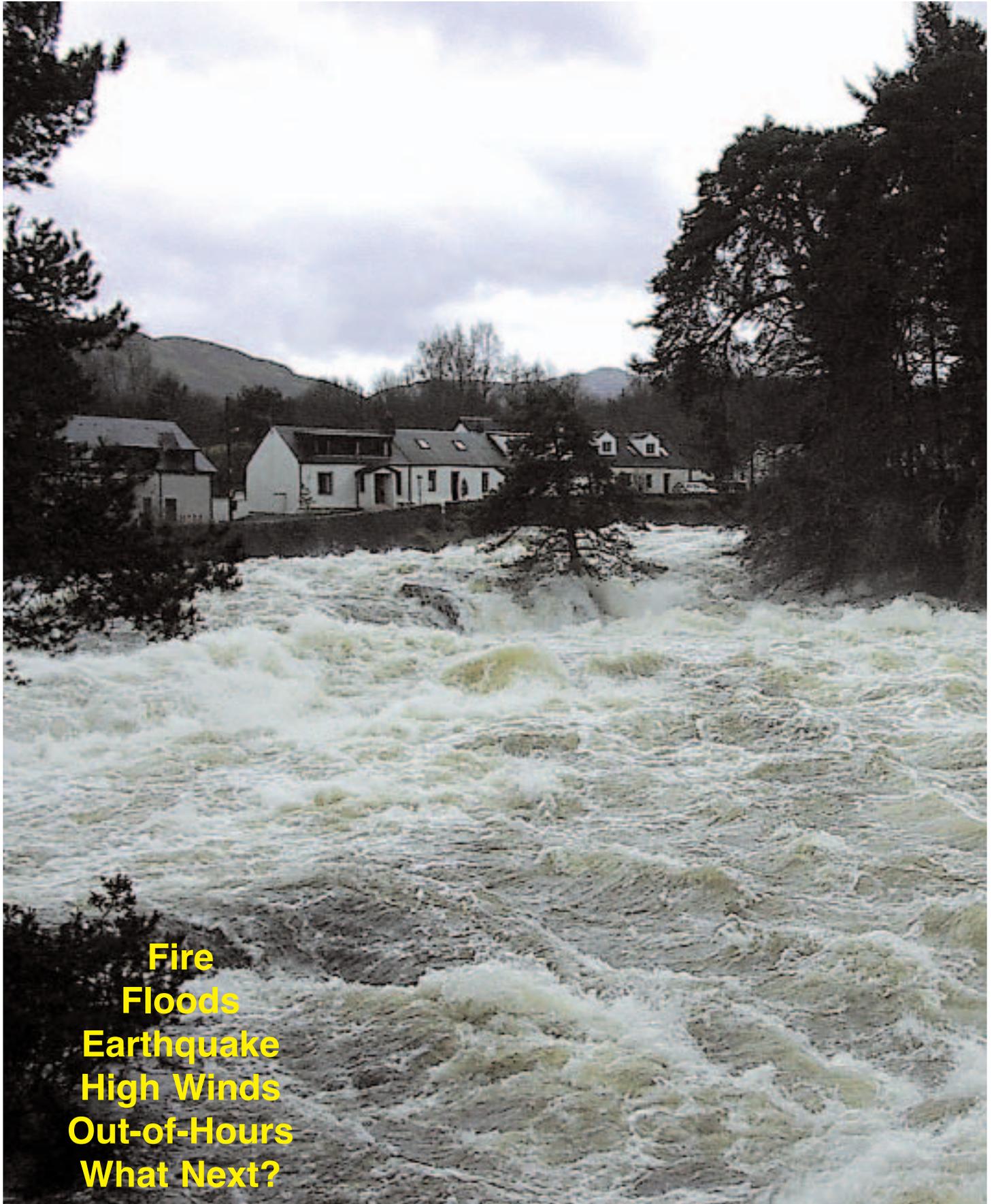
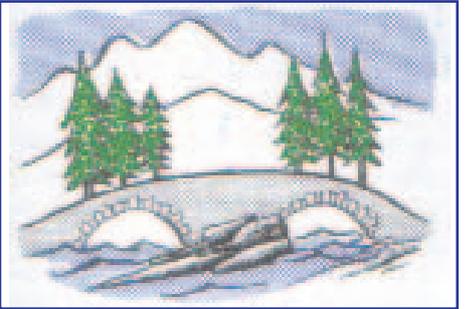


KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

KILLIN NEWS

PRICE £1

Issue 84 February 2005



**Fire
Floods
Earthquake
High Winds
Out-of-Hours
What Next?**



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Petition

The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications and shortcomings arising in rural areas following the introduction of NHS 24 services. In particular with reference to ambulance cover and time scales involved in getting medical assistance to patients in these areas

Out-of-Hours Update

Community Councils Petition the Scottish Parliament

This petition although submitted by the Chairman of Killin Community Council, has the support of the neighbouring Community Councils of Strathfillan, St Fillans, Lochearnhead, Balquhider Strathyre, and Callander. With the exception of St Fillans, which is in the western area of Perth & Kinross Council, all the other areas are situated in the rural northwest area of Stirlingshire.

the caller after three hours resorted to calling 999, whereupon an ambulance transferred the patient to Stirling Royal Infirmary. There are other instances, which can be elaborated on verbally, if required, always bearing in mind patient confidentiality.

3 At the present time an arrangement is in place between the Health Board and local GPs whereby out of hours (OOH) cover is still provided by the local GPs, however some operators at the call centre appear to be unaware of this, and on one occasion they informed a caller that the nearest available Dr on call was located at Glasgow. We have been told that this arrangement will cease as from March 31st 2005. The understanding given to us was that from December 2004, the local GPs would work alongside paramedics, till March 2005. To date this has not happened, because there are not sufficient paramedics available to implement this arrangement.

4 After 31st March, the nearest OOH Dr on call will be based in Stirling, which means a distance of 50 to 60 miles away from the most outlying areas, and an average of 40+ miles from the centre of the rural area. It is felt that this is not satisfactory, and together with the proposed ambulance cover etc, which is referred to later in this submission, will be unsafe. There is also now no OOH Nurse/Midwifery service in the area.

5 It should also be pointed out that at present Killin GPs are responsible for dispensing medication in their area, as the

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Reasons for submitting this petition

1 Despite a number of meetings with all the agencies involved, it is our opinion that no progress is being made in an effort to ensure a safe medical provision in the rural areas. We all feel very frustrated and discouraged that despite our best endeavours no one appears to be listening to the fears we are expressing. It is our honest belief that if the issue is not properly addressed then a tragedy could occur. We are conscious that we are not unique in our concerns, we are aware that other rural areas in Scotland have similar problems.

2 NHS 24 I have received a number of complaints regarding unfortunate experiences which members of the public have experienced, including one where on calling NHS 24 about a person with severe stomach pains, they were informed that all nurse advisors were engaged, but would call back when free. After a further two phone calls to NHS 24

only dispensing chemists are located at Callander, some considerable distance from the more remote rural areas.

6 Ambulance Service At present this has been provided by two double-crewed ambulances, one based in Callander, and one also double crewed at Killin.

Although the Killin crews were not full time, they were on call over the full 24 hours. The new proposals are that ambulance staff at Killin will be put on a full time basis. However this has not improved anything, as we are informed by the ambulance service that cover will now consist of one double-crewed ambulance (A & E) and one rapid Response Unit (RRU) manned by one paramedic for the whole north west area including Callander. The RRU vehicle is not capable of conveying patients. It is our considered opinion, that these proposals are unacceptable, bearing in mind that around four to five thousand people are affected plus a vast geographical area. The proposals also mean that whereas there were four personnel on duty during normal working hours, this has now been reduced to three, hardly an improvement in the service.

7 At present, if a local GP calls out an ambulance, once the ambulance leaves the area with the patient, we still have the local

GPs available for any further calls. With the new system that will not be the case, a Dr would have to attend from Stirling or the one locally based Paramedic if not otherwise engaged. In the event of a Paramedic responding to a call, which subsequently requires hospitalisation, this will result in a further delay in the time taken to get that patient to hospital, as the Paramedic will then have to wait for an A & E ambulance to arrive to transport the patient.

8 Concern has also been expressed with regards to OOH care for expectant and mothers of young families, bearing in mind the fact that no nursing or midwifery cover is available OOHs.

Whilst appreciating the difficulties encountered in providing a safe and reliable health service to all, we feel that for whatever reason, we are been offered a second class service, which I would reiterate we believe to be unsafe, and could lead to a tragedy occurring. In light of the foregoing I ask the Committee to take steps to have the matter fully discussed in Parliament, with a view to a solution being found, and peoples minds put at rest.



The Out-Of-Hours Service Explained

Out-of-hours care in Forth Valley is now provided on a partnership basis by NHS Forth Valley and NHS 24. NHS 24 is the new national clinical telephone health information, advice and referral service which is now fully available to the whole population of Scotland.

NHS 24 and NHS Forth Valley, including GPs, A&E departments and Scottish Ambulance Service representatives, work together to bring you the service. The arrangements also accommodate changes brought about by the new General Medical Services (GMS) Contract, which allows GPs to opt out of the responsibility of providing out-of-hours care. This responsibility now falls to NHS Boards across Scotland.

It is important that everyone has safe access to emergency services. It is also important that people

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know that when they need to see a doctor they will see a doctor. Until last year family doctors held a personal responsibility to care for their patients for 24 hours a day. This had been becoming increasingly difficult and over recent years doctors formed groups to share the on-call. The responsibility of providing an on-call service was making general practice a very unattractive profession leading to a shortage of doctors, with particular difficulties in recruiting and retaining family practitioners in the rural areas. In order to maintain general practices across the UK, change was inevitable. A UK wide new GP contract was negotiated which gave all GP's the right to opt out of the responsibility for providing on-call services. In Forth Valley as with many other parts of the UK, all GP's asked to hand over their responsibility for out of hours services to their local NHS Board. The priority was and always has been to ensure that the new arrangements are safe. Through discussions with those involved and taking on board the strong messages from the public consultation it was agreed that the new arrangements for the Killin area would be phased in over a period of time to allow the changes to bed in slowly and the impact of the changes to be carefully evaluated. Emergency

and immediately necessary care will be provided by a fully trained and experienced Scottish Ambulance Service paramedic. These paramedics are currently capable of dealing with all serious emergencies, in many cases offering treatment which was only previously available in hospitals. Should they be required to attend a serious emergency they will always be backed up by a regular A&E ambulance vehicle. In terms of the regular A&E Ambulance Service in Killin, the number of hours which it is available has been increased to improve the responsiveness and reliability of the service it delivers. Very soon an ambulance resource will be working from Killin throughout the 24 hour period thereby eradicating the need for the current practice of the staff being called out from home during the night. This again will improve reliability, responsiveness and safety.

These new developments do not affect your ability or method to call for an Ambulance. In a situation which you consider to be an emergency you should still call 999

Doctors in specially adapted cars with dedicated drivers, who themselves are often from the

ambulance service, are mobile across the area. These new arrangements have been in place for nearly four months and will continue to develop positively in the months to come. Together with the enhanced ambulance and paramedic service they are working well in the rural areas of West Stirlingshire. Some of these areas are not quite so distant as the Killin area but with almost ten times as many people there has been plenty of capacity to allow for doctors to make the necessary visits. Similar arrangements have been in place in other parts of Scotland and the UK for a long time and indeed one doctor who covered a very large and remote area of Yorkshire has come to work in Forth Valley. The paramedic staff and additional ambulance provision will be in place from the end of January and there will be a period of dual running where the doctors have agreed to make themselves available just in case. The Forth Valley arrangements recognise there will be change but have put safety first. If you need to see a doctor you will continue to see a doctor.

NHS 24

These arrangements will work hand in hand with the new Scotland wide NHS 24 Service. NHS 24 is available 24 hours a

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day, including the out-of-hours period, when the local GP surgeries are closed. This means that, when your GP surgery is closed, NHS 24 will answer your call.

If you are ill and you feel it can't wait until your GP surgery re-opens, call NHS 24 08454 24 24 24 (local rate)

Please remember that if you think you need an emergency ambulance you should still call 999

NHS 24 does not replace existing out-of-hours care – rather, NHS 24 works with your local out-of-hours services to make sure that, if you are ill, you are provided with the right care at the right time and by the right health professional.

Up to 40% of calls to NHS 24 are dealt with by the nurse advisors, who may provide advice to help you look after yourself at home without the need for further referral. However, if you need further assessment or treatment, either in a local out-of-hours centre or by attending an Accident and Emergency Department, you will be asked to attend the one that is most appropriate for your needs.

Out-of-hours centres in Forth

Valley are based in Stirling, Falkirk and Alloa and A&E Departments are available at Stirling and Falkirk. If a home visit is required, that will be arranged for you, based on your clinical need.

If you need to be seen for further assessment or treatment face-to-face, you will be seen locally by a doctor, nurse or other health professional within NHS Forth Valley's out-of-hours service. NHS 24 will then hand over your care to local doctors and nurses in NHS Forth Valley.

At very busy times, people with non-urgent symptoms or queries may be called back by NHS 24 when demand reduces. Urgent calls are dealt with first. This clinically safe process is designed to ensure that people who are very ill will receive care on a priority basis. However, people are always urged to call NHS 24 back if their condition worsens.

NHS 24 is also available for Textphone users with hearing and speech difficulties by calling 18001 08454 24 24 24

NHS 24 and NHS Forth Valley would be happy to arrange a visit to NHS 24's Contact Centre in South Queensferry for members of the community.

Editorial Comment

The saga of the out-of-hours cover for this rural area continues. Lack of communication is a major problem. What works for suburban areas will not extend to the periphery of the Forth Valley area due to hurdles of distance, paucity of public transport, poor mobile phone reception and vagaries of the weather causing obstruction to the road. Anxious to ensure an adequate service, the representatives of the local communities have tried to understand how the service is to be organised and how it will respond to each and every concern brought to their attention.

The service is organised in three parts, NHS 24, The Scottish Ambulance Service, and NHS Forth Valley. Confusion arose when each fed back different answers to the questions posed to them showing inconsistencies in the overall plan. This undermined trust and heightened anxiety.

We are all on the same side and have a commitment to a service that works and includes the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. We are aware that FVHB are constrained by finances but we need to know what to expect of the service and can be critical if it falls short on compassion or evidence based standards of care that apply to the rest of the country.

What we need now is information. Let's see the plans. We need to understand the finer points of the organisation to be confident that all our problems are addressed. If we must have a reduced service then we must be involved in its design. The plan should change when shown to be deficient as problems arise in its implementation. Continuing audit must be open and accessible for us to be confident in the system. We still need clear answers.

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1st Killin Brownies

Outing to Edinburgh

One Saturday in December, 49 Brownies, parents and friends enjoyed a day in Edinburgh. We all went up in the big Ferris wheel – only some enjoyed it! We then walked along Princes Street Gardens enjoying the Christmas sights. As luck would have it, Santa was keeping some of his reindeer there in a special pen. He even came along to feed them while we were watching. The highlight of the day was a trip to the Lyceum Theatre to see *Sleeping Beauty*. It was fantastic and enjoyed by everyone!



Christmas Post

Thanks to all those Brownies and parents who helped sort and deliver cards around the village. We raised an amazing £308 this year – thanks to everyone who contributed by giving us your letters to post. This is the only fundraiser we do during the year so it's very important to us.

Fiona & Julie

Community Futures Programme

The Programme comes to an end in April of this year and here is an update on what will happen from now on. There are 4 area networks, the Trossachs, the Loch Lomond the Cowal/Argyll Forest and Breadalbane. Minutes of Area Network meetings are available on the Community Futures website. Trusts have been formed in some areas to replace the work done previously by the area networks but Killin already has committees, such as the Killin Care Trust, and it was felt that a Community Development Trust was not necessary. Training will be available for community committees and support in various areas. From April a team of permanent Community Liaison Officers will take over from the Community Futures team of Community Agents. Appointments have been made now, but will not come into effect until April. The agent for the Breadalbane area is Joyce Russell. There is also a team of Sustainable Development Officers who work alongside the Liaison Officers, particularly in developing community projects. Gillian Barrie is the contact for Trossachs & Breadalbane. Dorothy Taylor is the Socio-Economic Support & Information Officer and has lots of information about funding sources. She also looks after the website. If you wish to know more about the support we provide contact Lesley Campbell lesley.campbell@lochlomond-trossachs.org. The website has information about the Area Networks, the Community Partnership, individual trusts and their activities, parkwide projects, and useful links to other sites. If you have any suggestions or links we'd be happy to hear them dorothy.taylor@lochlomond-trossachs.org. The Community Partnership is working alongside the National Park Authority to develop a programme to support the communities beyond April 2005. At present the Community Partnership is supporting the Apprenticeship Project, and Play in the Park initiative (more on the website). We hope that further support will include training, events and information for Community Trusts.

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Don't tell them it was an earthquake

What a January!

First the worst storm in a decade and floods then seven inches of snow in one night followed a few days later by unusually severe gales. Then, at 10.15 pm on Thursday 20th the noise of an explosion and a rumble. The Main Street filled with householders, some in their nightclothes, asking questions. Had the dam broken? Had ram raiders attacked the shop front? Had next door's boiler exploded? Had the new extension next door fallen down? Had a chimney stack fallen? Had someone tumbled down the stairs? Had the new high style bed

collapsed? Had the water tank come through the ceiling? Had the wall collapsed? Had there been a gas explosion? Had a plane crashed? Had the windows in the pub been smashed? Had a stag run down the hill and crashed into the wall? NO! It was just an earthquake in Glen Lochay which registered 2.7 on the Richter scale at a depth of 4.4 miles. No damage – no injuries – nothing to worry about. Whatever next?

MM and GA

Tsunami Survivor

On hearing of a disaster, we immediately think of anyone we know who might be involved. On Boxing Day thoughts in Killin went to Janet Kennedy, daughter of Fiona Kennedy, who was teaching in Thailand. Here is her story.



My boyfriend Jed and I travelled down to Phuket by train on Christmas day. It literally took us all day to get there which thankfully meant we were tired the next day and did not get up to go down to the beach as early as planned. When we awoke the next morning it was about 9.30am so we headed to the beach late. As we turned out of the house we were staying at, we could see vast amounts of water around the surrounding homes and many people gathering at the waters edge. Suddenly everyone started to panic and run as the water started to surge at an alarming rate. I was literally pulled on to a moped by a kind local man whilst Jed was running behind, with the water still coming. We eventually stopped, thinking we were safe until a jeep stopped and those inside screamed for us to get inside. We took off for highground along with hundreds of other vehicles and people. After an hour or so we went back down, however we were stopped by the police who told us another tsunami was heading our way. We spent the day at a refuge watching hundreds of injured people, some without clothes and many without loved ones. It certainly was a harrowing experience, we saw so much pain and anguish. We were so lucky we can only thank God for our lives. I'm so pleased we were even able to phone my mum before she heard about it on the news. Almost every day though we hear of someone who knows someone who has lost a loved one, it is so upsetting.

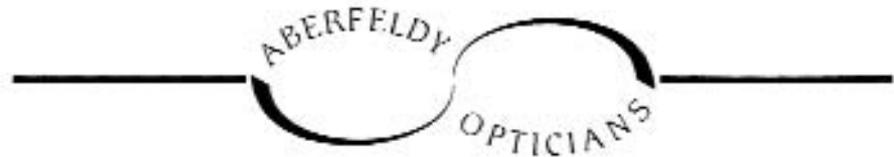
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Mervyn's Weather

Written before the earthquake

Our winter weather pattern shows little change in character during the past ten months or so, wild oscillations between mild and occasionally stormy and usually rain bearing winds from a southerly quarter, and brief westerly and northerly blasts which can in winter bring cold polar air for a day or two. But our unstable weather conditions pale into insignificance when one considers the ongoing disasters of the northern Indian Ocean and their future ramifications.

Although the effects of the tsunami reached as far west as Kenya, Somalia and "The Horn" of Africa, little mention has been made of the extreme north of The Bay of Bengal, much nearer to the epicentre. Here there are huge areas of land only just above sea level in the extensive deltas of the Hoogli, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy and Salween. Could it be that the tremendous volume of cold, fresh water draining much of the Himalaya and the mountains of Burma had somehow a deadening effect on the force of the tsunami.

At the moment the Indian Ocean does not have an information network regarding

such eventualities, as hitherto, with the possible exception of the Krakatoa explosion in the late 19th century, there does not seem to have been a great deal of volcanic or related activity and, although it would appear that attempts were made by the Pacific System to alert relevant authorities, lack of communication precluded this. Does the Atlantic Ocean have a similar warning system in operation? Ah well! At least we don't have volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, typhoons etc! But do we? The geological fault running south west from Glengoulandie, through Fearnan, across Loch Tay, to Strathyre and Callander and known as "The Loch Tay Fault" was responsible in 1784 for echoing a severe earthquake in Lisbon. This caused the waters of Loch Tay to roll back from the shallows at Kenmore in a "Moses and the Red Sea" fashion and to ebb and flow for 24 hours or so. Also around Comrie, over the Highland Fault, earth tremors occur regularly and indeed at Earthquake House here, a recently refurbished seismometer has been installed.

On the whole however the British Isles are fairly proof against earth movement as the types of rock on which we are based give us a pretty solid and static foundation. However, globally, it is not so very far to

Iceland with its geysers, hot springs, semi-dormant Hekla and the tiny island of Surtsey, spawned some 40 years ago by a submarine eruption pushing volcanic ash upwards to solidify above sea level. Iceland sits above the northern extremity of The Mid-Atlantic Ridge, an area shallower than the surrounding ocean. This ridge is a fragile area in the earth's crust and sulphurous smoke and steam issue from fissures in the seabed. These are known as fumeroles and on contact with sea water solidify into weird and wonderful shapes. Our poor old Earth! It is somewhat like an ageing and decadent pugilist, bombarded with fisticuffs in the form of meteorites, assailed with boils, weeping sores and cracked ribs, which in turn affect parasites (us) who reside in its hair or on its skin. And yet there is still peace and beauty if one knows where to find it!

Mervyn K. Browne





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Farming Matters

Welcome to the New Year.

I am writing this after a night of truly horrendous wind and rain, with as big a flood in the meadows as we have seen in the last two winters. The weather has dominated the beginning of the year, but our local problems are insignificant in comparison with the results of the tsunami on the other side of the world. On a sheep farm, like ours, the weather plays an important role at this time of year. Rams are now coming off the hill after being out with the ewes since the early days of December. During the next three months the weather will influence the condition of ewes prior to lambing in April. Frost and good dry days will help ewes, make our job much easier and hopefully produce a good crop of lambs. The New Year has also brought changing times to farming. As a result of CAP reformation, subsidies have been replaced with a single farm payment based on historic payments reducing each year. These reductions will go towards grants for farmers to release some of their land into environmental schemes and habitats for wildlife. Hill farms, in general, have always been geared towards the protection of the environment in order to sustain our fragile economy and protect

the unique wildlife on the hills. If the hills aren't maintained we won't have the farmers or the tourists in this area. These environmental incentives are geared more towards the big arable farmers - who are thin on the ground around Killin!

Producers in this area are unsure of how the result of these changes will affect the price of lamb and, in particular, beef. As most farmers locally are in Farm Assured Schemes, I hope this will sustain our prices in the future. I think I can only urge readers to buy Scottish and local whenever possible.

I sometimes think I am becoming an endangered species myself as there are so few young people in agriculture now. At one time Killin was able to boast its own Young Farmers Club. While there is still a club in Aberfeldy, Killin closed many years ago and Callander has now had to merge with Stirling due to falling numbers. It is worrying as, if the trend continues and fewer school leavers come into farming, how will our countryside be maintained?

Hamish Campbell
Ledcharrie Farm

Breadalbane Leaflet Day

Following the success of last year's event we are once again inviting you to the Breadalbane Leaflet Day on Friday 4th March from 10am to 3pm in the McLaren Hall. The 3 Tourist Associations in the Breadalbane area of the National Park are working together to promote the area. Our aim is to encourage our visitors to stay longer - why do they need to move on when there is so much to see and do within easy reach of here? This will be a drop in event with many activities and attractions within easy reach being promoted by the people who run them. There will be opportunities for you to try some outdoor activities (weather permitting) Refreshments will be available all day.

The Breadalbane Tourism Group

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Raft Race

As a Sports & Social Club Committee Member in the NHS Information Services Division, Edinburgh, I organise teams of staff and friends to take part in the annual White Water Raft Race from Aberfeldy to Grandtully in aid of the Leprosy relief charity, LEPRO. There is a map of this stretch of the river at the Craigard. Last year



we managed to persuade 48 brave souls to take part, in 6 teams, on a cold day in October. Although we finished last, it was great fun and all in a good cause. The race is usually very hard work, but it was made easier by the high water level and faster current. We completed it in 50 minutes instead of the normal between an hour a quarter to and hour and a half. We got basic pre-race safety training and were issued with a buoyancy aid and a paddle, and then went off in a mad dash for the best position on the water at the start of the race!! We surprised ourselves by raising the amazing sum of £3,086.15 with sponsorship and a special "cake bake" day. A complete course of injections to cure Leprosy costs only £21, so we raised enough cash to cure 146 people.

If anyone from Killin fancies giving the Raft Race a shot this year, it's held annually in October and details can be had from Croft na Caber Water Sports Centre. The more the merrier! I can just see the council workers taking on Lix Toll!

Marion Hall

Gun Club



On 16 May the Charity Shoot raised £150.00 for The Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. The open DTL Shoot on 11 July raised £51.00 for Sport Relief. The end of season shoot was followed by the Prize Giving.

Prize winners

High Gun on the day C. Morris
Agg Shield C. Morris
Runner up Shield J. Sinclair
Curry Rose Bowl J. Sinclair
Junior Shield K. Bennett

Classification

Class (A) DTL C. Morris 360 points
Class (B) DTL S. Christie A. Shillen 315 points
Class (C) DTL J. Morris 298 points

Class (A) Sporting C. Morris 442 points
Class (B) Sporting Jas Sinclair 248 points
Class (C) Sporting K. Fitzgerald 215 points

George D. Coyne

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Strathfillan Community Development Trust

The Trust is very pleased to welcome two new volunteer Directors to the Board. Deirdre MacKenzie and John Goodale were appointed at the AGM in November. They replace Moira Robertson and Mairi Wilkie who have both worked hard and long during their six years as Directors. We also welcome a new paid worker, Gill Christie who has taken over the Land Manager post from Darren. She worked for five years as a Countryside Ranger in the Trossachs and Glen Ogle area, and brings a wealth of experience in land issues from across Scotland and a love of the natural world with her. Gill's work will include Crianlarich Community Woodland, Tyndrum Community Woodland and the Cycleway.



Gill Christie



The Internet Café each Friday and Saturday in Tyndrum Village Hall is going very well. It is organised by the BVLC (Breadalbane Virtual Learning Centre) project, in which we are working with our neighbours in Killin, Lochearnhead, Balquhider and Strathyre. We have been getting a lot of the seasonal workers along to the café, and are to put questionnaires out to local households so that we can tailor times to suit them too. There are incredible opportunities to access all sorts of courses via the computers, as well as a chance to get tuition and learn new skills.

We are very proud to have received two awards recently. The Calor Gas Scottish Community of the Year Awards gave us a Highly Commended in the Environment Section. To collect the second award, four representatives went to London to receive a Runners Up award in the UK-wide BURA

Charitable Trust Awards for Community Regeneration. These awards recognise the hard work and imagination of many people in the communities of Tyndrum and Crianlarich over many years.

Sue Wyllie

SCDT Office

Tyndrum Village Hall

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- "By The Way"

A Word From the Minister

One summer a student friend worked in the kitchen at a boarding school. She was puzzled about why the cook put out a metal tray for the cutlery after breakfast but a plastic tray after lunch and dinner. Each time the cutlery was washed, dried and put away in exactly the same way. My friend was too young to know that at one time the cutlery would have been sterilised in a hot steam chest in the morning when a plastic tray would have melted. The practice had long ceased, but the 'tradition', now pointless, remained.

The world we live in today is very different from just fifty years ago. The rhythm of our week has changed and we no longer have Sunday as a free day in the way we used to. The 'tradition' of church going has suffered and the church is trying hard to find new ways of enabling people to live and express their faith. Going out to people where they are, rather than expecting them to come to the church, is one of those ways - chaplains in shopping centres for example. It has been called 'The Church Without Walls.' The way we

'do' faith is changing, but the faith itself is still the same, faith in God and in Christ his Son. In this New Year make an effort to find a new way of living out your faith - it will reward you tenfold. A very Happy and Blessed New Year to you.

Reverend John Shedden
Dalmally



Children from Tyndrum and Dalmally in a St Lucia Day pageant at the Parish Church of Strathfillan and Glenorchy

5 Generations



Caroline Thouless, Lianne McLennan, Kathleen McLennan and Lorne Campbell with baby Josh

Food to go? Little Chef to go!

Tyndrum's Little Chef, which has been a landmark in the area for around thirty years, closed its doors for the last time in December. Plans for a much extended restaurant with an accompanying fish and chip shop takeaway are being lodged. This particular phoenix, should arise from the ashes in May 2005. **Jim Kinnell**

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Strathfillan - "By The Way"



Welcome

New faces appeared at both Ewich House and Glengarry towards the end of last season.

Paul and Jen Lilly moved from Brackley in Northamptonshire and took over Glengarry late last summer. Jen confesses to being swayed by seeing too many lifestyle change programmes on television. Running a Bed and Breakfast in Tyndrum will certainly be a challenge. Jen, who offers Sage Accounting and Payroll tutoring, is keeping her hand in and currently has around six thousand internet students. They have been visiting Scotland for years to do a bit of

walking (and have walked the West Highland Way).

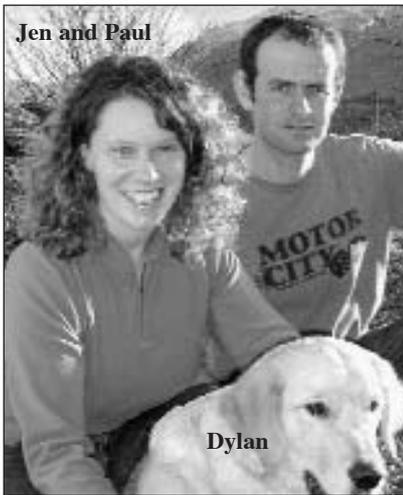
Jamie and Debbie Allett of Ewich House just outside Criannlarich, have moved from Derbyshire. Jamie worked as a Transport Manager and Debbie for the Fire Officer's Union. Both are still doing a bit of work for their former employers but they are looking forward to the challenge of looking after their Guest House customers, a new experience for both of them. Debbie was disappointed at how little snow we had had over the last couple of months but she did enjoy a white Christmas day.

Jamie and Debbie with Barry



Jim Kinnell

Jen and Paul



Dylan



Children of Criannlarich School in their Christmas play The Grumpy Shepherd

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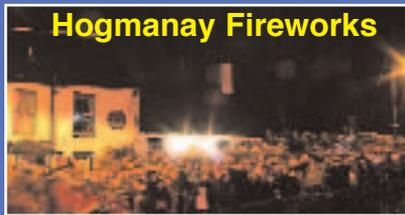
Christmas and Hogmanay



Santa's Float



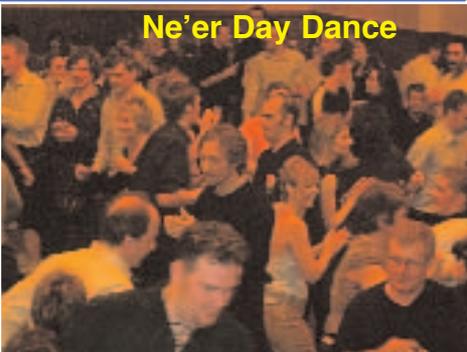
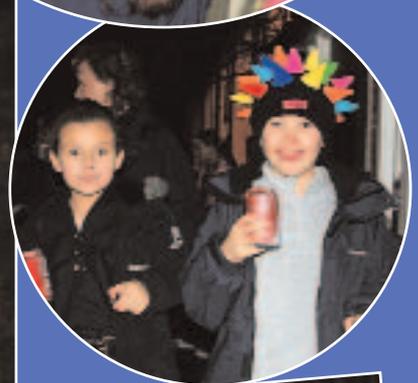
School Christmas Fair



Hogmanay Fireworks



Picture courtesy of Paul Norris



Ne'er Day Dance



**KILLIN DR
10th Anniversary
Jack and t**



DRAMA CLUB
sary Pantomime
he Beanstalk

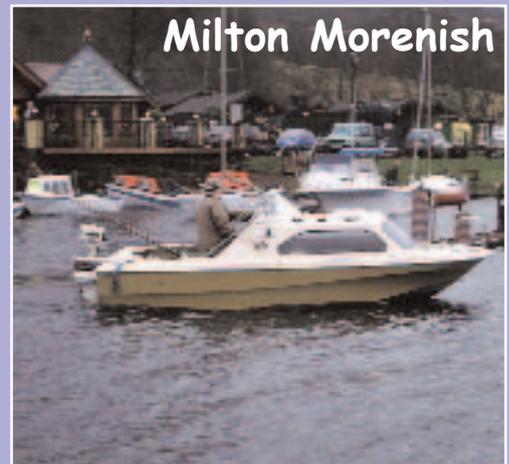


Opening Day - 15th January

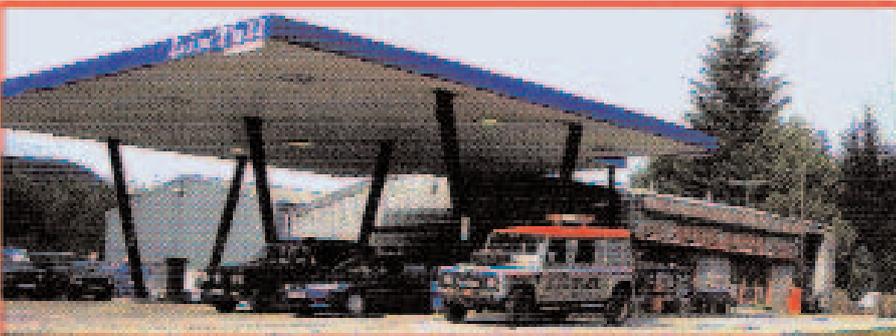
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Salmon Season Opening



There was less room than usual for the Opening Ceremony at Auchmore as Loch Tay had extended itself over its banks after the recent heavy rain. Fortunately it had receded enough to allow the boats to be launched and about sixty people braved the mud to take part or watch the proceedings. Beer and hotdogs were again kindly provided by the visitors from Germany, and the sponsors of the fishing prizes, Grouse, provided a taste of their product.

At Milton Morenish the usual crowd gathered at the Loch Tay Highland Lodges harbour, many in anticipation of catching a spring salmon on the opening day. Hospitality was kindly provided by Clive Booth. At each location the boats and anglers were blessed and the ministers, the Rev. Lincoln and the Rev J. L. L. Fagerson, remembered those tragically affected by the recent Tsunami. Having loaded their tackle into the boats, fishermen motored

onto the grey waters accompanied at Morenish by the sound of piper Roger Sharp.

Results

Three salmon were caught and some large rainbows, several well-mended keltts and good conditioned brownies returned. The best fish of the day, caught by visiting German angler, Gerd Gorus, fishing with Stefan Schumann and ghillie Dugald MacGregor, weighed 19.5 lb. Not to be out done another German angler, Paul, fishing with Heinz Stratman and Jim McArthur, played and landed a 17lb fish. English visitor Rich Benan, who had been fishing from Killin for ten years, caught his first fish of 12 lb with ghillie Bill Hill. This year saw the first outing of two keen junior anglers, Calum McLarty and Adam Mitchell, fishing with Calum's dad Donald. No salmon for them this time, better luck next year.

AI, MM, Alex Stewart

Editorial Policy Statement

The Killin News is a free community newspaper produced and distributed 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. Articles should be between 200 and 300 words and the content should be original work relevant to Killin and environs.

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After the AGM and Christmas celebrations, we are ready to get into the more herbally interesting and useful part of our syllabus. This year we will hold meetings about wild food and herbs which thrive in our area and the cultivation of herbs from other countries which grow well here. Besides the talks on local growing and harvesting, there will be video support for more traditional and diverse gardening methods and tips.

The Herbalist's Garden at Pitnacree is a perfect example of these and other specialized techniques for growing herbs for multipurpose use and is well worth a visit.

A Midsummer Magic Open Day on June 25th may be just what you need to see a working and productive herbal garden and meet with herbalists and garden specialists from all around Scotland. There will be plenty to harvest and it will be interesting seeing some of these specialized plants put to good and varied uses. The general public are welcome to this and all our events. This March there will be a talk on putting together a holiday herbal first aid kit just in time for summer. Whether travelling near or far, at home or abroad, now more than ever

we should be prepared for minor events when out of the reach of additional care.

There will also be a more serious discussion in April on the energetics of Chinese herbs and the use of herbs with cancer, which is becoming an increasingly popular method of treatment.

Herbs are wonderful plants which give something to everyone. Practically, they grow themselves and like to be available and used by everyone for many reasons. Should you find any of these subjects or visits of interest further information and dates are available from

Patty Hope 01567 820408
or Judy Forster 01567 820298.



Some of the **KILLIN BOOK CLUB** members enjoying a super Christmas night out at Cruachan Restaurant.

A few of the books discussed and reviewed during the past year are 'The Da Vinci Code' by Dan Brown, 'Skinny Dip' by Carl Hiaasen, 'Trumpet' by Jackie Kay, 'The Bookseller of Kabul', 'Spit Against The Wind' and 'Snow Falling On Cedars'.

We have also met up with members of the Kippen Book Group and discussed with them 'The Red Tent' by Anita Diamant.

...And there is no truth in the rumour that we are a Wine Club - hic!

Linda FitzGerald



Rural Stirling

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Killin Community Council

11th January Meeting

Tourist Award: Killin won the overall Loch Lomond, Argyll, Stirling & Trossachs Tourist Award - a crystal vase and a week-end break for two - for the help given by the community during the Glen Ogle landslide. A draw between the Mountain Rescue, WRI and the McLaren Hall Committee for the weekend break was won by the WRI.

Fireworks: The Hogmanay display had gone well. Charlie Grant thanked all who had helped and was thanked for his work. £700 is left to go towards next year's show if required.

Refuse collection: It was reported that brown bins and commercial waste bins were being uplifted by the same lorry. Instances of this should be reported to Cllr. Finch or Stirling Council. The Council will not provide a skip for commercial use even though businesses would be prepared to pay. Businesses can pay £18 to have waste uplifted. From summer 2005 there will be only one commercial uplift of rubbish per week.

Recent flooding: Much of this was caused by lack of roadside maintenance.

NHS 24: Examples were given of this system not working and call centres

needing to know their geography. One caller to NHS24 on Boxing Day was told that the nearest available doctor was in Glasgow. The Chairman is willing to battle on to try and ensure that there is no reduction in health care in the area and it was unanimously agreed by all present that steps be taken to publicise the present situation. The Chairman felt that neighbouring communities would support the action proposed, including the possibility of a petition to the Scottish Parliament. There seemed to be an absence of support from all politicians on the subject.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 8th March in Killin Primary School.

**School
Paper Collection
Dates**
Jan 28
Feb 18
Mar 4 and 18
April 1 and 22

Would you like to go back to school?

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteers Programme) has been running a project in Stirling and surrounding areas for almost 2 years now with the aim of placing senior or retired people in schools to help in the classroom. At present they have 28 volunteers working in schools throughout the area, most of whom help with reading, writing or numbers but others are helping with gardening clubs, art, knitting, cooking, computing, playing the piano for school concerts, helping children whose first language isn't English and providing information about everyday life when they themselves were children.

The first volunteer at Killin Primary School is thoroughly enjoying the experience and the school would like another 1 or 2 volunteers - especially anyone who can play the piano or keyboard.

All the volunteers talk of the tremendous fun they have and can't wait for term to start! Head teachers are also very supportive and appreciate all the help that volunteers give. If you are interested in helping with this project and feel you can give 2 or 3 hours a week, please contact

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There are various types of goods available for us to buy, ranging from DVDs, CDs and Videotapes, right through to fine art. Shopping need not mean a day trip to Stirling (or even further) as all purchases can be made online and gifts wrapped and delivered to their destination – all by a few keystrokes on your computer.

I have updated the Frogspawn website with an online shopping section which will give you access to websites that are safe to buy from online. Please visit www.frogspawncomputers.co.uk/xmas.htm for details.

Broadband Update

Killin will have access to broadband in July and, over the next few issues of the Killin News, I will review the suppliers so that we can have all the information we need before deciding to buy broadband. As always, you can email me if you have any questions.

Mark Lincoln

mark@frogspawncomputers.co.uk



Killin & District Sports and Leisure Club Fun Walks

Fun walks for the not so serious walkers will be starting soon at the Sports Pavilion-regular Fun Walks for all ages. Following the recent initiatives outlined by the British Heart Foundation & Countryside Agency, it is hoped to form a group of people, young and old, who wish to "Walk for Health".

If you are interested, please contact Joe Reilly at 31 Fingal Road or phone 820010 for further details. N.B. no special equipment required e.g. walking boots, snow shoes etc., but an umbrella might come in handy!

Good News

We have just been awarded a Community Planning Development Fund grant from Stirling Council. This will enable the club to continue to run for the next 2 years.

Joe Reilly

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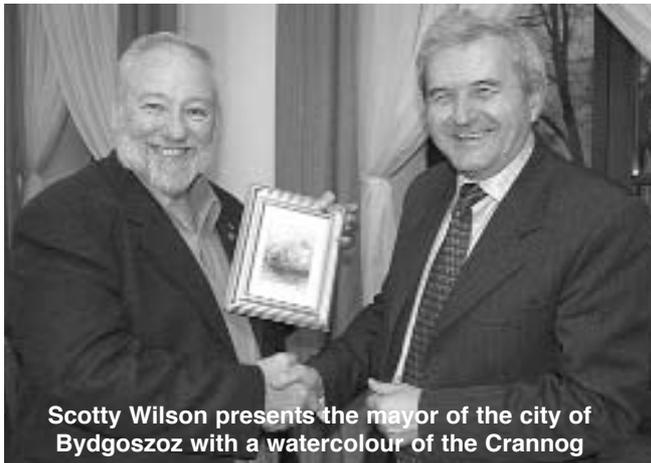
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News from the Crannog Centre

The Crannog withstood the recent storms virtually unscathed, which must surely be a tribute to a basic design conceived many centuries ago. That is, of course, good news since work is going on apace preparing for this years opening in mid-March and recruiting is already underway to bring in new members of what's known as the 'Crannog Crew'!



Scotty Wilson presents the mayor of the city of Bydgoszcz with a watercolour of the Crannog

Working as a guide at the Crannog Centre can lead to tremendous and unexpected rewards. For instance, take our man in Killin, Scotty Wilson, a well-kent member of our team. He showed around the Crannog a group who were representatives of the Polish Friends of Perth/Bydgoszcz Society, a city twinning group. The tour over, Scotty chatted to the group's Polish leader, Karol Slowinski, telling him of his longtime interest and study of the archaeological works at Biskupin, which has become one of the foremost European archeological sites. Lo and behold, Biskupin is not many miles from Perth's twin town in Poland and Scotty was asked by Karol if he would consider travelling to Poland to give a few illustrated talks in the area about Scottish crannogs. His predictable answer of 'Oh, yes, please!'

resulted in a flurry of phone calls to organise flights to Poland. Armed with some of our Chairman, Nick Dixon's photographic archive, Scotty set off in November on what, for him, must surely be a most memorable dream come true and, to add that proverbial bit of icing to the cake, his tour attracted several hundred people to each talk! Those of you who have been holding back on joining our 'Crannog Crew' - think again. You never know where in the world one of your group tours may lead you! To arrange an interview just phone Barrie Andrian at the Crannog Centre, Tel. no: 01887 830583 or email her at info@crannog.co.uk

Colin Scott



Muriel McNicoll cutting the Christmas cake which was made - and enjoyed - by all the ladies at the Killin Day Care Centre.

Killin News



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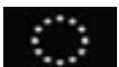
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FIRE AT WESTER LIX



On Saturday 15th January while celebrating a successful run of performances of Jack and the Beanstalk the devastating news reached Gill that her holiday cottages had just burned down. We would like to join in with all those who know her to express our concern and hope that it will be restored as soon as possible. WA



Gill Hunt

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a look.



Hogmanay Fireworks

The local voluntary organisers of Hogmanay Fireworks would like to thank all the businesses and residents who kindly donated money to enable the fireworks display to happen again this year. It had been dubious throughout 2004 whether or not the village could host a display, the main obstacles being insurance, public liability and funding. But the community spirit, for which Killin is famous, kicked in. Folks dug deep into their pockets and ensured that this year's display was another huge success. Even Santa and his helpers paid a special early visit to Killin on 18 December, and rode through the village on Santa's sleigh collecting money wherever there was a house with lights on.

Without your generosity, the seeing out of 2004 and welcoming in of 2005 would have been a very damp squib. It was fairly obvious from the numbers at the Dochart Bridge on Hogmanay that the village would like to see the display continue from year to year. At this stage we are not quite sure how to progress this. If anyone is interested

in helping to raise funds, make suggestions, or helping out on the night they should come forward and make themselves known.

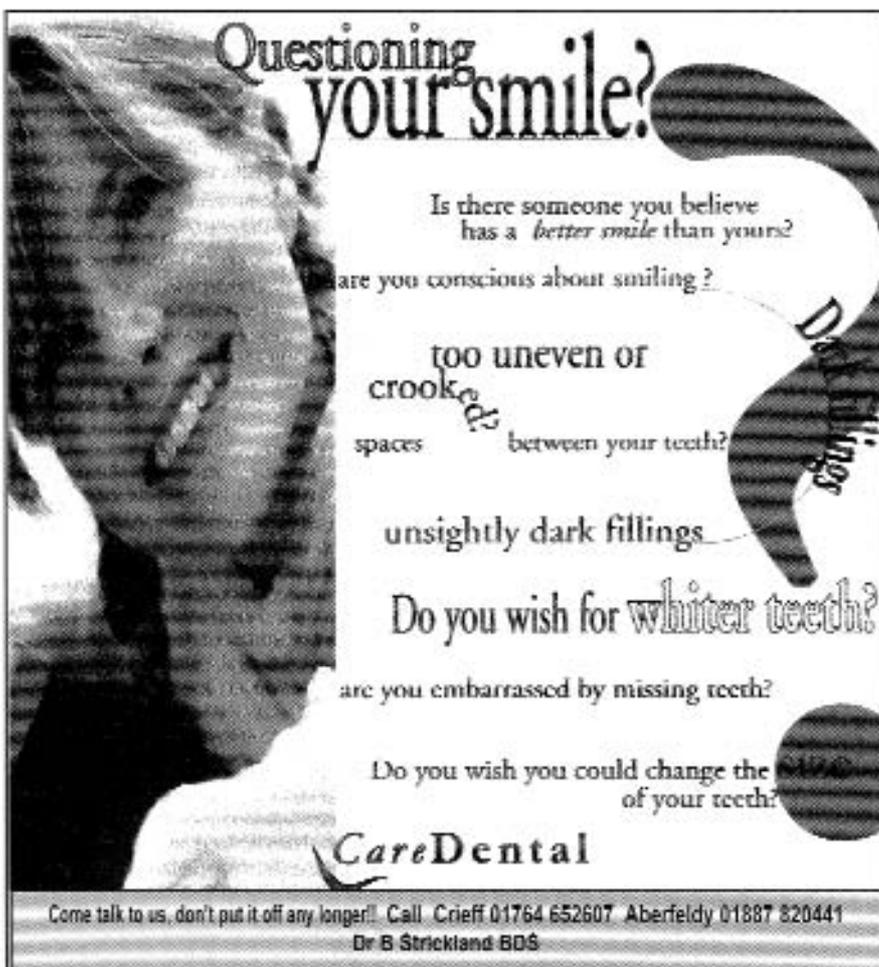
The Falls of Dochart - the most photographed Falls in Scotland - formed a stunning backdrop for the display. It was such a pleasure to see that many locals from Callander and surrounding areas chose to come to Killin Fireworks rather than attend those at Stirling Castle. Many who attended were visitors from overseas and from other parts of the UK, which made it a truly international event. Thanks are extended to The Midnight Storm Firework Company from Glasgow who put on the display. Perhaps if more money can be raised for 2005/06 then we can make the display last a bit longer. Thanks also to John Morris for his advice on health and safety requirements, John Sinclair for building the platform, and the many locals who assisted before, during and after the display.

A Guid New Year to you all.

Charles Grant et al

'Jack & the Beanstalk'

As can be seen from the centre page, Killin Drama Club's annual panto was again a colourful production. To mark the 10th anniversary of their first panto, they produced another version of the first, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The Club has gone from strength to strength and this panto had everything. The children taking part sang and danced well and obviously enjoyed every minute, while children of all ages in the audience (no doubt now determined future cast members) enthusiastically joined in. As for the rest of the cast, the goodies were good, the baddies were bad (which means good) and the comic characters were funny. The Giant was a big hit! Glenda Mardon as the Giant's Housekeeper and Daniel Holden as Potty Harry had all the audience - including the adjudicator and the Provost of Stirling - not only taking part but doing so with gusto. Being panto, not everything went to plan but ad lib words and actions were quickly produced by the cast and in true tradition the show went on and ended, literally with a bang. Killin is lucky to have so many people willing to spend so much time in order to entertain us. The adjudicator for the Pantomime was Brian Marjoribanks. Brian complimented the club firstly on the presentation of the hall - "from the moment he stepped into the foyer he was confident of a good show". He described the technical crew as first class and the stage presentation (stagecrew and scenery) were allocated the maximum marks possible! With regard to the cast he was impressed with the range of ages involved and recognised the spirit of a true community effort. Costumes, choreography, music and sound effects were also praised and he felt that the level of achievement within the restrictions of space afforded by the hall was outstanding. He gave particular praise to a couple of cast members and some points to watch out for in future shows. He thanked the club for a memorable evening



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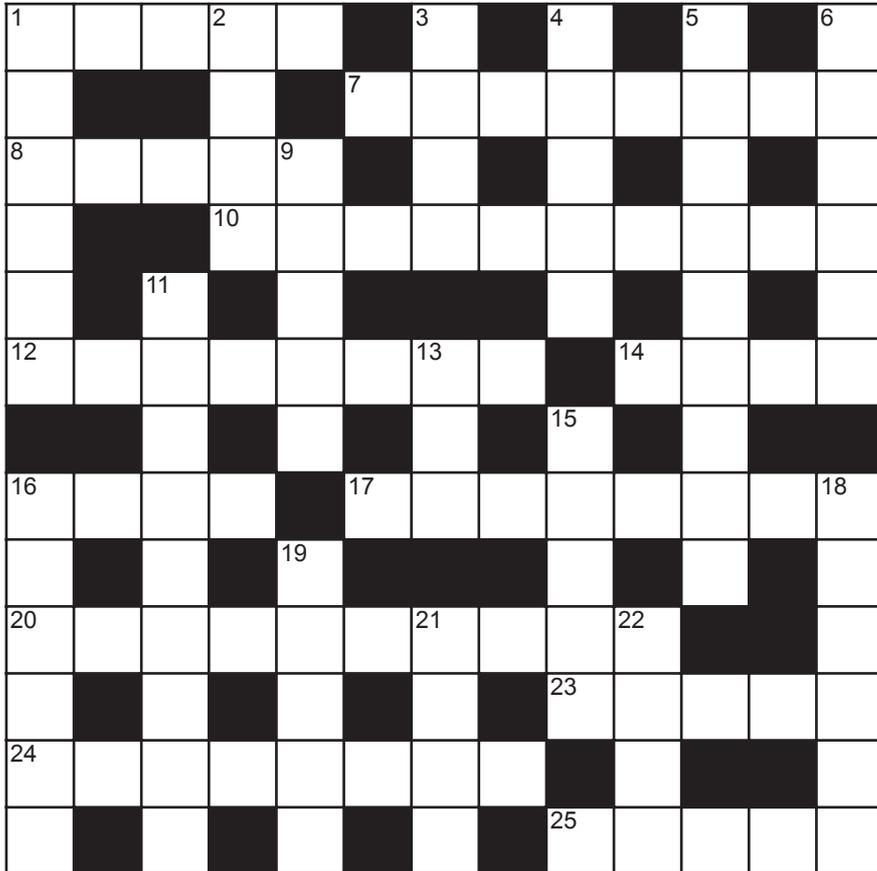
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Crossword by Scorpio



Across

1. Drop the bird and cause fear (5)
7. Cook a hot concoction for a hanging device (8)
8. Quasimodo had one but a dromedary has more (5)
10. Remover (10)
12. Put ashore second book of N.T. and take notice of exact place (8)
14. A slot that could hold many (4)
16. Baronet or Simpson (4)
17. Chaos in street led to curiosity (8)
20. Marina - open your eyes and look for the dog (10)
23. Initially news often is sad except when like this - loud (5)
24. Sorry one's nervous habit is cruel (8)
25. Two points or junction make a sound of contempt (5)

Solution to Issue 83

- Across** 1 boast 7 thorough 8 shelf 10 tin soldier 12 expected 14 isle 16 erne 17 arrested 20 clean shirt 23 young 24 personal 25 end on
- Down** 1 beside 2 salt 3 this 4 grill 5 curiosity 6 charge 9 finch 11 up in years 13 ear 15 merry 16 escape 18 dragon 19 onion 21 heat 22 town

Down

1. A group of whales (6)
2. Pier altered and ready to eat (4)
3. Mope uncertainly over bard's effort (4)
4. Rise up in just and true manner (5)
5. Not recommended for sending cartons (4,5)
6. Circumvents in female garments (6)
9. Good for bridge but bad for doors (5)
11. Dead Roman was disguised as the wife of Perseus (9)
13. Speed up (3)
15. Danes are upset by this chair (5)
16. Detour or shortcut (6)
18. The rat was indeed a menace (6)
19. Utterly tactless (5)
21. A metal spike with a round flat head (4)
22. Mid-day palindrome (4)



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 Clifton 11.15 – 11.40
 Mansefield 11.45 – 12.00

Crianlarich

Willow Square 12.05 – 12.35
 Police Station & School 1.40 – 2.30

Benmore 2.35 – 2.55
 Suie Lodge 3.05 – 3.25

Glen Lochay/Ardeonaig

Fortnightly Mondays
 Feb 7, 21, Mar 7, 21, Apr 4
 Glenlochay 10.50 – 12.30
 Ardeonaig 2.00 – 2.45

What's On in Killin and District

February

4 Killin Show & NFU Dance McLaren Hall
 4 Heritage Meet Lynedoch 8pm
 17 Church Guild Church Hall 2pm
 17 Green Team Lynedoch 3.15 - 4.45
 23 Herb Society Wild about Herbs a film Aberfeldy 10am
 25/26 Drama McLaren Hall 8pm

March

4 Leaflet Day McLaren Hall
 4 Heritage Meet Lesser Hall 8pm
 17 Church Guild Church Hall 2pm
 17 Green Team Lynedoch 3.15 - 4.45
 23 Herb Society First Aid by Beryl Pointer Aberfeldy Town Hall

Art
 Tuesdays Church Hall
 4pm - 6pm

Badminton
 Mondays McLaren Hall
 7pm

Boys Brigade
 Fridays Killin School
 Juniors 6.30pm
 Company 8pm
 all welcome

Brownies
 Mondays Church Hall
 6.30pm

Carpet Bowls
 Mondays Lesser Hall
 7.30pm

Computer Class
 Tuesdays
 Killin Primary School
 7 - 9pm

Gaelic
 Mondays starts Jan 10th
 Beginners Suie Lodge 2-4pm
 Intermediate Library 5-7pm
 Advanced Library 7-9pm

Highland Dancing
 Tuesdays
 Crianlarich Hall
 5.15 - 7.30pm
 various classes
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Keepfit
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 McLaren Hall 7pm
 Circuit training 8.15pm

Playgroup
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 9.30 - 11.30am

Tiddlers & Toddlers
 Fridays
 Church Hall
 9.30 - 11.30am

Upholstery
 Mondays Killin 10.30am-1.30pm
 Tuesdays L'head Village Hall
 12pm-3pm

Youth Club
 Wednesdays Lesser Hall
 7.30-9.30pm S1-S6
 Starts 2nd March

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Killin School



Killin School Primary 5 or 6 taken in approximately 1938

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Front Row Jean and Kathleen McCormack, Molly MacNee (later McRobbie), Leah Sharp, Alison Muirhead (later Hunter), Betty Cunningham (later Unwin)



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Letters

Water Skiing

Where next for the water skiers after Loch Lomond? Loch Earn? Loch Tay? Any large inland water at no cost or charge? Better by far that their 'governing body' and sponsors of jet and speedboat activities manufacture a loch dedicated to their activity alone, rather than inflict their sport over and above the sports and recreation of many existing and established activities on Scottish lochs. They can then create their own facilities, slalom courses and safety areas. Surely they would welcome that. Somewhere in the Central belt, accessible by motorway. How about an old coalfield? And don't tell me they couldn't afford it. Anyone with a speedboat must have plenty of spare cash. Don't invade the tranquillity, I say, or put the tourists off. **John Allen**

Lynedoch Fayre

The Christmas Fayre at Lynedoch raised £925.00 for 2 charities CHAS and McMILLAN. The totals raised to date are as follows - 1992 - 2002 £24,555.00 for the Oncology Department Edinburgh. 2002 - 2004 £5,893 for C.H.A.S. (this included £490 from the Co-op for Halloween dressing up)

Gregor, Tom, John and Donald

Art & Craft Exhibition

Approximately 500 visitors viewed our exhibition in August. Door money amounted to £425, helped by heavy rain which drove visitors indoors! Craft was of a high standard and sold very well. Forty pictures lined the walls of the Lesser McLaren Hall but, as many were not for sale, the financial outcome was not what we had hoped for. However, after all expenses had been met, we were able to donate £300 between the Nursing Association, Brownies, Boys Brigade, Youth Club and Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. As before we are indebted to everyone who attended for their support and generosity.

E. Lumsden
Sec/President

Killin & District Art & Craft Club

Thank you

The Killin Postmen would like to thank all the local Residents who generously gave us presents, cards and tips over the festive period. Such gestures are very much appreciated. Also well done to Paul for coping so well with his first Christmas at the Post Office. A Happy New Year to all.

Killin Floral Association

Now that the tubs and hayracks have been planted up with winter pansies and spring bulbs the committee has been reflecting on the disastrous summer for the hanging baskets. It is extremely disheartening to see them struggling to survive after putting them out looking healthier than ever before. Thankfully the tubs and hayracks gave a good display of colour long into the autumn. It was not only the baskets that were disappointing. Despite a poster appeal for help the Association struggled again this year to find enough volunteers to make up the watering rota and the task of growing the plants falls on one or two people.

Therefore, the committee has reluctantly taken the decision not to provide hanging baskets for 2005. Efforts will be concentrated on the tubs and hayracks with a view to adding more of these around the village. They are much easier to look after and some new sites have already been identified.

Gillean Ford

Thank you

The Mardon/Reid family would like to thank everyone for all their kindness and concern shown during my recent illness with Breast Cancer. I am quite overwhelmed by the caring and support shown by my friends, colleagues and members of this village community and of course the wonderful services of our Doctors and Nurses here and in Glasgow and Falkirk.

Although my journey isn't over yet I know it will be made bearable by living here in Killin, my home.

I would like you to know that I am still the old me and do not want to be seen as a victim of this illness. I am quite expecting to be frustrated by staying at home a lot so please feel free to pop in and see me if you have time (if I can't cope I'll say so).

From a truly appreciative **Glenda**

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Closing dates for
Issue 85
Advertising 11 March
Copy 18 March

Obituaries



Annie Allan

Annie Allan peacefully passed away on 26th December 2004, the day after her 99th birthday, she was loved by all. The family would like to thank all friends for cards, letters and flowers and also those who attended the service. Thank you for kind words of comfort from Rev John Lincoln, to The Falls of Dochart Retirement home for making her life so comfortable and to Sheena Chisholm for her music. Special thanks to Annie's grandson, Brian, who came all the way from Australia.

All the family will miss her greatly.

May

Janet (Jenny) Macintyre 1910-2004

Jenny, as she was known all her life, was born at Monemore on 10th January 1910, the youngest of 6 girls born to Hugh Macintyre and Jane McKennon. Hugh was originally a railway surfaceman and then a bakery van roundsman and drove one of the first motor vehicles in Killin. He was called up to the Black Watch and killed in action at Salonika.

Jenny spent most of her life in Killin but was also some time in Canada. During World War II, she was directed to work in Glasgow at Rolls Royce and spent a number of years there. After the war she worked locally and, during the building of the Hydro-schemes, she worked as a housekeeper at Morenish Lodge. After her retirement, she visited her sister Chrissie and her nieces in Australia on two occasions, returning to stay at Atholl Cottages, Craignavie Road until sadly ill health caused her to give up her home and spend the last 3 years of her life in Crieff and Dalnaglar Nursing Homes. Jenny was a woman of strong character and decided views. Her many friends and relatives will miss her immensely.

Margaret Ewan (Niece)

From Killin to the South Pole

Killin is a long way from the South Pole but Craig Mathieson did much of his training in this area before setting out in November to achieve his childhood ambition to get there. His wife, Michele, is the grand-daughter of Killin resident Dora Young. Craig trained by climbing in the hills round here and pulling car tyres up and down the Auchmore Drive. He was a frequent visitor to the Killin Outdoor Shop who supplied him with various bits of equipment and indeed, although not new for the occasion, the fleece trousers he wore to the Pole also came from there. During his 58 day trip he experienced some of the worst seasonal weather for over 15 years and reached the South Pole on 28th December after pulling his sledge over 700 miles from the coast of Antarctica - the first Scot to achieve this. The last and only other Scottish Antarctic expedition was in 1904 by William Spiers Bruce and - as well as the Killin News - Craig took to the Pole a replica of the saltire carried by Bruce and one from the Royal Scottish Geographic Society, both presented to him by HRH Princess Anne.

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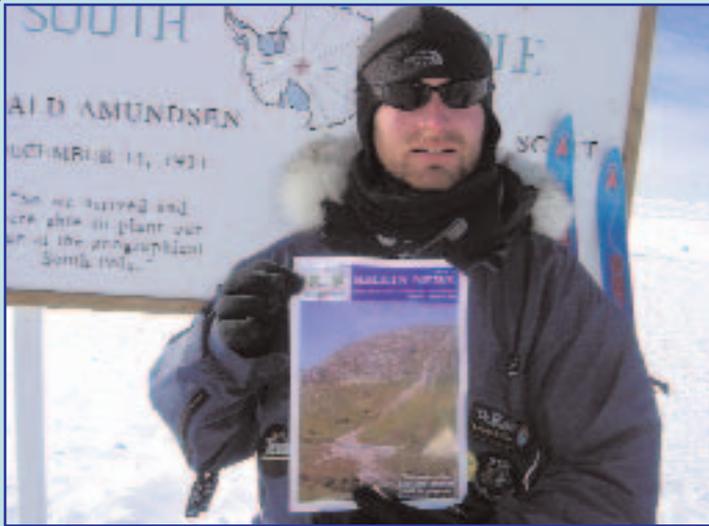
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Across the Globe



Craig Mathieson at the bottom of the globe, see Page 30



Sally MacDonald and John Turnbull were married in the Royal Hotel, Oban on 13th November 2004



Kevin and Linda FitzGerald with Julia and David Blaney in geothermic mud pools in New Zealand. Obviously Linda and Julia didn't need this beautifying mud bath treatment, but Kevin and David got their money back as it seemed to have encouraged growth of hair on Kevin's body and decimated poor David's napper! The pools were reminiscent of home however, as the salubrious surroundings reminded us of the back yard at Lix Toll Garage.



John and Mavis Lawrie now in Inverness celebrating their Golden Wedding. They were married at Killin Parish Church on 18 Dec 1954 (Find John on page 28!)

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