



PRICE 75P

KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue 74 April 2003

Killin Care Trust "Thank you" tea was attended by Health Minister Malcolm Chisholm and Dr Sylvia Jackson MSP (below and right with Killin CareTrust Board of Directors). Below right Mrs Dorothy Fraser and Mrs Agnes Colmar from the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home enjoying the occasion. (See page 20).



Or



The new Killin News Office was officially opened by former editors Sinclair Aitken and Linda Fitzgerald seen here with committee members.



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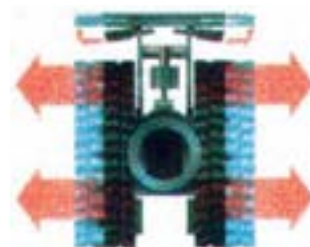
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All Change

We have a few new faces in the village in various businesses for this coming season and a couple of people who have moved.

The McPartlands and Woods have moved from being neighbours in Craignavie to neighbours on the main street! Michael and Shelagh moved to The Craigard in September. Michael has a passion for music and runs the bar while Shelagh's main efforts are in her kitchen. Her great knowledge of Feng Shui has already brought guests to the hotel for her talks on the subject. Rick and Joan Wells of Fairview moved to Perth. Elizabeth, Jim, Alison and Colin Woods along with Skye have moved to Fairview. Elizabeth has given up nursing to put all her efforts into running a successful guest house. Jim will deal with the maintenance when he is not serving breakfasts and making beds!!

Linda and Barry Blackwell moved to Drumfinn in February when Bob and Jenny moved to Comrie. Before coming here they lived in North Wales but spent the holiday season running a caravan site for the Forestry Commission, coping with up to 900 people. So a summer season in Killin should be a doddle!! They have previous experience in both pubs and

B&B. They both enjoy gardening and walking their collies Shep and Sian, and are looking forward to settling into village life.

John and Sally Connor with their two golden retrievers Skye and Rhona, have replaced Fatima and David Wilson in Dall Lodge, so if you bump into someone with two golden retrievers and it's not Gilleen or Elizabeth, then you've just met Sally! John and Sally have come from Epsom, to escape the ratrace and enjoy a quieter life. Sally used to teach quilting and patchwork. John was Construction Director of a Development Company, but they are both going to be involved in running Dall Lodge on a B & B basis only, and are opening at Easter. Sally loves gardening and John who makes model boats is hoping soon to get a boat. They are both overwhelmed by how welcome they have been made to feel. The Killin Hotel was bought from Alan Garnier on Nov 9th by a company called Edinburgh Inns. The hotel is currently being managed by Mr. David Young who is looking forward to a busy season being almost fully booked with coaches from May till October.

The Tighnabruaich Hotel is now in the capable hands of Crawford and Amanda from Glasgow. In the last few months they have redecorated throughout, recarpeted and put in a brand new kitchen. Crawford has been in the licensed trade for the last 18 years and still has 2 pubs, one in Glasgow the other in Milton of Campsie. So he knows a bit about the trade!! In any spare time he might have he likes to fish. Amanda looks after their four children ranging from 9 years to twins of 21 months. Fiona Farquharson and Anne Neilson who worked for John and Janice at Costcutters for two years have now taken on the lease. They are both delighted with the trade and the amount of local

support. Amongst the changes they have lots of Scottish produce in the gift shop and are selling homemade dolls with the profits going to the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. The Coffee Shop opening hours are now the same as Costcutters.

Breadalbane House welcomes the Strang Gang - John and Marion Strang, with children, Craig 16 and Rebecca 12. They moved from Newton Mearns near Glasgow and took over the running of Breadalbane House on March 28th. John is a veteran of 23 years in the computer industry in Scotland and will be hanging up his mouse-mat at HP in Erskine on March 21st. Marion was a College lecturer at Reid Kerr College in Paisley and, as a qualified on-line tutor, she is hoping to continue with her work on a part-time basis. Both children will be attending McLaren High, Rebecca starting after the Easter break and Craig early in June, once he has completed his Highers. They are all very excited about their new life in the Heartland of Scotland and looking forward to getting involved in the village community. So here's hoping that it is a bumper season for everyone.

Good Luck to you all. D.G.

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Congratulations:

To Killin Primary School on raising the magnificent amount of £1032.78 on Red Nose Day

To McLaren High School on featuring for the first time in this year's Good Schools Guide

To Jimmy Gauld on a significant birthday on 23rd March.

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Killin Community Council

Three speakers addressed the Council meeting on 11th March, which was also attended by 16 members of the public. Mrs. G. Watt, Procurator Fiscal for Central Area, gave an informative talk on the work of the Fiscal's Office, after which questions were asked about reporting sudden deaths, how speeding motor cyclists were dealt with and who decides which children go to the Children's Panel.

Gavin Skipper, National Park Ranger, gave an up-date on the National Park and explained the panels to be set up in the Monemore and McLaren Hall car parks giving the history of the area. The 2nd phase of the Community Consultation will take place in the McLaren Hall on 10th May and on 2nd August a Clanscope will be held in Breadalbane Park featuring Scottish folklore and demonstrations of Scottish crafts. The new Park Ranger base to be sited at Lochearnhead should be operational after Easter and signs at the entrances to the Park are still in hand. The answer to questions about the responsibility for litter clearing and public toilets was that it depended whether or not the area concerned still came under Council control.

Richard Shand spoke about proposed plans to run a small gauge railway on the old railway line from the station car park to the head of the loch to join with the new boat, 'The Spirit of the Tay' which it is hoped will be in operation on Loch Tay by late summer this year. The company would like to re-instate a station at the car park and hoped that the scheme would bring some employment for local people. Landscaping of the track would be carried out to allow it to continue as a walk. Plans would be shown in the Killin News.

Matters arising from previous minutes: The purchase of new bulbs and harness for the Christmas tree is in hand. Fireworks will be discussed at the next meeting. The Nurses Clinic refurbishment is almost complete. There had been no more complaints about the School Bus.

No names were proposed for a vacancy in the Highland Area of Stirling Assembly. The Stirling Tenants' Project to look after tenants' complaints would be made up of 2 Community Councillors (John McPherson and Kay Riddell) and 2 Tenants. Suzanne Player would approach the tenants. In response to more complaints about the state of the roads it was suggested that people should e-mail these direct to Hunter Jamieson at the Council offices, as e-mails seemed to be

more effective than phone calls. The chairman was in discussion with the surgery about the hospital car situation. The next meeting, which is also the A.G.M., will take place in Killin Primary School on Tuesday, 13th May, at 7.30 pm.

New veterinary practice opens near Crieff.

Tina Vernon has opened a new, large animal veterinary practice, the Strathearn Farm & Equine Practice near Crieff. Working on her own and experienced in farm and horse work she hopes to bring her skills to the Crief/Tyndrum area. She is keen to develop expertise in all aspects of livestock work. She will give her clients 24 hour cover. Her interests include hill walking and activities as a member of the Tayside Mountain Rescue Team. We wish her luck in her new venture. WA.

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Forth Valley Food Links

Local food for local people

The only organisation of its kind in Scotland, Forth Valley Food Links (FVFL) is building up a network of contacts and working with them to help realise its aim to make local food for local people widely and more easily available. F.V.F.L is backed financially by the Scottish Executive, the three Councils of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling and Forth Valley NHS Board. The team has cast a wide net to generate interest among those who are part of the food network, the growers, producers and providers of food as well as the local communities and voluntary groups who want to see more local people enjoy more local produce.

To assist in getting projects underway, FVFL operates a Small Grants Scheme which will go some way towards encouraging farmers and growers to diversify. Over the coming spring, Forth Valley will see the first of several projects for 2003. Falkirk resident Chris Wond is Project Co-ordinator. "On the one hand we are working with voluntary organisations and community groups, including New Community Schools, who are interested in setting up local fruit and vegetable co-operatives. On

the other hand we are working with farmers, food growers, producers, and a wide range of other interests to increase access to and availability of affordable, fresh produce, fruit, vegetables and meat for local people". As FVFL works towards this longer term goal, it is currently involved in a variety of schemes.

'Fruit Barras' have really taken off in the Falkirk area, with no fewer than four up and running. Development Officer Martin Oliver explains: "The key points are that produce is very fresh and where possible locally grown, making it fresher than that in supermarkets. It is quality produce and it is affordable. In the Falkirk district we have a local food producer operating a co-operative of three or four farmers and also working with wholesale fruit markets. The community groups place orders on a Monday. People can order as much or as little as they like. Their orders are delivered to the community groups each Wednesday, to be picked up by customers that afternoon."

Janey Brown, a member of the FVFL Project, is an experienced Community Dietitian with Forth Valley NHS Board. While acknowledging the health and

economic benefits created, she stresses the importance of the social impact of such schemes with their inclusive principles. FVFL recently supported the Healthy Tuck Shop Event held at the University of Stirling. Said Janey: "Events like this encourage producers, growers and farmers to interact with their customers and to present a more friendly, approachable image to the public. People producing food need to see the opportunities that already exist for local production and supply. Local consumers, in turn, would much rather support farmers, growers and producers in their own area".

Other initiatives planned for this year include development of the successful farmers' market concept to include Falkirk and Clackmannanshire, with the first Falkirk Farmers' Market already confirmed for Sunday 11th May 2003. FVFL is a non-profit making, company limited by guarantee and registered charity, and as yet the only Food Links project in operation in Scotland, although there are several in England.

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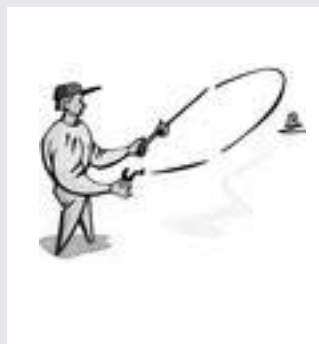
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Mervyn's Weather

In most subjects of long standing there are involved sayings and adages relevant to the topic embraced. Not least is Weatherlore, which is peppered with many pithy proverbs.

The month of February past, with its spell of dry bright weather, particularly during the second half, suggested that a fine February is conducive to less settled conditions later on in the year. "A February Spring is never a good thing" and "All the rest of the months of the year curse a fine Februeer".

There are also references to weather conditions on certain dates such as Saint Swithin's day (15 July) determining whether the subsequent 40 days will be wet or dry.

Candlemas day (2 February) dawning fair or foul deciding whether most of the winter is past or yet to come. These references are not so much to the weather on specific dates but rather to the ruling conditions during the periods encompassing the said dates.

After the fine frosty spell early in the month, January 2003 became mild, wet and windy but around the twenty sixth extremely mild with a record "High" of 18C (64F) on Deeside, while here at Ardtalnaig we had 14C (57F). These fairly unusual high maxima are due to the Fohn effect of warm winds flowing over areas of

high ground and on descending the lee side becoming compressed and thereby even warmer.

Following hard on the heels of this mild spell, conditions became suddenly much cooler with strong winds and hill snow, culminating on 2 February (Candlemas day) with some hours of snow giving two or three inches cover on low ground. Then on 4th February gale force winds from a north, north-easterly direction, whisked this moderate snow cover into deep drifts on the south and south-east slopes of the hills. On this south side of Loch Tay, ground below 2000 feet was virtually swept clear and once milder air arrived only odd drifts remained.

It was a different story on the north side of the Loch where the slopes of the Ben Lawers range are almost devoid of shelter with limited areas of woodland. There the snow was transferred from the light ridges to any sheltered hollow or declivity, which of course included the A827 Kenmore to Killin road. No fresh snow had fallen so that this was entirely wind-blown. So fierce was the wind and drift that a policeman and a snowplough were marooned somewhere around Lawers until a snow blower came to their rescue! Other affected areas were the stretch around Lyon Bridge where the funnelling effect of the Pass of Glenlyon caused much drifting over



Mervyn's Weather

the flat fields and deposited deep snow on the roads here and at Comrie Bridge. Further south, around Methven and South Logiealmond, drifts lay on roadsides until the end of the month while the hills of the north were entirely snow free.

The remainder of February was mild and benign. Though some nights of moderate frost occurred there were a few gloriously sunny days, some of which produced "wall to wall" sunshine – a rare occurrence over the past few years. Winds during this spell were brisk south-easterly making heather burning risky in some situations, indeed reports were published of "runaway" fires in places such as Glen Tanar (Deeside), Knoydart, Glenfinnan and elsewhere. March came in like the proverbial lamb, though a somewhat "drookit" one, and now we are in this usual sequence of "showers and longer periods of rain" though the pundits tell us things may dry up somewhat. Mervyn K. Brown, Ardtalnaig,

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Scottish Community Drama Festival One Act Plays

Killin Drama Festival.

The last day of February saw the inauguration of a new festival in the Killin calendar. Killin Drama Club, veteran performers on the competitive circuit, were the hosts of this year's Scottish Community Drama Association's Stirling district finals for one act plays. This was Killin's first opportunity to showcase its skills, abilities and facilities on a larger stage, and the Drama Club rose to the occasion with its customary style and panache.

The festival was held over two days. Initially, the starting line-up was to have been a field of five contenders presenting seven short plays, but cancellations by St. Blane's and Fintry reduced the field to three very serious contenders, and what can only be described as an ad hoc assemblage of kamikaze thespians bridging the gap.

The curtains opened on Killin's first entry, the world premier, no less, of 'No Hiding Place' by Joe McDonagh. This was a highly abstract and minimalist presentation, which relied on the use of sound, light and disembodied dialogue to

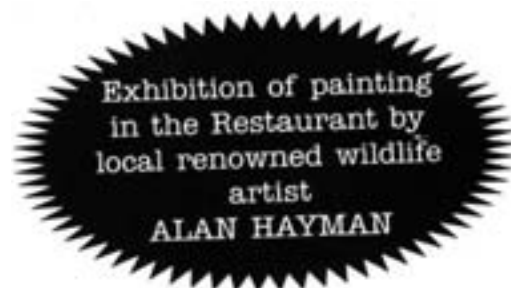
convey a starkly horrifying tale of child abduction and murder. It was an ambitious presentation, demanding impeccable timing and clarity, but we felt it was let down by a slightly confusing ending. Despite this, the production had some very memorable moments, and set the pace for the rest of the field. 'No Hiding Place' was followed by 'Till The Petals Fall', presented by Riverside Drama Club. This was a more conventional production of a play by Abigail Danielle set in a women's refuge, and a strong cast performed this play with confidence and enthusiasm. The storyline, however, was pretty bleak, and was only partially relieved by fine performances, and the characters' genuine warmth and resilience. Domestic violence was the issue here, and the play was one of only two entered for the category of "best depicting Scottish life and character", for no other discernable reason to us than its subject matter.

'Murdering Mum' by Mike Tibbets was the last offering on the Friday evening. Like 'No Hiding Place', this was also an ambitious presentation, with off-stage action relayed to the audience through

live video link. There were other daunting technical challenges ranging from remotely controlled curtains to serial brain scanning, but despite, or perhaps because of this, 'Murdering Mum' was very clearly focused, coherent and well directed. It was also enlivened with a cleverly underplayed, deadpan humour, which came as a welcome relief after two fairly depressing presentations.

Saturday, thankfully, brought a slightly lighter touch. There were two cleverly structured one-act dramas, not comedies perhaps, but charming and warmly observant pieces underpinned by a rich vein of humour. Both of these were hotly favoured contenders for the big prizes of the weekend. The evening began, however, with a tragedy, or more appropriately perhaps, a travesty. The Old Stagers Theatre Company had been hastily assembled from various spare parts, supernumerary props and out-and-out buskers, to fill the void created by St. Blane's late withdrawal from the competition. This was a brave performance, some would say rash or even ill-advised, but full credit must be given to the said assemblage for turning

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the 'Tram-Track Tragedy' by Michael Kilgariff into one of the most glorious and entertaining farces ever to grace, or disgrace, the Killin stage. We could mention certain well-known individuals who should have known better, but sympathy for their effort and fear of litigation deter us.

Moving on quickly to the main contenders, the first of which, 'The Paper Aeroplane', by James Quinn, was the second of Riverside's entries of the weekend. A wistfully nostalgic play with a marvellously wry sense of humour, it was brilliantly performed and was a huge hit with the audience. Riverside kept it simple, playing on the strengths of a small but obviously very experienced cast, and a clever script that brought out the all quirky individuality and warmth of the characters.

Next and last was 'Kids', by John Morgan, a 'toddler's eye' view of the weird and wonderful world of larger children. Our own Glenda Mardon was the toddler, and she played the part in the way that only a 'proven' mother with a wickedly observant sense of humour could. The rest of the cast was marvellous, playing a range of variously aged and demanding 'weans'. We thought this was a delightful presentation, and a perfect end to a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

So who won and who lost? Well the

truth is everyone won. Thornhill took the District Trophy with their cyber murder extravaganza. Riverside took the Runners Up spot with their dramatisation of domestic violence. They also took the 'Scottish' award for their other entry, 'The Paper Aeroplane'. Killin took the prize for 'best moment in theatre', for their daringly abstract production of 'No Hiding Place'. And the Old Stagers took the biscuit.

Killin, however, were the real winners. The SCDA were so impressed with the venue, facilities and hospitality they found in Killin, that they took the liberty of telling us they were coming back next year, not with the District Round, but the Divisional Round of the one act play festival, which will feature the best of amateur drama from Stirling, Fife and the Lothians. This is quite a prize – virtually a hop, step and jump into the Premier Division, after only one season in the League. It says a lot about Killin, but particularly about the Drama Club, that the SCDA can make this decision so confidently and, apparently, so easily.

Congratulations then to KDC, and to all its members, past and present, because this is their achievement, and in the great scheme of things, we think that this is the best prize of all, a worthy recognition of their standing on the national stage, and of their contribution to Killin and its community over many years.

Andrew Aitken and Douglas McRobbie

Nearly New Sale.

Sadly, the "Nearly New" sale, which has taken place yearly for the last 20 years approximately, will not be taking place this year. The problems of collecting, storing, transporting and finally disposing of the left-over goods, was becoming a major task. To replace this much enjoyed event we have decided to hold a one day bric-a-brac sale with coffee etc. on August 4th in the McLaren Hall. We hope you will continue to support us as you always have in the past. We look forward to receiving your "surplus to requirement" goods which we will turn into cash for the benefit of the whole community. Sincere thanks to all those who have helped in the past. Their contribution has been much appreciated. Further information will appear in the next issue of the "Killin News" and meantime any enquiries to 01567 820358 or 01567 820534

May Aitken.

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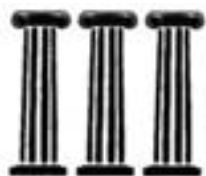
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Short Story Competition

We are happy to announce the winners of our Short Story Competition. Our judge is Malcolm Wright, who was a writer for the Guardian newspaper, and is currently a television executive working with Granada on new media ventures. At present he is also a Royal Television Society and a North East Press Awards judge. His connection with Killin is that he is the son-in-law of Allan Walker, one of the founders of the Killin News, and has closely followed the paper since it began. We are pleased to have Malcolm as our judge and to keep the family connection with the paper following the recent sad loss of Allan.



Rosie Campbell

The Judge's Comments

There were six entries in the Children's section - from five-year-old Finn Rhys's tale of the dog which couldn't catch the cat to Mel Stevenson's dreams of spacemen and the origins of corn circles. Peter Hart, also five years old and I think (like me) a south-of-the-border boy, sent in a stapled and illustrated story about Concorde the Plane who finds a

crashed Red Arrow. The picture of Concorde in Paris - with an instantly recognisable Eiffel Tower - was a joy. Katie Hunt, at fourteen, wrote a moral warning about the consequences of going off the straight and narrow, a dark and inevitable journey which led to an unlicensed drink-driver mowing down her parents. Ten-year-old Kelsey Robertson recounted a complex tale of royal love in her

story Orlando and Juliet, which after a hefty dose of tragedy had a traditional happy ending. They should all be proud of their entries. Good short stories make you read to the end and often have a sting in the tail.

Alex Tigwell's poignant portrait of three children was deceptively like a collage of winter scenes until we finally learned that their dad was a single parent, and their mother



Alex Tigwell

recently dead. The juxtaposition of snowy stillness, shifting beauty and deep sadness is something our family has known in Killin very recently. Alex gets the Adult Winner prize, and it is

well deserved.

It was out of Rosie Campbell's *The Shadow of Darkness* that the words shone most brightly. Written when she was only ten, her command of English (or is it Scottish?) and the immensity of her vision is remarkable. She wrote of "a gateway to the darkest darkness" - a phrase so powerful I keyed it in to an Internet search engine to see if others had used it. There was only one result - the website of the Killin News came up on screen with the issue in which her story was first printed!! Rosie is the Children's Winner. Her story was more than special.

Malcolm Wright

Alex receives a cheque for £15 and Rosie a cheque for £10. Congratulations to them both.

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The New Hospital

Forth Valley Healthcare Strategy.

Public views on building a new acute hospital for Forth Valley, from the public, indicate the need for change. There is support for the creation of one hospital to serve the population of Forth Valley. Access, both by car and by public transport, is a very important consideration when choosing a site.

The Royal Scottish National Hospital at Larbert was the chosen location for a new acute hospital to serve the population of Forth Valley. Further work will be undertaken on this site before it can proceed to the next stage of the process. A full feasibility study will include a traffic impact assessment and further work with the three Forth Valley local authorities in terms of public transport and access. The survey indicated that people favoured a model, which centralised key services on one acute hospital site while maintaining local access to services such as outpatient clinics. There was strong support for the new Community Hospital for Clackmannanshire. Work needs to be undertaken to determine what services would be needed in Stirling and Falkirk areas depending on where the acute hospital is sited. The Board is

committed to continuing the discussion with communities about these services and wanted more work to be undertaken with remote communities such as the Braes in Falkirk and rural Stirlingshire over the coming months.

Comment: to what degree is Killin considered in this planning? What weighting is placed on access to hospital in emergency or visiting when ambulance travel time from call to hospital exceeds an hour and public transport infrequent? To consider a site further from the present hospital would increase the risk for emergencies in the Killin, Crianlarich and Tyndrum area. What is it about the Highlands that the hospitals are forsaking them? The signs are that soon our nearest alternative major accident units will be Dundee, Kirkcaldy, and Fort William. Please let us have your views. WA.

Patient transport

Regarding problems that have been experienced by some constituents from Killin, Crianlarich and Tyndrum in obtaining patient transport for appointments at Stirling Royal Infirmary and other hospitals, I raised this issue with the Forth

Valley NHS Board and they have advised me that patients are normally expected to make their own arrangements to attend hospital appointments.

Where patients are medically unfit to travel by public transport but are not emergencies, their GP can authorise transport by ambulance. This will either be by minibus or by ambulance car service (sometimes operated by the WRVS or the Red Cross). Patients in receipt of certain benefits can have their travel costs reimbursed at public transport rates (this can cover travel by car). The issue of patients who are not medically unfit, but who do not have access to a car or public transport will be raised by the NHS with the Ambulance Service and Social Work Department. In the meantime, any such problems will be dealt with on an individual basis. I am keen to hear from constituents in who may have experienced problems with access to hospital appointments and I have agreed with the Health Board that I will raise these cases with them so that they can be discussed and I can monitor the situation.

Please contact me through my Constituency Office at 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling, FK8 1UA. Telephone: 01786 446515 Fax: 01786 446513 My website address is: sylviajackson.co.uk. Sylvia Jackson MSP

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Spirit of the Tay

An exciting project is taking place on Loch Tay! Approximately 70 years ago the last steamer appeared on the loch, a new custom-built steam clipper will once again take passengers on daily trips in some of the area's most spectacular scenery. The design is similar to another local vessel, the "Rob Roy II", one of the original steamers which sailed on Loch Katrine until the early 1900s. It will be traditionally built of steel, circa 111 feet long with an 18 foot beam and powered by an original period Crabtree steam engine. The "Spirit of the Tay" will be in commission late summer 2003, operating from an original site near Kenmore. The vessel will accommodate up to 250 passengers and several daily sailings are scheduled to operate throughout the summer. Normally each trip will last approximately 90 minutes with on board catering provided. During the winter lay-up, however, the vessel will be fitted with a period saloon restaurant below deck. We will then be able to offer fine cuisine to the corporate market and also provide a unique venue for a wide range of social occasions, including weddings for the next season. Steamers being synonymous with Killin, it rapidly became apparent that if we were to operate from the west end of Loch Tay, the only logical solution was that the railway would be the primary access as in the past. The railway will be served by live steam locomotives timed to coincide with the boat sailings. After several meetings with the relevant authorities, including the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, the AILLST tourist board, Scottish Enterprise, Forth Valley and Stirling Council, it became apparent that we had provided the catalyst to address the situation of car parking, toilet facilities etc at the bottom end of the village. These bodies are currently working together to carry out detailed surveys and feasibility studies of the railway project. They are addressing the few concerns that have been raised by some of the community and the results of these investigations will be made available. Even from the initial meeting, we have been received with an enthusiastic and encouraging response from these diverse public bodies and have been further heartened by their wish to move the project on sooner rather than later. As further details emerge, they will be reported to the community via the local press and individual group meetings.

Press handout at the Killin Community Council meeting 11th March 2003.

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The Loch Tay Steamer and the Environment

Environmental Action Killin discussed the possible impact of this project on the local environment at a recent meeting. The project is proposed as a tourist attraction rather than a useful form of transport and would provide a much-needed all-weather tourist facility. The majority of people come here to enjoy the peace, tranquility and outdoors, either walking, cycling, fishing or touring. However, it is possible to develop tourist facilities to cater for tourists who have other interests, while maintaining the quality of the natural environment. There are very few tourist 'attractions' in the area providing entertainment and interest for families on wet days. A steam railway, steam interpretation centre and steam boat on the Loch could provide this. The problem could be access to the Loch. The proposed access would result in congestion in the village where there are already many complaints about traffic. A narrow gauge railway down the old railway line to the head of the Loch is proposed. Since the days of the old railway, the land around the old pier has been sold and built on. There is therefore very little room for the proposed 200-250 passengers disembarking from the train. If the train also runs between steamer trips there will be huge pressure on the land around the head of the Loch which is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) because of many rare plant species, which could be damaged or lost. Many birds breed in this area and would be disturbed by

increased visitors. The path around the head of the Loch has no constructed base and is already badly eroded in places. It would require a major upgrade as well as provision for maintenance and litter clearing. The now tranquil head of the Loch could become a busy picnicking site all summer. The proposed boat is very large and will create a significant wash disturbing the loch shore habitat, plants and birds. There were concerns that sewage, oil discharges and waste from the boat should be dealt with properly as on Loch Katrine. Building a narrow gauge railway will require significant financial outlay and a large volume of tourists to be financially viable. Pier Road will also be under pressure because of increased traffic. If a railway track is laid, there will be increased capital costs to maintain a footpath alongside, especially over the Lochay bridge. EAK supported the plan to improve the railway yard car park and to clear the Council Road depot. This could only be an improvement to the Killin environment. We are obviously keen to retain and expand the current recycling facilities and see this as an opportunity to improve what is available. In principle, we supported the concept of a steamboat on the Loch, but are concerned about the size of the boat and the difficulties of access. Many of the above problems would be avoided if access could be obtained elsewhere but this would reduce the economic opportunities to the village. John Wyllie reported

from a project in Birnam and Dunkeld where Perth & Kinross had invested £70,000 upgrading and promoting a network of paths for walkers and cyclists. It was estimated that this investment resulted in an annual increase of £1 million in tourist related income in the area. Killin should consider other options such as this, where visitors may be more likely to come for 2-3 nights to explore the area, rather than as day trippers who may spend very little in the area. The railway and boat are more likely to be used by bus tours and day trippers that pass through the village causing increased traffic and congestion, without stopping, except for the toilet and a cup of tea, but they will probably get that on the boat. We will definitely need traffic lights on the bridge!

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Frost Report

Memoirs of a vacuum flask

Do you remember when stainless steel vacuum flasks first came out? We all thought that they would be great for taking on the hill as they wouldn't easily break if dropped or fallen on. I received the present of a nice neat little number which served me well for some time. Then one day I was stalking and crawling along the ground and the flask must have fallen out of my piece-bag. At the end of the stalk it was missing so I went back in search of it, but to no avail. The flask remained lost for about ten years. Then one day during the last stag-stalking season Willie the ghillie was in the same area and there, amongst the heather, was my flask. I just wonder what it 'saw' during its stay out there. The Winter's giving way to the thaw in Spring, the hot sunny days of Summer with maybe the birth of a deer calf nearby one June day. Foxes screeching to each other on early Spring nights. Perhaps the smell of smoke as the heather was being burnt one Spring or an eagle floating overhead. Grouse cackling to mark out their territory for the forthcoming nesting. The plaintive wild calling of golden plovers as they return to the area at the end of the Winter. One thing is fairly sure that no person had been along that way in those years. It makes one think of the ongoing secret life on the hill, which is never really experienced by us humans.

On telling this tale to a lady of the glen, she thought that the flask decided that it had been out there just long enough, saw Willie coming and just rolled out across the heather to be found. On opening the flask we found the black tea- fully matured in the peat like an old, albeit rather dark, matured whisky.

Another flask was a bit luckier during last season. While crawling into a stag (seems to be a dangerous activity for a flask.) the same Willie the ghillie inadvertently mislaid a whisky flask, which was a treasured retirement gift to the guest from his staff. It wasn't till after the stag had been shot at the end of the day that the loss was discovered. Our steps were retraced but to no avail. Trying once again to retrace the route a couple of days later, everyone's eyes scanning the ground, we stopped for a 'blow' (professional stalking jargon for a wee rest or to let the guest catch up) and there at my feet was the flask. Its contents used to toast its safe return.

There have been quite a few fox drives around and about lately. This is not, as it sounds, a bit like a whist drive with furry prizes, but a way of controlling foxes in thick forested areas. As many safe and reliable folk with guns as can be mustered, line out at strategic points around the plantation sitting quietly out of sight and hounds are let into the trees to push out any foxes to the waiting

guns. This relies on a great deal of 'neighbouring' over an area from Inverary to Blackmount to Glen Lyon. At one of these drives recently, while lining out at the top of the Craignavie wood the remains of a stag were found hanging from the branches of a tree. He had obviously been thrashing the branches with his horns and had frayed the branch into a raffia-type rope, which had become entangled round his horns holding him fast to the tree. The poor creature must have died a slow and lonely death.

This reminded me of twenty years ago and a similar incident on Boreland. I came across a stag in a similar situation but still alive. I went to fetch a saw and some rope and roped his back legs and tied him tightly to another tree then sawed the branches off his horns. I was able to let him go but with his eyes rolling around wildly to show his fear. You don't get that sort of advice on 'Emergency Vets' but maybe my stint with more ferocious customers at the Safari Park came in useful. It just makes you think of the other world on our doorstep but still largely going on in secret. Maybe we should plant a flask with a video camera in it just to see what goes by.



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Farming Matters

I am writing this in mid-March in glorious sunshine, after one of the best winters we have known, very little snow and no incessant rain that is normally our lot at this time of year. Stock and farmers have benefited from the good dry conditions. Farming is strongly linked to the weather so we will be hoping that this magic spell isn't going to be our summer!

As we move into spring we are looking for signs of grass awakening, this warm sunny weather should help. It makes me very envious when I see the growth of grass further south at this time of year, however they don't have our marvellous scenery so perhaps I should content myself with that, although I'm sure our sheep would prefer the grass in the south to the scenery. Lambs are the main "crop" in this area and March is a month when ewes have to nourish the unborn growing lambs, they need all the extra feeding they can get combined with good weather. I look on April as the start of the farming year. Ewes lambing and the return to the farm of last years ewe lambs, from off farm wintering. These hogs, as they are now called, form some of the new breeding stock.

Regular jobs on most farms at this time of year include spreading

slurry and fertiliser on meadows used for hay and silage, controlling moles, that always appear in the spring, repairing fences and as always feeding stock. A simple job like mole control has now become a bureaucratic nightmare. Obtaining a Certificate of Competence, applying for the licence, the obligatory visit from a Department of Agriculture Officer, to see where moles are active on the farm, where strychnine is stored, safely and whether the correct risk assessment has been carried out. I'm beginning to think that half of the working population supervises the other half of productive workers. It is no wonder that the number of farm workers has declined while farm secretaries are the new growth industry.

Regarding regulations, many people have forgotten the restrictions put into place on local sheep farms as a result of the Chernobyl disaster. It's cheering to report some good news, the last of the farms under restriction in this area have now been given the all clear.

It is early days with our new venture into the National Park and I hope this park is a success and will help farmers and tourist operators alike as we do need each other to sustain the viability of this area. Judging by the number of visits and

photographs taken by park officials of the public footpath on this farm, which has always been a popular walk, it seems to indicate that there is a lot of money to use up with as yet not much benefit to the general public at large.

By the time you read this lambing should be well under way, so if out walking please respect stock by keeping a distance from ewes and lambs, particularly if walking dogs. Some ewes do leave their lambs alone for periods, "while they lie they grow". Mothers will always go back to them, they haven't been abandoned.

Malcolm Campbell Ledcharrie



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Killin Floral Awards 2003

The Killin Floral Awards are open competitions and cover all properties within the village boundaries. Each year sees more properties bedecked with floral displays, adding to the attraction of the village for residents and visitors alike. Compliments flow as people move about the village and the effort is very much appreciated. Categories for 2003 are as follows:

Commercial

The Best Overall Floral Frontage Display. There are two awards one for the Accommodation sector and one for the Retail sector.

Domestic

There are four awards made for **Hanging Baskets, Tubs, Window Boxes and for the Best Overall Display in Containers.**

"The Tidiest Garden viewed from the Road" will be judged this year on the Best Overall Display of Colour in Summer which must be a combination of summer bedding plants and other perennials, shrubs, roses etc.

Short lists (which are always very long!) are drawn up for each category during several weeks in the summer and then handed over to a totally

independent judge by the end of July. The committee is not informed of the exact date(s) that judging takes place. For 2003 we are introducing a Sunflower competition for adults. An award will be made for the **Tallest Sunflower Plant in Flower.** Entry forms, available from The Flower Shop and News First, must be completed and handed in to these establishments by 1 June. This will ensure those plants growing at the rear of properties will be included. Over the past couple of years the number of Sunflowers appearing in gardens around the village has greatly increased and the committee thought it was time to allow the adults to join in the fun of seeing who could grow the tallest one.

Competitions for Children
Tallest Sunflower Plant and
Largest Sunflower Flower Head.

The committee will germinate the seeds for the children and then give them the plants to grow on. Children wishing to enter the competition should give their names to Kay, in the Library, by 31 May.

Village Floral Displays

49 hanging baskets will once again be in position along Main Street during the summer months and we can only

hope that the weather is kinder to all gardeners than it was last year. The tubs and hayracks are currently planted with winter pansies, primroses and dwarf spring bulbs. It is hoped that all those who have sponsored the planting so generously in the past will continue to do so and that others within the community will join them. Details of sponsorship can be obtained from the Secretary, Marion McRae.

The committee is always keen to recruit additional helpers as it has other projects in mind around the village but feels that increased involvement from more members of the community is needed before it can add to the current 'workload'. There must be more of you out there who would be willing to help for just a few hours and you don't have to join the committee.

If you would be willing to help in any way, **please contact either Bruce Ford (820492) or Marion McRae (820719).**

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Strathfillan - "By The Way"

Strathfillan Community Council

PC Ian Carnegie reported that traffic is increasing, but crime and road accidents are still low, road markings are now in place at Glengarry bends, and high profile road checks are still being carried out in an effort to catch travelling criminals and prevent crime in this area. Gavin Skipper, of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Ranger Service, reported that the locations for the local interpretation boards should be in place by Easter. Granite block and timber benches are in place at Loch Iubhair.

Grounds for Learning at Crianlarich Primary School are looking for members of the community to help the Action Group implement its plans. There is a meeting in the middle of March to further this. Contact the School on 300231.

The Station Yard group have entered the Rural Voices Action Research Competition, and hope to be funded to conduct an in-depth survey. New collection vehicles are being purchased by Stirling Council and new kerbside collection crew hired. Posters have gone up to advertise the services provided by the WRVS Community Transport/Good Neighbours Project, and they are looking for volunteers.

Sylvia Jackson MSP has been asked to investigate the proposed loss of the hospital car facilities.

Joan Mann, Headteacher, Crianlarich Primary School, has tendered her resignation to take effect at the end of this term. She will be leaving after bringing the school up to a very high standard and receiving an extremely good report from the HMI Inspectors.

Grant Win

Strathfillan Community Council, with help and cooperation from Strathfillan Community Development Trust, entered a competition organised by Scottish Executive called Rural Voices: Action Research Competition. We had to plan a project, which would research services in the rural community. We called the project: - Current Health, Education and Leisure Services in Strathfillan and how they can be improved. It came at just the right time because we were planning a detailed survey to ascertain the views of the local people and hoping to use the

results as a platform for the development of Lower Station Yard, Crianlarich. We have been short-listed and providing the training day is satisfactory, will be funded. Every household in Strathfillan should receive a visit within the next 6 months. Once the survey is completed, we will be working in close partnership with SCDT to improve the services in the area, and hopefully bring some of them to the centre of Crianlarich.

Moira Robertson

Message from the Minister

It is Wednesday morning 19th March; the Sun is shining, the air is clear; I have just spent a happy half hour with the children in school; life seems full and good; all is at peace here and Iraq seems a long, long way away. It's hard to imagine the heat and dust of the desert and the apprehension of the soldiers who are poised for war, or how we will feel when it's all over. At this moment we just don't know how it will end. But we go on. By the time you are reading this it may be all over. If there has been war, many families will have been deeply hurt by the injury or loss of much a loved husband, wife, parent or child. If by some miracle conflict was avoided, there will be much happiness and thanksgiving and we will go on. When a chaplain in the RAF, I remember once sitting in the office of a Station commander, a Group Captain, who wept as he recalled some of the atrocities he had seen committed against the Kurds they were trying to protect in Northern Iraq. He had to go on. Life is a precious gift of God. Whatever we have to face by way of suffering and pain, life goes on. That is the message of the season of Lent leading up to Easter, when we remember the suffering and death of Jesus. It is even more the message of Easter. The risen Christ shows us that the life that recognises itself as a gift of God is eternal. It goes on – forever.

Reverend John Shedden Minister for Glenorchy Innisheil and Strathfillan

Certificated First Aid courses

Falkirk College will run courses in the area if we can get 12 people to take part. Interested individuals, businesses or organisations should get in touch so that I can co-ordinate local courses on suitable dates. Health and Safety Approved First Aid Course 4 days. Designed for people

Strathfillan

Community Development Trust



You may have read in the Stirling Observer that we were successful in an application to the Scottish Executive's Rural Strategic Support Fund for the grand sum of £39,787 in the form of a grant towards the work of the Trust over the next three years. We are delighted to be given this "seal of approval" which, we believe will encourage other potential funders to support the work of the Trust. The Directors of the Trust are extremely grateful to Sue Wyllie for her hard work in securing these funds. We had a very successful Burns Night in January, which was well supported by Strathfillan. We would like to thank everyone who contributed by giving prizes, performing and attending. This event was great fun and we were delighted to welcome two walkers who came from Burns country and who were specifically looking for a Burns Night to attend. They said that they had a great time and, as they were "professional Burns Supper attendees", we felt suitably pleased. The raffle raised £102, which will be donated to a local good cause.

The work of the Trust is ongoing and although we have nothing specific to report this month, the Community Woodlands, the Killin/Strathfillan Cycleway, the Tyndrum Kickaround and our Crianlarich Houses are all progressing well. We are always happy to hear from anyone who has any ideas, thoughts or comments about the work of the Trust. Although our office has now moved to a room in Strathfillan House we can still be contacted on 01838 400545.

Liz Lawrie Trust Director

in employment who require registered first aiders in the workplace but open to anyone. The College also offers refresher courses. First Aid for those working with Young Children 2 days. Contact Suzanne Player, Stirling Council Community Animator Tel: 01567 820154 email: players@stirling.gov.uk



**Crossing
comes to
Killin.**

Killin Boys Brigade

**celebrated its 25"
Anniversary with a
service in the Killin
Church. (See page 20)**



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**Chris McLarty who was
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with the BBs.**



At Central Scotland Fire Brigade Headquarters, Maddiston, Killin fire-fighter, Sub Officer Iain Campbell was awarded the Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for 20 years loyal service.



Red Nose Day

Above:
Fiona, Jennifer,
Shona and Diana
of Killin Surgery
who raised £86.65.

Right:
Who is this young
lady? We
recognise her from
her antics in the
Library.



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Health Minister is Guest of Killin Care Trust

The Minister for Health and Community Care, Malcolm Chisholm, visited the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home on 14th March to mark the takeover of the Home by the Killin Care Trust for the community. He and Dr. Sylvia Jackson MSP met the staff and spent some time chatting to the residents. They commented on the friendly atmosphere of the Home and the great age of many of the residents.

Following their visit, they attended a Tea in the McLaren Hall given by the Trust to say thank you to everyone who had helped make the takeover possible. The many local people involved were joined by representatives of the Scottish Land Fund, Rural Challenge Fund, Forth Valley Primary Health Care, and Stirling Council, all of whom had played a part. John MacPherson, Chairman of the Trust, welcomed the guests and thanked them for their contributions in whatever form they were made. Advice, grants, money gifts (many anonymous) and practical help with maintenance, all had been essential to the takeover and keeping the Home running smoothly. The tea and delicious cakes were also a contribution from the WRI and other ladies. The informality of the occasion allowed John, when inviting the Minister to speak, to say that even though we were in the run-up to an election, this was not a political occasion but he did hope that the Minister might find more money for Care Homes.

Mr. Chisholm congratulated the Trust on the successful takeover of a community asset and thanked all concerned. When he added that 80 million pounds had been set aside for Care Homes, John quickly said

he would happily settle for just one million for Killin! Dr. Jackson welcomed the Minister's visit and thanked the WRI for the wonderful tea.

She and the Minister then mingled with the guests, many of whom were visiting this area for the first time and, as it was a beautiful day, they saw it at its best. They were impressed by the scenery and also by the long journey to the relative isolation of Killin.

Although in this relaxed and informal setting no public discussion took place about the site of the new hospital or the problem of hospital cars, any mention of distance or isolation was taken by locals as a perfect opportunity for private lobbying on these subjects. It was a happy afternoon and may also have been a useful one.

MM

Killin Boys Brigade 25th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday 16th of March the Killin Boys Brigade celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a service in the Killin Church. The service was very well attended by ex-officers and boys alike and it was good to see so many well-known faces again

The music for the service was provided by Sheena Chisholm and an excellent young band from the Ardeonaig Outdoor Center. It was a thoroughly enjoyable service and many commented on the high quality of the music. The collection, a sum of £133.50 will benefit the Boys Brigade International fund.

During the Service the current Captain, Christopher McLarty, was presented with a gift to commemorate his service to the Boys Brigade in Killin over the last 25 years. Chris is the only person who has been part of the Killin Company over the whole of that time, as a boy and officer.

The service was followed by a wonderful tea, sandwiches and cakes, provided by the Parents Association in the McLaren Hall. All commented on the amazing spread. The Parents Association also presented Chris with a cherry tree which he is going to plant in his garden.

The Boys Brigade in Killin was formed in 1977 and has seen many faces pass through its ranks and thanks must go to all those who have contributed to its success over the years. It has given numerous boys from Killin a good basis in self respect, discipline and a knowledge of the Christian Faith. Those who attended recorded their memories and comments on the Boys Brigade in a book, which can be viewed in the Killin Library.

Roddy MacDonald

Junior Golf 2003.

This commences 9th May. We have been awarded "Starter Centre" status which will help the funding situation.

Donations to Junior Golf please, in the junior bottle on the bar or contact me.

Category 1 & 2 players 5pm

Category 3 players at 5.15pm Category 4

players 5.45pm Beginners, aged 8 and

over, 6pm Juniors must adhere to club

rules regarding, behaviour, no football

shirts, dress code must be respected,

details from Liz. Juniors disobeying

Junior Leaders can and will be barred

from the club. Inter club matches with

Muthill and St.Fillans are planned. The

Adult and Junior Competition is on 15

August. **Liz Stevens.** Junior Convenor,

Killin Golf Club. e-mail:

info@killingolfclub.co.uk

Perfect Pizzas at Killin Youth Group

Yes, the Killin Youth Group restarted in early March with pizzas made with that genuine 'home made' taste. 22 young folk turned up to try their hand at this art very well supported by Sandra Lawrence from Shutters Restaurant. The following week it was the girls turn. Jasmine Beauty from Callandar gave a beauty demonstration. I don't know about the girls, but all the mums who turned up had a free make-over! Over the coming weeks we have arranged a DJing Master Class, cartoon drawing night and a 'News at 10' production event. We are also hoping to plan some summer trips so watch this space! So if you are 12 or older (P7s are also welcome) and you haven't already come along to our Tuesday evening meetings, you don't know what you are missing. We kick off from around 7:00pm each Tuesday (term time) evening in the Lesser Hall where you can: chill out, play the XBox, play your favourite CD/DVD or video and enjoy our highly successful Tuck Shop. Typically, the 'themed' activity begins at 7:30pm. We normally aim to wrap up for 9:00pm. Our AGM is set for the 24th April where we will be electing our new committee and all young folk (and parents) are welcome to stand for a position. Ask not what KYG can do for you, but what you can do for KYG. For more information please contact either Martin Judd or Yvonne MacPherson or just look out for the posters.

Martin Judd

Killin Sports and Leisure Club

At the recent AGM, Kay Riddell was delighted to announce that Stirling Council have agreed to end the annual rental payment of £2500. The benefit to the Club cannot be underestimated, as it will free up money to pay both a kiosk attendant and greenkeeper as well as allow for investment in badly needed repairs and maintenance. Thanks are due to Helen Munro of Stirling Council for agreeing to end this high rental payment which has been crippling the club for so many years, and to Keith Russell of Stirling Council for his continuing support.

With this good news to hand over, the existing office bearers would like to retire and have a well earned rest. Kay Riddell and Liz Stevens have given a great deal to the Club but feel unable to continue. However, both are prepared to work alongside new office bearers to show them what is involved. With more money for the actual running of the Club, the duties of Chair will not be as onerous as previously. The Treasurer's job is not demanding, less than 1 hour a week on average, with a little extra when the books have to be done. Is there anyone in the community who would like to help out? You do not have to play sport to be involved - just have an interest in keeping this facility going for locals and visitors alike. If nobody comes forward to fill these positions, the future of the club will be in jeopardy. If you would like to chat to Kay please contact her on 01567 820291 or call into the Library. Killin Sports & Leisure Club. **KR and LS**

Killin Summer Theatre Group

Shake off winter blues!

Make plans for Summer!

Come and join us for a great day out and a good seat in the stalls at a once-a-month matinee to see five super plays at Pitlochry Festival Theatre: (lunch stop at Butter's Garden Centre Café beforehand). From 'The Steamie' to Shaw's 'Man and Superman' we are promised a feast of entertainment from May to September. For more details, please contact Morag Lithgow (01567 820 440).

Gus Macdonald

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W. R. I.

Killin S.W.R.I. The Vice President, Mrs. E. Woods, welcomed members to February's meeting which was held in the McLaren Lesser Hall on Thursday 6th and introduced Mrs. Georgia Crook who gave a short slide show along with an introductory talk on the equipment and the materials used in basket weaving followed by a demonstration of basket weaving, making it all look very easy. Georgia brought a wide range of sample baskets, mats and a wonderful sculpture of a face, woven from bark with "hair" of twigs. Mrs. B Beattie gave the vote of thanks. Tea was served by the hostesses, Mrs. B. Beattie and Mrs. E. Stewart.

Competition Results:

Sewn Soft Toy

1. Mrs. J. Stewart
2. Mrs. M. Naismith

Valentine Card

1. Mrs. M. Graham
2. Mrs. M. Naismith
3. Mrs. J. Huntley

On Thursday 6th March 2003, the President Mrs. M. Hunter welcomed members and guests from Balquhadder and Ardeonaig. Mrs. Eleanor Jolliffe from West Kilbride was introduced and gave a brief history and an enthusiastic talk on the benefits of Magnotherapy, not only for humans but for animals, as well as other applications which included magnets for fuel combustion systems on cars, central heating and water purification. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs. S. Chisholm, followed by tea served by Mrs. S. Chisholm and Mrs. E. Ingram assisted by the Committee.

Competition Results:

A Local Photograph

1. Mrs. M. Graham
2. Mrs. E. Stewart
3. Mrs. K. Reid

Three Empire Biscuits

1. Mrs. K. Reid
2. Mrs. M. Graham
3. Mrs. M. Hunter

Ardeonaig and District WRI

On our Members' Night on 15th January, Alison Whitmore spoke about her embroidery and showed some wonderful samples of her work.

Competitions: Vegetable Soup

1. M. MacLaughlin
 2. J. Scott
 3. J. Anderson
- My Favourite Thing
1. A. Whitmore
 2. J. Anderson
 3. J. MacKenzie

On 12th February Georgia Crook gave a demonstration on Basket Weaving.

Competitions: Bowl of Bulbs:

1. J. Ferguson
 2. M. Taylor
 3. J. MacKenzie
- Favourite Candle:
1. J. Ferguson
 2. J. Anderson
 3. M. Taylor

A very successful whist drive was held in the Old School at Ardeonaig on 20th February. Joan MacKenzie was card master.

Ladies:

1. J. Scott
 2. M. MacLaughlin
 3. P. Noble
- Consolation J. McLarty

Gents:

1. B. Nicoll
 2. P. Simpson
 3. D. Blackwood
- Consolation R. Simpson
- Janet Anderson presented the prizes.

On 12th March the Rev. Anne Brennan from Kenmore spoke at the meeting.

Competition:

Cushion: Jo. Scott

Janet Anderson, Press Secretary

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Heart of Scotland Herb Society

Heart of Scotland Herb Society. On the night of our meeting on "Fresh Beauty Products" Beryl Pointer and Cath McGregor gave a colourful and fascinating demonstration of toners, tonics and treatments to titillate from head to toe. All preparations were free of carcinogens and artificial dyes. Most of the twenty recipes used were a combination of organically grown fruits, vegetables, dairy products, natural waxes and oils.

February saw us cleaning up our act from the inside out, with detoxing spring tonics. Herbalist Jacqui Hazzard outlined eight commonly grown spring plants, their various actions, uses and particular beneficial effects at this time of year.

Herbs have so many varied uses. Most of us can at least admit to cooking with them. But can any of us match Eileen Malone's creative ability with "Herbs and Desserts"- the subject of our March meeting? We were treated to delicacies for the eye and palate in truly unusual and complimentary combinations of herbs, spices, fruits, sponge, ice cream, sorbet and jellies. None of us went home hungry or without plenty of new ideas!

In the next few months we hope to be planting out our section of the herb garden at Pitnacree, and will also be having a herbal identification session at the Scottish Crannog Centre before beginning our summer of garden visits and the annual outing.

Anyone interested in more information on future events please contact either

Patty Hope 01567 820408
or Judy Forster 01567 820298.

Killin Heritage Society

Heritage Society Meeting 7th March 2003 on Wildlife Protection

Inspector Ian Cameron presented his work as a Wild Life Liaison Officer with the Clackmannanshire Police Force to the meeting. His account of the wiles and methods used by egg thieves, and the bizarre attitudes and determination the thieves exhibit, had us all intrigued. He stressed the importance of public participation and vigilance. The police give a high priority to wild life crimes and react rapidly where suspicious activity is reported. The art of maintaining the trust and support of the various groups with conflicting interests was described. The use of total honesty and disclosure he felt, conferred responsibility to some who would otherwise feel uninvolved.

His portrayal of the history and development of wildlife conservation was fired by his contagious passion and enthusiasm for the subject. He demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of local wildlife from his work and his own observations. The description of the methods used by criminals who set out, for their own ends, to destroy or subvert wildlife was presented to us in graphic detail. The use of poison appears to be the most indiscriminate and cruel.

The presentation was interspersed with many amusing and tragic stories from his years of experience on the job. He talked about the theft of birds of prey, bluebell bulbs, the poisoning and trapping of eagles, badger baiting, and many other activities he had had to deal with. Without a proactive approach there would be little protection for selected wildlife. We can no longer assume that the car stopped overnight in a local layby is an innocent hill walker. Public involvement is greatly appreciated. The farming community, landowners and gamekeepers play a vital role. Suspicions can now easily be shared with the police by mobile phone. Acting together we can deter would be wild life thieves. Information can be passed on to the unit through any local police telephone number. The law has recently acquired the power to jail offenders and confiscate their vehicles. This unfortunately leads to the use of hired cars making known offenders more difficult to spot. A glimmer of hope appeared when it was mentioned that the known and now ageing egg thief offenders are not being replaced. Perhaps this small part of the problem is less fashionable and will die out. It was a most enjoyable and informative evening.

Loch Tay Pottery



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Environmental Action Killin

Environmental Action Killin met on Thurs Feb 6 at the Killin Hotel. The group was joined by Gavin Skipper and Callum Ritchie, the National Parks rangers who support Killin as part of their responsibility, and Sheona MacLennan, the community agent for the National Park Community Futures Programme.

The first topic covered was the surveys of 6 local footpaths, completed by EAK members. These were completed following a training day in December, when volunteers were initiated into the survey system being piloted by the National Park. The main issues that arose were sign posting, confusion over some routes because of ill defined tracks, and access through some land. Access will be addressed by personal visits to land owners by Gavin. Other problems included some poor quality surfaces which Gavin felt could best be resolved by scraping the surface with earth moving machinery. The National Park does not fund such operations but may be able to help with provision of sign posts. Funding would need to be through grant applications or fund raising. EAK plan to present their progress with the footpaths to the village some time in April.

It is hoped that the Council will finally commence the proposed kerbside collection of waste that can be composted in the next few months. Material collected will be processed at the community compost site beside the skip. Helen Cole suggested that a

Recycling Pavilion might be helpful in reducing waste. Many householders get rid of items that others could use. These could be temporarily held in a pavilion until a new owner can be matched.

EAK AGM was held at the Coach House Hotel on Thursday 6 March. Gavin Skipper was present to report on the progress of communication with some land owners over access agreements for local footpaths. Draft versions of maps for the first phase of paths were circulated for discussion and will be finalised once full agreement has been reached over access.

Richard Shand had also asked if the proposals for a steam railway, and boat on Loch Tay, could be discussed to highlight any environmental concerns. (See separate article)

We are now meeting on the first Thursday of each month in the Coach House Hotel. Please join us if you are interested in environmental issues!

GA

Life-saving equipment for Killin Surgery



The Sandpiper Trust, a Scottish Charity, was set up in memory of Sandy Dickson by his parents, family and friends. The primary aim of the Trust is to ensure that all rural G.P.s in Scotland are provided with essential emergency medical equipment and resources once they have undergone specialist training courses and gained certification from Basics Scotland, (The British Association for Immediate Care). Judge Stroyan presents vital life saving equipment from the Sandpiper Trust to Dr Chris Holden at the Killin Surgery.

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Broadband In The Community

Call for Action.

The residents of suburbia are constantly talking about their broadband connection, and the improvements they get with their new fast connection to the "Super Highway". Unfortunately, we, in the rural community, have to suffer using antiquated 20th Century technology to access the internet, and it certainly does not seem like a Highway to us, more like trying to cross the bridge over the Falls of Dochart at rush hour.

Shall we just sit back and accept this? I say **NO**. It is up to **US** to do something about this. Without BT and other telecommunication providers knowing how we feel, nothing will be done to change the situation. Scottish Enterprise and BT are well aware of the issues of the rural communities, both from business and social perspectives, and currently rural broadband pilots are being undertaken. Full details of these trials, and other information related to broadband can be found on the internet pages. Once the results of these trials have been analysed, plans to provide broadband to local communities will be developed. We must pre-empt these plans and make our views known.

The benefits of broadband are huge, and include saving time and money on call charges, and having permanent access to the internet. This allows you to have instant access to information, and to have immediate email conversations with your customers, which can give

your business a major advantage over your competition. Of course, for home users, the benefits include faster download of files, music and video, and faster response times for games and other programmes.

At present there have been only a handful of people registering their demand from the Killin area (in fact 14 at the time of writing). This represents only a small percentage of internet connected homes and businesses in the community. We need to significantly increase this number in order for us to be taken seriously.

What can we do? The first step is for all internet users in the area to register the demand for broadband online, by accessing www.bt.com/btbroadband and following the simple on-screen instructions. I want some form of broadband to be available in the village, and I am sure many of you do too. So, I ask you all to take 5 minutes of your time to make your views known. Broadband is a high-speed Internet connection. It is defined as allowing transmission at 512Kbps or higher, compared to the 56Kbps that is available using a dial-up modem.

Broadband allows you to download information up to 10 times faster than via a normal internet connection, and provides an "always on" connection to the internet, allowing you to have constant access to information, and immediate receipt of email.

Mark Lincoln

Messrs. John McRae (Killin)

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School Food Initiative

Healthy tuck shops, where fruit and not sweets are the main attraction, have been successfully introduced in several schools in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling.

Now the drive is on to encourage the setting up of many more. The aim is for pupils, teachers, parents, food suppliers, retailers and health and education professionals to cooperate in the setting up of fruit tuck shops in schools.

The reward for children lies in the lifetime benefits to their dental and general health if they eat more fruit and vegetables.

Pupils are becoming involved in the running of the tuck shops and fruit stalls calling on their creative and organisational skills, using aspects of enterprise education. This improves some areas of their school work, including maths, as well as their health. Money from the sales of fruit is reinvested to buy more fruit for the stalls.

Community Dietitians, Health Development Officers and Dental Health professionals from NHS Forth Valley are closely involved in working with all those involved throughout the area to bring about improvements.

The new Food Links initiative which aims to promote and support the growing and consumption of local food in the Forth Valley area is also supporting the school projects.

NHS Forth Valley press release

Getting Heard Locally And Nationally

In Scotland today, a great deal of energy and enthusiasm is being invested successfully by local communities into supporting many voluntary bodies such as community councils, school boards and the like.

Increasingly, local groups are endeavouring to resolve problems, which are common to many other communities both regionally and nationally. Meetings, the traditional method of consultation, are often cumbersome and ineffective, particularly for widely dispersed rural areas. In 1997, when I was the Stirling area representative on the Executive Committee and Vice-chairman of the 'Association of Scottish Community Councils' (ASCC), I wrote a paper 'The Challenge of Utilising the Internet for Democratic Reform in Scotland'; A copy is available on request.

The equipment and skills were then not widely available but this has changed dramatically, as shown in the graphs below:

Figure 8: Proportion of adults who have accessed the Internet at some time, by age, April 2001

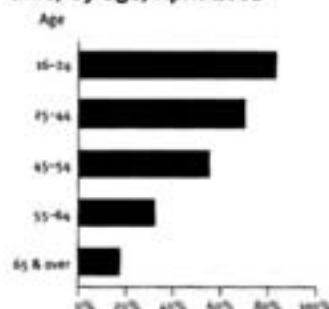
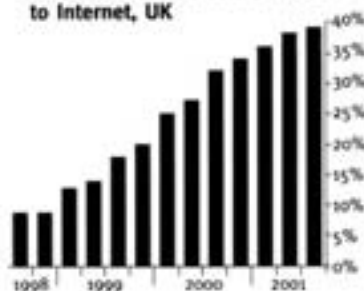


Figure 4: Proportion of households with home access to Internet, UK



The proposal is to use the Internet to enable community groups to easily identify issues of common concern, exchange views quickly and

effectively, and lobby appropriate agencies and bodies on-line.

Virtual regional and national networks could be set up. A major advantage would be a significant reduction in the volume of paperwork with which our society is burdened. A letter to a number of community councils and associations, suggesting the need for an interactive web-site, financial backing and professional support had an encouraging response:

A significant number of community councils, including 16 in the Stirling area and 8 area Associations, have provided email addresses. Helen Munro, Director of Community Services, wrote to all Stirling area community councils encouraging them to support the project.

The Association of Scottish Community Councils are co-operating and they are going to print a project report in their next newsletter, including a summary of my paper.

The purpose of this article is to encourage people, to get involved with this process of democratic reform so that we can set up a local network: Ultimately we should be able to present a united viewpoint to the authorities:

John Riley Tyndrum
email johnriley108@virgin.net



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If so, Rural Stirling Housing Association may be able to help. The Association's aim is to support rural communities in north and west Stirling by providing and managing affordable good quality homes for people in housing need.

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Average rents for a 2-bedroom house are £210.40 per month.

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New Killin Telephone Directory

2003 edition

In the Summer of 2003, Killin News will produce a fully updated edition of its local telephone directory covering Killin and the neighbouring communities of Lochearnhead, Crianlarich, Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy.

It will follow the previous pattern, listing personal and business numbers, as well as fax, e.mail and mobile numbers.

Personal entries free

'Yellow Pages' Business entries

Classified list £5

(One free entry if a larger advertisement is placed)

Advertisement section

Quarter page £16:

Half page £32

Full page £58

Please complete the form enclosed in this issue of Killin News and return it ASAP to Ian Lithgow, Bal-na-Coille, Manse Road, Killin, or hand it in at Killin Library.

Additional forms area available at the Post Offices in Killin, Crianlarich and Lochearnhead, and at News First in Killin and G.A. Brodie in Tyndrum.

Important: To respect your privacy, your number will be included only if you ask us to do so. **No request, no entry.**

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Whooper Swans on Loch Tay

For many who walk the “head of the Loch” the bird life provides a common interest throughout the year. In the spring months the arrival of certain species are eagerly anticipated as a new breeding season gets underway. There is the added enjoyment in the appearance of an unusual visitor that has strayed off course from the normal migration routes, or the arrival of birds that “winter” in our area. Perhaps the most eagerly awaited of the latter are the Whooper Swans whose arrival on Loch Tay always seems to coincide with a spell of very frosty or other such wintry weather that brings the need to seek shelter and more open

water. These graceful birds gather along the loch shore, often in family groups, and can be easily observed as they go about their daily routine. Rarely does the group seem to be occupied with the same task. Some will be feeding whilst others snooze with their long neck resting along their back and often managing to balance on one leg at the same time. I am sure they sleep with one eye open, so as not to be caught unawares, and always looking over their shoulder!

Others will be preening and stretching their wings whilst all the time the whole group appears to be quietly passing the time of day interspersed with their louder and quite distinctive call. Head dipping often accompanies their gentle murmuring, which reminds you of



quiet, contented conversation amongst a group of people.

This winter the Whooper swans have come and gone on Loch Tay in varying numbers but in the second week of January there was one bird that was particularly noticeable because of the large yellow collar on its neck. With the use of binoculars it was easy to read the lettering displayed on the collar and the sighting was duly reported to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) who then

passed that information on to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. There is always a wait of a few weeks before information regarding a bird is sent to you but this adds to the excitement of discovering the life history of “your bird”. We know that the

Whooper swans wintering in Scotland spend the breeding season in Iceland and this particular one hatched in 1992. It was caught in August 1994 at Lake Geldingavatn, Iceland, as an adult male, and given the yellow collar. This lake is in an area of lakes that are so shallow that they turn muddy brown when

the wind blows! The next recorded sighting was in early November 1995 at Persie Lake, Glenshee, and then three years were to pass before the next sighting was recorded in late November 1998 at Castleton, Meikle. In mid December 2000 he was seen at Loch of Lintrathan and the sighting on Loch Tay in January 2003 is now added to this list and provides another chapter in the “life history” of this bird. He has flown an incredible number of

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miles, as we can presume that each autumn he has returned to Scotland and then journeyed back to Iceland the following spring. We can only wonder as to where and when the next recorded sighting of him will take place? Any bird sighting where the numbers and/or lettering on a ring, collar or tag can be noted, whether the bird is alive or dead, should be reported to the BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU or you can record on line by accessing their web site at www.bto.org.uk. Their Migration Watch website, which will be running until the end of June, tracks the arrival and flow of summer migrants through Britain and Ireland and needs birdwatchers to submit their sightings of migrants this spring.

The best way to take part is to choose a walk that you do on a regular basis – on the way to work or while walking the dog, for instance – and to make a note of the birds you see or hear each time. You could even record the birds you see from your garden for this

survey. Taking part is easy, its just a case of visiting the website www.bto.org/migwatch, registering as a recorder and then recording your sightings using the specially designed web pages. Or send an e-mail to migrationwatch@bto.org for further details. Those who do not have direct access to the web site can record their sightings and ask a friend to submit them on their behalf.

Gilleen Ford

Hock Sorrow Probe

It was revealed last night in Killin Perthshire that Dim Wan of the Palace, abroad somewhere had been completely snubbed by the Killin News. Whilst pictures of all the other members and cast of the Killin Drama Club had been printed in The Killin News, Mr Wan's had been left out. Mr Wan commented that some people even had their picture in twice and one of the stagehands was posing as a principle cast member. Mr Wan stamped his foot very hard at this point and sucked his thumb. Investigations are currently underway.

Mr Wan, age 21, was said to be in deep shock and currently in hiding with friends down the pub. He said he couldn't

understand why he had been singled out in this way and was consulting with his lawyers - who were also reported to be down the pub. The Emperor was called upon to comment but he was nowhere to be found. Reports are coming in that he could possibly be down the pub.

Mr Dim Wan, alias Slime, a well-known baddie, has also been reported as masquerading on two occasions as Alice. Shockingly the story is breaking that he pretended for several months to be a vegetarian living on chickpeas. During a brief mental breakdown Mr Wan was know to dress up a as a ginger Tom cat called Tommy. He has described this period as one of the happiest of his life! More recently he has been dressing up as a seven year old child called Wendy and fighting with another member of the cast who is dressing up as Ellie a nine year old. Theft of an icecream is known to have taken place.

Gill Hunt, his constant companion, and Widow Twankey, his bride-to-be, were also unavailable for comment as they were off having Salsa lessons . . .down the pub.

Any further developments or breaking stories on the highly sensitive issue will be brought to you as soon as they happen.

I. P Freely, Wester Lix



Would you like to meet new People, Learn New Skills, Make a Difference?

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We are looking for volunteers to become Citizen Advocates for people with learning difficulties in the Callander area. Training will be provided.

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What's on in Killin and District

April

- 11/12 Drama Club Production McLaren Hall
12/13 Basket Weaving Weekend Balquidder Village Hall
24 Green Team School Pond 6p.m.
26/27 Celtic Food & Drink Festival Crannog Centre 11a.m.-4p.m.

May

- 1 EAK Coach House Hotel 8p.m.
3 Boys Brigade Coffee Morning McLaren Hall 10a.m.
8 Green Team School Pond 6p.m.
9 Junior Golf First Session Killin Golf Club 5p.m.
10 Community Consultation Day McLaren Hall
11 Stone Carving Demonstration and Workshop Crannog 11a.m.-5p.m.
13 Killin Community Council AGM Killin Primary School 7.30p.m.
18 Killin Gun Club Outing
18 World of Wood Crannog Centre 11a.m.-4p.m.
23 Green Team School Pond 8.30p.m.
29 Community Bus AGM McLaren Hall 7.30p.m.

June

- 1 Killin Gun Club Shoot Stance Luib 1p.m.
5 Green Team School Pond 6p.m.
5 EAK Coach House Hotel 8p.m.
6 Cancer Committee Cheese & Wine McLaren Hall evening
8 Stone Carving Demonstration & workshop Crannog 11a.m.-4p.m.
14/22 Perthshire Archaeology Week Crannog Centre.
15 Killin Gun Club Open 50 Stance Luib 1p.m.
19 Green Team School Pond 6p.m.
22 Fiddling with Fibres 11.30a.m.-4.30p.m.

Junior Golf

Killin Golf Club Fridays
5p.m. Starting 9 May

Killin Youth Group

McLaren Hall Tuesdays
7p.m. starting 22 April

Tiddlers & Toddlers

Church Hall Fridays
9.30p.m..Starting 25 April

Line Dancing

Bridge of Lochay Hotel
Thursdays 7.30p.m.

Keep Fit McLaren Hall

Mondays 10a.m. Starting 28 April
Tuesdays 7.30p.m. Starting 22April

Bowls

Sports Pavilion Mondays &
Fridays 2.15p.m. Tuesdays
6.30p.m. Starting 22 April

Upholstery Classes (from 28 Apr)

McLaren Hall Mondays 10.30a.m.
L'head Village Hall Tues 12.00p.m.
L'head Village Hall Thurs 10.00a.m.

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October - April 8am - 9pm

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Killin News

Deadlines for the next issue: advertising 6th June, copy 13th June

Editorial Policy Statement

The Killin News is a free community newspaper produced and distributed about every two months by volunteers to households and businesses in Killin and district. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertaining journal for those who live, work and visit in this area. Letters and articles published in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Production Committee and they reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any item. Contributions will be attributed to the author. Vested interests will be declared where applicable. Items for publication can be submitted as e-mail, disc, typed or legibly handwritten copy. Where possible, save electronic copies as rich text format. When we receive several accounts of the same event, only one account of these may appear in the paper.

Articles should be between 200 and 500 words and the content should be original work and relevant to Killin and environs. Minutes will not necessarily be printed in full. We are pleased to receive good quality photographs.

To advertise in the Killin News

Examples

1. A single BW advert 2.5" x 2.5" £12.
2. 10% reduction for 5 consecutive unaltered insertions
3. Classified Ads, Lonely hearts, Congratulations etc. £3 for up to 15 words.

Full Rates on application.

killin.news@virgin.net or telephone 01567 820298

Adverts are accepted in good faith and we can not be held responsible for the goods and services advertised.

Editorial Comment

The romance of yesteryear, is with us with the prospect of a steamer on Loch Tay. In traditional livery it would give a grace and attraction to the loch. Something that enhances the popularity and prosperity of the area is always welcome. The warning note comes from ecological concerns about the fragility of the wildlife. See pages 12 and 13.

Once again the people of Killin must consider what kind of development they wish in connection with the village. What are the priorities? What does the name Killin mean to others? Why do people come here? The benefits are for all our traders, but only if the visitors stay awhile. The debate has entered the public arena. What are your views?

Aberfeldy is a leading light in the development of 'fair trade'. See page 5. Fair trade rewards the producer and helps to diminish the added costs imposed by middle men. The concept of a farmers market in which local producers are encouraged to promote their products is encouraging. Should we be considering something similar on a local scale? The beneficial effects go further than supporting local business and include benefits in freshness and reduced transport costs. How far can we go with local sourcing?

Answers on a postcard and we might just print your comments.

Production Committee

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Gina Angus | Willie Angus |
| Jim Beattie | Iain Campbell |
| Allan Chisholm | Judy Forster |
| Dani Grant | Angus Inglis |
| Margaret MacIver | Kay Riddell |
| | Liz Stevens |

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LETTERS

Breadalbane Brewery

Congratulations to Andrew, Pat and Tober on their new brewery venture. It's nice to see that they have done their historical research.

I too have been checking the historical records and have found this interesting reference in the font of local history knowledge "In Famed Breadalbane" by W. A. Gilles, and I quote. "At a court held at Finlarig in August 1622 the following remarkable licensing law was passed: "It is statued and ordained that no brewster refuse ale to any honest old country men, either by day or by night, when they please to send for it; and if the ale be in the house, and the brewster refusing, they shall pay four pounds fine, because they refused the same; and it shall be lawfull for them (the honest old country men) to come with the officer to break up the house door, take out the ale and give it to the poor."

Constable Donaldson is going to be a busy man!

Les Berrow Firbush Field Centre.

Scottish Community Drama Association.

Congratulations to the Killin Drama Club for staging the District round of this year's One-Act Festival. As the

adjudicator said in his summing-up, it was an impressive two evenings of drama with a high standard produced by the competing teams.

Having been associated with the SCDA for more years than I care to remember, I wondered if people were aware of the significance of Saturday evening's announcement that next year Killin will host the Eastern Divisional round. This will involve competing teams from the Borders, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Stirling and Fife being in Killin for the best part of a week at the end of March 2004, the winning team then going on to compete in the Scottish Final. Apart from raising the profile of the Killin Club in community drama circles, the event will greatly aid Killin's economy at a notoriously 'lean' time of year in the local business calendar.

Sincere congratulations to all involved.

Lesley Kettle

Thank You Willie

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to "Willie", our faithful Coalman, who ventured to Killin on Wednesday evening 5 February at 9.30 p.m. to deliver coal. He struggled on the

Brae at Fingal Road due to the snow and ice. Many thanks, Willie, for keeping the fires burning and thank you to Fergussons.

Jessie McLeod

Anyone Know Jim?

Hello. I found your details on the web site and wonder if you have any records of my late father James (Jim) Taylor who was the local butcher in the early/mid 60's. Although a Butcher by trade he was also a journalist later in life, but always wrote articles of interest. I wonder if he wrote anything of local news or stories which were published at that time? If you find anything I would be most interested to know. Thank you.

Brenda Nicola (Taylor)

A Special Thank You..

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support during Mum's illness – with a special thanks to doctors and nurses.

Bill, Norman and Anne

Apology

In the obituary of Molly Dibley the date of her death should have read 28 November 2002.

Obituary

Alison Hunter died 14th March 2003. Alison, aged 73, was born in Alpine Cottage, Killin, where she stayed until her marriage to Bill in 1954. With her brother, John, she enjoyed all things local. She was leader of the Girl Guides and a keen badminton player. Most of her working life was spent in R. McGregors, D & J McEwen and the Co-operative, although her main interest in life was her children, Norman and Anne, and grandchildren. She enjoyed baking and helping her neighbours and friends. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Bill Hunter

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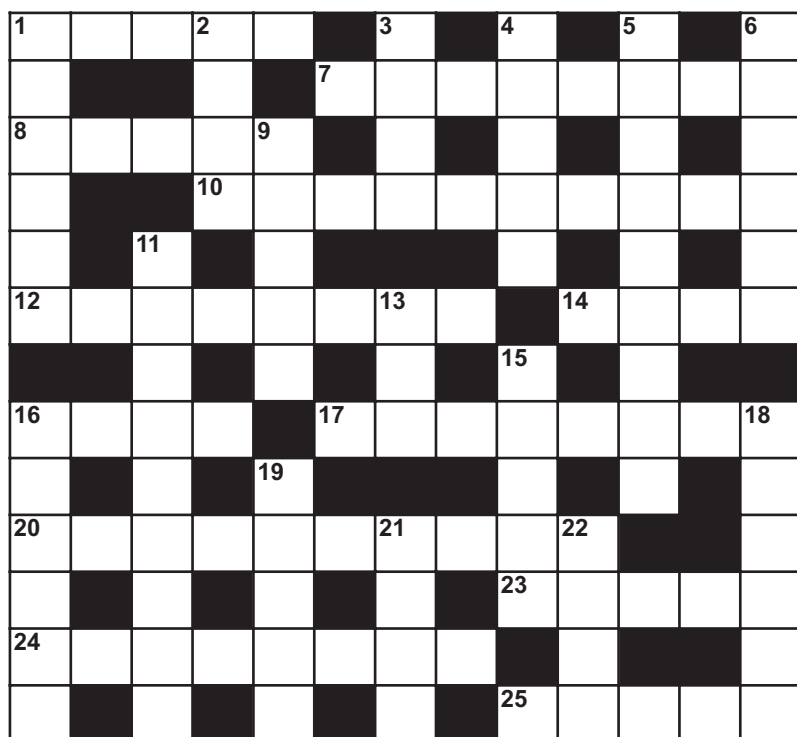
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Etc..... Etc..... Etc.....

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Crossword by Scorpio



Solution to Crossword Issue No 73

Across 1. Aside 7. Sedative 8. Beast 10. Crustacean 12. Treasure 14 Bait 16. Feet
17 Revealed 20. Immaterial 23. Lakes 24. Long lead 25. In bed

Down 1. Albert 2. Disc 3. Eels 4. Radar 5. Miserable 6. Rennet 9. Trust
11. Deferment 13. Rue 15. Metal 16. Frills 18. Doused 19. Stale 21. Reap 22. Lawn

Across

1. and 7 childhood game of satisfied relations (5,8)
7 .See 1 Ac
8. Cheat foolishly when passing on information (5)
10. He doesn't work for the inland revenue - he
classifies plants (10)
12. Deep dogs assemble to wish the traveller a safe
journey (3,5)
14. Eruption on the eyelid (4)
16. Sodium Chloride (4)
17. Support fall of the stage scenery (8)
20. Feeling sad and with the garbage perhaps (2,3,5)
23. Colour from cuttlefish? (5)
24. Identical (8)
25. String maiden is easy to see through (5)

Down

1. Cosy cur in a bun (3,3)
2. Truce (4)
3. Milk pudding from a palm tree (4)
5. A true mini produced as a portrait (9)
6. Flying sause of sleeping sickness (6)
9. She is cruel and grasping (5)
11. A unit load produces hero worship (9)
13. A country wept for her although she had asked
them not to do so (3)
15. Passes over with jumps (5)
16 and 19. Ghostly flat and flat measure (6,5)
18. Parts of corolla found in pet Alsatian (6)
21. Get together drop a point and you are alone (4)
22. Mark of authenticity (4)

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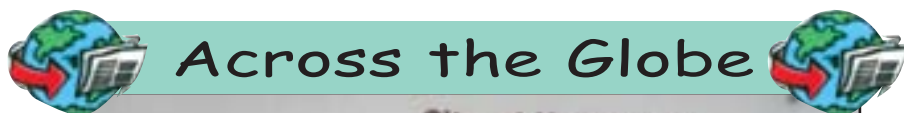
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No Lone Rangers!



This must be the most expensive "Across the Globe" picture taken. While Pamela and Pigeon were posing for this two minute photo shoot in Miami, their car was broken in to and camcorder and handbag were stolen!

The National Park Breadalbane Area Ranger team have just taken on two seasonal members of staff, Marina Smith and Abi Wylde will be joining Callum McNeill Ritchie, Linda Winskill and Gavin Skipper.

During the next month, the first phase of Interpretation Panels should be erected at various locations within the boundaries of the National Park. Two sites in Killin have been identified, McLaren Hall car park and Monemore car park. The panels mention some of the history and legend associated with the village and include a map of Killin. A public consultation about local walking routes will take place on the morning of 10 May at the McLaren Hall. On Saturday 21 June, to coincide with National Cycle Bike Week, the National Park Rangers are organising a Breadalbane Solstice Cycle Treasure Hunt.

The partnership between National Park and National Trust Rangers will continue, particularly in the Killin area, where our interests overlap. As an opening gambit, Gavin has agreed to being initiated by the Green Team on 8 May. We hope he survives and will come back for more.

Join both the National Park and the National Trust for Scotland Rangers to make YOUR own history at Breadalbane Park on Saturday 2 August. We will be offering a free family fun-filled hands-on extravaganza of archaeological activities. More details will follow in the next edition of the Killin News.

Gavin Skipper & Helen Cole

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