carried out in the Killin, Lochearnhead and Tyndrum areas by officers from within the local command unit, resulting in three reports being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. The police are aware that drug abuse is present in our area and are endeavouring to combat it. Any information would be gratefully received and treated in strict confidence. Anyone in need of information or assistance can contact the following numbers:

**National Drug Helpline: 0800 77 66 00**  
**Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF):**  
0141 221 1175

*Ian Donaldson*

*Jenny  
Lambert*



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## Killin Community Council

The Council met on 8 February in the Lesser McLaren Hall under the chairmanship of Dr Mairi MacColl. In attendance were Councillor Kenneth Campbell of the new Unitary Stirling Council and one member of the public. Councillor Tom Martin sent his apologies and expressed the regret that he was missing his last meeting of the Killin Community Council. Dr MacColl expressed appreciation of the great help Councillor Martin had given the Council.

**Management of Loch Lomond and Trossachs Area:** Councillor Campbell reported the issue of community representation was being considered by new Councils who were also tackling the question of whether there are to be two areas or one.

**Entrance to Breadalbane Park:** Concern was expressed at the slow rate of work on this development. Councillor Martin had earlier phoned to confirm that it was a "fixed price" contract. The Highland Games' Committee had complained that the disposal point for Elsan toilets beside the McLaren Hall was inadequate. Mr Aitken had spoken to the builder who installed only to be told that there was no way of improving it. It was the builder's opinion that the point was adequate for the disposal of liquids only.

**Dog Fouling and General Cleanliness of Village:** Mr Ryan of the Cleansing and Transport Department was impressed by the improvement in Killin. More bins and scoops are to be made available at the Police Station and the Library. Arrangements have been made to provide a rubbish skip at the station car park on the following dates for one week at a time: 14 May, 20 August and 19 November.

**Nursery School:** It was reported that the nursery school in Killin is now functioning for 3-5 year olds with a recently appointed Nursery Nurse. While not as much as had originally been promised, the Council were pleased that the facility was up and running.

**Senior Citizens Burns Supper:** The Community Council donated £50 towards the cost of this popular event.

**Wind Farm at Glenogle:** The Council reported that consideration was being given to the provision of a wind farm at Glenogle. It was agreed to pursue this matter further.

**Any Other Business:** It was reported that repairs to the Dochart Bridge were required. Letter to be sent to Central Regional Council.

**Callander Multi-Complex Sports Centre:** Councillor Martin had reported his opposition to the plan to install, in the Centre, a 20 metre swimming pool instead of the accepted standard size for competitive pools of 25 metres. This to be taken up at the forthcoming meeting in Killin School on 13 February.

## Strathfillan Community Council

The Community Council last met on Wednesday 7 February where Mr Ian Stalker, European Managing Director for Caledonia Mining Corporation addressed the meeting and answered questions. We were informed that drilling is to start very soon with the construction phase starting in May and lasting around six months. Production should commence by the end of the year. It is envisaged that around 50 people will be employed, the majority of whom will be local. The company have donated money for building more houses in the area. Mr Stalker also reiterated that around one third of the gold will be released by a physical method and the remainder by the use of a non-toxic chemical.

### Other News

Mr John Riley, our Chairperson, has recently been elected as the Stirling Area Representative for the Association of Scottish Community Councils.

Crianlarich Primary School now have a School Board again after some time. The

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## Duke of Edinburgh Award



*David and Gregor with their awards*

At an award ceremony presentation, **Gregor Gillies** was presented with his bronze award and **David Riddell** was presented with his silver award. Both boys gained their awards through the Forth Award Group in Stirling which meets every Tuesday night.

new School Board's wish to be affiliated to the Community Council was unanimously accepted.

We have also received some long awaited good news. At the last Area Committee Meeting, Mr Hunter Jamieson informed us that the traffic calming measures for Crianlarich have been provisionally booked for the coming financial year.

## Strathfillan

We have, in past issues, had a look at the North and South sides of Loch Tay, Glen Lochay and Killin itself. A quick look at Strathfillan seems in order.

Where does Strathfillan begin and end? Roughly, it is the valley between Crianlarich and Tyndrum - Strath denotes something broader than a glen. Although not immediately full of visual impact, it does have a surprising history. As you travel from Crianlarich, the mass of Beinn Dorain can be seen beyond Tyndrum and on your left, Cruach Ardrain. Before Tyndrum, to the left is the magnificent Ben Lui with its great corrie ideally suited to winter climbing. The fun is to break through the cornice that forms on the lip of the corrie. However, Strathfillan has more going for it than the mountains. Crianlarich, which was described in Col Thornton's *Sporting Tour of the Highlands* in 1789 as having a terrible Inn, is slowly undergoing a transformation. Long an important convergence of roads, visitors from the south having noticed the name of Crianlarich on sign posts umpteen miles away, often assuming that the village must be about the size of Oban! Crianlarich saw the rivalry of the railroads and started a Railway Tea Room in the late 1800's where passengers could collect baskets of food for the journey, quails eggs being a particular delicacy. As one travels towards Tyndrum, there are places of historic interest and remains of a previous people - the mysterious cup markings are to be found.

Near Ewich Farm was the original home of the Dewars who became the keepers of St Fillan's relics by hereditary right. St Fillan who gave his name to the Strath also gave his name to a priory, the ruins of which can still be seen near Kirkton Farm. Readers may remember that Robert the Bruce was particularly linked to St Fillan. A relic of Fillan was carried at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Perhaps this is why he endowed the priory in 1317. There is a Holy Pool on the river about three miles from Crianlarich, where odd customs were performed, particularly in the curing of the mentally ill. This may pre-date Christianity. Dal Righ, before one gets to Tyndrum, is in English, the King's field or meadow. Here, the McDougals of Lorne had a battle with King Robert the Bruce in 1306. The Bruce, getting the worst of it, headed for the hills with his followers,



throwing heavier items of armour into a luan known to this day as Lochan nan Arm, the Loch of the Arms. The King lost a shoulder brooch, grasped by a McDougal. This Brooch, known as the Brooch of Lorne, has been retained ever since by the McDougals.

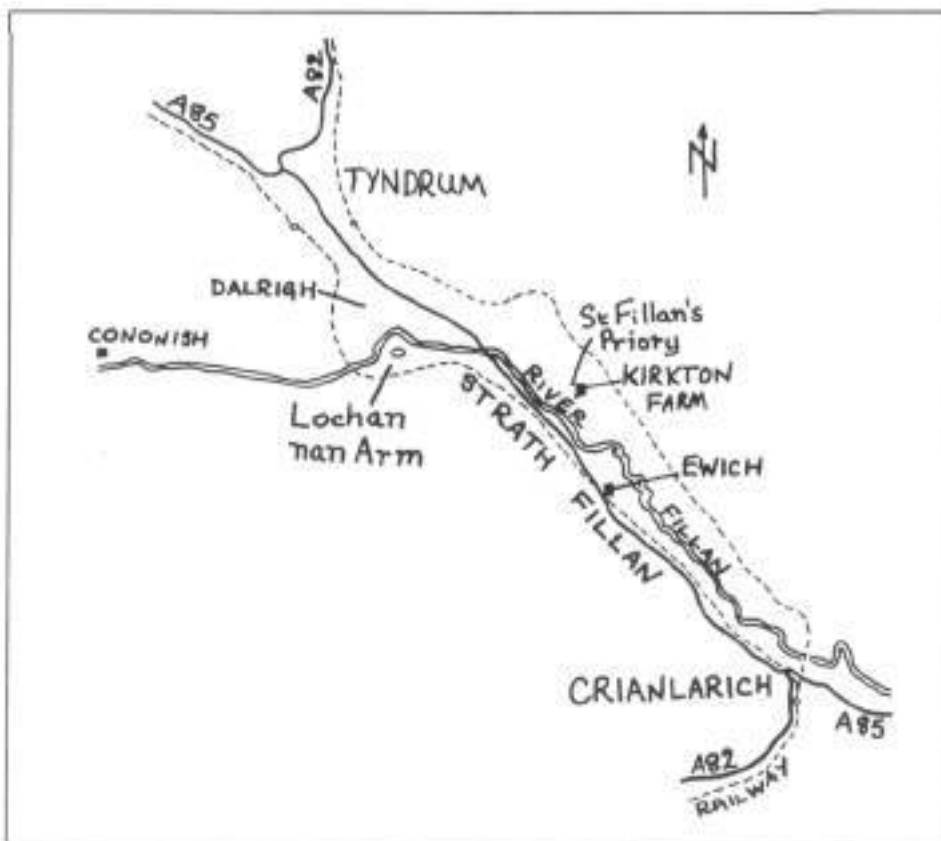
Tyndrum, the house on the ridge, is now a popular stopping place. The old and new hotels and other places catering for the comfort of travellers - Invervev having been joined by a Little Chef and the development of walks including the close by West Highland Way.

Tyndrum, stood on the drove road, has two railway stations and has a bit of an alter ego, the village or Clachan of Clifton (hence the Clifton Coffee House). This although regarded as Tyndrum

developed when an Englishman opened out the old lead mines. Sir Robert Clifton in 1730 mined reasonably successfully but during 1745, the mine was badly damaged by the Argyllshire militia. Much more could be said about the Strath and its history. The prospective opening of the Gold Mine at Cononish brings Tyndrum full circle and also brings this glimpse of Strathfillan to an end.

For those of you who would like to know more, try "Tales of the Tay" by Joan Pearson published by Famedram, Gartocharn, Alexandria. The most definitive study "Strathfillan - A Place in History" by Geoffrey Daniel, will hopefully be published by Stirling Central Library Services in the next 18 months to two years.

AW



## Kirk Care Celebrations



**L-R Back Row:** Mr J McLarty, Mrs B Peacock, MISS H MacDonald, Miss J Thornton, Mr L Fenna. **Middle:** Mr W Stewart, Mrs M Evans, Mrs M Stewart, Miss M Campbell, Mrs E Dunn, Mrs M Clark, Mr D Clark. **Front:** Mr H Leighton, Mrs H Leighton, Mrs M Fenna, Mrs S MacNeil, Miss I MacIntyre.

On Friday 26 January, the tenants and warden (Margaret Fenna) celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Kirk Care, Ballechroisk Court, by having a buffet lunch with numerous guests. The toast was given by Mr Roger Trueman, the Chief Executive of Kirk Care and Miss Isa MacIntyre, being the first original tenant, cut the Anniversary cake. Our thanks go to Leslie Kettle for preparing the lovely buffet and also the Co-op for their generous donation. Many thanks to all who attended for making it a very enjoyable occasion.

G M Fenna

## Folk Festival News

The second Festival programme, which is nearing completion, includes some new additions together with details of the main concerts and ceilidhs.

The local involvement of the Art & Heritage Societies has prompted several enquiries from other festival organisers and folk clubs regarding the nature of their contribution. Nothing specific has been given away, it's a case of come along and see.

Well over 100 of the 'A5' flyers have been returned requesting main booking forms. These will be available by the middle of March.

The next issue of the Killin News will give more details, so watch this space. The Committee would still like to hear from anyone willing to help out during the festival weekend, to ensure your festival is another roaring success.

A J M Stewart

## Next Issue

Copy and advertisements for the next issue are required by 26 April 1996 or preferraly before than date. Thank You.

Killin News Production Team is delighted to be able to supply one copy of each issue to every household in the Killin area. Donations to offset the cost of additional copies would be appreciated. Collection boxes are located in JR News and the Post Office.

## Weather



Perhaps it is premature to say "It's all over" - the Winter that is! Although according to the calendar, December, January and February are regarded as Winter months or "Na Miosan Marbh" - "the dead months" in Gaelic, usually, however, there is an overlap one way or another and March "the month of many weathers" is still to come. Nevertheless, they are subtle signs that Spring has not entirely forgotten. The Winter thrush is in song and croci are on the point of blooming and while, as yet, no Oyster Catcher has arrived to liven up the Loch shores, these birds, being probably our earliest migrants, surely will soon appear.

How then, did we fare during the past two months? The sudden, brief cold snap of late December produced unusually low temperatures - 13.4°C at Ardtalnaig being the lowest air temporary recorded, though this figure undoubtedly was exceeded at locations away from the ameliorating effect of Loch Tay. However, it was probably the fact that for several days the thermometer remained well below this freezing point which contributed to the said toll of burst pipes that plagued so many houses. Since then, while frost and snow have been evident in slightly more than usual quantities, there have been welcome interludes of milder, quiet weather and the odd brilliant sunny day to raise our hopes.



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## Senior Citizens' Burns Supper

On 24 January, just a day early, the Killin Senior Citizens' Burns Supper was held in the Lesser McLaren Hall - in some ways a more appropriate setting than the main hall, making it more friendly and intimate, also easier to hear the speakers and singers. Some 70 senior citizens attended and were provided with the traditional meal and enough of the supporting refreshments to keep everyone happy.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Jim Sutherland and he was fortunate in being able to introduce a remarkable range of talent. After Charlie Grant gave us the Selkirk Grace, Duncan MacKinnon piped in the Haggis and this was splendidly addressed by Jim Sutherland himself. From then on we were well provided with speakers, singers and instrumentalists. Willie Allan gave the toast to the lassies with quotations from many of Burns' love songs and after a musical interlude, Bunty McGregor gave a memorable reply. The formalities being over, the company then enjoyed songs from Willie Allan, Ian McKinnon (Ye Jacobites by name). Jim Cushley



(The Star of Rabbie Burns) and some outstanding fiddle playing by David Thornton, with Roger Sharp on the squeeze box. The entertainment was concluded by two excellent and appropriate poems by Liz Lambert. Altogether it was a splendid evening and we take this opportunity to thank the organisers and helpers, Charlie Grant and Trish, Alex Stewart and Fiona, Ian Donaldson and Lesley Kettle. Thanks are also due to Dall Lodge, Suie Lodge, Killin Hotel and the Clachaig for dishes and cutlery, Colin McRae for the Haggis, Sue Watson for the trifles and the young people of the village who did the serving.

## Curling Club Burns' Supper

In the convivial atmosphere of Suie Lodge Hotel, the annual Curlers' Burns' Supper took place on Saturday 27 January. It was a warm and entertaining evening, the traditional rituals were covered - Elizabeth MacDiarmid addressed the Haggis, Charlie Methven displayed a nice turn of humour in his toast to the lassies and Aileen Steven replied. There was a good mix of entertainment, Charlie Methven piped in the Haggis, Jim Cushley and Nicola Cowmeadow sang, Ewan Campbell played the accordion, Pat and Gilbert Christie played music, as always and David Thornton fiddled away like Neil Gow and set the feet tapping. Mary Masterton and Jim Cushley provided, by popular demand, their version of The Crooked Bawbee.

Douglas MacRobbie presided over a good night's entertainment that went on into the sma' hours. Thanks to Pat Christie who organised the event and also to Moira and Jimmy of Suie Lodge, the hosts.

## The Enchanted Forest

At the car park and picnic area on the top of Glen Ogle, some enticing new signs have appeared. A welcome to walkers to tread through the infant conifer forest following the forest track, courtesy of the Forestry Management and owner.

Further on, another notice, courtesy of Stirling District, extols the beauty of Glen Ogle and possible wildlife treats - hen harriers, deer, maybe even an eagle etc. Passing the memorial to the Tornado Pilots, one meets the track gouged out of the side of Beinn Leabhainn (the mountain on the left between Killin and Lix Toll), this is a fairly ugly scar but fear not, it will disappear as the conifers grow apace.

The views are marvellous overlooking to the east the Tarmachans and Lawers. The wanderer can see the inexorable advance of the green tree blanket. To the west Ben More, Stob Binnein and more of the trees. Killin is almost surrounded by alien commercialised species. See deer, a golden eagle etc - fat chance in the enchanted forest "where no birds sing!" Already as you walk, you will be lucky to see a sparrow. The conifers are not particularly environmentally friendly, you might see a roe deer (hopefully eating some of the damn trees!). Enchanted Forest? - well, it makes the wildlife and the view disappear!

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## BANK OF SCOTLAND

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10.00am- 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4.00pm

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10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4.00pm

*We regret any inconvenience this may cause*

# A Cracker of Jack and the Beanstalk



Colin McRae (the pretty one) and Glenda Mardon (L-R)

"When icicles hang by the wall and January winds blow cold" - Killin Drama Club's presentation of a lively and colourful pantomime was just the antidote to bleak mid-winter. Having heard glowing accounts of the first night's performance, I attended a packed McLaren Hall and was well rewarded. A cast of about 30 adults and youngsters had the audience hissing at the conniving Fleshcreep, singing with gusto, answering Silly Billy and entering into the happy romp of a traditional pantomime - "Oh yes they did"!

This was an ambitious project that came off. Eleven scenes, music, great costumes, a pantomime cow, a dreaded dragon and a giant who rumbled away off stage before appearing larger than life. The new sound system getting into gear, who will forget the tremendous fanfare for King Satupon? It would be invidious to single out individuals in what was a great team enterprise. The Principals played with robust panache, their enthusiasm proving infectious. How the dreaded dragon avoided sweeping the

stage clear with its tail look some nifty footwork as did the choreography in the little ballet scene.

If there was a large cast there was an even larger support team beaver away - costumes, lighting, prompting, sound effects, music, stage management, set design, props, all the paraphernalia of a theatrical production. There were all the sponsors and the administration involved. The total impression was of a great team effort as I have mentioned already. The audience, appreciating a live show, responded and spilled out into the cold night well satisfied. Congratulations to Gordon Hibbert the Producer, the cast and support team. Can we hope for another panto next year? Overheard, one wee girl "I don't like him up there, he's all right in his shop!" AW

## Stage Equipment

If all goes as planned, by the time you read this, the upgrading of the stage equipment for which the Drama Club received grants from the National Lottery

Bill Douglas and Charlie Methven (L-R)



via the Scottish Arts Council, will have been completed. For those of you who came to see "Sailor Beware" you will hopefully have seen the benefits of the new curtains, the lighting system and the sound system. The stage is now adorned with a complete set of curtains including a backdrop to cover the back wall and a full curtain mid-stage which allows the stage to be halved. Now we can perform on the front half while scenery changes etc are carried out behind. For sound there is now a 16 channel mixing deck, four microphones, two speakers and a

# a Pantomime

## k - 19 and 20 January

*Bindy Webster  
as the dragon*



*Gordon Hibbert and  
Lesley Syme (Production Team)*



*Margaret Ireland and  
John Grieve (L-R)*



control desks for both sound and lighting will therefore be operated from this new "control room". To ease communication between this control and backstage etc, there are three headsets with built-in microphones to allow the passing of instructions etc.

Whilst, under the terms and conditions of the grant, the Drama Club must retain control and oversee the use of the new equipment. We must emphasise that this is community property for use in the Hall by any individual or group either from within the locality or visiting. Indeed, while the equipment will have obvious benefits for the Drama Club, the grant

was awarded to help promote the McLaren Hall as a suitable venue to a wider variety of performers. Hopefully this can be achieved and by attracting more performers, the community, as a whole, will benefit by the attraction of more visitors and the financial spin-off therefrom.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our appeal and can confirm that, on receipt of promised donations, the required sum has been raised.

*William Douglas, Chairman, Killin  
Drama Club*

*Back row -(left to right)  
Camilla Bales, Claire Ramsay  
and Linzi Stewart  
Front (left to right) Gordon Bales,  
Jenny McCarron, Ryan Douglas  
and Alison Woods*

*Rory Syme, Marissa Mardon,  
Lee Douglas and Laura Bates (L-R)*



*Paul Ramsay and  
Jamie Syme as the  
udder one (L-R)*



*Janet Kennedy, Bill Douglas,  
Gillian Ferguson (L-R)*



twin cassette deck. An induction loop has been installed which allows the hard of hearing to enjoy the performances by transmitting the sound signals direct to hearing aids. There are also facilities for paging the dressing rooms and the Lesser Hall. For lighting there are four lighting bars with 16 luminaries and three floodlights, all controlled by a 24 channel dimmer rack and a manual control desk. For ease of controlling both sound and lighting, the old projection room has been cleared and a viewing window inserted in the wall behind the balcony. The

# Steamers on Loch Tay



After almost half a century on Loch Tay side, I have few regrets about the changes which have taken place in our district during the 20th Century. I am sorry, however, that the steamboats on Loch Tay had gone before my arrival. Thanks to the Rev J B McKenzie, who was minister at Kenmore until 1912 and who was a keen photographer, we have pictures of these ships and we are given some idea of the thrill and romance which the steamships gave to the life of the Loch.

The Loch Tay Steamboat Company was set up by the third Marquis of Breadalbane in the second half of the 19th Century, so that the people on the lochside might have access to the railway network which was developing throughout Scotland. Piers were built at all the villages and hamlets around the Loch. The passenger boats, the Queen of the Lake and the Lady of the Lake, were brought in sections from the shipyards in the south and assembled at the slipway at Dalerb. The smaller craft which carried goods and towed barges for the coal trade were built locally. A special flat, coal pier was built at

Kenmore. The coal was stored there and delivered to the customers by cart.

There was, of course, a timetable service run in conjunction with the trains but excursions and cruising also played a part. The round trip from Glasgow or Edinburgh via Aberfeldy, Kenmore, Killin and return made a very exciting day's outing by train, coach and boat. An evening cruise with a resident band on board must have been the highlight of many a holiday and the setting for many romances.

The efficiency of the services provided can be judged from the story often told to me by the late Sandy McLaren of Ardtalnaig. He told me that his father could post a letter on the morning steamboat at Ardtalnaig pier, addressed to merchants in Glasgow and bearing a penny stamp and expect a reply coming on the afternoon boat the following day. The steamers provided the main means of communication around the Loch and brought the communities together with the daily contact. News and views, as well as passengers and goods, had easy passage. Myths and legends grew up

around the boats. Some would not go on them because of the prophecy of the Lady of Lawers regarding a catastrophe which would attend a boat with 'smoke coming from it', but I am sorry, they are gone. I would like to have known the pierman at Fearnan who trained his dog to ring the bell on the pier to announce the approach of the steamer. With this early warning system, the worthy was able to spend as much time as possible in the warmth of his favourite hostelry at Tigh-an-loan. The improvement in road transport, the growing availability of the motor car, the rising cost of maintenance and finally, the upheaval of the Second World War, finished the steamboats on Loch Tay. I am sorry I did not see them for as illustrated by the pierman at Fearnan, there was a certain elegant calm about the age of the steamboats which has been lost in our age of speed and frenetic communications.

## Cat Nuisance

There have been several justified complaints of dog fouling reported in the Killin News. I have not been aware of any mention of the even worse nuisance of cats which are allowed to roam at will through the village. They have sprayed on my washing, Wellington boots, rucksack, bin bags, on my car, in the car engine, they have fouled in my plants, dug holes in my garden, torn open bin bags and scattered the rubbish everywhere. They cry and scream all night, keeping me awake, they attack the birds and leave them half dead in my garden like discarded toys. I have even found a cat on my bed (it came in an open window whilst I was out) - far more anti-social behaviour than any dog! I am sure most responsible cat owners don't allow this to happen but would the few who do, please take note of the nightmare they are creating and take appropriate action to stop it.

Linda FitzGerald  
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## Glendochart Adult Group



Killin Ambulance Station staff presented certificates to people from Killin, Strathyre, Lochearnhead and Crianlarich who attended a First Aid Course held at Killin nursery last November. The course was the first event organised by the Glen Dochart Adult Group and was a great success.

Set up to promote social and educational opportunities in Killin and surrounding areas, GLAD have also set up computer, art and aerobic classes to date and are now considering a wide range of options including a bridge club, golf and tennis lessons and an arts and crafts group.

From the flyer distributed in the Killin News, we also know that there is a strong interest for more computer training, language classes and various crafts and these are all being considered although it is now likely that such classes would be arranged for next Autumn/Winter.

To date, much of the funding for the classes has come from the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) and Central Region's Community Education Department. With the change to Stirling Council imminent, future funding is

uncertain but a meeting is being arranged with Council members to impress upon them the difficulties involved in obtaining training in rural areas and the need for it. As a voluntary group, our only other methods of fundraising are through charity events, class fees or membership fees. In our first year membership is available for £1 payable to Christine Russell, Treasurer, Rahoy, Craignavie Road, Killin, telephone 820472.

The success of the Group will be dependent on:

- The continued commitment of a voluntary committee.
- Improving our means of communication to let people know what is happening.
- Funding.
- The response from local people.
- Increasing the pool of people prepared to assist in running classes.

If you feel that you could help in any way, please contact any Committee member. Susan McRobbie, Chairperson; Julie Rhys, Secretary; Christine Russell, Treasurer and Gaylor McNicol or Mary Stovvar.

*All calling us back to Loch Tay's lovely shores.*

*The fragrance of Springtime, the Summer sun's rays  
The red gold of Autumn, the while Winter days  
All these I cherish in memory's store  
Of days of my childhood by Loch Tay's lovely shore.*

*Though I may wander o'er land and o'er sea  
No place will be dearer than my homeland to me*

## The Shores of Loch Tay

*Oft in my dreams I have travelled again  
From this foreign clime to my homeland - and then  
Awak'ning despondent I knew I must stay  
Till God calls me home to the shores of Loch Tay*

*Killin and Ardeonaig, Ardtalnaig, Kenmore  
Beauty and splendour from God's boundless store  
Kenmore and Fearnan and mighty Ben Lowers*

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*And 'ere life has ended I hope and I pray  
That God call me home to the shores of  
Loch Tay.*

Composed by George Clavey on his leaving Killin in 1958 after five happy years there among the people of the village, whose warmth and hospitality made that time the most memorable and pleasant years for him and his late wife Dolina.

Dedicated to the people of Killin and to his friend, William Allan.

## Killin Tourist Association AGM and Floral Awards



Junior Winners

### Beaver killed in Glen Falloch

A surprise awaited Constable Ian Ramsay on the evening of 13 January 1996. A motorist phoned to say that he had hit a dog or fox on the road in Glen Falloch. When Ian arrived he found the body of a young beaver. The last native beavers in Scotland were killed off two or three hundred years ago. It is likely that the beaver had escaped from the Balloch area and had wandered all the way up Loch Lomond side. No sooner had the above been written than the Daily Express of 8 February reported that another beaver had been found 20 miles away from the first. Speculation has intensified that beavers that escaped from Cameron Farm, near Balloch, may be breeding in the wild. Keep your eyes peeled and if a burn is unexpectedly dammed up, it just might be a beaver!

AW

*Some of the Floral Award Prizewinners with (top left) James Fraser Chief Exec, of new Tourist Board and (top right) Roger Bedwell and Stann Mudd of the Local Tourist Association*




The AGM was held on 16 February in the Clachaig Hotel, chaired by Roger Bedwell. The meeting was addressed by James Fraser, Chief Executive of the new Tourist Board, who stated that as far as Killin was concerned, the recent tourist season had been very good with over 100,000 people visiting the new Breadalbane Folklore and Tourist Centre. He advised that the Stirling area had received over £2,000,000 for tourism projects this year from European money. The new Tourist Board comprises four of the previous boards and will now cover Loch Lomond, Stirling & the Trossachs, Argyll & the Isles as far out as Kintyre, Forth Valley and parts of the Clyde Valley. Roger Bedwell will continue as Chairman for the coming year, Enid Cessford is resigning from the committee after acting as secretary for a number of years. The new secretary, appointed at the meeting, is Gillian Ford of Invermay.

### Floral Awards for 1995

**Commercial Section: Hanging Baskets;** 1. Killin Crafts; 2. Shutters Restaurant; 3. Capercaillie Restaurant. **Window Boxes:** 1. Killin Crafts; 2. Shutters Restaurant. **Tubs:** 1. Killin Crafts; 2. Shutters Restaurant; 3. Killin Surgery.

**Childrens Section: Hanging Baskets:** 1. Stewart & Robin Grant. **Window Boxes:** 1. Krystle Grant; 2. Gemma Grant. **Tubs:** 1. Gemma Grant; 2. Krystle Grant; 3. Alison Cairns.

**Domestic Section: Hanging Baskets:** 1. John Farmer; 2. Margaret Inglis; 3. Fiona Stewart. **Window Boxes;** 1. Fiona Stewart; 2. Freda Cairns; 3. Margaret Inglis. **Tubs:** 1. Marion MacRae; 2. Margaret Inglis; 3. John Farmer. The judging was done by Constable Ian Ramsay of Crianlarich.




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## Teddies have really taken off ...

In more ways than one, thanks to the busy knitters of Killin and Balquhider! My class at school have enjoyed the almost daily arrival of teddies, sometimes in whole families at a time and passers-by have enjoyed waving back to them on their window sills. It has been interesting to notice which ones have 'escaped' overnight to climb up to the top of the window or abseil down the blinds! So it was with a tear in the eye that we waved goodbye to 46 teddies on Friday 19 January as they began their journey to Bosnia via the Red Cross in England. Mrs Ross, our visiting fabric craft teacher, is co-ordinating the scheme in this area. Within the hour we had received the first of our next batch and we now have another healthy brood mysteriously climbing around in the night and waving from the windows. The scheme will continue until the Summer break. Thanks again for the teddies and the love which goes with them to brighten the lives of many children.

*Linda Frost*

## Church of Scotland Choir

Rehearsals started early in March for the music at Easter. In addition to the usual programme of hymns, we plan to sing an anthem at morning service on Easter Day and occasionally on subsequent Sundays thereafter but to achieve this end, we need to supplement our numbers with new members. Please think about joining the choir; not everyone is able to attend every week either at rehearsal or Sunday service. Anyone interested will be warmly welcomed if they would contact any existing member or either of the organists. We meet usually on Friday for not more than one hour and Sunday service, currently starting at 11.00 am, lasts for about the same length of time. It helps to have some knowledge of music but is not essential.

If a group of children were interested, say four or five, we would be very pleased to see them also.

### *Organists:*

Len Humphreys 01567 820746  
Sheena Chisholm 01567 820345

## Green Team Spring into action!

As Spring approaches and the evenings get longer, the Green Team are preparing to come out of hibernation. Regular, bi-weekly meetings will start again on Thursday 18 April at 6.00 pm in the school garden. Unfortunately, due to the renovation work taking place on the shop front at Lynedoch (Horwoods) we have not managed to have Winter meetings. We hope that this work will be complete before too long so that we have a bad weather retreat.

We are planning the usual variety of topics and activities over the Summer and have a brace of Andrews to help us. One Andrew is returning for his second season with the Trust and the Green Team. He must have had a good time! A second Andrew is also coming and has yet to meet them all.

Any new budding environmentalists are welcome to join us and we look forward to seeing lots of familiar faces returning.

*Helen Cole*



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## Donald McKenzie

It is with great sadness that the village learned of the death of Donald McKenzie (Donnie) of 1 Stewart Road, Killin on Saturday 9 March 1996 aged 70 years.

Donnie was brought up at Ardchyle, Glendochart, Killin and after leaving school worked at the local tweed mill in the village. He joined the Royal Navy as a signalman (flags) during the War and served in the Far East theatre. He took ill whilst abroad and was invalided out of the service and returned to Killin. He married Lily and together they brought up three of a family, Adie, Donald and Valerie. He stayed in Killin all of his life but worked all over the country. He was

involved in building the famous Hydro Schemes and finished his working life with Wiggins Teape at the woodyard in Crianlarich from where he retired prematurely ten years ago. He was a "weel kent" face in the village and was an ardent member of the Killin Breadalbane Angling Club, being its salmon champion every year since that section was formed in 1984. Our deepest sympathies go out to Lily and the family and I am sure that the village will join me in offering our sincere condolences at this time.

On a more personal note, I have lost a dear and trusted friend.

*Dave Murray*

## H<sub>2</sub>O



*Out with the old ...*

Killin News, in a recent visit to the Water Supply HQ (above) Gray Street, was assured by Mr D Hadley (Purac), Site Manager, that the new filter system and alterations to the existing plant would be operating by July of this year. This should ensure a pure and adequate supply for the foreseeable future. The village at one time was dependant on a number of burns and a spring for water. In 1885 a schedule and tender for constructing a reservoir and cast iron pipes to augment the existing water supply was submitted. The man who handled the business was Mr W L Waters, Bank of Scotland, Killin.



*... In with the new!*

## Thanks

Bob, Cis, Ian and May McGregor and their families would like to thank the many friends in Killin district for their kindness following Mrs McGregor's death. The cards, letters and flowers received were greatly appreciated as was their presence at the church service. The sum of £147 was gratefully received for Killin District Nursing Association.

## Thanks

The family of the late Mrs Mary Davidson of Clematis Cottage, Main Street, Killin, would like to thank all friends, relatives and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy in words, letters, cards and flowers. Their thanks also go to everybody who helped to make her stay in Killin a happy, well cared for and comfortable one. Their thanks go especially to Mrs Margaret Inglis without whose help Mrs Davidson could not have stayed in her own house until she was 96 years of age.

## Thanks

Isobel, Karen and family would like to thank all from Killin who sent many letters and cards and travelled to Falkirk for the service. Their attendance was greatly appreciated. Willie is now at rest in Killin where we spent many happy years together.

*Isobel & Karen Patrick*

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## Letters



Killin Community Council

Dear Editor

In the last edition of the paper there was a reference in one of your reports to "a feeling that the Community Council should have more influence". I am not quite sure what was meant by this but I should like to point out that the Community Council can only have influence if it really represents the views of the community which it serves. Through no fault of its own, the present Council is not widely based enough. It should have members of groups who have a stake in the future prosperity of this area, eg parents of young children, people engaged in the various trades and professions including the tourist industry and farming as well as the retired members of the community who make up the bulk of the membership at present. The only qualification is that you must be over 18 and on the current electoral roll. Elections are due to be held again in October. Surely there are a few more public spirited citizens who are prepared to offer their services to the new Council which will then take over. The role of Community Councils is presently being reviewed and it is probable that under the new system of local government they will have increased powers. This makes it all the more important that the new Killin Community Council should be broadly based, so look out for the notices around September and think about standing for election to the next (and hopefully more "influential") Community Council.

Yours etc

M MacColl, Chairman  
Killin Community Council

Loch Tay Pottery



In Fearnan, take Fortingall Rd.  
for 100 yds, then turn right

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Dear Sir

I am the President of the Clan MacNab Society of North America and have really enjoyed reading "The Killin News" for the past few years. I have even been including many parts of it in the 54 page newsletter that I put out for our society six times a year. My only complaint is that, while there has been some coverage of the Clan Gregor connection with the area, I don't think there's been much mention, if any, of the long connection that the Clan MacNab has to the village and area. The MacNab castle, "Eilan Ran" was originally situated on an island on the north bank of the River Lochay and was the first castle in the area. It was burnt by the English in 1654. After this, our clan chiefs resided in Kinnell House until Archibald (17th Chief) left for Canada in 1823. In 1949 Archibald Corrie (22nd Chief) bought back Kinnell House and some 7,000 acres of land from the Breadalbane Estate. After Archibald

Tigh-na-Lagan  
Manse Road  
Killin

Dear Editor

The committee of the Killin Drama Club wish to express their gratitude to the Killin News for allowing us to insert flyers advertising the production of "Sailor Beware" in the January edition of your newspaper. Having obviously missed the deadline for inserting a notice in the paper, your gesture was much appreciated and more so when you waived the usual advertising fee and donated it to the State Equipment Fund. We also take this opportunity to thank you for providing the black and white photographs of the pantomime characters which were displayed in the foyer of the hall during the performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk". Our grateful thanks for your assistance.

Bill Douglas  
Chairman, Killin Drama Club

Dear Editor

I recently watched Ester Rantzen's programme about Senior Citizens and what they achieve. We don't have to look far for such achievements in the village, golfing, fishing, bowling, curling, dancing, singing - I hope the next generation are as lucky. Spending a few moments with Mrs Allan or Mrs Colmer would brighten up anyone's day. Long may they all continue.

Jesse McLeod

Corrie died on 13 November 1970, our present Chief, James Charles MacNab of MacNab lived there for some years before moving to Finlarig but I would love to see an article detailing the history of this house and perhaps something on the Clan MacNab connection to Killin.

The Clan MacNab traces its origin to St Fillan (who is our patron saint) the younger son of Kenneth MacAlpine, who was the Abbott of Glendochart and Strathearn and died on 9 January, 703 AD, which you have had some very interesting articles on in "Killin News". So, you can see that the Clan MacNab connection to this area is very ancient indeed. Thanks for all the good work you do in producing such a fine publication - keep up the good work!

Suas Alba,  
David W MacNabb  
President of Clan MacNab Society of  
North America

New Orchardfield  
Edinburgh

Dear Editor

I am concerned about the lack of local participation in community events. Over the last year, when I've been home, I have attended a variety of functions and have been very disappointed in the numbers present. A lot of people put a great deal of time and effort into organising these events, many being valuable fund raisers. One would have hoped for greater support from members of the community.

I would urge people to get out and support local events whenever they can. If they don't, there may soon be nothing to go to!

Yours etc  
Margaret Campbell

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# Killin Golf Club AGM

The Club held its AGM on 20 January in the Clubhouse, chaired by the Captain, Sinclair Aitken. Booking of tee-off times at the weekends was discussed and there was some evidence that this system was turning visitors away, affecting income. The matter was put to the vote and the decision to drop the booking system was carried. The Captain did promise to consider methods of giving members some priority.

**Bill Blake** presented his **Treasurer's Report** and it was noted that it had not been a particularly good year financially, expenditure exceeding income by a small amount. He explained also that the somewhat expensive drainage operation on the course had been paid for in the main by VAT returned from Customs and Excise and a grant accompanied by an interest free loan from the Royal & Ancient. He did, however, make the point that we need to increase income, if possible, over the coming year and perhaps spend more cautiously.

**Alf Muller, Greens Convenor**, presented his report which gave an account of the drainage system installed on the course. He was given considerable praise for his handling of this project and also for his hard work at the extension of the Clubhouse in past years. At the suggestion of the past captain, Ian Donaldson and with the unanimous support of the members, Alf was granted life membership of the Club.

**Election of Office Bearers: Unchanged:**  
President - Duncan Clark; Vice President - Chrissie Fenton; Captain - Sinclair Aitken; Vice Captain - Douglas MacRobbie; Secretary - Sandy Chisholm; Treasurer - Bill Blake; Match Secretary - John Greaves.

With the departure of three members of Committee, the following replacements were appointed: Ian Lithgow, Jack Rough and Gordon Aitken.

**Ladies Captain** - Fiona Robertson;  
**Ladies Vice Captain** - Jan Rough;  
**Ladies Secretary** - Hope MacDonald.

## Members' Subscriptions

Members' subscriptions were agreed at £95 per annum; an alternative proposal to raise subscriptions to £130, payable in two instalments was defeated.

**Visitor Green Fees** were set by the Committee at £11 per round and £14 per day.

Under 'Any Other Business', a proposal was received to increase the number of Country Members and change the conditions of their membership to make it more attractive, for example by giving them handicaps. It was decided to remit this matter to the incoming Committee to explore further. The Clubhouse will open on Saturday 16 March and close on Sunday 27 October 1996.

# Killin

## Carpet Bowling Club

As the Carpet Bowling season draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the Winter's activities. On 2 December, the Club held its annual Open Pairs' Tournament which drew an entry of 29 pairs. The winners were Robin McLeod and Donnie Kennedy from Camserney who beat Charlie Grand and Alex Stewart from Killin by one shot in the last end. G and N Cowbrooth from Crook Of Devon were third and Hamish Campbell and John MacPherson from Killin were fourth. The consolation singles was won by Jimmy Hermiston from Camserney with Colin MacGregor from Lochearnhead second. On the third of February the Rinks competition saw 16 sinks doing battle and the outcome was a win for Muthil skipped by Jock MacCulloch who beat Chris McLarty's squad of Johnny Willison, Lester Mitchell and Jim McKellar by a narrow margin. Third and fourth were Archie Paterson and Brian Perks from the Crook Of Devon and Balquhidder clubs. The consolation pairs was won by Jimmy Hermiston and Jean McLeod from Camserney who defeated their club mates Robin McLeod and Donnie Kennedy. The Club supported all the other tournaments and the best achievement to date was at the Lochearnhead Rinks competition on 24 February when Chris McLarty's rink of Alex Stewart, Lester Mitchell and Jim McKellar, lost to Archie Paterson's Crook of Devon rink by one shot. The Tay Valley League has been won for the first time ever by the Killin Club in its long history, a triumph shared by all the members and a fitting tribute to those former members who have fought our corner down through the years. We did it at long last and with a game to spare! The West Perthshire League did not prove such a successful hunting ground for the club but we had our moments and next year are setting our sights on this trophy, as well as defending the 'Cup in the cupboard'. The club will be hosting a light hearted presentation competition for the clubs in the Tay Valley early in March when the cup will be presented. The club competitions are reaching the closing stages and a full report will appear in the next issue of the News.

L Mitchell, Secretary

## Killin WRI

The 72nd Birthday Party was held in January in the Bridge of Lochay Hotel. Members were welcomed by Mrs Liz Lambert, President and the cake was cut by Mrs Mairi Stewart. After a lovely buffet, an enjoyable evening of fun and games was held. **Competitions:** Guess the weight of the committee: 1st equal - A MacNee & B MacLean; 2nd S Ferguson. The winner of the bell for a poem "Mother-in-law" was M Hunter.

The February meeting was held in the Lesser McLaren Hall. Liz Lambert welcomed members and guests from Lochearnhead, Strathfillan and Fearnan. Lesley Kettle gave a talk and demonstrated microwave cookery. B Gordon gave vote of thanks. **Competitions:** Microwave Cake: 1. E Stewart; 2. B MacGregor; 3. E Holmes. 4-ply Baby Jacket: 1. B MacGregor; 2. E Stewart; 3. E Holmes.

## Teuchter Fling

In aid of Cancer Research in the McLaren Hall on Saturday 6 April from 9.00 pm - 1.00 am. Kinlochard Ceilidh Band. Mystery Prize for Best Fancy Dress or Easter Bonnet. Admission is £3.50. Raffle. Licenced to 1.00 am. All donations gratefully received. Tickets available from the paper shop, library and at the door or call 820744 or 820663

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## Killin Gun Club

Killin Gun Club held their AGM in Suie Lodge Hotel on Sunday 18 February 1996. Fourteen members turned up. Mrs E Paterson retired after three years as President. Mrs Paterson thanked all for their help and support during her time in office. The new President is Jack MacKay, Secretary G D Coyne, Treasurer J Sinclair. Douglas MacRobbie resigned from the Committee owing to business commitments. The Committee were re-elected: S Christie, H Campbell, D Robertson, James Sinclair, T Frost, E MacAllister, H Paterson, R Mills and E Paterson. Shoot dates for 1996 are as follows: 31 March, 12 May, 23 June, 21 July and 11 August. Open Shooting: 1 September. Open DTL: 13 October and 10 November.

*G D Coyne*

## Sports and Leisure Club

The AGM of the Club was held on 27 February and was attended by a total of 16 persons, most of whom were Committee members. The principal matter under discussion, led by David Osier, the chairman, was the serious financial difficulties facing the Club. For the second year expenditure had exceeded income to a substantial extent. The greater part of the expenditure was unavoidable - an annual lease/rent payment of £3,750, wages, insurance, electricity. The tote made an annual income of £4,000 and as someone remarked "Without the tote, the Club would not exist". After much discussion certain steps were agreed upon to improve the financial situation of the Club, among these were the following: raising the membership fee by £5 to £30; allocate slightly less of the tote income to prizes; increase putting green charges to 80p for adults and 40p for children; arrange with the Traders' Association for a reasonably substantial payment for the use of the pavilion (toilets, washbasins, showers) during the weekend of the Folk Festival.

In the longer term, the incoming Committee were given the task of seriously considering the building of an extension to accommodate, for example, various indoor activities and sports, aerobic classes, keep-fit classes and, perhaps, a youth club facility. It was suggested that grants might be available to fund such an extension eg the Lottery Sports Fund. The following office bearers were elected; Chairman, Mrs F MacKinnon; Vice Chairman, D Main; Treasurer, L Humphries; Secretary, Miss H MacDonald. Before the meeting closed Mrs MacKinnon thanked the retiring chairman, Mr D Osier, for the excellent work he had done for the Club over the previous years, indeed since its inception. She proposed he be made a life member, this was carried unanimously.

## MAUREEN H.GAULD

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## Heritage Society

The AGM of the Killin Heritage Society took place on Friday 1 March. Dr M MacColl, Chairman, welcomed members. She reported that the past year had been very successful both with speakers and membership numbers. The current membership stands at 101. The speakers have included Dr James Hunter, Ian Fraser from the school of Scottish Studies, Elspeth King from the Smith Museum in Stirling and Iain Colquhoun from Scottish National Heritage. Allan Walker gave a short talk on Killin of yesteryear and John Sinclair and Allan Chisholm showed a video of the old railway. This was the final meeting of the session but the Society looks forward to welcoming new members in October at the first meeting. The walks will continue during the Summer on alternate Fridays, starting in May. Meet at the McLaren Hall car park at 6.00 pm. All welcome.

*Judy Forster, Secretary*

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## Angling Club News

The new Salmon season has produced numerous baggots and rawners and plenty of kelts. The Dochart during the opening two weeks had many more fish in this category than springers, with members returning these unclean specimens safely to the water

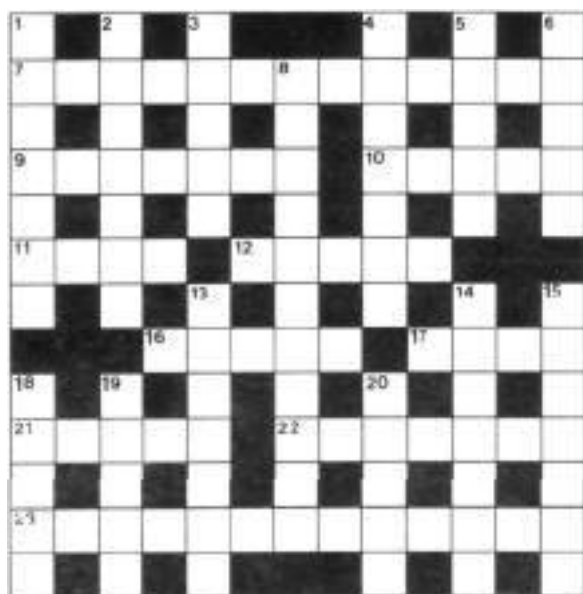
Duncan Twigg hooked and unfortunately lost the first salmon on the third day of the season, however, hardy Norman Inglis had a clean run six pound springer on the Friday of opening week to start his 1996 account in grand style.

The local sages of the fishing fraternity can't recall a slower start to the season and perhaps the long hot Summer is to blame, or as some quarters are suggesting, the runs of Tay Salmon are getting later. However, the Loch is now beginning to produce some nice fish and once the snow departs the river will see it's fair share of sport. Recent articles in the press have stated that a meeting will be called by the Tay Salmon Fishery Board in May with the agenda headed by a motion to postpone the start of the Tay season by two weeks.

At face value this may have some merit, but there are many angles to consider before such a step is taken, not least of which is the cost in compensation to time share fishing on the lower beats, a portion of which in some way no doubt all proprietors would be expected to bear and the effect on local economies which rely on the opening of the fishing to engage employees and help the fragile Winter business community.

However, let's hope the season continues to pick up and locals and visitors can enjoy good sport in the weeks to come.

*A J M Stewart*



7. Dilute one's nationality with this drink (6, 3, 4)  
 9. Against the trip; its all on one level (7)  
 10. In truth, our side always looked for perfection (5)  
 11. Look at me (!) on a bit of land on the West Coast (4)  
 12. A likeable and amusing angle? (5)  
 16. Ignite with this sounds like an explosive (5)  
 17. Don't laugh; it's a kind of barrier (2 - 2)  
 21. The poetic sailor lived here! (5)  
 22. Get the better of a fellow actor (7)  
 23. Where to go to find a romantic cowboy (4, 3, 6)
1. More accurate than a good guesser (7)  
 2. Time for tea? How right I am! (7)  
 3. A younger member? (5)  
 4. Football crazy, they can't do without it (7)  
 5. A Gaelic Festival and the Spanish style (5)  
 6. Gathering of the clans, in the cars! (5)  
 8. The arts of this land (11)  
 13. The best heaven (7)  
 14. I'd be uneasy to send it out by sea mail (7)  
 15. Stories about the Northern Territory need skills (7)  
 18. Graduates at home in the hollow (5)  
 19. Add a nail and it's some fight (5)  
 20. This one is 31! (5)

## Obituaries

**William Patrick** - On 21 January 1996, Willie died peacefully in Stirling Royal Infirmary after a brave fight. He suffered an aneurysm on 28 December whilst driving his car. Willie was born in Inchinnan, Renfrew, on 16 July 1929 and began his working life as a marine engineer. He travelled the world and reached the rank of Chief Engineer with the P & O Line. He left the sea in 1966 to take up a position of Consultant Engineer with Lloyds of London. Willie took early retirement and returned to Scotland in 1987. He then became "mine host" at the Queens Court Hotel and then Dunlochay House, until his recent move to Fishcross, Alloa in July 1995. Willie enjoyed life in Killin and always looked forward to a dram and a good "crack" with his many friends in Killin.

**Jane McGregor** - Jane McGregor was born in 1904 and brought up in Kirriemuir. She left school to be a companion/help to a lady in Broughty Ferry. She married 'Jock' McGregor in 1927 and with their sons Bob and Ian, moved to Glenoglehead in 1935. Jock worked on the railway until its closure in 1965. Jane worked there during the war and for a short time in the early sixties. When the railway closed she started taking guests for B & B. Through this she made many lasting friendships. In 1991 she moved to Kirk Care to be nearer some of her family. A heart condition, deafness and increasing blindness, limited her social activities recently but she was always interested in everything around her. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

The Killin News is a free community newspaper produced and distributed every two months by volunteers to households and businesses in Killin and District. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertaining 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 Editor reserves 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.

**Mary Davidson** - Mary Davidson, beloved mother of May Aitken and Jack Davidson, died on 14 January of this year. She was born in Glencarsein, Perthshire in 1899. After the death of her husband in 1985, Mary moved from Glasgow to Clematis Cottage in the Village, close to her daughter. Having been born in a farming community, she was pleased to come to a cottage in Killin. She had devoted most of her life to her family and latterly to her grand and great grand children, by whom she was much loved. A good member of the Church during her days in Glasgow, she was unfortunately, in her later years, unable to attend the Killin Church. She will be greatly missed by her daughter, her surviving son and extended family. After a long and fulfilling life she died peacefully in Pinewood Nursing Home in Callander.

## Solution to last Crossword

**Across:** 1. might 4. again 10. Orchy 11. wrecker 12. no return 13. spied 15. addict 17. arctic 19. noes 20. chiefdom 23. eastern 24. divan 25. wafer 26. hydra  
**Down:** 2. incur 3. haystack 5. glen 6. ink spot 7. mountaineer 8. sword 9. predicament 14. friendly 16. deep sea 18. shine 21. diver 22. mere

## KILLIN NEWS Production Committee

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