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# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue No. 54 January 2000

## The Millennium Comes in With a Bang!

The first rocket of a splendid fireworks display announced the New Millennium for an enthusiastic crowd of several hundred party-goers gathered in Grey Street to celebrate beside the Falls of Dochart. There followed a spectacular programme lasting some 30 minutes, with 'oohs' and 'aahs' echoing the bangs and happy faces lit up as the fireworks produced dazzling fountains and cascades of light.



Staging had been specially erected on the upstream island for the display, which was highlighted beautifully by the surroundings - the Falls foamed brightly at their best as the water roared past, the snow was still visible all round, and a cheery starry night had overtaken the earlier damp day. Everything combined to make it an enjoyable start to the year 2000.

On the strike of midnight -  
For The Sake Of Auld Lang Syne



Hootin' & Hollerin' On The First  
Night of the New Millennium



## And Is Celebrated In Style Over 2 Nights - At Least!

## The Angling

The new salmon season will be a testing time for the stocks of Dochart and Lochay fish. Previous years' returns seem to point to a better season for salmon and a lesser one for Grilse. The Killin Club's statistics do seem to indicate that a peak could be reached this year, followed by reduced catches over the next four seasons. However let's hope for some good sport with common sense prevailing in preserving the future stocks, by carefully releasing fish after enjoying playing them, which is after all the main part of the sport.

The coarse fishermen will be setting out the first of February to tackle the pike around the head of the loch and other favourite haunts, so be aware that they have every right to enjoy their sport without hindrance. They will be culling all 'Jack' pike to hopefully contain the local population within manageable proportions, and preserve the larger specimens for release to fight another day.

On March 15 the trout anglers will set forth. A word of caution, the hill lochs are in need of careful husbandry so take extra care when fishing them. No organised parties are allowed, except by agreement with the committee for competitions. The access book in the newsagents must be signed to obtain the padlock key and control the number fishing.

The 2000 membership cards are available along with car parking passes and the Club

Newsletter, and members who have not yet obtained a copy of the constitution and rules are advised to do so. Members are reminded to obtain their new cards before venturing out to fish. Fishery managers are now treading a narrow line between various factions of the angling fraternity as to how best to control a multi-species locality. The Killin Club Committee are fully aware of the danger of being seen to favour one side against another. They have structured the rules of coarse fishing to take account of the concern of the salmon fisher and some trout anglers, who believe the pike are on the increase. The Killin Club will be monitoring catches and will take advice before the closed season in April.

The next warden and bailiff training session will be on 27th February and all members holding cards or wishing to apply for cards should attend. The Tay Liaison Committee will be withdrawing cards soon from any who have not attended a training day. Names should be given to Alex Stewart as soon as possible and transport arrangements will be posted in the newsagents and hotels.

We welcome David Dowling of Kinnell and Don Howe of Finlarig as additional Patrons of the Club. *Alex Stewart*

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## Killin Community Bus

The Killin Community Bus Committee are delighted to report that they received a grant for £31,750 from the Scottish Office. This magnificent amount of money included a sum to cover running costs for two years. This combined with donations received in the past and (hopefully) the future, together with funds raised during the recent Millennium Celebrations held in the McLaren Hall and ongoing fund raising ventures, will help finance the purchase of a brand new Community Bus.

Buses don't come cheap - so in another bid to raise more money, Charlie Grant is organising a Fork Supper (along similar lines to the very successful Killin News Fork Supper in 1998), this will be held in the McLaren Hall on Saturday April 15th. Tickets are available from Charlie or any of the Community Bus Committee. Remember, the McLaren Hall can only hold a limited amount of people, so get your tickets now. A superb evening is guaranteed!

## Opening of the Salmon Fishing 2000

It was a bright, frosty morning on 15th January for the Opening of the Salmon Fishing and some seventy or so people made their way to the lochside at the Kinnell Boat House for the ceremony. Once again Stephann Schulman, who has been visiting from Germany for more than twenty years, kindly provided beer, sausages and rolls, and the sponsors of the prizes for the day offered samples of their Famous product. Dugald MacGregor and Gregor Macaulay had been up early to make sure that everything was organised well and the weather was ideal for Ian Campbell's recording of the event for the Killin Millennium Video Project.



Amongst the crowd were several visitors from Germany, one from Australia and one from Canada. Morag Penman was with her uncles. Killin-born brothers Roy and Alastair MacGregor, who were having a small family reunion. Morag works on fishing boats on Vancouver Island, Canada and was going to try a Scottish one for a change.

After the traditional blessing, nine boats set off in the sunshine to the sound of Piper Duncan MacKinnon's music echoing across the loch. It was just the beginning of their day and non-fishers were left behind looking forward to hearing a few fishy tales in the evening.



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*No opening of the salmon season would be complete without the traditional dram - or two! Medicinal of course, just to keep out the cold.*



*The Rev. John Lincoln blesses the fishing boats with a prayer*

# Killin Community Council Information

The Killin Community Council meeting on Tuesday 14 December was attended by: Colin White (Stirling Council), Dan Campbell (Local Councillor), Suzanne Player (Community Animator), Anthony Blythe (Killin & District Tourist Association), Ian Lithgow (Killin News), 7 members of Killin Community Council and 19 members of the public.

## Bottom Car Park & Toilets

From the outset, the villagers emphasised that they were happy with the proposal to relocate A&B services. However, there was a general feeling of being 'steam-rolled', and they remained deeply concerned over the loss of the toilets. The toilets were favourably located in the bottom car park, and it was suggested that their removal could adversely affect businesses, especially those at that end of the village. There were complaints that, despite a previous agreement with Stirling Council, the plans had not been displayed in the Killin Library. It was also pointed out that the toilets inside the McLaren Hall were NOT public toilets and were not always open,

Colin White of Stirling Council (robustly) answered questions (vigorously) put to him. The Plans for the relocation of A&B Services and the new car park were approved on 7 December 1999. Recent amendments included an increased number of parking spaces (to 25), together with access to the old railway line. Colin emphasised that the existing toilets at Dochart Bridge also have disabled facilities, contrary to some claims. Due to the loss of the toilets at the bottom car park, alternatives are being investigated. The McLaren Hall Trustees have been asked to consider a proposal that they accept the £20,000 funding 'earmarked' for public toilets in Killin and put it towards building new toilets at the rear of the McLaren Hall. If this is not possible then the money could be spent on other village projects.

## Lollipop Person

Road signs have been improved and Stirling Council's opinion is that there are not enough children to justify a lollipop person. It was suggested that the new houses at the old Mart are likely to contain more children and Fiona Davidson will pursue this matter.

## Scotland's First National Park

No communication has been received from Peter Hutchinson (Scottish Natural Heritage). Much concern was expressed that Killin should not miss out on the opportunity to state whether it wished (or not) to be within the Park and to comment before proposals are finalised at an official meeting proposed for March 2000. The Tourist Association is canvassing its members for their views. Group Captain Dowling was concerned that the Park Committee should contain local representatives, not just appointees.

The Rubbish Skip has not yet appeared in the Council Yard. Suzanne Player will pursue the matter.

Stirling Council intimated that it wants to take over management of Breadalbane Park, because of the question of public liability. Suzanne Player will invite Helen Munro of Stirling Council to come and talk to the village.

The proposed name of 'Craiglyon Mews' for the new houses does not reflect the earlier existence of the Old Mart, Suzanne Player will speak with Stirling Council.

Bill Rew had discussed with the local police problems raised about parking in the Main Street and had been referred to Stirling Council. Gillean Ford suggested calming measures to stop traffic speeding into the village from the Lochay Road end. Bill Rew commented that the police had previously replied that it was not possible to have traffic calming on a trunk road.

There were complaints that street lights were inspected and repaired infrequently, and that some lights recently repaired still did not work.

## Resignation

**Before closing the meeting, Bill Rew announced his decision to resign from his post of Chairman of Killin Community Council.**

## Kate's Cakes



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The session will provide you with basic skills, knowledge and an understanding of how to use the most popular areas of the internet, e.g. E-Mail and the World Wide Web. It takes about an hour to work through the tutorial which gives you the chance to send a simulated E-Mail and surf the net. Don't worry if you have never used a computer before, this will give you a chance to have a go!

Interested? - phone Suzanne Player on 820154 and she will be happy to arrange a "one to one" session with you in the Killin Library.

## Be Prepared

How's this for stocking up lest the Millennium Bug should strike - Roy and Margaret McGregor won a years supply of loo rolls and kitchen rolls in a competition. Should supplies run low, we know who to approach!

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## The "People" File

Rachel Hunter (nee Willison) was brought up in Killin at Acharn, (then a sheep farm) and after leaving school did a course in general agriculture. She married a farm manager, Alistair Hunter, and they farmed at Kenknock in Glen Lochay and then at Kirkton, Strathfillan. When Alistair developed severe arthritis, Rachel took over most of the farm work and in 1964, when they had to give up the farm, she took work as a shepherdess for the Department of Agriculture and later for her brother-in-law, John Burton. She loved the work but decided that working on hills - most of them Munros - was not something she would always be able to do and that she needed another string to her bow. She had been attending Art Classes in Killin and Dr. Fryer, who ran them, encouraged her to go to Edinburgh Art College, where she studied from 1976-1979, intending to teach art. However, after graduation she decided that at heart she was still a farming person and went back to shepherding freelance, whilst continuing her artistic commissions and work in her free time. In 1980 she took over the Art Classes from Dr. Fryer and has run them ever since. She enjoys seeing her students succeed in something they like doing. Rachel is about to move to Bridge of Allan to enable her to travel more easily to art galleries and concentrate on her artistic work. She is taking an amazing amount of 'junk' when she moves as she is currently making assemblages - giving a new life to all sorts of discarded items by combining them in different ways.

*Where to you like to go on holiday?*

On the continent - to cities and art galleries.

*Have you any unfulfilled ambitions?*

I'm not really an ambitious person - I take things as they come.

*Are you keen on music?*

Yes, I like any kind of music - folk music (particularly Scottish country dance music), jazz and classical.

*And reading?*

I like biographies of artists and also poetry and novels, particularly by Scottish writers.

*What is your favourite food?*

Hill lamb takes a lot of beating - with a good red wine.

*Do you find time for hobbies?*

Sport - golf, tennis, curling and trout fishing.

*Have you any pet hates?*

Shopping of any kind.

*What changes have you seen in Killin?*

The afforestation - which depresses me because it looks hideous and creates erosion which leads to flooding as the lochs silt up.

*Do you have a favourite place locally?*

The hills at Tyndrum, particularly Ben Lui walking up from Cononish.

*What will you miss most about Killin ?*

I don't feel I'm really leaving as I shall continue taking the Art Class and retain my membership of the Golf and Curling Clubs.

MM



Rachel Hunter (second from left, front row) with members of her Killin Art Class and portraits they have painted of May Graham.

# Strathfillan Community Council

At the last meeting on 8 December, it was agreed to up-date the Community Council policy and objectives. It was also decided to complain to the SNP Leader that Councillor Dan Campbell had not been in contact with the Community Council, nor had he attended any meetings.

May Clements resigned as Treasurer and Community Councillor, due to ill-health and family commitments. John Riley thanked her for all her hard work with both Strathfillan and Killin Community Councils and for her time as Treasurer. We welcomed Colin MacLellan as a newly elected Community Councillor and he kindly volunteered to be Treasurer.

Moir Robertson had complained to Stirling Council about their plans to close the public toilets in Crianlarich for 4 days over Christmas and 4 days of the New Year. It was explained to Stirling Council that Village Officer Jimmy Allerdice was prepared to keep them open throughout the period because if the toilets were not opened then visitors would use the outside of the building! After much

debate, Stirling Council insisted that due to "financial constraints" they would have to be closed for 2 days at Christmas and 2 at New Year. Jimmy Allerdice said he would open them without pay - this was agreed.

Congratulations were extended to Killin Community Council for the four commendations they received in the Calor Gas Awards, and also to Killin Primary School for winning the Litter Initiative Trophy Race.

Derek Wilkie contacted Peter Barrett (Trunk Roads) regarding the flooding at Loch Dochart. This is to be followed up by a letter.

In the Tourist Information Centre in Tyndrum, there is no mention of Crianlarich, but plenty of literature on the Highland and Islands, which the Tourist Association pointed out is free, whilst literature on Strathfillan costs £1. The Tourist Association is in discussion with the Tourist Information Centre on these points.

The War Memorial is in need of a clean could this be a Millennium Project?

The next meeting will be in Crianlarich Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd February 2000 at 7.30 pm.

***Editorial Note: It is beyond belief that Stirling Council could not afford to pay the Crianlarich Village Officer for opening the public toilets on this very busy main road junction over Christmas and New Year. Especially when you bear in mind the vast amount of money spent by Stirling Council in Stirling for the Millennium Celebrations. I do not begrudge them the Celebrations, but surely to goodness it wouldn't have "broken the bank" to pay the Village Officer for his devotion to duty? I'm sure all the "desperate" tourists on the road appreciated Jimmy's kindness. Incredible!***

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## SWRI - Killin

Mrs K Winton, President, introduced Mr David Mardon, who gave an illustrated talk on his visits to Hadrian's Wall and to Crete. Mrs Monica Naismith gave the vote of thanks.

### Competitions

Tablet: 1st E Stewart, 2nd M Graham

Holiday Snap: 1st E Stewart, 2nd M Graham, 3rd M McDonald

The Annual Whist Drive in aid of the Scottish War Blinded was held in the Lesser Hall on 19 November. There were 12 tables and the cardmaster was Ian McGregor. Bill Stitt gave the vote of thanks. A total of £286 was sent to the War Blinded.

### Prize Winners were:

Ladies: 1. K Riddell, 2. E Corlin, 3. Mairi Hunter, Booby Prize. Beryl McLean.

Gents: 1. George McIntosh, 2. Sandy Graham, 3. Peter McDiarmid, Booby Prize, Maurice Byker

At the December meeting, Mrs Kate Winton welcomed members and visitors from Balquhiddy and Strathfillan Institutes. Mrs Fiona Garnier from Killin Hotel gave us recipes for Christmas. May Graham proposed the vote of thanks.

### Competitions:

Individual Trifle: 1. Margaret McDonald, 2. Monica Naismith, 3. Jan Willison.

Christmas Table Decoration: 1. Bunty McGregor, 2. Monica Naismith, 3. Aileen Smith.

Kate Winton welcomed members to the 76th Birthday Dinner held in Killin Hotel. After the cake was cut by May Graham a delicious meal was served. Entertainment for the evening took the form of Countdown.

### Competition:

Decorated Shoe: 1. Sheena Chisholm, 2. Hilda Thompsell, 3. Ellen Stewart.



## Mervyn's Weather



AD 2000 - Day One

As opposed to the Millennium hype, 1999 slipped weatherwise, unobtrusively into the annals of the past with a somewhat murky and drizzly exit. Prior to this, the last three months of the year did their best to leave a lasting impression of cantankerous behaviour. October, on the whole, was fairly normal with just the odd very wet day. The last three days along with the first four of November were wet and stormy. Then came a fortnight of quiet, fairly settled conditions with very little wind, though often not much in the way of sunshine. Then as often happens, subsequent to the collapse of an Autumnal high pressure system, the weather turned nasty and like an over indulged spoilt child, did its' utmost to wreck everything in sight. The last ten days of November produced 125mm (5 inches) of rainfall and three recordings of 'official' gale force winds. December apart from the third week was practically a washout, clocking up 300.9mm (12 inches) rainfall egged on by strong to gale force winds.

Christmas day could, with a stretch of imagination, be described as 'white' though for most places the rather dirty grey remnants of the previous night's sleet and wet snow were all that remained. Part of the 'blame' for these disturbed conditions seems to have been ascribed to the ultra-bright full moon of 22nd December, caused apparently, by the closest proximity for 133 years, of the moon to both the Earth and the Sun.

Finally, a small correction to "The People File" in the last issue of the Killin News. The subject of that article has **NOT** retired, nor unless forced, has any intention of so doing.

Mervyn K Browne, Ardtalnaig, 5 January 2000

*Editorial Note; Sincerest apologies to Mervyn. Brings to mind a Readers' Digest snippet, "To ASSUME, is to make an 'ASS' out of 'U' and 'ME'!" - sorry Mervyn.*



The photo shows Mervyn with his MBE which we reported on in the last issue of the Killin News.

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## 3 Day Millennium Hike

Breadalbane Group of SWRI are planning a 3 day walk from Bridge of Orchy to Amulree from 19-21 May, a distance of approximately 50 miles.

Sponsorship of your favourite charity is optional.

More details in the next issue of the Killin News. Any individual or organisation interested in joining us, please contact: Margaret Taylor (Group Chairman) on 01567 820 432 or Joan MacKenzie (Group Secretary) on 01567 820 456.



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## Highlights from the McLaren Hall Management Committee's Report

The McLaren Hall is being used more and more, and this is very welcome although, inevitably, events taking place simultaneously do not always pass off without some interruption (on one evening the Killin Initiative meeting was punctuated by loud barking from the dog training class!). The Hall is often empty during the day - hopefully, imaginative use of the premises and adaptations to meet modern needs, e.g. disabled access, will extend the Hall's role in the new century and help it continue to serve the people of Killin.

The Committee intends that the programme of upgrades and improvements should continue, hopefully at a greater pace, and Alex Stewart heads a new sub-committee specially set up to see through the Five Year Plan in progress. Already, the outside of the Hall has been painted, the guttering and rhone pipes have been improved, and drain clearing should be much easier following the improvements to the sewerage drainage system. Two hundred new chairs were bought

through local fundraising supplemented by a grant from the lottery through the "Awards for AH" programme.

In a major step forward, the McLaren Hall now enjoys charity status - this will open up new sources of funds, although VAT will remain unavoidable. Your Committee are proposing to increase the fees for using the Hall. Fees have remained unchanged at their previous level for two years, and are relatively modest compared with other similar facilities. While the increases are quite high in percentage terms they reflect the increased running costs of the Hall, and the Committee hope that the village will appreciate the need for these increases. Typical examples of expenditure are: fabric and maintenance £1631; insurance £1052; oil £541; electricity £1051; paper towels £331.

"Morag the cleaner" spent a week redding out the Hall and you will surely agree that there has been an improvement. Unfortunately, this can only be maintained if users treat the Hall with some consideration - someone recently used the floor as an ashtray! (perhaps next year's AGM should see a no-smoking policy proposed?).

The problem of shuttlecocks in the lights has plagued the badminton club for years, but Henry Forster has come up with a design to hopefully solve the problem. However, this 'solution' will mean more expenditure.

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# Trolley

In an attempt to raise funds for the Sports Club (and Pavilion), the Co-Op was approached and came up trumps. They agreed to hold a raffle, the winner of which would get a one minute trolley dash around their Killin store.



The winner of the raffle was Killin lady Anne MacDonald. On December 8th Anne did "her dash" armed with trolleys and managed to fill them with £93.60 worth of goods varying from groceries to cat litter to Christmas gifts and a lovely Christmas tree. Anne was a bit incapacitated on the night due to a leg injury, so wee bits of help were given by sympathisers, including some of the Co-Op staff, and words of encouragement were called out by Chris Hayhurst, 'comedian' well Co-Op Manager actually, all of which added to the excitement.

The second prize, a £25 Co-Op voucher was won by Michael McLaren. The sum raised by the raffle was £260. The Sports Club would like to thank the Co-Op for their generosity.

## Fancy Dress Dance 2000

In Aid Of Cancer Research

The McLaren Hall 9 pm Saturday 22 April 2000

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£100 and £50 respectively

So get cracking with those costumes.  
All donations will be gratefully received.

Telephone Pamela on Killin (01567) 820325 or 820744

## An Comunn Gaidhealach

John Laurie (centre photo) who is now 98 years of age recently enjoyed a get together with his friends at a meeting of the Perthshire & Angus Mod Committee in Aberfeldy. John has been a committee member for 25 years and represented the Lochearnhead branch for many years with his wife Jean.

Other local committee members are Elizabeth McDiarmid, Shenlarich, Lawers (Secretary), Ian McGregor and Annie McNee, Killin,



## Community Resource Centre for Killin?

As reported in the last edition of the Killin News, research into the health and community care needs of the area has been carried out by Colin Roxburgh of the Small Town and Rural Development Group with assistance from Suzanne Player. The research has now been completed and the report passed to the GPs for approval. Copies of the report will be sent to all respondents.

As a key part of the research, a questionnaire was sent to local community groups and to external service providers to ascertain the requirements for services and groups wishing to develop their work in Killin. The response was very high with an overall return rate of 76% and over 30 organisations expressed an interest in expanding their services and having some kind of base in Killin.

This response fits well with the idea raised by local focus groups for some kind of multi-purpose centre to provide accommodation for a range of clinical and care services together with other social, community and public services.

The next step will be to bring together all interested parties with the local community to discuss the options for taking this forward. A meeting is planned for mid-February.

If any individual or local group would like to discuss this research further or feel they would also be interested in developing their activities or making use of this kind of multi-use resource, please contact Suzanne Player on Killin 820 154.

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## Millennium Committee Up-Date

Well, it arrived! And after all the hype and speculation - no bugs, no disasters - just hangovers and flu!

Your Millennium Committee celebrated along with many, with a firework display. Perhaps it didn't equal Sydney or Paris, but what about the setting? We should all be proud of where we live. Many thanks to all who attended the display at Hogmanay, it was a most enjoyable evening with many people attending. Special thanks to all the stewards who did a splendid job and also to Richard Shand, Duncan Anderson, John Sinclair, Brian Hibbert and Alex Stewart. Without their help, the evening would simply not have been possible.

The atmosphere at the Bridge was certainly one which was reminiscent of a traditional Auld Years' night. It is likely the Committee will repeat the same for this Hogmanay to celebrate the fulfilment of the many projects currently in hand.

Several of these projects are now up and running, with the Time Capsule, Video Project and McLaren Hall Clock all past the 'starting post'. The Video Project will cease filming sometime in late July,

which will enable the working party to edit the vast amount of footage to make a video tape. It is hoped you will all buy a copy for posterity. The Time Capsule is available to view at anytime at Tayview, a full progress report on the cairn is detailed on Page 18. The clock is under discussion and plans should be available for the next issue of the Killin News. The other projects are all on amber light - with green anticipated soon.

This is the year we hope to complete all projects. To enable us to do this, we need full co-operation from all of you in our undertakings. Many events are planned for fundraising, the first of which is a Safari Supper on 19th February. Tickets are priced at £10 each and are available from all Committee members.

The Gala Day in May should be enjoyed by all and to really boost the coffers, some of the more agile members hope to walk the West Highland Way. (Alex Stewart and Brian Hibbert!) Sponsors please!

Lets all join together and make this a year to remember.

Colin J McRae, Chairman

## Coming Soon To Killin Library

Your opportunity to develop your computer skills, without leaving Killin. A computer is being installed in the Library to allow you to link with Clackmannan College and learn new skills.

The launch of the new computer will be on Friday 25 February, 2000.

For more information, please telephone Kay at the Library - 820571.

*Editorial Note: This is a superb step forward by Clackmannan College for the benefit of Killin Villagers. Wouldn't it be even more wonderful if we had greater floor space for our Library to enable even more features like this. In our rural area, the Library is so much more than a place to get a book - it plays a central role in community life and Killin is fortunate in that our librarians are also actively involved within our Community.*

## Funeral Directors 3rd Year in Aberfeldy

Mr David Gauld came to Aberfeldy in January 1997 when Mr Jack McWilliam retired after over thirty years as Funeral Director in Aberfeldy and surrounding district. The funeral business has been David's life for almost 20 years, starting with his father in the family business in Crieff called Gaulds Funeral Directors. David left the family business for a short time and worked with Strang & McLagan, Funeral Directors in Perth as assistant manager. There he gained a great deal of experience and achieved a diploma in Funeral Directing. His brothers, Andrew and John, then joined the family business in Crieff, and when the decision was taken to expand and acquire J & C McWilliam Funeral Directors in Aberfeldy, David returned to the family business and moved with his wife and daughter to Bank Street in Aberfeldy.

Since acquiring J & C McWilliam, David and his partners have added an office and chapel of rest to the premises in Bank Street, and offer their clients a complete funeral service. Gauld Funeral Directors is an independent and family run business, and as such can offer families a caring, confidential and 24 hour service.

If anyone wishes further information or advice on any of the following then please telephone 01887 820436 or 01764 656567:- Pre Paid Funeral Plans, Memorials, Wedding Cars or any other matter.

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Perth: (01738) 880430

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DIRECTORS**

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ABERFELDY. PH15 2BB  
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## Don't Dispose of Pen & Paper Just Yet....

The World (and the Killin News) seems to have avoided the problems anticipated by Millennium Bug Doom Forecasters. However, the Killin News computer didn't get through the Festive period without a glitch - nothing to do with the Millennium. We got a bug - well a worm actually in Computer Speak. It came in via what appeared to be an innocent E-Mail - "Pretty Parks" sounded safe enough but by opening it, the worm invaded our Address Book, infiltrated and destroyed all passwords and invited every computer hacker throughout the world to send us their worst nightmares! Our Virus Checker failed to detect the worm and was basically rendered useless by it. In medical terms - we were infected with the equivalent of everything from Flu to Ebola. All our efforts to be up to the minute, extra insurance for Hard/Software problems, Y2K compliance, didn't matter a hoot - the computers brains were mulched!

Fortunately, a personal friend and computer technician came to our rescue and after 10 hours on the operating table, he breathed new life back into the computer. Myself and the Killin News Team are deeply indebted to Dougie for his efforts for which he refused payment.

Luckily, upon completion of the last Killin News, I saved to zip disks, numerous photos and all computerised previous issues of the Killin News so although we have irretrievably lost some data we still have records. I am now an E-Mail Phobic. If you sent us any E-Mails during December - they will have been destroyed so please don't think we have ignored you. We are now back in business again and can be contacted at [killin.news@virgin.net](mailto:killin.news@virgin.net) - but please - NO attachments. Editor

### MOBILE HAIRSTYLING

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## Killin News Across The Globe

Following on from the start of this competition in the last edition of the Killin News, we are delighted with the latest batch of photos to drop through our letterbox.

Killin News took a dive in the Red Sea and climbed some nearby mountain in Saudi Arabia courtesy of Geoff Martin, Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. When we read Geoff's home address we thought my goodness what will our Senior Citizens be up to next?! It would appear that the Killin News is read by some pretty important people - Yasser Arafat no less!



And, as if that was not far enough, we also have an entry from Tommy Bickerton:

Dear Killin News Team

In Issue No.52 you asked for photos taken with a copy of the Killin News across the globe. It provides me with a bit of fun to do just that, and thank you for the opportunity.

One photo shows myself and that very popular TV chef Nick Nairn. I was fortunate enough to be in his company when he was here in Adelaide, Australia for an international Food Festival. I thought he was a terrific ambassador for Scotland and Scottish cooking, as well as a thoroughly nice lad. We even swapped recipes - he gave me his for fillet of kangaroo with garlic, ginger and lentils, and I gave him mine for mince and tatties.

I should mention that I have been lucky enough to get a copy of your fine paper since November 91 issue No.5, firstly from my mother Nan Bickerton until she passed on, and since then from Mrs Sutherland, Glenairlie. I enjoy every issue, although as time goes by I recognise fewer names and faces, but thanks to you I have a good grasp of what goes on in Killin, officially that is.

Happy Christmas and prosperous years to come for the production committee and the Killin News.

Tommy & Lynn Bickerton



Thanks to Tommy also for raising the profile of the Killin News amongst such wonderful gastronomic company, and we are sure that T shirt didn't go unnoticed either by our Festival goers!

We will be running this competition throughout this Millennium Year (by the end of which we are sure we will have figured out some suitably super prize - in the meantime we are enjoying it immensely - keep those photos coming!). Send your photos to The Editor, Dalerb, Killin. FK21 8SH

## Hospital Car Service

In November, Sandy Graham was presented with a Certificate from the Scottish Ambulance Service (West Central Division) at the Killin Ambulance Station. This was in recognition of ten years as driver with the Hospital Car Service. The Certificate is an innovation recently introduced by the Division. In acceptance, Sandy was in a way, honouring the many village drivers over the years. Now with Sandy's retirement, there are only two drivers left.

Pictured below is District Ambulance Officer Drew Wemyss presenting Sandy with the Certificate.



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## The Frost Report Warbles 2000

It seems to be the season for bugs - millennium ones, flu and the warbles on the deer. These parasites seem to be worst on the young and the old, just like the flu, and the animals on the higher ground seem to get away with the least (this would probably help to prevent flu too). In summer the warble-flies lay their eggs on deer's legs, they hatch into maggots which burrow under the skin and into the flesh. Between September and now the maggots work their way through to just below the skin on the deer's back. They will lie here until the flies emerge next summer. They make the skins unusable for leatherwork and reduce the general condition of the animal but do not affect the quality of the venison.

Talking of venison, now that Christmas is over and the fear of eating Rudolph has passed, why not try some? It is a very healthy food containing no chemicals. As with salmon, the farmed variety is not so, as the animals need medication to alleviate stress. People in general always seem to think farming is kind to animals and that hunting is cruel. Given the choice, I would imagine that most would prefer to live free for years and never know where the end was likely to come from, compare with living under stress all their lives.

Talking of stress, it is the reported stress under which the fox is put that is the main argument against fox hunting with hounds - the government bill which is coming round again. This will also include bolting foxes from holes by terriers. Just about all the hill sheep farmers need at this moment! How far do we go with these bans? What about our fish suppliers, where the fish are caught and left to die on the decks or the holds?

A great deal of work is beginning to improve the lot of the wild deer. Estates will be going on line to collate information for the Deer Commission. Details such as weight, age (mainly judged from teeth), sex and reproductive status of females will be noted on larger record forms. It is hoped that the collation and evaluation of this information when related to habitats will help to promote the best conditions possible for them. This Collaborative Deer Management is intended to promote the welfare of wild deer and the bio-diversity of the hills and the integration of new land uses. A worthy aim, but my wife hopes that it won't all add to the stress of stalkers' wives, with all the paperwork!

Tim Frost

## Rural Access Service

The Rural Access service supports people aged 18 to 65 years, living in the western rural areas of Stirling, who experience difficulty in coping with their daily lives.

Support is given on a personal 'one to one' basis to help people regain and sustain a satisfying and fulfilling life in their community.

If you, or someone you know, are in need of a person with whom to talk-over problems and to support you or them in their resolution through, for example, practical help, advocacy, relaxation or motivation, then please contact:  
Rural Access, SDAMH, 19 Dean Crescent, Riverside, Stirling.  
Tel: 01786 451203 Fax: 01786 449185

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## Children of Killin Millennium Concert

On 17 and 18 December, the Killin Primary School pupils put on a splendid concert in the McLaren Hall to packed audiences on both nights. There were about 20 scenes ranging from the Nativity through the Vikings - World War I - Everest Conquered etc. More of a revue than a concert. The children acted with enthusiasm on a whole range of subject from the past. Highlights for me were a vignette of the sinking of the Titanic and a spoof of the figurehead scene in the film with Leonardo Di Caprio and Kate Winslet, also, the Roaring Twenties with the Charleston. In the World War II segment the children sang the songs of the period which struck me as being very poignant with "All our tomorrows singing the songs of yesterday<sup>1</sup>\*". The audience reaction varied from great hilarity to lumps in the throat - a roller coaster of entertainment.

Thanks are due to all who worked so hard to produce such a show - costumes - support - scenery and props - but chiefly to the children.

AW



## Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea Party

Several of the older members of the community (numbers somewhat depleted due to flu), were entertained on the afternoon of 31 December with a programme of Scottish music and songs. David Thornton and the Reverend Lincoln played nimbly on the fiddle. Jack Rough sang and Pat & Gilbert Christie provided music in their own inimitable style. One song Jack sang was particularly interesting, as it was the original tune for the words of Auld Lang Syne. Siobhan Anderson and Rachel Lincoln put on a splendid Highland Dancing display which was enjoyed by everyone.

This afternoon was organised as part of the Millennium Celebration Events in the McLaren Hall with afternoon tea being provided by the ladies of the Killin WRI. Thanks are extended to the Killin Community Bus for the work and preparation in giving our Senior Citizens a good start to the New Year.

AW

## Festive Frolics

The lead up to Christmas this year saw a succession of parties for the children of Killin, each as successful as the last. By the time the day itself arrived some youngsters had begun to wonder just how many helpers Santa had!

Amongst these excitement building extravaganzas were the School Christmas Party, organised with style and enthusiasm once more by the WRI, and the annual Killin Christmas Party organised by the playgroup. I'm sure the children would like to thank all those involved for their generous efforts.

C Holden

## Walker's Wit

Taking down some of the Millennium notices, I was struck by how quickly the events were over and it was back to 'l claes and parritch'.

One of the lasting memories I have from the kaleidoscope of events is of Jenny Lambert's stage backdrop in the McLaren Hall. It was made up of thirteen pieces with the main painting measuring 20 ft by 12 ft. Her work portrayed balloons with a Scottish theme of a Collie, West Highland Terrier, a puzzled Hielan Coo, a rainbow and a piper.

The painting took around two months to complete. Jenny, already well known for her animal paintings, is to be congratulated on this wonderful backdrop.

AW






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# Celebrating Christmas 1999



Fireworks at the Dochart Bridge



Katie Holden with a present from Santa at the Christmas Party



The Junior's Disco was a great hit, especially with the three young ladies below.

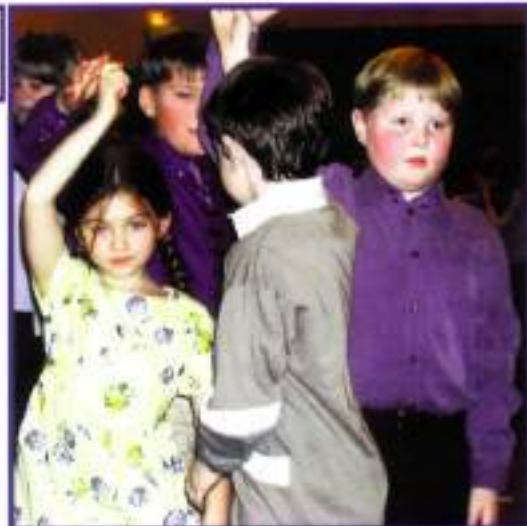


Flying the flag - not the Last Night of the Proms, but the School Concert - a fabulous evening of entertainment. "All our tomorrows, singing songs of yesterday".

The School Christmas Party dance with Claire, Stuart, Ian and Monty.

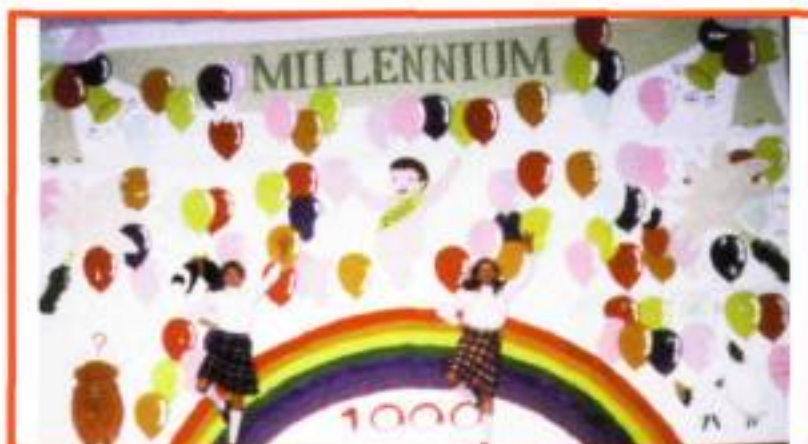


A well known local family enjoying some of our 'other National drink'!





# ations & New Year 2000



Siobhan Anderson and Rachel Lincoln entertained our senior citizens at the Afternoon Tea Party in the McLaren Hall. The wonderful backdrop was done by Jenny Lambert.



Rory Chisholm and Catriona Lynch (nee Inglis) toast in the New Millennium with Champagne donated by Camac Solid Fuels, Callander to the Millennium Celebrations in the McLaren Hall.



The Toddlers' Christmas Party in the Killin Nursery.

Santa's gift for Adele at the Children's Christmas Party.

Some of the excitement on the bouncy castles at the Fun Afternoon in the McLaren Hall.

Loads of fun at a Party 2000 courtesy of Sir Peter and Lady Fawcus.



# A Little Bit Of Stardust!

Despite inclement weather and other activities taking place in the village on the same night, there was a good attendance at the November meeting of the Killin Heritage Society. Dr J K Mackay, from Cambusbarron was the speaker and illustrated his talk with some marvellous slides. Although the title was 'Northern Lights' it was really a look at the northern sky and he began with slides showing Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and the Moon as they 'wander' across our sky. This was followed by some spectacular pictures of mid-summer sunsets taken from the summit of Ben Ledi. At that time of the year the sun sets between Stobinian and Ben More and casts a very pointed shadow of Ben Ledi across the landscape to the south east.

## Killin Out of School Care

Back in the mid 1970s. Central Government realised the changing needs of working families and the economic need of both parents to work. This led to the introduction of various establishments to accommodate the children of these parents whilst they worked - Pre-school, Nursery, Playscheme, Family Centres and Out of School facilities were all expanded.

In October 1996, Killin was successful in its application to the Scottish Office, via the Rural Stirling Partnership, for a 3-year funded out of school childcare facility within Killin Nursery. The grant was match funded by Stirling Council to enable the facility to open during holidays as well. This funding ended on 30 September 1999 and we are now supported until March 2000 by the National Childcare Strategy.

Out of School Childcare facilities feed from local primary school and registered children are collected from school at 3 pm and can be collected up to 6 pm. Space requirements (another legislative procedure) restricted Killin to a maximum of 16 children daily with 2 staff members in attendance at all times. We operate Monday to Friday 3 pm - 6 pm during term time and Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm during holidays. The cost is £3 per child per session (a whole day is 2 sessions) for the first child and £2.50 per subsequent child. The children engage in a variety of stimulating leisure and recreational activities (trips, swimming, canoeing etc.) with the maximum of freedom in a relaxed and friendly environment with experienced playworkers on hand to assist.

For further information please contact Tony Webb at the Nursery (Tel. Killin (01567) 820889).

The eclipse of the sun in 1999 was either a wonderful experience or a non-event, depending on your attitude and/or location on 11th August, but the audience saw some interesting slides of solar and lunar eclipses. Another astronomical event which everyone could easily relate to was the Hale Bopp comet of 1994. Close up views showed the "head" and trail of the comet very clearly. In fact, there were two trails, at different angles, one of which appeared very blue in colour.

Some of the most spectacular slides were of the Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis. Curtains of white, an enveloping red glow of the pulsing colours of the massive 'display' of 1989 which had lasted for several hours and was visible over most of the UK.

Dr Mackay and a friend had brought telescopes in the hope of clear skies, and

were rewarded at the end of the meeting by the miraculous disappearance of the cloud cover, which revealed a brilliant clear sky over Killin. The telescopes were positioned in the McLaren Hall car park and those who braved the cold were amazed by a 'close up' view of Jupiter, one of the brightest stars in our sky at this time of year - 400 million miles away and 10 times the diameter of the Earth. Jupiter's four moons, not visible to the naked eye, could clearly be seen. Another highlight of the evening was a view of Saturn and its rings - 800 million miles away - not pictures, not TV - but a magic moment, live from Killin! Those who lingered a little longer were treated to a natural firework display as three meteorites crossed the sky within one minute. Villagers who missed all of this may feel a little happier in their disappointment, with the knowledge that there is a little Stardust in all of us!



## McLaren Community Leisure Centre

Open 9.00am until 9.00pm  
seven days a week  
(See special opening times advertised in the centre)

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Sports Hall, Fitness Suite, Climbing Wall,  
Indoor Bowls Hall, Meeting Room and Cafe.

Additional services include Beauticians Room,  
Coached activities, Birthday parties and much much more.

### **Car Boot Sale Success**

The Car Boot Sale held at the McLaren Leisure Centre on 30th January was a real success. The event was well attended, and many bargain hunters went away well pleased, as were many of the vendors. There was a rumour going around that many of the goods for sale were unwanted Christmas presents, with gaudy socks, ill-fitting sweaters and enough bath salts to treat the Leisure Centre pool on display!!

Due to the success, a future car boot sale will be held on Sunday 27 February. If you would like to bring your car and open up as a stall, then you should book your space as soon as possible as numbers are limited. The sale will be from 10 am until noon, setting up from 9 am. The charge for vendors will be £5 per car. No charge for customers.

The Leisure Centre will be open throughout and of course refreshments will be available from the Cafe.

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

## Carry on Moving Forward in 2000

Happy New Year and good news for all of you who enjoyed the Move Forward programme. With the help of Nick Rennie from Sports Development, we have found an exercise tutor to hold a class in the McLaren Hall, Killin on Thursday mornings.

Her name is Karin Anne Smith-Gorman from Callander - some of you may know her if you have attended any of the keep fit classes at the McLaren Leisure Centre. We plan to run a 6 week course starting Thursday 20 January at 10.30 am. Gentle exercise, cup of tea, relaxation and discussion to help you move forward in 2000. If the first 6 weeks are successful, we hope to ask Karin to carry on with another 6 week course which will take us right through the rest of the winter and have us all fresh and fit for the spring.

Suzanne Player  
Community Animateur

## Environmental Action Killin

A new environmental group for the Killin area has been formed, 'Environmental Action Killin' or EAK! for short.



EAK is affiliated to Scottish Conservation Projects (SCP) and the first venture will be to improve footpaths in the area, as discussed at previous Millennium Committee meetings. The Millennium Committee is a short life group, therefore it was decided to form a separate group before embarking on these projects as there will in some cases be a need for long term maintenance.

If you would like to join the group, our first open meeting will be on Thursday 24th February at 7.30pm in the National Trust meeting room at Lynedoch, Main St, Killin. We plan to discuss the Sustrans network and the improvement of paths around Killin as well as any other ideas eg tree planting etc.

Our first volunteer session to start clearing the railway line will be on Sunday 26th March from 10am -4pm, gathering at the bottom car park next to Stitt's Yard. You can come for all or part of the day. Wear gardening clothes and gloves, bring any garden tools you don't mind sharing as well as a packed lunch (but you won't have to share that!). For safety, there will be a group leader and 'tool talk', youngsters from age 9 years upwards are welcome if accompanied by an adult (1 adult to 6 children). Children under 14 years will not be allowed to use sharp tools.

Any donations of reasonable garden tools will be welcome (wheel barrows, loppers, spades etc), contact Kevin FitzGerald on Killin 820 961 to arrange delivery or collection. If you have any further questions the committee includes Elaine Turner, Helen Cole, David Mardon, Yvonne McPherson, Kevin FitzGerald, Michael McLaren, Andrew Warwick.

## Instant Holidays

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## Killin News Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the **Killin News** will be held on Tuesday 21 March 2000 in the Lesser McLaren Hall at 8.00 pm.

The Killin News Committee will be present and it would be lovely if members of the public would attend also. A hot cup of tea/coffee will be ready before the meeting starts at 7.45 pm. Please come along and meet the people who put your paper together and give us your views on how we can improve our service.

Editor

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## Up and Down, Up and Down - They Know The 'Drill'

P1 and P2 of Killin Primary School recently participated in a pilot scheme about dental care for children. The project was run by William MacMillan of Forth Valley Health Service Trust, and Killin was the only rural school to take part. If you look closely at the photo, you will see that some of the children have been brushing too hard - their teeth are disappearing! (What! - no toothpaste?)



## Time Capsule Cairn

Every household, business, club or organisation will by now have received an information pack for contributions to be sealed in the time capsule. If by some oversight you have not, then please get in touch with Alex Stewart or Debbie McAllister. The boundaries are the Lawers and Manse Burns in the east, the Auchessan Burn in the west, Glenogle Head in the south and the top of Glen Lochay in the north. This is a major project to gather these very personal and sealed envelopes from the entire population of this area. If there are any questions, we will give guidance at the next public meeting sometime in the spring. All contributions are to be returned by the end of October 2000.

The next step is to ask for local stones to build the cairn and cobble walkway. There will be two types required. The first type being reasonably flat and roughly square or rectangular to construct the cairn walls. Any size within reason will be used. The second type can be more rounded for the path around the cairn which will give a cobbled effect. All stones are required by the end of March and can be deposited behind McRaes' Butcher Shop, in part of the car park set aside for storage. As you can imagine a considerable amount of stone is required to select the best for the outside, but much will be used as base material. Once again community involvement in the project is important to make it special.

The cairn will provide a unique picture of the community and events taking place during the first year of the third Millennium. The next people to view the contents could be some of our descendants or perhaps Scottish historians of the future.

Alex Stewart



The Cairn will be approximately 1.8 metres (6 feet) high and will have four carved stone plaques

## Killin Gun Club

Shoot results for Open 50 bird DTL held 5 September 1999 when 35 guns turned out on the day.

Trap A: 1st G A Webster 75, 2nd J Morris 75  
Trap B: 1st E McAllister 75, 2nd J Scott & W Davidson 74.

High Gun Club & High Gun Open - D Robertson 147.

Highest Up Squad - Strathyre 362

Continuation: 1st J Sinclair, 2nd D Tilden

Local Trophy - E McAllister

Many thanks to D McRobbie, Electrical Contractor, Killin for sponsoring the above shoot.

Shoot results for Sunday 10 October 1999 when 19 guns turned out on a wet day.

DTL

Class A: 1st S Christie 65, 2nd E McAllister 62

Class B: 1st J Miller 53, 2nd J Ward 44

Class C: 1st J Morris 52, 2nd K Miller 41

Sporting

Class A: 1st R M Cairns 60, 2nd J Sinclair & H Campbell 51

Class B: 1st E McAllister 65, 2nd J Miller 51

Class C: 1st I Downie 30, 2nd J Morris 27

High Gun: E McAllister 127

Veterans Trophy: R M Cairns 120

Double Rise: 1st F Frost 44, 2nd E McAllister 41

Shoot results for Sunday 7 November 1999

DTL

Class A: 1st E McAllister 74, 2nd D Robertson 73

Class B & C: 1st J Ward 63, 2nd J Miller 62

Sporting

Class A: 1st A Gowans 69, 2nd D Robertson 65

Class B & C: 1st E McAllister 72, 2nd S Christie 60

High Gun: E McAllister 146

Ball Trap: D Robertson

Annual Trophy Winners for 1999

Agg. Shield: E McAllister 540

Runner up Shield: R M Cairns 496

Curry Rose Bowl: E McAllister 290

High Gun Suie Cup: E McAllister 146

Junior Shield: Cameron Frost 262

Classifications

DTL

Class A: E McAllister 271

Class B: J Ward 230

Class C: J Morris 220

Sporting

Class A: G Ross 258

Class B: E McAllister 269

Class C: J Morris 191

Many thanks to all the members and the Committee for their help during 1999 and to Helen and Emma for their help in keeping the office on the day of a shoot. Thanks also to our sponsors for their past and continuing support and to everyone who helped to ensure a successful 1999 for the Killin Gun Club.

G D Coyne (Secretary)



## Fund Raiser for Children's Fun Afternoon

John and Kath Leadbeater owners of the award winning Kilberry Inn, near Tarbert in Argyll laid on a fabulous cookery demonstration in Killin just before Christmas to help raise some extra funds for the Millennium Celebrations, Children's Fun Afternoon. The fund raiser was hosted by their friends Linda and Kevin FitzGerald, Dalerb with assistance from Judy Forster, Kilchurn.

Dishes such as Baby Belgium Cabbage Soup (Brussel sprout left over soup!), Leek & Stilton Soup, Stilton & Port Pate, Fraser Salmon (delicious), Date & Walnut Pudding (to die for!) served with Butterscotch Sauce (incredible!), were enjoyed by everyone.

Twenty-two ladies from Killin and surrounding area enjoyed this sociable and entertaining afternoon - as well as the champagne and cookery samples.

Many thanks to John & Kath who generously gave their time and ingredients for the enjoyment of those present and the children of Killin.

The sum of £340 was raised and donated to the Children's Fun Afternoon.

The winners of the raffle prizes were:

**1st** Tim & Linda Frost, Boreland -  
The large Fortnum & Mason Hamper

**2nd** Frances Gaskell, Ardchullarie -  
Lunch for TWO at Kilberry Inn. (we all want to escort Frances)

**3rd** Gillean & Bruce Ford, Invertagy House - Small Fortnum & Mason Hamper

**4th** Dickie & Mary Lewis, Old Mill Restaurant - The Fortnum & Mason Christmas Pudding

*John & Kath after the cookery demonstration with Louis, and Nico.*



## Killin Initiative

On 11 December, the Initiative members together with members of the Highland Games and Folk Festival Committees, held their first dinner since its formation. The venue was Cruachan Restaurant where the company enjoyed dinner and convivial chat. The Chairman Alex Stewart thanked everyone for attending and hoped that this would become an annual event, it provided an opportunity for new and not so new members to relax and socialise outwith the Committee Meeting atmosphere. Close co-operation between everyone enhanced a better understanding of how the events came together and worked. Alex explained that 2000 will be a busy year, and expressed his hope that the new information web site will bring Killin to a wider market.

Alex paid tribute to John Mallinson who had Chaired the Killin Traders during the transfer to the new Initiative. John had also Chaired the first Highland Games, and the Festival since its' first year. Without his vision and determination, the Initiative would not be in such a strong position to attract sponsorship and support. John was presented with a set of whisky glasses and a suitable bottle as a token of the members' appreciation of his hard work.

Alex Stewart



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## Leisure Learning

During the autumn a number of people in Killin and its surrounds enjoyed the opportunity to add to their knowledge during their leisure time. Glendochart Adult Education Group initiated several new courses which were run in conjunction with Clackmanan College in addition to the longstanding ones, like computing. These were Alexander Technique, dog training (although I gather it is really owner training!) and massage. The feedback from them all was very positive. With Christmas in mind, we also ran a short course on flower arranging, after a very popular "taster" course.

All the courses utilised local tutors and it is largely the availability of people willing to teach that limits the programme we can put together. So, we are keen to hear from anyone who would be willing to teach other subjects (and to earn a bit of pocket money), or from anyone who can suggest someone else who might! If you have a particular skill or knowledge but are nervous about teaching it to others, we can arrange for tuition to boost your confidence. We would be pleased to hear from you - Mary Storrar, Eileen McCarron, David Mardon, Margie Hinks and Helen Cole.

The following courses will be run early in 2000:

Alexander Technique: 6 weeks from 9 Feb. in Killin Primary School 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Art: 10 weeks starting 18 January in Killin Primary School from 4 - 6 pm

Art: 10 weeks starting 18 January in Tyndrum Village Hall from 7 - 9 pm

Computing for the Terrified: 6 weeks from 21 Feb. in Crianlarich Village Hall from 7 - 9 pm

Conversational Gaelic: 10 weeks starting 10 February in Killin Library from 1 - 3 pm

Dog Training: 8 weeks starting 19 January in McLaren Hall, Killin from 7.30 pm

If you have missed the start of a course by the time this goes to press, don't worry, still come along and join in.

For further details of Art Courses please contact Clackmanan College on 01259 220516.

For further details of any of the other courses contact 01567 820 497 or just turn up.

## Killin Traditional Music & Dance Festival

**16-18 June 2000**

Plans are now well underway for the 6th event. The early adverts and information leaflets will be in circulation by the time you are reading this. In this the start to the new Millennium, it was decided that the weekend will contain a few changes but still maintain the structure which has achieved success. Future issues will keep you up to date, but suffice to say more help is needed in committee to plan and play a role over the weekend. So, get in touch with existing members if you feel able to assist in any way. To date the following are booked to appear: Boys of the Lough with Ally Bain, Whistlebinkies, Gibb Todd, Judy Cook, Malinky, Donald Black and Malcolm Jones and Cowboy Ceilidh, some previous guests and others new to Killin, but well respected within the Scottish Folk scene. Others will be booked and by the next issue of the Killin News, the full line up will be in place. Killin can once again look forward to a quality Festival for everyone to enjoy.

Alex Stewart

## Carpet Bowlers

The Killin Carpet Bowling Club Open Pairs was held on Saturday 4 December 1999 in the McLaren Hall, with 38 Pairs entering. D & B Marno from Crianlarich won the cup for the second year with a Killin pair, N Forsyth and S Main, coming second. A consolation singles was run and won by Jack Kinnamouth of Fearnan. Everyone enjoyed a great day, with pairs coming from as far away as Crook of Devon and North Connel.

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## Scottish Women's Rural Institute

The Scottish Women's Rural Institute is a national organisation whose aims are to: **encourage home skills, consider family welfare and citizenship, preserve the traditions of rural Scotland, enhance awareness of Scotland's rural heritage, work for international co-operation and understanding amongst women, encourage home and small local industries, both individual and co-operative.**

Killin Branch of SWRI was formed 76 years ago. Killin is one of 10 Institutes in the Breadalbane Group, whose area stretches from Tyndrum in the west to Dalguise in the east.

A representative from each Group forms the Perth & Kinross Federation and the President of the Federation attends meetings in Edinburgh at national level.

Killin Institute takes part in most of the competitions and has a varied programme during winter months.

We meet in McLaren Hall on the first Thursday of the month from October to April and also raise money for various charities during the year. The Annual School Children's Party is also run by the members. A very warm welcome will be given to any new members.

B Macgregor (Secretary)

### Coffee Morning

**Saturday 29 April at 10 am in the McLaren Hall**

Home Baking Stall - Tombola - Raffle

All those unopened Christmas Gifts you received, which you don't really have a use for, or any other new items - please hand them into the Library for the Tombola stall.

Please come along and give us your support, the Sports Club and Pavilion are in financially dire straits and need your help to raise money.

You can help by: Donating - Attending our Coffee Morning - Buying Tote tickets from the Clachaig, Fishers, Coach House and J R News - holding some fund raiser in favour of the Sports Club and Leisure Pavilion.

The people of Killin don't have much by way of Leisure facilities - it would be tragic if we lost our Sports Club and Leisure Pavilion. This facility is used by the youth of the village as well as the older generation and visitors. The one thing the people of Killin do have loads of - is kind hearts and generosity - please give us your support.

## It's a Celebration



Celebrating their 5th birthdays - all in the same week were Laura Aitken, Jinny Dowling and David MacAskill. A Birthday Party would not be complete without some chums, so the whole of Primary 1 went to the party at Aberfeldy Swimming Pool.

### Molly's

#### Red House Spice Dip

4 tablespoons Mango Chutney  
2 teaspoons Dijon Mustard  
1 teaspoon Curry Powder  
8 ounces Rich Cream Cheese

Put all ingredients into a bowl and mix well until blended. Serve in a bowl or a half a fresh pineapple shell with potato crisps, stick of carrot, celery and florets of cauliflower.

*We are grateful to Molly  
McRobbie for the above recipes.*

### Kitchen

#### Savoury Biscuits

4 ounces Soft Margarine  
5 ounces Self Raising Flour  
1 ounce Rolled Oats  
2 ounces Grated Cheese  
Salt & Pepper

Cream the margarine & cheese and gradually work in the flour. Form into balls about the size of walnuts and toss them in the oats. Place on a greased baking sheet, flatten slightly with a fork. Bake 350F, 180C or Gas Mark 4 for 15 minutes.

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# A Village History

by Ella Walker (Deceased)

## Improved Method of Agriculture

The more settled state of the country in the latter half of the 18th century led to a large increase in population, and the antiquated system of agriculture meant that the land carried a heavier burden than it could well sustain, both of men and animals.

The 3rd and 4th Earls did much to relieve pressures on the over-burdened land. They built roads and bridges to open up the country and facilitate transport. Some of the sons of farmers were sent to England to learn new methods of farming. Gradually the old in-field and out-field system was done away with. Compact farms were laid out, rotation of crops established, with enclosed fields for the growing of turnips and potatoes, so that improved winter keep resulted in a vast improvement in the quality of the stock. Previously in bad winters the people had sometimes to resort to bleeding the cattle to eke out their meager supply of meal to feed themselves and their children. The introduction of the potato made a vast difference to both man and beast; Dr. Gillies remarks that by the end of the 18th century "the people were in easy and affluent circumstances" - but we imagine that "affluent" is a comparative term, judged from the standards of today!

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Actually the people possessed little in the way of worldly wealth and lived largely on a system of exchange and barter. The rents, however, had to be paid in cash and to make a little extra they sometimes resorted to smuggling - the distilling of illicit whisky - a practice which continued in isolated instances till the end of the last century, and there are many stories told of the stratagems employed to foil the hated "Gaugers".

Their farms supplied all they required in the way of food - milk, butter, cheese and meat, mostly salted. Porridge and oat and barley bannocks were made from grain grown at home and ground in the local Mill. Such luxuries as tea, sugar and baker's bread were unknown. Blankets and clothes were made from wool spun and dyed at home. One of our older members can recollect as a child gathering "crotal" the grey crisp lichen which grows on rocks and stones for dyeing. The wool was the boiled along with the crotal in a huge pot over a fire in the open air. This produced a ruddy brown colour, and the cloth always had a distinctive fragrance. Heather roots and oak and birch bark were also used for dyeing.

Household linen was made from home-grown flax; when engaging a maid it was part of the agreement that she should be prepared to spin 12 hanks of flax per day. This was dressed at the local Mill and spun at home.

Many samples of home-spun linen sheets etc., can still be displayed, the results of the industry of a many-times-great grandmother.



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# Royal Caledonian Curling Club Millennium Grand Match

Grand Match? For those of you unfamiliar with the great game and its tradition, a "Grand Match" consists of a meeting of ALL curlers in Scotland on a frozen loch. The last Grand Match was held on the Lake of Menteith in 1979 with 600 rinks on the thankfully thick ice, and many spectators.

Since that match, the ice has never been thick enough to hold another, it must be a minimum of 8 inches (20 centimetres) thick. After a 21 year gap, another Grand Match was held on Saturday 8 January 2000 - but this time with a difference. It was in fact, the first Indoor Grand Match, which involved all of Scotland's 28 ice rinks, simultaneously hosting between them players from 521 curling clubs. Over two sessions, 304 games were played, and 2432 curlers took part. This was as far as we are aware, one of the biggest team games in the world.

The organisation was such that in each rink, the games started at exactly 10am and 2.30pm. So, when the bell rang - throughout Scotland, 152 stones began to roar up the ice in 28 ice rinks from Stranraer in the south to Brora in the north. The simultaneous element was also extended to the curlers who stopped after five ends to take the traditional dram - one must maintain traditions!

As you would expect, our area was represented by the Breadalbane clubs of Killin and Glendochart. Killin was drawn to play against Irvine in the Galleon Centre in Kilmarnock and by sheer chance, Glendochart were drawn to play against another Irvine rink in Perth. The Killin curlers were Douglas McRobbie, Eilidh Taylor, Chrissie Fenton and Hamish Campbell (skip). The Glendochart curlers were Jimmy Reilly (skip), Stewart Christie, George Coyne and Peter Reilly.

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club organised this superb Grand Match, a fitting celebration of the game and the Millennium.



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## Obituaries

**Margaret Dunbar**, Falls of Dochart Residential Home. Readers will remember that in a recent issue of the Killin News we interviewed this



charming 102 year old lady. We are sorry to report that Mrs Dunbar died just before Christmas.

**Alexina Sinclair** (nee Stewart) died on 18th December 1999 at Stirling Royal Infirmary after a short illness.

Ena, as she was known to all, was a native of Killin, born in Grey Street in 1923 where she lived with her three brothers Peter, Hamish and John. The family moved to Monemore when the old houses in Grey Street were to be demolished. After attending Killin School, Ena, at the age of fourteen, began working at the Clansmans Mills, now known as 'Mill House', she also worked in Auchmore House for Lord Breadalbane and later she worked as signal woman at Killin Junction for four years during the War. She married Tom Sinclair who also worked on the railway and had three sons, John, Peter and James and a daughter, Elizabeth. They moved to Lyon Road where Ena spent all her life devoted to her family. She will be remembered for her kind and considerate nature, her sense of humour and cheery smile. Ena is survived by her three sons, her daughter and four grandchildren, Forbes, Inga, Lisa and Ian.

**Major H H Knight, RA, rtd.,** died on 18 November 1999 at home in Weybridge Surrey.

He was born in Killin on 20 May 1913 at Tigh-n-Duin and was always very fond of Killin and visited on several occasions over the years. His father, a previous owner of the Killin Hotel was killed in France whilst serving as a Captain in the Black Watch Regiment, his name is recorded on the Killin War Memorial and inside the Killin Church (Capt. Henry James Knight). Major Knight received the Killin News regularly and always enjoyed reading it.

He is survived by his wife Mrs H Knight, 5 Bridge Court, Springfield Meadows, Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey.

## Thank You

This issue of the Killin News reflects Killin at its best - pulling together and helping out.

We would like to thank the Millennium Committee for allowing us to lift photos from their video footage for use in this issue of the Killin News. Many thanks also to Ian Campbell for all his assistance, hours of his time and for demonstrating this superb equipment to us. Thanks are also due to Doctor Holden, Jan Willison, Shona MacAskill and Richard Shand for all coming to the rescue at the eleventh hour with quality photos - even our own Kay "Ace Photographer" who we slated in a previous issue - came up with the goods!

The story behind the scenes is that the lighting in the McLaren Hall colour casts and is not conducive to "snap" colour photography (that's our excuse!). As most of the events in the village happen there, it doesn't make our life easy. But, if we wanted an easy life - we wouldn't be in the newspaper business, now would we? - so we called in "the troops" to help out and we are sure you will agree that we have some super photos for you in this issue.

The family of the late Ena Sinclair would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support and for all letters, cards and flowers received in their recent sad bereavement. Many thanks to all who paid their last respects at her home and graveside. Sincere thanks also to the Doctors and Nurses who looked after Ena over the past few years.

John, Peter, James, Elizabeth and their families.

### Killin Community Bus

The Community Bus Committee would like to thank all who helped with the Millennium Celebration Events over the last few days of 1999. Particularly those who helped at the Childrens' Fun Afternoon on the Thursday, the Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea Party on the Friday organised by the ladies of the Killin WRI, the disco on the Friday evening and the Millennium Celebration Dance on the Friday Night. We hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. Special thanks are extended to Charlie and Trish Grant for all the hard work behind the scenes.

We would also like to thank all the organisations in the village who supported our application to the Scottish Office for a grant for a new bus. We were successful in our application and are already looking into the purchase of a suitable vehicle. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Julia Lincoln

Anne MacDonald would like to thank everyone who helped her to do the Trolley Dash. Especially Jane Kelly and the staff at the Co-Op, Mr & Mrs N MacKenzie for transport, Kay Riddell, Fiona Buchanan and Michael MacLaren. Many thanks to you all.

13 Monemore, Killin.

I would like to thank all my good neighbours and friends for their help and assistance and get-well wishes after my accident. I was quite overwhelmed. I am progressing steadily and hope to be in your midst hopefully real soon.

Mary Masterson

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# Stirling Enterprise Strengthens Rural Service

Stirling Enterprise (STEP) has further strengthened its Rural Initiative resource with the appointment of Colin Ironside as its new Rural Facilitator. Colin has experience of a wide range of business sectors and will be able to bring that to bear on economic development issues in the rural areas.

Derek Gavin, the Executive Director at STEP commented, "Colin's appointment is the natural conclusion to STEP'S ongoing commitment to assisting people and businesses in rural areas. We intend to build and develop the existing goodwill we have with many rural communities and Colin will be a key player in achieving that".

Jim Nicol, Enterprise Development Manager of STEP added "Colin's appointment will allow STEP to develop close links with local communities and businesses and tailor services to individual requirements. 35% of our current adviser activity is with rural businesses and we are looking to see this increase as the project progresses. Colin's first task will be to meet the key people in each community to establish how we can work together to the economic benefit of the area".



Colin would welcome hearing from principal contacts in rural business and community groups and will be available to meet with individuals or groups as required. The contact numbers for additional information or to arrange a visit are Freephone 0800 3893050 or 01786 463416.

## Aims And Objectives

The STEP Rural Initiative is now in its second year of development and is the outcome of research conducted for Forth Valley Enterprise and STEP into the needs of rural businesses. Last year saw a number of STEP IT and Business Rural Roadshows held in selected local rural communities. Follow up visits to interested clients have covered aspects of business start-up and existing business development. Interest in Information Technology and in particular E-commerce trading has been strong with its ability to allow rural businesses to compete in global markets.

STEP currently assists some 40 new rural businesses to start up each year and a further 60 established rural businesses to expand.

Colin Ironside hopes to achieve higher levels of business sustainability and increased levels of earning for those working in the rural areas. Information Technology is a key feature of the strategy as this

allows remote businesses to market products and services globally in addition to creating jobs requiring high skill levels.

STEP welcomes enquiries from all rural areas but will be concentrating their efforts in Aberfoyle, Doune & Deanston, Fintry, Killin and Kippen. These communities are seen as gateways to wider areas and already have a communications network in place. There are some 1,000

businesses in these areas which could benefit. Factors such as job creation, job protection, skills development and diversification are top of STEP's agenda.

STEP also believe the development of "smarter businesses" is crucial in rural areas. These are the ventures that are harnessing e-commerce and new technologies to increase skill levels, sharpen competitiveness and drive the business forward.

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# LETTERS



Dear Editor

## *The Millennium Fireworks Display*

*What a fantastic fireworks display the Killin Millennium Committee and their helpers organised at Hogmanay. It was quite magical in every way. The weather could not have been more perfect, with just the right amount of breeze to blow the smoke screens down river, as we watched the descending sparkling trails land on the snow covered rocks or in the water - just like fairy lights'.*

*This was the first time any of our own family have ventured further than Glen Lochay for the celebrations - having seen in 50 New Years in the Glen, many of them spent at Kenknock with the Hunters in years gone by, and the past 30 at Murlaganmore. We have only missed 2 since 1948 and this was due to extremely bad weather.*

*I wish you could have seen our grandsons' faces as they watched the fireworks with awe and excitement - and I must admit that their parents and grandparents behave a little bit like young school children too!*

Dear Editor

*The subject of Main Street parking was raised at the last Community Council meeting and reported in the Killin News, but no satisfactory solution has been proposed.*

*Where the designated parking spaces are painted, Killin Main Street is effectively reduced to single lane which demands intelligent and patient driving skills to negotiate, and misjudgements result in vehicles mounting the pavement, convoy reversings and general traffic mayhem. In particular, parking in the spaces at Pink Cottage requires drivers travelling south to move out towards Fairview garden wall just as the road bends right, restricting their line of sight, and once committed to advancing there is no opportunity to pull in to allow passing. The exit from*

*A most memorable and happy night/morning - a truly wonderful way to start the Millennium. I would be most grateful if you could convey our most sincere thanks and heartiest congratulations to all those involved.*

*May life in Killin continue to prosper throughout the coming year, and bring about companionship and care in this delightful corner of Perthshire.*

*Special Millennium good wishes to you, and all those who produce the Killin News - an excellent publication which we all look forward to reading in order to catch up with all the "news and views".*

*Jill Sleigh  
Binny Bridge,  
Ecclesmachan, Broxburn*

**Editorial Note:** Our own photos from the fireworks display were - not wonderful - and, we did manage to beg, borrow and 'steal' photos from all round the village. However, we still did not have anything which would do justice to this superb display. This extremely well written letter 'paints a picture' that no camera could capture. Many thanks.

*Dr Mairi's lane at Pink Cottage is unsatisfactory as a passing place; in fact vehicles attempting to emerge from this exit have to pull well forward to get a clear view.*

*Rather than completely abandon all Main Street parking, may I suggest that the few spaces at Pink Cottage be removed, extending the double-yellow line section from MacGregor's Shop. This will allow drivers a much better chance to judge their overtaking, a longer stretch of two-way traffic, and a clearer exit from Dr Mairi's lane. Although my family make more use of the above than anyone, my principal concern is with better management of the traffic flow and I will probably have to wash our front windows more often if they are not protected by parked cars from splashes.*

*David Hilditch*

Dear Editor

*On reading your Christmas Special Edition of the Killin News, I felt it necessary to write to you conveying my congratulations on a splendid issue.*

*Apart from the four superb colour pages, the overall appearance and quality of the production is excellent and I am sure this is the opinion of many. It is obvious that a lot of 'blood, sweat and tears' went into this issue and the Production Team must feel justifiably proud of it.*

*Once again congratulations and kind regards.*

*Richard Shand*

*PS When are you going monthly?!!*

**Many thanks to Richard for his words of encouragement. Monthly! - you must be joking!! Editor**

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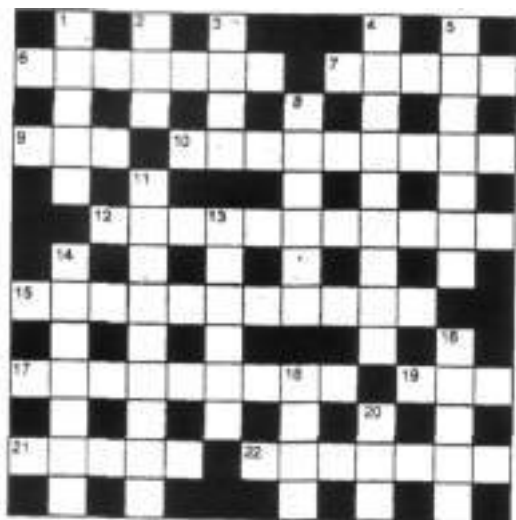
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## Crossword By Scorpio

### Across:

6. Stands on a relation (7)
7. Innards sound horrific (5)
9. Campaigning for nuclear disarmament (1,1,1)
10. Not of sound body or mind (9)
12. Earnest entreaty (11)
15. Confusedly tried insanity but found it damaging (11)
17. Satisfied as to truth or error (9)
19. The lid one way and jar the other (3)
21. A test of private resources (5)
22. Diluted and made less of (7)

### Down:

1. Eton's confused as to weight (5)
2. Employed to watch others (3)
3. Wound without Leader of Union can create fluffy feathers (4)
4. A side does better with this (1,4,4)
5. He has FA on his side if trendy (7)
8. Foul enclosure (3-3)
11. Little devil wandering, but still getting better (9)
13. Some fruit for St Clemens (6)
14. Animal check-up in act leads to being reduced in rank (7)
16. A primate having lost the King can be used in commerce (5)
18. Greek nymph who speaks back (4)
20. African antelope (3)

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## Christmas Prize Crossword Solution

### Across:

8. Elm 9. Good cheer 10. Mango 11. Dripped 12. Time span 14. Once 15. Ball 16. Year two K 20. Toy shop 21. Panto 23. Dear santa 24. Eve

### Down:

1. Permit 2. Amen 3. Igloos 4. Lords a leaping 5. Acrid 6. Deep snow 7. Dradle 13. Milky way 15. Betide 17. Repeal 18. Kroner 19. Chess 22. Noel

The two winners of the 1999 Prize Christmas Crossword, each in receipt of £25 courtesy of the Bank of Scotland are:

Mrs W Davidson, 5 The Glebe, Killin and Mrs E M McAusland, Ard Bruach, Lochearnhead.

**The Killin News would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bank of Scotland, Main Street, Killin for the past 9 years of sponsorship of this crossword.**

## KILLIN NEWS Production Committee

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## 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.

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# Millennium Babies

Ethan Joshua Cameron was born on 13 January 2000 to Stephen and 'Beck' Cameron, Westbrae Cottage, Ardeonaig. Weighing in at 8 pounds 12 ounces, he is a credit to the Cameron Clan.

Stephen and Beck would like to thank everyone for their kind gifts, cards and good wishes.

Villagers will probably remember Beck from her involvement in the Pantomime and Drama Club in the past.



Hello, Hello, Hello! On 17 January 2000, Claire McGregor was born to Pamela and Alex McGregor, Police House, Main Street, Killin.

We are not sure if they needed a police escort to the hospital or not - but we are certain Claire would have shouted, "It's me maw - me maw" when she arrived!

Pamela and Claire were only just home from the hospital when this photo was taken. Mum, Dad & Baby would like to thank everyone for cards, gifts and good wishes. Congratulations and welcome to Killin Claire.



## SSPCA

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is asking for empty inkjet cartridges, also empty laser and fax ink cartridges. These can raise up to £3 per item for the charity. I am happy to be a collection point for anyone wishing to save these. All they ask is that the empties are saved in their original packaging or any suitable container if this has been thrown away.

Julia Thornton, Balnacarie, Killin.

## Killin & District Art & Crafts Exhibition 2000

The Killin & District Art and Crafts Exhibition will be held in the Lesser McLaren Hall, Killin during the first week of August 2000. This advance notice will allow anyone who may be interested to think about possible exhibits.

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

We hope you will keep this date in mind and help us to make this, our first exhibition of the Millennium, a great success.

Any further information may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs E Lumsden, Riabhach, Glen Dochart, by Killin, Tel: 820 404 or the President, Mrs M H McNeill, Sandyford, Craignavie Road, Killin, Tel: 820 514.



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