



PRICE £1

# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue 78 February 2004



More Christmas activities,  
New Year and  
Pantomime photographs on  
pages 18 and 19



The New Year dance, this year as popular as ever, with a full dance floor throughout the evening; photo above, well kent locals demonstrating the "Britannia Two Step"



Amy and Kirsty meet Santa Claus



## 2004 In with a Bang

Hundreds of locals and visitors braved the sleet and snow to see in New Year at the Falls of Dochart with this spectacular display of fireworks. Fantastic effort from all the organisers. Well done and let's hope it's not the last! IC

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## THE FALLS OF DOCHART INN

### Feature Menus

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*February 14th*

*A night for Romantics  
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Complimentary wine for each  
couple booked.*

*March 14th – 20th  
The Italian Job  
Need We Say More ??*



*February 22nd – 28th*

*A Taste of the East  
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Beers and wines from throughout  
the East*

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# Spirit of The Tay and Railway Referendum

The Steamer is taking shape at the Dalerb construction site. It looks elegant and functional in design. There has unfortunately been some delay and the stern is not yet in place. We hear that once the hull is completed it will be craned out by a 300 ton crane and finished afloat on the loch. Excitement is mounting and it is hoped it will be fully functional later this year adding its grace and splendour to the waters of Loch Tay.

The Referendum in Killin gives very positive support to the idea of a steam train running from the village to the head of the Loch, a distance of one mile, to embark and disembark the passengers. For some months we have been expecting the results of a "Feasibility Study"

commissioned last year. Supported by public money it was expected that it would be published last summer. Following investigations, a Summary of Version 2, dated 30 October 2003, has now come to light and is available in the Killin Library. It is not quite what some expected and in its heading is described as a "Market Appraisal". We would have expected it to be more comprehensive and include more detailed financial and environmental impact studies. It makes reference to the effectiveness but high relative cost of a steam train and recommends that, in the interim, consideration be given to an electri-



fied land train or mini-coach service for the short to medium-term (both rejected by the project partners). While the *idea* of a train for Killin exists, this now needs to be translated into a *concept* to which the village can relate. We wish Loch Tay Steam Packet Company good luck and good fortune over the coming months. **WA**

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# Killin Community Council

An impressive 60% of the electorate voted in the recent Community Council Election and the representatives chosen are: John MacPherson, Chairman, Pat Christie, Vice-Chairman, Fiona Kennedy, Treasurer, Mairi Hunter, Secretary, Alda Noble, Kay Riddell, Helen Sinclair, Charlie Grant, Jock Stewart, Roger Twigg, Tim Frost and Kenneth Taylor.

The first full meeting of the new Council was held on 13th January. The Chairman welcomed new members and said that meetings were for the Community Council to discuss matters brought to their attention but that members of the public would continue to be allowed to raise relevant points at the discretion of the Chairman.

**Broadband:** Fiona Soutar and Pete McLaren from Forth Valley Enterprise explained the options available for Broadband and the cost to individuals and businesses. The trigger level for Broadband in Killin is 150 and so far 50 people had registered. The normal range for reception is 4 kilometres from the telephone exchange but reception in 'gap' areas can sometimes be possible. On 13th February, Broadband are planning to be in Killin to take further names of those interested and it is also

hoped to arrange a visit from a Broadband bus. Helen Sinclair, Suzanne Player, Julie Rhys and Mark Lincoln would be the local contacts for Broadband.

**Road Matters:** Les Goodfellow of Stirling Council Roads and Transport explained the Council's Winter Service Policy and gave details of priorities and costs. The Council's obligation was to spend its budget to provide what it thought was reasonable. He said he would again look into better liaison between BEAR and the Council regarding the road between Killin and Lix Toll and also find out why the snow-plough did not clear the North road up to the Lochay Power Station as well as the South road. The clearance of roadside ditches to keep water off roads was a question of ownership and responsibility for these ditches and was a problem. Transporting children to school on ungritted roads was another problem but gritting sideroads was a question of cost. Pavements in Killin are not treated as all pavement gritters are kept in Stirling, which has priority.

**Cemetery Car Park:** The Community Council would apply for planning permission to extend the present car park. Money may be available from Stirling

Council to assist this project.

**Proposed Rail Link:** In the recent referendum 52% of the electorate voted, 296 for and 80 against. Roger Twigg, Jock Stewart and Tim Frost would keep in touch with developments on behalf of the Council.

**Library Hours:** The Council had stated that Library hours would not be increased and that Killin was lucky to have a Library.

**Out of hours medical care:** This is still ongoing.

**Award:** KCC won the Calor Annual Award for work with the elderly and the certificate will be put up in the Day Centre Clinic.

**Christmas Tree:** Letters of thanks will be sent to the Forestry Commission, Messrs. Stitt and Forster and the Episcopal Church.

**Fireworks:** The Chairman thanked all those who helped to make the display a success. £250 of the £575.55 collected at the Bridge would be sent to Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital. It was possible that this was the last firework display at Hogmanay but this would be discussed at a future meeting.

**Flooding:** The Community Council would arrange a meeting with Rural Stirling, Stirling Council, Water Board, Education Authority and residents affected by the flooding which would be chaired by Alda Noble and Charlie Grant. The reason for the flooding at Glenoglehead is to be looked into.

**The National Park:** Five Council members would liaise with Park Representatives to cover different areas of progress.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 9th March 2004 in Killin Primary School.

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# Frost Report

## The New Millennium MacNab

Since the sporting highland life became popular in Victorian times it has been a tradition for keen sportsmen to, sometime in their life, gain a MacNab. This is the shooting of a stag, a grouse and the catching of a salmon all in the same day. It has always been a stiff test but with modern times it looks like becoming harder. There are new calls from the government to increase the cull of the deer population to up to 35% of the total population. But how is this going to happen when, at the moment, the price for venison is 20p per pound or less. This is the lowest price in over 30 years, even lower than during the foot and mouth epidemic. Strangely, this price doesn't seem to result in low prices at the end of the line in the shops and supermarkets, not that many of them stock venison anyway, let alone in user-friendly packaging. It's more or less a whole Bambi or nothing if you do know where to buy it. In the last couple of years Forest Enterprise have put money into the setting up of a quality assured venison scheme. This is similar to the sheep meat and beef assured scheme.

As at present, the move is afoot to have no closed shooting season for red stags and to increase the season for hinds. This would mean that stags would be shot when in very poor condition and that hinds could be shot when very heavy in calf. Surely this would contradict the ideas of the quality assured venison scheme and result in the possibility of carcasses not being saleable at all. Many years and much effort in the past have been spent in getting suitable closed seasons for the shooting of deer and present ideas could turn it into a total free-for-all. The present low price is fast draining money from estates as it costs more to shoot the deer than they are worth in the larder. This leaves another question mark in the future. You never know, the government and National Park may subsidise this, as they seem to be doing with most other things. Maybe we are not green enough in the Highland hills.

Whilst on the subject of deer, a great deal is being made at the moment about the damage that they do to the habitat and not allowing the natural

regeneration of native woodland in their excessive numbers. Not wishing to pass the buck (or stag?) but we do not hear about numbers of hill sheep in this equation, which affect the habitat, and regeneration in a similar way. Are deer not naturally forest dwellers anyway? Were deer not living for millennia in forests which regenerated quite healthily?

At the start of the salmon season fishermen and fishery scientists are wondering if global warming is having a much greater effect on salmon than thought earlier. The temperature of the rivers is now slightly higher and salmon prefer it colder. Also the extremely hot and dry summer last year had a catastrophic effect on rivers like the Thurso in Caithness, which dried up to a fraction of its usual size. This, of course, makes the difficult journey from river mouth to spawning grounds even more difficult. The same is true for grouse. Although heavy storms can kill many young chicks, they do need insect food in the first few weeks of life. Has the change in temperature resulted in the hatching of insects happening earlier, i.e. before

the young chicks are able to make use of them?

Within a few weeks of writing this the Access Code is due to be published. One of the proposals is unrestricted access to fields with crops or otherwise so long as walking, riding etc. round the margins is not indicated by a path. The margins of fields are usually the places where wildlife tends to find a haven in farmland. What effect will unrestricted access have on this in the future? Also what is to happen with dogs on the hill? I was very firmly put in my place recently when asking a lady to put her dog on the lead on the hill as sheep were running everywhere; I was told that there was nothing in the access code about that.

On asking how she knew about this before it was published she informed me that she had been involved in its drawing up and dogs just needed to be under control. Obviously her idea of control and mine were different! I await the publication with interest! So, presumably, do the deer, grouse and all other dog shy wildlife. **Tim Frost**

**Killin Sports  
Pavilion**

**Lost,  
a chair**

**Help wanted**

- After 5 years as Chair of the Killin Sports Pavilion **Kay is retiring.** The club needs you to take over the running of the club. Many of the duties are already organised and there is excellent support from the Treasurer and Vice-Chairman. The job entails 2 hours a week April to September. Killin needs you to ensure that the Pavilion continues to function; providing bowling, tennis and putting facilities for the community and visitors. A knowledge of sport is not important, and it will only take a little of your free time. Contact Kay at the Library or telephone 820291 for details

**The Club 100 winners for December and January:**

**December - £100 Mairi Stewart No.54**

**£ 50 Ellen Stewart No 4 (extra Christmas draw)**

**January - £100 Jim Beattie No.14**

# Mervyn's Weather

The year 2003 would appear to have realised, just before disappearing into history, just how benign its weather had been over the previous twelve months. So within a few hours of its exit on 3rd December, it decided to depart in an aura of bad tempered turbulence. After a couple of days of clear skies and moderate frost, a southerly gale preceded a twelve hour deluge of rain, sleet and snow, the combined effort of which caused power cuts and inevitably telephones out of commission. On 4th January 2004, we were back to the accepted sequence of Atlantic weather fronts bringing in rain, followed usually by more rain!

In the previous issue of Killin News I had mentioned various saints and other connections with weather lore, and, following on the fine October spell being attributed to St Luke, I had hoped that perhaps St Martin, at the end of November, might provide something similar. However, it would appear that the baton was passed on to our own St Andrew, as the first week in December gave us some delightful winter days accompanied by glorious sunsets.

Time was that the sequence of weather events was fairly reliable in December, year after year. Normally, sometime during the first half of the month, a short arctic spell would occur, perhaps a week of snow and frost, then almost inevitably just before Christmas, mild conditions would return. Indeed, in some years the temperature on Christmas Day would differ little from that on 25th June. There were of course exceptions, and very occasionally there would be a "white Christmas". By the end of the month and into the New Year it was not unusual to experience some moderate snowfall and frost, but it was normally after the "Old

New Year", on 12th January, that winter began in earnest – "As the day lengthens so the cow strengthens." During the past decade or so the aforesaid reliability, certainly during December, appears to have slipped somewhat. The "cold spell" has become either non-existent or has occurred in an indeterminable and diluted guise, occasionally embracing the Christmas period, and even on occasion producing a half-hearted attempt at a white Christmas - usually a rather uninspiring effort, with the ragged and discoloured remnants of a snowfall rankling on the roadside.

It is remarkable how much difference in ruling conditions, weatherwise, can occur over a limited distance. The recent somewhat boisterous entry into 2004 gave varying degrees of snow cover. Here on south Loch Tayside initial snow soon turned to sleet and rain and below about 500 feet snow did not settle. Other districts, however, had 3 to 4 inches and of course the higher reaches considerably more, plus drifting. By 5th January nothing remained hereabouts below 1500 feet. A visit to Murthly told a different story. East of Aberfeldy one entered another world, snow still lay unbroken, with around Dunkeld a temperature of 3 Centigrade. Returning home via Strathbraan and Loch na Craige, above Aberfeldy, showed temperature rising to 7C at 1300 feet and the vista to the west, apart, that is, from the higher hills, quite snowless.

The author Seton Gordon describes in his book "The Cairngorm Hills of Scotland" the marked contrast in conditions that can occur in the high glens of the Cairngorms and the western seaboard around Loch Etive. He tells of being on Braeriach on 29th May 1923 when "The birches around Aviemore were as leafless as mid-



winter, while on Loch Etive shores their young leaves had scented the breeze for over a month." - 70 miles in distance but inland and upland as opposed to maritime and lowland.

The "in" thing nowadays is "Global Warming" but in the 1920s there was wide divergence in the weather patterns of individual years. In 1921 a warm summer preceded by a fairly snowless winter resulted in the semi-permanent snow-bed of the Garbh Choire of Braeriach almost vanishing, while 1923, 4 and 5 seem to have been generally cold and wet. In 1923 a very short-lived summer, with, in May of that year, an almost continuous snowfall on the high tops and in July an unprecedented, spectacular thunderstorm.

**Mervyn K. Brown, Ardtalnaig**



**Paddy McKinnon**

The UK FX Tourism Chairman's Award 2003 was presented to Paddy McKinnon BEM for providing tourist information services since 1962 when she opened one of the very first tourist information centres in Scotland from her and her brother's shop in Killin. A local Tourist Association was formed and a caravan set up in the Breadalbane Park staffed by volunteers. Paddy joined the Board of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs Tourist Board as a Tourist Information Assistant and moved to the Old Mill in 1994 when it became the Breadalbane Folklore Centre. Paddy is a great ambassador for local tourism and Killin. **WA**

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**Web site -** [www.rapecrisiscentralscotland.co.uk](http://www.rapecrisiscentralscotland.co.uk)

# Opening of the fishing season 2004

This issue would not be complete without a mention of the opening of the fishing season.

Thursday 15th January provided just the right weather conditions. A light touch of snow peppered the high ground and a cold but gentle breeze played on the surface of the Loch. Opening ceremonies on Loch Tay were held at Milton Morenish, Auchmore, and Kenmore.

## Milton Morenish

Those that turned out at Loch Tay Highland Lodges were regaled by the pipes of Roger Sharp as the day brightened. The opening ceremony was conducted by the Rev. J.L.L. Fagerson who recounted a very appropriate and amusing account of the strong faith of a fisherman and the retrieval of a lost hook. Following this he blessed the fishing and the fishermen.

Hospitality was provided by Bells and Miller and Clive Booth opened his new premises, The Boathouse, for those attending the ceremony.

Several boats eagerly took to the water but no salmon were caught from this location during the day. **WA**



First Boat



Milton Morenish



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# Highways and Byways

At this time of year conversation often turns to the state of local roads. Les Goodfellow presented the Winter Maintenance Program at the Community Council meeting on 13 January. *He wants to hear your views.* There is a reduced budget this year as it competes with Health and Education. Work is based on priorities. This affects our services in Killin.

**Why are our pavements not quickly cleared of snow?** Limitations require that high priority areas are treated first, this targets pavements used by large numbers of people or outside schools and hospitals.

**Why were they cleared in previous years?** The overall budget has been reduced and now there are only two staff based in Killin. The pavement clearing machines are based in Stirling.

**Why do we see snow ploughs travelling over snow with their ploughs raised?** BEAR ploughs travelling over Council routes and Council ploughs travelling over trunk routes do not plough or grit each other's areas. The Council can only reach its areas of responsibility by using trunk routes. He promised to try to resolve this anomaly. Sharing these duties would also help in the event of very heavy snow as the council now has only *one heavy snow plough*, formerly it could call on the ones that it used for the trunk road network.

**The Ardeonaig Road is full of bumps and repairs, when will it be re-surfaced?** It is not a high priority as it only has a small traffic flow compared with roads in more populated areas. A bit of good news is that potholes and other dangers have a high priority; with a target to be repaired in about 5 working days, *a good reason to report them rapidly.*

**How can we pass on our comments about the roads?** Problems concerning safety, lighting, flooding, signs etc on trunk routes **Telephone BEAR on 0800 587 1108.** On all other routes within the Stirling area **Telephone Stirling Council on 0845 277 7000.**

Roads and Transport also distribute a



leaflet designed to process comments and complaints, available from the Library.

**Do Roads and Transport have a responsibility to support public transport?** Yes, the Transport Co-ordination Centre promotes all aspects of public travel. *My Bus* is a search engine available on the Council web site [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk) to help

people find bus times and connections. If you do not have Internet access at home, this is available free in the library.

**The number for advice, fault reporting, and complaints about local roads is 0845 277 7000.** Please give it a go. It took me eight minutes on hold before my call was answered.

WA



**Rural Stirling**  
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Do you need a new home in any of these areas?

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Strathyre	Balfron	Aberfoyle	Drymen
Buchlyvie	Kippen	Gartmore	Deanston

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.

We currently have 310 homes for rent throughout the Stirling Council area

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**Stirling Road, Doune**

**Tel: (01786) 841101**

**E-mail: [Enquiries@rsha.demon.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@rsha.demon.co.uk)**

## Ode to the Road

Maybe you thought you'd been dreaming  
Or you'd travelled way back in time,  
Was that really a road that you came on  
Or a horse track of stones bound with  
grime.

Maybe you passed a poor cyclist  
Or more like a cyclist passed you,  
Let's hope you didn't pull too far over  
Or Lix Toll will be charging you too.

I'm sure that you think we're so lucky  
Living here in this beautiful part  
But maybe the next time you come here  
We'll be driving a horse and a cart.

It's not only our wheels and suspensions  
That suffer on what's termed a road  
Our limbs and our lives are in danger  
And that used to be just when it snowed.

So if you feel you would like to assist us  
Please write Stirling Council a letter  
Just ask them to try to do something  
To help make the Ardeonaig road better.

**Joan MacKenzie**

**Winner of  
Ardeonaig and District WRI  
Local Poem Competition**

## Winning Panto

Those of you who were in the audience on Friday night might have noticed a gentleman furiously scribbling notes during the show - and he didn't get up to join in the dance! He was an adjudicator for the Scottish Community Drama Association and was judging our panto for the SCDA Full Length Play Festival. His adjudication was a pleasure to read "a traditional pantomime done in the traditional style", and we are proud to say that we were runners up in the festival and the best pantomime in the East of Scotland!

LS

## The Panto

## Ho! Ho! Ho!

I don't know whether the doctors' surgery will be half empty this week since laughter is the best medicine or whether it will be full of folk needing their split sides stitched up but wasn't that a good pantomime again? Gordon's gang did such a wonderful job and we all know that the script and the jokes are really a vehicle to show off the great talent in this village.

The children were wonderful with their dancing and singing from the oldest to the very youngest. Millie was superb in her interpretation of *number* – she could become a political spin-doctor and the classroom lean-of-fear was perfect.

I wonder if Block and Tackle will be advertising their handyman services in next year's programme? They may do a botched job but you would certainly enjoy watching them work.

Maybe I can appreciate more than most the sheer amount of continual hard work, which goes into a children's performance, and, believe me, this would have been staggering! They say 'never work with children or animals' but this adult cast were not overshadowed; lovely performances and lovely singing, with great songs, – is it true that you have already begun rehearsals for a full performance of *Grease* next year?

**Linda Frost**

Daniel Holden, Laurence Brown, Lesley Syme & Fiona Stewart



## In the wings



L to R: David Stewart, David Mardon, Liz Stevens, Gordon Hibbert & Gregor MacKenzie

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# Bowel Cancer Awareness Project

A campaign to make adults more aware of bowel cancer and encourage them to seek help early, is part of a joint initiative by the NHS in Lanarkshire and Forth Valley to reduce deaths from the second most common cause of cancer death in Scotland.

The Killin community were extremely supportive. MacGregor the Greengrocer gave away soup packs - Gordon Webster provided his vegetable soup recipe, (MacGregor's Winter Warmer). McRae the butcher distributed over 200 leaflets and bags. Mairi Hunter organised a pres-

entation in the McLaren Hall. The BCAP team ran a display at the Flu Clinic and in the library. Kay Riddell distributed bookmarks and leaflets. Local councillor, John McPherson, attended meetings to co-ordinate events and perpetuate the message.

If detected early, bowel cancer can be cured in up to 90% of cases. It is vital for adults, especially those aged 50 or over, to recognise the symptoms and seek help early. For the over-fifties changes in bowel habit such as; going to the toilet more often; looser stools; or blood from the rectum persisting for over six weeks

are reasons to consult a doctor. Seek advice immediately if symptoms are severe or complicated by other medical conditions.

Remember, while many people experience symptoms, most do not have cancer. Information is available in libraries, from the BCAP team by telephoning 01786 463031, by writing to BCAP, 9 Gladstone Place, Stirling FK8 2AH, or by email to [corec@fvhb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:corec@fvhb.scot.nhs.uk).

If you or someone you know has symptoms that cause concern, please telephone TAK TENT on 0141 211 0122



Back row Bunty MacGregor, Judith Morgan (BCAP), Kay Riddell  
Front row Iain Hunter, Mairi Hunter, Muriel McNicoll



Left to right Elaine Cochrane (BCAP), Gordon McRae,  
Joan Bickerton, Gordon Webster, Rhona Gillies

**Questioning your smile?**

Is there someone you believe has a *better smile* than yours?

are you conscious about smiling?

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[www.stirling-enterprise.co.uk](http://www.stirling-enterprise.co.uk)

## Farming Matters

A Hogmanay power cut brought home to me just how much our lives are dependent on electricity nowadays. Without relying on neighbours, we, here at Tullochcan, couldn't even make a cup of tea. With no television, not even a battery radio, my mind wandered back to a power cut, almost forty years ago, on the morning of a February cattle sale in Killin. This sale, always on a Saturday, was probably one of the most important of the local farming year. Weeks of preparation went into having the stirks, (young cattle around nine months to a year old) looking their best for the big day. A good price brought great satisfaction but to win any ticket at the show, prior to the sale, was the real goal. Everyone had their own secrets for feeding and grooming and, as most of the beasts were housed in

byres or small sheds, I, for one, became very attached to them. I think the men did too but, of course, they wouldn't admit it. Normally I didn't sleep too well the night before, but, on this particular year, it wasn't only excitement mingled with sadness that kept me awake but a howling gale outside. We got up very early to discover no electricity and inches of snow. A gas cooker meant a cooked breakfast was on the table and simple plain white candles gave out plenty light. Of course, the beasts needed one last feed but as there were still one or two lanterns around the place, we managed. The next problem was whether the lorry would manage down in these conditions. Maybe the sale would be postponed, part of me hoped so. With daylight approaching, an old snow-plough trundled along the road. Willie

Noble, the driver, knew what day this was and that a lot of cattle would be leaving from Ardtalnaig and Ardeonaig. The lorry to take my friends away arrived minutes later and I knew then that they wouldn't be staying for another week. The snow stopped falling and the wind died down but driving to Killin Mart with a lorry load of fairly decent animals must have been a bit hair raising. All the usual consignors, of which there were many, had struggled in the same way and buyers from far and wide had made every effort to reach Killin by 11 o'clock for this renowned event. If this sale was still being held in February 2004 would everyone be as prepared and determined to get there? I doubt it.

**Joan MacKenzie**  
Tullochcan Farm Ardeonaig

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Killin: Monday 11.55 - 12.40 & Thursday 11.30 - 12.30

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## Strathfillan - "By The Way"

### Strathfillan Community Council

**Police Report.** Crime in the areas has remained low. Road accidents have increased, often weather related. There have been no complaints of youth disorder in Mansfield. Joint Force road check initiatives are continuing in an effort to increase road safety and deter or detect drug offences and travelling crime.

**Breadalbane Visual Learning Centre** Effie Crompton and Gordon Gaughan are working with Suzanne Player with the aim of setting up this facility. There are a lot of ideas which are all potentially beneficial and could lead to permanent PCs in Tyndrum village hall.

**Disability Discrimination Act 1995** This issue has been raised

with Sylvia Jackson, Anne McGuire and the chief executives of Stirling Council and the National Park. The Act becomes law in October 2004. There is great confusion about its implications, particularly for small businesses. Guidance leaflets, financial assistance and simplification of the planning application procedures are necessary.

**Locomotive Noise at Night in Crianlarich** Alan Smailes to arrange a meeting with the rail company EWS, Sylvia Jackson and other interested parties to discuss the noise caused by shunting engines for several hours at night.

**Staywarm** This Government initiative provides electricity and town gas to householders over 60, at very low prices but people in rural areas who have no access to

town gas cannot gain full benefit. Anne McGuire has been asked if a similar reduction can be negotiated with suppliers of heating oil and LPG.

**Level Crossing Closures** A letter sent to Anne McGuire regarding the closure by Network Rail has received an encouraging response.

**Litter Removal From Trunk Road Verges** Waste Forum to be asked to clarify who is responsible for clearing litter from the verges. Since the final grass cut last autumn, much litter has been revealed which has not been cleared.

**E Democracy Campaign** The "Renewing Democracy Group" has now been awarded funding of £169,000 by the Scottish Executive. The group includes the ASCC, the ACC (National Park), Stirling Assembly, Napier

## Rob Roy Homes

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**Mrs B A Redden B.Optom.**

University, Stirling Council, Sylvia Jackson and the community councils of Bannockburn, Cambusbarron, Strathfillan, Thornhill, Torbrex and Stepps. This development programme will be facilitated by Stirling Council and organised by Napier University.

**John Riley, Moira Robertson**

## Message from the Minister

There's a story told about St Francis taking a young monk to the market place one day, as Francis said, to preach. They wandered about a while and no doubt spoke to this one and that, until Francis decided it was time to go home. "But I thought you said we were coming to preach in the market place", protested the younger brother. "What do you think we've been doing since we got here", Francis replied.

Something like that happened to me recently, at a wedding reception. There were a lot of young folk and many of them came to talk to me about themselves, their work, their lives, their hopes for the future and to say how much they had enjoyed the wedding service in church. Even when I felt I needed a break and walked in the hotel grounds, some of these young folk followed. They needed to talk!

Talking to people is probably the



most important part of my work and I'm lucky, because I really enjoy it. In these days when we spend so much time in silence looking at TV or computer screens, it is good to talk, face to face. With huge advances in technology in TV and computers, we will communicate with people more and more through these screens.

It's called 'interaction'. We'll tell the TV exactly what we want to see, and through E-mail and the Internet will shop, pay our bills, and exchange messages. That's all very exciting, especially for younger folk, but there is no substitute for 'face to face interaction'.

It's called conversation. We do it every Sunday over tea and coffee in the Strathfillan churches. It's part of our worship!

**Reverend John Shedden  
The Manse Dalmally**

## A New Year; A New Face

The new year brings a new face to the Strathfillan Community Development Trust. Darren Smith has started work on a three year part-time contract. His responsibilities include the Crianlarich and Tyndrum Community Woodlands, the Tyndrum 'shelterbelt', the Killin-Strathfillan Cycleway, as well as entering into discussion and negotiation with neighbouring land managers over paths, history, natural history and information throughout Strathfillan. We are grateful to the Scottish Land Fund, LEADER+, Carnegie UK and the Scottish Executive for funds to help pay for Darren's skills. Darren comes to us from Northumberland, and we hope he'll be very happy here.

Sue Wyllie will continue work on our people-based projects.

Gwyneth Scott is our new Book keeper.

**SCDT Office:**

**Tel 01838 400545**

**email: strathfillancdt@onetel.net.uk**

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# Welcome to Killin

## Bridge of Lochay Hotel

The Hotel changed ownership in December when it was bought by Tom and Marjory Begley along with their son Paul and his fiancée Liz Howard. Liz and Paul have a beautiful 11 month old daughter called Lara who has already settled into Killin Nursery one day a week.

Prior to coming to Killin they lived in Edinburgh. Liz was a fashion buyer and will now concentrate on the hotel. Paul will continue working with his contract publishing business in Glasgow. Liz, the manager and licensee, comes from a few generations of hoteliers and chefs and knows exactly what hotel life entails.

At the moment they are busy re-furbishing the bedrooms and making all the rooms en-suite, installing central heating, re-wiring and decorating. It should be completed by the summer. They are delighted with the friendly welcome they have been given since arriving in the village and already feel part of it. Good Luck to you all.

DG



Paul, Liz and Lara with Tom and Marjory



Carlotta and Craig

## BRIDGE OF LOCHAY HOTEL



**Elizabeth, Paul, Lara & Marjory and Tom would like to thank everyone who came to their opening night - they would also like to welcome new patrons in the village**

**Open Now for Bar Meals - Lunchtime and Evening**

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## Ardlochay Lodge

In October Craig and Carlotta Fraser bought Allt Fuiteach from Martin and Carol Judd. They have re-named the house Ardlochay Lodge - much easier to spell!

Prior to moving to Killin they lived in Lochearnhead for 18 months, so are not strangers to the area. Before that they lived in Edinburgh jointly running a very successful outside catering business from 1986 to 2001. Craig has worked offshore in engineering and he loves waterski-ing, golfing and most outdoor sport. They both love travelling and have been lucky enough to travel extensively in Europe, America and the Far East. Carlotta is doing Dinner, Bed and Breakfast at Ardlochay Lodge as well as outside catering - shouldn't be a problem with an H.N.D in Catering and Hotel Management. Welcome to Killin and we hope you have a busy season.

DG

# Once Upon a Time...

Whilst browsing through an antiquarian book stall the other day, I found a booklet published in about 1935-40 by the Bridge of Lochay Hotel.

The hotel was then owned by John C. Cameron, who I believe would be a great uncle of the present day Angus Cameron of Lochearnhead. The booklet gives mileages to various places worth a visit and quotes its prices as follows:

**Bed, bath and breakfast from 10/6**

**Luncheon 2/6-3/6**

**High tea 2/6-3/6**

**Dinner 5/6**

**En pension per week including fishing and use of boat 5 - 6 guineas**

**Boatman's wage per day 8/-**

**Fire in bedroom per day 3/6**

**or per evening 1/6**

Some say good old days - others tell the truth. **J.A. Gauld**



## ... There Was a Dragon ?

Jimmy Gauld very kindly lent us the Bridge of Lochay booklet mentioned above and it was interesting to find in it things familiar and things unknown. Among the advertisements are several familiar names – R. MacGregor, Fruiterer, Macgregor's Garage, J. G. Wilson, Bridge End Mill, George Bickerton, Painter and Decorator, and also John McAnalley, Butcher.

It is a sign of how few telephones there were then that the telephone numbers given are all in single figures.

As well as information about the hotel and its facilities and descriptions of six 'Motor Runs in the District', there is a chapter on Killin and its attractions. What fascinated us most was the reference to sights of local interest that nobody now seems to know anything about.

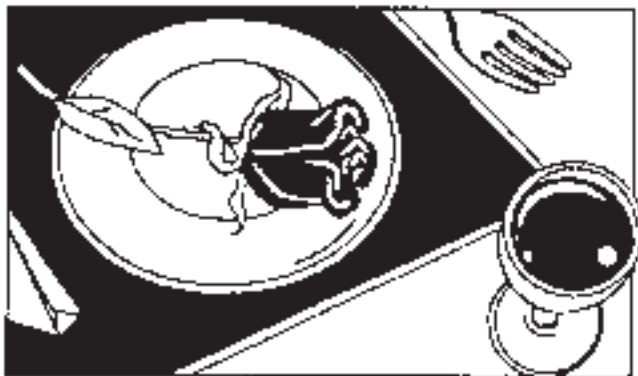
The picture shown here, taken 80 or so years ago and before the collapse of the building, shows ancient stone figures propped against a wall in Finlarig Castle. What happened to them and where are they now?

Another mystery is the dragon of Inchbuie. The booklet refers to the entrance to the Macnab burial ground having "two massive gate pillars surmounted by a huge stone figure of a dragon". No-one we have asked has heard of this dragon. Did it exist? Are there any old photographs which show it? Does the McNab Society have any records of it?

If anyone has any knowledge of either the statues or the dragon, please let us know.

**MM**

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# Get up and Go



Carpet Bowls



Badminton



Aerobics



Line dancing

What happens in Killin over winter when the long nights and cold, wet, frosty or snowy days replace the busy summer season? Don't expect me to tell you the obvious, but it is a productive time, and hibernation is not a term with which most inhabitants would associate. In fact winter is almost as busy as summer, the people of Killin can catch up and complete the long list of things-to-do, a time when they can do something for themselves, be it in the areas of socialising, education, physical fitness, or improving skills. You will note that this does not include items such as bird watching, hill walking, fishing and such-like that are more of an individual activity but ones for which Killin is renowned.

There are many groups or activities taking place in the village that would like to entice you to join them. While we try to list these in the *What's On*, relying on information they supply to us, we consider it time to give them a little publicity boost. Art, Badminton, Boy's Brigade, Brownies, Carpet Bowls, Computing, Drama Group, Environmental Action Killin, Gaelic, Gun Club, Herb Society, Heritage Society, Highland Dancing, Internet Class, Keep Fit, Line Dancing, Scottish Women's Rural Institute, Yoga, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Tuesday Club, Upholstery Class, and Youth Group. For more details see the *What's On* page or contact the Killin Library for more information.

WA

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## RETAIL SHOPS

**MANAGER:** Salaried position of £15,300 per annum, with pension package and 5 weeks holiday entitlement. Retail experience is essential. Straight shifts, 5 days over 7.

Job entails the day to day running of a busy gift shop.

**ASSISTANT MANAGERS:** Salaried positions of £11,800 per annum, with pension package and 5 weeks holiday entitlement. Retail experience is preferred although on the job training is given.

Job involves assisting the manager in the day to day running of the retail departments. Straight shifts over a 40 hour week.

**RETAIL ASSISTANTS:** Full time positions available in our retail shops, £4.60 per hour, 40 hour week. Experience preferred but not essential, as full on the job training will be given.

Job entails using the tills, pricing and displaying the products and customer care.

## RESTAURANT

**MANAGER:** Salaried position of £15,300 per annum with pension package and five weeks holiday entitlement. Management catering experience is essential. Straight shifts 5 days over 7, with no evening work.

Job entails the day to day running of a busy tourist restaurant.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER:** Salaried position of £11,800 per annum with pension package and five weeks holiday entitlement. Catering experience is essential. Straight shifts 5 days over 7, with no evening work..

Job involves assisting the manager in the day to day running of the restaurant.

**CATERING ASSISTANTS:** Full time positions available in the restaurant, £4.60 per hour, 40 hour week. Experience is not essential as full on the job training will be given. No evening work required. Job involves working on the counter, table clearing and dishwashing duties.

**MAINTENANCE/JANITORIAL PERSON:** Position would be full time seasonal, from May to October inclusive.

Hourly rate of £4.60 per hour. Full training given.

For all the above positions transport is available from Crianlarich and Dalmally. Accommodation is also available. For further details and an application form please contact our office on 01 838 400 271.

# Christmas & New Year Activities

Primary School Christmas Concert and Party



Iona & Dale Pritchard with Santa



Susan, Douglas & Jack McRobbie



Carol singers Glenda, Marissa, Gordon, Liz, Kay & Liz lurking in the background



Bunty MacGregor



Alaya



Stuart Lang meeting Santa at the Tiddlers and Toddlers Party



Jackie and Adrian enjoying the New Year dance

# Babes in the Wood Pantomime 2004



Susan Fraser (Maid Marion) Tam Bolton (Sheriff of Nottingham)



Directors Lesley Syme & Gordon Hibbert



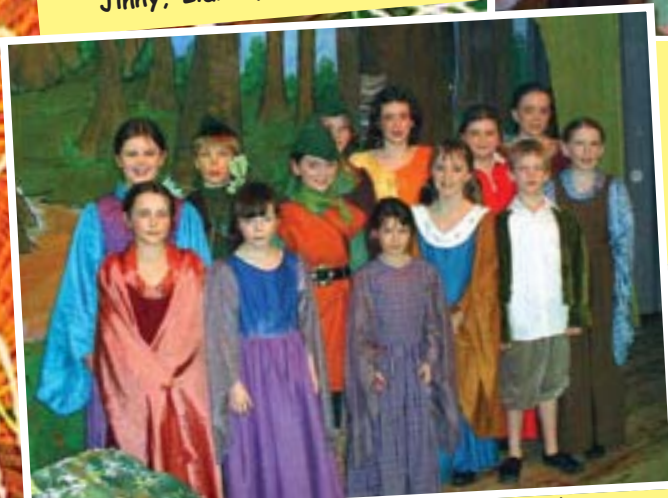
Myrica Reid (The Fairy)



The Cheerleaders L to R Antonia, Jinny, Lianne, Megan, Aimee



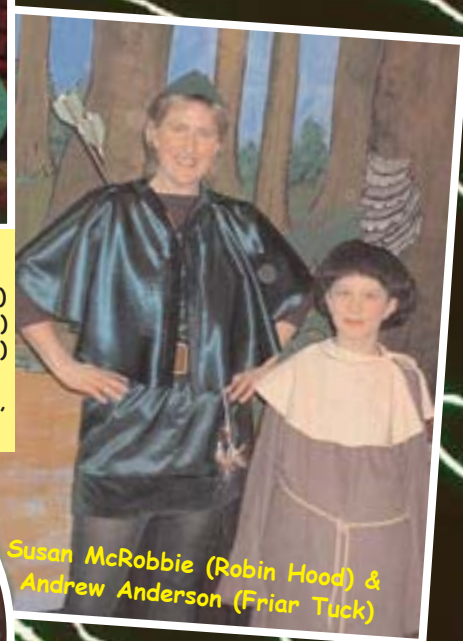
Above L to R back row  
Alex Tigwell (Will Scarlet)  
Susan McRobbie (Robin Hood)  
Victoria Campbell (Little John)  
Elizabeth Murphy (Alana Dale)  
OutLaws front row  
Jack McRobbie, Hazel Wyllie,  
Clare Melia



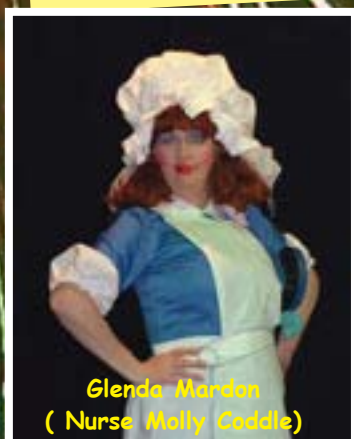
The Junior Chorus back L to R : Camilla Tigwell, Jack McRobbie, Clare Melia, Hazel Wyllie, Rachel Shanto, Naomi McLaren, Siobhan Riddell, Lianne Kennedy. Front: Jinny Dowling, Aimee Mcleod, Antonia Dowling, Megan Rhys, Harry McRobbie



Gill Hunt  
(Dangerous Dave  
Knave)



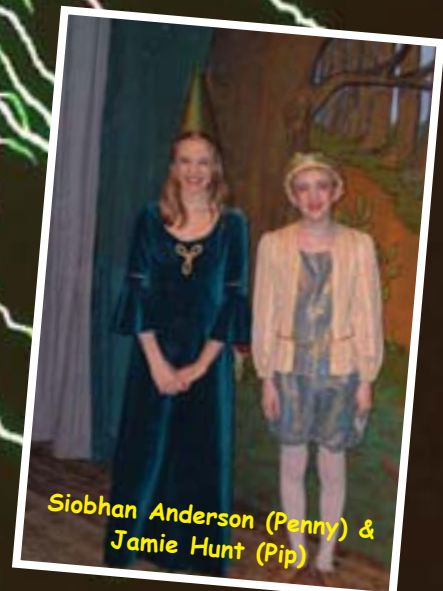
Susan McRobbie (Robin Hood) & Andrew Anderson (Friar Tuck)



Glenda Mardon  
( Nurse Molly Coddle)



L to R: Jessica Menzies (guard), Kay Dowling (Block), Tam Bolton (Sheriff), Jane Brown (Tackle), & Jillian Laurence (Guard)



Siobhan Anderson (Penny) & Jamie Hunt (Pip)

## Congratulations



The marriage of Maria Lutz and Martin Nitsch on 22nd November 2003 in Germany. Maria was a Registrar General Practitioner in Killin in between 1998 and 1999.

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**Mark Lincoln:**

**Telephone: 01567 820369 Email: [markl@iclway.co.uk](mailto:markl@iclway.co.uk)**



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**Reducing Reusing Recycling**  
let's get it sorted  
[www.wascol.org.uk](http://www.wascol.org.uk)



# Computer Corner

Mark Lincoln

## Spam Spam Spam Spam: How to Get Rid of Unwanted Emails

Nearly everyone with an email account suffers from unwanted emails. Many of these are offensive, some even vile; others clog up the email inbox, and waste space. This is commonly called "Spam", which word derives from the famous Monty Python sketch where the waitress explained what food was on offer: *Waitress, "Well, there's egg and bacon; egg, sausage and bacon; egg and spam; egg, bacon and spam; egg, bacon, sausage and spam; spam, bacon, sausage and spam; spam, egg, spam, spam, bacon and spam; spam, sausage, spam, spam, spam, bacon, spam, tomato and spam; spam, spam, spam, egg and spam."* (Vikings start singing in background) *spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, baked beans, spam, spam, spam and spam.* This led internet users to define repetitive unwanted emails as Spam. If your email address is published on the internet, on bulletin boards, registered with some internet news-groups, or on some web pages, you are likely to receive spam. Many of these appear to offer you a chance to be removed from the mailing list, by clicking on a link within the email. Often this is a con where the sender has an interest in knowing if your email address really exists. Using the remove-me link, will actually result in you receiving more. There is no guaranteed solution, however there are tools that help. Many of the Internet Service Providers, including AOL and BT Yahoo, have their own spam filtering systems - check the providers home pages for details. In addition there are anti-

spam software products available through the internet. Popular ones include: Spamcop, Spamnet, and Mailwasher. These typically work by holding a "blacklist" of spam senders and checking your email before it is downloaded to your computer. Mail items from a blacklisted source are typically set aside in a quarantined area. Many mail reader programs, including Microsoft Outlook, have inbuilt filters which can be configured to scan incoming mail items. Emails containing certain words, or from certain email accounts are quarantined into a separate folder.

## Broadband Update

Local activity promoting Broadband is going well. Registrations of interest are increasing month by month. There are 53 in Killin at the time of writing.

A team from Broadband for Scotland are due to come to Killin in February to take details of people and businesses interested in Broadband. Scottish Enterprise also intends to bring a Broadband Bus to Killin, where we can experience broadband for ourselves. This will give local residents and businesses a chance to talk to the experts, see what types of broadband are available, what the benefits are, and what equipment and software is necessary. They will be able to answer any broadband-related questions.

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## Broadband Bus

Promoting broadband in rural communities. Funded by Scottish Enterprise the Broadband Bus equipped with a satellite internet connection comes to The McLaren Hall

**Friday 20th February**

This is an ideal opportunity to experience what broadband can do. There will be a 60 to 90 minute free presentation at 11.00am on the benefits of broadband and between 1pm and 4pm anyone can experience broadband or obtain free independent advice from experts onboard.

**Those interested in booking a seat for the presentation should contact**

**Mark Lincoln  
Tel: 01567 820369.**

## Paper Collection Dates

February 6th and 20th

March 5th and 19th

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# Biodiversity or Extinction

## The Don MacCaskill Memorial Lecture held at Stirling University on 25 October 2003

Don MacCaskill, who died recently, made a major contribution to nature conservation in Scotland while working as a forester. Along with his wife Bridget, who still lives in Strathyre, he organised the 'Eaglewatch' programme, wrote books, and was particularly interested in the reintroduction of extinct species.

Martyn German, Roy Dennis, Lorcan O'Toole and Phil Ratcliffe have contributed to the following brief summary of the Memorial Lecture. We don't often think of ourselves as the last people on Earth, but that is what we are. Our forebears have influenced the course of nature, from the end of the last Ice Age to the present day. They are responsible for the state of nature, agriculture and landscape in Scotland. So what has happened, since the Ice Age? Before the 21st Century animals we regard

as native to Britain were in fact introduced - eg. dogs as companions, sheep, goats, ox and pig for food, the horse for transportation, cats for pest control, rabbits for food, etc. Only later did they come to have other uses, but once established, some would be difficult to control when circumstances changed. For example the rabbit now provides more food for predators than humans, and is thus 'good' for predators, but eats more of man's crops than supplies him with food. Let loose on the landscape, the sheep and goat will eat vegetation to extinction. The high numbers of sheep and deer, which are native and wild, are devastating the vegetation, with few measures to control their grazing. Without intervention, things are unlikely to change.

A long term solution of benefit to the community would be the re-introduction of once native species, starting with the beaver for bio-diversity and as an encouragement to eco-tourism. The wild boar plays an important part in the eco-system, and eats bracken as its favourite food thus creating a more

diverse vegetation. The lynx would act as predator on roe deer, which desperately need to be controlled. The moose would provide a very good food source for man. The wolf could control deer (red, sika, roe) the weak ones and old being selected preferentially so improving herd quality. There is little evidence that wolves are dangerous to man, provided they have a good food supply (eg deer). To protect man's interests as a whole, robust culling of marauding animals would be needed.

The best success stories about re-introductions involve raptors like the sea eagle and red kite. The loss of raptors was almost exclusively the work of man, who has persecuted the golden eagle, hen harrier, and osprey. But they are back, and prospering. When communities realise the tourism values to many small businesses, and farmers are reassured that raptors don't wait for a bit of spring lamb, more visitors will want to visit the area so contributing to the economy.

European policy is to prohibit the introduction of non-native species into the natural environment so it is unlikely that Sitka Spruce would be allowed to be introduced today. The naturalist Frank Fraser Darling recognized important environmental benefits with the afforestation of the Scottish uplands using Sitka spruce as a pioneer crop, so providing the opportunity to restore woodland to an impoverished landscape. These forests are now undergoing redesign to improve their appearance and to support an increasing variety of native wildlife. Next we need to rebuild our forgotten forest culture, helping people to derive greater local benefits from the forest.

Our national government needs to show more long term commitment to ecology and landscape. The long term benefits would be felt by our children's children, and their children. They will then be the last people on Earth and will benefit from our foresight - a better legacy than we inherited.

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Rest Room Address: Glenartney Street, Callander



## Killin Golf Club: Senior Section

December 19th saw one of the Club's more important events of the season – the Senior Section's Xmas lunch. This year 18 senior members sat down to a lovely Xmas meal preceded by mulled wine (and followed by more of the 'un-mulled' variety.) The 'meeting' was 'chaired' by Bill MacPherson, one of our leaders, ably assisted by the other, Bill Rew. The meal was a jovial and talkative occasion, with many tales, arguments and jokes passing round the table - especially from Ian Ramsay. We were also treated to what was described as an "Irish Raffle" - we didn't need pencils! An excellent bottle of malt whisky was won by the ticket holder left standing as the numbers were called out, namely George Spittal. This was well deserved because he provided the other raffle prize – the Singing Dancing Golf Bag! – the most splendid prize we have ever seen. The lucky winner was Tony Weaver and I'm led to believe that Tony and Audrey's lives have been greatly enriched by this unusual item.



Eventually the meeting ended with many 'thank you's', mainly expressed by our many times champion, George Smith, to our two Bills for running the section, to Allan, the

Greenkeeper, for his valuable work on the course extension – and, of course, to all the others who have been lending a hand with this work.

**WS Aitken**

## Mini Rugby

The 2003/04 Season of the McLaren FP Mini Rugby Club, Callander started on 30th August with 32 eager participants from P3 - P7. The club have played Waysiders, Stirling County, Alloa & Strathendrick with varying degrees of success! We also had a "Bring a Friend" day which attracted an extra 15 children to coaching games and an Xmas Fun Day. In the first part of the season the team progressed steadily, worked hard and experienced the taste of success. We hope to build on this for the rest of the season. Pupils from P3 - P7 are very welcome to join us, Saturdays 9.30am - 11.15am at the McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander. Games are scheduled for Sundays. The next fixture is McLaren v Alloa & Waysiders on Sunday 25th January at McLaren Leisure Centre k.o. 1pm. **Further information from Neil, (Head Coach) Tel: 01877 331353 or <mailto:neilcatt@yahoo.co.uk>.**



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# Weaver Suite Opening

Early in December I was a guest at a gathering to mark the opening of "the Weaver suite" at the Nurses Clinic. A tour of the new premises and extension revived many memories, some happy, some best forgotten.

From June 77 to September 84 I lived in the two bedroomed nurses house to which a small clinic and waiting room had been added at an earlier date, so I lived "over the shop". It was a difficult house to heat with no roof insulation or lagging of pipes, and the windows were ill fitting and draughty. Any bad weather caused disruption and damage and I learned a lot about plumbing. I well remember nights of broken sleep when the West wind howled though Ballechroisk causing the curtains to billow forth, or when the young heifers in the nearby mart called all night for their mums, or I was called out to escort human mums in labour to Stirling Maternity Hospital when the ambulance was single manned, as it often was.

In October 81 I returned from holiday to find a third of the lounge ceiling on the floor and was evacuated to "The White House" for 3 months. Then at last the roof space was insulated, and the pipes lagged, a welcome

improvement.

Later in 83 the windows were double glazed, bliss!

After I left in September 84, the house soon fell into serious disrepair.

Numerous complaints re galloping dry rot were dismissed until the situation became critical and expensive, and repeated requests to utilise the house space were refused as it was to be kept available for a nurse. The clinic continued in the two small rooms and, in the late 80s, further re-organisation of the health service led to a massive increase in the flow of information and an absurd proliferation of paper work, so shortly we were bursting at the seams. As the mountain of paper grew, it became impossible to function efficiently and, driven by irritation and frustration, I drew up modest plans to convert the empty house into a functional working area providing an



**Audrey Weaver and Dr Elaine Turner**

office, consulting room and treatment room. Nothing came of these plans because of proposals for the nursing team to have two rooms and shared use of the treatment room in the planned new GPs premises. When the Medical Practice premises opened in April 91 the Health Board could not agree with the GPs on an acceptable rent for nursing accommodation and we were back to square one.

After this set back, the Health Board eventually agreed to simple improvements and limited use of the house. The lounge became an office, as it is today. (I was amused to hear that a shelf recently collapsed under the weight of bumf - could this be information overload?) Bedroom 1 became a consulting and all-purpose room and bedroom 2 sadly became a store instead of the longed for treatment room. But the nurses could not be trusted to choose colour schemes! Two interior designers arrived on scene complete with clipboards, and we eventually became a symphony in pink! However it made a huge difference to our working conditions and we were able to improve patient services in a limited way.

The present state of the art facilities, however, are far beyond my wildest dreams. Congratulations to all involved in bringing these plans to fruition and providing a superb facility to serve the diverse needs of the community, not to mention premises that staff can enjoy and take pride in.

**Audrey Weaver**



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### **Sylvia Jackson MSP unveils the Calor Annual Award**

This was presented to the Killin Community Council for their work for the elderly. The unveiling was watched by, left to right, Babs Gordon, Fiona Harris, Capt. Bowser, Kay Riddell, Mairi Hunter, Audrey Weaver, Bill MacPherson, Pat Christie, John MacPherson, Ali Low.

## **Tourism Leaflet Day For Breadalbane**

Killin & District Tourist Association, Strathfillan Tourist Association and Loch Earn Tourism Initiative are jointly hosting a Leaflet Day in Killin on Friday 12 March in the Killin Hotel from 10am–3pm. Refreshments Provided. Drop in any time and find out from the people who run them what activities, events and attractions are available for visitors to the Breadalbane area of the National Park.

This is primarily for people involved in the tourism business and invitations will be sent out nearer the time, but all are welcome. If you want to encourage your visitors to stay longer in the area, pick up leaflets, talk to the providers and try out some activities provided by the Abernethy Trust. Find out what's available for visitors locally and in the surrounding area so that you can tell your guests how much there is for them to do and see.

We are also hoping to arrange visits to the Folklore Centre and Moirlanich Longhouse.

Argyll, the Islands, Loch Lomond and Trossachs Tourist Board and Perthshire Tourist Board together with the National Park and Stirling Council Economic Development representatives will be happy to chat over any Tourism issues.

Event supported by LLT National Park Community Futures Programme, AILLST and Stirling Council

## **Mobile Library Times**

### **Tyndrum/Crianlarich**

Fortnightly Fridays February 13,  
27 March 12, 26

#### **Tyndrum**

##### **Station Road**

10.50am – 11.10am

##### **Clifton**

11.15am – 11.40am

##### **Mansefield**

11.45am – 12.00pm

#### **Crianlarich**

##### **Willow Square**

12.05pm – 12.35pm

##### **Police Station & School**

1.40pm – 2.30pm

##### **Benmore**

2.35pm – 2.55pm

##### **Suie Lodge**

3.05pm – 3.25pm

### **Glen Lochay/Ardeonaig**

Fortnightly Mondays February 9,  
23 March 8, 22

#### **Glenlochay**

10.50am – 12.30pm

##### **Ardeonaig**

2.00pm – 2.45pm

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# What's on in Killin and District

## February

6 Heritage Meet Lesser Hall 8pm  
 13 Broadband Sign up day Co-Op  
 18 Herb Society Meet Aberfeldy Town Hall 10am - 12noon  
 19 Green Team Lyndoch 3.15pm  
 20 Broadband Bus 11am McLaren Car Park (Booking essential)  
 28 Safari Supper

### Art Classes

Tuesdays  
 4-6pm  
 Killin School

### Badminton

Mondays  
 S1-S6 6 - 7pm  
 Adults 7 - 10pm  
 McLaren Hall

### Boys Brigade

Fridays  
 P4-P6 6.30-7.45pm  
 P7-S5 8-10pm  
 Killin School

### Brownies

Mondays 6.30pm  
 Church Hall

### Carpet Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm  
 Lesser Hall

## March

5 Heritage Meet Lesser McLaren Hall 9pm  
 9 Community Council Meet Killin School 7.30pm  
 12 Tourist Leaflet Day Killin Hotel 10am - 3pm  
 17 Herb Society Meet Aberfeldy Town Hall 7 - 9pm  
 18 Green Team Lyndoch 3.15pm  
 25 - 27 Drama Festival McLaren Hall

### Computing Open Learning

Wed 9am-1pm Thurs 9am-4pm  
 Killin Library Tutor present.

### Computing for the Less

Terrified starting Feb 10  
 7pm Killin School

### Gaelic Mondays

Beginners L'Head 1 - 3pm  
 Intermediate Killin School 5-7pm  
 Advanced Killin School 7-9pm

### Keep Fit

Mondays 10-11am  
 Toning 11.15am-12noon  
 Tuesday 7.00-8.00pm  
 Circuit training 8.15 - 9pm  
 McLaren Hall

### Killin Youth Group

Starting soon  
 Look for notices in village

### Line Dancing

Thursdays 7.30pm  
 Church Hall

### Highland Dancing

Tuesdays 4.30pm (3 classes)  
 Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced  
 Crianlarich Hall  
 Contact Aileen 01301 - 704283

Please let us have  
 details and dates of  
 events during April  
 and May for inclusion  
 in the next issue

### Tiddlers & Toddlers

Fridays 9.30am  
 Church Hall

### Upholstery Class

Mondays 10.30am  
 Lesser Hall

### Playgroup

Fridays 9.30am  
 Lesser Hall

### Yoga

Wednesdays  
 7.30-9pm  
 Killin School

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# Highland Dancing

Prior to the Christmas break we had our usual party and display of dancing. It is good to report that the three classes are all doing well and we now have over thirty dancers. However this does mean there are limited spaces for any newcomers. Some of the girls are still entertaining at Highland Heritage Hotels and we had a group dancing at the St. Andrews Night in the Rod and Reel, which was a debut performance for many of them.

The following pupils sat their respective medal tests on 8th November when the examiner was Maureen Barr from Crieff.

## Intro One:

Lois-anne Townsley, Ella Jackson, Ishbel Hayes, Nicola Craig, Ellie Menzies and Iain Fisher (all Highly Commended)

## Intro Two:

Iona Pritchard (Highly Commended)

## Beginners Sword:

Katie Holden, Adele Melia, Roisin Owen, Lauren Third, Amy Armstrong, Lynsey Armstrong (Highly Commended)

## Bronze

Leia Ferrall, Jessica Menzies, Siobhan Riddell, Ishbel Taylor (Highly Commended) Emma Christie, Catriona McLennan (Commended)

## Silver

Lucie Ronald (Pass Plus)

## Gold Bar Two

Siobhan Anderson (Highly Commended)

## Bronze Hornpipe

Camilla Tigwell (Highly Commended)

## Gold Hornpipe

Kirsty Somerville (Commended)

## 1st Gold Thistle Hornpipe

Gillian Ross (Highly Commended)

## Bronze Irish Jig

Camilla Tigwell (Commended)

## Silver Irish Jig

Siobhan Anderson, Gillian Ross (Highly Commended)

Kirsty Somerville (Commended)

Aileen Fisher

## Heart of Scotland Herb Society

Our 2004 season started off with a very entertaining and engaging speaker from the north of England, Nik Imrye an iridologist and practicing medical herbalist who gave a very interesting talk on these practices. One of his main points was detox of bowel and liver with cayenne pepper and use of British herbs. There have been several open days of work and pleasure in the Herbalists Garden at Pitnacree.

Our successful lottery grant of £4891 has enabled us to purchase a shed, various tools and equipment for this purpose. The metal sculpture of foxgloves designed and created by Morag Cumming of Keltneyburn is now in place and looking lovely in the Scottish Plant Collectors Garden. Many thanks to all who contributed time and effort through the sale of our recipe booklets which supported this aquisition.

In the next few months we will be blending and brewing herbal teas, making herbal soap, and hosting a talk on natural dyes from herbaceous plants. There will also be a tour, picnic and poetry reading in the new SPCG in Pitlochry. Anyone wishing further information about our organization please phone either Patty Hope at 820408 or Judy Forster at 820298.

Patty Hope

## Late Item!

### Lord Lovat's Estate Sold

At their rooms in Hanover Square, London, Messers Knight, Frank & Rutley offered the estates in Inverness-shire, belonging to Lord Lovat.

The following lots were sold: Glendoe, with the Oich fishing, 20,020 acres, for £51,000 ; Corriegeir 11,650 acres, £38,000 ; and Killin, 1979 acres £9000. Stronelairg was withdrawn.

Newspaper from 1919 found by Jimmy Gauld behind a picture frame

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# Last of the Summer Winos

Volunteers from EAK and the National Park joined forces to clear three areas of the Loch Tay shoreline, close to the Ardeonaig Road, of the debris left behind by visitors and Summer revellers. Stirling Council



supplied bags, gloves and pickers for the volunteers. Most of the rubbish fitted into 64 black bags which were uplifted by the Council. There was a surprising number of bottles, cans and items of rubbish left by the beach. Unfortunately broken glass, strewn among the small stones and

hidden in the sand, remains a threat to future picnickers. The cans attract and trap small mammals the smell of whose rotting remains made collection even more unpleasant. Members of the Killin Breadalbane Angling Club had already cleared areas less

accessible from the road. The Loch shore has now returned to a near natural state for the winter months. Thank you to all concerned.

WA



## Killin and District Art and Crafts Exhibition 2004

The Killin and District Exhibition will be held in the Lesser McLaren Hall, Killin, during the first week of August 2004. This advance notice will allow anyone who may be interested to think about possible exhibits. Paintings and craft may be entered either for exhibition only, or for sale if the exhibitor so wishes, in which case a commission on any sale will be charged. We hope you will keep this date in mind and help to make our Exhibition a success. All proceeds go to local charities.

Any further information may be obtained from Betty Lumsden, 'Riabhach', Glen Dochart, by Killin, Tel. No. 01567 820 404 or Helen McNeill, 'Sandyford', Criagnavie Road, Killin, Tel No. 01567 820 514. **Betty Lumsden**

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# Killin News

Deadlines for the next issue: advertising 12 March, copy 19 March

## Editorial Comment

We would like to thank all those who support us so generously by submitting articles, photographs, and donations, also the volunteers who work with us to distribute the paper. A particular thank-you goes to our advertisers.

Advertising is our main income, funding the paper and office expenses. While grants are sought for capital items we do not receive any other regular income. Donations and subscriptions to the paper are very welcome; when you see the tin, please 'put another nickel in'.

At their own expense volunteers deliver one copy free to each household within the catchment area, some are sent to subscribers in the UK and abroad and the rest are sold at a price, now £1, which is still below the cost of

production. These extra copies provide a little additional revenue. Unusually 200 copies remain unsold from the last issue.

Delivering the paper poses some problems. Some houses are without any obvious suitable post box. While we are happy to replace wet or damaged copies it is sad that some of our volunteers suffer verbal abuse in the process. Papers will now only be delivered where there is a safe suitable place. Copies obtained from the other outlets must be paid for in full. If you wish to make another arrangement to receive your copy please discuss this with Jim Beattie.

We hope we act as a forum where opinions may be aired,

and as a support for the development and prosperity of the community.

We can in no way be described as news leaders; the time between copies is too long. We try to portray what goes on in Killin and provide a record for the future. At least we may encourage visitors to come to Killin and let them know what is available in the area.

You are our journalists. Through editorial control we try to make the content interesting and worthwhile. Feedback is very useful; keep it coming.

Finally a thank-you also goes to the Killin Web Site as this enables the Killin News to become a window through which the world may view Killin.

WA

## 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

**Rates from £12**  
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Adverts are accepted in good faith and we can not be held responsible for the goods and services advertised.

## Production Committee

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Web site: [www.killin.co.uk](http://www.killin.co.uk)



Mrs. M. Hunter, President, welcomed 37 members and invited guests who included Mrs. Elizabeth Menzies, Group President along with Mrs. Heather Lewis, past Group President and several ex-Presidents to Killin WRI's 80th Birthday Party held in Killin Hotel on 31 January, 2004. After an excellent meal, entertainment was provided by Mr Ian Milligan's Concert Party which rounded off a very enjoyable evening. The Birthday Cake was cut by our President, Mairi Hunter and Group President, Liz Menzies.

**Competition result - Limerick on 80 Years** Mrs May Graham.

## Killin District

Mrs. Hunter welcomed members and visitors from neighbouring societies to the November meeting. Mrs. Sammy Hibbert gave a demonstration and talk on the correct way to cleanse, tone and apply make up to the face.

## Competitions Results.

### Treacle Scones

- 1st B. MacGregor
- 2nd J. Stewart
- 3rd C. Reid

### Favourite Butter Dish

- 1st J. Stewart
- 2nd E. Stewart
- 3rd B. McGregor.

Killin W.R.I. held their annual Whist Drive on 14th November. There were 9 tables and the sum of £217.50 was given to the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. The committee would like to thank all those who attended and

donated prizes or money.

## Prize Winners:

### Ladies:

- 1 E. Campbell
- 2 Y. Gall
- 3 M. Hunter

## THE OLD FLAX MILL

### Restaurant - Carvery

## GLENDOCHART

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Consolation Prize I. Hall

**Gents:**

- 1 A. Blunt
- 2 I. McGregor
- 3 D. Willison

Consolation Prize H. Hall.

Mrs; M. Hunter, President, welcomed members and visitors to December's meeting held in the Lesser McLaren Hall on 4th December 2003. Mrs. Eileen Malone from Ardeonaig then gave a demonstration on making four mouth-watering starters for Christmas, which the company was invited to sample. Mrs. Hunter thanked Mrs. Malone for coming along.

**Competition Winners:**

**Individual Sweet:**

- 1 J. Huntley
- 2 C. Reid
- 3 J. Stewart

**Christmas Table Decoration:**

- 1 J. Huntley
- 2 C. Reid
- 3 J. Stewart.

## Ardeonaig and District

The meeting on Wednesday 8th October 2003 was addressed by Mrs Norma Adam. The subject was Rachel House the Children's Hospice. The talk was accompanied by a video. The raffle raised £50 for C.H.A.S. The group were joined by members from Balquhiddie W.R.I. On 12th November Craig Feeney spoke about his "Voyage Through the North West Passage" it was accompanied by slides.

**Competition Winners**

**Local Poem**

1st J. Morgan,  
2nd J. MacKenzie,  
3rd H. Hanvey  
The Annual Dinner Dance with Jim Hardies Band was held at Croft na Caber on Friday 5th December. A wonderful demonstration on Flowers for Christmas by Mrs Helen Taylor was the subject for Wednesday 17th December.

**Competition Winners**

**Winter Scene photo**

1st J. MacKenzie  
2nd M. MacLaughlin  
3rd E. Campbell

**Mincemeat Pies**

1st J. Morgan  
2nd M. MacLaughlin  
3rd M. Taylor.

**J. Anderson**

## Fingal Stone Preservation Trust

Progress at Last! Those brave enough to have been in the Park or on the hill walk over the last few weeks will have noticed changes in the Fingal Stone site. There had been so many delays that we went ahead on our own with the path from the corner of the park, making a right angle to the Stone. We are now back in discussion with National Park representatives and hope that a path from the new houses will link to the one we have laid.

The Trust has ordered two seats for the area beside the Stone, one being funded from the Co-op Community Fund. We hope to look again at the plants, which will be affected by drainage.

We are in discussion with Lorna Main, Stirling archaeologist, about care of the Stone and, as soon as possible, we hope to put up information boards about the Fingal stories connected with the area. Our annual Book Sale will be in the McLaren Hall on Saturday, August 7th.

**Moira Meek**

## THE OLD FLAX MILL

**Restaurant - Carvery**

## GLENDOCHART

Andrew & Lynette McNie would like to thank everyone in Killin & surrounding areas, Crianlarich, Tyndrum, Loch Tay & Balquidder for all the help and support given to us during our first 6 months in Glendochart. A special thank-you to our local businesses for an excellent standard of service provided in particular by Mick and Dani Grant & all the staff of A. C. Fraser & Son, Bill & William of Stitt Brothers, Lix Toll Garage management and staff, News First, Killin Post Office, MacGregor fruit and veg, A&B Services, Dick and Mary of the Wee Bake Shop, Duncan Anderson plumber, Myra & Ken of Myra's Mini Cabs, and all the local guest houses, self-catering lodges and caravan sites for recommending The Old Flax Mill Restaurant. A special thank-you to our excellent Doctors, Nurses & Health Centre Staff Killin, Paddy & associates of the Killin T.I.C., Gordon of the Crianlarich & Tyndrum T.I.C., Kevin Nixon of KNC 2003, Phil of Allerton Scotland, Alistair of Mactrack Ltd., David MacNaughton Builder, Jim McKerracher painter & decorator Crieff, & finally to Pete, Betty, John & Vicky our new friends at the Suie Lodge Hotel. Lynette & Andrew wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous 2004.

To the ones we may have missed  
If we did not mention you by name  
We think just as much of you  
Just the same, and look forward  
To meeting you all again and again  
Here's to 2004 when we all get  
To know each other even more

**Andrew and Lynette**



In Fearnan, take Fortingall Rd.  
for 100 yds, then turn right

**Tel: 01887 830251**

# Thank you

**The Drama Club** wishes to thank everyone who helped us to raise £220 for Yorkhill Children's Foundation from our annual carol singing to shoppers on Christmas Eve.

The Yorkhill Children's Foundation aims to provide extra services which will make a stay in hospital less distressing for children and their families, and improve the already excellent facilities. The Royal Hospital for Sick Children, The Queen Mother's Hospital and the community child health services all benefit from their work and have received additional funding for the supply of medical equipment, improvements in child and family facilities, and paediatric research and training. We especially thank all the local businesses who took pity on us in the driving rain and offered us refreshments - I don't know if it helped our singing voices, but it certainly helped us to carry on.

LS

## Christmas Shoe Boxes

Thank you to all who donated a Christmas shoe box. We collected forty.

KR & JF

## Killin Tiddlers & Toddlers

would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket for the Christmas hamper. Due to all the support we received a total of around £130. 1st prize was won by May Bell (Norma Lang's mum) and 2nd prize Maggie Hibbert.

Sammy Hibbert

## The Killin News Committee

would like to thank Ian Lithgow for his excellent and painstaking work in producing a comprehensive index to the Killin News covering every copy up to Issue 77.

This work is of a professional standard and enables all of us to identify articles on any subject covered in the paper. It is cross-indexed so that names and events are covered making it a useful tool for researchers. Two copies are available to the public in the Library.

## Elsie Mercer

Elsie would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their support over the year. After her recent spell of ill health she has decided to move into Tomdoran Residential Home in Dunblane (01786 824441).

## Brownies Christmas Post

A big thank you to everyone who gave the Brownies Christmas cards to post. We raised £175. Can you guess how many cards we posted if the cards were 10p each? (The answer is on page 34) We had a lot of fun doing it and it gave us good exercise. We hope you will support us next year.

Megan Rhys and Camilla Tigwell,  
Killin Brownies

## No Thank you!

Dear Everyone in Killin  
Please don't drop any more rubbish on the ground. You're not allowed to do this.  
from Robbie aged 3

# Forth Valley Advocacy

Forth Valley Advocacy is an organisation providing a free and confidential service throughout Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire.

The organisation has expanded over the last year to increase the accessibility of the service.

It works with people experiencing mental ill health and with older people to provide independent support and representation to ensure their views are heard.

For example, if you require support to attend a meeting or information to help support views, then it could assist with this or it can speak on your behalf. Being faced with choices over care options for older people can be daunting and someone independent who can explore all the options with you can be of real benefit.

If you feel their service could be of use to you or someone in your life, please ring them on 01324 557070.

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# Obituaries

## Joan Sutherland

Joan Sutherland died on 26th December aged 91 years.

Although she had been born and brought up in St Albans, Hertfordshire, she was always very proud of her Scottish ancestry.

As a young woman she was very keen on sport.

Joan swam, dived and played lacrosse for the county and was also good at tennis and golf.

In 1940 Joan married her second cousin, Jim, thereby saving herself the bother of changing her surname on marriage.

During the war when Jim was on active service Joan drove a civilian ambulance and helped run a WVS canteen and rest centre for servicemen.

After the war Joan continued as an active worker for the WRVS, the NSPCC and Trefoil Guild, and could always be relied on to help out at jumble sales, sales of work etc. Because of his job Jim travelled extensively and frequently, but Joan always kept a stable and loving home for him and their children.

Joan and Jim started coming to Killin in the 1970s, buying their house in Manse Road in 1977 as a retreat from the hurly burly of the South of England. Joan quickly came to love the friendliness of the people, the beauty of the area and when in the early 1980s Joan and Jim made Killin their permanent home Joan continued to take an active part in the village and church life. Sadly her last few years were marred by the continuous pain associated with osteoporosis, but to the end she was determined to finish her life amongst the wonderful people who had welcomed her into their lives.

**Margaret Sutherland**

## Alex Mercer

Alex passed away on the 5th December in Deanston Nursing Home after a long and eventful life.

Born in 1914 in Paisley, Alex was the eldest of four children. He left school at 14 to serve an engineering apprenticeship and upon completion continued his career with Rolls Royce in Hillington, Glasgow.

After the Second World War, he left Rolls Royce and with a partner set up Mercer & Garside and produced specialized taps and dies which were exported all over the world.

After suffering a mild heart attack in his mid fifties, he decided that a change of career was needed. He struck on the idea of becoming a Hotelier, which caused much amusement in the family, as he was incapable of making toast without supervision. He took to it like a duck to water and wished on more than one occasion that he had started earlier in life.

He loved Killin and the friends and acquaintances he made during his 30- years or so in the village. He enjoyed his golf and art and painted many views of the area.

Despite suffering a severe stroke 10 years ago, he was always game for going out and was very appreciative of his coffee morning circle. He never lost his sense of humour or his joy of life.

Alex is survived by his wife Elsie, sons Howard and Graham and his grandchildren.

All the family would like to thank all those who have been supportive through this difficult time.

**Howard Mercer**

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# Crossword by Scorpio

## Across

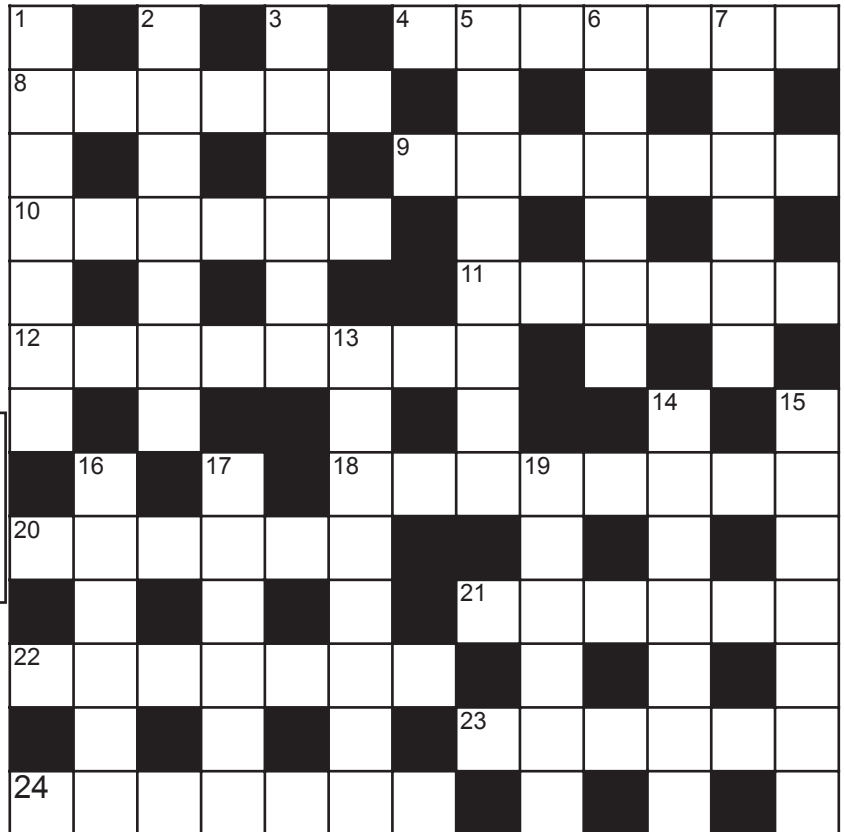
- 4 Stiffening agent (7)  
 8 A Promise first before left is a promise (6)  
 9 Car test in action is reduced in rank (7)  
 10 Kate in confusion in inhalation (6)  
 11 It surrounds the embryo of birds (6)  
 12 Cute run with 500 to offer less for the job (8)  
 18 A rank form of punishment (8)  
 20 Government department  
 21 Bouts of overindulgence (6)  
 22 Sailors with wound evidence create dung beetles (7)  
 23 Earlier (6)  
 24 Ancient city in emotional condition can lead to greatness (7)

## Solution to Crossword 77

**Across** 4 corners, 8 earwig, 9 adulate, 10 humble, 11 Imogen, 12 plectrum, 18 straight, 20 potent, 21 saline, 22 battery, 23 closed, 24 concede  
**Down** 1 perhaps, 2 trumpet, 3 fillet, 5 oldtimer, 6 Nelson, 7 rotten, 13 restored, 14 against, 15 attends, 16 potato, 17 septic, 19 arable

## Down

1. The best parent and the most (7)  
 2. Wet idol for lowest water level (3,4)  
 3. Fills containers for a living (6)  
 5. It will lift more than just the spirits (8)  
 6. Plenty (6)  
 7. A cool container for hot weather picnics (3,3)  
 13. A member of the marrow family (8)  
 14. Fed more but upset by liberty (7)  
 15. Basted 50 and exploded (7)  
 16. Sweet tones (6)



17. Small animal in conifer retirement (6)  
 19. Hot stuff in black, white, red, green, yellow and orange (6)

Congratulations to the winner of the Christmas crossword  
 May Clement from Tyndrum

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## Bomber Crash Friday 10 November 1944

In the November issue "Wartime Recollections" article Henry Forster mentioned going as a child to see a crashed bomber. The Killin Fire Station Log recalls this incident.

**19.20** Called by police to fire at Luib Hotel

**19.25** leading Fire Fireman Bickerton, Firemen Buglas, Simpson, McPherson and MacGregor on duty.

**19.28** 1 T/C left for scene of fire.

**19.40** Arrived Luib Hotel, Wellington Bomber crashed on roadway. Light trailer pump 3/4 inch jet at work, two lengths hose and two lengths suction.

**22.10** Fire extinguished and highway cleared.

**22.30** 1 T/C returned to station 22.35 Dismissed men

Signed by T Bickerton Leading Fireman

Christmas cards delivered by **Brownie Post** 1750

## Stitt Brothers



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Bowser, stand-  
ing David's  
daughter Emma  
with her son  
Richard. The  
baby is  
Richard's son  
Henry David.



**Mandy Hay**  
Bachelor of  
Nursing Degree  
from the  
University of  
Dundee.  
Daughter of  
George and Joan  
Bickerton of  
Craignavie



**James Allan Brown** born  
8th December 2003, to  
Joanne and Andy Brown,  
weighing 6 lbs 10 oz



**Mary McKinnon** celebrated her 90th birthday on 9th October 2003 at a lunch party in the Killin Hotel. She was joined by members of her family. Mary would like to thank all those who sent her cards and gifts, and a special thank you to the staff and residents of the The Falls of Dochart Retirement Home for making her day so special and providing a beautiful birthday cake.

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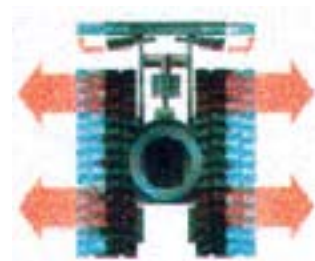
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