



Killim News

DEADLINES Issue 86: Advertising 6 May Copy 13 May

Editorial Comment

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.

Production Committee

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

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Web site: www.killin.co.uk e-mail killin.neus@zoon.co.uk

Postal Address: Main Street, Killin FK21 8UW Phone Office: 01567 820014 Do we really need a resource centre in Killin? Would it make Killin more attractive for young children, teenagers, students, researchers, visitors, businesses, and others? Would it help with the storage and accessibility of historical artefacts and papers? Would it have facilities for small groups to meet with an available loop system for the hard of hearing? Would it have facilities for voluntary workers? Would it employ a manager to coordinate activities? All this and more may be available. It can be what you want and cater for your needs. Other places have resource centres that have made a great difference to the lives of local inhabitants. Please put your weight behind this campaign and let Suzanne Player know what you feel would be good for this community.

The NHS issues again dominate this edition. We had hoped that it would have been resolved by now. This discussion will only go away when it is seen to be safe and working properly. It was sad to hear from one visitor that the out-of-hours could be a reason for not wanting to move to Killin. Let's hope it does not affect our tourism trade.

Winter is over, spring is back and we have a new access code to encourage us to be free and to responsibly enjoy our local countryside. What more could anyone want?

Killin News AGM Friday 22nd April 6pm at the Killin News Office



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What happened to the Resource Centre?



5 years ago local people agreed that a Community Resource Centre based in Killin would be an asset for the Killin Lochearnhead and Strathfillan area. A steering group was set up and worked hard to establish the local needs such a centre might meet and how it could be developed. Sadly the project has not advanced for a number of reasons, but perhaps now it is time to look at it again.

Do we still need a Resource Centre? Some of the identified needs have since been met by the Nurses Clinic and the Church Community Room, but we still have a library with limited space, nowhere to store and display local heritage items, nowhere to kick a ball around indoors, no IT/learning centre or many other facilities. Members of the Steering Group met recently with School Board and Sports Club representatives, as both these groups are discussing development ideas and a resource centre could perhaps be a part of these.

The Resource Centre project planned to employ a Development Manager to manage the facilities within the centre and also to work to market Killin more generally as a place for events such as conferences, weddings and so on. Even without the resource centre base, would there be value in the community employing such a person now? If you have any thoughts, ideas or opinions on this, please get in touch.

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Suzanne Player

Rural Development Worker Tel 01567 820154 players@stirling.gov.uk





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Killin & District **Tourism Association Information Day AGM**

The Association held its last AGM under the present Area Tourist Board membership scheme on Tuesday 1st March in the lesser McLaren Hall, Killin. The meeting was well attended and members were able to enjoy a glass of wine as they sampled the excellent finger buffet, provided by Shona Milligan and Inga Sinclair, before the formalities began.

From the 1st April the Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Tourist Board will no longer exist, as it will become an area hub of VisitScotland. There will be no membership fee for tourism businesses but they will be able to buy into a business partnership within the area or just purchase certain aspects of it. Quite what this holds for the future no one really knows but serious concerns are still being voiced at all levels of the tourism industry throughout Scotland. However, it is hoped that strong links will be maintained with the new VisitScotland area team under the continued leadership of the current Chief Executive, James Fraser.

Meanwhile KDTA will continue to work with tourism businesses to promote the Killin district and will look to expand on its working relationship with other community groups.

During the AGM changes to the constitution were adopted, thus enabling the Association to continue under the new system. After 1st April all businesses, in and around Killin, that derive all or part of their income from tourism, will be contacted by the Association with regard to membership plans for the future.

Gillean Ford

Tourism

The Breadalbane Tourism Group organised an information leaflet exchange day on Friday 4th March in the McLaren Hall, Killin. 17 visitor attractions, activity providers and food producers were present with another 6 sending their leaflets to the event. Representatives from 30 local businesses attended and took away leaflets for distribution to their guests. They were also able to sample food from "local" producers, with many taking their purchases home for more tasty trials. It was pleasing to see a steady flow through the doors of nonbusiness members of the public, many of whom left with information on places to visit and things to do that they were not previously aware of. Throughout the day the ladies of Killin Cancer Research UK committee provided refreshments which were much enjoyed by all. For the past 15 months the Killin & District Tourist Association, Strathfillan Tourist Association and Loch Earn Tourism Initiative have been working together on various ideas to promote tourism within the Breadalbane area of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. This co-operation is ongoing with an editorial group currently working with the NP to produce a leaflet for the Breadalbane area. This will be available in late spring 2005. A Breadalbane area website is planned for later in the year.

The group also has plans to hold tourism

workshops in the autumn and to work

with the Breadalbane Virtual Learning

Centre on a couple of short, computer

based courses directly related to tourism

businesses. Working together on tourism

issues is seen by the three associations as

increasing competition on both national

the way forward, in view of the ever

and international levels.

Gillean Ford



The Falls of Dochart

In gushing gateway to Killin By winding bridge and corners thin, Above the mighty Dochart's roar, Where visitors in wonder pore, Are sounds and sights for ears and eyes That captivate and mesmerize. White rapids rush to disappear Out through the arches, strong and clear, As water columns in the air Come crashing down descending stair, Sprayed in the wind by nature borne, Shredded by spikes of nature torn, With force and form so well entwined And relativity enshrined. Dotted with islands large and small, One home to rooks high overall, The vista varies as the hour, Changing mood from peace to power. In quiet times the mill wheel mopes While visitors invade the slopes, Miniature mountain crags to climb, By glens and gorges wrought in time, Where cracks and crevices abound, With holes and hollows all around. But only certain days of year For otherwise they disappear, Washed out by water from the hills Cascading over rocks and rills. Beyond the bridge a gentler pace Restrains the river's rapid race To final rest by burial ground, When stillness of the loch is found. No more to foam and fury given, No longer lashed and downward driven! Yet, mindful of its Master's fate. There is some cause to celebrate: The Dochart with each dying day Is resurrected in the Tay!

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Allan Brodie and Cameron Fairbairn competing at Knockhill on Saturday 26 February at the Palmerston Trade Furniture Tarmac Rally which had a full entry of 87 cars, 28 of which were in class 2. It was freezing but dry and the rally did not start until 11am to allow the snow to be cleared.

The car, a Group 4 Mark 2 Escort, had no major problems through the stages, and finished 22nd overall and 4th in class leaving them first in class 2 in the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship.

Allan Brodie

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Heart of Scotland Herb Society

It is hard to believe that life and time goes on, regardless of us. The frogs don't need a clock or calendar to tell them it is gathering time. In the garden, the herbs just surfacing, are vibrant with colour and awake with fragrance. It is enough to

make any slow-to-start gardener pick up a rake and fork and help them along. Who is helping who here? Violet, marjoram, cow slip, fennel and feverfew are well awake and sprouting, as are valerian and the southernwoods. The garlic and chives have been growing for weeks. Bergamot, lemon balm and sweet cicely are just tipping the surface ground. The more tender and modified leaf plants like rosemary and the lavenders have just started producing new shoots. Scottish lovage, nettles, and most of the mints will soon be ready for our spring tonics and teas. Then we will be ready for the late wakers this month: sage, heartease, hyssop, arnica, sweet joe pie and soapwort. So, for those of us still tucked away inside waiting for the warm weather, life and nature are getting on with it

If you need encouragement to begin, go out and have a look around for some native/natural growing herbs. The colours are so fresh and bright on all the new shoots, and the smell of the herbs which never really left through the winter, is now intensifying again. Herbs are a tonic to all the senses and sensibly one should take advantage of the good things around them. Two of our next meetings do that.

May 25th Margaret Lear of Bankfoot will be concentrating on edible wild food and herbs which are in abundance in our area. This meeting will take place in The Village Hall, Ballinluig.

June 25th is an Open Day at The Herbalist's Garden, Pitnacree, which will be a major herbal event encompassing so many of the previously useful and necessary trades nearly lost, which have now come to the fore again. Willow work, spinning, broom making, beekeeping, soap and felt making will be represented. There will also be displays of furniture, garden sculpture and pottery. All of this at the Herbalist's Garden, where of course, Jacqui Hazzard and some of her colleagues will be available to answer any questions you might have about herbs, herbal medicine and remedies or the plants used therewith.

For further information about the Heart of Scotland Herb Society or any events do phone either me, on 01567 820408 or Judy Forster on 01567 820298. All meetings are open to the general public. Patty Hope

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Cup Marked Stone

I found this cup stone near the site of the old Killin Rifle Range. It has a total of 10 cup marks but no trace of ring marks.

John Stewart







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Free workshops about local Butterflies and Moths

Butterfly Conservation Scotland is hoping to raise the profile of butterflies and moths in the Lomond, Rural Stirling and Cairngorms areas. The aim is to increase our knowledge of butterflies and moths by involving local people in survey and monitoring work, and to promote butterflies and places where they can be seen. This series of free workshops is to encourage local residents to get involved.

Previous skills or experience are not required, just a commitment to put your new knowledge to good use.

Saturday April 23rd Killin (10am – 4pm) Introduction to Butterfly Identification and Recording

Learn about butterflies of the area and practise survey and monitoring skills in the afternoon at a local site. This workshop is ideal for anyone wanting to start surveys or monitoring this summer and we are linking this to the Environmental Action Killin community group's work of carrying out a local survey of butterflies.

Wednesday June 15th (1 – 4pm) Butterfly workshop for people who work in tourism

We are working with the Breadlabane

Tourism Group to promote butterflies to local visitors, so if you work in tourism and would like to know more about butterflies and where to see them, this workshop will be for you! It will involve a short presentation followed by a trip to Glenogle cycleway to look for butterflies with the National Park Ranger Service.

Thursday 7th July, Ben Lawers (10am – 4pm) Mountain Ringlet

A workshop for hill walkers! We know very little about the status of Mountain Ringlets in the area and are looking for volunteers to check out existing sites or even find new ones! This is a joint workshop between Butterfly Conservation Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland (who monitor Mountain Ringlets at Ben Lawers) to show you everything you need to know to get involved.

Friday August 5th (7.30pm – midnight), Tyndrum Introduction to Moth Recording

Discover the fascinating and secret world of moths. We'll meet at Tyndrum Community Woodlands (managed by the Strathfillan Community Development Trust) to show you how to use light traps, wine ropes and sugar to attract moths, and help you identify them as they come in after dark. All moths trapped will be released unharmed! There will be a short presentation during the evening.

Places are limited so booking is essential. Please contact Butterfly Conservation Scotland for further details and a booking form, stating which workshop you are interested in. You can also download this information from our website. We'll confirm your place on receiving your completed booking form.

Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Balallan House, Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG Tel: 08707 706151

scotland@butterfly-conservation.org www.butterfly-conservation.org/lrs_cairngorms

Julie Stoneman

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If you go down in the woods today

One afternoon, a few weeks ago, there seemed to be a large number of stags and hinds at the roadside in the glen. Although it was still winter time the numbers seemed unusually high. At lunchtime an old hind was standing just yards from the house watching me. Later in the day two different stags not only refused to move out of the road for a car, but continued to run towards the vehicle. Even when the cars stopped the animals continued to charge and only stopped at the very last minute. Later I heard that quite a few dogs had been restless that day. Yes, it was the day that we had the earth tremor. It would appear that animals have retained senses that we humans have largely abandoned and were able to sense that there was 'something afoot'. Just as there were few animals killed in the tsunami because they were aware of danger

and headed for safety.

It has been advised that putting out of supplementary feeding (dead mice, rats and day old chicks) on the hill for birds of prey will lessen their effect upon stocks of grouse. We seem to be going one better in the glen with a natural knock-on effect. We have been visited some evenings by a tawny owl sitting on our living room windowsill. We wondered if he was looking in to watch 'Eastenders' or was trying to catch a glimpse of 'Shooting Times' over my shoulder but we realised in the end that he was waiting for mice to come to the crumbs from the birds' nut feeder.

Coming from Tarbet to Inverarnan one evening in February, I began to wonder whether the amount of water lying on the road confused an otter into thinking that he was still in Loch Lomond as he was paddling along the road and I had to swerve to avoid him. He was into his second

chorus of

'Singing in the rain' and nobody was going to stop him. Within a further short stretch I saw a fox, a badger and a barn owl. Maybe there was a party on in the area. Not actually spotted was a Bear!

Maybe evening drives will become more exciting in the future as the reintroduction of beavers is almost on the cards in Knapdale and there are still voices shouting for the return of wolves, lynx and bear! We may soon have Yogi and his pals to go along with our forest rangers at our picnic tables. Not only might we be stalking deer on the hill but some of us may be stalked. I wonder what the Scottish Access Code symbols are for 'beware of being eaten'?* At a recent keepers day at Scone Palace, a talk given by The Ramblers Association said that no wonder people were put off eating venison after seeing red deer recovered by a sling under a helicopter from The National Trust estate at Mar Lodge. What he failed to identify was how this is different from the slaughter of farm livestock. Everything has to be killed before entering our food chain. Do we really believe that the Tesco fairy sends all these delicious little vacuum-packed parcels of meat from anywhere else? What the eye doesn't see etc. It was refreshing to be given a talk by two hunters from Sweden where hunting is still accepted as an integral part of life. There is also open access there and all meat shot is consumed in the country.

* Copies of the Scottish access code are available by contacting Scottish Natural Heritage at Battleby, Perth and make interesting and necessary reading for all who take to the outdoors.

As seen by Mr Frost!



Tim Frost

Mervyn's Weather



Time was when, from perhaps late November till the end of March or even later, hill sheep men came through the winter with "A black dog on their shoulder" or should it be "white dog"? The nagging fear was always present of snow - not the gently falling Christmas card variety but howling 24 or 36 hour easterly or south-easterly blizzards - piling up monstrous drifts sufficient to cause potential isolation and burial of varying numbers of sheep in susceptible situations.

In recent years however this inherent anxiety, due to a number of reasons, seems to have retreated considerably. Prior to, say, 1970 "official" weather forecasting was much less reliable than nowadays. Although the one time "Farming forecasts" have long since gone, replaced by prognostications for football, tennis, cricket and hikers, intelligent combinations between TV utterances in conjunction with the hill man's local knowledge can produce a fairly reliable picture of what is in store.

The fairly general feeding of hill flocks over the winter period encourages the flock or hefts to be in a particular area at a given time so reducing the time and effort required for searching. Of course over the past couple of decades snowfalls have been much less hazardous. The late Neill Forbes of Claggan, adjacent to this place, when employing a new shepherd would say, apropos a probable blizzard, "You're all right in Claggan as long as you leave your hill gates open", implying that the ewes would make their own way to lower ground ahead of a storm, provided that they were not shut out on the open hill and piled up in sheltered hollows or against dykes where they could smoor (smother). Sheep getting stuck in deep snow alongside a dyke were not so much at risk as sheep in a deep, sheltered hollow below a knoll or ridge. The interstices between the stones allowed air supply whereas the alternative could be solid wind packed snow reducing the survival period due to suffocation. In the Southern

Uplands, North England and Ulster and in parts of The Highlands stells were common. These were circular drystone enclosures, of perhaps a quarter of an acre, with one or more entrances, built in a position least likely to be affected by deep drifting snow. Indeed the reason for the circular construction is that snow is less likely to form drifts than at rectangular or straight walling. These stells were constructed in the hey day of hill sheep farming. Herding was carried out much more punctiliously, particularly in the South Country where hefting or sub-division of hirsels was the practice, so that stock reacted quickly to the attention of the shepherd and soon learned to make use of these havens of safety.

A storm in "The dead of Winter" is bad enough but a sudden advent coinciding with one of the traditional spring storms - "The Borrowing days" (early April), "The Teuchar Storm", "The Cuckoo Storm" or even "The Gab o' May"- was even more cause for trepidation. The ewes being now heavy in lamb and carrying increasing weight of wool, coupled with "the wrong kind of snow"- often heavy and wet, coming after perhaps several weeks of mild, spring conditions - could wreak havoc on the shepherd's year.

2005 has so far not produced much in the way of the aforesaid severe conditions, though precocious daffodils, some blooming since January, have had something of a fright recently.

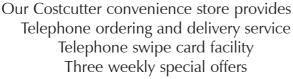
> Mervyn K. Browne Ardtalnaig

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Sunday 17 April, 8.00pm - All That Jazz

Sassy, sexy and sensational! Come on along and join the journey through jazz as interpreted by this stunning team of singers and dancers. Led by the versatile vocal talent of Mark Rattray, with his excellent live musicians and amazing dancers, the cast will "razzle-dazzle" with exciting renditions of jazz and popular favourites from the top musical shows and films of all time, including Chicago, Sweet Charity and Cabaret. Tickets £12.50/£11.50 concession

Monday 18 April, Doors Open 7.00pm- THE MUSIC

Two Years on and The Music have hit something of a roll. More precisely, a rollercoaster of a roll. In that time The Music have gone from the early promise of a young band gloriously fining their collective voice to being a global hit, complete with burgeoning fan base and an awesome reputation for live brilliance.

Tickets £13.50 plus £1.50 Booking Fee

Wed 20 April, 8.00pm - ELVIS In Concert - The Vegas Years He has the voice, the movements and mannerisms polished to perfection, along with bejewelled jump suits. The energy of the performance oozed with raw sex appeal from The King. A stunning tribute to the greatest entertainer of the 20th century. Close your eyes and it could have been The King. Tickets £14.00/£12 concession

Thursday 21 April, 8.00pm - Neil Wilson - The Guitarist

One of Britain's leading young guitarists, Neil draws his repertoire from a wide range of music around the world. His music includes compositions by Bach, Rodrigo, Albeniz, Sor, Tarrega, and modern pieces by Sergio Assad, Luis Bonfa, Antonio Lauro and Astor Piazzola. Neil performed Rodrigo's Concerto de Aranjuez with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Recently he has collaborated with Scottish Ballet's principal violinist Lev Atlas.

Tickets £7.00/£5 concession (Lesser Hall)

Saturday 23 April, 8.00pm - The Eagles Story II

In May 1982, Eagles Manager Irving Azoff announced that The Eagles had officially broken up.

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Sunday 24 April, 7.30pm - Stirling City Choir

Stirling City Choir and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eric Dunlea. Presents: Brahams Requiem; Bach Cantata No. 140 and Handel's Water Music (excerpts). Tickets £10/£7 concession

Thursday 28 April, 6.00pm till 10.00pm - Heaven U18's

Stirling's newest Under 18's Experience

Featuring DJ Technotrance, DJ Rankin, DJ Pulse plus more. Tickets £7.00

Saturday 30 April, 8.00pm - The Drifters LIVE in 2005

Celebrate The Drifters most successful and critical acclaimed tour ever as The Definitive Drifters CD reaches 300,000 copies sold in the UK! As a special "Thank You" to UK fans, The Drifters are premiering a Platinum- Award winning new show and will bring over 50 years of classic hits to life: Kissin' in the Back Row of the Movies, Under the Boardwalk, Saturday Night at the Movies, and many more.

Tickets: Balcony: £16.00/£15 concession

Stalls: £14.00/£13 concession. EARLY BIRD OFFER AVAILABLE

Monday 2 May, 7.30pm - Jake & Elwood

The Best Blues Brothers Show in the World - Ever!
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Babes! Everybody Needs Somebody SO Gimme Some Lovin
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soul, rhythm and blues party on the planet!

Sing-a-long, laugh-a-long and let your body flip, flop and fly along! Tickets £15.50/£14.50 concession

Friday 20 May, 8.00pm - The Magic of Ireland

The Magic of Ireland offers the most authentic Irish cultural experience of any production anywhere.

The show is all live, featuring the finest award-winning artists performing today.

Experience a spectacular evening of traditional Irish dance, music and song enhanced by stunning costumes, lighting and sound. This is indeed, the Magic of Ireland. Tickets £15.00

Saturday 21 May - Stirling Provincial Mod

Annual Gaelic competition. Children's competition starts at 9.00am, Adult competition starts at 1.00pm and Ceilidh Dance starts at 7.30pm.

Evening Ceilidh £6. Programmes £2.50

Thursday 26 May, 6.00pm till 10.00pm - Heaven U18's

Stirling's newest Under 18's Experience

Featuring DJ Technotrance, DJ Rankin, DJ Pulse plus more. Tickets £7.00

Friday 27 May, 7.30pm - The Bobby Davro Show

A fun-packed musical variety show, starring one of televisions' favourite and most famous faces! The inimitable Bobby Davro takes to the stage for his first theatre tour in four years, and he is at his best.

Bobby showcases all of his superb talents - quickfire comedy, devastatingly accurate impressions, loads of cheeky audience participation, and marvellous music.

Tickets £15/£13

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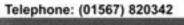
Music: Piotr Ilyich Tchiakovsky

Libretto: Vladimir Begichev and Visily Gelster Choreography: Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

THIS WINTER HAS BEEN A BUSY TIME BEHIND THE SCENES WITH COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF OUR BALCONY AND STALLS SEATING. WE HOPE OUR NEW SEATS WILL ADD TO YOUR ENJOYMENT AND COMFORT

Safarí Supper

On Saturday 5 March 2005, approximately one hundred and twenty people took part in the biggest safari supper so far. 15 brave households were hosts at their own expense to 82 people from all over the district. Brian Hibbert, Richard MacPherson, Jim Beattie, Duncan Anderson and Iain Campbell provided transport for the many revellers. Others came on foot creating a general movement of people through the village. The first port of call was to hosts providing starters along with copious amounts of alcohol, and then quickly off to the next host for the main course. Part of the fun was not knowing until the last moment where you were going next or whom you would be meeting. After the main course the next task was to get to the sweet, swaying as little as possible. For some this was more difficult than others but all arrived safely and in good spirits at their designated 'home'. For us, the hosts, the most difficult part of the evening was moving on guests who were enjoying good 'craic' and fine company. It was a truly social evening, with old friends meeting new ones in unfamiliar surroundings. The last port of call was the Bridge of Lochay Hotel, who kindly agreed to provide coffee, free of charge. The raffle over, it was time to depart in the wee sma' hours. All enjoyed a truly superb evening, young and old, friends and strangers mixed in the true spirit of village life. The money raised, £1,370, was divided equally between two village charities, the Community Bus and Killin PTA who both thank all



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hosts, participants and helpers for making the evening such a huge success.

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Out of hours NHS Forth Valley



NHS Forth Valley is committed to ensuring safe arrangements are

in place to cover the Breadalbane area. It is important to remember that in the event of an emergency or life threatening illness you should call 999. The ambulance service will respond as it always has although as from this month full staffing rather than part-time means the vehicle will be available to come more quickly and will always have a trained Paramedic to provide necessary emergency care.

If in doubt call 999. You should not worry about using the ambulance in case it is needed elsewhere. The Paramedic is skilled in knowing what is needed and what to do next and if you



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need to go to hospital arrangements will be made including making sure that cover is maintained in case of another emergency.

If in doubt call 999

Regular meetings continue to take place every two weeks with Community Council representatives from the area and NHS staff. This partnership is to ensure everything is open and transparent. It also provides the reassurance that what is promised to happen does happen. There are now more ambulance staff than there were before to ensure round the clock cover. They are trained and can deal with emergencies as they already do in many areas of Scotland. There are two ambulance vehicles one of which is a Rapid Response Vehicle so that it can do as the name says and get where it is needed quickly. This has been available to the towns in Forth Valley for some time and now is available in Killin.

From day one the service will be safe. You will still be able to see a nurse or a doctor if you need one,

although it will take longer to get to you and is intended for those matters that are less urgent. In time, as agreed by the planning group, the Paramedics will be able to deal with many more medical and nursing problems and they will treat you locally. In the meantime the Paramedic will be in contact with the doctors and nurses to help sort things out and make sure everything happens properly.

If you need help of any kind and it is not an emergency you should call NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24. If you call this number and it turns out to be an emergency then an ambulance with a Paramedic will be sent just as if you had dialled 999. The person on the telephone will remain available to give advice and support until the ambulance arrives.

NHS 24 recognises that dealing with people who live in rural areas can sometimes be different from dealing with people in towns and so is looking carefully at this.

Remember if in doubt call 999.

Dr Gareth DaviesMedical Director
Forth Valley Health Board

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Out of hours Killin Style



On Thursday 24th February at 5 am Yvonne Gall made a call to NHS 24 suffering from severe abdominal pain. The call centre suggested that she should go to Crieff Hospital or Stirling Royal Infirmary. Yvonne was in so much pain that she told the call centre that the journey would not be possible without some pain relief. NHS 24 then said that help would be sent.

After a wait of an hour still in severe pain Yvonne called again. She was assured that a doctor would call.

would take an hour and a half to get to Killin by which time the surgery would be open and a local doctor would be able to see her, so she should contact the surgery at 8am.

Calls made to the Surgery between 8am and 8.20am were answered by an answering machine directing calls to NHS 24. A receptionist was available after that.

Yvonne was finally seen just after 9am and admitted to hospital suffering from suspected acute Pancreatitis, which is a potentially fatal condition requiring urgent treatment. She was transferred to

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Stirling by ambulance with the long awaited pain relief making her journey reasonably comfortable. She was kept in for several days while a diagnosis was made. The out of hours care for patients

in the Killin area is still in the hands of our local doctors until the end of March but NHS 24 seem unaware of this. Yvonne did not feel that she should call 999 as she did not want to be responsible for leaving the village without an ambulance in case a more urgent event required it.

Yvonne and her mother Rhona Gillies appeared on television on Sunday 6th March highlighting the problems associated with the management of this emergency. They made the At 6.30am a doctor phoned to say that it decision to tell their story so that the Out of Hours providers can see that the system does not always function

safely, and by going public, attention will be drawn to its inadequacies. Rhona, on Yvonne's behalf, has lodged a complaint to NHS 24. The form is not an easy one to fill in and would deter most people from taking action, but Rhona felt that she was doing it to achieve a better service for the people of Killin. GA

Update

20th March 2005. Took no well at around 10pm with the same pain as before but left phoning for over an hour just to make sure. Phoned NHS24 at around 11.20pm. I was told a nurse would phone back. She phoned at around 11.40pm. I told her I had the same pain as before. A doctor from Docs at Stirling phoned at around midnight and said that because of previous problems they would send a paramedic out asap. The ambulance arrived at 12.30am and I was away at 12.45am.

Yvonne Gall

Yvonne has now had a diagnosis of Gall Stones causing a blockage and the recurring pain. She is still receiving treatment.

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OOH - Does it do what it says on the tin?

significant as we thought - I doubt

The new system for out-of-hours is now in operation following a transition phase when back-up cover was intended to have been provided by our own doctors. The four agencies that provide the system of out-of-hours care have failed to demonstrate that they work well together or understand the whole system. NHS 24 gives us little confidence when it so often takes a long time to provide nursing advice. Its failure to acknowledge the importance of rapid pain relief is a worry to all those who have the potential, on account of their illness, to suffer acute pain from time to time. The ambulance service has failed to demonstrate that one two-man ambulance and a single crewed Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) are sufficient to cover the population of Callander, Strathyre, Lochearnhead, Killin, Crianlarich and Tyndrum. Cross cover is provided, we are told, when the locally based ambulance is out of the area yet no convincing description of how this is achieved has yet been provided. The low frequency of emergencies in the rural area has been quoted as one reason why we should not worry too much about continual cover when the ambulance is away delivering a patient to hospital, making it sound like a lottery. Perhaps the not-so-rare sound of the siren in summer was not as

None of this can take from the

integrity and devotion of the people who perform the work. The concern is not about individuals but about the system under which they work. Scape-goating when things go wrong will not improve the system.

John MacPherson, our Community Council Chairman, with the full support of the other community councils involved, took our petition to the Scottish Parliament where he was given much support by other rural areas MSPs and MPs. He has been invited by the Health Committee to be involved in the 'Reshaping the NHS?'debate to help bring some sense to the system. Ours is not an isolated case. The end result must work and be seen to work.

In this issue you will have seen an example of less than satisfactory care where the patient was subjected to considerable and needless distress. Usually this

takes place covertly because of patient confidentiality but we must thank Yvonne for bringing her experience out into the open to help us and the planners see that the system is not working. Well done Yvonne.

If you have experiences, good or bad, you think are important please let someone know as it is only by acknowledging the successes and failures that the system will be improved and let's hope that no one is injured in the process. We hope you will use the Killin News to keep us all informed.

What does it say on the tin? Much of the label is unreadable and the method of use obscure. We need a clearer labelling system and details of what it is supposed to do so that we can all keep a close eye on the results and see for ourselves if it is working.

There is nothing better to establish trust and confidence than good experiences. Trust must be earned.

WA



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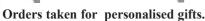
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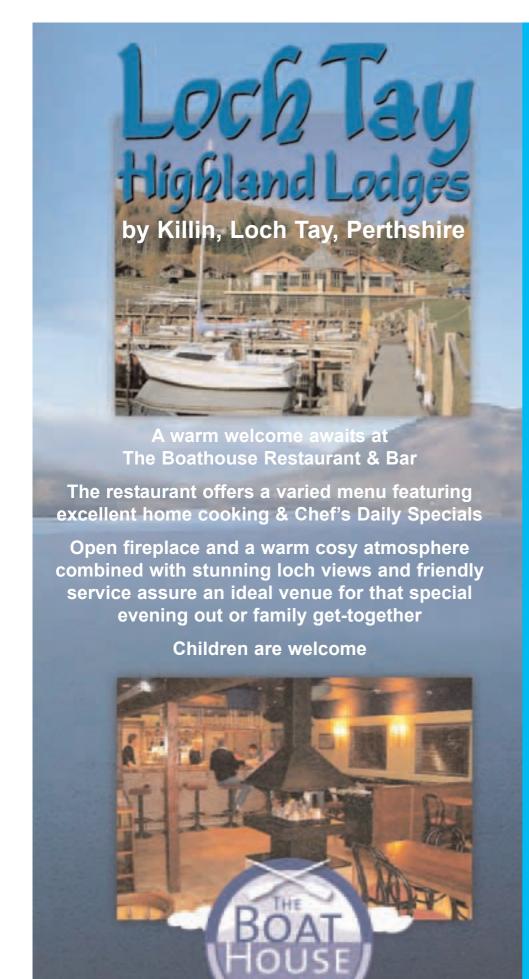
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Farming Matters

If "March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb". If "March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion". Let's hope this year that the old saying proves true.

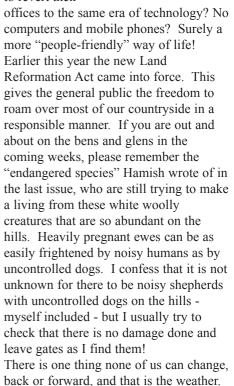
On the first day of March this year we woke up to a fairly heavy fall of snow. In this district we escaped the worst of the blizzards. Down south, where they are lambing earlier, they were not so lucky. Now, with lambing due to start mid-April, there are lots of jobs to be done in preparation for the most important time in the sheep-farming calendar. The ewes are being gathered in off the hill for any treatments they may require prior to lambing. It is becoming a more common practice amongst hill sheep farmers to have their ewes scanned to find out which ones may be carrying twins. This has proved to be beneficial to our management at Dall. However, not everyone holds this view.

The ewe hoggs, (the future hill-stock,) will soon be coming home from their winter vacation. Hopefully there will be a fresh bite of grass for them. A very busy time for shepherds and hauliers! Although most cattle are in sheds over the winter, there are many places where cows are out-wintered and spring-calving

is in progress. Whether inside or out there is still the daily feeding routine to be attended to. Sadly, although the lamb crops, calves and weather are still most important to us in the farming profession. it is what the "powers-that-be" in Brussels decree that has the most influence on our livelihood (and bank balance!) With the ending of production subsidies and introduction of the new Single Farm Payment there is still a great deal of uncertainty as to how it will affect us all. Perhaps it will mean more people going out of farming and little incentive for young folks to enter the business or carry on the family farm. Let's hope not, as we need people, young or old living in our glens to keep our communities alive not more holiday cottages.

There is to be more emphasis on maintaining the environment and encouraging wild life. This is no bad thing. It may come as a bit of a surprise to those not involved in agriculture that it's not only the tourists and wild-life enthusiasts who enjoy the beauty of nature - farmers and shepherds appreciate it too! Would we be here otherwise? However, I could not help wondering as I read recently that farmers should be encouraged to go back to the traditional methods of farming like using binders and stocking cornfields. Would the bureaucrats or those who make such

proposals be happy to revert their



All of us look forward to a good dry

sunny spring, it cheers us up and makes

little) and carry on with our yearly cycle

the work more pleasant. If it does not

happen, no doubt we will grumble (a

as we have done before.

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Computer

Over the next two issues, I will be concentrating on broadband - so that you are better informed before you make a decision about which product to buy and which company to buy it from. This article will help you to chose which type of broadband you need. In the next edition, I will provide advice on who to get broadband from. There are so many companies offering us broadband solutions, that just selecting which product is a nightmare. I will try to make the choice a little easier

Firstly, you need to consider what you want to use broadband for, so that you can get an idea of the size of the broadband connection you need. You may feel that the cheapest product is best for you, since you will not download much, anyway - but then once your broadband is installed you may decide you want to download that particular DVD, or music CD.

for you.

Many of the entry-level broadband products have a limit on the amount of information you can download per month - in particular BT Broadband Basic costing £17.99 per month (at the time of writing this article) allows you to download 1Gb a month. Now this

sounds a lot, but it is actually less than 2 Audio CDs and just a little more than a feature film on DVD.

The speed of the broadband connection is also important. Again many of the entry-level products offer a speed of 512K (approximately 10 times faster than your current dial up connection). This, again, sounds pretty good, but for a few pounds more you can double or even quadruple this speed.

For families with more than one computer, the broadband connection can be shared (by adding certain hardware), so that all computers in the house can access the internet and emails at the same time. When more than one computer accesses the same broadband connection, the performance will be degraded and, if two or more people are downloading large files, for instance home video clips of the latest holiday, then the speed of the broadband connection will seem pretty slow.

To summarise, you need to consider your expected use of broadband before you can decide which product you need. If you don't think you are a 'heavy internet user', but nevertheless want high-speed access then a capped package may be worth considering. Entry-level capped broadband can be obtained for between £15.00 and £18.00 per month. There will

be additional charges incurred if you exceed your download limit. If you don't want to worry about



download limits, go for a flat rate fee package. These packages are available at speeds of 512Kbps, 1Mbps, and 2Mbps, and can cost from £20.00 through to over £40 per month. A good source of helpful information can be found at the following websites:

www.broadbandforscotland.co.uk for general advice about broadband www.adslguide.org.uk for details of broadband products and suppliers.

Please Note: Broadband needs you to have a BT telephone line installed. The broadband connection travels along the same wire as your phone, but as they use different frequencies, both the telephone and broadband can be used at the same time. Those of us who have installed a second line for the internet, can now have this additional line removed and thus save money on line rental.

At the time of writing the Killin exchange is due to be enabled with broadband technology on the 27th July 2005. If this date changes, I will pass information to the team who manage www.killin.co.uk.

Mark Lincoln

ATTENTION!

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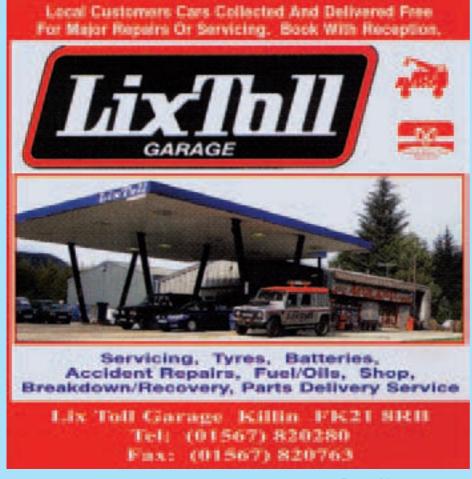


Sadly after 44 years of trading as J.McRae, butchers Colin and Gordon McRae decided it was time to close the family business, having been the longest serving retailers in the village. John McRae bought the

butchers shop from Willie McNee in May 1961. Bob McGregor opened the fruit and veg shop on the other side of the street in November of the same year. In 1968 the McRaes leased the shop at Maragowan Caravan site which

Katie ran, giving that up when they bought the shop in Newburgh Fife in 1972. Callander was the next town to be enhanced with a J.McRae Butcher, when they acquired a shop there in

The mobile shop never missed a day in 44 years travelling as far as Loch Awe twice a week, north to Black Mount and south to Lochearn and Strathyre. In 1981 Colin and Gordon took over the running of the shop, which, of course, they had known all their lives. Having been introduced to mincing meat when they were 5 and making sausages when they were 6, they were not novices! More recently the meat trade suffered a catalogue of disasters, BSE in 1981, E-Coli and, of course, foot and mouth. This lead to a lack of confidence in meat. Retailers in a small village are also up against the "one stop shop". People now find it easy to jump in a car and head off to do "a shop". They have more time than in previous generations. There are nurseries and after school care for the children, allowing parents more freedom. Better roads and easy car parking lure shoppers away from local retailers so reducing trade for village shops, the loss of which is such a disadvantage for our older generation and our much-needed tourists. We wish Colin and Gordon well in their respective futures.



.. Opening Time for the Farmers

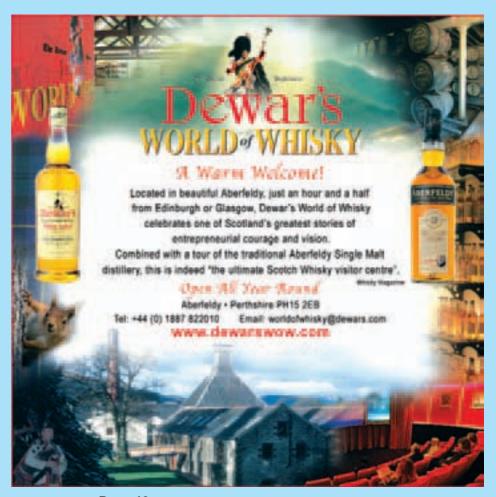


s one shop door closes in the Avillage another one opens. On Saturday 19th March Scott and Gillian Farmer opened their new shop "Killin' Time", which is full of beautiful mirrors, clocks and ornaments in wood, all made by Scott, as well as other crafty items to attract your attention. Prior to moving here from Newton Mearns, Scott and Gillian had three main criteria to meet before taking the plunge to move to a new location. These were water, hills and trees so, when they saw the house and old coffee shop for sale, they realised the potential for a shop and B& B and loved the area which met all their needs. So Scott, Gillian and their daughter Skye moved to Killin in June last year. Since then they have spent all their time completely upgrading the house and Scott transformed the coffee house into his wood-turning room and shop. Scott served his time and worked as a cabinet maker in Yarrows shipyard in Glasgow prior to being an Assistant Manager in Bovine Pharmaceuticals for 14 years. Gillian still works two days a week with Direct Line.

Both can pursue their hobbies of golf and walking, and of course Skye joins them walking their two dogs Molly and Keri

Good luck with the new venture.





DG

Strathfillan



Strathfillan Cvcleway -**Back on Track**

The Strathfillan Cycleway project was re-launched in February at a meeting of the Steering Group to agree on a programme of action for the future of the project. The Group is made up of a number of key individuals, local community representatives and landowners as well as Sustrans, Forestry Commission Scotland and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA) and is now chaired by John Riley. Strathfillan Community Development Trust and Killin Community Council originally came together to plan a multiuse path between Killin and Tyndrum and established a steering group. They consulted with the local community, tourism business providers and landowners to establish the extent of support for the project. They also commissioned a feasibility study, funded by the NPA and Scottish Natural Heritage, which provided detailed proposals for the route, technical specifications and estimated costs, and carried out preliminary negotiations with landowners.

In 2004, the feasibility study was put forward to the NPA for their help but at that time they were unable to commit the required staff time to the project. The route now has the green

light and full support from the National Park and is part of its proposed strategic path network, which will appear in the Park Plan going out for public consultation in May 2005. The route is strongly supported by the local community and all involved, due to its strategic importance and the Steering Group is determined that it will remain high on the local agenda. Work is underway to finalise landowner agreements and secure funding to take the project forward as a whole or in phases. Once complete the path will provide the missing east-west link between Route 7 of the National Cycle Network and the West Highland Way and will link the villages of Killin, Crianlarich and Tyndrum. It will also bring considerable economic benefit to local communities and tourism businesses.

Gill Christie

SCDT Land Manager Tel: 01838 400545

Crianlarich School

The School Nursery parents group are trying to raise money to develop the garden at the front of the nursery into an area which can safely be used by the children. They are planning a bingo night, in Crianlarich village hall on 20th May - other details yet to be confirmed, but posters will be up nearer the time. The parents group are also holding a monthly "bonus ball" draw to raise funds - this will be the last Saturday of every month, and some numbers are still available. For more details of this contact a nursery parent or staff member.

Retail Therapy

Not quite Braehead, but Strathfillan residents will have noticed a big change in their local grocery stores. Brodies in Tyndrum recently completed a major refurbishment, with Crianlarich Store following with a shop refit and new extension in the first week of April (when they will be closed for 3 days to accommodate the changes). The store owners are planning an opening celebration (everyone welcome) on 16th



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2 Packs of Stk Burgers

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1 Pack of Venison Burg.

1 Pack of Pork & Apple Burg.

1 Pack of Stk Saus.450g

1 Pack Lamb Saus.450g

1 Pack Venison Saus 450g

1 Pack Pork Saus. 450g

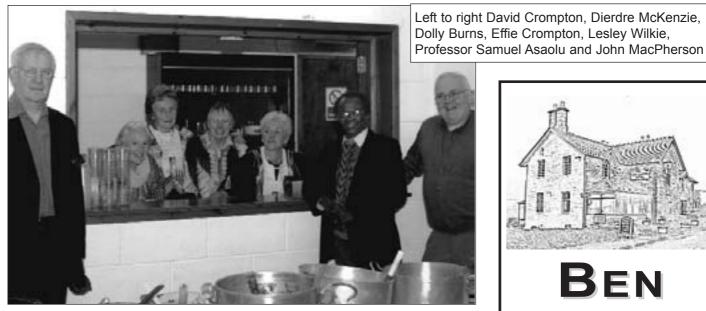
Lamb Stks appx 450g

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Out of Africa

Around 80 residents of Strathfillan and urrounding area made their way to Crianlarich Village Hall on Saturday March 12th for a taste of Africa. The exotic delights of Beef Pepper soup with Yams and Chicken and Groundnut Stew from Nigeria and Beef Pilau and Chicken Biriani from Zanzibar were on offer. The event, organized by Strathfillan Kirk Session and Saint Andrews Clinics for Children to promote the work of the children's clinics throughout Africa's Central belt, raised £440. The highlight

of the evening was a short talk by Professor Samuel Asaolu about the work of the clinics in villages around Ile-Ife in Osun State, Nigeria. Thanks to the generous support of the people of Strathfillan and elsewhere the clinics support free healthcare for many young children and their mothers in communities in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zanzibar and Kenva. Further information on the work of Saint Andrews Clinics for Children can be found on www.standrewsclinics.org.uk

The Strathfillan E-Community Council Project

This project has qualified for phase 2 funding.

Following interviews, our representatives from Napier University and 3 community councils, were awarded the balance of the £169,000. The main purpose of our project is to renew democracy at local level and to enable Scottish communities to have greater influence over factors affecting their lives. A dynamic website was set up by Napier, in liaison with the community council, and handed over to us on 1st November 2004. It is a very useful way to improve efficiency. Our secretary uses it to report on news, events and consultations and community councillors can design questionnaires which can be displayed on the site. The website also enables members of the public to make their voice heard on issues affecting the community. In phase 2, five other community councils will take part. We intend to provide inexperienced members of each community council with computers, ancillary equipment and software, which they will be able to purchase at a reduced price at the end of the project. We may also offer a suitable training course for beginners.

The current discussion is how we develop the project. We would like to improve the way local and national government 'consults' with community councils and we would like to enable debate, voting and lobbying on policy changes between community councils and their communities. The challenge is to convince people that by engaging in this process they really can be influential. Just think how influential debating, voting and lobbying on out of hours NHS might be, if all Scottish communities took part! Please visit the website on www.ecommunitycouncil.org.uk and particularly look at the 'about' section, which provides more information including the group Mission Statement. Please let us know your opinion on the web site using the on-line questionnaire.

John Riley

Chairman of the e-community council group



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Strathfillan - "By The Way"

Going for a song

25th February saw Crianlarich Village Hall packed for its annual fundraising auction. This event goes back as far as the late 'eighties', not quite as far as the television programme, but in that time substantial amounts have been raised towards the village hall fund. The auctioneers Fulton Ronald, Dick Steven and Alex Buchan helped to raise One Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty Six pounds. As well as being an ideal fun fundraiser the event also offers locals the chance to hand in some interesting articles for auction – or put another way, clear some more junk out of their houses. Prices ranged from £1 for a box of kitchen bric-a-brac to a bargain £50 for a Victorian washstand (Hugh Scully, eat your heart out). Hungry bargain bidders were well looked after by Elma Scott and Irene Ramsay who helped boost the hall funds even further with the sale of teas, soup, burgers and buns. Look out for the same event next year when you can combine the chance of picking up some great bargains with the opportunity to clear your house of some clutter.

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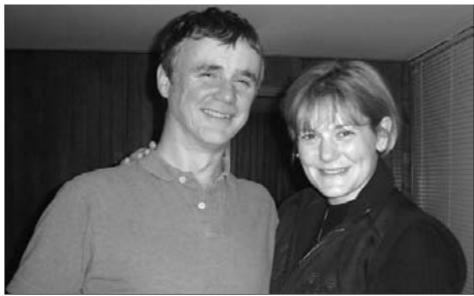
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Real Food on the Way All change at the former Little Chef



Killin resident Sarah Heward, aided and abetted by her partner Steve Wolsey, is the driving force behind The Real Food Café, the exciting redevelopment of the former Little Chef in Tyndrum. Although Sarah only moved permanently to Killin last year, she already knows the area well, having regularly spent summer holidays at her parent's chalet in Killin.

The Café, which is scheduled to open at the end of April, will operate this year as a fish and chip café and eatin. After an extensive winter rebuild it will open again in 2006 in its much enlarged form (future plans, which include a log burning pizza oven and an outdoor eating area, will be displayed in the café from April). Sarah, who has worked in hospitality for her entire career, is very excited about the development of 'The Real Food Café' and says of the plans: "The café will serve great quality fish and chips, locally made pies,

rotisserie cooked corn-fed chicken and a full range of hot and cold drinks. All food supplied will be properly sourced and prepared, we will even be growing our own herbs for the speciality teas. If that isn't your cup of tea, however, we will be offering alternatives such as hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows amongst other goodies!"

For further information about any aspect of The Real Food Café visit their website at www.therealfoodcafe.com or better still, call in, in person! And that's not all. As if Sarah didn't have enough on her hands at the moment planning the café development, she is also midst wedding plans for October, when she and Steve will be married. (Fortunately for Steve and Sarah permission for this is not required from the National Park Planning Department.)



Strathfillan - "By The Way"

Strathfillan Community Land News

Hello Everyone. I would like to explain



a little about the Land Managers post which I started at the end of November. My move to Glen Lochy at the beginning of February makes travelling to work much easier. I have worked in the Trossachs for five years so am familiar with the area. It is an absolute pleasure to live and work amongst these incredible mountains. I really feel lucky to live here, despite some of the resource inconveniences. And I am reminded of the warmth of people willing to help out with useful information and contacts. It is a large workload for someone who is only employed for three days a week. We also have to keep the grant-giving bodies happy, i.e. those organisations who fund this post and the organisations who have given grants for the development of the Community Land. There are deadlines, as part of funding conditions, to complete the next five year management plan for the Tyndrum Community Woodland. A yearly maintenance schedule will be formulated - outlining the routine and not so routine tasks required, if the Scots Pine woodland is to develop into the native wildlife area which the original plans invisaged five years ago. Alongside the woodland management plan we will produce a signage strategy. The Crianlarich Community Woodland is not under grant obligations but, following the production of the Tyndrum plans, the same focus will be given to Crianlarich and the shelterbelt owned by the community in Tyndrum. The care and maintenance of woodlands need community involvement and should run smoothly as we all work together. There will be lots of scope for

fun events/walks and task days which may appeal to different people. After May, I hope to bring ideas to all the different community groups, who wish to take on an active and responsible commitment to aspects of woodland management. I will also be helping with ideas for the Crianlarich "old station yard" project, play a role in steering the cycleway project, liaise with the National Park, Forestry and other agencies, represent the trust on the National Park Access Forum and direct the Community Woodland Association with local land issues

Kate Winton and I met last week and investigated problems with the West Highland Way signage from Crianlarich station. I welcome calls from anyone who wishes to report similar problems. I do hope that you will come along to any of our chats and gatherings and offer your own talents and skills.

Gill Christie

Land Manager SCDT Office Tyndrum Village Hall Tel: 01838 400 545 Email: strathfillancdt@onetel.com

Best Wishes Ian Carnegie

After 30 years service in the police force, the last three in Crianlarich, Ian Carnegie has decided to hang up his truncheon. He and his wife are heading for a new life in Canada where they hope to settle in Prince Edward Island. Ian's smiling face and helpful manner will be missed in the Strathfillan area. It's not much more than 100 years since another Carnegie made much the same Atlantic crossing. Ian leaves with our best wishes for the future in the not so wild West. We hope Ian enjoys his new life and has as much success as did his illustrious predecessor.

A Word from the Minister



That great Russian

freedom thinker Alexander Solzhenitsyn tells how he discovered what is of real value in life, lying on rotting straw in a prison cell, on a diet of a few grams of black bread a day. 'Bless you prison for having been in my life' he says, 'I nourished my soul there.'

The lovely, gentle actress, Wendy Craig, suffered a period of one crisis after another in her family. Then the dog died. That was the straw that broke the Camel's back. Wendy sought refuge in the faith she had kept 'on hold' for many years and found it!

When the slave trader John Newton was caught in such a storm that he was quite sure he was going to die, he vowed that if he survived he would change his life. He did and he did. The result was poacher turned gamekeeper and an unstoppable fighter for the abolition of slavery. 'Amazing grace' he wrote and sang to God. 'Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.' I don't know about you, but that makes my goose-bumps rise and my blood tingle.

All of the above is about Easter. About good coming out of evil; about hope coming out of despair; about light coming out of darkness; about spring coming out of winter; about life coming out of death; about Jesus Christ, the hope of all the world rising from the blackness and doom of eternal night into the assurance and light of everlasting joy - and - as Alexander S, Wendy Craig, John Newton and zillions of others have discovered to their amazement, he takes us with him - if we will only follow. Christ is risen. Rise with him!

Reverend John Shedden Dalmally

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Virtual Learning

We want to say a big "Thank You" to all those people who took the time to fill in our questionnaire. It is a great help to us in planning our courses for next year. The Internet Café in Tyndrum Village Hall continues to be very busy and after Easter weekend it will also be open on a Tuesday. Anyone can come along to use this facility whether it's to send emails, access open learning courses or surf the web. More & more people are using it to access courses at Falkirk, Perth or Clackmannan College. They have discovered that it's much more fun to learn with others even though you are all working on different subjects. If you want to find out more about what courses are on offer (it doesn't have to be a computing course) just turn up during opening times and someone will be there to advise you.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 10am to 4pm

Classes

We are currently offering the following

Venue: Munro Inn in Strathyre: Use the Internet: 20th & 27th April 10am - 12noon £10.00

Emailing 4th, 11th, 18th May 10am - 12 noon £15.00

Venue: Church Hall Killin

Digital Photography 5 weeks starting 4th May 7pm - 9pm £40.00 If there is something you would like to learn which we haven't offered yet, please let us know. Our training is flexible both in terms of location and content. We can offer tuition to small groups for just two weeks say on one specific topic.

If you would like tuition but are unable to come to a class for whatever reason, then



please let us know. A tutor of your choice can teach you in your own home or other suitable venue.

Equipment Hire

We have spare laptops and a digital projector & screen, which are available for hire by individuals or groups for whatever reason. Since buying the projector and screen it has been booked many times and we are delighted to be able to fulfil this need. The full package of projector, laptop and screen are £30.00 per day. Contact Julie Rhys to find out about this facility or phone her on 01567 820 851 to book a place on any class or for more information.

NOTE: Concessionary rates apply for those in receipt of benefit.

Killin Community Council Meeting 8th March

School Transport Etc.

David Brown, Public Transport Officer, Stirling Council reported that the Bus transport's short term contracts were up for renewal in August of this year but he did not envisage any changes.

Jonathan Anderson acting Deputy Rector of the McLaren High School said just under 75% of High School pupils, about 500, take a bus daily to the school. This session he had been given power to remove bus passes and 9 had been removed for 3 to 5 days if it was felt that it was unsafe to have the pupil travelling on the bus. The pupil was not excluded from school. He felt as responsible for the pupils' behaviour on the buses as in school, but felt parents and students must also play their part. He asked to be kept informed of any misbehaviour and said children should not be worried about the bus journeys. Senior pupils act as prefects on the bus.

There was a case recently of bullying on the school bus by pupils squirting water with syringes taken from the High School laboratory. Two pupils had been dealt with and their parents informed.

Parents would like to see adult supervision or some kind of monitoring such as CCTV to pick out unruly pupils. Six buses are being fitted with CCTV in the near future.

Ambulance & Health Service Update: A petition taken to Parliament on 2nd March, had been well received. A meeting with Health Board, Ambulance personnel, NHS 24 and local GP's had made clear that from 21st March 2005 this area would have one 2-manned A & E ambulance and one Rapid Response Unit with a paramedic. This covers Callander to Tyndrum. The Chairman said he was not happy with the situation, they state that they have 5 paramedics. He feels that this is not enough, and that the cover is unacceptable.

Planning: An application from John Howe, Finlarig, to convert a barn into a dwelling house was the only application received.

Correspondence:

Mairi Hunter will be the local contact for flood warning.

The Scottish Executive asked for nominations for the Standing Up To Anti-Social Behaviour Scheme.

A complaint has been made about Bear lorries using the Station Car Park, also the Council are dumping rubbish in the ground opposite Stitt's yard. This to be investigated.

It was hoped that the toilets in the Station Car Park would be open for Easter.

Traffic problems: Large vehicles are unable to get in to Lyon Road because of the parked cars. The Council will be asked to put down double yellow lines. The sign showing No Entry at the nurses clinic needs to be made more visible as cars are going past Lyon Villas the wrong way.

All day parking in the Bank car park and on the main street in front of Craiglea is causing a problem.

A bus stop in Dochart Road should be in place shortly.

Next meeting, including the A.G.M., will be held in Killin Primary School on Tuesday, 10th May.

Spring Bedding

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Senior Citizens' Burns Supper

Killin Drama Club again hosted the senior citizen's Burns supper for 50 guests in the McLaren Hall on Friday 28th January. The welcome was said by Dave Syme as Chairman, and the grace by Douglas McRobbie. The diners then tucked into a hearty Scotch broth. Hugo piped in the haggis carried by Gregor MacKenzie, Douglas addressed it admirably. Alex Stewart later toasted The Immortal Memory, with Gordon Hibbert making an amusing Toast to the Lasses and Elizabeth Murphy making an equally amusing and well received reply. The room was filled with laughter and a general air of enjoyment throughout the evening. Entertainment continued with dancing by Katie Holden, Ishbel Taylor, Siobhan Riddell and Camilla Tigwell. This was followed by Camilla Tigwell and Hazel Wyllie on violins and Jack McRobbie on his accordion. Mary Masterton sang accompanied by Sheena Chisholm followed by more singing from Sheena, Alexandra Tigwell and Tam Bolton. Tam Bolton closed the evening with a vote of thanks. The food for the meal was donated by The Falls of Dochart Inn, The Craigard Hotel, The Killin Hotel, The Bridge of Lochay Hotel, John McRae Butchers and Colin Taylor. It was served by members of Killin Drama Club and Yvonne MacPherson. Thank you to everyone who helped organise the evening and gave donations.

School Transport to McLaren High

Representatives from the School and Stirling Council attended the last Killin Community Council meeting to hear issues local people have with the transportation of pupils to Callander. Although perhaps nothing was achieved at the meeting, this was just a beginning and now the problems have been aired, I hope we can work with those involved to improve the situation. Please remember that if an incident occurs, it needs to be reported at the time. Reporting even minor incidents will help to build up a pattern of what is happening both in the actual transport provided and the behaviour of those travelling on it. Reports should be made to:

Lawrence Stocks, School Transport Co-ordination Officer 0845 2777000 Jonathon Anderson, Acting Depute Principal McLaren High 01877 330156 Colin McMenemy, Planning & Resources Officer 0845 2777000

Suzanne Player

Rural Development Worker 01567 82015 players@stirling.gov.uk



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The weekend of the 25th/26th February brought a total of seven competing teams including three from Killin to the Stirling district round of the Scottish Community Drama Festival, held this year at the McLaren Hall, Killin. The plays were adjudicated by Ron Cattell of Edinburgh. First play on Friday evening was Jean McConnell's "Cruise Missile" directed by Killin Drama Club's Gill Hunt. The play depicts how down to earth inexperienced traveller, played by Glenda Mardon, copes with the pushy, "know it all" character played by Clare Wagland. The production was well received and got the Festival off to a strong start.

Next up were the youth team from Queen Victoria School at Dunblane in a play named "The QP Ga", written and directed by teacher Alan Kirk. The word GA is an abbreviation of "Gang" – as the acting group claimed that more than 3 people were needed to form a proper "Gang". The play explores social issues surrounding drug dealing and pushing and despite a little uncertainty on the lines, the cast got the message through to an appreciative audience.

The third play "A Night under Canvas" by Lisa Hunt, was presented by Stirling Riverside Drama Club and directed by Lesley Kettle of Killin. The story is not set on a camp-site as one may guess - but



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Drama Festival Revue







Gregor McKenzie, Elizabeth Murphy, Liz Stevens, Lesley Syme Maggie Hibbert, Tam Bolton, in front Daniel Holden, Gordon Hibbert

in an art gallery where two Glasgow ladies find themselves locked in for the night. The two actresses Claire McMenemy and Wendy McDonald captured the attention of everyone in the hall and this strong performance was in the words of the adjudicator "a professional performance". The final Friday play was another Killin Drama Club entry – Rattle Rattle, by Jeannie Von Rompaey, directed by Gordd Likhert. This black cornection are to the strong to the strong the strong transport of the strong transport in the strong transport is set in the strong transport in the strong transport

The final Friday play was another Killin Drama Club entry – Rattle Rattle, by Jeannie Von Rompaey, directed by Gordon Hibbert. This black comedy play is set in a kitchen where home hairdresser Susie McRobbie seeks revenge on student neighbour Myrica Reid for having an alleged affair with her husband. Myrica finds herself tied to a chair whilst Susie runs amok with scissors and finally a cutthroat razor. The play concludes with a

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Hitchcock style ending on which Ron Cattell commented "the ending left the audience in little doubt as to what was about to happen".

Saturday evening got off to a great start with "The Last Bread Pudding" by Nick Warburton performed by Thornhill Drama Club and directed by Peter Rickard. The play is a spoof on a Drama Club making its decisions on which play to enter into a festival. Like lots of committee meetings all does not go smoothly and there are arguments and tantrums to keep the audience laughing from start to finish.

Next from Stirling came the Stirling University Drama Society with "After" a play written and directed by one of the students, Stewart Marshall. The story concerns the relationships of a group of young people after.....? Well that's the bit we were left to wonder. Was it after an abortion?, after some operation or illness? Ron Cattell was constructive in his criticism and felt that the script and acting needed more development.

Last to perform were Killin Drama Club with "A Man Of Letters" by Tim Firth directed by Lesley Syme. The characters are the head of works at a sign-making company played by Gordon

Hibbert and his "YTS" trainee Alan played by Daniel Holden. Set on a rooftop the actors are joined in effect by a 3rd character, the letters which are used to spell different names. As the play progresses it becomes obvious that the name they were planning to build cannot be completed and the words "For Sale" signal the end of Frank's employment after 25 years of service. Describing the acting and production as excellent Ron Cattell went on to award this play 1st place in the Festival with Leslev Kettle's Riverside team placed 2nd. The Killin team also won the "Best Moment of Theatre" award for their ending of the play. Thornhill Players were placed 3rd. The top two teams now move on to Grangemouth to compete at Divisional level with the ultimate prize being a place in the Scottish Finals at the MacRobert Theatre in late April. **Gordon Hibbert**

Sadly Killin came third, so does not go through to the next round.



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19 pupils from P6 and P7 setting off for a 4 day stay at the Glencoe Outdoor Centre in March, accompanied by their head teacher Sandra Logan, supply class teacher Ollie Cameron and chairperson of the School Board Les Berrow. The course allowed the children to take part in archery, a forest walk, orienteering, a team building exercise and a trip to the Ice Factory for climbing.

Red Nose Day

On Friday 11 March, 3 Primary 7 girls made and sold jellies. Hazel, Lianne and Jessie did very well by raising £76.66 for Comic Aid. Luke Melia, one of the boys in Primary 7 has donated an additional £13.50 towards this appeal.

Safari Supper

Thanks again to the Community for raising a whopping £685, which was donated to the P.T.A. for an Interactive Whiteboard for the school.



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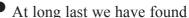
If you would like more details and an application form contact

Rural Stirling Housing Association Stirling Road, Doune

Tel: (01786) 841101 E-mail: Enquiries@rsha.demon.co.uk

Girl

Guides



- an experienced Guider, Linda
- Bradley from Lochearnhead,
- to run Guides in this area.
- The pack will be based in
- Killin but may undertake
- activities and outings to the
- other local villages.
- Guides are open to any girl
- between the ages of 10 & 14.
- If you are interested in
- joining and would like to find
- out more please come to a
- short meeting in Killin
- Church Hall on Thursday 5th
- May at 8pm

Hobbies Club

The Club starts on Wednesday 20 April from 3pm - 4.30pm. The aims of the club are to give children in Primary 4 - 7 the opportunity to meet to share their hobbies and learn some new skills. We hope to extend this club next term to include Primary 1 - 3.

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SOAC in Killin, Know the Code before you go

The National Park launched the new Scottish Outdoors Access Code (SOAC) in the Lesser McLaren Hall on Sunday 20th March with games for children and organised walks to the head of Loch Tay and above the village. This was designed to promote the rules and responsibilities that we must all have, to exercise our rights under the legislation. This gives a wonderful opportunity for

visitors to Killin to explore and enjoy a wide variety of walks, on and off the road, close to the village. With these new rights come responsibilities for both those obtaining access and those, the landowners, who provide it. That the countryside is a workplace for landowners must be respected, as must access, under the code. Access rights can be exercised over hills, forests, farmland, field margins, beaches, lochs and rivers. Motorised access, hunting, shooting and fishing, without the permission of the landowner, are not permitted. Don't let your dog into fields with calves or lambs and keep it on a short lead or under close control when in a field with other animals. Use local advice so that you can take account of shooting and stalking. For the three areas closest to Killin the contact numbers are Auchlyne 01567 820487, Boreland 01567

820562 and Gleann Dubh 01567 820421. Some areas such as those surrounding houses, gardens, some crops and agricultural activities are exempt from access. Privacy must always be respected. The rules governing access are outlined in a leaflet 'Know the Code' which is widely available. The summary and full documents may be obtained from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com Know the code before you go.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly, whether you are a visitor or managing the countryside, the key points are to, take responsibility for your own actions, respect the interests of others and care for the environment. The Breadalbane Area Office of the National Park hold leaflets and may be contacted for further information telephone 01567 830430.





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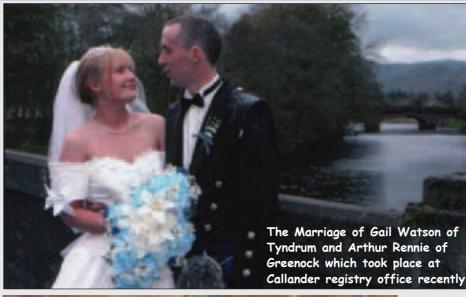
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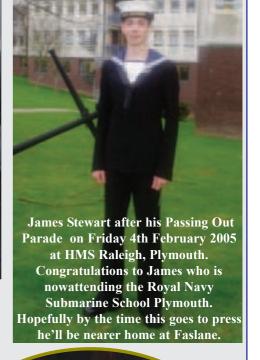
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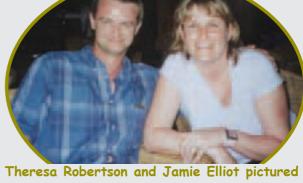
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on holiday in the Maldives where they got engaged on December 1st 2004. Moira and John Robertson along with Jimmy and Jeanette Elliot would like to offer their congratulations.



Thanks to your generosity Killin Medical Practice raised £70 on Red Nose Day. The staff all enjoyed dressing up as you can see some enjoyed it too much!



in Tenerife

"Why haven't you?"

This is a question we all too often encounter. Yet it is a question which is often asked in a spirit of offering help especially when changes are afoot. Some of you will have been at the Access Open Day in The McLaren Hall on 20th March. That will have highlighted some significant changes. And where there are changes there are usually problems. The big challenge is to manage the conflicts that arise and in our area this role falls to The National Park Authority. An Access Forum has also been set up to ensure that as many interests as possible have an input into managing the conflicts. The Forum constitutes 20 members including 2 from the Park Board. Local members are Mike Luti from Callander (Nat.Park). Gill Christie, Strathfillan Community Development Trust and David Rossetter, who operates a canoe business from Strathyre. Although the idea is to make access available there are occasions when a landowner will need to restrict access. Any questions concerning access should be addressed to Bridget Jones, Senior Access Officer, National Park HO. The Old Station, Balloch (Phone 01389 722600).

Another change is the re-introduction of the Breadalbane name for the area albeit that the Park Authority has taken liberties with the traditional boundaries. The Ordnance Survey maps are now showing it to coincide more or less with the National Park boundaries and local businesses in Killin, Strathfillan and Loch Earn area are coming together to promote the area in their marketing.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Killin News there is change in the way the Community Futures programme is being administered. The lead player here now is the Community Partnership. At

the last area meeting for Breadalbane held at the Kingshouse Hotel on 10th March it was agreed to link up common aspirations for the Breadalbane Area. One initial thought was to re-activate the proposals for a cycle track/path from St Fillans to Lochearnhead and linking with the cycle track over Glen Ogle to Killin and Strathfillan. As community agents, Joyce Russell and Suzanne Player will be co-ordinating the effort and recruiting individuals and ideas.

Seaplanes

The current consultations regarding a byelaw for seaplanes and the review of Loch Lomond Byelaws relate strictly and solely to Loch Lomond with no proposals at present to introduce National Park Byelaws anywhere else in our Park.

New Office

There are plans to open a National Park office in Callander at the Rob Roy Centre sharing premises with the Tourist Information Centre. This is likely to have administrative offices available to the public to discuss planning and other issues and may be in place by Easter 2007.

The Park Plan

This is the document that tells us what will happen in the National Park. The launch of the Park Plan will take place at Loch Katrine in the Trossachs Area following the election and public consultation will run through the summer months, so that we can reach as wide an audience as possible with meetings and events throughout the Park and beyond. For enquiries or suggestions concerning the National Park contact

Owen McKee

Tel. 01567 830214 or email owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Letters

As both a potential patient and a retired GP, I continue to read with disgust and horror about the future of out-of-hours provision of medical services in rural Scotland. The proposed schemes have been developed by people living in large cities who, apparently, do not appreciate the difficulties of travel to and from Killin and Stirling both for the on-call doctor and ambulances. Have they ever journeyed in winter conditions or when holiday traffic is heavy? Have they ever considered that the doctor may be twenty miles or more the other side of Stirling, seventy miles or more from Killin, an unacceptable level of service for a patient with a stroke, a coronary thrombosis or a severe haemorrhage – examples of conditions which must be treated promptly?

Of course the same problems exist in many other small towns and villages in Scotland. When I was working as a GP in rural Leicestershire it was always stressed that speed of delivery of help to those needing urgent treatment was the key to saving lives. Has this principle been forgotten?

Alistair Inglis
MB BS DObstRCOG AFOM

Thank you

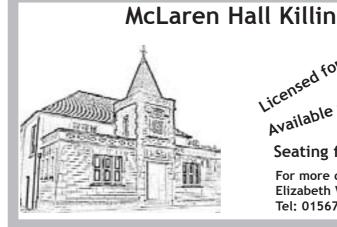
Sandra Campbell would like to thank everyone for all her lovely birthday presents.

Bobby's 40th

Thanks to everyone for the cards, presents and good wishes I received on my 40th Birthday. I had a great night and hope everybody else did too.

Bobby Lafferty





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bituaries

Charles Riley

Charlie was born at Faskally near Killiecranckie on 1st December 1925, the eldest of six children born to Bernard Riley and Margaret Power. He went to school at Pitlochry and on leaving school worked on several farms in the area. He joined the Home Guard at 15 and a half and was one of the youngest members, another being Colonel (Mad Mitch) Mitchell later of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

When he was 17 and a half he enlisted in the Black Warch R.H.R. and later took part in the Normandy Landings seeing action in France, Belgium and Holland, where he was wounded and later lost his left knee. While on leave recuperating from his time in hospital, Charlie saved the lives of the Flight Sergeant and the Pilot Officer of a plane which had hit overhead electric cables and crashed into the River Tummel at Ballinluig. The pilot was very seriously injured and with the help of the slightly less hurt Flight Sergeant, the two men were able to keep his head above water until they were rescued by a boat with a safety line attached, the river being in flood at the time. For this brave action Charlie was later awarded the Royal Humane Society certificate on Vellum by a representative of the Duke of Gloucester at Redford Barracks Edinburgh.

On leaving the Army in 1947 he worked with Pitlochry Council, the British Road Service and latterly the Hydro Electric Roard

He had many interests including

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reading, painting, composing poetry and music. He could play several musical instruments all self taught and could turn his hand to most things, especially technical. His favourite poem was "If" by Rudyard Kipling and many a young fellow had parts of it, or sometimes all of it, recited to him as a good maxim to live by.

He had a great sense of humour nearly all his life, mischievous and slightly wicked and loved interesting conversation and the company of many friends. He lived for and received enormous pleasure from his family and grandchildren but never really got over the loss of his youngest son Charles, who died in a motor bike accident at the age of 24.

He was looking forward to celebrating 59 years of wedded bliss with his wife Anne in April.

His family would like to thank all friends and neighbours who attended the service in Killin Church and the interment. Thank you also for the kind letters, cards and lovely flowers, and also to the Rev. John Lincoln for his kind words of comfort. Charlie will be so sadly missed by his beloved wife and family.

Anne MacIntosh (daughter)

Thomas Tracev

Thomas Tracey passed away suddenly after a long illness on Friday 4th March. He came to Killin in the seventies to work as a clerk with the Bank of Scotland and lived at Fassifern. He moved away, as most bankers do, but returned to Killin as manager of the bank in the eighties and lived at 10 Ballechroisk Terrace. Ill health forced him to give up work and he moved to Lennoxtown where he belonged, to live with his mother.

To all who knew him as a neighbour and friend he will be missed. To his sorrowing mother, brother, sister and family we all send our love and sympathy. To a great friend R.I.P.

Annie MacNee

Mobile Library

Tvndrum/Crianlarich Fortnightly Fridays Apr 22, May 6, 20, June 3

Tyndrum Station Road 10.50 – 11.10 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 - 2.55Suie Lodge 3.05 - 3.25

Glen Lochay/Ardeonaig Fortnightly Mondays Apr 18, May 2, 16, 30 Glenlochay 10.50 - 12.30 Ardeonaig 2.00 - 2.45





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Crossword by Scorpio

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Down

- 2. The boot is on neither foot for this musician (6)
- 3. This Lawyer won a lb of flesh for the client (6)
- 4. Good man begins creative skills begins (6)
- 5. Do not go quietly round compass points (7)
- 6. A hat (6)
- 7. Transfer from one person to another (8)
- 8. Still alive without this and very unkind (9)
- 11. French maiden (5)
- 13. Gaelic nose (4)
- 17. Darts fame was curiously owned by Old Macdonald (9)
- 19. Marsupial (8)

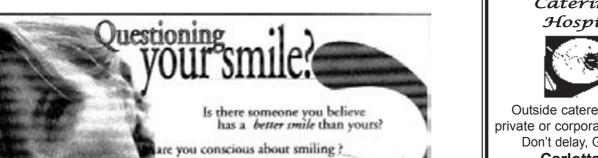
Across

- 1. Mouse corp marching around seeking self control (9)
- 9. Fed ace a mixture in order to disfigure (6)
- 10. Underdogs can be responsible for clean shoes (8)
- 11. Food for Oriental minister (6)
- 12. Donkey is junction and joins to help (6)
- 14. Employer (4)
- 15. Pyromania or may be an insurance fraud (5)
- 16. Comic Strip captain is a wonderful person (6)
- 18. 'E can ask but will show disapproval at the answer (7)
- 21. Concerning shapes in the search for changes (7)
- 24. Trusted adviser (6)
- 26. One of the plant growers enemies (5)
- 30. Settled (4)
- 31. Look at Isobel, Eve Nora and others for a hockey team (6)
- 32. Go by boat, train, plane etc. usually abroad (6)
- 33. Infantile (8)
- 34. Declared (6)
- 35. Does Lee lament basic upset (9)

Solution to Issue 84

Across 1. scare 7. coathook 8. humps 10. eliminator 12. landmark 14. lots 16. bart 17. interest 20. pomeranian 23. noise 24. sadistic 25. snort Down

- 1. school 2. ripe 3. poem 4. stand 5. postboxes 6. skirts 9. slams 11. andromeda 13. run 15. sedan 16. bypass 18. threat 19. crass 21. nail
- 20. Marine skeleton used for decorative purposes (5)
- 22. Frustrate or protection for point (4)
- 23. Basic nature of Clara + Di (7)
- 25. Ajar (6)
- 27. Used by divers and lighter than air (6)
- 28. Lessen found in crude adenoidal speech (6)
- 29. The old name for Iran (6)



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too uneven or

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What's On in Killin and District

April

9/10 Tai Chi & Chi Gong Class McLaren Hall 10am - 1pm Free classes all welcome

20 Herb Society Meet Aberfeldy Town Hall 7pm

21 Church Guild Meet 2pm

28 Green Team School Garden 6pm

May

10 Killin Community Council Meet Killin School 7.30pm

12 Girl Guide Meeting Church Hall 8pm

12 Green Team School Garden 6pm

15 Gun Club Meet 1pm

19 Church Guild Meet

20 Bingo Night Crianlarich Village Hall in aid of School Nursery Group

27

25 Herb Society Meet Village Hall Ballinluig 7pm

26 Green Team School Garden 6pm

28 to 5 Jun Perthshire Archaeology Week

June

24/7 Cars

3 Community Bus trip to Gardening Scotland

5 Gun Club Meet Craignavie Cup

10 Cheese & Wine McLaren Hall evening

Ads Index

Albert Halls 10 Anderson, Andrew & Sons Archery & Clay Shooting Back Pain Clinic 12 Beauty Therapist 16 Ben Lawers Hotel BL Decorators 23 Capercaillie Care Dental Central Scotland Rape Crisis 24 Clan Building Services Corrie Crafts 14 Costcutters/Dochart Crafts 9 33 Craigard Crianlarich Store Cruachan Restaurant Dewar's World of Whisky 19 Dows Forster Electrical Gatehouse Nursery Gauld, Maureen 35 Gaulds Funeral Directors 35 Girvans 6 Glenfernate Estate Gourlay, D. Butchers 28 Grant, Charles 11 Grant & Welsh 34 Grants Laundry 32 Green Welly Stop Jasmine Beauty Kate's Cakes 4 Killin Hotel Killin Library 23 Lix Toll Garage Loch Tay Highland Lodges 15 35 Loch Tay Pottery McAllister, Eric 35 Macfarlane Gray McLaren Hall 32 McRobbie, Douglas Mitchell, Fiona 16 12 33 Moments Photography 30 Mountain Retreat Moor. Pete 13 Morris, John Mobile Hair Styling 12 News First Old Flax Mill Restaurant 13 Perthshire AllTrades 26 24 Post Office 36 Real Food Company, The Reflexology 30 Rob Roy Homes 27 17 Royal Bank of Scotland Rural Stirling Housing 29 Shutters STEP 28 Stitt Brothers 12 Strathvre Cleansing Studio Art Shop Town & Country Catering

Brownies

Mondays Church Hall 6.30pm

Bowls

Mondays and Fridays afternoons Thursday evenings Bowling Green

Gaelic

Intermediate 2 Mondays 5pm Advanced 2 Mondays 7pm Killin Library

> Tennis Mondays Starts end May

Driving Licence Tuesdays 7pm Killin Primary School

European Computer

Art

Highland Dancing Tuesdays 4.30pm - 7.30pm 3 classes Crianlarich Hall Contact Aileen Fisher 01301 704283

Tuesdays 4pm - 6pm

Killin Church Hall

Jumping Beans Wednesdays 10am - 12am Lesser Hall Contact Sammy Hibbert 820739

Tiddlers & Toddlers Fridays Church Hall 9.30am-11.30am

Killin Youth Group Wednesdays Lesser Hall 7pm - 9pm

Moirlanich Long House opens from Sun 1st May Wed and Sun 2pm - 5pm

Upholstery

Tuesdays 10.30am McLaren Hall Tuesdays 12 noon Lochearnhead

Playgroup Fridays Nursery 9.30 - 11.30am Keep Fit Tuesdays McLaren Hall 7pm Circuit Training 8.15pm



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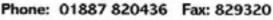
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