



Every two months

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KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue 68 April 2002

Ninety Years Young - Joan Sutherland



On Sunday 13 April, friends and family of Joan Sutherland joined in a Celebratory Mass in honour of the fact that not only had Joan reached her ninetieth birthday, but they had been blessed to share in the life of such a gentle and kind lady - a gentleness which belies her strength and courage, coupled with an amazing ability to ignore the hardships of life.

After the service Joan was presented with a basket of flowers from Father Jim McCruden who described her as 'the Grandmother of the parish' and thanked her for all the help and support she has given to the church. Joan's husband Jim and daughters, Margaret from London and Helen from Australia, put the 'icing on the cake' by holding a surprise party at Croft na Caber. Everyone joined in a toast to wish both Joan and Jim continuing health and happiness for the future.



Life Goes On As Spring is Sprung

One of the great delights of living in rural Scotland is the change of the seasons from winter to spring. Nothing gladdens the heart more, after a long winter, than to see the lambs frolicking around in the fields, and gardens sprouting new life with daffodils following on from snowdrops.

This front page of spring from Killin News is especially for those of you who are unable to venture out of doors at the moment.

Another Wake-Up Call For Stirling Council

**This Rugged Terrain is The
Killin/Ardeonaig Road!**

See Article Page 19





Killin News Across The Globe



What do the Exuma Sentinel and Killin News have in common? They are both read by the Hoehn family from Ardochullarie, near Strathgryre. Bob and Karen Hoehn are pictured here with their daughters (middle L-R) Susanah and Jo Hannah on the tiny island of Staniel Cay (pronounced 'key') in the Exumas.

The islands which make up The Exumas also form part of the Bahamas, 250 miles southeast of Florida. The Hoehns had a wonderful holiday swimming in the turquoise Bahamian waters (yes that colour is real – we have not adjusted it!) with fish of every colour. The family also snorkelled in the famous Thunderball Grotto; a cave in the shape of a limestone dome, which has been featured in two James Bond movies and other Hollywood motion films.

Well, we were spoiled for choice which page to put this on – is it wedding or globe – it is actually both. Another Killin News 'First' that could start a trend – Killin News Weddings Across The Globe!

The new 'Mr & Mrs' are Andy & Joanne Brown who tied the knot near Brechin Ridge, Colorado in the USA on 22 February. Joanne (formerly Airey) is a familiar 'Killin face' as she owns and operates 'News First'.

Congratulations to you both and thanks for thinking of us all on your big day.

(Below) David Christopher Munro-Hart is seen here keeping up with the 'News' outside his playhouse in the garden of his home in Kent. David is the grandson of Mrs Sally Watson and son of Yvonne Munro who used to go to Killin Primary School. Sally said, "He loves books and the front of the Killin News is so colourful, he always grabs it before I can get a look in!"



(Above) This might not be far 'Across The Globe' but it is lovely to see some of Killin's more senior residents enjoying the Killin News. Annie Allan, a resident of the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home is the 96 years young mother of May Graham. Annie was born in Killin and lived in the same house in Killin all her life. She misses her old house, but is very comfortable and enjoying life in the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home in Killin.

£90,400 Grant To Help Save Falls of Dochart Retirement Home From Closure

You may have heard rumours recently that the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home was for sale, and possibly under threat of closure if a suitable buyer was not found. This certainly is the case. However, the Killin Community Council came to the rescue, and set up a separate Trust (which has applied for Charitable Status) to enable them to apply for grants to ensure the future of the home in Killin.

The Trust is made up of 12 local people with varying backgrounds in business, medical services, parents and those with the care of the elderly and the village at heart. John MacPherson was appointed Chairman of the Killin Care Trust Steering Group and has worked tirelessly towards the Home becoming community owned. John, together with Pat Christie and John Stewart were appointed to check out the viability of the Home, and as a result of this, nine different sources of funding have been determined and applications for grants have been lodged.



form of a £90,400 grant from the Scottish Land Fund programme, and an assurance from Stirling Council that they will also give a grant towards the purchase of the Home, provided funds can be sourced from other agencies.

This award will help the group to negotiate, and hopefully acquire the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. The nearest alternative care provider is 23 miles away, therefore the local community is determined to keep this crucial asset within the area. If the Trust's bid is successful, the home will be owned and managed by the Killin Care Trust, similar to the manor in which the McLaren Hall is operated.

New Opportunities Fund Scotland Board Member and Chair of the Scottish Land Fund Committee David Campbell, said, "The Scottish Land Fund was established to help fragile rural communities take greater control over their land and land assets. The Falls of Dochart Retirement Home is clearly of vital importance to the community, in an area with few services and no alternative care providers. This funding will help the Killin Care Trust own, manage and develop the home as a community asset that will deliver important benefits to the whole area."

Mr John MacPherson, Chairman of the Killin Care Trust said, "We are delighted with the award of this grant from the Scottish Land Fund, and the manner in which it was dealt with by the Scottish Land Fund. We anticipate that this award will be followed by confirmation from other funding partners, which will enable the Trust to proceed with the purchase of the only retirement home in the area on behalf of the community."

He continued, "This community purchase will mean that present and future residents of the home can stay within the community and not face the distress of having to move away from family and friends in their twilight years. The home is very much at the heart of the village - on the main street, opposite the school - residents are able to be part of daily life here. The home also provides employment for local people and community ownership means that we can look at developing other services for older people in the future."



**John MacPherson
Chairman, Killin Care Trust**

Understandably, these 'funding bodies' cannot move quickly, and although the Trust is pushing for a positive outcome as quickly as possible, it will take some time until the security of the home can be 100% assured. Hilary Martin, the current owner of the Home has also worked closely with the Trust and has shown great consideration in not pushing for an immediate sale, and instead waiting patiently to see if the community can obtain the necessary funding to enable them to purchase it. The village extends its appreciation of this to Hilary.

However, the first ray of hope has come from The New Opportunities Fund in the

Scotland's First National Park

The news will be a bit stale by now, but just in case you have been on a deserted island for the past few weeks, the good news is that after a great deal of hard work and persuasion by Killin Community Council Chairman, John MacPherson (photo left), the Scottish Executive have at last decided that the communities of Killin, Crianlarich and Tyndrum should ALL be included within the boundary of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.

There will be 25 members of the National Park Authority. Five members will be directly elected, there will be ten local authority nominees and a further ten appointed by the Scottish Minister. The suggested split of the ten local authority nominees is: Stirling 4, Argyll & Bute 3, West Dunbartonshire 2, and Perth & Kinross 1.

Thanks are extended to all those who lobbied on behalf of Killin

Killin Community Council

A meeting of Killin Community Council was held on 12 March 2002.

Nurses Clinic

No further information had been received.

National Park

Official information has been received that the village of Killin is now to be within the Park Area, but the exact boundary lines are still awaited.

Community Awards Scheme

The erection of the notice board at Ardeonaig is in hand, as is the purchase of a computer.

Waste

J Stewart reported that the ground next to the skip has been cleared for the possible installation of a compost site.

Christmas Lights

It was reported that the Police are following a positive line of enquiry into the removal of bulbs from the tree over the Festive period, and it was expected that the outcome of these enquiries would be made known to the Community Council when completed.

Killin Ambulance Depot

Concern was expressed about the use of the Ambulance from this area being used to transport patients from Stirling to Glasgow and Edinburgh, thus leaving this area subject to lengthy delays in urgent cases. It was stated that a meeting of Ambulance services was to be held on 13 March to address this and other matters.

Road Gritting.

No change on previous situation, which is unsatisfactory. The Community Council has informed police of this issue. It was also stated that a member of the community had also contacted various departments regarding the state of the Ardeonaig Road. Members expressed their concern again at the state of most of the road surfaces in the area, and would continue to contact the appropriate authorities about their concerns.

Royal Golden Jubilee

The local parent teachers association is arranging a street type party, possibly in the school playground; it is understood that this event would be open to the whole community. The Community Council agreed that they would assist by supporting any application made by them for grants, which may be available for such an event.

Highland Area Form.

This was held in the McLaren Hall recently and was well attended. Useful

discussion took place, but it was difficult to hear some of the speakers.

Planning Applications

C. Grant reported that updated plans for the Fingal Road Development and an application for change of use at the Golf Course had been received. No objections were raised by the Community Council to these at this stage. Copies of these plans are available in the Library.

Residential Home.

Chairman reported that matters are ongoing. Funding has been applied for from a number of sources. Should the proposals be fruitful, the Care Trust would also look at the case of providing respite care in due course.

Community Futures Workshop

This was held in the McLaren Hall on 2 February and was attended by about 100 people. The main items to emerge from the workshop were circulated to members. Concern was expressed about the suggestion to re-site the tourist office, but it was pointed out that this could probably be a summer sub office, in addition to the present set up.

Correspondence

Bank House is having problems with flooding from the ground to the rear of the premises. (Part of the proposed site of Fingal Road Development). The owner of the premises expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which the problem had been addressed by some departments in Stirling Council. However after prolonged consultation with Stirling Council and Rural Stirling Housing Association, the problem appears to have been sorted out for the present. It was pointed out, that because of site conditions the proposed development of new houses could be further delayed.

Killin Floral Association

After reading out a letter from the association, it was proposed by C Grant and seconded by J Stewart, that the Association should operate under the umbrella of the Community Council, for insurance and possible grant purposes. This proposal was agreed to, and M Hunter will represent the Community Council at Future Association meetings.

School Transport

After making complaints about school children, on the bus conveying them to school in Callander, having to sit on the floor and in the space reserved for luggage, for the whole journey, and following representations from MSP Dr Jackson and Stirling Council, First Direct

stated that it would not happen again. Despite this assurance it had happened again recently. The Chairman stated that should this continue he would again contact the appropriate people. Councillor Finch stated he would also look into the matter.

Police

A letter from Callander Community Council to the Chief Constable complaining about lack of policing in the north west area was supported and noted.

Killin/Crianlarich

Proposed Cycleway

At a recent joint meeting of Killin and Strathfillan it was decided to set up a steering group to look into this proposal. It was agreed that E Paterson and J Stewart be our representatives on the group. It was also agreed that Dr E Turner, Killin, although not a Community Councillor, be asked to become a member of the group, because of her strong interest in this project. Dr Turner agreed to this proposal.

It was reported by a member that it had been stated in the press that Stirling Council had allegedly underspent £2.296 million on roads and lighting maintenance in the current year.

Vantage Viewpoint at Cuildochart

South Loch Tay

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by a member of the community, wondering if it would be possible to turn the existing lay by and surrounding area into a viewpoint. It was agreed that this could be a popular viewpoint, as a tremendous view was now possible due to recent timber extractions. A Noble and J Stewart to ascertain the ownership of the area and the feasibility of promoting such a project.

The School/Nursery were considering the possibility of creating a lay by at the front of the school.

It was agreed that the attention of the local Police be drawn to problems of parking and speeding in the village.

It was regretted that despite the best efforts of the village officer, dog fouling again appeared to be on the increase.

The date of next Killin Community Council meeting and Annual General Meeting will be 14th May 2002, at 7.30 p.m. in Killin Primary School. All are very welcome to attend.

Killin Boys' Brigade

On Friday 22 March the Killin Boys Brigade held their annual Parents evening. The night was extremely well attended by parents, relatives and friends alike, with the guest being Mr Jack Rough. Mr Rough was a member of the boys brigade and travelled to London for the Queen's coronation and showed the boys a special pin badge that all the boys received in 1953. The events included Junior and Company marching, with Ryan Douglas winning the cup for the best drilled boy, for the fourth year running. Other events were games with a parachute and a sketch where the boys played (with varying degrees of success) 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire', this was followed by a play about how money should not be the most important thing in life. The night was enjoyed by all and was rounded off by a wonderful tea and cakes provided by the Parents' committee.

This year is extra special for the Boys Brigade in Killin as it is celebrating its silver anniversary. The Brigade in Killin was reformed in 1977 and has been very successful over the last 25 years. There have been numerous Boys and Officers in the Killin Boys Brigade but a special mention must go to the current Captain, Christopher McLarty, is the only person who has been



part of the Killin company for the whole 25 years, as a boy and officer, although Chris says it feels more like one hundred and twenty five years.

The prize winners for the year are as follows:

Juniors

Best Group: Boreland

Perfect Attendance: 1 year Monty Ogilvie, 2 years Richard Gibson

Gold Badge: Monty Ogilvie, Ian Hancock, Ross Davidson, Richard Gibson

Junior Section Quiz: Stuart MacPherson, James Lewis, Richard Gibson

Company

Best Squad: Squad 1 Peter Campbell

Perfect Attendance: 2 years Ryan. Douglas, 4 years Gareth & Steven Tigwell,

Perfect Attendance: **10YEARS -Timothy MacColl**

Best Drilled Boy: Ryan Douglas

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Strathfillan - "By The Way"

Strathfillan Community Council Meeting 3 April.

Jock Henderson wrote to resign from the Community Council as from 4 April 2002. Derek

Wilkie, Vice-Chair, thanked him on behalf of the Community Council, for his service, not only as Chair, but also as a Community Councillor. He will be greatly missed. Derek will take over until the AGM in June. Jock thanked Moira Robertson for her help whilst he was Chair and the rest of the Community Council for their support. His offer to continue to look after the notice board and the flower beds was gratefully accepted.

Participation in Planning

A community workshop led by Harry Smith was held at Albert Halls on 25 March and John Riley and Derek Wilkie attended, along with representatives from 7-8 other communities. They agreed to form a pressure group, as a pilot scheme, using the Internet and to negotiate with other organisations such as BEAR. The group will be cognisant with what is going on throughout the area. The group will look at local issues within the Stirling area, and act in a watchdog role, keeping a watchful eye on those who have much control over our lives, such as planners,

water, Stirling Council, BEAR. All groups who serve the public, whether privatised, public or Quangos. John was elected as convener.

Effie Crompton attended a scoping meeting organised by Forest Enterprise regarding the Tyndrum forest design plan, and its environmental impact assessment. The main points in the plan were:

- For practical reasons there is only one access point
- Care will be taken to replant in a way that will give long-term improvements to the landscape.
- The SAC is likely to be affected by decisions made now and is conferring with Forestry Enterprise.
- Timber extraction in the first 5 years will be in 2 separate periods of 2-4 months only.
- Part of the design policy is to provide information for the public about timber operations and to increase public access for recreational purposes.

A suggestion that a canopy of trees be retained near the railway was not practical because of wind-blow. The areas where local input is important are:

- Recreational use: John Wyllie (Strathfillan Community Development Trust) offered his assistance in the future.
- Design and landscaping of the forestry

road from the A82 to the railway bridge and the timber yard at the A82 access point, (to include a pond for frogs who traditionally spawn there).

- Watching for possible use of the railway.
- Strathfillan Community Council was recommended as a Statutory Consultee.

We have now received a Local Democracy Grant of £200 from Stirling Council for the 'Tidy-up Crianlarich Project'. John Wyllie and James MacLennan are to cut back the trees/scrubs, with Portnellan and Green Welly Stop helping with additional labour.

Kenny Hutton, Strategic Planning, said that Station Yard, Crianlarich, is now owned by Stirling Council. The internal departments of Stirling Council agreed on a way of releasing the road bond with the Roads Dept. and this has allowed the solicitors to conclude the acquisition, which was completed at the end of March. The department has no money for building in the next financial year, but will send a Development Officer to any meetings organised by SCDT for the future of the yard. He also suggested that in the interim period, between purchase and any development that we perhaps pretty the area with planters. He is to organise the removal of the debris at the entrance to Meadow Grove.

We are concerned about the lack of progress that meetings with BEAR have brought about. It was agreed to list all the outstanding items and send a copy to Sylvia Jackson MSP who is pursuing this for other areas.

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Strathfillan Community Woodland

On Saturday 16 March our tree planting day was blessed with liberal amounts of liquid sunshine! But it didn't dampen the day - another 350 trees planted. Gean, Bird Cherry, Wych Elm, Blackthorn (sloe), Guelder Rose, and 50 Scot's Pine given free by our suppliers 'Taynuilt Trees' - a very generous gesture and much appreciated. We had a reasonable turn out and the task was accomplished by 2pm. A big thank you to all who turned out, from the Woodland Committee; John Wyllie, John Holland and John Champion.

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Millennium Cairn

The planting of spring flowering bulbs by the Killin Floral Association, around the Millennium Cairn, has provided a colourful display throughout the past couple of months. Once the crocus, dwarf iris and mini daffodils have died down, the next phase of planting will begin, to provide an all year round display of flowers and foliage.

Unfortunately, the Cairn itself rather lets the side down, due to the accumulation of a thick, white deposit on the surface of both stone and carvings. This spoils the look of the stonework. Hopefully, something will be done about this in the near future, before the problem becomes all invasive. Unfortunately, this deposit started just after the Cairn was completed.

GF



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Free Swift Boxes to Good homes

As part of the Swift Biodiversity Action Plan, Stirling Council and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) Scotland have made 200 swift boxes to be put up all over Stirling district, in areas where swifts are believed to nest.

Some of the suspected swift breeding areas are Callander, Strathyre and Killin. Swifts prefer to nest in areas with other swifts, so it is unlikely that a nest box would be occupied in an area with no breeding swifts.

Swifts are almost completely black, apart from a pale throat patch. They are slightly larger than swallows and have long sickle-shaped wings. They are summer migrants returning from Africa in early May and leaving in late August. During the breeding season (May to July) they are often in noisy "screaming parties" flying very fast, close to their nest sites. Swifts usually nest in buildings with gaps where the walls join the roof.

If you live in one of these areas or regularly see swifts near your house and would like a swift box or two, then contact Jonathan Willet, the Stirling Biodiversity Officer on 01786 442768 or E-Mail: willetj@stirling.gov.uk If you take a box you will have to attach it to your house and we will ask you to fill out a simple swift survey form to record swift activity near your house. Usually it takes a year for boxes to be used, as young swifts prospect sites for use the following summer, but your box could be occupied in its first year.

The Scottish Crannog Centre

It seems no time at all since the Crannog was being mothballed for the winter months, but here we are now well into the 2002 season. The newcomers to the 'crew' had little chance for relaxation and were hard at work over the Easter period showing the many visitors around the centre.



Regrettably, the saga of the possible Croft-na-Caber waterside development continues. We were advised in February that the owners of the complex, Paradise Group Ltd., had lodged an appeal with the Scottish Ministers. We can only hope that the original decision by the Development Control Committee will be upheld and that the Paradise Group will then enter into full consultation with local interested parties and groups in order to arrive at a proposal which is acceptable to all.

A full programme of events is planned for the season, several forming part of 'Treefest Scotland 2002'. This is a year-long celebration of Scotland's rich heritage of trees, woods and forests and their important contribution to our natural and cultural heritage and economic well being. It aims to raise people's awareness of the range, nature, history, uses and benefits of Scotland's trees, woods and forests.

April 28 – Celtic Food Festival 11am – 4.30 pm

Taste the past at this annual food and drink fair which will feature spit-roast beast and other Iron Age delicacies! Come ready to sample local produce, dairy products, smoked fish, Scottish wines and more. Normal Admissions Apply.

April 28 – Celtic Cocktails and Canapés– 6.45 – 8 pm

Our evening entertainment will be Celtic cocktails and canapés around the flickering log fire in the Crannog accompanied by traditional Scottish music. Booking essential. Tickets £12 (members £10).

May 10 & 11 – **Scottish Wood Fair, Perth.** A 'Treefest Scotland 2002' event Visit our stand at Scotland's first Wood Fair promoting *all* uses of wood!

June 23 – **World of Wood** – A 'Treefest Scotland 2002' event 11 am – 5 pm. Bigger than ever, annual native-woodcraft fair featuring demonstrations of bodging on pole-lathes, deft turning on electric lathes, basketry, cane-weaving, and exhibition of many items for sale.

For further information about the Crannog and events, please contact us by: Telephone 01887 830583, E-Mail: info@crannog.co.uk Website: www.crannog.co.uk

Colin Scott

It is extremely disappointing to hear that the Paradise Group is taking this to appeal. Yes, this is a democracy and they are entitled, but apart from the ££ & \$\$ of this global company, what makes them think that they can run roughshod over such immense public opinion, as well as casting doubt on the professionalism of the Council departments involved in this decision?

As mentioned in the last issue of Killin News, a TV holiday programme advertising jet skiing at Croft-na-Caber referred to Kenmore as "An amusement park with a loch attached". That statement epitomises the Paradise Group's total lack of respect for our area. They are appealing a decision to stop them from building a monstrosity almost on top of the Kenmore Crannog. Between this and the other large timeshare development at Kemore Club, it makes you wonder what will be next – skyscrapers on the shores of Loch Tay!?! Unfortunately, Paradise Group are so blinded by the opportunity to make a 'quick buck' that they either don't realise or don't care that they are destroying the very thing that people want to come here for – our little bit of paradise.

Editor

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Killin Community's Future

The Vision: Following on from the work done for the Killin Community Futures Programme there has been a Vision Statement drafted, which brings together the key points about the future for the community in a single statement. The Vision Statement is one part of the Community Action Plan document. This document brings together all the elements of the action planning process (the Survey, the Interviews and the Workshop) and will be made available to all households in the community council area.

This is the draft Vision Statement for the Killin Community and we would welcome your comments and feedback on it, so please feel free to contact me, Sheona MacLennan on (01838) 300 377 or E-mail: sheona.maclennan@lochlomond-trossachs.org with any comments you may have.

A Service Centre

Killin is the natural service centre for the North West Highland area of Stirling. Its future depends on it maintaining and developing this role. It is therefore vital that it retains its existing services and that it seeks to develop and improve access to a range of other services.

A Beautiful Highland Village Within the National Park

We want to retain the qualities of a scenic highland village. A place that has a strong identity, which benefits from its surrounding rivers, loch and mountains, and which is a safe and happy place for its residents to grow up and live in.

Tourism

We want to continue to develop and promote Killin as a tourist centre - but in an environmentally friendly way and in keeping with our vision of retaining the qualities of a tranquil highland village.

Diverse Community & Economy

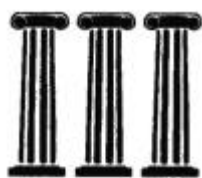
We want to avoid becoming a high house price, retirement village and will therefore seek to support a mix of housing, encourage the creation of diverse employment opportunities and in particular support opportunities for young people.

Sheona MacLennan



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Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

Work has finished on the draft stages of the second volume of Stirling's BAP. Last year we launched the first volume and have been taking forward actions from it this year. The free swift boxes is one such action, though not all of the other actions are as obvious, such as changing policy in organisations. However both will have long term benefits.

There will be 24 Habitat and Species Action Plans in this volume, including the 4 urban habitats; greenspace, transport corridors, the built environment and gardens. As we all have access to at least three of these I hope that there will be a great deal of interest generated.

Consultation drafts will be available to view in Killin Library and a limited number of copies are available direct to individuals. The consultation will run from May until the end of June and we are inviting comments on the plans.

The second volume of the Stirling BAP will be launched in National Biodiversity Week (31 August to 8 September). For more information please contact Jonathan Willet, Biodiversity Officer on 01786 442768 or E-Mail: willetj@stirling.gov.uk

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Tourism Minister Predicts Bright Future

Scottish Tourism Minister, Mike Watson, predicted a bright future for the local tourist industry when he spoke at the Annual General Meeting of Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling & Trossachs Tourist Board held in Oban on 11 March. Although few members of our local Tourist Associations were present, there was a good cross-section of tourism businesses and other local industry representatives from the Board's area and they had the opportunity to raise points with the Minister on current issues and future tourism priorities.

The Minister highlighted some of the new marketing initiatives underway at national level to counteract the legacy of negative publicity surrounding the major events of last year. He went on to stress the importance of continuing to work through effective partnerships such as the Area Tourist Board to take advantage of emerging trends such as increasing interest in heritage and the great outdoors, changing booking patterns and the growing use of e-commerce.

Speaking on some of the major initiatives taking place locally during 2002, the Minister said, "I believe the prospects for the area are excellent, as some of the most significant tourism initiatives in Scotland are taking place here. All evidence points to both the new Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and the Falkirk Wheel and Millennium Link becoming major tourism draws."

Tourist Board Chairman Convenor Billy Petrie welcomed the appointment of Lord Watson as Scotland's first Tourism Minister. The creation of a cabinet post for tourism placed the industry in its rightful place at the heart of the Government. He said that the additional funding allocated to VisitScotland and the Board had enabled promotional efforts to



Photo (L-R):- Tourist Board Vice-Chairman Cllr. John Hendry, Chief Executive James Fraser, Minister for Tourism Mike Watson and Chairman Convenor Billy Petrie.

be stepped up considerably at home and overseas.

There were a wide variety of concerns raised from the floor relating to such topics as the increased emphasis on on-line booking (13% of all tourism business is via email) and the cost to small businesses; the dreadful state of the roads and the amount of litter; the fact that the National Park funding of £4.8 million was more than the full fund to the whole network of Area Tourist Boards across Scotland; the need for better co-ordination of travel and travel links.

In general, those present appeared to be quite impressed with what the minister had to say and welcomed the fact that he is at least taking the time to 'sound out the tourist industry' before making any decisions. However, time will tell!

On a wider scale there does appear to be genuine worries throughout the tourist industry about the way Scotland is being

marketed to the UK and beyond. The almost total move into niche marketing and the abandonment of geographical marketing by VisitScotland gives cause for concern. Many feel that there is a place for both and it would be better for the industry in the long term to market both concepts.

Great Days Out Ideas Galore

Since the AGM, the Area Tourist Board has launched the new 'Great Days Out' guide, packed with 450 ideas for things to do and see in the area. The full-colour 56 page guide contains something for all the family, including historic attractions, museums and galleries, leisure centres, viewpoints, activity and leisure centres, as well as a listing of some of the main events taking place from now until late Autumn. 150,000 copies of 'Great Days Out' have been printed and are available from the local tourist information centres.

GF

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Killin Folk Festival

YES, it is going ahead this June – Friday 14 to Sunday 16.

YES, we will have a great line up.

Already booked to play are Begnish, Blazing Fiddles, Beggars Row, John Wright Band, Back o'the Moon and more.....

The booking flyers are available around the village and we encourage you to buy your tickets early.

It is no secret that the Festival has been plagued by doubts, the biggest being funding. We are not out of the woods as yet, but the future looks bright enough to go ahead. Please give your support if you wish to see future Festivals in Killin. We need manpower and money. If you can offer either please contact me, Lesley Syme, Festival Chairman on 01567 820424.

The Killin Initiative

The Killin Initiative has achieved a lot since its inception, but now is running into difficulties due to lack of funding and village support.

When the Killin Initiative was started some ten years ago, on the back of tremendous village enthusiasm, it was then called the Killin Traders Association. At that time the objective was to raise sufficient funds, which, along with commercial and other public funding, would be sufficient to start our first Highland Games. With this initial success we were sufficiently confident and ambitious to think about another event. This turned out to be a folk festival only because the timing coincided with the opening of the Breadalbane Folklore Centre. The First Killin Traditional Music and Dance Festival was just as successful.

For the sake of more effective fund raising we changed the name to the Killin Initiative and our new constitution gave us wider objectives, to 'put Killin on the map' through continuing to organise events and if possible to provide funds for selected good causes within the village.

Anything seemed possible at that time largely because of the tremendous support from the village but also because of the great camaraderie and drive within the Initiative's committees. We went on from strength to strength with each Games and Festival being just as successful as the last - all with the help of volunteers only.

This was recognised by the Scottish Tourist Board in 1996 by our winning their Thistle Award for Local Initiatives against competition from other bigger and better-funded organisations like the Edinburgh City Council and Renfrew District Council.

Over the years the Killin Initiative has been able to provide substantial funds to help purchase the Drama Club's sound and lighting system for the MacLaren Hall, the Killin Community Bus and the village hanging basket watering equipment. We also organise and provide any necessary funding to ensure that our senior citizens can continue to have their annual Burn's Supper and have donated prize monies for the senior golf competition. Not a bad record for a small group in a small village.

Apart from our first year, funding has almost exclusively been provided through public and commercial sources. Sadly, the new reality is that events such as the Games and the Festival can no longer be run without more immediate and wider based village involvement. As well as funding we need fresh blood to provide the enthusiasm and willingness that was shown some ten years ago when the first Games was started, otherwise we may lose them forever.

If any one feels that they can make a contribution please contact Tam Bolton, our Secretary and Treasurer, on telephone number 820162

John Mallinson

Killin WRI

At the February meeting, Mrs Hunter welcomed members and introduced Mrs Mylne and Miss Haydock from Balquhiddie who gave a most interesting talk and slide show on their recent visit to St Kilda and the Hebrides.

Mrs May Aitken gave the Vote of Thanks and tea was served by the hostesses Beatrice Beattie and May Aitken.

Competitions

Holiday Souvenir

1. Mairi Hunter, 2. May Aitken, 3. Mary Twigg

Knitted Toy

1. Mary Twigg, 2. Jane Stewart, 3. Monica Naismith

The March meeting was opened by the President Mrs M Hunter, who welcomed everyone, including visitors from Strathfillan and Balquhiddie WRI.

Mrs Hunter informed everyone about the success the Killin WRI ladies had in the Aberfeldy Housewife and Handycraft Rally. Three trophies were won. Well done ladies.

Mrs Hunter introduced Mrs S MacPartland who gave a very interesting talk on 'feng shui', and showed us how the use of wind chimes, candles, plants etc., could enhance the positive energy inside and outside our homes. It was enjoyed by everyone.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Mrs C Rew. The Hostesses were the Committee, Mrs Rew and Mrs A McNee.

Competitions

Truffles

1. Mrs Bunty MacGregor, 2. Mrs Mairi Hunter, 3. Mrs May Graham

Cross Stitch

1. Mrs Cathie Rew, 2. Mrs May Graham, 3. Mrs Bunty MacGregor

Jane Brown
Press Secretary

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The Queens' Jubilee

Oh Queenie, Oh Queenie, Oh what can I say
You've ruled over us for many a day.
The things you have done and the things you have seen
Have helped you to be such a wise Queen.

Now you are in your Jubilee Year
And when the day comes I wish you good cheer
Oh now I am finished I nearly forgot
I've been down to Leith and walked round your yacht.

Lauren Porteous
J5C aged 8

Jubilee Party

Killin Primary School is holding a fun day in the school playground on Friday 31 May, 12.30 – 5 pm, to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. There will be a barbeque, disco and a variety of stalls (coconut shy, golf shots, basketball shots, treasure map, beanbag throwing etc). Guaranteed to be a fun day out, and all the children in Killin will be joining the celebrations.

The event is open to anybody in the community who wishes to come along, and donations will go towards the playground development plans.

For more information about this event, please contact Killin Primary School.



Clan MacNab News

The Clan MacNab Society of North America (by far the largest MacNab society in the world and now the oldest MacNab society since the UK society folded in 1991) is sponsoring a gathering of MacNabs from all around the world, beginning at the Killin Highland Games on 31 July, and going on until 4 August.

The ancient MacNab castle, Elian Roan, which was burnt by the English in 1654, was located just outside of Killin, and the Chiefs' residence became Kinnell House for much of its history after that. This is where our famous 16th Chief, Frances MacNab of MacNab lived. He was the subject of the famous painting "The MacNab" by Raeburn which is now on display in the Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow. The MacNabs have had a very long association with Killin which is why we want to have our gathering there.

When we were there at our last Clan gathering in 1977 for the International Gathering of the Clans to celebrate the Queens' Silver Jubilee, we had 116 people. Now 25 years later, we hope to have 150 or more.

The MacNab Chief is James Charles MacNab of MacNab who lives at Leuchars, near St. Andrews.

David W McNabb
President
Clan MacNab Society
of North America

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Bakeware
Etc..... Etc..... Etc.....

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Killin Heritage Society

The 2001/2 syllabus ended with a return visit from The Quern. Their previous visit to Killin, in October 2000, was a great success for the Heritage Society and thoroughly enjoyed by those that bought tickets. On that occasion the subject was 'The Life of Robert Service' but for the visit in March the Society chose 'The Story of the Royal Mile' and the evening proved to be just as enjoyable.

The Quern are a very talented group of singers and musicians, several of them having performed on the professional stage, and the imaginative way in which their shows are put together means there is never a dull moment. A mixture of song, music, story and poetry, cleverly linked, is used to tell their story and the audience is encouraged to sing along with the better known tunes. The large audience was treated to a marvellous evening of entertainment, which was humorous, informative and pleasant on the ear.



A return visit may not be too far off as The Quern are planning to organise their own series of concerts around Scotland during the summer and Killin is likely to be on their list. They have a varied and considerable repertoire and it would be hoped that those of you who have already had the pleasure of seeing them in Killin would support them, as well as encouraging others to attend.

GF

BLS Kids Club

Coordinator

£14,976 (pro rata to 20 hours per week at £7.20 per hour with additional hours during holidays) You will be responsible for developing and coordinating all aspects of this new provision and will also be working directly with the children attending the Club. You should have experience of working with children in a group setting and planning/delivering child-centred activities. The job requires that you possess good interpersonal, communication and organisational skills as well as a full, clean, driving licence.

Playworker

£10,608 (pro rata to 20 hours per week at £5.10 per hour with additional hours during holidays) You will assist the Coordinator in delivering and planning Kids Club activities and undertake administrative duties. You should have experience of working with children and possess good interpersonal, communication and organisational skills as well as a full, clean, driving licence.

BLS Kids Club will provide out of school and holiday care for children (aged 4-12 years) in Balquhiddy, Lochearnhead and Strathgryre. We are looking for enthusiastic and committed people to fill the above posts from 29 July 2002 on the basis of a fixed term contract initially for one year.

For further information, a job description and an application form please contact Cath Murphy on (01877) 384368 or cath.murphy@shian.co.uk.

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 31 May 2002.

Glen Dochart Adult Education Group

For the first time, courses provided by Clackmannan College in partnership with Stirling Council Community Support, will be continuing into the summer term. Dog training in Breadalbane Park with Scott Wilson on Tuesday evenings we hope will prove useful for those owners and dogs attending. If successful and Scotty is agreeable, we hope to continue this course in September.

Oil Painting, in Lochearnhead Scout Station, with Ardell Morton from Balquhiddy has been so popular that the first class has moved onto stage 2 this term and another introductory course has started in Balquhiddy Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons. Upholstery, with Catriona McGeoch from Strathgryre, continues to be hugely popular and will probably run twice a week again this term. Contrary to popular belief it seems that not 'everyone' is too busy with B&Bs, gardening and other summer activities at this time of year.

As mentioned in the last edition of the Killin News, a 3 week programme of informative talks for parents of high school children is being organised by Suzanne Player, Community Animator. The subjects will be as follows:

- Opportunities for personal development whilst still at school
- Support available in transition period after leaving school
- Drug information

This series of talks will be held during May and anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. Dates and venues will be advertised by poster or please contact Suzanne for more information.

Suzanne Player, Stirling Council Community Animator 01567 820154



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The Frost Report

Spring Frost

Since the last Frost Report we have been to a march on The Mound in Edinburgh to try to forestall The Watson Bill, but to no avail. It is set to become law later in the year but the miss-match of parts of the bill make you wonder if much of it will ever prove to be actually workable. For instance, a person who deliberately hunts a wild mammal with a dog commits an offence but this does not include rabbits, rats and squirrels. What have the bunnies and squirrels done to offend the ministers and become second –class-citizens? There have been murmurs that the next logical step is to ban the use of collies for gathering sheep and outlaw sheep dog trials. I don't know what such laws would make of a story which I read recently of a sheep seen by a man researching into behaviour of moorland birds. A grouse nest with young chicks in was near his hide and along came a sheep and ate the chicks!



The Public Access Bill is still continuing towards the statute books. It seems that this will be a two-way, give and take situation at the moment. You will be allowed to roam the hills and fields as you wish but anyone will also be able to roam into, picnic in, walk the dog etc. in your back garden too! – maybe a little work needs to be done on this yet?

Recent research has shown that countryside activities and allied trades generate £30 million in income and 895 full time jobs. Politicians usually prize such things so highly, it is to be hoped that they are not forgotten in this wave of countryside 'reform'. At the moment vast sums in land workers' wages and maintenance costs are paid by land owners. Don't forget that when the land belongs to you it is you who will be paying the bills for paths, car parks and rangers. At the moment large sums of money are brought into the economy in rural areas by shooting, fishing and their ancillary trades. If care is not taken this is very likely to disappear.

But no matter what M.S.P.s and the like manage to do to the land the frogs, birds and deer still maintain their annual routine as season moves on to season. The frogs and toads are still moving to the ponds and burns in their annual pilgrimage – presumably croaking, "You can take our land but you will never take our freedom". It doesn't seem long since the stags were being fed in the snow and now this week (March 25) the pond along Glen Lochay was boiling with frogs and toads out on the mating game. Like a million voices croaking an amphibian rock concert. There were so many still moving down from the woods that you could hear the scrunch of the dead bracken beneath their feet. Some were struggling along, three tiered, on the way down. Some certainly looked as if they had had a night on the tiles (or the lily pads) as they were stretched out as if dead, floating on the pond surface. If touched, they wriggled off to a quieter space. At the moment the cock grouse and the cock pheasants are 'strutting their stuff' to attract the females with their brilliant red wattles and eye-stripes.

Tim Frost

Allan Walker 'Retires'



Allan Walker has retired from the Killin News after being involved with the paper for 11 years. Together with Sinclair Aitken he was one of the founder members of the committee, primarily as Assistant Editor and then Distribution Manager when organisation was needed for delivery of the paper.

Allan's assets are well known in the village – he could always be relied upon to write an article on any subject, whatever length was required, especially local history – he is the "Killin Oracle" on anything or anyone locally.

There have been many memorable moments in Allan's association with the Killin News and one that comes to mind is the trip Allan, and many of the committee, had to Burford in the Cotswolds, to receive our award from the Countryman as runner up in a competition for local village newspapers.

Allan will be missed on the committee but we wish him well in his "retirement". No doubt he will still be called upon to write the occasional article!

Fiona Inglis

Jubilee Fancy Dress

Saturday 1st June

McLaren Hall



**in aid of
New Year
Fireworks**



The Killin News is delighted to tell you that we have secured a grant of £1,237 from the Community Fund of 'Awards For All'. This money will cover printing costs of TWO primary 7 newspapers this year, one with Killin Primary School and the other with Crianlarich Primary School (additional costs will be covered by Killin News funds).

These two newspapers will be delivered through your door during the school summer holidays with your copy of the Killin News.

Did you know that it's Beautiful Women Month?

Facts on Figures

There are three billion women who don't look like supermodels and only eight who do. Marilyn Monroe wore a size 16. If Barbie was a real woman, she'd have to walk on all fours due to her proportions. The average woman weighs 144 lbs. and her clothes size is between a 14-16. One out of every four college aged women has an eating disorder! The models in the magazines are airbrushed - they are not perfect! A psychological study in 1995 found that three minutes spent looking at a fashion magazine caused 70% of women to feel depressed, guilty, and shameful. Models twenty years ago weighed 8% less than the average woman. Today they weigh 23% less.

Beauty of a Woman

The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen from her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides. The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole, but true

beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she shows. The beauty of a woman with passing years - only grows.

An English professor wrote the words, "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard, and directed the students to punctuate it correctly. The men wrote, "Woman, without her man, is nothing". The women wrote, "Woman! Without her, man is nothing".

What's on Offer at Killin Library

Videos and CD's

Current Offers - Hire 3 videos for the price of 2

Hire 1 CD and get one hire free

Videos 2 day hire and Weekend 3 day hire. Children's weekly.

See Killin & District Telephone Book for Opening Hours
Tel: 01567 820 571

E-Mail: killinlibrary@stirling.gov.uk

Killin Millennium Memories Video On Sale Here at £10

McLaren Leisure Centre

WHAT IS ON AT THE McLAREN CENTRE?

September 2001 until further notice -

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|---|------------|
| Monday | 10 - 11 am | - | Body Blitz |
| | 6.45 - 7.30 | - | Aerobics |
| Thursday | 6.15 - 7 pm | - | Aerobics |
| | 7.30 - 9.00 pm | - | Yoga |

Now Open - McLaren Community Creche

Staffed by "Stirling Creche Co."

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings
9.30 - 11.30 am.

Places must be pre-booked.

Osteopath

Morag Frazer will be available on Wednesday afternoons.
Phone for an appointment.

For more details or information on any of these activities
please contact reception on: 01877 330000

The Images of Mother

At 4 years of age - "My Mummy can do anything!"

At 8 years of age - "My Mum knows a lot! A whole lot!"

At 12 years of age - "My Mother doesn't really know quite everything".

At 14 years of age - "Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either".

At 16 years of age - "Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned".

At 18 years of age - "That old woman? She's way out of date!"

At 25 years of age - "Well, she might know a little bit about it".

At 35 years of age - "Before we decide, let's get Mum's opinion".

At 45 years of age - "Wonder what Mum would have thought about it?"

At 65 years of age - "Wish I could talk it over with Mum".

**Laura Willison
Dalchenna**

The State of Ardeonaig Road!

Comment from some visitors to the area, "We used to come to Killin for hillwalking, but now we come for pot holing!"

Linda Frost

You might be interested to note a statistic from the Killin News AGM. The Killin News has been downloaded from the Killin Web Site (www.killin.co.uk almost 3,000 times during 2001!

Diary For Outdoor Events

For a guide to exploring and learning more about the great outdoors around Stirling, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs, pick up a copy of the new Outdoor Diary.

A comprehensive listing of what's happening between now and December 2002, the Diary is free and is available from community centres, local libraries and Tourist Information Centres. Most events are also free and cater for all ages.

This year's Diary is bigger than ever and includes many exciting events ranging from nature walks, pond dipping and bug hunts to woodland crafts, archery and creative gardening.

To help occupy the kids during the long school summer holidays, look out for the School's Out events especially for children during July and August. For those who like to take an active part in caring for the environment, information on volunteer conservation work opportunities is also included.

So whether you enjoy exploring the countryside, want to know more about the plants and wildlife which live on your doorstep or are just looking for a good day out, the Diary has something to offer.

For more information about the Outdoor Diary contact Douglas Stewart on 01786 442875.

Continued From Front Page:

Wake-Up Call For Stirling Council Killin to Ardeonaig Road

If you've ever watched the RAC Rally, which covers some of the roughest forest roads and tracks in Britain, you may have had a yearning to pit your driving prowess against such diabolical surfaces and hazards. Well, you needn't venture far from Killin to experience such deplorable and demanding conditions. The photo below (and the one on the front page) show the Killin to Ardeonaig road – although you would be forgiven for thinking it was a poorly maintained forestry track - and as you can see, it has all the pot-holes you could desire for a rally.

Due to sheer neglect and lack of maintenance on the part of Stirling Council, sections of this south Loch Tay road will stretch not only drivers, motorcyclists and bikers road negotiating skills to the hilt, but will also give their vehicles a formidable and testing shake up. Residents, school children, visitors and tourists alike have to put up with these conditions daily – the situation is intolerable and totally unacceptable. In a recent newspaper article, some stretches of the road were likened to Kosovo and Killin/Ardeonaig hasn't experienced any cluster bombs recently!



A written response from Stirling Council in respect of complaints about the condition of this road was that, "Resources do not allow us the luxury of re-surfacing or permanent repairs". What a cheek! Since when has a public road been regarded as a luxury? A properly maintained road is surely a right to which everyone is entitled and which a large proportion of Council Tax is supposed to fund.

It is interesting to note that when the road leaves the area under Stirling Council jurisdiction and enters that of Perth & Kinross Council (just beyond Ardeonaig), suddenly the road improves greatly and is of a good standard.

The hoary old chestnut that the Stirling section is subject to more usage by heavy traffic than the Perth & Kinross section is a nonsense. The eastern end to Kenmore is subjected to the same pressures. It must be borne in mind also that this road has been designated as part of the Route 7 in the national cycle route system. As such, it is surely incumbent upon Stirling Council to provide a safe surface for the many cyclists now encouraged to use this road.

Stirling Council must be forced to carry out their obligation to repair and maintain the South Loch Tay Road before - and not after - a major accident occurs due to its present state of neglect.

Those brave souls who traverse this way today may take some solace from the tongue in cheek words or Robert Burns on travelling over rough roads in bygone days:-

**"I'm now arrived – thanks to the gods! –
Thro' pathways rough and muddy,
A certain sign that makin' roads
Is no this people's study:**

**Altho' I'm not wi' Scripture cramm'd
I'm sure the Bible says
That heedless sinners shall be damn'd,
Unless they mend their ways.**

*Article: Colin Scott
Photos: Scotty Wilson*

James Aims for Athens



James Lewis-Booth, from Loch Tay Highland Lodges, has just been selected for the British squad training for the forthcoming Athens Olympics, which take place in two years time.

James, who is eighteen years old, started rifle shooting at a very early age, and when he was just 11, he was picked for the Scottish Schools' team. Shortly after that, the selectors drafted him into the first squad to shoot at an international event in Poland.

We wish James good luck

Local Christening

The Christening took place on Sunday 3 March 2002 of Mia Charlotta Andel in Killin Church by the Reverend John Lincoln.

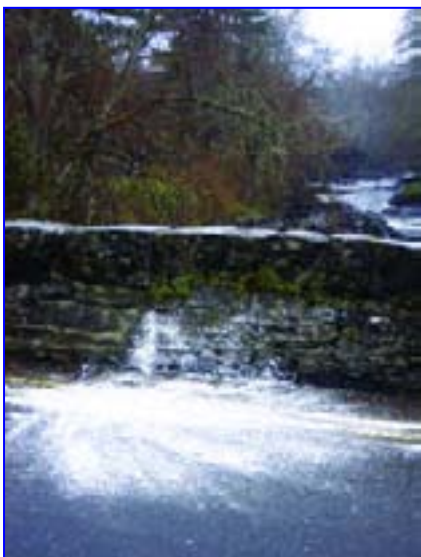
In the photo (L-R) are Mia's parents Margo & Patrik, Reverend John Lincoln, and Mia's aunts and Godmothers, Laura Willison and Eva Andell. Mia is the grand-daughter of Jan & Johnny Willison, Dalchenna, Killin.



The Falls Of Dochart The Most Photographed 'Falls' in Scotland!

So, did it fall - or was it pushed?! Regardless, the Dochart Bridge is now graffitied with white paint!

Hopefully Stirling Council will put this **high** on their priority list to be cleaned up.



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Look What The Stork Brought !



(Above) Proud dad, Scot Semple (Scot Electrical) is seen here with his new daughter Bethany Anne. Scot and his wife Lisa live at Auchmore Lodge, Killin with their other daughter Bryony who is delighted to have a wee baby sister. Looks like she could follow in Bryony's footsteps in this years' 'Bonny Baby Competition' at the Killin Show.



Greg, Vicky and Sam, 11 Ballechroisk Terrace, Killin, would like to introduce you to Sam's wee sister, Molly. Baby Molly was born on 14 March at Stirling Royal Infirmary weighing 6 pounds and 4 ounces.



(Right) This happy trio are Lee and Jill Douglas with their son Joshua who was born on 17 September 2001. With all these lovely girls just arrived, what a great time Joshua will have as the only boy!



(Right) Steve, Beck & Ethan Cameron, who moved from Ardeonaig to Harrietfield, Perthshire in November, are pleased to say they have double trouble, and double happiness, in their twin daughters. Mhari Rebecca and Carina Jo arrived on 21 January 2002 at 5 pounds 13 ounces and 6 pounds respectively.

Killin Carpet Bowling Club

Another season over; all competitions completed; the winners named and victorious.

We had an excellent prize-giving supper in the Killin Hotel on 6 April and the following received trophies or shiny cups:

- 1st League – Bill Rew, Charlie Grant, Jim Beattie, Doug Sutherland
- Knockout – Alex Stewart, Neil Forsyth, Dougie Livingstone
- Handicap – Chris McLarty, John Sinclair, Johnny Willison
- Points – Dougie Livingstone
- 2nd League – Tommy Lambie, Hazel Guild, Chris McLarty, Davy Sutherland
- Pairs – Johnny Willison, Neil Forsyth
- Singles – Alan McHenery

The new season starts on Monday 30 September.

Frances Gaskell

Successful Land Purchase Bid

The Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust made a bid to buy Dun Coillich, 1100 acres of hill ground near Aberfeldy. The bid was accepted, thereby enabling the purchase, by mid May, of this land for the people of Highland Perthshire.

Following the public meeting in Aberfeldy on November 22, a steering group was set up, and, with support from community consultation meetings, the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust was formed. This is now incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and has applied for charitable status. This Trust will formally own the land on behalf of the community. The support from the communities of Highland Perthshire has been outstanding. The purchase has been made possible entirely by generous contributions, both large and small, all from within our community. There have also been many offers of practical help and support for the project.

The newly formed Trust is needing members. To become a member, all that is needed is to pay an annual subscription of £10. Anyone may join, but only those members with their main residence in Highland Perthshire are eligible to elect Trustees and vote at General Meetings. All members will receive newsletters and their subscriptions will help cover the expenses of administration. Members will be involved in the decisions of the Trust from year to year, and in policies about other future projects.

Further funds are now urgently needed to provide off-road parking and access onto Dun Coillich, to initiate management and to safeguard its future. Part of this land is within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon Natural Scenic Area, and sensitive management strategies should ensure that the views, when seen from either Schiehallion or the B846, will be attractive to both local people and tourists. Developing the environmental potential will greatly enhance this area as a community asset. In this exciting venture we will all be part-owners of Dun Coillich. With participation and far-sighted management, this project can yield substantial benefits to all involved.

If you wish to contribute, please give a donation. Any amount will be most welcome. Cheques should be made payable to 'Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust' and should be sent to HPCLT at J & H Mitchell, 51 Atholl Road, Pitlochry.

We would also welcome any ideas for fundraising events. Please visit our website at www.hpclt.org

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Deadly Peril In Fruit Shop

This article made headline news in the 'Southern Evening Echo', the local paper for Southampton. Richard James is the grandson of Joyce James and the nephew of Moira Robertson both of Crianlarich.

A greengrocer is today lucky to be alive after a deadly scorpion crawled out of a box of Spanish peppers and Caribbean bananas he was unpacking. Experts say the creature's venom is so toxic that it is capable of paralysing the heart within 60 seconds. An RSPCA official was brought in to deal with the potentially deadly import after shop owner Richard James' scare in Southampton. At one point a group of fascinated children were shown the scorpion by 29-year-old Richard, who was unaware it had a killer sting. They even tried to talk him into parting with the creature for £10.

Richard called the animal welfare charity after deciding that the scorpion needed professional care. He said: "I had just put the fruit and vegetables outside when he ran out and started walking down the pavement as though he belonged here. At first we didn't know whether to just stamp on it or pick it up, but we decided it was only fair to save it, so we put it into a box and phoned the RSPCA, who arrived within half an hour. If we had realised how lethal it was, we would not have got so close to it."

This type of scorpion generally lives under stones in dry arid conditions, such as are found in Spain, and is a dandy colour to match its environment. At one and a half inches long, it was probably full-grown and more than capable of killing several people if cornered, experts say. An RSPCA spokesman said: "We have identified this as an adult Buthid scorpion – one of the most dangerous varieties. The venom from this particular scorpion can paralyse the heart and the respiratory system. At the moment it's the breeding season for these animals, and so they are at their most aggressive."

An expert from Winchester's Marwell Zoo said: "The giveaway is in the pincers. If they are small then the animal needs poison to kill its prey." The scorpion will be re-homed at the Reptile Rescue Centre in Portsmouth.

Strathfillan History Group

On Friday 8 March, Mary Anderson and Elizabeth McLennan gave us a fascinating insight into life in Strathfillan in the late 1800's early 1900's by way of extracts from the 'Paterson Diaries' (John Paterson of Kirkton Farm, Strathfillan).

From accounts of the 4000 cabbages being planted, with the footnote, "sent for more", and the acres of potatoes, wheat, turnips and hay crops, to the sale and purchase of sheep, cattle and the state of his overdraft in 1922 which stood at £1,500!

We tend to think of foreign travel as a fairly recent aspect of modern living. Well, not for 'gentlemen farmers'. John Paterson did the grand tour of Europe, his wife always referred to as 'the wife', never by her name, went to Lake Lucerne with the children. He was a man who enjoyed his 'treats', as he called them, and on occasions he overdid the 'treats' and spent too much on the 'treats' as reflected in his overdraft. He loved curling, and seemed to do little else during winter. He was not a big supporter of the railway, which in his opinion was 'over manned and over paid'. There were many photos shown on the night which we had not seen before, and all of them will be scanned and recorded for our archives.

This meeting of the Strathfillan History Group was so interesting that it went on until nearly 10 o'clock - we were nearly evicted by the caretaker! In my opinion it was one of the best evenings we have had.

John Champion

Help Help Help!

We are putting together a photographic and audio and document archive of Strathfillan. If any one has any old photos, newspaper cuttings, letters or documents which they think might be relevant, we would love to be allowed to scan them for our archive. The archive will be CD based so that it will be accessible to all who are interested. All items will be handled with extreme care and handed back to their owners. You can contact us on Killin 820509 for John Holland and Crianlarich 300236 for John Champion.

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Killin & District Art & Crafts Exhibition

The Killin & District Exhibition will be held in the Lesser McLaren Hall, Killin during the first week of August.

All proceeds from the Exhibition go to local charities. Any further information may be obtained from Betty Lumsden, Riabhach, Glen Dochart, by Killin. Tel: 01567 820 404 (Secretary), or Helen McNeill, Sandyford, Craignavie Road, Killin, Tel: 01567 820 514 (President).

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House Rabbits

Most people keep their rabbits in the garden, but it is becoming increasingly popular to keep them indoors. One of the major advantages of this is that you and your rabbit will see more of each other.

You will need to buy a roomy hutch and a pen for the rabbit. It is important that your rabbit it is not allowed loose without supervision. Rabbits love to chew and electricity and telephone cables are a huge temptation with potentially life threatening results. They will also chew any wood available.

Your penned area will need to be interesting so that your rabbit doesn't become bored when you are not around. It is very important that your pen is on an area that can be washed. To avoid the hutch smelling you will need to keep it clean. House rabbits have the same dietary requirements as garden rabbits – see previous issue of the Killin News.

Rabbits are very clean animals and most can be house trained. It has been found that if you supply a rabbit with a litter tray and litter they will usually use it. Rabbits will tend to have a favourite corner for urinating in – this is the best place to site the tray. There is a book available from TSH on house training rabbits

Indoor rabbits are unlikely to come into contact with wild rabbits – therefore vaccination against VHD and Mixomatosis is less important. One thing you do need to consider carefully, is that once you have bought a rabbit and decided to keep it indoors you can't just change your mind and put your rabbit outside – particularly in the winter. It is a good idea to have an outdoor hutch and run for your rabbit so that it can go out during the summer in good weather. This way it will be used to being outdoors. If you decided you no longer want your rabbit indoors you will need to slowly acclimatise to outdoors first.

Good luck with your rabbit and write to me with any problems and, or stories.

Gill Hunt

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Chaos In The Park!



“So pooch pals, when do the Obedience Classes For Children begin?”

The dog obedience classes started in Breadalbane Park last week. The Park had been specially reserved for these classes, but unfortunately some local children were not quite so obedient and distracted the dogs by whistling and shouting to such an extent that the class has been forced into finding an alternative venue.

Children of Killin, this was a really bad show - and bad news for the Park also, as the class was paying for the few hours hire of the Park. So come on kids - we are doing our best to help you all with Youth Groups etc., show a bit of respect for other users of the Park.

The Dog Training classes will continue to meet at the Park but will then move on to another site. For more information, contact Suzanne Player on 01567 820154.

Editor

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A Dogs “Tail” End !

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who you are
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and to pastures new
I love going for a walk,
just me and you.

I have a problem of which
I need to tell you
I'm embarrassed to say
it's about my poo
You dispose of yours
by flushing the loo
But leave mine lying around
to stick to folks shoe.

It's not my fault if I'm caught
short on the street
But it's not designed
to adorn your feet
I couldn't help it,
and it's not a sin
All you have to do is lift it,
and put it in the bin.

It doesn't look nice,
and hygienic its not
And if all poos are left
it's really a lot
So save my embarrassment
and save my face
And make the streets
a much cleaner place.

So next time we go out,
make me happy not sad
Lift a pooper scooper
or placky bag
So if I have an urge
and really can't wait
I'm not leaving my poo
at somebody's gate.

Thank you owner,
I know you'll understand
Now why dogs best friend
will be man
So between us we'll keep
the streets of Killin clean
I'm sure you love me
and know what I mean.

DG

Obituary

Isobella Shearer. Bella Shearer died on 12 February 2002 aged 86. She was the widow of Bert Shearer and mother of John, Ella, Bert, Danny and Norma. The Shearers were natives of Orkney and came to Killin in the 1950's.

Bella was a well known figure in the village and lived in Lyon Road. She maintained her links with the Island of Sanday where she herself was one of a family of nine. Her daughter Ella lives in Killin.

AW

Dates For Your Diary

**Killin Agricultural Show
17 August
Breadalbane Park**

Marquee Dance on the evening of the Show



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The Trauma Pack

Leading Firefighter Alan Brodie, Tyndrum Station, and Leading Firefighter Jimmy Allardice, Crianlarich Station, gave a presentation on the New First Aid Pack, known as The Trauma Pack. All first line fire appliances in Central Scotland Fire Brigade will carry one.

Our local fire crews requested permission to be able to use the packs for the benefit of both the local population and visitors to the area. It took some persuasion, but permission has been granted. If a situation arises where emergency first aid can be of benefit, **FIRST CALL THE AMBULANCE, And THEN CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE.** The fire brigade is not the ambulance service, but can offer emergency first- aid until the ambulance arrives. It can take a minimum of 20 minutes for an ambulance to arrive, and many of our local firefighters are trained in first aid, and, with this new pack, will be able to offer effective treatment until the ambulance arrives. This could be life saving.

This presentation was to make the public aware that this service is available. Most of the crew in both stations are first aid trained, and the fire service training is over 4 days and is in-depth. The crews are on call 24 hours a day and the response rate is 4 - 5 minutes.

The pack includes: -

- Oxygen therapy, which can be used, for example, in cases of smoke inhalation, heart attacks, and road traffic accidents. The cylinder delivers 15 litres of oxygen a minute.
- CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) kit, which is a very simple, but effective device. Its use is for heart massage. A small box is placed over the heart, (just below sternum) and a signal beeps to the rhythm of the compressions, and a light flashes to inform the operator of the pressure being used. It is harder to do correctly than imagined, and also very tiring.
- A mouth-to-mouth resuscitator, which can be operated with one hand. Pressure is adjusted when given to a child.
- Cool packs for putting on burns.
- "Splint" packs for stabilizing broken bones.

- Neck braces, which have an adjustable width. These are used in all cases when there is a possibility of damage to the spine.

- A camera to take photos of the situation. e.g. the point of impact to the vehicle. The photo is pinned to the clothing of the patient and it enables the hospital staff to understand potential injuries. The photographs are of the mechanics, not the people, and the photos are destroyed after use.

The first rule of a first aider is "do no harm" and the second is "treatment carried out in the golden hour saves lives". The fire brigade no longer just treats fires, but is an integral part of the rescue service.

The Tyndrum fire crew had won the All Scotland RTA Championship, and came 23rd in the All British Championship. They need sponsorship to compete in the World Championship.

Moir Robertson
Strathfillan Correspondent

Scottish Agricultural College Open Day

The Scottish Agricultural College's Hill and Mountain Research Centre at Auchtertyre Farm, Tyndrum, held a "Land Use Awareness" open day on March 7, to which all local tourist association members and local tourist related businesses were invited. Twenty-three people attended and the event provided the opportunity to learn more about the workings of the countryside that our visitors come to see.

Various topics were covered – Hill Farming, Forestry, Deer Management, Public Access (Land Reform Bill), Natural History and the National Park. Tony Waterhouse welcomed participants, who were then divided into two groups to move about the farm. On hand to provide information and to answer any questions were the following: Nick Mainprize, Woodland Officer, Forestry Commission, Perth Conservancy, who described the role that forestry plays in land use within the area and how a local Forestry Framework is being formed to help set future policy.

Neil Rowantree, Senior Ranger with Forest Enterprise in Aberfeldy, provided an overview of the deer calendar, management methods and equipment, and explained the role that venison sales and stalking can play in the rural economy. Visitors obviously delight in seeing deer but our largest and most frequently seen wild mammal creates problems for farmers and foresters.

Tony Waterhouse explained how hill sheep, and to a lesser extent hill cattle, are the biggest land users in the area and an important part of the history and social fabric, but there is a delicate balance with nature conservation.

John Wyllie, of SAC, described the new footpaths, in addition to the West Highland Way that passes through their farms, and explained the issues of land use which interact with access in the light of the Land Reform Bill.

John Holland, of SAC, gave a superbly illustrated talk on the richness of the area's flora and how some examples interact with land use issues.

Tim Edwards, Visitor Services manager, Interim Committee for Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, brought everyone up to date with the process of establishing the park and highlighted how land use and public enjoyment of the



countryside interact.

There were opportunities to take the self guided Woodland Walk and to gather information on other footpaths in the area, to view the successful Strathfillan wigwam development and to hear about the mini Hydro-Electric scheme. It was a very informative and enjoyable afternoon, the views were fantastic and the weather was amazingly dry.

However, it must have been rather

disappointing for those who had put so much effort into organising the event to see a relatively small percentage take up the invitation to attend. A major point for any tourism business should be to "know your area". It is open days and events such as this that are a great help in supplying that information as well as providing opportunities to develop relationships between those who work directly on the land and those who use it for recreation.

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Scottish Community Drama Association

Festival of One Act plays 2002

This year Killin Drama Club took two one act plays to Fintry, the first was "One Down, Three Across" produced by Lesley Syme, and the second was "Forsaking all Others" produced by Tam Bolton. We were competing against Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society, Thornhill Players and Riverside Drama Club with Dollar Drama Club as a non-competitive guest team. We all had a really enjoyable time - we even picked up a few tips which no doubt you will see in future shows!

The Winner of the Stirling District round was Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society with scenes from Joan Littlewood's musical entertainment "Oh, What a Lovely War" and the runners up were Thornhill Players with "The Proposal" by Anton Chekhov. The award for best moment in theatre was presented to Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society, and the award for the best production depicting Scottish Life and Character was presented to Riverside Drama Club with "Bessie Bell and Mary Gray" by John MS McCabe.

plays are performed over two nights, and a professional adjudicator addresses the audience at the end of each evening with his opinion of each production. The production, scenery, lighting, sound and acting are all marked along with points for general achievement, and after the Saturday performance, the trophies are presented. You will be aware that in recent years Killin has sent teams to compete, and we hope to enter at least one team next year. The festival takes place over 2 or 3 days in late February, and details will be published in due course.

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For your chance to see the Killin entries come along to "Another Evening with Killin Drama Club" on 3 and 4 May when you can see them alongside a selection of comedy sketches. The hall will take on a 'café' atmosphere with tea and wine being served at tables rather than the traditional seating arrangements.

Drama Festival 2003

Amongst the audience at this year's Pantomime were representatives from the Scottish Community Drama Association, and are delighted that they were impressed with the facilities on offer and have agreed to stage next year's Stirling District round, here in Killin. Usually six

Competition is expected to be as strong as ever, and those expected to attend include Stirling Riverside, a group with great experience and past successes, Thornhill Players who appeared this year with a strong Chekhov play, and former hosts Fintry, who have the strongest of teams, having qualified to appear in the Scottish Final for 2 out of the past 3 years. Killin Drama Club hopes to enter at least one team - but make no mistake, the competition is tough. Whatever the outcome, we'll be hoping to count once more on our faithful, local support.

Liz Stevens & Gordon Hibbert



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Killin Youth Group

The Killin Youth Group received a kind donation from the skateboarders in Killin. Last summer the skateboarders organised a sponsored cycle round Loch Tay to raise money for a skate park. Many people in the village sponsored the boys, but sadly the skate park project had to be abandoned as it would be too costly. So, the sponsorship money was passed on to the new group, the Killin Youth Group.

On behalf of the Killin Youth Group, we would like to thank all the people who donated money. We are hopeful that we will soon have a new place for the youth of Killin to 'hang out' in. Thank you very much.

Linzi Stewart
Secretary

Diet Facts

The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans. On the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Conclusion: Eat what you like. It's speaking English that kills you!

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Mervyn's Weather

There is from time to time a certain amount of confusion on the media regarding the advent of spring. In diaries and on calendars the 'official' date of commencement is given as March 21, coinciding with the spring equinox. In practice however, perhaps a tidier method would be to divide the year into four, three monthly stints i.e. December, January and February, Winter; March, April, May, Spring, and so on. Obviously in any one year to some extent there could be overlaps weather wise.



Easter on the other hand is 'a moveable feast'. Easter Sunday being determined as being the first Sunday following the first full moon subsequent to March 24. In 2002 this full moon was on the 28 of the month and was indeed impressive, the sky being entirely cloudless. The first time this had occurred for many weeks.

The reasonably dry and sunny spring of 2001 followed a fairly 'traditional' winter of alternating cold snowy spells and milder interludes. 2002 however has, over late winter and early spring, reverted to what we have come to expect during the past decade. There has been a monotonous succession of low-pressure systems complete with torrential rain and gales, leaving man and beast, and indeed the land battered and sodden. Only in the last ten days or so has the mould been cracked and a few delightfully sunny and mild days have occurred which served to gladden our souls. 24 inches of rainfall – probably much more in places such as Tyndrum – over three months can be quite depressing!!

It is perhaps interesting to observe that the above figure of 24 inches constitutes an amount not far short of the Ardtalnaig average annual total. Despite this, the two vulnerable points on the south Loch Tay road, 'Fat man's bay' and the Acharn fish farm, where the road can become impassable under three or more feet of flood water, have not been affected. This is most likely due to the fact that although the very highest ground over 3,000 feet has had fairly constant deep snow cover there have been few general falls and even at levels up to 2,000 feet cover has been transient and light. Although rainfall at times has been torrential over several consecutive days, without substantial additional snow melt, the flooding potential has been curtailed.

At one time shepherds, stalkers, and other hill men wore good quality sprung-soled and well tacketed hill boots, or on drier hills 'Hill Shoes', at all seasons. Nowadays,

certainly during the winter, Wellie boots are 'de rigueur'. On the one hand the winters have become so wet that nothing short of rubber cladding – some would suggest thigh waders or even wet suits! – are of any use. On the other hand it is virtually impossible to get decent waterproof leather boots made of properly seasoned horse hide or 'Zug' leather and even the tackets are made of inferior metal and do not wear well. ATV's and Argocats require reinforced breeches but save footwear!!

Mervyn K Browne
Ardtalnaig – 31 March 2002

1st Killin Brownies

The 1st Killin Brownies re-starts on Monday 15 April at 6 pm in the Sports Pavilion.

Can You Help?

The Brownies are looking for local quilting memorabilia for their forthcoming re-launch party. Date still to be confirmed.

Crossword by Scorpio

Issue 68

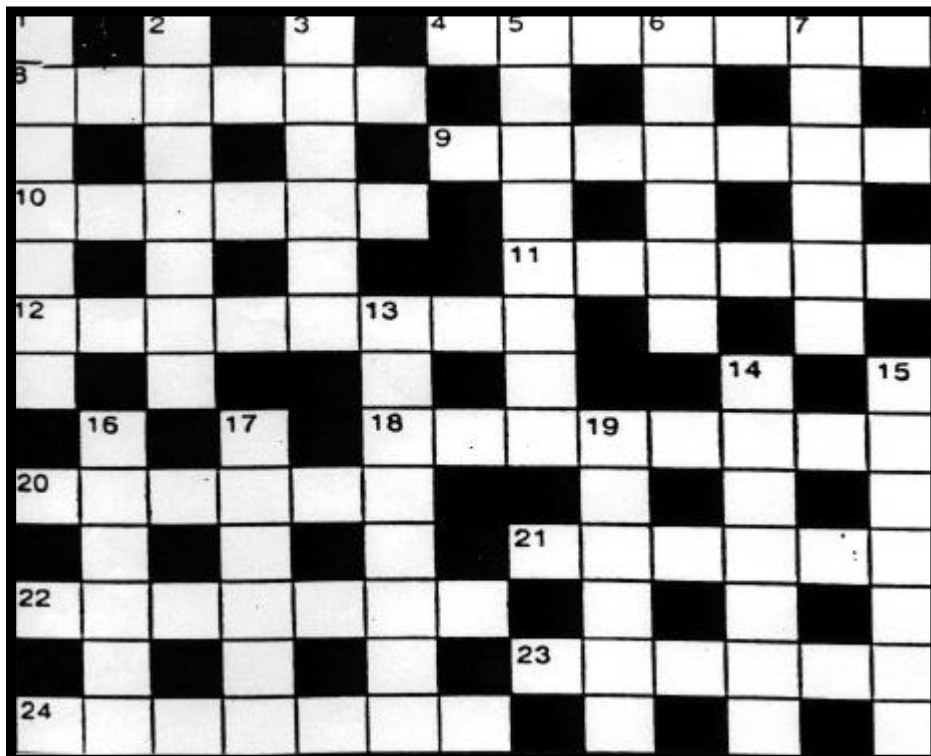
Across

- 4 Not just the usual (7)
8 They cut through everything (6)
9 The pleasure modern pop performers give? (7)
10 French soup or a container for the elderly (6)

- 11 Rouse (6)
12 Story teller partly ancient (8)
18 Heal less people with a marine product (3,5)
20 Rugby score – not in! (3,3)
21 Not such a bad wager (6)
22 Excessive (7)
23 Looks away (6)
24 A senile person (1,6)

Down

- 1 I claim to be a fairy (2,1,4)
2 Deceive as double duration (3,4)
3 “Beaver state” of N.W. America (6)
5 Drama compound or place for fun and games (4,4)
6 Feline forty winks enjoyed by humans (3,3)
7 Approved silver marsh weed (6)
13 Habit with hesitation produces client (8)
14 A new beginning (7)
15 Circle first left to reach plant supplier (7)
16 Land by string circle (6)
17 Tender treatment comes from firm, ship and French (6)
19 Put away in Switzerland or sometimes Helvetia (6)



Solution to Last Crossword

Across

4. mudlark, 8. rhesus, 9. treadle, 10. lethal, 11. ignore, 12. competes, 18. modulate, 20. tee off, 21. agaric, 22. mistook, 23. unreal, 24. planets.

Down

1. frolics, 2. tea time, 3. curate, 5. upraised, 6. learns, 7. rulers, 13. Tim Frost, 14. married, 15. percale, 16. genial, 17. soften, 19. urgent.

Thank You

Taff Mantle of The Glebe would like to thank all who helped him when he was in the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh for his operation. Particular thanks to all the doctors and nurses, especially the local ones. Many thanks also to all who sent cards, asked after him, visited or phoned. Thank you all very much.

Scott, Lisa and Bryony Semple would like to thank everyone for all their help, cards, gifts and good wishes upon the birth of their second daughter, Bethany Anne.

Vicky and Greg, 11 Ballechroisk Terrace, would like to thank everyone in and around the village for all the lovely gifts and cards received on the arrival of their new baby Molly. And a special thanks to Ellen and Jock Stewart who came to their aid at their time of need.

Mary Hunter would like to thank all her friends and relatives for the kind wishes, cards and gifts she received during her recent stay in hospital. She is now well on the road to recovery.

Ruth Campbell would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at Stirling Royal Infirmary for all their kindness during her stay in ward 18. She would also like to thank everyone who sent cards and gifts. And a very special thanks to Jake for everything.

Steve, Beck and Ethan Cameron would like to thank all who sent cards, best wishes and gifts following the birth of their twins, Mhari Rebecca and Carina Jo. They will soon be visiting Killin again – as soon as mummy can get everyone organised in less than 2 hours!

Stuart Forster Electrician

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The new adult learning programme will be available from the end of March in all local libraries. Alternatively if you would like to be put on our mailing list or would like specific information about adult learning please contact Ian McCourt on 01877 331766 or E-Mail mccourt@stirling.gov.uk

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Killin News



**The deadline for copy, and advertising
for the next issue of the Killin News, is:**

Friday 7 June 2002

This will be distributed around 28 June.

**Notification of events occurring during late June,
July and August must be in this Issue.**

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. Articles and adverts are accepted and printed in good faith.

If you would 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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We were delighted to receive our first entry in the Short Story Competition (below). Perhaps this will inspire more of you - adults or children to put pen to paper.

Orlando And Juliet

In a land far away, a lady named Juliet lived in a castle. She was not a perfect person who had lovely ball gowns and pearl earrings. She was just an entertainer to King Alfred, The Evil King.

One-day news came through the door. It was a note saying a Prince and the King and Queen were moving into the mansion over the next five hills. Juliet wanted to meet this Prince, but King Alfred did not like the sound of this family, for he thought that two kings couldn't rule one country, so he did not allow it.

A week later Juliet was desperate, so she sneaked out at midnight to meet the prince. When she got to the mansion the Prince was sleeping on the balcony. Juliet shouted out loud, "Excuse me, excuse me". The Prince woke up and invited her into the house. "Hello," said Juliet, "I'm Juliet and I live over the next five hills". "Oh, are you Princess Juliet?" "No, I'm just an entertainer to the King", said Juliet. "My name is Orlando and I am a Prince," said the Prince. "I heard", said Juliet. "I'm not allowed here, I might get into trouble," whispered Juliet. "Is that family really that bad?" said the Prince. "Yes, they're mad," said Juliet. "I had better go". So off she went over the next five hills. She gets to the door and there stood King Alfred with his evil eyes. Juliet gulps and sighs as he grabs her by the ear and throws her in the dungeon. "You will never see that young man again, do you hear?" "You will awake tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock. You will entertain me with music" said Alfred. "Yes, your Majesty," said Juliet and she began to cry.

The next morning she was awoken by the guards. They took her out and placed her on the floor at the King's feet. "Songs!" shouted the King. "Songs, and they'd better be good". So she started to sing. The very same moment, Orlando was thinking about Juliet. He thought about what she would be doing right now. He thought about King Alfred. How he was mad and if he had caught Juliet and if anything had happened to her because he did see a man at the door. Orlando couldn't stop thinking about her. He dreamed about her every night and thought about her in the morning.

There was a problem, over in India. Orlando had to meet the same girl he promised to marry when he was seven. He did not want to marry her; he wanted to marry Juliet. When he got to India he told the girl everything. She was upset and very angry so she told her dad to kill Juliet, (behind Orlando's back). He sent an army to kidnap Juliet and put her to death. When they arrived, the Chief made Orlando marry his daughter. The army arrived with Juliet all tied up in rope and her lips were covered with tape. She was tied to a thing that looked like a branch from a thick tree and she was surrounded with straw. Orlando was brought out to watch her death. The Chief lit the straw with a lighter. Juliet coughed and coughed. That was it; Orlando had to save her. He jumped to join Juliet. "Untie me", said Juliet. So Orlando untied her from the branch and flew across the fire running to catch the last train home.

By Kelsey Robertson
(aged 10 years)

Short Story



Competition

Attention all story/article/essay writers! The Killin News has started a new competition for all budding or amateur writers, or those who just want to put pen to paper. Regardless of what you want to write about - fiction, non-fiction, historical, local, current - we welcome entries from everyone, in all age groups. We will print entries during the course of the year and judging will take place end of 2002 or early in 2003.

Articles/stories should be between 200 and 800 words. Either clearly written, typed or on floppy disk (*.rtf preferable) Entries from "under 16's", should have their age marked on it.

The Judge, who is not associated with Killin News, works for a national newspaper, has links with Killin but is not local. Remember, when writing, that the Killin News is a-political and will not print anything slanderous or offensive. All entries must be supported with a name and address.

Entries to: The Editor, Killin News, Dalerb, Craignavie Road, Killin. Tel: 01567 820961 Fax: 01567 820043 or E-Mail: killin.news@virgin.net.

The Killin News reserves its rights under the Editorial Policy on page 29.

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Wee Message From The Minister Slot!

I read a very striking statement recently. It said, "Today's crimes are of relationships." The writer then listed some of the 'crimes' he was talking about. Stalking, rape and many kinds of abuse from domestic violence to the exploitation of children.

There are lots of possible reasons for this increase in friction between people. One is the changing roles of men and women. For example, we now have 'house-husbands' as well as 'house-wives.' And, the world is becoming a much more complicated place to live in. Running a home, paying the bills, keeping up to date with issues in education and protection for our children as well as keeping up a level of skill that enables us to stay in a job, are all 'possible areas of stress', leading to the breakdown of relationships, at home or in the wider community.

In my pastoral work, I see families together at different times. Sometimes in happy, party mood at weddings, but often in sad and sombre mood at funerals. Occasionally, I see family members quarrelling. There is no doubt in my mind though - and this from practical experience - that the 'family' is the social group which can best provide support for its members, no matter how different they might be from each other. The love of husband and wife for one another and the love between parents and children is the strongest of all human bonds and most like the love of God for all his children - that is, all of us.

It is within the safety of loving family relationships that we learn the social skills needed to relate to the wider community. So many people have great difficulty in relating to others, because they have never had the chance to learn how to do it within the security of a caring home.

All kinds of 'politically correct' phrases are used to hide this problem. For example, shyness is now called, 'social phobia.' That suggests some kind of illness. It is not a disease, and the shy person simply needs a safe place for a wee bit longer to learn how to cope with that big world out there.

The church is a 'family', an extension of our own family. It is a place where people know they are accepted and understood for themselves, as they are, and so feel 'safe' with each other. Inner peace and security is a spiritual quality and we all need it more than anything else in this world. Gathering together as God's family for prayer and worship is the way to find it!

*Reverend John Sheddan
Minister for Glenorchy - Innisheil & Strathfillan*



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What's On?

May

- 3 - 4 "Another Evening with Killin Drama Club" McLaren Hall.
- 8 Killin Golf Club Senior Gents Open
- 18 Ploughing Match at Daldravaig Farm, Glen Lochay.
- 19 Killin Gun Club Shoot at Luib 11.30 - 4 pm.
- 25 Killin Golf Club Mixed Open

June

- 1 Killin Golf Club Ladies Open
- 1 Killin WRI Jubilee Coffee Morning - McLaren Hall.
- 1 Jubilee Fancy Dress Dance - McLaren Hall.
- 14-16 Killin Traditional Folk Music Festival.
- 19 Killin Gun Club Shoot at Luib 11.30 - 4 pm.
- 23 Alloa Bowmar Pipe Band
- 28 Sheep Shearing Competition at Kenknock in Glen Lochay.

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Garden Security

Lately, a number of thefts have occurred in this area involving sheds and outhouses. In the main the security of these buildings has been overcome by forcing off padlocks or by just forcing the doors. The target for these thieves has been the power tools within, lawn mowers, power sanders, drills and chain saws. The cost of this equipment quickly mounts up with one incident netting the thieves more than £800 worth of tools.

There are a number of things that you can do to help yourselves from becoming a victim of this type of crime and to help the Police recover your property should you become a victim.

1. Ensure that sheds and outbuildings are secured with good quality locks, and that those locks are fitted into solid surrounds.
2. Consider securing items within the shed or building to each other by means of a chain and padlock and in turn secure the chain to a sturdy part of the building.
3. External lighting in the area of the shed or building should be considered as this increases a thief's chances of being identified if seen, and he knows it!
4. Consideration could also be given to alarms, but should not take the place of the physical security measures above.

To assist in the recovery of property the following can be done.

1. Keep an accurate record of your property, and note the make, model, colour and serial numbers for each. Photographs can also aid identification.
2. Security coding items with your postcode. This can be done by etching or UV marker pen. Leaflets on coding and free UV pens are available from your local Police Office.



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If the Police can get accurate details of your property then these can be entered on Local and National Computer Databases and can greatly increase your chance of seeing your belongings again.

Should you wish further advice, leaflets, UV pens or wish an officer to carry out a security survey of your home and outbuildings, then please contact or call at your local Police Office. We provide all of these items and services free of charge.

*Constable David Hannah
Callander Police Office*

Killin Gun Club



At the first shoot of the year on 24 March, 27 guns turned out. The results were:-

25 Down The Line

Class A

1. J Sinclair 72, 2. E McAllister 70, 3. G Ross & H Paterson 63

Class B

1. J Miller & S Christie 65, 3. K Hames 60

Class C

1. E Paterson 52, 2. R Mills 48

Sporting

Class A

1. E McAllister 66, 2. P Robinson 66

Class B

1. A Skillen 60, 2. Cal. Frost 57

Class C

1. J Miller & E Paterson 51, 2. I Downie 48

High Gun – E McAllister 136

Continuation – E McAllister

The Club held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 17 February 2002 in Suie Lodge Hotel at which 13 Members attended.

H Campbell stood down as President after 3 years. J Sinclair was elected President, with G D Coyne remaining in post as Secretary and E Paterson continuing as Treasurer. Committee elected as before. K Hames and A McKenzie-Wilson are new faces to the Sub-Committee.

G D Coyne

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LETTERS



Dear Editor

Bear Scotland

No doubt mine will not be the only letter on this subject, but if you get enough to swell your mail bag I hope you will be sufficiently supported to persuade Bear to do better!

The A84/85 is a major trunk route into Highland Scotland requiring professional attention 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! VisitScotland? Yes please, safely and comfortably.

Sunday 10 March 2002:

It snowed. I understand Glen Ogle was very bad in the early morning so I delayed my journey. I drove to Callander and back between 12 noon and 1pm and the Leny Pass was atrocious – and was being cleared of snow with a JCB! Did Bear not have a snow-plough to do this job?

Also on the subject of the A84, along Loch Lubnaig the road has been resurfaced in parts, but at time of writing, the white lines have still not been repainted. On a wet dark night this makes driving even more difficult. This road is dangerous enough without having extra hazards added, as in a computer game needing difficulty to make it interesting.

David Hilditch

Editorial Comment

David was not alone in his comments about Bear Scotland - and also Stirling Council (see Page 19). This past year both have really let our community down. Let's hope that now we are in a new financial year (which let's face it, is where they lay the blame every time) perhaps they will get their fingers out and start improving our roads.

Whilst on the subject of roads, but a slightly different vein, I notice that they have painted white speed lines on the long uphill straight just past the South Loch Earn Road. Is this a ruse to make us think they are actually doing something about the roads - it smacks of "Nero fiddled whilst Rome burned"! I'm definitely not one to advocate speed, but this is one of the few sections of road where you have enough visibility to safely and quickly pass slower moving vehicles. Surely money would have been better spent improving Glen Ogle or stopping the dangerous drivers (who are not necessarily speeding!) on Glen Ogle. If a large lay-by overlooking Glen Ogle was built it would enable drivers/tourists to stop and admire the view, instead of wandering over the white lines whilst looking at the scenery and then suddenly veering to 'overtake the bridge parapets'!

Also, whilst on the subject of bridge parapets (!) have you noticed the colourful new warning signs at them? The psychology is that we are now supposed to think they are constructively doing something about the narrowing of the road at the bridges. Instead of warning us of the danger - why don't they remove the danger, and widen the road?! I could go on at length, but this is the Killin News, not Linda's soap box!

Editor

Killin Cancer Committee

On Friday 12 April, the Killin Cancer Committee provided the village with a superb Cheese 'n' Wine evening in the McLaren Hall. To call it "Cheese 'n' Wine" does not do the evening justice. There were vol au vents, mini quiches, cocktail sausages, garlic bread, sausage rolls, salmon blinis, salsa – all of course home made by the ladies of the Committee and friends. It was a wonderful village social occasion and an ideal opportunity to meet and chat with neighbours after such a long winter.

All sorts of goodies were up for grabs at the tombola stall (a few which have grown quite familiar too!). It was suggested that the Killin News write an article entitled "My Life as a Tombola Prize!" – anyone out there interested in picking that one up?

This excellent evening – which just gets better each year - raised £776 for Cancer Research.

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Killin Golf Club

Junior Golf

To all those junior golfers out there (aged 8 and above) the new junior season starts on 10 May. Could all those who were in category 2 and 3 be ready to tee-off at 5pm, category 4 players should arrive at

5.30pm, and the 'Beginners' category arrive at 6pm.

We have a full season of coaching (funded by the Tighnabruaich Hotel and the Golf Foundation), inter-club matches and a junior club championship. I would also like nominations for Junior Captain from the category 2 players.

This year we have been made into a 'Starter Centre' for the Golf Foundation meaning that we can now provide even more coaching – if you have access to the internet check out for more details.

We have also received funding from the Golf Foundation for Tri-Golf. This is a mini-version of golf designed specifically for young children in primary schools (although adults can have great fun too!!). This equipment is safe and easy for children to use both inside and outside. The club-heads for the irons and putters are over-sized to make contact with the ball easier, and the weighting of the irons means that children experience the 'feel' of a golf club. I have already arranged to give sessions with the Brownies, but if any other group would like to try Tri-Golf please get in contact with me.

LS

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Junior Golf Leaders

Three of our adults are now qualified to teach the rudiments of golf to juniors. Laurence Brown, Liz Stevens and Mark Lincoln attended a training course at Crieff Golf club and passed an examination to enable them to be officially classified as "Golf Leaders".

The course was sponsored by the Golf Foundation, and was delivered by Mark Pirie, one of Crieff's Professionals, and Brendon Pyle from the Golf Foundation. This allows Golf Leaders to introduce the fundamental techniques of the Golf Swing to beginners so that they can then progress to being taught by the Professionals.

We, in Killin, are lucky to have sponsorship from the Tighnabruaich Hotel, which subsidises the cost of a Professional to teach the juniors on a Friday evening during the summer. The addition of three Golf Leaders will now enable us to provide a full tuition service to the juniors, aligned to the Golf Foundation Merit Award Scheme.

The Golf Foundation is a registered charity, established in 1952, committed to making the sport of golf accessible to young people throughout the British Isles. The Merit Award Scheme gives young golfers the incentive and opportunity to:

- Learn and improve their skills
- Understand the Rules of the Game
- Improve golf course play
- Acquire a handicap

The Scheme comprises eighteen levels within six awards, with our Golf Leaders being qualified to teach the first 2 levels.

Mark Lincoln

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Golfing Here - Golfing There!



(Above) The articles pertaining to the photo of the Junior Golf Leaders (L-R Laurence Brown, Mark Lincoln and Liz Stevens) demonstrating the new Tri-Golf are on the facing page.



In February, seven members from Killin Golf Club (above) enjoyed a week of golf in the Alicante area of the Costa Blanca in Spain. The weather, courses and craic were first class in what is hoped will become an annual event.

The week began with a Texas Scramble over Bonalba Golf Course won by Roger Bartlett, Roger MacDonald, Laurence Brown and Ian Donaldson. The second day saw a team betterball competition played at Villamartin which was won by Laurence Brown and Ian Donaldson. The last four rounds over Villamartin, Las Ramblas and Campoamor (2 rounds) was won by Gordon Aitken with Dickie Lewis a close second and Ian Donaldson third.

In the photo, taken at Campoamor Golf Club are (L-R): Jim Rutherford, Roger Bartlett, Roger MacDonald, Gordon Aitken, Dickie Lewis, Laurence Brown and Ian Donaldson

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