



Every two months

PRICE 50p

# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue No. 51 July 1999



## The 5th Anniversary Killin Traditional Music & Dance Festival

Each year we have said, "it can't get any better", and each year it does just that! We are of course referring to the Killin Folk Festival and not the weather!

The compactness of the village of Killin lends itself so well to the Festival. Where else can you get such a large capacity local hall, camping facilities and countless pubs all within a few hundred yards?

Friday kicked off with a Ceilidh at the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. This was specially laid on for our "super" citizens, and was enjoyed immensely. The opening concert on the Friday evening in the McLaren Hall with Kieran Halpin, Ceile and Patricia Flynn started the weekend off with a swing.

Despite the monsoon conditions on the Saturday. Festival enthusiasm was not dampened. An excellent start was made with music, Indian tales, myths, legends and songs to mention but a few features, and culminated with an outstanding sell-out concert in the Hall featuring Cross o'th Hands, the John Wright Band and the Battlefield Band. Several remarked that this was one of the most exceptional concerts they had attended in many years. The final chorus of Wild Mountain Thyme almost resulted in the re-roofing of the McLaren Hall!



*The photo shows from left to right: Pete Tong, Terry Lowry, George Brown (Aly Bain's Manager) and Aly Bain outside the Clachaig Hotel on the Sunday of the Festival.*

Thankfully, Sunday dawned bright and sunny and entertainment was able to take place outside. On offer were an Appalachian dance workshop, fiddle workshop, children's treasure hunt and the TMSA (Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland) competitions. The excellent Sunday evening concert was also a sell-out. It featured a memorable David Gibb, Voila and of course the incomparable Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham. Their playing was amazing and their repartee and wit delighted the enthusiastic audience. Incidentally, Aly and Phil played at the very first Killin Folk Festival in 1995.

The compere for the weekend, the witty Joe Mathers, kept the audience

entertained throughout all three evenings. The local band Full Steam Ahead played for the Friday ceilidh and the Kells kept everyone on their toes on Saturday night - everyone went home exhausted!

This is the first year that the Festival has been totally organised by the Killin Initiative and everyone agreed it was an outstanding success. Congratulations and thanks are extended to the organisers and helpers who made this such a tremendous Festival, and a special mention must go to Alex Stewart for his enormous effort in helping to make this the best yet!

*JF, FI & KR*

## Ploughing Match

The Killin & District Agricultural Societies annual ploughing match took place at Daldravaig Farm on 22 May. On a cold and blustery day with fresh snow on Ben Lawers, the stalwarts turned out to burn the turf. Have you noticed how much tractors have changed? Charlie Methven who won the Large Plough was driving a Ferguson that looked from the front like a Ferrari racing car, a bit different from the old TE 20's Gilbert Christie "golden oldie" was overall champion.

Results were as follows:-

### Large Plough:

1. Charlie Methven
2. George Urquhart
3. Robert Waugh.

### Small Plough:

1. Gilbert Christie
2. Finlay MacAskill
3. Stewart Christie

Fearing: Fraser Wilson

Finish: Gilbert Christie

Youngest: Robert Waugh

Best Looking: Ian Noble



Gilbert Christie pictured above with his Ploughing Cup and his wife Pat.

## Glen Dochart Adult Education Group



There will be an AGM on Monday 23 August at 8 pm in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and it would be great to see some new faces, especially as the recent street survey carried out by Suzanne Player, our Community Animator, yielded a few names of "interested" people. Our aim is to make learning neither a chore nor a bore, but a good way to spend the long winter evenings. Courses projected so far for the autumn include Massage. Photography. Alexander Technique and possibly Aerobics, and we are open to suggestions and requests.

See you then.  
Penny Driver, Secretary.



## Clachaig Hotel

Falls of Dochart, Killin, Perthshire

Telephone: Killin (01567) 820270

Our new chef Mr Stephen MacKenzie will be delighted to cater for parties of up to 50 in our MacNab Restaurant.

Our menu for the season is displayed opposite.

- Quality en suite rooms
- Sunday lunches in our MacNab Restaurant
- Egon Ronay recommended bar food in the AA new guide "Britain's Best Pubs"
- Les Routiers recommended Dining Room
- Live music Friday and Saturday

### Starters

Chef's Homemade Soup	served with crusty bread	£2.25
Clachaig pate	served with a dash of Drambuie & brace of Oatcakes	£3.25
Fresh Fruit Melange	with a Compote of Fresh Fruits marinated in a Ginger Wine Syrup	£2.75
Highland Mushrooms	Deep Fried served with Crisp Salad and Garlic Mayonnaise	£2.95
Prawn Cocktail	served with Marie Rose Sauce & Brown Bread	£3.50

### Entree

Dame of Scottish Salmon	roasted served on a Strawberry Salad with a Lime Butter Sauce	£9.95
Trout MacNab with	Herb Beurre Blanc	£9.75
Harrissa Chicken	with Cous Cous and lemon and cumin yoghurt	£9.25
Medallions of fine Scottish Venison	served with a Cranberry & Port Sauce	£10.50
Sizzling Steak Garni	8oz. Steak served on sizzling platter with mushrooms Van Dyke tomatoes & onion-	
	Fillet £12.95 Sirloin £11.95	

Chef's selection of fresh Vegetables and potatoes or Side Salad



# Community Newspaper Volunteer Awards

Stirling Council marked National Volunteer Week (June 1-7) by highlighting the special contribution which community newspaper volunteers make in their communities.

Eleven community newspapers were represented by more than 20 volunteers at a recent awards ceremony. Each community newspaper picked up a Volunteer Recognition Certificate for the dedication and hard work of its volunteers.

Stirling Council's Vice-Chairman of Community and Economic Development Committee John Paterson said, "Many



## Visit

**Tarmachan Teashop**  
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Hall car park)

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volunteers give up their spare time to help plan, write, produce and distribute their newspaper. Community Newspapers provide a valuable source of local information. They play an important role in uniting communities and help to reinforce a community identity."

He added, "The Stirling area has more than 25 community newspapers covering a large number of communities including Crianlarich, Dunblane, Raploch, Fintry and Killin. They help people become

involved in local activities, enable them to make informed decisions and feed back their views and ideas."

The "Villagers Newspaper" and the "Killin News" have previously won national awards from the Countryman Magazine Newspaper Competition.

To mark the Millennium, community newspapers are aiming to come together on a special project reflecting their role in local communities.



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## Highland Queen Dance

Following a meeting of the Killin International Highland Games, a decision was taken that all entrants wishing to be considered for the position of "Highland Queen" and her "Attendant" must be aged 18 or over. This was a difficult decision to make, but due to the level of duties involved coupled with the inevitable presence of alcohol, it was felt that we, as a Committee, must be seen to be taking a responsible attitude.

Entry forms will be available from various outlets within the village and also on entry to the Dance, ALL entrants must complete one. Conditions of entry include proof of age and availability for Wednesday 4 August when they will be required to attend a formal lunch and carry out duties throughout the afternoon.

The prize money this year will be £150 for the Highland Queen and £100 for her attendant.

*Highland Games Committee*

# Killin Community Council

A meeting of Killin Community Council was held on 8 June in Killin Primary School, this was also their Annual General Meeting. Present: Bill Rew (Chairman), John MacPherson (Vice-Chairman), Bill Douglas (Treasurer), Charlie Grant, Colin McRae. John Mallinson, Kenny Taylor, Linda FitzGerald (Killin News), Gordon Aitken, Suzanne Player (Stirling Council Community Support), Mick Stewart (Planning Department. Stirling Council). Fiona Davidson (Secretary).

The Government has determined there will be a National Park in Scotland, the form this will take and decisions on boundaries will be taken by the new Scottish Parliament. A committee will be in operation by April 2000 and there will be an interim operating committee by November of this year. Two thirds of the Committee members will be Council, 16 will be allocated and 8 will be non-allocated. John Mallinson suggested that the people of Killin be asked to decide on whether Killin should be included in the proposed Park or not. The current proposed boundaries exclude the village but include Lix Toll. It was decided that as Crianlarich is also excluded from the Park in the current proposal, a joint public meeting with Crianlarich be set up, this to take place after consultation to enable the Community Council to be more informed. After an open discussion, the question of, "is it a good idea to be just outside the park limits or included in the park?" remains unanswered.

Mick Stewart said that he was a leading officer on the National Park. He pointed out that £1.8 million was available, mainly for staffing and not improving groundworks. Mick also pointed out that if Killin decided that it should be within the park, then it would be beneficial for the village to air its views to ensure those who make the boundary decisions take notice. The interim committee meets for the first time next month.

The proposed bandstand in Breadalbane Park will not proceed. Everyone was in agreement that it was disappointing that the money for this project had now to be sent back. It would have been nice to see this money being used for an alternative project.

An ongoing point which is regularly brought up at these meetings is about the possibility of siting a skip to enable the residents of Killin to dispose of unwanted items. Bill Rew explained, once again, that Stirling Council will not allow an unmanned skip anywhere in the region. Fear of what people might dispose of into the skip (ie car batteries) is the prohibitive factor.

A representative for the Refuse Department is to be invited to the next meeting.

It was agreed that it was disappointing that the clock in the old Horwood building in the village (now owned by the National Trust for Scotland) had not been made to work.

Trees and shrubs are still causing problems for line of sight across the Dochart Bridge. Enquiries are being made to ascertain if it is possible take the whole lot down.

Another ongoing subject at these meetings is a wall to the rear of Fassiefern which is apparently in a dangerous condition. The wall needs repairing but unfortunately shareholders are unable to reach agreement concerning payment. It was considered disappointing that the repair of this wall would possibly have to wait until someone was injured by it before any real action could be taken. The Community Council are still trying to resolve this issue and will pursue it further.

Fiona Davidson had received maps from Mr Barron of Stirling Council which detailed rights of way in and around Killin. These will be displayed in the library.

Stirling Council is still considering the provision of a Lollipop Person at the school.

Mick Stewart of Stirling Council Planning Department was pleased to report back to the Community Council that the proposed relocation of ABS. relocation of the public and disabled toilets to Breadalbane Park and provision of a new Car Park will proceed subject to finalisation of finances being in place. He was quite positive that all monies would be secured in the near future, much to the delight of all present.

It was brought to the attention of Mick Stewart that the people of Killin and surrounding areas had not received leaflets outlining the details of the new Structure Plan for Central Region. Apparently, the company tasked with distributing this leaflet and questionnaire to every household in the region did not do what they were contracted to do. Killin is not the only area missed. Balquhitter. Lochearnhead. Strathyre and several other areas were missed too. Mick Stewart gave a brief summary of the proposed changes within the Structure Plan and explained how it varied from the previous plan in that the Council recognise that this area is different from other areas in Stirling. They have realised that they need different rules for the upland countryside area. Killin Community Council have one copy of the "Structure Plan" should anyone wish to view it. Stirling Council have been asked to put a copy in the Killin Library also. Mick Stewart suggested that the plan be studied and he will arrange to visit Killin to explain it in more detail.

A letter and photos had been received regarding litter and vandalism around Harbour Lights and Firlush. Everyone expressed their disgust at the shocking sight of a private jetty which had been chainsawed and burnt for a camp fire and the incredible amount of discarded bottles, cans etc. Fiona Davidson will take steps to raise awareness of the problems.

Before the meeting was closed, office bearers were re-appointed. Bill Rew as Chairman. Bill Douglas as Treasurer, Fiona Davidson as Secretary. All other members present at the meeting along with Pat Christie have agreed to stay on the Committee.

*Editorial Note:*

## INVITATION -

*Now that you have read about the sort of things your Community Council do for Killin - how about lending them a hand. They need new members. No special talent is required, just an interest in what is going on in your environment. The meetings are very interesting, help you keep up to date, and give your opinions on proposals which can affect village life.*

*If you would like to be an active member of the Community Council, please get in touch with Bill Rew on 01567 820458 or Fiona Davidson on 01567820708 - they would love to hear from you. Alternatively, you are all welcome to attend any of their meetings, ordinary (or not so ordinary) members of the general public are always welcome and encouraged to participate.*

*This is YOUR VILLAGE - have a say in what goes on in it!*

*Mark your calendar now for Tuesday 10 August at 7.30 pm in the McLaren Hall. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every second month.*

## New Permanent GP For Killin

Let us introduce you to your new doctor for Killin and surrounding areas, he is Dr. Christopher James Holden.

Dr. Holden hails from Bonnie Dundee. He is happily married to Judith and they have three children: Daniel is 11 and will be starting at Killin Primary at the end of the summer break. Katie aged 4 is looking forward to joining in with the playgroup and Anna is just one year old. They currently live in Errol but will all be taking up residence in their new home at Hillview, Manse Road. Killin towards the end of July together with their two dogs, Pippa and Belle.

Dr. Holden graduated in medicine from Dundee University in 1991. This was followed by five years working in hospital medicine, covering the full range of specialities. His general practice training took place in Perth, and was overseen by that well-known local personality. Dr. David Blaney. On completion of his GP training, he spent two years working as a Locum in Tayside and Angus. He said, "Over the course of these two years, I worked in every practice in Dundee. Perth and rural Angus. I am therefore in a good position to know just how lucky I am to have been accepted for a position here in Killin."

Within the broad spectrum of medicine, he does have several particular interests. Given time, he hopes to be able to expand the range of minor surgical procedures available at Killin, ranging from the more effective treatment of verrucas right through to the removal of suspicious looking skin lesions. He has an elemental knowledge of various alternative therapies, which he hopes to take forward to the point where he can provide them as a service. He obtained membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners and has been certified to provide the services of family planning and child health surveillance.

When asked about his personal background he said. "I moved around considerably as a child due to my father's occupation within the Civil Service. From an early age I was keen on various sporting endeavours. A life long interest in the natural sciences however led me to my career in medicine. My sporting interests at school were varied, with the main ones being football, rugby and badminton. In addition to the usual academic subjects I also studied and achieved qualifications in photography."

We are sure we speak for everyone in our area when we say, "Welcome Dr. Holden and his family".

## Provost's Civic Awards

The Provost's Civic Awards will be made to organisations or individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in our area over the last 12 months. Provost John Paterson is inviting nominations for achievements in seven different categories - Voluntary Sector. Business. Sports, Academic. Community. Special Achievements and Art & Culture. The Awards are open to all citizens, communities, business and voluntary organisations within the Stirling Council area. Anyone can nominate someone for an award.

This is the second year the Awards have been made. Councillor Paterson, said, "My purpose in setting up this scheme has been to provide a mechanism through which community achievements and work of local people can be recognised at a civic level. It also helps to foster a closer partnership between the Council, its communities and citizens. I hope the scheme thrives and that more people will gain the recognition they so richly deserve through the appreciation of the communities they have served."

Nominations forms are available from the Kay at the Killin Library and from Democratic Services. Stirling Council. Old Viewforth. Stirling. Telephone 01786 443380. Completed forms should be returned to the Council by **31 July, 1999**.

### Killin WRI

A number of local children and adults took to the catwalk when once again, the WRI put on another Asda Fashion Show and coffee evening. This well supported event raised £450 for the Children's Christmas Party and WRI funds. The organiser, Elizabeth Woods, would like to thank all the models, the WRI Committee and all who supported them on the night.

**Ladies/Gents  
Hairdressing  
*at home***

**For an appointment  
Call Bruce on**

**01877 331212**



*Sheena Chisholm looks totally relaxed and extremely elegant in this lovely suit.*

*Steven Pritchard shows how to keep "cool" during the summer - without opening the windows!*





## New Tourist Centre at Tyndrum

Scottish Tourist Board Chairman, Lord Gordon of Strathblane, recently visited the site of a major new tourist information centre at Tyndrum. He praised the Area Tourist Board and its funding partners for their plans to provide a first class facility on one of Scotland's busiest tourist routes. The centre is being funded by Forth Valley Enterprise, Rural Stirling and Upper Tayside European Partnership, Argyll & the Islands Enterprise, Argyll & Bute Council, Stirling Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the private sector. Work is now underway and the new facility will provide a comprehensive range of visitor services and a quality showcase for tourism in the West and Central Highlands. This latest centre will bring the total investment in new or upgraded centres to almost £3million since the Board was set up three years ago.

GF



*From left to right of photo: Lord Gordon of Strathblane, Scottish Tourist Board Chairman; Ian Cleaver, Managing Director of Highland Heritage and (this Killin News People File Victim!); Mike Cantlay, Chairman of Forth Valley Enterprise; Uam Morran of Clachan Construction.*

## Green Team

The Green Team is now in full swing for the summer, despite the dreary weather. Activities so far have included making a life size-model of a dolphin, survival in the wild and trying their hands at basket making.

The dolphin was made out of paper mache and had a very realistic smell as it dried in the garage at Lynedoch! It is now ready to be painted and will then be proudly displayed. The baskets were made out of willow which was coppiced from around the village and stripped. They were impressive considering they were first attempts and with a bit of practice we might supply the local craft shops. Andrew was particularly proud of his huge log basket and showed it off to anybody willing to look.

Whilst thinking about survival, we looked at how to build a shelter, how to use a compass and even drank some nettle tea, which went down surprisingly well.

We will continue to meet as usual over the school holidays and are planning a visit to the Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Fair at Vane Farm at the beginning of September.

*Helen Cole*

## Killin Golf Club

Since its formation in 1913, Killin Golf Club has firmly established itself as a major part of local community life in and around the village. The Golf Club is not only a centre of golfing prowess which may range from scratch to oblivion, but it is also a very friendly and welcoming social club.

Like so many organisations, over the years it has had its fair share of problems, but members and friends have rallied round magnificently to ensure the Club's continuance into the Millennium as a strong and vibrant part of the community.

We encourage those of you who may not be familiar with the game of golf other than on the TV to give it a try. For this year only we are offering Membership with no joining fee. Junior members are especially welcome and we run a number of evening tuition sessions. There is no better time than the present to come along, we're sure you will enjoy it.



## McLaren Community Leisure Centre

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*For further information please contact reception on  
tel: (01877) 330000 or fax: (01877) 331004*

## Old View of Killin

Kay Riddell has managed to get hold of two old prints of Killin in the late 1700's. One is quite well known but the other view from somewhere above the Manse, is a real find. It shows Finlarig Castle as a complete building and also Kinnell and no other buildings.

The prints can be seen in the Library displayed on the right hand wall as you enter. Well worth a look.

AW



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## The "People" File

### Ian Cleaver

Following on in David Blaney's footsteps, the next "victim" of the "People File" is Ian Cleaver a 61 year old self made businessman, well respected local entrepreneur and owner of the Royal and Ben Doran Hotels in Tyndrum, Dalmally Hotel and the Crianlarich Hotel as well as Highland Heritage Coach Tours.

As a child, Ian was brought to this area by his mother in 1945. Whilst Ian attended primary school at Bridge of Orchy, his mum worked as housekeeper at Auch Estate. Ian then went on to Oban High School prior to going to sea at the age of 17 as a cadet. He gained his Master Mariner's Ticket by the age of 25 and spent 13 years at sea, returning home even after being offered the tempting position of Harbour Master in Vancouver, Canada. He met his wife Anthea when he was 23 and they have a daughter Elise. Upon his return home he bought a guest house in Oban and within five years owned another two. In 1976 he bought the Royal Hotel, Tyndrum and three weeks after Margaret Thatcher's policy of bus de-regulation, he organised a tour from Clydebank to Crianlarich Hotel which started him on the way forward with his own coach tours.

*Where in Scotland is your  
favourite scenic place ?*

I've climbed most of the mountains around here, they are all lovely. My favourite view is from the water, sailing down through the Sound of Mull. The Kyles of Bute are also very special.

*Where do you like  
to go for your holidays?*

Australia. I have been competition sailing there for 30 years.

*If you didn't live in Scotland,  
where in the world would you like to  
live?*

Western Canada - near Vancouver Harbour.

*Do you enjoy reading or music?*

I have been an avid reader since I was 8 years old, I like to read factual pieces - not fiction. As regards music, Major McCallum, the Duke of Argyll's Piper, tried in vain throughout one winter to

teach me the scale on the chanter - no chance! I am tone deaf.

*What is your favourite food and wine?*  
Aberdeen Angus Beef on the bone washed down with a glass or two of Argentinian Red. Mmmmm!

*Have you any unfulfilled ambitions?*  
Yes - I would love to win a world sailing championship.

*Are you a good boss?*  
Wow! I am what you would call an "efficiency freak!" I think I am fair, I just want everyone to do what they are supposed to do.

*The flowers at your hotels  
have become your trademark -  
are they your passion ?*  
The flowers are purely commercial. They imply care and are much appreciated by all guests who also enjoy my weekly gardening talks.

*Do you have any advice  
for young adults just starting out  
on their chosen careers?*

Learn to get up in the mornings. Be prepared to work harder, and longer than expected, if you want to get anywhere.

But bear in mind that anything you do should also be for the greater good. No man is an island.

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Editor

## Killin & District Sports & Leisure Club

Any clubs, groups or otherwise that would like to use the Sports pavilion for meetings may do so at a cost of £5.00 per night. Bookings may be made at the Library until the kiosk opens on the 26th June 1999. For further information please contact Fiona Buchanan Tel 820737.

### Opening Hours

The kiosk will be opening on  
26th June 1999.

The hours are as follows:

Monday - Saturday 10am - 9pm.

Sunday 11am - 9pm.

### Tote

Perhaps you have seen tote tickets and wondered what exactly they are for and who benefits from them. The tote is at present our ONLY means of fundraising. You may wonder why we need funds? The rent for the Pavilion is a costly £2,500 per year. The money collected from the tote more or less pays for this. Every Sunday tickets are collected from The Clachaig, Fishers Hotel, The Coachhouse and JR News. Perhaps you have spotted Committee members coining out of the licensed premises on Sunday mornings, I can assure you that they haven't been there all night! Once the money and tickets are collected we meet at JR News where we count the money and extract £5.00 which is added to the jackpot and then divide it in two. one half to the Sports Club and the other to the lucky winner! It only costs £1.00 for a tote ticket. You only need two numbers to win and four numbers for the jackpot. Please support your local club.

### Bridge Club

It has been brought to our attention that there are quite a few bridge players amongst you. How about starting a Bridge Club? Anyone interested please contact Liz Stevens.

### Tennis Night

Anyone for tennis? We meet every Monday night (weather permitting) at approximately 7 pm. If you are not a member the cost for the evening is just £2.00. AH levels welcome.

Bowling is also available for all at £2 per session and equipment hire at £1.50.

Putting costs £1 per round for an adult and 50p for juniors.

## Walkers In The Wet!

On Sunday 6 June the rain poured down relentlessly. It was not a day to take a walk. But despite this. Sandy Graham and Molly McRobbie from Killin did just that at North Inch in Perth. They joined nearly 250 people, many with hip or knee replacements, for the 6th Great Hip and Knee Walk for the Wishbone Trust in aid of orthopaedic surgery research.

Both Sandy and Molly have had successful knee surgery and, through sponsorship for this event, wanted to pay something back for the help they had received. As they walked in the driving rain, encouraged by a pipe band. they may have had second thoughts, but it was well worth the soaking as between them they raised £407.36 towards the Perth total of £25,000. They would like to send thanks to their many sponsors.

The Killin News would like to congratulate Molly and Sandy on this wonderful achievement.

MM

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## McLaren High here we come!

Each year for some children, the end of the summer term means the end of their time at primary school and a few weeks to wonder what life will be like at the new "big" school. This year, nine children from Killin Primary School start at McLaren High in Callander and we talked to them about their hopes and fears.

They are all excited and a wee bit nervous about the new school. Many of them have friends or family already there and have been either reassured or worried by what they have been told by them. They know that there will be many more people there, larger classes and more teachers and, instead of being the oldest, they will be the youngest. On the whole - apart from more homework! - they are looking forward to the new experience.

They all mentioned the opportunities for more sports. The boys are keen on basketball, football, running and swimming, while the girls are mainly interested in the swimming.

Of the subjects they study at Killin, Maths was favourite, with History, English and French as also rans, but at McLaren they

think the subjects they will study will be different or taught differently. Maria and Jim mentioned Geography and Clare looks forward to doing Art and History. Kieran and Darren want to learn Spanish whilst Peter, Alison and Robert think Science will be something new. Music will also be different. Some of the group already play the recorder and the chanter - though the chanter is not very popular "because it strains your mouth". Clare and Alison hope to lean the flute and Kieran, Robert and Jim have plans for the electric guitar.

The one thing that everyone is NOT looking forward to is travelling on the school bus. They have heard tales of

bullying, fights and Ribena cartons being squeezed over people and these, together with the prospect of having to get up early to catch it, mean that the bus is a real worry to them all.

What do they want to do when they leave school? Most didn't yet know, but one boy did. "I want to get a job" he said. The time to worry about that is way ahead and in the meantime, they all have the holidays to look forward to, whether that means visits to Harris, Skye or Girvan or simply "playing a lot of football" - and that came from one of the girls!

MM



*Left to right back row:*

*Kieran Young, Maria Lindsay, Clare McKenna, Robert Brown, Darren Kennedy.*

*Front Row: Alison Woods, Peter Campbell, James Kennedy, Jim Stewart.*

## The John Muir Trust Wild Week 17 - 25 April

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored me to clean up the beauty spots of Killin - the railway line, the fields and head of the Loch. I have collected nearly a full bin bag of rubbish, including sweet papers, soft drink cans, large plastic bottles and

crisp papers. It's a shame that some people aren't more considerate about where they leave their rubbish.

I would also like to thank Kay Riddell for putting on a display in the Library to inform people about the Trust and the life of John Muir, the founding father of world conservation.

The money raised amounted to £100 which will be donated to The John Muir Trust, which cares for wild places, and supports clean ups and other conservation activities all over the country. As Aldo Leopold once said, "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Margaret Fenna

Our recently departed Dr David Blaney is pictured here being presented with a cheque for £1010 by Bill Rew, Chairman of Killin Community Council on behalf of the people of this district. David plans to either put the money towards the purchase of a grandfather clock or perhaps indulge in his passion for rugs.



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SELECT



## The "Dutch Connection"

Word got round the village very quickly, and those who had met (or heard) the Dutch Folk Group "Ogham" before, turned up at Fisher's Hotel and a great night was had by all. A Dutch Folk Group? - Well they are Dutch, all seven of them, but they sing in English - correction Scots! Maybe it has to do with the somewhat guttural similarity of Dutch and Scots dialect; they certainly know their Scottish Songs. Dagny Van der Loo's rendering of "Jock o' Hazeldean" was better than many this writer has heard from Scottish performers,



Their interest in Scottish music started some years ago when a member of the band visited a pub in Ullapool. To his astonishment people were not only drinking but also singing. Inspired by this, "Ogham" was born. The name "Ogham" is derived from the word for an ancient 4th century AD writing system used on Irish and Pictish memorial inscriptions.

Their connection with Killin came when two of them stayed at Cruachan

with Hamish Campbell and met up with Davie & Sheena Osler and Neil McKenzie. They forged strong links with Killin which are reflected in some of their songs: The Auchmore Lassie - Higher & Higher (view of Loch Tay) - Whisky in Killin - MacGregor's Barn. Let's hope they come back soon.

SA

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# National Clean-Up Campaign

Killin's precipitation delayed the participation of Killin Primary School pupils in the National Clean-Up Campaign. The event, which is sponsored by MacDonalds, took place in Killin a few days later on what turned out to be a lovely sunny day. Primary 5, 6 & 7 together with Mrs Inglis and Mr Weir and armed with poly bags and litter sticks embarked on this mammoth clean up. It was quite surprising just how much litter was collected from what appeared on the surface to be a relatively tidy park!

Each school's litter collection was measured and the one which collected the most litter was rewarded with a MacDonalds meal (strange way to find a winner - the most unkempt village would win regardless of how much work the children put in!). However, Killin Primary - fortunately or unfortunately - didn't win, but they were rewarded for their efforts with free Coke.

The photo shows the Killin pupils with their "collection" at the Breadalbane Park gates. Ten out often to you all for a job well done.  
SA



## The Litter Clean Up by Kirsty Somerville (age 8) and Kathleen McRae (age 9)

On the day of the litter clean up some of us went down by the loch, and some of us went down the railway and up Manse road.

When we went down the railway we found a sink, a toilet seat, some old tyres, three footballs, a water pistol, two boomerangs, some old rum and lots of cans (yuck). Up Manse road we went into the bushes, we found a handbag, a doll, lots of cans and bottles, crisp packets and sweet packets.

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## Killin Show 21 August 1999

Mark your diaries for the forthcoming Killin Show, an event not to be missed if last year's is anything to go by!

The day will kick off at 10 am with Highland Cattle, Sheep and Commercial Cattle Judging. At 1.30 pm the Float Parade led by the Pipe Band leaves the Dochart Bridge and heads down Main Street, into and around Breadalbane Park - this is really entertaining, especially for locals who will recognise various villagers in "fancy dress".

Within the Park there will be a Bouncy Castle for the children and Coconut Shies for all. A Falcon Display by Adrian Hollgarth, Sheep Shearing Demonstration. Highland Dancing Display. Sheep Dog Demonstration and many stalls and attractions.

The Bonnie Baby competition is open for babies from 6-18 months which can be entered up until the last few minutes. The dog competition is split into groups of Best Collie Dog, Best Gun Dog and Best Pet. No Pedigree is required and again entries can be completed on the day.

There is a Landrover Pull sponsored by Lix Toll Garage and a Hill Race, again entries on the day.

For a wonderful day out for all the family, or even if you are on your own, there is always someone to have a wee blether with, come along to Breadalbane Park for the Killin Show and get to know the villagers and the farming community.

For more information contact Helen Taylor on 01567 820 442. There are still a few trade stands available.



## Scottish Community of the Year

Killin Community Council has submitted an entry for Scotland's national community awards, the 1999 Calor Gas Scottish Community of the Year Awards, which are organised in conjunction with the Association of Scottish Community Councils and the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland.

The inaugural Calor Gas awards were launched by Scottish Minister for Local Government, Henry McLeish, last year and are designed to promote the work carried out by communities, and their community councils, to enhance the lives of their residents and the environment in which they live.

The judges will be assessing communities on five sets of criteria: environment, community life, younger people, older people and business.



*A view of  
Horwood's  
General Store  
1930/40's*

*Dani and  
Mick's  
newly refurbished  
"Eureka stores"  
and AC Fraser  
1999*



**Eureka Pet  
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**Calor Gas and  
Autow Centre, Perth  
would like to wish  
Dani and Mick Grant  
all the best in their new  
premises.**



*Propane Butane (all sizes) Camping Gaz*

# Looking Good On Main Street Killin - Not USA !

Renovation and upgrading of business property frontages on the Main Street are always a good indication that a village economy is booming. Killin's businesses are no exception to this rule. During the past year we have seen the Co-Op move to newer upgraded premises and Dani and Mick, the new owners of the old Co-Op building have renovated it superbly, even erected a clock for all the village to see. Another old shop has been transformed into a new "Wee" bakery by Sonia Grant (with a bit of help from her Dad). And Colin McRae, in the face of the controversial beef crisis has done a lovely job of revamping his exterior - we mean

now. Gilbert Christie of Auchlyne is the grandson of the late Peter Stewart.

It is good to see that our "all year round" traders are doing so well. All that is needed now is a little bit of sunshine to make the Main Street hanging baskets bloom. The Killin News wish all retailers in the Main Street a prosperous and busy summer season.



the shop exterior of course, (gosh those coos must have been running fast to come through the walls!). R. MacGregor, alias Webster's Greengrocer and Florist shop have extended their garden centre and Kate & Trevor's Outdoor shop has been modernised and Canadian canoe and bicycle hire beckons the visitors to the village.

The photos (top left), illustrate the changes over the years to Dani & Mick's newly refurbished property. The top photo is from the 1930/40's when it was owned by the Horwood family who ran it as a general stores. In the late 1800's and early 1900 it was owned by Peter Stewart who was a tailor and ran it as a drapers.

Peter and his family lived "over the shop" in Fernbank - just like Dani and Mick do

## The Wee Bake Shop

Sonia's wee bake shop is open at last To open for the Festival she worked really fast.

Opening on the Friday at 7 in the morning By late Sunday night she really was yawning.

White rolls, brown rolls, and buns by the dozen...

I hope that doesn't mean one in the oven...!

Rolls filled with prawns, turkey, beef, ham or cheese.

She will add all the salad or whatever you please.

Egg salad, filled baguettes or a macaroni pie..

Are there on display for you all to buy.

Donuts filled with cream and some with jam

Or how about some quiche with tomato and ham.

What ever you choose, be it a scone or a tart

You have to agree Sonia looks the part.

Bottle green pinnies and gleaming white hats,

Cleanliness and hygiene you can be sure of that.

The new phone number is easy to mind

Just remember the numbers 820 199

Phone your order for cakes, rolls and bread.

That will be made for you whilst you're in your bed.

So venture on in to the new Bake Shop

And see for yourself just what's in stock.

Sonia is there when day is dawning

The shop opens at 7 in the morning.





# The 5th Anniversary Killin Traditional Music & Dance Festival

We were delighted to be invited along to a de-briefing by Killin Initiative Folk Festival Committee in the Clachaig Hotel on the Sunday morning of the Festival weekend.

By all accounts (and visible "morning after" suffering), the Festival was a huge success. The Festival Committee did an excellent job in organising and co-ordinating this event, one of the main highlights of the Killin calendar for both visitors and locals alike.

John Mallinson and Alex Stewart conducted a "question and answer" session to help other areas set up their own Folk Festival. There were people from Balloch, organisers of a new Lomond Festival, some from Callander who will soon be hosting their first festival on 3, 4 & 5 September. There



*Manx thanks to the Oban Times for this photo of some of the Folk Festival Committee.*

were also representatives from Aberfeldy and from as far away as Stonehaven, all there to receive advice and hear suggestions on how to get started, where to get funding etc. One couldn't help but feel a touch of pride in our villagers who had worked so hard to get this event up and running and continuing through the years, and here they were giving others the benefit of their hard won expertise. Very commendable.

It was stressed to those starting up to make the most of every opportunity. An example of this from the weekend was

that The Battlefield Band were being filmed whilst they performed to be shown on TV at a later date. An impressive touch of brilliance was when John & Alex realising what was happening, hastily found a Killin Festival banner and put it up on the stage behind the band.

This informative morning was concluded with an invitation to partake of a superb buffet lunch prepared by the Clachaig Hotel. Many thanks to the organisers, and good wishes for next year.

*Editor*

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## Stirling's Millennium Celebrations

A giant 50-foot fire sculpture of Robert the Bruce will launch Stirling into the new Millennium. It will be on display in the Castle Esplanade throughout December and will be visible from miles around. It will form the focus of a fire and fireworks spectacular at midnight on December 31st 1999.

Stirling's £1.2 million Millennium Programme includes a Gala Concert at the Castle, street theatre, community events, a BBC produced CD-ROM high-tech time capsule and Stirling's performance in the London Millennium Dome. Stirling has been chosen as the first town in Britain to "tell its story" in the Millennium Dome on January 5th 2000.

Councillor John Hendry said "The celebrations will link Stirling's past and future, town and country, communities and families. It will be a fun family affair - the biggest celebration Stirling has ever witnessed".

More immediately, over the next few months, music, art and design, dance and drama workshops will be taking place in all primary schools throughout the area to explore ideas for pulling together a performance of "Our Story" for the Millennium Dome. As well as the main production, each school will be able to stage a performance for its own community.

A Community Fund of £100,000 has been set up to help local groups fund their own celebrations, whether it is a street party or an environmental project.



# Killin Primary School Sports Day 2 June 1999



A good crowd of spectators and supporters turned out to watch the children's Sports Day. Killin Primary School were joined by some from Crianlarich Primary School also. After some very mixed weather, they were lucky to get a dry day.

*Artistic Licence - Confucius say (Editor really!) "He who comes in first, can come in last!" with the aid of our new-computer! (We have manipulated the photos to show Mitch bringing up the rear when in actual fact he won!)*

The mothers and fathers races were fun to watch but the serious rivalry was between the Lochay and Dochart teams, vociferously supported. Lochay cruised home as the winners.

**AW**



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## Millennium Madness

An interesting, mainly one sided debate sprung up recently in the Stirling Observer and Glasgow Herald on the Letters to the Editor pages, concerning Stirling Councils' Millennium Celebrations. Stirling Council plan to set fire to a 50 foot effigy of Robert the Bruce, and most of the letters were to protest against this. The dictionary meaning of the word "effigy", is "a crude representation of someone, used as a focus for contempt or ridicule, often burnt". Some countries immortalise their leaders by carving their features in canyons, others build monuments - why on Earth would Scotland want to burn their hero King? Perhaps like Robert Bruce's spider, Stirling Council should try, try, try again! Can we have some points of view from folk in this area - how do you feel about this? Should we "send them homeward, tae think again"?

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## Assembly Calls For Political Consensus

The Stirling Assembly is calling for cross party political support as an essential step towards improving local democracy. The appeal came as the Assembly met new members of Stirling Council for the first time.

John Riley from Tyndrum explained. "The Assembly is not about party politics, it is about getting local people involved in influencing decisions that affect their everyday lives. The Assembly is here to stay and it is time politicians from across the political spectrum realised this and got involved with the work we are doing. It is vital that all views are represented if we are to have any real impact. Time and time again, the people of this area have demonstrated their interest in the democratic process. The role of the Assembly should be widened and deepened to reflect the interest local people have in democracy. But, this will not happen unless every sector of the community is represented, so I would urge people to put aside their political colours and get involved."

The Assembly is open to everyone living in this area. It was set up for residents to debate local issues and to comment on the policies of the Council and other agencies like the Health Board, Forth Valley Enterprise and the Police.

For more information about the Assembly contact Lynda Downie on 01786 443309.

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## The Scottish Crannog Centre

The Scottish Crannog Centre at Kenmore is delighted to announce that its unique recreation of an Iron Age loch-dwelling is stronger than ever despite the substantial structural damage sustained during winter storms. The entire west side of the 20 metre long timber causeway connecting the crannog to the shore was badly hit on two occasions by pontoons which had broken free from their moorings. Thanks to the support of local landowners and forestry experts, the Crannog Crew were able to obtain enough alder trees from the Loch Tay area to repair the broken pilings and provide new decking for the walkway.

The shore based exhibition has been improved with the addition of a new "Crannog Kid's Corner" for the young to play inside leaving the other family members free to examine the information panels. They can try on Celtic-style tunics, make bark rubbings, weave with sheep's wool on mini-loom, or begin to build their own crannog model. A notebook of school visits is also on hand which features children's letters, drawings and photographs. Outside the exhibition, a Crannog Kiosk has been added to house suitably themed gifts and postcards, and a new marquee provides shelter for would-be Celts to practise ancient crafts.

A "Friends of the Crannog Scheme" has been launched to attract new supporters from all over Perthshire and further afield.



Benefits for subscribers include unlimited visits, special members\* events such as lectures, gatherings in the Crannog, and a newsletter. All funds raised will be reinvested in the centre and support the work of the Scottish Trust for Underwater Archaeology.

The centre is open daily from 10 am to 5.30 pm from 1 April to 31 October. For further details of events and membership rates, please phone 01887 830583 or visit our web site at [www.crannog.co.uk](http://www.crannog.co.uk).

*Barrie Andrian*

## Create a Home for Ladybirds

The Scottish Crop Research Institute have advised that seven spot ladybirds are being dramatically reduced by a parasitic wasp. They claim that this could have a drastic effect on the natural balance of the insect world.

You can help save the ladybird by:

- If using chemicals or pesticides, make sure they do not harm ladybirds.
- Don't be too tidy. Leave dead leaves on perennials to provide overwintering sites.
- Introduce nectar and pollen-producing flowers such as golden rod, tansy, pot marigolds, forget-me-nots, sweet alyssum and Queen Anne's lace.
- Dill, parsley, borage and flowering onions also attract ladybirds.
- Provide some wild areas.

## Latest News Bulletin From Strathyre Learning Centre

We are now a step nearer to finding out the type of bat roost we have in our belfry. Volunteer bat counters from Scottish Natural Heritage arrived one June evening and found lots of evidence, a report on which will soon be available.

Obviously very keen on their hobby, the bat people were happy to tell us all sorts of interesting facts about the pipistrelle colony, not least being that each bat consumes on average 30,000 insects each time they journey out of a night. I have to report that several are not achieving their targets, judging by the swarms of midges around the log cabin every evening!

*From our "Batty" Correspondent -  
Lesley Kettle*

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## Killin News Telephone Directory

*East of Scotland Water*

We apologise for giving the wrong number in our local phone directory - the number to ring should be 0345 420 420.

# A Village History

*We do hope you are still enjoying these segments, courtesy of the late Ella Walker. Unfortunately we do not have a photo of her available for print here. We do notice however that the Green Booklet "Killin in Old Photographs" compiled by our own Kay Riddell has a photo on page 17 of the Killin WRI Choir and Miss Ella Walker is smiling out at us - we think she would approve! The booklet is available from Killin Library, the Post Office and Tourist Office.*

*By way of a taster for the next excerpt, the subjects will be Home Industries and Improved Methods of Agriculture.*

## Clan Feuds and Cattle Lifting

When we look at our Village and the country around from the viewpoint of this our Welfare State, it is hard to imagine what life must have been like in those far-off days; but of one thing we may be sure - our forbears must have been well immured to hardship and insecurity - but this bred in them that spirit of courage, loyalty and love of freedom which has always characterised the hill-folk of every country the world over.

Breadalbane has always been of necessity more of a pastoral than an agricultural region, and the ruggedness of much of the country meant that such crops as were grown in the days before the coming of the iron plough were meagre and hardly won. Much of the low ground was marshy and badly drained so that it was mostly on the higher ground that the cultivated patches were situated. Barley and oats were the chief crops and harvests were often late and scanty. Horses were bred in considerable numbers, but the chief product was black cattle, and as these were considered fair game to the clan with the courage and initiative to seize and drive them off, many are the tales of bloody battles fought to recover their stock and exact vengeance.

On one occasion, the Campbells were celebrating a wedding at Finlarig when word was received that the Macdonalds of Keppoch and Glencoe had lifted a "creach" of cattle from Loch Tayside and were returning home over the shoulder of Stron-a-clachain (the hill behind Killin) driving their booty before them. Fired with the spirit of the feast, the Campbells rushed pell-mell up the hill to do battle. but they were in no state to fight and consequently suffered a severe defeat with heavy casualties. Next day, however, having secured reinforcements brought overnight from Taymouth, they set off again in pursuit of the marauders and overtook them in Glenlochay; in the ensuing battle the young Chief of Keppoch was slain along with many of his

clansmen. One of the finest laments in the Gaelic language, which is surely the language of sorrow, was composed for him by Iain Lorn, the bard of Keppoch. This was but one incident in the long feud between Clan Donald and Clan Campbell which culminated in the horror of Glencoe.

Life must have been especially hard for the women and children in the 17th and 18th centuries and only the hardiest survived. Their dwellings being very primitive, the winter must have been grim. The woman's lot was to bear and rear sons to serve the Chief in peace and war. To her also fell most of the toil around the homestead, whilst her menfolk engaged in more warlike pursuits. Summer brought some alleviation as then women and children would move to the shielings on the high ground. Each little community had its own shieling-ground allotted to it, and in early summer the migration took place. Headed by a piper the procession would start off. the sheep and cattle driven in front, followed by pack-ponies loaded with gear; the cries of the animals, barking of dogs and excited voices of the children almost drowning the skirl of the pipes! The utensils for the making of the winter's supply of butter and cheese went with them, together with their spinning wheel and "rocks" or distaffs and a supply of wool and raw flax to ensure that there should be no idle moments.

They had roughly built shelters thatched with turf, and there they herded the stock as they grazed on the sweet grasses of the mountain corries. The ewes were milked as well as the cows, to make ewe-milk cheese which was considered a great delicacy. It was a happy carefree life in the shielings, and many songs have come down to us which were composed as they herded the cattle - songs that for countless years have been sung beside the peatfires when the winter storms roared down the glens.

## Community Bus

At time of going to print, we have just heard that the Community Bus Committee have become a registered charity. They will now be known as the "Killin Community Bus Company". An application for grant aid from the Scottish Office, Rural Transport Initiative has been applied for. the outcome of which will hopefully be know by 22 July. The existing Committee would like to extend thanks to Bill Hogg for all his assistance in presenting this application.

The amount raised at the recent auction was £620 which will be divided equally between the Community Bus and the Millennium Committee, with additional proceeds still to be realised from a forthcoming sale on the Internet.

## Millennium Celebrations Hogmanay 1999

*Tickets for the above events are on sale NOW.*

Demand for tickets for Killin's Hogmanay Celebrations are at an all time high. Telephone Charlie Grant on 01567 820462 as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

## 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.

## Passing Out

David McCallum. Ballechroisk Terrace, Killin aged 18 is pictured here on 27 April at his "Pass Out Parade" having successfully completed his initial recruit training for the Royal Air Force at RAF Halton.

From an early age. David had planned to join the RAF. but he delayed his entry to ensure he could take up a career as an Aircraft Technician. He is now stationed at RAF St. Athan in Wales where he will remain until October when he will receive his official posting - he hopes in Scotland. David achieved his glider pilot licence before joining and hopes to go for a private pilot licence through the RAF.

He really enjoyed his basic training and plans to make the RAF his lifetime career. The RAF provides an opportunity for David to pursue various sports and abseiling, rafting and outdoor water sports are his favourites. He has also been chosen to play rugby for his section.

*Good luck David - we will all be thinking of you every time a fast jet comes over Killin!*



## Stars in your eyes

Visitors to the area have been expressing confusion over the use of both Crown and Star awards by establishments offering accommodation. This is occurring all over Scotland but the Killin and District Tourist Association would like to remind all members that the Star awards are here to stay and the Crown awards are redundant.

Members should no longer be displaying the Crown awards on their property or using them in advertising copy. By continuing to do so, the Scottish Tourist Board advise us that members are in breach of the Trades Description Act, 1968, and may be reported to the Trading Standards Office. Any establishment that is no longer a member of the Tourist Board and continues to display the Crown or Star award is also in breach of the same Act.

GF

## Stirling Enterprise Discovery Day - Killin

"An encouraging start", stated a member of the STEP rural team following the "Discovery Day" held by Stirling Enterprise on 15 June in the McLaren Hall. Killin.

"We had discussions prior to the event with local people as well as a focus group meeting and the indications were in favour of such a day. We had anticipated that business and individuals from the local community would come along including those who have a "germ of an idea" for a new business, those who want to expand an existing business, and those who simply want to find out what STEP might have to offer them".

"People aged eighteen to twenty five years old were catered for by a STEP Business Adviser with specialist knowledge on Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust which provides support and funding for this age group".

Fifteen people attended the event, and an invitation was extended to the local school with the result that approximately eighteen children with their teacher and headmistress from Killin Primary School enjoyed demonstrations of Information Technology systems and software packages including the Internet and multimedia, much to their delight.

The Discovery Day which STEP hosted in partnership with Strathgryre Learning Centre will move on to other rural communities throughout the area with events being planned for Fintry, Kippen and Doune.

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## The Ardeonaig Hotel

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## Tourism Trends

The Trossachs and Breadalbane area has recently played host to six travel writers from leading English regional newspapers, with a combined circulation of over 650,000. They enjoyed a three day tour of the area and spent their first night in Killin.

Another travel feature highlighting the attractions of the Trossachs and Breadalbane area has received a record number of broadcasts on UK radio. The five minute tape put together by the Tourist Board was sent to radio stations throughout the UK to help raise the profile of the area as a holiday destination. To date, fourteen radio stations in Scotland, England and the Channel Islands, reaching an audience of more than 550,000, have used the travel feature. The broadcast featured interviews with people involved in the local tourism industry and attractions such as the Breadalbane Folklore Centre. Well known local broadcaster Rennie McOwen was also interviewed on how much the area has to offer visitors and its outstanding natural beauty.

The Tourist Board continues to work hard to market the area, in a year which has seen a drop of 36% in the number of requests for brochures from the Scottish Tourist Board's tick box campaign. All other Tourist Board

areas in Scotland are feeling this decline. Thankfully, our local Board also undertakes its own independent marketing campaigns, which continue to generate a huge number of enquiries about holidays in the area. The Killin and District Tourist Association is very much aware of these trends, with mixed reports from members on trading over the past couple of months. Around the village, the main talking point from traders and accommodation providers alike, is how quiet it has been. With this in mind, the KDTA is working with the Aberfeldy group to produce a Loch Tay leaflet, the first specifically devoted to the area, this will be ready for the year 2000. There are also plans for a restyled Killin leaflet. Other ideas to promote the area are being discussed but the Association desperately needs more members who are willing to offer practical help. At present out of over 50 members, only seven show any willingness to be actively involved. There are numerous accommodation providers and traders who are not members but continue to benefit from the efforts put in, and paid for, by those that are. If all these people were to join the Tourist Board, and show their support for the local Association, even more money could be used to help promote Killin area.

GF

Killin recently had a visit from 21 pupils of the 11th form of a grammar school in Bad Kreuznach near Mainz and Frankfurt. We asked them if they enjoyed their 8 days in Killin.

"Our expectations about Scotland have been perfectly fulfilled, although we had only two days with typical rainy Scottish weather. So we could make lots of excursions to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban, Aberfeldy and Glencoe. The most impressive however, was the climbing of Ben Lawers, we even enjoyed the hard climbing (up to 1214 metres) to see the breathtaking landscape around Killin. Conclusively we can say, whenever you have the chance to get here - go for it!".

*The photo below shows the German students with their lovely lady coach driver.*

JF



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## The "Joys" of Motoring!

It used to be that you could allow an hour to drive from Killin to Stirling and still get there with time to spare. With new, improved, faster cars you would expect to get you there even faster - but the truth is that you now have to allow at least an hour and fifteen minutes. Cars, caravans and coaches in the summer months we are quite used to, they slow down to admire the views and this may frustrate us - but it's not they who are lengthening the journey. Slow moving tractors are part of our rural way of life but it is not they who are to blame for the increased duration either. Then who, I hear you ask? At time of writing this, there are SIX sets of temporary traffic lights between Killin and Stirling. Some of these actually have workers at them but one set has been there for months with absolutely no activity going on. Another set has been in situ for nearly a year and only recently has work started. So come on Scottish Office - this is our summer season - we want the tourists to enjoy the drive to Killin, they don't come to rural Scotland to sit in traffic fumes - and apart from that - you made me late for an appointment in Stirling!!

*Editor*

### Coffee Morning

The Guild Craft Group Coffee Morning will be held in the McLaren Hall on Wednesday 28 July from 10 am - 12 noon.

There will be craft, baking, books and plant stalls. All donations will be gratefully received in aid of Church Funds.

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## Royal Flush

A certain old worthy of Glen Lochay recently had his own distinctive royal flush. This was not an unfortunate side-effect of his age but a particular set of animals. In Victorian days it became a custom to try, on occasions, for a Royal Flush of bagging a stag, a grouse and a salmon in one day. In the North this is known as a Royal Flush but in this area it is called a MacNab. The Glen Lochay MacNab happened early this Spring when a stoat captured a rabbit on the old worthy's front lawn, then the dog ran out and retrieved the rabbit. A short while later, the same thing happened. Feeling sorry for the stoat, Mr Worthy took the rabbit from the dog, shut the same in the house and laid the dead rabbit on the grass for the cheated stoat to come back for. Sure enough the stoat peeked out of the wall and was just slithering out to regain his long-lost dinner when a buzzard swooped down and stole the rabbit. A stoat, a rabbit and a buzzard on your lawn at the same time must be unusual.

Speaking of unusual things on lawns, another local saw one of her ducks catch and eat a bluetit then chase a sparrow for afters. Must have been reading about genetically modified foods and decided to go organic.

Whilst on the subject of unusual things on the grass again, remember the Folk Festival Saturday when everyone was wandering around like drowned rats - the same downpour would be soaking the young grouse

(and they can't buy umbrellas at the £ Shop!), - it is to be hoped that too many of them were not killed. Before this quite a few had been found dead from the cold and wet.

The new Scottish Parliament is now in place and one difference to look out for is that the next countryside rally will be in Edinburgh instead of London. This will take place when the new Parliament reads the Dogs Bill again. Remember you dog owners, you will run the risk of breaking the law if Fido chases a rabbit. Bad luck for Mr Worthy of Glen Lochay! This could also bring a whole new meaning to sheep dog trials.

During the last couple of years there have been several sighting of kites in this area and recently one has been seen at the foot of Ben More. In mediaeval times, red kites were very common in the cities as they scavenged on the rubbish to be found in the streets. It would appear that they have adapted to scavenging the lay-by litter bins. So if you are a keen birdwatcher, you could pop up in the Crianlarich direction with your binoculars and maybe a half eaten bag of chips as bait. The red kite can be easily identified in flight by its deeply forked tail.



*Tim Frost*

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# LETTERS



## An open letter to the Killin News:

*There are many aspects of human behaviour which are difficult to understand, and some actions make us very angry.*

*At the top of Glenogle is what used to be a lovely walk alongside the little lochan - not any more! Some "humans" have reduced the place to a rubbish dump. Why do these people come out into the countryside and leave behind a filthy mess. They have chopped down growing trees to make fires; they leave piles of*

*bottles and cans to foul the place. On the other side of the Glen road, vandals have completely burnt a picnic table and benches plus part of the forest gate! The forest was in danger of becoming a major fire.*

*Has anyone any answers to this disturbing situation?*

*From the unhappy folk at the top of Glenogle.*

Our sympathies go to you "unhappy folk". You are not lone sufferers of this type of insane vandalism.

We notice the Stirling Council spend £3,500 every DAY of the year in costs for picking up litter. A new Task Force which includes the Police, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Stirling Council's Technical Services Cleansing Division has been set up. The main points of their action plan are:

- £10,000 investment in chewing gum removal
- new CCTV cameras to combat illegal dumping
- setting up Scotland's first litter-free zone along the Trossachs Trail
- £150,000 extra funding for more street sweepers and new machinery
- enforcing the £25 fixed penalty fine for littering

Following a discussion with Craig Gardner at Stirling Council, we realise that, in all fairness, looking to the Council for more investment is not an answer. The Council could plough £Millions into

litter removal but the litter would still be dropped - it would just mean that someone (paid for in our Community Charge) would have to come and pick it up. The answers lie in the litter NOT being dropped in the first place. Raising awareness, education and enlightenment are long term solutions. The Killin News will do what it can to highlight the problems but we do not have all the answers. Does anyone out there have any suggestions (other than lynching)? Please send your letters of advice to Killin News.

*Editor*

### Post Script

As we go to print we feel we must give praise where praise is due concerning the above topic. Nine tents which occupied numerous "Folk" enthusiasts were camping down at the head of Loch Tay over the Festival weekend. When they had gone, the site was visited on Tuesday morning and other than the neatly tied up bin bags at the road side for the bin men, you would never have known anyone had been there. They had cleared up every bit of rubbish and left the beach area cleaner than they had found it. 10 out of 10 and a gold star to you all!

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### Great Minds Think Alike!?

A curious coincidence happened in the last issue of the Killin News. Arnold Young wrote an article about Malcolm Ferguson in which he mentioned that Malcolm's uncle, Donald Brown, owned a meal mill on the Dochart. Cameron Walker wrote about this same Donald Brown in his article in the same issue. "Mr Brown Goes Off To Town in 1847". Neither author was aware of the connection. Thanks to Allan Walker for pointing this out.

Another similar coincidence occurred when researching recently about Fingal's Grave. In the wee green booklet "Killin In Old Photographs" compiled by Kay Riddell, there is a photo taken in 1899 to mark the occasion of resurrecting the tombstone at Fingal's Grave. Who should be standing two to the right of the stone, none other than the late Malcolm Ferguson. Funny World!

Yet another thought - is it coincidence that to celebrate the turn of the century from 1800's to 1900's, Fingal's tombstone was resurrected and now 100 years later, as one of Killin's Millennium projects, it is planed to make a pathway to it? Incidentally, for those not in the know, Fingal alias Fionn was a great warrior king of Celtic folklore reputedly buried in the field behind the Schoolhouse.



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# SportingQuest Opens



Freestyle Leisure, a local Callander company, have opened the first SportingQuest outlets in the Main Street and the McLaren Leisure Centre offering a wide range of sporting goods and providing many activities for all ages. Have you wondered what to do as a family or occupy the children during the holidays? If so then we might have something of interest. At the rear of the Quest shop is the activity centre from where you can take part in one of the many sessions being planned. The activities being run include Power Kites. Stunt Kites, Blading, Activity Quests, Cycle treks and navigation/camp craft and

climbing experience. The Adventure Quests have been designed around Callander with clues to find whilst walking, cycling or even blading with a certificate being awarded for successful completion. We also provide top stunt and power kites and K2 blades for hire. Join in on one of the "Come and Try" days to find out what real kites are about.

The shop aims to offer a variety of sports goods including rackets, clothes, training shoes, swimwear, goggles, balls, bags etc. Hopefully saving you a trip into Stirling or the city. Come and see us and have a chat about the activities and let us know what sporting goods you want to see stocked.

Contact SportingQuest on 01877 339178 for an Activity schedule.



*Killin News wishes SportingQuest all the best in their new venture.*

## Mervyn's Weather

March, April, May and half of June have passed since the last "Mervyn's Weather" in the Killin News. From the end of winter through to what should be the summer season. The pattern has been as always in our climate, a progression of seemingly endless low pressure areas, punctuated, unusually briefly, by midges or systems of high pressure which rarely last more than three or four days. During the hill lambing one spell held for a week or so, compensating somewhat for the atrocious conditions of mid-April.

At times the depressions developed into cluster of "lows" which seemed to have got bogged down just beside or over the British Isles, giving prolonged spells of unsettled and disturbed weather which are loath to move on.

"A dripping May and a warm June makes the farmer whistle a merry tune"! May certainly dripped plenty, equally so June, and any sign of serious warmth is absent. Grass however has been prolific and flowering shrubs have come into bloom exceptionally early. Indeed, Hector Hall reckons it is the earliest season ever!

The land however is still carrying a lot of moisture and, while ideal for continued grass growth, many spots are still vulnerable to the weight of tractors which of course can slow up any land work. Hill grazings are excellent and indeed many hill grasses are already setting seed. Lambs are thriving and growing well and grouse shoots seem strong

So the seasons pass all too quickly. It is perhaps a slight consolation that a cold wet June (ruling out 1998) has been known to be followed by a warm dry late summer!

*Mervyne Browne 13 June 1999*

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## Ben Lawers Road Closure

In Killin News Issue 36 (January 1997) we reported plans for habitat restoration work on Meall nan Tarmachan. Since that time the National Trust for Scotland has received essential funding for the project from several agencies, the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Forestry Commission. Work on the ground is to begin shortly.

Part of the project involves the removal of the conifer plantation, which will be replaced by native woodland. Unfortunately, the extraction of the conifers from the site will have to be done via the hill road between the A827 and the Mountain Visitor Centre. In the interests of safety, and because of the size of the timber lorries involved, the road will have to be closed to other traffic for short periods during the extraction process. To this end, an Order has been made by Perth and Kinross Council under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Signs will be placed to tell drivers about road closure, which should be from around early July to mid September. It is expected that the periods of closure will be short, up to 20 minutes, and these will be scheduled early and late in the day to minimise inconvenience to other road users. The Trust regrets any inconvenience caused.

David Mardon

## More News From Your Millennium Committee

Things are moving on apace and your Millennium Committee are hard at work pushing projects forward, finding sources for grants, and as we go to press, preparing for the joint Auction with the Community Bus Committee.

A spectacular fireworks display is planned to take place on Hogmanay, more details on this will follow in future Issues of the Killin News.

Jane Calder has asked for everyone in receipt of her Millennium Video questionnaire to return the slip to her as soon as possible.

The Millennium Committee brought to the attention of the Killin News that what they felt was an important statement was edited from their report in the last issue. We would therefore draw your attention to it now.

*"The Millennium Committee would like to wish the organisers of this year's Millennium Celebration in the McLaren Hall every success"*

## Killin Gun Club

The Killin Gun Club shoot was held on 9 May when 24 guns turned out on a drizzly day. The shooting standard was good and the results as follows:  
25 DTL (Down The Line)

Class (A) 1.E McAllister 75  
2. S Christie 73 3.= A Gowans & F Frost 66.

Class (B) 1. J Ward 66  
2. K Campbell 56 3. E Paterson 53.

Class (C) 1.G Mullen 65  
2. M Smith 65 3 J Morris 61.

### Sporting

Class (A) 1.H Campbell 75  
2. J Sinclair 75 3. M Smith 68.

Class (B) 1.E McAllister 69  
2.= J Miller & M Frost 63.

Class (C) 1. I Downie 67  
2. C Frost 59 3. H Campbell 57

High Gun: E McAllister 144

Bolting Fox: H Campbell 30

Continuation: E McAllister

Another shoot was held on 20th June 1999 when 21 guns turned out, this

time on a mainly dry day. Results were as follows:

### DTL

Class (A) 1. J Sinclair 56 m  
2. Jas. Sinclair 53 3. F Frost 52.

Class (B) 1. S Argo 45

2. M Frost 35.

Class (C) 1. J Morris 47  
2. R McAllister 42.

### Sporting

Class (A) 1. J McKay 60

3.= G Ross & H Paterson 51.

Class (B) 1.M Frost 54

2. Jas. Sinclair 45.

Class (C) 1. J Morris 48

2 = R McAllister & T Frost 39.

High Gun: Rob Cairns 105

High Gun Overall: J Sinclair 134

Pheasant Trophy: D Robertson 30

Non Winner Trophy: J Morris 95

McKay Trophy over 3 Sporting

Layouts: J McKay 81

George Coyne  
Secretary

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## OBITUARIES

**Walter Anderson** died in Stirling Royal Infirmary on 4 June 1999 after a short illness.

Wattie was born in 1937 in Peebles. As a boy, he was often in Strathyre, where his Uncle Jim was shepherding, but he came to stay in this district in 1949 when his father, also Walter, was employed as a shepherd with Mrs Judy Bowser at Benmore.

He left McLaren High School in 1952 and hoped to follow in his father's footsteps. He took a temporary job on the railway in 1953 which became permanent and lasted for the next 40 years. He became a highly competent railway engineer and when he retired in 1993 he was responsible for the West Highland Line over Rannoch Moor from Crianlarich to Fort William.

He married Mary MacPherson from Auch Farm at Bridge of Orchy and they had one son, Duncan. They lived most of their lives in Crianlarich where he was greatly respected for his involvement in community affairs. He was one of the mainstays in the building and running of the new village hall, a member of the Community Council and the Bowling Club.

Our thoughts at this time are with Mary. Duncan and Jane and grandchildren Siobhan and Andrew.

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### Sale

On Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. 2nd, 3rd 4th of August, the Nearly New Sale will be held in the McLaren Hall. All donations including bric-a-brac will be gratefully received.

For uplifting contact Bunty MacGregor.

**Andrew Collingwood** died at Aberfeldy Cottage Hospital in April 1999 aged 84 after a long illness.

Andrew came from Surrey with his wife and some of his family in 1970. Whilst looking for a smallholding or farm, they came across Rynachulig and set about creating the wonderful arboretum that still exists there today. He was a nurseryman by trade, specialising in collecting plants with a special passion for conifers.

rhododendrons and azaleas, many of

which were special and rare types. Andrew and his sons transported all his plants, ranging from small to mature specimens, to their new Lochside home in Killin over 3 to 4 years. Nearly all of these plants survived the upheaval to a different climate though some did flower out of turn for a while until they settled. Soon after the move to Killin, Andrew was joined by his mother and father who then lived out the rest of their lives in the bungalow he built for them next to the main cottage.

Andrew's other interest lay in people and their inner feelings, ideas and spirituality. To this aim he was devoted to other people and their search for common understanding. Andrew was an enigma to many people but always a good host. People from all walks of life were always welcome at Rynachulig.

Andrew is survived by his three children, sons Dirk and Bran, daughter Mel and his second wife Alison.



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## THANK YOU

**Margaret Fenna** would like to thank Len Humphreys and Sheena Chisholm for a wonderful evening on Sunday 30 May at the Killin and Ardeonaig Parish Church. They both played a beautiful selection of hymns and voluntaries on the organ and Len explained all about the organ itself. It was a great success enjoyed by everyone. The collection of £200 will go towards the Church Building Fund and the Episcopal Church Organ Fund. *Many thanks.*

**Anderson. Mary, Duncan, Jane and family** wish to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind help and support, letters, cards and beautiful flowers received in their sudden sad bereavement. Many thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. The sum of £460 was collected which will be donated to the Church funds.

**Jessie McLeod** would like to say a big thank you for the lovely flowers, beautiful gifts, cards and telephone calls she received whilst in hospital. Thanks also for all the support and kindness from so many people since she returned home. She would also like to thank her family in Dunkeld, Carole who she could not have done without, and not forgetting Aimee who helped with the shopping. Thanks to you all.

*Jessie McLeod, Fingal Road, Killin*

Dan Campbell (SNP), our new Councillor for Highland Ward, wishes to thank all those who voted for him and also all the good folk who campaigned for him.

Dan explained the results of the local election, "Our Highland Ward is the largest of all the 22 Stirling Wards, it includes Callander North, Strathyre, Balquhidder, Lochearnhead, Killin. Ardeonaig. Crianlarich, Tyndrum and Inverarnan. Stirling Council now consists of 11 Labour, 9 Conservative and 2 SNP Councillors".

Dan is also the rural spokesperson for Stirling Council on COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities). Dan commented that, "It is good to know that the country folk now have a voice which will be heard".

If there is anything Dan can do to be of assistance as local Councillor, we are sure he would be delighted to hear from you.

## Killin & District Calendar of Events 1999

### JULY

28 Women's Guild Coffee Morning 10 am - 12 noon. McLaren Hall

### AUGUST

- 2, 3 & 4 Nearly New Sale. McLaren Hall
- 4 Killin Highland Games
- 7 Men's Open Competition, Killin Golf Club
- 20 Killin Agricultural Show
- 20 Marquee Dance 10 pm - 2 am. Box O' Bananas - tickets £4.

*Advanced Notice for October 22nd*

McLaren High School Orchestra Concert

(Arleen Barlow - soprano, Lydia Buttigieg - pianist,

Marie Therese Vassallos - mezzo soprano)

**Len, Chrissie, Helen and Family** would like to thank all their family and friends for their gifts cards and very good wishes over the past few weeks whilst Len has been so ill. It was a great comfort to know that you were all thinking of us.

Chrissie would also like to thank you all for your gifts and good wishes on her recent birthday. We hope we will all be back in Killin before too long.

Dear Editor

I would like to thank Gladys Farquharson and Rev. John Lincoln for a wonderful evening in May at McDiarmid Park. The "Saints" ground was magnificently used and well attended on a miserable night. The presenter Sally Magnusson was excellent and the obvious sincerity of Billy Graham's son Franklin - "The Son of a Preacher Man!" was there for all to see. A superb night enjoyed by all.

*Jean Henderson, Fingal Road, Killin.*

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## Crossword By Scorpio

### ACROSS

8. *This should benefit us all, medically (1,1,1)*
9. *Annoyed and upset by dire, trait confusion (9)*
10. *Twine has no right to cause such discomfort (5)*
11. *Wish rep would talk less loudly (7)*
12. *Fictional fellow of daring deeds (8)*
14. *In song, ladies are pleased (4)*
15. *This hero is lazy; I hear (4)*
16. *Must this child work hard for a living? (8)*
20. *VIP rode around to cater for others (7)*
21. *Doctor and Reagan combine to show a lack of wits (5)*
23. *Southern relation meets journalist to be stifled (9)*
24. *Anger resulted when Ireland lost property (3)*

### DOWN:

1. *Only north and south is safe, initially, for the late Greek ship owner (6)*
2. *Italian wine (4)*
3. *That is lost from ladies' underwear to allow time to pause (6)*
4. *Sunburnt like a fruit (5,2,1,5)*
5. *Holy man and song join in riser (5)*
6. *Dappled effect caused by pole having imbibed (8)*
7. *Fuss over communist being much loved (6)*
13. *In favour, of the car and encourager of sales (8)*
17. *Taking direction from mundane leaves it unfinished (6)*
18. *Over there in Barry-on-Derwent (6)*
19. *A cosy corner in Slavonic-Helsinki perhaps (5)*
22. *Egyptian God turned 51 to make a transport track (4)*



### Solution to last Crossword

Across: 1. Waterfall 8. Elate 9. Mandate 11. Indigo 12. Apprise 13. Snug 14. Coo 17. Ski 18. Play 21. Failing 23. Toasty 24. Seattle 25. Inter 26. Nectarine. Down: 2. A carp 3. Endure 4. Ace 5. Lean one 6. Ratings. 7. Revolting 10. Task 12. Ascertain 15. Optants 16. Pattern 19. Cage 20. Slater 22. Nylon 24. Sec.



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# Killin Floral Association

The Floral Association should like to thank all those who have sponsored the hanging baskets in the Main Street. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to the plants this year and a colourful display will be enjoyed by all.

Over the past couple of years, the number of hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs, on both private and commercial property, has increased and this makes a very colourful addition to the overall appearance of the village. We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the categories for this year's Floral Awards.

Residential properties:- Best Hanging Baskets: Best Window Boxes: Best Tubs: Tidiest All Year Round Garden To Include a Display of Summer Bedding Plants.

Children's Section: Tallest Sunflower Plant: Largest Sunflower

Commercial properties:- Best Floral Frontage Display in Containers.

As with many other projects in the village, it is the stalwart work of only a handful of people, frequently the older villagers, that 'gets things done'. If projects such as this, which are enjoyed by both locals and visitors, are to continue and to expand in future years, more helpers are needed - not wishing to exclude the "older" generation, but particularly from the "under 40's". All that is required is a commitment of practical help, with planting, watering etc., which amounts to a handful of hours each year. We promise - no paperwork, no fund raising, no meetings!

GF

## Killin & District Telephone Book

The October 1999 "Wee Phone Book" is on sale priced £2. It covers Killin, Lochearnhead, Crianlarich, Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy and is much easier to use for local numbers than BT's. Pick up a copy next time you are in the newsagents.

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

**20 August 1999**

*Thank you for your co-operation*

## The Angling

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To say perseverance is necessary and patience essential is stretching the dedication of Sandy Graham in pursuit of his first salmon to the limit. However his reward of a four pound grilse, and a lost battle with a large salmon made the long wait worth while. Well done Sandy.



Good runs of salmon have been seen surging up the Falls whenever the water height is favourable, and a few are still falling to the club's anglers' endeavours. Unfortunately the dreaded ulcerating disease has returned to the Tay system and although it was thought to be localised in early running fish, reports from the mid and lower beats confirm that new arrivals show signs of this curse within a week of entering fresh water.

Turning to the trout fishing, there were eighteen Vale of Leven members out for their annual competition in favourable conditions. Good sport was enjoyed by some and missed chances by others, whilst others saw no trout being tempted. A good day was had, and my thanks go to all who ghillied, and the experts on the bar-b-que.

The Peter Ross Cup was well attended and saw yours truly winning with three trout. Due to the inclement weather at the start of the season's competitions we may hold one in late July, so watch out for notices.

Please remember all available members to assist Peter Anderson at the casting competitions in the angling corner on 4 August during the Highland Games. There are some top of the range fly lines among the prizes.

The book for signing to gain access the hill lochs is now in the newsagents and members are to sign it if they are taking a guest for a days fishing.

*Alex Stewart, Club President*

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