



Every two months

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KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue No. 49 March 1999



The Killin News recently received a £2,500 grant from the National Lotteries Charities Board under their Awards For All programme. This money, together with funds raised at our Fork Supper, the production of the Killin and District Telephone Book and not forgetting several generous donations, enabled us to purchase new state of the art computer equipment and a newspaper industry standard desktop publishing package (QuarkXPress for any computer buffs!). So now we have no excuse for any mistakes!

Just to remind you - why? Costs of printing the paper have gone up considerably. This paper is delivered free to every household in the village and outlying areas, which is what we believe a local paper to be all about. Advertising and donations are our only source of revenue, therefore, the only way to meet this increased expense is to put up the cost of advertising - this we did NOT want to



do. Our only alternative was to find a way to reduce production costs by doing more of the work ourselves, hence the new computer.

Pictured here are some members of the Killin News team receiving their Award Certificate from Anne McGuire MP. Anne recently took the time to visit Killin to make this presentation and we all

enjoyed spending the morning with her and husband Len. One of the things we discussed with her was how easy it was to apply to the Awards For All and how quickly they responded with the grant. Other organisations should be encouraged to follow suit - nothing ventured - nothing gained!

Retiring After 37 Years

At the recent AGM of the Killin & District Tourist Association, the Chairman Anthony Blythe, on behalf of all members, presented Paddy McKinnon with a retirement gift.

Paddy's first involvement was in 1962, a public meeting in the village proposed the formation of a Tourist Association. The new Association were looking for volunteers to run information centres in 1963 and the two who came forward were Lochearnhead Garage and F. Smith and Son, Killin (Paddy's father's shop). Paddy handed out tourist information on a voluntary, unpaid basis whilst she worked in the shop, but it soon became obvious to the Association that the main demand from tourists was for an accommodation booking service. A list of premises offering accommodation was prepared by the Association and a booking service made available during shop hours.

Paddy gave up her "bureau" in 1971 and became Secretary of the Association in 1972. In 1973 the Association purchased a

caravan and the "bureau" moved to Breadalbane Park, where it was staffed initially by volunteers. Paddy continued her work for the Association, even becoming Chairperson for a while, as it installed the first floodlights on the Dochart Bridge; took over the running of the old tennis courts and made plans for a putting green; produced new walks leaflets and brochures; fought a continuous battle (still ongoing!) with the council of the day, over road signing; introduced the Floral Awards scheme.

Although retiring from the Tourist Association, Paddy will continue to work in the Tourist Information Centre, welcoming visitors to the village. For 37 years she has supported the Association and the promotion of tourism in the Killin area, in both a voluntary and an official capacity, and helped a community that relies to such a large extent on tourism for its livelihood, to prosper.

GF

Summarised Minutes of the Killin Community Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 10th February 1999

Present: W Rew (Chairman), J MacPherson (Vice Chairman), W Douglas (Treasurer), P Christie, C Grant, C McRae, J Mallinson, K Taylor, J Calder (MC), Y MacPherson (MC), E Woods (MC), D Anderson (MC), B Hibbert (MC), A Stewart (MC), M McLaren (MC), E Turner (MC), A Blythe (o/b Tourist Assoc), Linda FitzGerald (Killin News), A MacGregor (Police), Helen Munro (Stirling Council), F Davidson (Secretary)

**MC = Millennium Committee*

The meeting opened with Bill Rew thanking Helen Munro for her attendance and there followed on what can be summarised as an "Autopsy" of the Millennium Meeting which is reported in detail throughout this Issue of the Killin News. This session also served to clarify any points of confusion. Thereafter, the ordinary business of the meeting progressed with a great deal of helpful input from Helen Munro of Stirling Council.

Breadalbane Park - Bill Rew stated that he and Charlie Grant had a meeting with Mr Robertson about the 'proposed' bandstand in the park. He re-iterated that the Community Council were not trying to stop it but would just like to find out actually what is happening. John MacPherson stressed that we must be kept informed to ensure that Killin's best interests are maintained, otherwise we appear lackadaisical for not keeping on top of the situation.

Helen Munro pointed out that the Council holds the responsibility for the Park. She asked what it is the Community Council actually want with regard to the Park. It was explained that up until 2 years ago the Community Council managed the park but since then we seem to have lost all rights of the booking of it. One example was last year when the circus arrived with no prior warning and that it was booked for the days leading up to the Highland Games. The Games Committee were then left with the Park to clear and what would have happened if the two overlapped?

John MacPherson suggested that the Community Council has been accused of obstructing disability access to the Park. He felt that we should receive an apology for this as it is certainly NOT true and it is just another example of people not having information provided to them.

Colin McRae pointed out that we have a Parks Convener and that he is not being

contacted about park matters. He also stated, that with regard to the Bandstand, there appears to be nothing by way of a Planning Application. It was also pointed out that the Schedule of Planning the Community Council receives details requests for planning permission which have been submitted NOT planning permission granted. Helen Munro will have the facts by next week.

Trees and Shrubs - Bill Rew explained the problem of the trees and shrubs at the Dochart bridge and how they affect the line of sight. We need authority to have these removed by the landowner/ Council. He spoke to the Director of Roads who said we can obtain a Court Ruling but that is an extreme avenue to take. Anthony Blythe stated that a Tourist Board meeting on 26 February will involve Environmental Services and the lighting of the bridge. His offer to mention it at this meeting was gratefully received.

Cemetery - Bill Rew said that the Community Council is very impressed with Stirling Council's assistance with the Cemetery. He also went on to outline the moves we are attempting to make concerning car parking. Fiona Davidson explained that letters had been sent to the Council and Mr Howe (Finlarig) and she was waiting for a reply before we could do anything further.

Auchlyne Back Road - Fiona Davidson had received a letter from Technical Services advising that something will definitely be done to the road, but no works can be carried out in the current financial year.

Lyon Road - Fiona Davidson reported that the Council did not feel that putting parking restrictions at the end of Lyon Road would help and has said that they feel nothing further should be done on this subject.

Rights of Way - Fiona Davidson reported that she has contacted the Scottish Rights of Way Society (two months ago) for a map of all our local Rights of Way but has still received no reply. Helen Munro said that Mr Baron in Environmental Services deals with Rights of Way and she will attempt to get some information for us.

Glendochart Caravan Site Lay-By - Pat Christie said that she had been approached about the lay-by at the bottom of the Glendochart Caravan Site. The litter is very bad there and the bins are never emptied. Helen Munro said that the person to contact is Brian Denlan, Head of Community Services.

Lollipop Person - Killin Primary - Fiona Davidson had been approached by Linda Frost at the School about getting a lollipop

lady/man at the school gate. Reducing the speed limit to 20mph through the Main Street was not thought viable. It was asked if the police could monitor road speed at the school entrance at leaving times.

Car Parking - School - John MacPherson has been approached about the possible provision of parking facilities for the school. Elaine Turner suggested it would be better to encourage the local children to walk instead of being dropped off at the school gate.

Tourist Association - Anthony Blythe made the point that the Tourist Association and other organisations within Killin are basically all trying to do the same thing. He felt that it could be very valuable for a representative of these organisations including the Tourist Board to attend Community Council meetings and also felt it would be advantageous for a Community Council member to be invited to their meetings and to this end he extended an invitation to a Community Council member to attend the next Tourist Association meeting.

Helen Munro explained why she had come to the meeting and how she was encouraged by the attendance we had and the amount of men! She asked if there was any area which needed to be improved by the Council. It was stated that lines of communications need to be opened up more. She asked if we would be interested in having a local Roadman back in Killin to deal with the contracts locally. Bill Rew mentioned the fact that our Council Depot may be closing and expressed his concerns for the loss of employment and priority of keeping Glenogle open in all weathers.

It was pointed out that come the time of the Scottish Parliament there is a question over the role and authority of Community Councils. John Mallinson said that sometimes we are perceived as an outpost. He then went on to outline an example of signposts that have been waited on for a long time for the Breadalbane Folklore Centre. Helen Munro pointed out that a new Community worker was being interviewed who would be working within the Library. She said that this meeting had been very valuable to her and she enjoyed listening to us.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th April.

Just in case there are any of you out there who don't think the Community Council do anything for the village - may you stand corrected. This summary alone has been condensed down from FIVE pages - believe me, they really do work!

Times Ancient & Modern

The year has turned and is heading out of winter into the longer days. With February, we left the pheasant and hind shooting seasons behind and were honoured by a visit from The Deer Commission for Scotland (formerly known as the Red Deer Commission, but now includes other species). Their visit was in order to count the red deer in the West Rannoch Deer Management Group which extends from the north side of Glen Lyon to Bridge of Orchy.



The Commission aims to count all deer over Scotland on a regular basis - weather dependent. We had been waiting for a couple of years for this count although we do one of our own annually. The figures give a baseline for the management group to decide upon culling numbers. So at last, after several days of waiting for the mist to lift, we set out. The Commission provided ten officers, radios and a helicopter and I provided a couple of pencils, a notepad and a son who is pretty fast on his feet.

Some of the counting is done in time-honoured fashion by walking a given area, noting all the deer and numbers of hinds and stags. Radio contact ensures that deer are not double counted and the notepad ensures that aging stalkers can cope with numbers over ten! The helicopter enables the high ground to be counted quicker and sometimes men are dropped off at strategic points (literally points!) on the hill and then they walk the top ridges to count. Occasionally counting can be done from the helicopter itself with surprisingly little disturbance to the deer. Auchlyne to Auch was counted in an afternoon, despite a certain person walking away from the helicopter with his headset still on till it pinged off like Rikki Fulton's goggles. And the same person forgetting to switch on his radio. When all these figures are collated they are sent to the local groups where the landowners, stalkers and other interested bodies can use them.

As you will have noticed, there has been more snow on the tops this year, but it hasn't deterred the little snow buntings finding food on the edges of the drifts.

The pheasant season ended with the keeper's shoot. This is a traditional chance for the people who beat for others. to have a go themselves. Not everyone shoots, some enjoy walking the woods in good company, some come to pick up the dead pheasants (some are disappointed that its not eligible millionaires they are picking up!). This year we had a lovely sunny day to enjoy too and all ages shared a great camaraderie which spanned the years.

Afterwards everyone warms up with the apres shoot ceilidh when hidden talents come to light. This year the mouthie players jam session by John Sinclair. Postman Pat McAulay, and Cruachan and the silly hat competition were all overshadowed by tin-whistling Syd and an impressive highland sword dance by jigging Geraldine! A modern touch was the use of plastic electric fence posts instead of swords.

So the deer and the antelopes - sorry pheasants are left in peace as we head round the year again. Every year the same, and yet a little different.

Tim Frost



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MORE! - Killin Community Council Work!

A Meeting of the Killin Community Council was held on 23 February 1999 to host Sylvia Jackson, the prospective Labour candidate for Stirling in the new Scottish Parliament.

Present:

Bill Rew (Chairman), Fiona Davidson (Secretary), Kenny Taylor, Charlie Grant, Sinclair Aitken (Killin News), Sylvia Jackson (prospective Labour candidate)

Apologies:

John Mallinson. John McPherson (Vice Chairman), Colin McRae. Bill Douglas

Sylvia Jackson was welcomed and she asked if there were any local problems to be dealt with. She had obtained an old copy of the Killin News and had picked up a couple of things from that, most of which had since been resolved.

Millennium Project: Bill Rew asked about funding for millennium projects, she replied that John Hendry at Stirling Council is in charge of funding.

Stirling Council: Bill stated we had a lack of collaboration with the council and Sinclair Aitken pointed out our disadvantage of not having a local councillor at present.

Car Park and Toilets Beside Council Yard: Bill informed Sylvia Jackson that the only car park and toilets in the village are being offered by Stirling Council to a private firm for heavy industrial development. Fiona Davidson explained that several letters had been sent to various people in the Council and one to the Tourist Board to obtain more detailed information about this, but as yet there has only been one

acknowledgement saying the letter has been passed on to someone else. Sylvia Jackson will "find out what is happening".

Breadalbane Park: Bill explained that the Community Council had control of the park for many years until Stirling Council decided to take over management of it due to insurance commitments. Bill and Charlie Grant explained that changes were apparently being implemented in the Park (ie paths, bandstand etc) about which the Community Council are unable to obtain any plans or information. Bill stated that it renders the Community Council impotent if they cannot keep the residents of this area informed about what is happening on their doorstep.

Several other subjects were discussed fully at this meeting ie National Park status. Killin Signposts. Rural Transport, Lollipop Person, Employment and Youth Organisations, these are covered in various articles throughout this *Killin News*, therefore for reasons of space, we have not enlarged on them here.

Songs of Killin & District

We asked Willie Allan to let us have the background and history of a number of local songs. Who better than Willie, with his deep interest in local history and his singing ability? Below is a song written by Jan Hoem, who along with her husband Harold lived in Killin from August 1970 until June 1971. Her daughter Marsha was nine at that time and attended Killin Primary School. They lived in Ballechroisk Cottage, loved the hospitality of Killin Folk and have returned to visit Killin from time to time.

Lovely Killin

We've travelled a long way o'er many a mile, passed over Glen Ogle and stopped for a while.

Saw Ben Lowers to the East, Ben More to the West, wandered down to the valley that beauty had blessed.

Found a cosy stone cottage wi' a view o' the braes, heard sounds of the village as folks went their ways.

Made friends round the hearth singing old Gaelic songs, and the voices of people said a stranger belongs.

Time slipped thro' the seasons, from summer to spring, snow left the Tarmachans. brown braes turned to green.

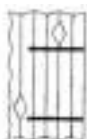
And children could play on the shores of Loch Tay. then we knew that we soon must be going away.

Fare thee well dear Killin, this dear place we've called home. Quiet hills, kindly people, the Dochart's white foam.

Soon we'll be far away but will come back again. In our dreams we'll be walking thro' lovely Killin.

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The Killin "People" File

Gladys Farquharson

Gladys graduated from St Andrews university and came to Killin in the early 1940's to teach in the School. The school was then a junior Secondary and at its peak had around 120 pupils. Gladys taught primary 7 as well as English to the seniors. She met her husband Hall in the early 1950's, and took a break from teaching to raise four boys. She returned to teaching in 1964 and continued until she retired. Hall ran the local Dairy for many years until his death in 1987.

What changes have you seen in Killin?

There has been an increase in the number of houses. The village is not as self contained as it used to be. people now go away to shop in the past there used to be many more little shops. The population is less 'local' with more people moving in. There has been a decline in employment. I can remember asking the children what their parents did. the biggest employers were the railway and the hydro. I fear the village may be losing some of its individuality, it is in danger of becoming just like any other.

Favourite place in Killin?

Definitely the head of the loch, you can feel totally alone down there, just me and the dog!

If you didn't live in Killin where else would you like to live?

Somewhere on Donside. You know when I first came here I had to spend my first months salary on Wellingtons and oil skins. I had never seen rain like it!

Favourite book?

I love detective stories. I am particularly fond of Agatha Christie.

Favourite music?

I have a very catholic taste in music. I do like Robbie Shepherd

Hobbies?

Since the age of five I always wanted to be a teacher and I love youth work. I took the guides, youth fellowship and I still run a handicap group every Tuesday in Aberfeldy.

Favourite Journey?

My trip to Edmonton. Canada. It was just so vast and so open.

Where would you like to visit?

Cornwall

Any unfulfilled ambitions?

I always felt I owed my family something for giving me the opportunity to go to university and would have liked to have given something back by doing some VSO work say in Africa.

Any advice for the young of Killin?

Open your eyes and see and enjoy the beauty around you.

DB

Editors Note:

This will be David Blaney's last "People File", I'm sure you will agree that Gladys was a great note to go out on. Many thanks to David and all his "Victims" over the past year, we will endeavor to keep his column going.



Gladys keeping villagers and tourists happy



Dick & Mary

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Another Musical Success

Mendelssohn on Mull came to St. Fillan's Episcopal Church in Killin on 18 December. Angus Ramsay and three friends delighted the audience with a selection of Viennese music for two violins, a viola and a double bass. This, the fourth concert of the series was a mixture of familiar and lesser known chamber pieces which was received with enthusiasm. Unfortunately the date clashed with other events so that the size of the audience did not match the quality of the music provided by these young players with such great dynamism and joy.

Mendelssohn on Mull is a charity which gives young up-and-coming string players, who are aiming at professional careers in music, an opportunity to play together over the course of ten days on Mull. Public concerts are given and a brand new violin, made during the course. is presented to a promising student. We were privileged to hear two of these glorious instruments at this concert.

The next concert is to be held in May in order to support the Festival on Mull to be held in early July 1999. This is a concert not to be missed!

Alistair Inglis.

MAUREEN H. GAULD

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The Department of Health has developed a prescription fraud initiative which has reviewed the procedures used by dispensing doctors when checking with patients if they need to pay a fee for their prescriptions. At present, Killin Surgery staff simply ask patients whether they pay for prescriptions or if they fall into an exemption category. From April 1st, 1999 we will be required to undertake the same checks as pharmacists which may include asking for evidence of exemption and for patients to sign the back of the prescription form. We have started to do this already to get into practice and identify problem areas. People may be exempt from payment because of age, medical condition or low income. We usually know about age or medical condition but in future may require evidence of low income category. This may involve filling in a form (HC1) in order to obtain an NHS charges certificate (HC2). People in receipt of the following benefits do not require to fill in further forms but need to provide evidence of their entitlement to that benefit: Income support. Family Credit. Disability Working Allowance, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. If you think that you may fall into another low income category, please contact the surgery for further information. If you are unable to provide evidence then we will charge you for the prescription with a receipt (EC57). This can be refunded from the Post Office by filling in appropriate forms or providing evidence. If you pay but need more than 5 items in 4 months then it is worth buying a pre-payment certificate (EC96). You can then have unlimited prescriptions! We should be receiving patient information leaflets and advice on a telephone help line at the beginning of March.

Dr Turner

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Killin Initiative

The Killin Initiative Committee met on 23 February to consider alterations to the constitution and to receive reports from the sub committees. The members present agreed to ratify all changes at the 1999 AGM, but to implement them with immediate effect.

The Chairman read a report from John Mallinson on preparations the Festival. Artists were booked, adverts placed in publications, booking flyers were expected by the end of the month and enquiries were beginning to be received as interest gained momentum. The support from sponsors was very favourable, and when confirmed would mean the projected level of financial support would be met.

Charles Grant reported on plans for the Highland Games. The day would follow the same tried and tested format, with the possibility of expanding the children's races. No other suggestions were in hand for local events. Sponsors have been approached and some have confirmed their support. At present the required level of sponsorship is about one sixth of what is required but interest was encouraging. Other meetings will be arranged and sponsorship packs sent out.

A fund raising event is being considered and members are asked to have ideas for the next meeting. The Chairman pointed out that due to changes in two of the village hotels it was necessary to make a new approach to explain the reasoning behind the idea. Thanks were registered for donations from the Bridge of Lochay and Fishers Hotels.

It was agreed to give a donation of £100 to the new Millennium Committee, and to keep members informed of projects to be undertaken once decisions had been made. The next Killin Initiative meeting will be held on 30 March.

Fiona Stewart, Secretary

Fair Chieftain O' The Puddin' Race

What a rum do! I might as well have been in Sweden as in Scotland, for all I understood of the language. The invitation to the Curling Club's Burns' Supper had given me no hint of an - almost - incomprehensible evening.

In olden days, the Supper was "bachelor only!" It's a good job that limes have changed as the "flu" epidemic and a calving cow, had played havoc with the cast of performers, and after the haggis had been piped in, the Address had to be done by a Lassie! And well done by Eilidh Taylor too. But why did she pick up a knife and stab the Haggis several times - surely it was already dead? The next surprise was a toast to the Queen - as a Sassenach I had made an assumption (wrong again!) that on this, of all nights, that the Queen would not have been involved.



The cry went up, "the Fiddlers have arrived" - and Davy Thornton struck up, followed by a song from Jack Rough. Johnny Willison's Toast to the Lassies was very funny, and even Jan (his wife) was surprised by his vast knowledge of ladies "intimate apparel"! Was I over-sensitive that he talked of both lassies and cattle in the same speech? Colin McRae and Charlie Methven's version of Desert Island Discs was far funnier than the radio programme. The entertainment was so diverse and professional; Mary Masterson and John Anderson singing the poet; Pat and Gilbert Christie on the squeeze box and keyboard.

Eilidh's reply (she had a busy night) to the Toast to the Lassies included many references to people at the Supper - much to their consternation and laughter (A haggie is a sheep apparently!).

Jim and Frances Cushley continued the entertainment followed by a John Burton Story then Colin and Charlie returned with a rendering of "Sweet Violets". Allan Walker gave a spontaneous, unaccompanied rendition of The Galloway Hills. The

evenings' entertainment - and the whisky - were now in full flow, and there were many wonderful repeat performances from the cast. Two I recognised were "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" and "I Love a Lassie". I have a lasting memory of Charlie Methven quoting a Burns' verse about a deformed wife of which I couldn't understand a word - but was obviously hilarious to everyone else!!

Many, many thanks to my interpreters for the evening - I kept them very busy! If I should be lucky enough to be invited next year, I shall not be on driving duties again!

By way of an "English" afterthought - I wonder why we don't have anything like this - perhaps a Shakespearean Banquet or a Chaucer Chicken in a Basket Night - or do I mean Chicken Chausoor!

Frances Gaskell

Killin Golf Club

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Editorial: Frances Gaskell hung up her high heels in favour of some wellies when she took early retirement from the banking world in London and moved to our area. She has always been a familiar face in Killin as she is the cousin of our own Judy Forster. We are delighted to have her here - among her ain folk - and hope you all enjoyed her first taste of a Burns' Supper.

Senior Citizens Burns Supper

The Senior Citizens of the village were once again royally entertained and feasted by the Killin Youth Club. On their behalf we would like to thank Tony Webb, and all those who provided the various ingredients to make the traditional meal - not to mention the generous "libations" which accompanied it.

This year there were unfortunately some little unavoidable glitches in the organisation, mainly to do with people going down with the dreaded flu! Consequently some of the speakers were drafted in at the last moment: needless to say they all rose splendidly to the occasion. Bill Norton was particularly impressive with his entertaining and informative 'Immortal Memory"! Thanks are due also to Alex Stewart who not only addressed the Haggis - but also addressed the Lassies! Jean Henderson, as we would expect, promptly and aptly gave her reply. Entertainment for the evening was provided by some excellent singing from Mary Masterson and Sheila Ferguson accompanied by Frances Cushley. A great night, much enjoyed!

One photo is of Alex Stewart addressing the Haggis - or perhaps demonstrating the size of the salmon he caught! The other depicts some of our Seniors enjoying Supper.

SA



Tenerife: Summer 1998

How many of us harbour a wish to see dolphins and whales in their natural habitat? I for one do, or rather did, for I was fortunate enough to be accepted by a Whale and Dolphin Conservation Project based in Tenerife during the summer of 1998. The project aims to develop responsible whale watching as an example to the world and to raise public awareness of conservation issues and an alternative way of life to whale hunting communities.

Participants came from all over Europe (up to 20 countries were represented last summer). They were aged from 8 to 26, though some of the co-ordinators were older! The Project started in July and continued through to the end of October. At least two months before leaving for Tenerife, we were issued with 'essential reading' which included a Technical Guide, details of all the types of whales and dolphins we were likely to meet and a crash course in Spanish (moochas grassias to Cristina Campbell for all her fantastic help with this).

The first three days on Tenerife were spent acclimatising and attending intensive training, which included Spanish language skills, talks and presentations, workshops, role playing and discussions. I was then appointed to help the research team with photography and identification.



I was on Tenerife for four weeks - the maximum length permitted. The days flashed by in an exhaustive round of duties which included working on the boats during the daytime, taking turn of cooking (I never want to eat chick peas again!) and running workshops and presentations in the evenings. There was room in the work schedule for social activities, which included opportunities for an overnight camp on Mount Teide (a volcano at the centre of the National Park), mountain biking, scuba-diving and wind surfing.

This experience has been one of my most formative to date. I had opportunities to see and try things I had only dreamed about. I met

people from all over the world, people who were experts on whales and dolphins and others who were from different conservation projects such as the Born Free Foundation. I had some amazing times with them. My photographic work was richly rewarding and allowed good quality identification of these beautiful mammals and the problems they are facing (tourism and over-fishing are but two).

I am going back this summer, if anyone is interested in finding out more or would like to consider going I would be delighted to help them

Laura Bates

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Good Luck to Doctor David

Word has probably filtered down by now that **Dr. David Blaney**, one of our local GP's left us for pastures new on 1 April (knowing first hand what a practical joker he is, I wondered if he really would go on April Fools Day!).

David's new job is as Director of Post Graduate Medical Education at the University of Edinburgh. In his new position he will have his own office and staff, and will oversee on a day to day basis the training of potential GP's and monitor the quality of the jobs both in general practice and in hospitals. He will also be involved with established GP's and will provide post graduate education for them and further develop the training practices, mainly in south east Scotland, Lothian and the Borders. The job also entails attending national meetings and advising national bodies. One of the projects he is involved with at the moment is the review of the Mental Health Act. He will also continue to do general practice but it will be in Edinburgh.

When I spoke to him before he left, he was excitedly looking forward to the move and his new position, not just from a financial point of view but also the prospect of furthering his professional and personal development. He said he will miss the routine of life in Killin, walks up Sron a Clachan, and the people, especially Annie McNee and not just for her pancakes - she makes exquisite banana loaf too! He will also miss Kitty McLachlan in the surgery, "if only she was 30 years younger - only joking Julia!" The only aspect of Killin life he won't miss are his "On Call" duties!

It is hard to imagine David living in a city, we have become so used to seeing him on his bicycle in his lycras (ooohh!) and

trainers! He will still be using his bike - probably more so, as getting round Edinburgh in a car is nigh on impossible. A bonus point for life in the city for David will be the availability of cultural life, museum, art galleries and the likes. Also, Julia will probably take advantage of the convenience of a course at the University.

David will still remain in contact with Killin but not in any professional manner (he won't be bidding for the old Co-Op building to start up a private practice!). David and Julia plan to keep their house in Killin, they have both put in so much of themselves into renovating the cottage, transforming it into the wonderful house it is now, they can't bear to sell. Their intention is to buy a large flat in Edinburgh near the city centre and David's office. So, we will still catch a glimpse of them in Killin on weekends and during the holidays. Who knows, perhaps like so many others who have had a taste of Killin, they will want to come back here in their retirement years?

David first came to Killin 10 years ago with his dog Rainbow (who was killed recently on the road). During his stay here he has done a Masters Degree and got a Fellowship of the Royal College. He has maintained an active interest in national medical issues, looked after the health of all of us - both routinely and when On Call and still found time to find his partner in life (Julia), three children (Laura, Camilla and Gordon) and a new dog (Benny)!

David Blaney has been a valued member of the Killin News team, a wonderful friend and a caring, compassionate, superb doctor to us all. Edinburgh's gain is Killin's loss.

LF



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National Park

NO boundaries have as yet been set - and that is official! Scottish Natural Heritage has now presented the Government with their expert advice on the formation of Scotland's National Parks. The first will be Loch Lomond & the Trossachs, the other (often forgotten locally) will be the Cairngorms.

The National Park formation must now quite rightly wait for the birth of the New Scottish Parliament. It is they who will decide over the next *two years* on park boundaries, funding and general park management.

Kevin FitzGerald

Fancy Dress Dance

The Fancy Dress Dance will be held again in the McLaren Hall on Saturday 3 April 1999, in aid of Cancer Research.

Donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received as we need to make as much as we can for such an important cause. Please hand any donations in to Grants Laundry.

Tickets at £5 will be available from the Laundry or phone Pamela on Killin 820744. The Hall will be licensed to sell alcohol.

Remember last year's Dance? - William, Finlay & Eric sure do. So get your thinking caps on for a Fancy Dress - there are prizes for the best. Come along and have a great night and do your bit to raise some money for a good cause whilst you are having fun. **Everyone is welcome.**



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An Observers Viewpoint

Having attended the above meeting, it has to be said that Killin's vision for a Millennium project is slightly blurred. Bill Rew, Chairman of the Killin Community Council bravely Chaired this meeting. It was a mammoth task to hold together over 100 villagers each with their own ideas on what/how/who/when it should happen not to mention those who didn't help the situation any by insisting on voicing their opinions on how a public meeting should be conducted.

The meeting started with Mr. Ernie Law of the Millennium Forest Scotland Trust, Glasgow explaining how many £Millions of £Millions were at Killin's disposal for individual Millennium Projects from the Lotteries Commission. I suspect that Jim Sutherland summed up the situation perfectly when he asked the question "was the Millennium Fund a 'Spivs Charter'?" The answer of course was no - but one couldn't help wondering!

Fortunately, Bill managed to form a Millennium Committee, whose remit will be to arrange the - Celebration - Monument - Landscaping - whatever the Village decides! Colin McRae was appointed as Interim /Acting Chairman until such times as the committee can meet to appoint official office bearers. The meeting then progressed into what can only be described as a "brain storming session" when poor Fiona Davidson, minute secretary, was bombarded with memorial suggestions from all corners of the room. A fountain at the entrance to Breadalbane Park - a clock for the McLaren Hall - a stained glass window - a time capsule enclosed in a cairn - access to the Island from Dochart Bridge - a stone Celtic Cross carried to the top of Sron a Chlachan by strong villagers - gardens in the Park/McLaren Hall - plant 2000 trees - improve the attractiveness of the entrance to the village from the west to the War Memorial - conservation of Finlarig Castle - fence off the old oak forest behind the Glebe to allow regeneration. Unwittingly, this "session" may prove to be invaluable as it can form a basis for the new committee to work from.

It is unusual to have such a large turnout at any committee meeting in the village. We therefore deemed it interesting, relevant and important enough to occupy a large proportion of this Issue. The (almost) unabridged Killin Community Council minutes of this meeting are alongside.

LF

The Official Viewpoint

A public meeting was held on 28 January 1999 to discuss the Killin Community's participation in Millennium celebrations. Over 100 people attended from Killin Organisations, Traders, Landowners and members of the general public. Bill Rew Chairman of the Killin Community Council welcomed everyone and outlined the main aim of the meeting - to ascertain how Killin wants to commemorate the millennium?

Mr Andy Law of Millennium Forests for Scotland Trust explained how the Trust restores trades and skills associated with wood and woodland and works with many partnerships to form the "Millennium Forest". The Millennium awards are granted to individuals to help their community. The awards average around £2,000 per individual although they can go up to £5,000 in exceptional circumstances. Individuals can group together on a project with each person's grant cumulating into much more money. The Millennium Award target is to have 100 projects, there are currently 57.

The two main criteria are:

- To attain an element of individual achievement for the individual
- Benefit for the community

The Awards are graded into seven themes and by applying for the correct one you would probably be allowed to do most things. Once a project is set up there are regular quarterly financial reports, you do not have to invest money yourself. There is no supervision by the commission although "mentors" are available to give advice. Upon project completion a basic form is required to be submitted.

Jane Calder, followed by Dr Turner respectively were asked to speak about their proposed projects. These are fully explained on pages 22 & 19. Alex Stewart pointed out that a Millennium Committee could not be formed until decisions had been agreed upon what was to be done.

Yvonne MacPherson suggested improving disabled access to the Breadalbane Park. Jim Sutherland suggested that a Prayer Meeting should be held at Hogmanay but it was generally felt that not many would attend. Dave Syme pointed out that the main point of the Millennium was being missed as it is in fact a religious celebration. A torchlight procession followed by a service outside the church was also suggested for Hogmanay. The Reverend Lincoln made the point that the year 2000 is

not actually the year we should be celebrating but added that the Church does have some celebratory plans - one of which could be the preservation of Finlarig Castle. Fiona Webber suggested erection of a tangible lasting Millennium memento which should be blessed by the Church.

A vote was taken and overwhelmingly agreed that there be a lasting Millennium memento (of some description), a Hogmanay celebration (of some sort) and an additional summer celebration. A Millennium Committee was then appointed to be headed by Colin McRae until such time as a formal meeting can be held. Appointed were: Colin McRae, Elaine Turner, Jane Calder, Brian Hibbert, Alex Stewart, Michael McLaren, Duncan Anderson, Elizabeth Woods, Yvonne MacPherson, Fiona Webber and Fiona Davidson.

Since this meeting, the Killin Millennium Committee has held its first public meeting information from this is published alongside.

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Killin Millennium Committee

The first public meeting of the newly appointed Killin Millennium Committee was held in the McLaren Hall on Wednesday 10 March. Approximately 50 villagers turned out on what was a piercingly cold winter night.

The Millennium Committee announced their decisions on projects for the village. Colin McRae (Chairman) pointed out that to date nothing was cast in stone and he and other members of the Committee would be happy to take on board suggestions and comments from the community until 20 March 1999. Thereafter they will keep the village informed of progress through the *Killin News* and if necessary will call another public meeting. It was pointed out to the Committee that this Issue of the *Killin News* (reporting on both the Community Council Meeting and the Millennium Committee Meeting) would not be delivered until the weekend of 20 March, at the earliest, but unfortunately, they could not extend their deadline. We are disappointed that villagers will not have the opportunity to read and respond. However, we do appreciate the mammoth tasks ahead of the Committee organising and getting all the necessary permissions, prior to building works.

Permanent Memorials:

- A Clock on the front of the McLaren Hall.
- A commemorative window in the church
- A Cairn, enclosing a Time Capsule within the Park, with a dedication service upon completion
- Access off the Dochart Bridge to the Island (on the West side) with a viewing platform
- Clearing around Fingal's Grave, possibly with new paths.

Projects:

- A video of Village Life (full info on page 22)
- Clearing the old railway line from the sewerage works to the head of the loch, thereby enabling better access for walkers
- Get fit for life by Elaine Turner (full info on page 19)

Celebrations:

- Varied Hogmanay celebrations throughout 31 December 1999 and into the wee hours of 1 January 2000.

Police News

As the weather changes and improves, hopefully, many people will begin working in their gardens. It is important at the end of the day to ensure that all tools are returned to a shed or garage which should be locked. These items are regularly used as instruments for forcing open doors and windows of houses which are broken into.

Don't Make it Easy for the Thief

A matter which has been brought to our attention is the speed of the vehicles within the village and in particular passing the Primary School. This matter will be addressed by members of the Traffic Department and local officers whenever a radar gun is available. Recent statistics show that a vehicle being driven at 35 mph is twice as likely to KILL someone than if they were driving at 30 mph. The

difference between 30 and 35 mph is an extra stopping distance of 6.5 metres, which equals the length of three hospital beds!

Kill Your Speed - Not a Child

If anyone wishes information on crime prevention of home security then please contact us at Killin 820222. Any information given to the police regarding any matter can be confidential. Please help look after your village and keep it safe for everyone.

Constable Alex McGregor

The Millennium in Killin

*We had a wee meeting last Monday
To discuss just what we could do
To mark the forthcoming Millennium,
But quite frankly, we're still in a stew.*

*We had a wee meeting last Tuesday
Suggestions came quite thick and fast.
Two thousand bulbs? A fireworks display?
Are we going to resolve this at last?*

*We had a wee meeting last Wednesday
Perhaps what we need is a theme,
Like football or Scotland or music.
We appointed a "Theme-Making Team".*

*We had a wee meeting last Thursday
Our themematical team had resigned
We suggested we crown Stron-a-Clachan
With a stone Celtic cross design.*

*We had a wee meeting last Friday
The stone proved costly and bulky.
We ruled out a garden or art show.
By now, we were all getting sulky.*

*We had a wee meeting last Saturday
(We should have all been at the dance)
A video of Killin '99?
Modern life summarised at a glance.*

*We had a wee meeting last Sunday
And decided to pool our resources
Two thousand holes could be played, if we built
Two hundred and eleven golf courses.*

*We're having a meeting next Monday
We 'll discuss just what we can do
To mark the forthcoming Millennium
But quite frankly - we haven't a clue!*

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- A Gala Day in Breadalbane Park in the Spring - possibly around the May Day holiday weekend.
- Also, not planned as yet, various celebrations throughout the Year 2000.

There is no doubt that the new Committee is taking on a massive amount of work and they are all very committed to providing the best they can for the village. They are aware that it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time and they are to be commended for undertaking this on our behalf. The *Killin News* will endeavour to keep you all informed of progress and wish them the very best of luck.

A Village History

Killin and District are mentioned in many reference books, the most well known being "In Famed Breadalbane". However, the latter cannot be regarded as an easy read. Many new villagers ask about the local clans and get rather a mish mash of information about Killin's past. The late Ella Walker wrote a "Village History" which although now dated gives a very good account of the area.

Ella, born in Glen Lochay and a native Gaelic speaker, must have written her account in the 1960/70's and many changes have taken place since then. However, the Killin News proposes to publish Ella's history as a serial over the next year. To get you in the mood and give you a taste of the richness of our past, we have in this Issue given you a reasonable sized dollop! We hope you enjoy it.

Killin

Set in the heart of Breadalbane - the Uplands of Alban - and in the heart of Perthshire, our Village and District are considered by many to be the most beautiful in Scotland.

Although the Parish of KILLIN extends for over twenty miles from the watershed at the County March with Argyll in the West to Loch Tay in the east, and includes the villages of TYNDRUM and CRIANLARICH, KILLIN itself is near the eastern end of the Parish and about a mile from the head of Loch Tay.

Two rivers, the peaceful Lochay and the turbulent Dochart emerge from their respective Glens and meet to mingle their waters for a few hundred yards before emptying into Loch Tay. The village stretches across the peninsula so formed, being somewhat over a mile in length.

It was almost inevitable that a village should spring up here, from the time when mankind drew together into communities, as here is the natural meeting place of many routes. From the south up Glenogle and across Larig-Ilidh; from the west down Glendochart and Glenlochay; and from the east along both sides of Loch Tay, while numerous hill-passes give access to the surrounding Glens.

To the north it is sheltered by the distinctive Tarmachan Ridge and eastward looms the mighty mass of BEN LAWERS, highest of all Perthshire's Bens (3984 feet), in the other direction the way to the West is guarded by the twin peaks of Ben More and Stobinian.

As the visitor approaches from the West he finds that the road winds beside the River Dochart which roars around its island and over its rocks. The Bridge which crosses the river is a very picturesque one consisting of five unequal arches and commanding one of the best known views in the country, which every year attracts thousands of tourists, and particularly photographers, from all parts of the world.

The Main Street runs roughly East and West, and at one time most of the houses were built on either side of it, but in recent years the newer houses have spread out to the North and South. For a place of its size Killin is fortunate in possessing many well equipped shops and several comfortable hotels. The Main Street, being straight and fairly wide, does not present such a traffic problem as in many Highland villages.

Round the old Square or "Stance", where in earlier days the Markets were held beside the gently flowing river Lochay, stand two Churches - the Parish Church and the Episcopal Church, a very fine Village Hall and the principal Hotel. Nearby the present Livestock Mart now caters for the considerable sale of Cattle and Sheep from the surrounding districts. The road then winds pleasantly along beside the river Lochay crossing it by an old single-arch bridge to continue along Loch Tayside.

The Origin of the Name

There are conflicting opinions as to the origin of the name KILLIN. The old local tradition attributes it to the belief that Fingal, the father of Ossian, lies buried in a field behind the village, hence the name Cill Fhinn - chapel or place of Fingal. Another opinion is that the name means Cill - fhionn - white or fair Church; and yet another that it is Cill-linne, or Church by the Pool.

Early Inhabitants

Before there was a Church, or any history, another race inhabited our Glens - a race whose origins have been lost, and whose very existence is only proved by the numerous tools, weapons and ornaments of stone and bronze that have been dug up at various times. There are also examples of mysterious cup-markings on rocks and stones. Near Kinnell, the ancient seat of the Macnabs, there is a particularly well preserved Stone Circle. Who were they, these "silent, vanished races" whose only memorial is carven on the imperishable rocks? What was their way of life, and who or what their gods?

The Coming of Christianity to Breadalbane, towards the end of the 8th Century, is attributed to St. Fillan, who, like St. Columba came from Ireland. The late Dr. Gillies in his book "In Famed Breadalbane" says that "little is known of St. Fillan's ministry in Breadalbane, but he has left behind a gracious, imperishable tradition".

It appears that, as well as his religion, he brought civilizing influences to try to improve the lot of our wild forbears; the picturesque Mill which stands on the north bank of the river Dochart above the Bridge bears his name, and stands on the site of a meal mill he founded. In an upper room of this Mill are preserved the "Healing Stones of St. Fillan", these are eight in number and two at least appear to have been pivot stones on which the grinding machinery of the mill revolved. The other six are water-worn, and tradition has endowed each of them with the power of healing some part of the body. Down to the present day the stones are "bedded down" afresh each Christmas Eve by the proprietor of the mill on reeds and straw "not won by the hand of man", but gathered from the river-bank.

St. Fillan's Feast Day, known locally as "Latha Feile Faolain" falls on the 3rd Tuesday of January, and on that day for a thousand years the machinery of the Mill was stilled in honour of the Saint. Until about 25 years ago St. Fillan's Day was observed by the local farmers as the day on which all arrangements were made for the year's functions, such as the ploughing-match, Cattle Show etc., and especially it was the day on which all debts were paid.

In the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh are preserved other relics of St. Fillan, namely his Crozier and his Bell. There relics were for many years jealously guarded by hereditary Keepers, whose family name was Dewar, and the Dewar's Croft can still be pointed out, which for hundreds of years descended from father to son by virtue of their office. The last member of the family to hold the Crozier emigrated to Canada taking the relic with him, but after a brief sojourn there it was recovered and placed in its present home.

More from the late Ella Walker in the next issue.



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Road Carnage

We reported in our Christmas Issue on incessant accidents occurring on the A84/ASS road between Stirling and Tyndrum.

It was reported in the national press that Detective Sergeant Stuart Alison, aged 34, has been charged with driving dangerously, and at excessive speed given the wet conditions prevailing on September 8th 1998. His patrol car was on an advanced driving training run when it collided with a bus carrying elderly American tourists in Glen Ogle.

Solicitors acting on behalf of Detective Sergeant Alison tendered a not guilty plea in a letter to Stirling Sheriff Court. A pre-trial hearing will be held on April 29 and the trial has been set for May 12. We will keep you informed in the next issue.

We have also heard reports that an Army vehicle trailing a generator collided with a Suzuki Vitara between Lix Toll and Crianlarich on 2 February 1999. It is believed that the driver of the Vitara was killed instantly.

Killin News AGM

The *Killin News* AGM will be held in The Bridge of Lochay Hotel on Wednesday 7 April at 8 pm. Members of the general public are most welcome to attend. Come and meet the people who put this paper together.

"Challenge" For The ME Foundation

On Tuesday 23 February, eleven junior members of Killin Drama Club staged a mini variety show for the members, parents and friends. They had been invited to participate in this venture, to help raise funds by sponsorship, for the ME Foundation and their own club.

The acts were indeed varied, ranging from Jamie Murphy's disco-ing puppet to Adam Mitchell playing the recorder through his nose.... yes nose! Sarah Murphy and Claire McCarron delighted us with their Irish dancing, and sisters Jennie and Laura Mitchell sang two pop songs (watch out you girl bands!). Just to help balance out the sexes, the 'The Brothers Brown' - Robert and Alisdair, initiated us in the art of Diablo tossing (not so easy as it looks). All I can say is, now I know why Alisdair wore baggy trousers, a good catching net! A unique rendering of "My Heart Will Go On" from Titanic was given to us by James Stewart, in picture form, and Stuart Lawrence kept us laughing with his jokes. To keep the show together the Comper was none other than our very own Mrs. Doubtfire alias Euan McKenzie. Brother Gregor was the man in our technical room and a few wrinklies helped round and about.

It was a superb evening and the total raised to date was £220, with more to be collected. All the actors will be going on March 28 to Stirling to have a fun day with TV's Gladiator Wolf where Euan, the winner of the challenge (being the one who raised the most money), will be presented with a certificate. I think I can safely say that everyone in that audience felt so proud of them. What a wealth of talent our young folk have. Well done to them all, and many thanks to those who sponsored them.

Now it's back to rehearsing for us wrinklies, for the play "Holiday Snap" by Michael Pertwee and John Chapman. To be performed on Friday 26 & Saturday 27 March, in the McLaren Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets (£4 adult or £3 concession) will be available on the evening at the door and in JR News. So come along if you can, it's extremely funny.

Glenda Mardon

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The Panto

Killin Drama Club's annual Pantomime on 14 & 15 January was Sinbad the Sailor. Good fun with plenty of local allusions and some nifty special effects. I attended the matinee with the rest of the youngsters and we were enthralled with a scary sea monster, a giant bird "the Roc" whose enormous feet traversed the top of the stage.

Where do they get the Dames from? We have over the years had some crackers and this year was no exception. Tony Blythe looking remarkably like drag queen Lily Savage, vamped and camped it up like a professional, whilst the other "old stagers" produced the quality we have come to expect. The chorus, goodness knows how many, put a



tremendous amount of energy into their dancing and singing. "Shiver me Timbers" the Pirates were good. Princess Yasmin (Sarah Murphy) bravely soldiered on in her solo when the microphone went on the blink - not once but twice in the three performances, well done Sarah!

Perhaps the scenes were too long and some of the linking dialogue was unintelligible, clarity of diction needs looking into. However, it was a good night out judging from audience reaction and several remarked on how splendid the costumes were. We are lucky to have such a lively drama group with full support team. Congratulations on all the hard work, it was great to see the young ones coming along.

AW



The Ardeonaig Hotel

Situated on the south side of Loch Tay directly opposite the Ben Lawers range, this traditional wayside inn enjoys a tremendous panorama of mountains and Loch. The Hotel has 14 bedrooms, all having en suite facilities, and tea/coffee making facilities- We can offer guests fishing (Salmon, Trout and Char) on Loch and river, and for golfers there are several courses within a 10 mile radius. For the outdoor enthusiast the area is ideal walking country, as well as offering sailing, water skiing, pony trekking, amongst others.

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Brownies and Guides Make Contact

On Saturday and Sunday 20 & 21 February, Killin Brownies and Guides took part in "Thinking Day on the Air" for the first time.

An annual event, "Thinking Day on the Air" is a worldwide co-operative effort between amateur radio enthusiasts and the Guiding movement. It aims to promote Guiding friendships through the exchange of greetings messages. Although most of the messages sent by the girls were to stations within the UK, the girls did manage to speak to the USA and Malta. Using the officially sanctioned call sign GB2KGB, Brownies and Guides from Killin spoke to amateur radio stations in 5 countries. During the week they contacted 51 stations in 23 countries. Contacts were made with four continents, South America, Africa, Asia and Europe, the

countries list included India, Argentina, Algeria, Asiatic Russia, the Ukraine and Finland.

The girls have made cards to exchange with the stations contacted, and hope to make a display of those they receive. Those who took part in the activities fulfilled most of the requirements for their Communications Badge. On the Sunday, the Brownies attended the Parish Church service where they renewed their Brownie Promise.

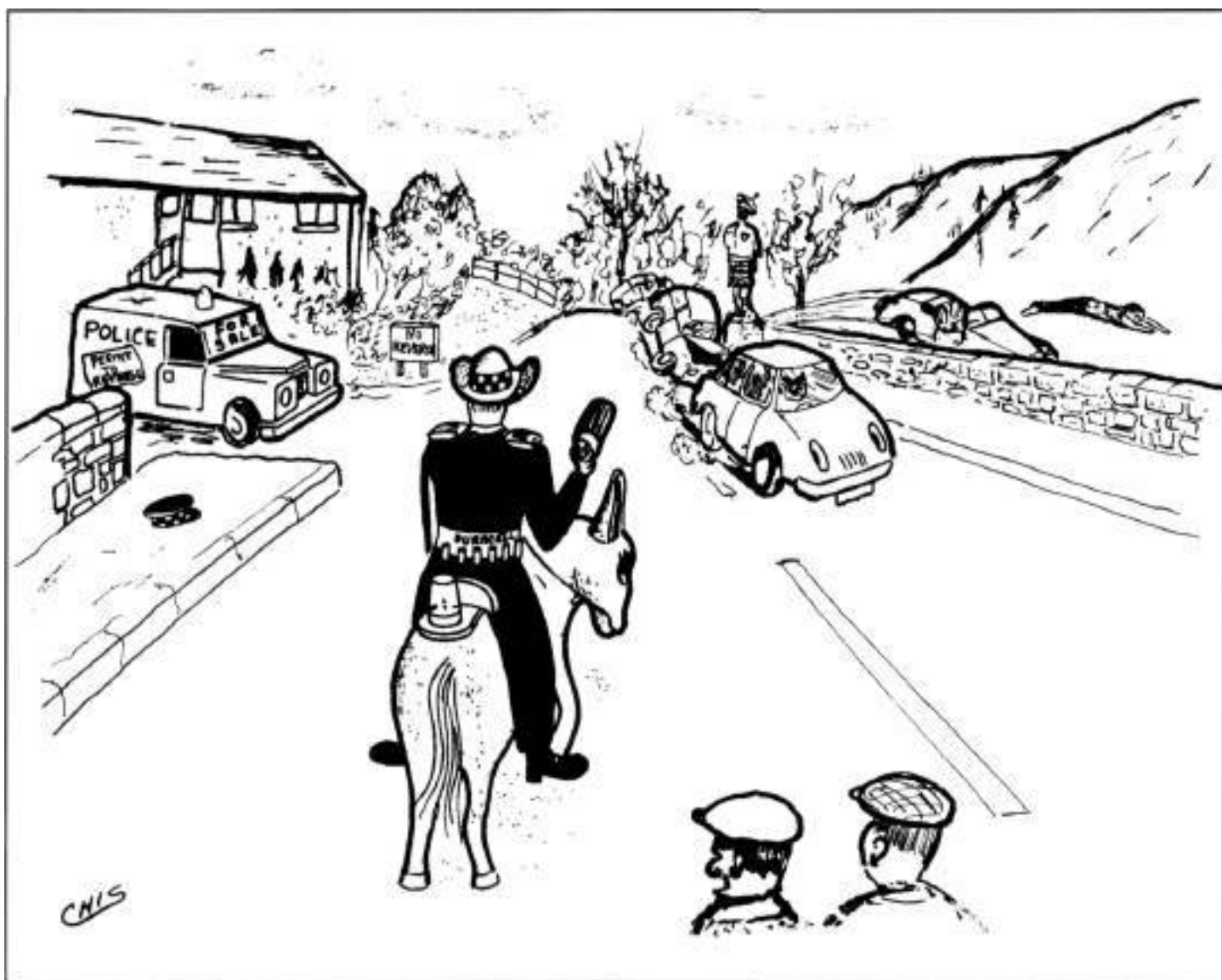
From the 8 March, the Brownie pack meeting place will be the Sports Pavilion. This will allow them to take part in more sporting activities like hockey, table tennis, tennis, putting, netball and basketball. For the over eights there will be a chance to play green bowls. These



new activities will be added to the former activities to make a more varied evening for the girls.

Both new and former Brownies will be made welcome (girls aged between 7 and 10) meet from 6.15 till 7.45 pm each Monday evening.

SA



At one of the Community Council meetings, it was suggested that our local police set up a speed trap at the entrance to the village to catch speeding motorists. Our resident cartoonist Allan Chisholm has captured the scene wonderfully in his latest cartoon.

**We will leave you to decide whether it is Alex or Ian?
"I think this gun has gone to his heid!"**



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Natures Corner (previously The Neuk) opened early in March, just a few doors further along the Main Street.

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Killin Mountain Rescue

During the first two months of 1999 the team have been called out to seven incidents in our local mountains - Ben Ledi, Ben Vorlich, Beinn Dubhchraig, Ben More, Glen Finglas and Ben Lui. The reasons for the call outs ranged from climbers overdue to those who had fallen. Most of the falls were as a result of a simple slip, which statistics show to be the most common reason for the majority of mountain accidents. The recent falls ranged from 100 feet to 1000 feet and injuries varied with one unfortunate fatality. Nearly all of the casualties were well equipped, but there is always the doubt that although they have all the proper equipment, have they taken the time to learn how to use it correctly and most importantly do they have navigational skills and knowledge of weather conditions?

Most of these call outs average twenty to twenty-five personnel in attendance, which is an excellent turnout as Mountain Rescue is completely voluntary.

We have just recently had a joint team exercise involving the three Mountain Rescue Teams which cover the whole Central Scotland Police area - Killin Mountain Rescue, Lomond Mountain Rescue, Ochil Mountain Rescue and SARDA (search dogs). It was controlled from Crianlarich, where the search area was the Cruach Ardrain Corrie. All six casualties were successfully located and evacuated. Some 65 team members took part in what was a very successful exercise. This emphasises the importance that we must be able to work together as a unit as well as individual teams.

William Stitt

McLaren Community Leisure Centre

As many of you are no doubt aware, this £3.5 million leisure centre is just around the corner and been designed to suit most sporting activities and interest. Situated adjacent to the McLaren High School, the centre offers a 20m pool and health suite, sports hall, squash courts, four lane carpet bowls hall, climbing wall and state of the art fitness suite. All these activities are supported by a meeting room, large viewing gallery and cafeteria offering a wide selection of drinks and fast foods with healthy options.

The centre offers a variety of Membership packages to suit all needs and has recently introduced a Corporate Package and Country Package. Both packages offer considerable reductions in all facilities and have been specifically designed to cater for businesses and groups/clubs who live in communities outwith Callander. Should you require further information of any of our membership packages or wish to enquire how the centre may be in a position to assist you business or community, please contact reception.

The McLaren Indoor Bowling Club recently held its first Annual General

Meeting and formed a committee. The bowling is proving increasingly popular and the Committee will liaise closely with the centre management to further develop the facility.

The "state of the art" Fitness Zone operates with four full time qualified instructors. All those interested in using the Zone must be inducted on all equipment prior to using the facility. Over the coming months it is our intention to start up "Fitness Testing" and "GP Referrals" - watch out for regular features and promotions within the centre.

Those interested in the "Climbing Wall" will be pleased to hear that a group of local volunteers kindly offered their services in order the further develop this area. All are vastly experienced and have introduced a variety of new climbing routes.

A squash league has now been operating very successfully for several months although we would take this opportunity to remind all those in the league that games must be played within the designated time period. The league is operated at all levels from beginners to

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advance so this is the ideal opportunity not only to develop your game, but also to enjoy the thrill of competition.

We are now able to cater for birthday parties of all sizes offering a variety of menu options, activities and designated party area. This is a key area which we hope to develop and expand upon. Any suggestions from parents or interested parties are greatly appreciated.

The centre was designed to cater for a variety of activities and functions and those of you who have yet to visit this magnificent facility will be in for a very pleasant surprise.

Killin Traditional Music & Dance Festival

The booking fivers to reserve your weekend tickets are available now. During the three weeks of Celtic Connections in Glasgow, over 2,000 flyers were picked up by visitors. Early enquiries are in the data bank and Lesley Syme is busy organising this years mailing list. Artistes are arranged and full details are on the new fivers. As mentioned in the last edition, our basic structure will be the same as last year and adverts will be placed in the main Folk Magazines and already interest has been noted from throughout Europe.

New events to look out for are the TMSA Junior Singing Competition, the Open All Welcome Fiddle Session, a Meet the Band Workshop and a Children's Treasure Hunt.

Plan your Festival weekend (18-20 June) well in advance and book early to avoid disappointment.



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Parliamentary/Local News

It is a great privilege for me to be able to represent Killin as its Member of Parliament, and I am delighted to accept the invitation to submit a regular column to the *Killin News* - a superb example of a local newspaper, supported by the local community. It is full of the kind of news which is invaluable to local residents as well as offering an advertising opportunity to businesses.

It was therefore a great pleasure to be in Killin on Saturday, 27 February, to present the *Killin News* with its certificate of grant of £2500 from the Lottery Small Grants Scheme. The Grant, used to purchase new computer equipment is symbolic of the way in which a smallish amount of money can make a big difference to organisations.

On the local scene I am pleased to hear that the new bus service to Callander, supported by The Scottish Office's Rural Challenge scheme, appears to be going well. The new Sports facilities at the McLaren are being well used by people and groups north of the town, and this is much to do with access to this transport facility.

On the wider picture, April 1 will see real changes to the lives of families in Killin. Child benefit will see the largest rise ever, with a £2.95 increase for the first child, bringing that benefit up to £14.40 per week. Business taxes will also be lowered to 20% from April. Interest rates and mortgages are at their lowest for over 20 years. Additionally, we will see billions more being invested in our health and education services in Scotland on top of the additional funding already given. McLaren High for

example has already received thousands of extra pounds for school repairs and new technology.

I appreciate that there is much still to do - the Tourist industry had a bad 1998 for example and we need to ensure that it is supported. There is still a shortage of good affordable housing in rural communities such as Killin. There is much to look forward to with the new Scottish Parliament. I hope that together we can look at ways in which we can solve these problems and I look forward to hearing your views on those matters which you feel are important to you and your own community.

My office at 38 Forth Crescent in Stirling, telephone 01786 446515 has full time staff available to take a note of your calls, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Anne McGuire MP

Public Transport Guide - Perth & Kinross Council

Perth & Kinross Council have recently published a public transport guide entitled "Highland Perthshire and Stanley Area". It includes bus and rail services. Of relevance to Killin is the increase of the bus service from Killin to Aberfeldy. This is a daily bus service operated by Caber Coaches during school days.

This comprehensive guide is essential for anyone "wheel-less" and dependent on public transport. It can be obtained, free of charge from the Killin Post Office, JR News or the Tourist Office.

JB

Stirling Enterprise

"Taking growth development and you into the 21 century"

An informal "chat" was held recently between Les Silver and Jim Nicol, representatives of Stirling Enterprise (STEP), Bill Rew, Chairman of the Killin Community Council and Gillean Ford and Linda FitzGerald both representing the Killin News. STEP were attempting to ascertain how they could best serve the rural population.

STEP needed to find out how resources available could be presented to villagers and it was suggested that adverts or posters placed strategically throughout the village and raising awareness through the pages of this newspaper were probably the best routes. It was also suggested that an Internet site might form a useful platform also.

We informed the STEP visitors that we believed Killin is often ostracised from Stirling Council and viewed as the poor relation. STEP will do their best to ensure businesses and individuals are kept informed of Information Technology courses available, and in their advisory capacity suggest grant aid which might be applied for. If you require any information, they would be pleased to hear from you.

Stirling Enterprise Ltd., John Player Building, Stirling. FK7 7RP.

Tel: 01786 463416, Fax: 01786 479611 or E-Mail: step@stirling-enterprise.co.uk

COMMENT

Having attended the McLaren Hall quite a lot recently, we must comment on the new seats - fabulous. The McLaren Hall Committee is to be congratulated on the recent acquisition. No longer will the cry be heard throughout the village and Doctors Surgery, "I enjoyed the Panto/ Play / Heritage Meeting / Public Meeting, but I have been in agony ever since with a bad back!" or "Did you remember to bring your cushion?!" May we suggest that the wooden torture chambers which formerly masqueraded as seats, be put on the bonfire in November. Alternatively, one could be put in the proposed "Time Capsule" so that future generations can witness the discomfort experienced before the year 2000! On a more serious note, they have more than served their purpose - we wonder if the new seats will last as long?

The Killin News would like to remind all readers that we are here to be your contact medium. We do our utmost to live up to our remit "to be an informative, accurate and entertaining journal". On occasions when we do appear to fall down, we can but quote the old adage, "you can't please all of the people all of the time" or "no one is infallible". Whilst every effort is made to remain impartial and objective, at the end of the day, we do have financial constraints to work within. We are totally dependent on our advertisers and donations, and space costs money. Therefore, no matter how interesting an article, we do have to "edit" or "cut" as space permits, as in last years' Highland Games report when at the last gasp we had to cut the piping article and photo. We made the decision that rather than report half heartedly on both the Show and the Games, the Killin Show because of its local flavour was what our readers/ advertisers would want more coverage of. This year we will try even harder to accommodate both events.

May we take this opportunity to suggest to our advertisers that now we have our new computer equipment, perhaps they would like to revamp their adverts with logos or pictures - there is no additional cost, providing the size of ad remains the same.

LF

Fit For The Future

The Background

This century has seen a huge change in the health of the population. In 1915 in Scotland, 1 in 10 children died in the first year of life, mainly from infectious diseases such as diphtheria, measles and TB. People's lives were much shorter. Nowadays, infectious diseases are much more rare and more easily treated. People live longer and develop what we call degenerative diseases. The main causes of death in Scotland are heart disease, stroke and cancer. The risks of developing these diseases are influenced by how we live our lives - smoking cigarettes increases the risk, a healthy diet and regular exercise reduces the risk. Conditions such as arthritis and maturity onset diabetes are more common and more troublesome the more overweight you are. The number of overweight people is increasing steadily and has been described as a national epidemic. Approximately half of Scottish adults are above the recommended weight range, and 20% of children are overweight. In the last century, doctors campaigned for clean water supplies and better housing to reduce disease. For the next century, doctors need to encourage people to lead healthier lifestyles to reduce the chance of illness in the future and to pass on good habits to their children. There are always exceptions - the uncle who smoked and drank all his days and lived till he was 90, the superfit squash player who has a heart attack. The number of people who smoke is steadily decreasing, the number of people with heart disease is also reducing so change is already happening.

The year 2000

With the above in mind, we at the surgery and clinic - your primary health care team - thought that the year 2000 was a good year to focus on getting fit for the next millennium (unfortunately, we can't guarantee you'll live till the end of it). We could offer health checks for any one who thought they needed one and give advice on making healthy changes. We have funding to run a slimming group, stop smoking support and are discussing with Sports Centres, exercise prescription (it would cost less). The slogan 'Fit for the Future' could act as the theme for various events throughout the year and could also include environmental fitness - clearing litter, improving paths, using the

car less, smoke free areas in pubs etc. If we wanted to raise funds throughout the year for millennium projects we would encourage sponsored litter pickups, exercise/sports events, sponsored slims - anything related to the overall theme. Any club or society which wanted to arrange an event or had ideas on how to expand the theme would be most welcome to contact us. We can do our bit from the surgery but the theme can be as big or as small as the village wishes.

Exercise can be whatever you want and can be sociable and fun. We have the new Sports Centre in Callander with evening public transport. The Millennium cycle route, from Inverness to London, which has attracted the largest National Millennium Lottery Grant, will come through Killin and will bring a lot of cyclists to the village. The majority of the route has to be ready by June 2000. You can then cycle to Callander (if not London) on traffic free routes. 'Get on your bike' will become a much safer option. Start planning that cycling holiday now!

Dr Turner

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Top of the Pops for Killin?

Well perhaps not just yet! But last month the Killin Hotel played host to an up and coming Welsh rock group, The Stereophonics. They arrived with a film production unit to make a promotional video. We met them and the group in the bar of the Killin Hotel. It was quite a revelation to discover the huge number of people involved (and the vast cost!). A unit of about 35 individuals; art directors, set designers, camera operators, focus pullers(!), make-up, etc., and three divers to look after them in the water - yes, "in the water"! The film involved crashing an old Jaguar car down a slope (at Dall Farm) into Loch Tay, with the Rock group inside - or so it will appear!

They sink the Jag slowly as the divers puncture the buoyancy bags underneath, and the boys struggle to get out of the car. The whole scene is interspersed with shots of various bizarre "happenings" from earlier parts of the film - and if you think this is somewhat confusing, well in the world of pop videos it is par for the course!



Needless to say, the boys do eventually get out of the car and there is a happy ending. But the facts are; they did sink a Jag in Loch Tay, and they did have divers in attendance. Is the Jag still in the Loch? You'll have to ask Kenny Taylor of Dal! Farm! Look out for the video; it should be on the box about now.

That the film crew managed to achieve all this in the foul weather they encountered has a lot to do with the help of local people. Lix Toll's snow plough for example was much in use. People at Dall

Farm and the staff at the Killin Hotel were also very helpful. They also borrowed waders and bought outdoor gear from Killin Outdoor Centre & Mountain Shop. All for a three or four minute film! We understand that the group first hit Scotland at Edinburgh's Hogmanay Party, and have retained a soft spot for this part of the world. They expect to be at Stirling Castle in August, so look out for The Stereophonics .

SA

NB: At time of going to print we hear they have reached no. 4 in the charts.

Killin Floral Awards

The Killin Floral Awards are open competitions and cover all properties within the village boundaries. Categories for 1999 are as follows:

Commercial

- The Best Overall Floral Frontage Display

Domestic

- Hanging Baskets: containing at least 3 varieties of flowering or foliage plants.
- Tubs: planting as for hanging baskets.
- Window Boxes: an overall mass of colour. No limit on plant varieties.
- "Tidiest Garden viewed from the Road" will be judged this year on the following criteria: Year Round Garden combined with a Summer Planting Display

Children

- The Tallest Sunflower Plant
- The Largest Sunflower Flower Head

The committee intends to germinate the seeds and then give plants to the children to grow. Children wishing to enter the competition should give their names to Kay, in the Library by 31 March.

Village Floral Displays

Hanging baskets will be in position along the Main Street and it is hoped that all those businesses and individuals who have sponsored these so generously in the past will continue to do so.

The fickle weather of early June, 1998, saw a vicious frost for two nights immediately after the baskets were put up and this set the plants back so much that for a while they looked very sad! Thankfully, they recovered and went on to give a good display. Experiments with different planting will take place this year and it is hoped to gradually expand the scheme to include other types of floral display around the village, including the planting of spring bulbs, if funds, and permission, are obtained. Continued success will only be achieved if more people, especially from the younger generation, come forward and show their support for the village by either joining the committee

and or sparing a little time to help. Assistance is needed with the following: offering greenhouse or tunnel space; growing on seedlings; planting up the hanging baskets; looking after the baskets until they are ready to be hung on the poles; putting the baskets up (strong young men/women required!); watering.

If you can help in any way, and it only amount to a few hours each year, please get in touch with Marion McRae, Gilleen Ford, Will Inglis or Norman Inglis (numbers in the "wee phone book").

GF

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FSB

Killin Heritage Society

The Killin Heritage Society recently held its AGM in the Lesser McLaren Hall. After the official business was over, we were treated to a wonderful evening full of stories and photos of Killin during the "occupation" of the "Schemes".

The Guest Speaker was Mr Brian Haslam. He came to Killin to work for Mitchells in 1947 and left in 1962. During that period he witnessed the population of Killin rise from 850 to between 4 and 5 THOUSAND.

Gladys Farquharson, told a wonderful story of the time when she and her husband rented what was "Butler's Cottage" (now where Julia and David Blaney live). This was on the fringe of the "Scheme" which appeared to consist of 25 wooden bungalows, a blind sheep and a "Heelan Coo"! She recalled the time when the HydroBoard opened a new Sewage Plant for these bungalows, "and the stench was dreadful". Various "high heed yins" were summoned and after a great deal of too-ing and fro-ing agreed most definitely that something must be done about the smell. A few days past and a package arrived for Gladys in the post - Airwick Air Freshners!

Judy Forster first came to Killin when she was 18, to work for Nuttalls in Glen Lochay and 42 years later she is still here! (we wouldn't dream of printing your age Judy!). Judy reminisced about the dancing in the McLaren Hall every Friday when she would Tango into the small hours (NB for the young ones - Tango is a dance not an orange flavoured drink!), the Cinema was also on every week in the Hall. Judy described the scene of lorries constantly driving up and down the Glen Lochay road with loads of cement which came in by train to Killin Junction. She also said "the men worked very hard during long days - but they also put as much effort into their free time". She recalled every night when they returned to the village, the first stop was the pub. it was during this period that Judy had her first introduction to gin and tonic! - and of course her late husband John who was a Killin local.

Dr Mairi then spoke of her experiences during the "occupation". After completion of her GP training, Dr Mairi came back to Killin to assist her father who was the Killin GP - that is the ONLY Killin GP! She recalled that at that time Killin was a great place to be for young

people. Opportunities were abundant and there was always something to do. She also remembered the dances and how the men would get all dressed up in their suits but you could still tell which company they worked for as they all had on their different coloured wellies! She made a very thought provoking remark; if the HydroBoard had not happened when it did, and applied now to build the dams, tunnels etc., it is very unlikely they would be allowed. However, it was one of the best things to happen to Killin as it opened the gates for tourism and still provides work for locals. Killin is not a museum, it is a living history.

A Worrying Trend

A letter recently published in a regional paper from a "Boatman" suggested that all sawbill ducks (Red-breasted Merganser and the Goosander) should be "removed" from the River Tay as they "deplete fish stocks and bring nothing to the area."

Whatever happened to the expression "live, and let live"?

Dr David Blaney MB. ChB. FRCGP.

After ten years as GP in the area, Dr. Blaney will relinquish his present post at the end of March 1999, in order to pursue his medical career in Edinburgh.

Killin Community Council at a recent meeting agreed that those who wish to, should be given the opportunity to show in a tangible way their appreciation of his services during his time in the Community.

Those wishing to make a donation can do so by **31 March 1999** at:

Killin	Bank of Scotland, J R News & the Post Office
Crianlarich	Post Office
Locheearnhead	Village Shop
Tyndrum	Brodie's Shop

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Millennium Video

When I came back to live in the village in June last year, I was struck by the number of community activities available in Killin - the Folk Festival, the Highland Games, the Killin Agricultural Show and all the coffee mornings - to name but a few! It also struck me that in a way, these are our traditions. Over the years, new ones have surfaced but many have remained the same - the Youth Club still puts on the Burns' Supper for the Senior Citizens, and at the school Christmas party, my daughter played the same games as I did when I was a child! These activities **should** be recorded in some way otherwise they may change, and in some cases disappear altogether.

As 1999 approached, it seemed a good idea to create a project to record these events and tie it in with other Millennium projects. To get a real feel of village life recorded for posterity, day-to-day occurrences should also be included. This project has now been taken up by the new Millennium Committee who are seeking funding for it. Events already recorded this year then include the New Year's Dance, the opening of the Salmon Fishing and the Pantomime.

The video "A Century of Memories" has already been done, and can be seen as complementary to it with a focus of 1999 and what we all get up to as a community! It is anticipated that it will be of considerable interest to future generations and will encourage us all to maintain community initiatives.

Anyone wishing to help with this project please let me know either directly or through one of the Millennium Committee - and please remember, if you are involved with an event which could be recorded to get in touch.

Jane Calder, Tel: Killin 820268

Mervyn's Weather

Since the last issue of the *Killin News* the winter weather has followed a pattern which is almost a rubber stamp of the previous two years. Perhaps we have had more frequent gales, periods of strong winds, similar snow fall - or lack of it, and believe it or not slightly less rainfall.

While the southern half of Scotland has escaped serious snowfall, the Buchan area and points north and west appear to have experienced, albeit fairly briefly, one or two tastes of "old fashioned" wintry conditions.

February has, with the exception of the odd, "almost" fine day, been unsettled and windy. Initially the gales emanated from a southerly direction, accompanied by relatively high temperatures and deluges of rain. More recently however, the direction has become north west through to north east. In this area, little precipitation has occurred, these winds coming as they have the Massif of the Highlands which have been snow covered and were piercingly cold as a number of hill walkers and climbers have discovered to their cost.

Loch Tay has remained at high winter level throughout the season, so far

Kirk News & The Millennium

The rate at which time seems to be flying, the Millennium will be on us before we are able to catch breath. In some ways it will be just another day just another Hogmanay, but in a time when we must attach significance to even the smallest of events (I write this on Valentines Day!) how much more significant is the 2000 anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ? The Kirk in Killin does not intend to allow the event to go unnoticed or to be trivialised with bonhomie rooted in something transient and less certain than a sense of God's provision for men and women yesterday, today and in the future.

The birth of Jesus Christ is probably the most significant event in the history of mankind. We will be marking it in Killin and Ardeonaig Parish Church throughout 2000 and as we do so we plan to leave a legacy for future generations of Christians and the village community as a whole. The key to this will be our current consideration of the accommodation the church provides for use by the Sunday School and other small groups who need somewhere amenable to meet. For the turn of the century we will also be planning to observe the event in a way which recognises 2000 years of Christian experiences as well as looking forward to the ongoing daily life of faith of so many.

In the meantime morning worship continues each week at 10.00am.

Phil Simpson

however extreme levels of flood have not occurred thereby saving the south side from becoming impassable. The returning Oyster Catchers have, due to the high level of water and lack of nesting space, been so far delayed in their arrival.

Mervyne Browne, Ardtalnaig, 27 February 1999

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Killin Curling Club

The Curling Club started the 1998/99 session with 18 new curlers bringing our membership up to 48. We have been playing our usual competitions and have also had six practice evenings for our new members. Most of these have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

Each year, our special social event is our Burns Supper. It has been a highlight of the Curling Calendar for many years - this year being no exception (you must read Frances Gaskell's detailed account of it else where in this paper).

The Bank of Scotland has been sponsoring curling throughout the country and at the moment FREE "Curling is Cool" lessons are being given at Perth Ice Rink. Nine children from Primary 7 in the Killin School are enjoying these lessons and hopefully they will continue to enjoy the game by becoming junior members of the Killin Club.

This year, we are hoping to upgrade the curling pond. It is one of the very few left in Perthshire. It is part of our heritage and it would be sad to see it go. To this end we are applying to "Awards For All - Lottery Grants Scheme" for local groups and if we are successful, perhaps next year curling can commence at the first sign of ice!

Would you like to curl? We are always keen to encourage people (young and not so young) to join our ranks. It's great fun and you'll be made most welcome. If you have been thinking about it, hesitate no longer, phone and you'll be included for next winter's session.

Sheena Chisholm
(Secretary Tel: Killin 820345).

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Killin Sports And Leisure Club

The AGM was held in the Pavilion on Wednesday 24 February with 26 members in attendance. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their work during the past year, also those who have supported the weekly tote - especially Mr & Mrs Rough for the use of the newsagents for the draw.

A great deal of liaison with Stirling Sports Council had taken place to encourage new activities for the summer and next winter. At last we have Scottish Football Association coaching which will begin with two days this Easter holiday.

The following Committee members were returned for another year:- Linda Frost (Chairman), David Osier (Vice-Chairman),

Fiona Buchanan (Secretary) and Yvonne MacPherson (Meetings Secretary). Bill Douglas and Paddy McKinnon did not wish to stand for re-election. Liz Stevens was appointed as Treasurer, Ross Hilditch as Junior Representative, Kay Riddell and Jane Brown were also appointed to the Committee. The Football and Bowls clubs will appoint representatives at their respective AGMs

Membership was set at the current rate for the next year, and it is hoped to raise Club income by encouraging and gaining new members. So support your local facility - look out for the new Easter opening - if you support it - there will be more!

Linda Frost

As part of the project we will shortly be organising music workshops in rural West Stirling using musicians to work with young people to compose, write and record tracks which will then be made into a CD.

The project started back in November with a Taster Day involving video, photography, junk art, guitar, drumming, vocals, DJ-ing and sound recording, with the feedback from youth being that it was an excellent day.

I has all been made possible through funding of £11,470 from the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund and from Stirling Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and support from Big Beat Promotions and Kippen Environment Centre

Contact SoundEvision c/o Stirling Council Community Support on 01360 440717 or 01877 331766 for further information.

Green Team become TVstars!

Just before Christmas, several members of the Green Team made their debut on TV, not at the BBC but at Lynedoch. Members wrote their own scripts and then acted them out for the rest of the group. Maria and Rachel told the story of how they had learned to be environmentally friendly the hard way and Rhianan and Kirsty faced up to the wily weather. Both performances were much enjoyed by the audience.

These stars, joined by several others, made New Year's resolutions for the environment in front of the camera. We will see who manages to stick to theirs best at the end of the year! We have also been making mountains with glaciers, investigating how ice behaves and looking at how animals cope with winter weather. At our next meeting we will be learning about whales and dolphins which should be exciting!

Summer meetings are every other Thursday, starting again on April 22nd, at 6pm in the school garden. All that is needed is wellies and a waterproof (unless we get a summer this year!) and an interest in nature and the environment. We look forward to welcoming lots of new faces to come and join the fun.

Helen Cole

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Killin Scottish Women's Rural Institute

The meeting on 4th February 1999 of the Killin branch SWRI was opened by the president Mrs. K. Winton. The speaker for the evening was Mr David Mardon who gave a fascinating talk and slide show on his travels in Afghanistan and his ascent of one of the highest peaks in the Hindu Kush range of mountains.

Mrs F Inglis gave the vote of thanks and the hostesses for the evening were Mrs. H Stewart and Mrs. M Hunter.

Competitions:

Knitted Tea Cosy; 1. Mrs Bunty McGregor 2. Mrs Monica Naismith

Wildlife Photograph; 1. Mrs May Aitken

The March meeting was also opened by the President Mrs K Winton. The speaker on this occasion was Mrs L Bartlett who gave a fascinating talk on the Alexander Technique. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Babs Gordon who, together with Mrs. May Graham was a hostess for the evening.

Competitions:

Fancy Button; 1. Mrs B McGregor 2. Mrs M Naismith 3. Mrs J Willison

Lemon Curd; 1 Mrs E Woods 2. Mrs M Naismith 3. Mrs M Aitken



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LETTERS



Dear Editor

I refer to Alex Stewart's letter in your autumn issue and your reply that you are open to comment and suggestions on your editorial policy. The main concern and the reason for Alex's letter, was the imbalance in coverage, comment and space awarded to the Highland Games relative to the Killin Show. The report on the Show was superb and was no more than the organisers deserved. However, I believe that editorial policy should be, as far as possible, such as to encourage all local initiatives and in this respect I feel that your summer issue covering both these events was sadly lacking in balance and was a great disappointment to all those who put considerable time and effort into organising the Games. Impartiality is essential, and on reflection, I am sure you will agree that three pages of comment and photographs on the Show compared with only a half page on the Games showed an editorial preference, which was seriously out of kilter.

In addition your report on the games was perceived in general to be critical, the event being described as 'old hat' and lacking in local involvement. Whilst I take this criticism constructively, any weaknesses surely did not merit such meagre treatment bearing in mind the Games' considerable strengths and continued success.

Our Games has now the second highest piping prize money in Scotland and as such attracts absolutely the best quality pipers and judges from Scotland and abroad. Our Highland Dancing too is second to none and has been developed and improved in range and quality since the first games in 1994. To be in this position after only five years is a considerable achievement for its organisers. A few photographs and

appropriate comment would have been nice to reflect how those about us perceive the Games. To be judged completely as 'old hat' because of the heavy weights who in effect are our celebrities is more than a little unkind.

I can appreciate that it is likely to be interpreted that the Games are primarily organised for the tourist and that the event is largely commercially driven, and as such will find difficulty in competing for space with events more geared to local needs. However the facts are somewhat different, trades people being considerably outnumbered on our committees by those who do not benefit commercially from the events organised. To name but a few, Charlie Grant and Alex and Fiona Stewart deserve special mention.

It is important that your editorial policy takes this into consideration in future reporting. If it does not strive to encourage people like this through more balanced coverage then the village will lose in the long run.

John Mallinson, Chairman -
Killin Folk Festival
Chairman - Killin Initiative (1994-1998)

Dear Editor

It is now a year since the sad death of my daughter Helena and I would like to thank everyone for their support and effort in fund raising in her name as a donation towards the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. I presented a cheque to the Intensive Care Unit for £6,510. This amazing sum will be put towards the costs of modifying the transport incubator so that it will be compatible with ambulances and air-planes. This will enable young children from all over Scotland to be transferred to the Unit if necessary.

Thank you all.
Catriona Inglis, c/o Firbush.

Dear Editor

My Grand-daughter Lauren was just a baby when she had to have brain surgery carried out on her and thereafter intensive care. As a result of this, during 1991 I decided to raise a little money to help the Oncology Department at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.



A good friend kicked this off with a £500 donation and it snowballed from there. Maureen in the Clachaig Hotel offered me the pub charity bottle, the customers "dross" in this gallon bottle amounts to around £600 per year! I had lots of donations of money, baking, gifts, house clearings etc., and my good and faithful friends helped to run sales, stalls, auctions and raffles. The MacGregor and Lang families who hold a very popular bar-b-q at Auchmore each year started a bar-b-q raffle which became known as Liz's Raffle and raised £1000 last July. I appreciate the use of the Salmon Lie and the very special bunch, who enjoy an auction sale to round off our year which also raises £1000. David Osier has been our MC and Auctioneer over the years has given us the most unforgettable evenings.

This is our 9th year which has already been 'jump started' with a Car Boot Sale and Candy Stall by Maureen at the Cruachan Coffee Shop and has raised over £220.

I couldn't have coped without all those good supporters and helpers who, up to the end of 1998 have raised the magnificent sum of £14,500. Thank you all.

Morag McNee

Dear Editor

I have recently returned from spending two days at Coylumbridge with some of my family. On the second day we went for a walk starting from the car park at Loch Morlich and ending up at the Green Lochan. Apart from a light snow shower it was a nice day, quite sunny though cold. We walked on well maintained paths which were marked with posts, crossed burns on nice solid bridges and admired the scenery which was beautiful. This sounds idyllic and looked lovely and peaceful, but apart from hearing two birds, possibly members of the tit family and seeing a pair of Goldeneye duck on the lochan we saw neither fur nor feather. There were no footprints in the snow other than human ones and those of our dogs.

Is this what we can look forward to when we are inside the National Park?? - I hope not!!

Emma Paterson
Barncroft, Auchlyne, Killin
15 February 1999

THANK YOU

The Killin News wishes to thank the National Lottery Charities Board for the grant of £2,500. We also extend our thanks to Dr Mairi MacColl for her assistance as referee and to Anne McGuire MP for making the presentation. We will also take this opportunity to thank Pauline Roberts from Stirling Council Community Resource Centre for allowing us to "pick her brains" on numerous occasions.

Lesley Kettle would like to sincerely thank all who helped her in so many ways during her recent illness. They will be relieved to know that due to their kindness and the expertise of the Killin Medical Practice, she was able to attend the Neil Diamond concert.

p.s. The acute laryngitis, heart palpitations and raised blood pressure are now also much improved!

Isobel MacGregor, Eilean Cor, would like to thank the kind friends who sent "good wishes" and messages of encouragement during her illness, and would like to assure them she was most grateful for their help. She regrets delay in this "thank you".

Liz Lambert and family would like to thank everyone for the care, friendship and help received during Roger's illness and for the many cards, kind letters and flowers received after his death. Your kindness and concern brought comfort to us all. Donations to the Roy Castle Foundation (at the time of writing this) amounted to £320. Thank you.

Points To Ponder!

There has been some controversy recently about the "bottom" car park and toilets being closed to allow A&B Services to move from the Main Street. Some are throwing up their arms in horror, some consider it a great idea for Gordon & Steve to relocate from the Main Street and thereby reduce congestion near the School. Either way - it is the future. A&B Services is a "local" business servicing a "local" and international industry, employing several "local" people and living locally too. I do not want to run the gauntlet (will I ever be allowed to forget the infamous "Ban the Buses" article!) and upset the Tourist Industry once again, Killin is to a certain extent reliant on tourism - but we mustn't forget who the largest employers are in Killin. Lix Toll Garage employ 18, ABS employ 10 and sub-contract work to 2 specialists, Stirling Council Road

Department employ 11. In addition to providing employment, these business also support various local ventures, they advertise in this paper, they support the Games, the Show, the various clubs and societies, charity events - they are what helps to make Killin what it is today. Instead of putting obstacles in the way of A&B Services relocation, we should be encouraging them.

A point made at the recent Heritage Meeting was that if the Hydro Board Schemes had not been allowed to happen, the young people of that time would not have had jobs. People now who are employed by the Hydro would not have jobs. The big houses which are now guest houses and B&Bs would not have been built and thereby tourism on the scale we now benefit from would most likely not have happened. Progress can in its infancy seem invasive but none of us have a crystal ball.

OBITUARIES



Roger Lambert died on 22 January 1999 after a relatively short illness which was bravely borne.

Roger was born in Streatham, London in 1938 but was evacuated to Lincolnshire during the war. When he left school he started his working life in the RAF as an aircraft technician where he served for 22 years. He came to live at Ardchyle in 1983 to continue his love of the countryside which he gained as a youngster. By this time he had developed a passion for writing,

acting, painting, photography, stamp collecting, old cameras and became involved with groups in Aberfeldy, Comrie, Dunblane, Helensburgh as well as Killin. To each he gave his all.

He will also be remembered for his work as a gardener, driving his white pick-up with mower and rakes in the back. He was usually in Killin village by lunchtime, enjoying the "crack" with his friends, having seen to the care of his beloved animals at Ardchyle in the morning.

When his illness was first diagnosed his thoughts were for others. He immediately set about raising money for charity by having hairdresser Jane shave off his very familiar ponytail.

Roger bore his illness with courage and dignity and will act as an inspiration to us all. Above all, Roger will be remembered for being Roger. He is survived by his wife Liz and family, Jenny, Paul, Alison and Erica.

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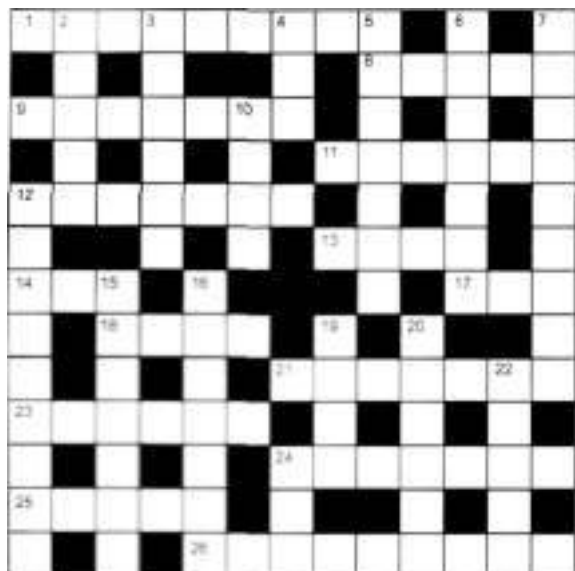
Ena Hamilton (nee Neil) died on 25 January 1999 in Calgary, Alberta in Canada, after she lost a very courageous battle against cancer. Ena who previously lived in Killin, was 55 years of age. She leaves behind two sons Findlay and Neil, also her former husband John Hamilton, sister-in-law Fiona (Hamilton) Christensen and Esten and their children Cary and Scott.

In addition to the family, approximately 170 people attended Ena's funeral. Some of these people are known in Killin such as Alastair and Kara Fraser and Helen, Marion (MacGregor) Penman, Lorna Penman and family, Max Penman, George Penman and George Burns.

In June, Neil will be bringing his mother's ashes home to Callander where Ena was born. Details will be known at a later date.

Ena was such a good friend to all of us, the folks in Calgary will miss her warmth and kindness. She was a part of our connection between Canada and Scotland.

Crossword By Scorpio



ACROSS

1. Picnicking by the roadside? - no - travelling on foot (9)
8. Polygonal window (5)
9. No quiet iron - smother (7)
11. This part of the week is not on (3,3)
12. I hear beer was intended but it was simply a mild disease (7)
13. Pulse in Glebe annoyed residents (4)
14. Very dry (3)
17. Antelope (3)
18. Sounds like a healthy greeting (4)
21. Previously plenty, now an instance (7)
23. Nothing in pastries give us cards(6)
24. What have any done wrong to make us angry (7)
25. Direction in rambling tone gives us our French possession (5)
26. Rebel spy of the spaniel breed? (3,6)

DOWN:

2. Prefix - on both sides (5)
3. Bend in shapes at the early market places (6)
4. Shortened short measures (3)
5. Sounds like light refreshment at the nineteenth hole (4,3)
6. Competing for a lot (7)
7. Children's theatre? (9)
10. Having lost a food additive scorch can be melodic (4)
12. The ant sits as awkwardly as possible but is a help (9)
15. Universal love (7)
16. Better ironed or smooth tongued? (7)
19. Beasts of burden (4)
20. I am on the left to be of consequence (6)
22. Feudal lord (5)
24. Sum up a clergyman (3)

Solution to Last Crossword

Across: 1 Apple pie 8. Spread 10. No bids 11. Weed 12. Motorway 15. remained 17. Arum 18. Auntie 21. Morale 22. Addition 23. Sank
Down: 1 Complete 2. Defend 3. Handy 4 Open 5 Member 6. Mild 13.Tidy mind 14 Aqualung 16. Antrim 17. Across 19 Undo 20. Exit

We apologise for the accidental omission of the clue for 23 across in the last Issue.

Killin Gun

The Killin Gun Club held its AGM in Suie Lodge Hotel on Sunday 21 February 1999. Twelve members turned out for the meeting. In the chair was the retiring President Jack McKay. Jack thanked everyone for their help and support during his three years in office.

Also stepping down was John Sinclair, Treasurer. John gave good service to the Club during his 15 years as Treasurer, kept good records and always showed a healthy bank balance. John remains on the Committee. The new President is H. Campbell, Secretary is still George Coyne and the new Treasurer is Emma Paterson. Many thanks on behalf of the Killin Gun Club to Jack and John.

George Coyne

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Would advertisers and writers please note that copy for the next Issue of the Killin News must be received on or before our deadline of

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Thank you for your co-operation.

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The Angling

Corner

The first salmon from the club's beat has not yet yielded to the efforts of some of our more dedicated members. Several kelts were seen in the first three weeks of the season and the grapevine tells of one fish hooked and then lost. Still, there are plenty of good fishing days ahead.



The news of the reinstatement of the River Tay Protection Order was greeted by relief by all anglers, although some are not quite so happy with the new rules. Any changes to the regulations affect both riparian owners and anglers and each must play their part in ensuring the Tay System complies with the order. I have been greatly encouraged by the response from affiliate members who have sent in their photos and letters to obtain full membership. The youngsters whose membership is free up to 11 years old have also been getting their ID cards. Riparian owners have been very supportive throughout and without their assistance, the Tay Liaison Committee would most likely have failed in its submission.

All permit sales, access, improvements and instances of non-compliance will be monitored. Some areas will have stricter control on access due to the reduction of good sized fish, such as the more remote hill lochs and sections of river where there is easy access and damage to the banks. Other areas are being restricted to members and guests until sufficient recovery has taken place, and there are catch and release sections where there has been localised stocking under license.

All that is asked is that every angler follows the rules and ensures that family and friends do likewise thereby setting an example for visitors. Copies of the Constitution and Rules are now available. The Club News Letter is now in its second edition and members are asked for contributions for the next edition, also there is just one suggestion for a Club logo to date, so get busy.

A J M Stewart, Club President.

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 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 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.