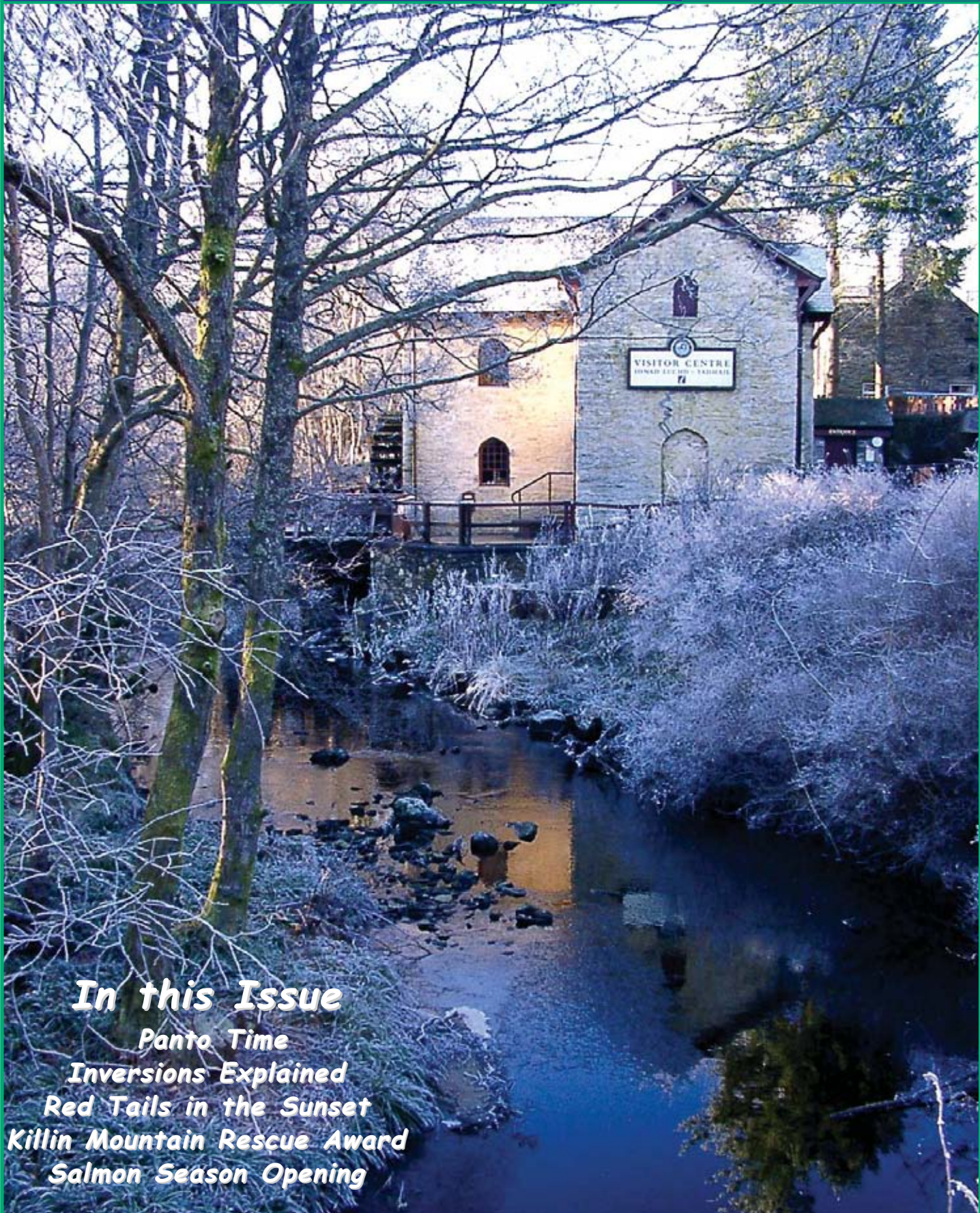


KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
PRICE £1 Issue 90 Feb 2006



In this Issue

Panto Time

Inversions Explained

Red Tails in the Sunset

Killin Mountain Rescue Award

Salmon Season Opening



DEADLINES Issue 91 :
Advertising March 10
Copy March 17

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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Editorial

Use it or Lose it

Over the past year Killin has lost several businesses. McRae's the Butcher, the Tarmachan Tea Shop, Costcutters, their Café, Dochart Crafts and Corrie Crafts. In addition the Tighnabruaich and Morenish Lodge will no longer be run as Hotels. The Bear contract may be taken over causing more insecurity and changes of employer. The withdrawal of sheep subsidy will most probably lead to great changes on the hills, affect small farmers' incomes and increase imported lamb. Change is inevitable, indeed a study of the 1881, 1891 and 1901 census shows that even at that time the population of Killin changed markedly over every ten year period.

Business in Killin comes with problems that are encountered elsewhere in rural Scotland. Our population is small and distance increases transportation costs. Consumers look for and have been accustomed to expect a wide choice, often including exotic items with which they are bombarded by advertisements on television. Most families, who have easy access to transport, live not too far away to shop in Stirling, Edinburgh or Glasgow and can be attracted by the prices in the big outlets that undercut what is possible for local retailers. The internet adds a new dimension with wide choice available in the home and often easy delivery to the door. Do we need any shops in Killin?

Killin is a village and a living community. Communities have shared values that go well beyond what is usually found in towns and cities. Most shoppers are used to browsing shop displays and choosing from whatever they can see on show. What you see is what you get, but in villages like Killin it goes further than that. Do visitors know that many shopkeepers are happy to obtain special items for them? This may take a few days, depending on when the shopkeepers obtain supplies from their wholesalers, but most could place an order before their visit and pick it up when they arrive. Being a retailer in a small community is a commitment to friends and neighbours. What commitment does a large chain give when something goes wrong? How long does it take to replace an item damaged in transit by a carrier? Local suppliers have a local reputation and friendships to maintain and would soon lose their standing in a small village if their service was known not to be 'up to scratch'. Even if it does cost a little more, by the time you factor in your own travel and the additional support provided by local retailers, it can only be a small margin, a small price to pay to have so much available locally. This is a two way relationship. Retailers can help us only if we help them with our support and share our expectations with them. Let's keep our shops open in Killin. How's that for a Tee Shirt motto?

WA

Focus on Hospital Appointments

A new initiative where patients can choose to be referred to hospitals other than their local hospitals in England and Wales was reported in the press recently. In Scotland your GP can refer you to a hospital outside your Health Board area. You might like to go elsewhere if the waiting time to see a consultant is unduly long locally or if the hospital you wish to attend is close to relatives who may find it easier to visit you as an in-patient or with whom you can stay if you are likely to undergo a prolonged course of hospital-based treatment.

Patient Focussed Booking has been introduced in Scotland. Once your referral has been processed, if it is considered "clinically urgent" you will be contacted and asked to arrange a suitable

appointment time/date to fit in with the available appointments. If your referral is considered "Clinically Routine" you will be contacted by letter to say your referral letter has been received and that they will write to you again about 6 weeks before an available appointment, when you will be asked to phone back to arrange a suitable date and time finally a letter confirming your appointment will be sent to you. In some areas this may mean that routine appointments are not booked until the hospital has cleared the list of those appointments already scheduled.

NHSScotland Waiting Times

<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/waiting/search.asp> This web site displays the waiting times for Scottish consultants. Waiting Time is defined as the time that 9 out of 10 patients will take to obtain an appointment with the specified consultant

from the time their referral letter is received by the hospital. It does not estimate the time to treatment. Waiting times can be substantially different in different areas and in Scotland. While you can ask to be sent to another hospital, you should always be guided by your general practitioner who will know more about the consultants in the local area and will have established a working relationship with them. Often factors such as a need to have an early opinion or to be in hospital close to family members may be important to you. To use the search facility you select the specialty, select the region or regions and click "get results". This will return with a list, in time order, from the shortest to the longest wait for the hospitals in those areas. These times are based on the previous three months and can change.

WA

Out-of-hours developments Where are we now?

After the public meeting on 8th July 2004 a letter was sent by Fiona MacKenzie, Chief Executive, Forth Valley Health Board, to John MacPherson Chair of the Killin Community Council, (see issue 81 of the Killin News, page 3) in which it was proposed that the Forth Valley Health Board would work with the Community Council with the following agenda:

to "work towards a paramedic-centred solution to out-of-hours over time to recruit additional paramedics who will be based in Killin 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (different from current arrangements)
to extend paramedic skills further to deal with minor ailments/injuries in the lead-in period
to work with GPs to phase this in over a six month period"

This was in response to the concerns raised in the public meeting that the withdrawal of GP cover would leave a gap which the Scottish Ambulance Service, at that time, would not be able to fill. The lead-in period was duly completed and the GPs withdrawn from the requirement to cover out-of-hours but the paramedics did not have the training to take over their role. Since then the paramedics and Scottish Ambulance Service have not, to our knowledge, been called on to treat minor ailments/injuries and all patients requiring a clinical assessment were, and still are, required to travel to the not-so-local GP out-of-hours centre.

At the initial meeting and subsequently we were reassured that paramedics would soon be able to identify and initiate care for problems such as meningitis, acute allergies, renal colic, and several other potentially serious illnesses in which they would take over the immediate emergency role of the general practitioner. So far, well over one year on, they have not yet commenced that role.

The current response is by the Scottish Ambulance Service, that is the Ambulance/Rapid Response Vehicle, through a 999 call, or patients with problems considered less serious by the NHS24 Triage Nurse or Doctor on duty at the out-of-hours centre may be asked to attend the centre in Stirling to be seen by a duty doctor if they require more than simple advice. We are reassured

that the Stirling doctors visit patients throughout the area where a visit is considered appropriate. Fortunately as the local population is small it is likely the chance of a rare serious illness requiring urgent GP attention is low, reassuring for those in charge of the organisation but not for individuals involved.

It is good to hear that at long last the first of our local paramedics has started training in the Killin Medical Practice. (see article below)

The fact that the ambulance service have managed to attend all emergency calls within half an hour throughout the area is no mean achievement and reassuring to us all. We hope that the training will soon be complete and the paramedics will be attending, diagnosing and treating minor illnesses within the next few months. A premises where minor procedures such as stitching or dressings can be performed in the locality has not yet, as far as we know, been identified. Meetings between the Community Council Chairmen and Forth Valley Health Board continue to meet to review progress albeit less frequently than before.

WA

Paramedic Practitioner

A small group of Paramedics assigned to key communities are currently undergoing enhanced training as part of the initiative to support the 'Out of Hours' services in Forth Valley. The training will have the effect of improving the medical resources available to patients locally, emergency response times, the standards of decision-making underpinning hospital admissions, and keeping the skill levels of Paramedics up-to-date.

The training consists of minor injuries and acute illnesses modules based at the Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh. Some of the Paramedics have completed the minor injury module following a 6 month clinical placement within a minor injuries unit. Having completed the University-based acute illness module, Michael MacLaren will be training within Killin Medical Practice for 6 months. The result will be that Michael will be trained to Practitioner Level and have enhanced patient assessment and management skills.

Fiona Buchanan
Killin Medical Practice

Blossom or wither?

As another year gets underway, the Floral Association would like to look forward and make plans for the coming summer. Committee members who have served voluntarily for several years wish to step down. We are appealing to everyone who enjoys the floral displays to help the Association to continue to enhance the appearance of our village by joining us at our AGM on Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm in the McLaren Hall Committee Room. All that is required is a few hours of your time and you will see your rewards blossoming all summer long. Support is vital or we will be unable to continue the floral displays, floral awards or children's sunflower competition. We look forward to welcoming you on board.

Marion McRae

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New History Society in Glenlyon

A group of residents of Glenlyon have formed the Glen Lyon History Society and will launch their website www.glenlyon.org and hold the first public talk at Invervar Lodge in Glenlyon on Sunday March 19th at 8pm.

Few areas in Scotland are as mysterious as Glenlyon. Whether entered via a breathtaking gorge from the East or over a high mountain pass to the West, the 34 mile long glen is renowned for its beauty and seclusion. It also guards a rich and varied past that has drawn the interest of writers and historians for centuries. Authors such as Duncan Campbell, Alexander Stewart and his daughter Alexandra Stewart have left us with a superb testament of the events, families and times that have shaped the glen.

The glen is littered with ancient archaeological ruins from times when the area is thought to have been an important military centre for the Pictish kingdom and was later believed to be a focus for the reforming zeal of one of Scotland's early Christian missionaries, St Adamnan. For centuries it was a wild frontier renowned for cattle raids and clan warfare. In the 18th and 19th century



Milton Eonan

Courtesy of Glen Lyon History Society

the glen prospered and the 1871 census records over 500 residents. Foreign wars, economic collapse and the Highland Clearances have left many settlements long abandoned and a permanent population of around 100. The group behind the Glenlyon History Society hope to revive this past with a series of informative talks as well as the website which is already packed with maps, photos, settlement information and historical literature. For many years now the Glen has had

a more transient population so much of the oral history of the area has been lost. We want to reconnect with former residents and descendants of Glenlyon to record their stories for future generations.

At the inaugural meeting Tom Beels will give a talk on the history of Meggernie Estate, followed by an informal discussion. The meeting is free and open to all. Please bring any old books, postcards or other memorabilia that you may have that relates to the glen.

If you have an enquiry, or any recollections of past times in Glenlyon that you are willing to share with us, please contact us by email to secretary@glenlyon.org.

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Computer corner

Broadband access is now widely available in our area and most of us are enjoying the freedom and lack of speed constraints that it provides. Unfortunately, some of the more remote of us suffer from telephone lines which are not able to support the broadband signal. Hopefully BT will rectify this in the near future. Broadband is beneficial to many families in the village who have more than one computer in the home as it allows us to share the Internet

connection, without having to tie up the phone line.

Some of us have installed a wireless network in our home, which allows us to share the broadband between computers and laptops without the need for trailing wires. If you are not careful, however, your wireless connection, and through this, your broadband, can easily be hijacked by others. In fact, for a while, there was a wireless connection in the village that was not sufficiently protected, and this was accessible to anyone within its range.

It is usually sensible to change the default configuration of your wireless hardware, otherwise anyone can access your system and potentially cause havoc to your data. Also, if someone else within range has a wireless network and neither of you has changed the default settings, then it is possible that your network and theirs will clash with unpredictable results.

Many people deploy wireless network and name the network after their house name or number. I believe this is a grave mistake, since this is an open invite to burglars who can scan the area for wireless networks and easily identify addresses where there will be at least wireless connection hardware and two computers, i.e. prime targets for burglary. Wireless network security is not as efficient as standard Internet security, but it should be sufficient for all our needs. It can be a daunting task to configure the security settings, but the hassle is worthwhile.



Mark Lincoln

info@frogspawncomputers.co.uk
www.frogspawncomputers.co.uk

Heart of Scotland Herb Society



January and February are our cold months. Many animals, plants and some humans experience a form of hibernation, be it self-imposed or from necessity.

Herbs are much the same but today I found dead nettle, parsley, thyme, pennyroyal, salad burnet and sorrel in cold ground - all protected by a larger shrub or stone wall. Hazel catkins and witch hazel are blooming, and the evergreens like wall germander, lavender and rosemary, though shut down a little, continue to show and provide for us while the majority of their clan rest a few more weeks.

Our January meeting 'Super Foods for the Brain' was taken by Jacqui Hazzard MNIMH. Nature has it all available to us in the form of clean air, clean water, wholefoods and infusing herbs. We can make a difference with optimum nutrition for optimum health.

Our next few meetings will concentrate on indoor activities using the herbs we harvested last season and those we may wish to plant for the next. Chris Tamblin, chef at The Green Park Hotel will discuss 'Bouquet Garni' on February 15th, a morning session at the Aberfeldy Town Hall. I will present a simple session on 'Preparing Herb-infused Wines' the evening of April 19th at the McLaren Hall. If cookery is not your forte, why not join us for Lynn and Sarah Dark's 'Skin Deep With Zest' on March 15th at Aberfeldy Town Hall for some 'herbie' pampering techniques and creams before summer skin exposure.

If you would like to pick up new and useful information about herbs, further information and dates are available from

Patty Hope

01567 820408

or Judy Forster at 01567 820298



Photographs J Dynowski

Guess Who?

It was Charlie Grant in the last Issue. If you have suitable photos for this slot please let us have them. **Killin News**



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Ballot Proposals Underway

Stirling Tenants Assembly have been advised that the ballot is likely to be late spring this year.

Notice will be given of Stirling Council's intention to transfer all their Housing Stock to the new proposed landlord Housing Stirling and will also propose:

- *Rent levels for the next five years
- *Arrangements for repairs service and property maintenance proposals
- *Estate Management policy

A 4-week "consultation" period will follow, to allow "representation" to Stirling Council and for tenants to be formally consulted after which formal notice will be given of the date of the ballot. When the ballot papers are issued, there will be three/four weeks for their return and for votes to be counted. If there is a "yes" vote, the transfer to the new landlord will probably take place by late autumn of 2006. If the vote is "no", then tenants will remain Council tenants. Tenants will be kept informed of the process throughout.

Any tenant unsure what is happening when the notice of transfer is given or who has questions regarding the proposals, should contact either Stirling Council, or the Stirling Tenants Assembly on 01786 443543.

Carpet Bowls

The Carpet Bowling club held their Annual Open Pairs competition on 3rd December. We had 28 pairs taking part with Cairnbaan coming out the winners. Ardeonaig were runners up and consolation singles was won by D. Livingstone.

The Tarmachans and a Ptarmigan

At last I have seen a ptarmigan on Meall Tarmachan. This crisp and friendly (for the hillwalker!) winter has so far thrown up for me a sighting of a single bird close to the summit to which it gave its name – just below the topmost point on the east side. I was lucky, for the day (16th November) shone with brilliant light, tranquil so that nothing seemed to stir, except for this slight movement just as I reached the top. The bird, only a few yards away, simply walked off, camouflaged white against the white of the snow there, to continue its own life being itself in its own place. Confident in its environment, silent and self-contained, its presence left only a few footprints, and by the next time I was there they had vanished. No bird next time. Just silence.

Next time was after that snowstorm of 25th November, which blew fiercely from the north, and wiped out all footprints. No traces would have survived the freeze/thaw/freeze conditions that continued into December, but at least there were no prolonged westerlies with miserable driving rain. So for the hillwalker this winter has yielded many gems, not least the cloud-walking days through Christmas and the New Year. Christmas Day was totally serene up there, especially during the three hours I took away from home, a day that rose above the ordinary, stunningly beautiful above the sea of cloud that palled over Killin, an unique spectacle for those who gave the routine lunch a miss to amble in clear frosty air with only blue sky above. Boxing Day was different, with shafts of sunlight on Killin alone, the mountain ground up there being

solid with ice like concrete, requiring careful footsteps along the Tarmachan ridge, done clockwise this time from Beinn na Caillich to Meall Tarmachan, and under thin cloud on the summits.

The foundations of a snowy New Year were laid in the last days of December, and those who scampered up Sron na Clachan to watch the fireworks from above had a stumbling ascent up unconsolidated snow – at least, that was their excuse for stumbling on the snow after a couple of drinks near on midnight. New Year's Day was another cloud walking day above the snowbound and frost gripped fields around the village. Some even used skis up there. And for those who persevered for a few more days the weather remained settled, 3rd January being unbelievably calm even on the summits of the Tarmachans, as a hazy sun made its lazy arc across the southern sky. So calm and windless was it that you could not only stand and stare, but also even sit and stare, and not feel cold. Ptarmigan weather, you might say. Well I haven't seen one up there since 16 November, but that doesn't mean it is not there. Its home is up there, it is comfortable up there and in its own place there, in any weather. So I look forward to the thrill of another sighting, somewhere on the higher levels above the tree line among the rocks and ridges of the Tarmachans.

John Allen
9th January

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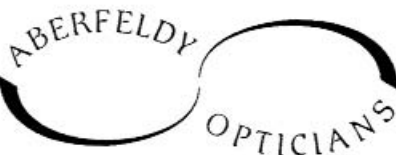
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Inversions over Killin around Christmas

Taken above the inversion from Meall nan Corranaich showing the blanket of fog below



Gary Hodgson



Gary Hodgson

Killin in an inversion with a glimpse of the sun on the hill as it disperses



Frost in Glen Lochay left behind after inversion clears



Then



Courtesy of Killin Heritage Society

Monemore c. 1931

Now



Monemore 2006

Inversion Explained

During a lifetime of frequenting The High Tops, herding and gathering sheep, deer stalking etc. one experiences a wide spectrum of weather. Gathering Ben Lawers ground - the highest grazing in the U.K. with a regular sheep stock - in order to get behind the sheep before they have started grazing, we would set off at perhaps 2am and be on the tops by 4 o'clock.

Some days would produce fierce gales which carried hail storms and fragments of scree stinging the face while one sought shelter on the arête above Coir Ladhar for possibly up to three hours, waiting for the mist to lift and the advent of the other members of the team, coming from behind The Stuib, this is in mid-June.

In contrast there were days when emerging from valley fog somewhere about the level (1800 feet) of the Hydro-Electric pipe-track and completing the two hour slog to the summit ridge, one found oneself in a world so calm that a match would burn unextinguished, with unsullied blue skies above a sea of mist covering the lower landscape through which protruded all the higher peaks. In the pristine clarity could be seen The Green Lowther in Dumfriesshire, Goat Fell in Arran, the Jura Bens, Ben Nevis lording over it all, points in the Rossshire hills and right round to the Cairngorm massif and the Lomond hills in the south east. The sun would rise over Glas Tullichan and the hills for a time would be bathed in that wonderful roseate glow peculiar to such a summer dawn. Then the spell would be broken. The faint shouts of my colleagues, the barking of the dogs chivvy along the reluctant, newly disturbed ewes and lambs. Then the sea of mist would begin to disperse, at once great pillars of dissolving vapour would rise as from a boiling cauldron, only to dissipate into the azure firmament. By the time we reached the head dyke and the fank the heat of the summer day was upon us.

At other times similar wet conditions can obtain. Should the day be calm and clear in Autumn or Winter, as soon as the sun sets, cool air rushes into valley bottoms such as Glen Dochart or Loch Tay, displacing the lighter sun-warmed air-mass. Hot air doesn't rise spontaneously but must be pushed upwards by the colder heavier air and if there is no high level blanket of cloud then there is no limit to where it can reach. This "temperature inversion" can result in readings in a deep valley bottom being lower at night than at 10,000 feet above it. Then the air cools to a temperature below "Dew-point" i.e. the point at which moisture laden air condenses, then fog can form, often in a band 400 or 500 feet in depth, with blue skies above. Should the temperature within the fog stratum fall below the freezing point, a deposit of rime can occur which when the fog disperses leaves a fairy land of frozen trees and shrubs such as occurred on 18th and 22nd November and on Christmas day of 2005. Being in the idyllic conditions above the fog can engender a feeling of privilege and even a slight superiority over those people groping their way through the claustrophobia of minimal visibility, and in the very early mornings, those that are still "snoring it out" in complete oblivion!

Mervyn K. Brown

Killin Mountain Rescue Team



Queen's Golden Jubilee Award

This award, signed by the Queen Elizabeth II, was given to the Killin Mountain Rescue Team for their voluntary work in "locating climbers and walkers in difficulties in the Killin Mountainous area". The award was presented by Mrs Marjory McLachlan the Lord-Lieutenant for Stirling and Falkirk, on Saturday, 14th January, in a ceremony outside the Mountain Rescue Team's base in Killin. The Killin Mountain Rescue Team was established in 1967 by Andrew Comrie, a local police sergeant and followed on a long tradition of support and rescue provided by local police, farmers, shepherds and gamekeepers since the 19th century.

The Killin Rescue Service reached a low in 1975 following which Sgt. Harry



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Left to right: David Heirs, Davy Fettes, John MacPherson, Teddy Inglis, Bill Rose, Kirsty Rose, Margaret McLachlan, Andy Fleming, Ian McGregor, Austin Leask, Willie Stitt, David Syme, John Morris

Lawrie and Constable Bill Rose formally recruited new members at an event in the Clachaig Hotel (now Falls of Dochart Inn). Willie Stitt, Stewart Inglis, Duncan MacDonald and John Sinclair joined at this time. November dance 2005

celebrated the thirty years since the formal founding of the service in the Clachaig Hotel. The Killin Mountain Rescue Service comprises volunteers from a wide area

vehicle in Callander was purchased out of grants and donations. Donations from the public are very welcome and necessary for development and general running expenses.

and has dealt with many serious events. The Service has developed an intricate knowledge of and familiarity with the area it covers. It provides support for walkers, climbers and any who enjoy or work on the hills. There are now over fifty volunteers. The equipment, which is of a high standard, is very expensive to purchase and maintain. The fully equipped Long Wheelbase Land Rover in Killin was donated by the Order of St John and a



David Syme and Teddy Inglis



Things have not always gone smoothly. A rescue on the 1st February 1987 led to the crash of a Wessex helicopter and it was only by the intervention of Killin Mountain Rescue Team Members that those on board were saved before the helicopter went up in flames. Sadly Sgt. Harry Lawrie was thrown out of the helicopter and fatally

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Jim Beattie

injured. Harry Lawrie received a British Empire Medal posthumously and the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct and the Central Scotland Police Medal were awarded to the Team Leader Willie Stitt and Team Member Stewart Inglis.

With the increasing interest in hill climbing, rock climbing, and walking it is important to remind those who venture on the hills that the conditions, even in summer, can change with a remarkable rapidity. It is important to wear and carry appropriate clothing and equipment. A low cloud base, high winds, snow, windchill, can cause hypothermia and disorientation. Even the most

experienced climbers can, on occasion, sustain injuries.

The Killin Mountain Rescue Team provides a remarkable service to the community and visitors. They sometimes have to go out in extremely adverse weather conditions and put their own lives at risk. Whether you use the hills for recreational purposes, are simply proud of the altruism and spirit in which these volunteers offer their services, or plan to climb Ben More, Stob Binnein, the Tarmachans, Ben Lui or Ben Ledi, please consider making a donation to support their cause. Contact W. Stitt, Team Leader, Tarmachan, Killin FK21 8TN, Tel 01567 820663.

WA

Dodgy Traders

There has been an increased number of rogue itinerant traders reported in the area recently. Unscrupulous traders sell shoddy goods or services such as roofing, tarmacking or landscaping - or simply try to get through the door to commit a crime. They will often trick and pressurise consumers into making a purchase so don't forget, if you are buying from doorstep sellers:

If you feel uncomfortable, just say no - you don't owe the salesperson anything

Take control - you ask the questions

Don't sign on the spot - take time to think and shop around

Don't buy on impulse - you won't know whether it's a good price unless you shop around

Don't get drawn into conversation about family or interests - this is a business transaction not a social call Remember, too, that Council workers always carry photographic identification. (Stirling Council can be contacted on 01786 443322 in order to check whether a person claiming to be a Council employee is genuine).

If you are threatened or bullied into

paying for work, report the matter immediately to Central Scotland Police. If you are driven to your bank by a trader to withdraw money, alert the bank staff and ask them for assistance.

Householders receiving promotional "flyers" or unsolicited visits are asked to contact Stirling Trading Standards 01786 443322 or 0845 277 7000 with descriptions of individuals, their vehicles (with registration numbers where it is safe to obtain them) and the "flyers".



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Chicken Kebab	
& Pita Bread	£5.95
Vegetable Curry	£5.50
Chilli Con Carne	£5.95
Portion Chips	£1.50

All of the above served with chips or rice
Please phone in your order for quick service

Telephone 01567 820 355



Viewed from the A9 near Tomatin the River Findhorn appears a gentle, shallow stream meandering among level pastures. It is not always thus. The Findhorn has its source far to the west, among the lonely moors of the Monadhliath Mountains. Initially it bears the name Abhainn Cro Clach or the river of the stony corrie. Passing through the Coignafearn Forest it gathers the waters of many tributary burns before flowing under the Findhorn Viaduct and past the aforementioned viewpoint. Prehistorically here was a large lake and the Findhorn then flowed northwards through the Glen of Moy to join forces with the River Nairn. However through time, a break was formed at the eastern side of this lake and the Findhorn carved a deep passage through the defile known as The Streens and then through the Findhorn Gorge eventually crossing the Laich O'Moray and into the Moray Firth. The Findhorn is notorious for its sudden and violent floods. As so often happens after a long period of drought the weather on August 3rd 1829 broke with a

vengeance. Four inches of rain, we are told, fell in 24 hours on The Cairgorm range and on The Monadhliath, accompanied by blizzards on the high tops. The Findhorn along with the Spey and other north east rivers experienced devastating floods. At Relugas, in the Findhorn Gorge, where the main river is joined by The Divie, an inscription commemorates this spate where the river reached a level of almost 50 feet above normal.

On 27th August 1829, a repeat occurrence added to the already ravaged lands of the Laich O'Moray when the waters inundated thousands of acres of flat haughland. In 1768 and 1799 Strathspey and Strathdearn (Findhorn Valley) suffered similar flood damage. In 1892, somewhat further to the north, the catchment area of the Beaully River, on the 28th January, experienced a dramatic thaw of an unusually deep snowfall. The resulting floods swept away many bridges, hitherto deemed indestructible, down stream and out to sea.

Much later, in May 1953, violent thunderstorms over the Western Highlands and Ulster caused many washouts and landslips blocking roads for days.

I include these anecdotes to highlight the fact that incidents such as we in Highland

Perthshire have experienced during the past few years – Glen Ogle, the A9 at Dunkeld, and so on – have their precedents. The old adage that "There is nothing new under the sun" would appear to hold true.

Now to Autumn 2005. The two giants Zephyr and Boreas, who between them seem to control our weather, have been sparring as usual. Zephyr, who recruits his winds from the warm Caribbean and the Azores, is usually mild in manner and produces gentle if humid conditions though at times can dish out furious if benign gales and torrential rain, as witness October and early November just past. Boreas, on the other hand, is controller of the winds of the north, emanating from Arctic and Polar regions and occasionally the frozen wastes of Siberia, although at times in summer can supply those delightful brisk days of exceptional clarity. However during the recent Autumn, Boreas has not been very active. Apart from a few brief incursions of Arctic conditions he seems to have let his sparring partner do most of the work. Now in 2006 we must wait and see whether the prognostications of the pundits for a cooler than average winter is in store. There is still time!

Mervyn K. Browne, Ardtalnaig
2nd January



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Killin Community Council

The meeting on 10th January was chaired by Pat Christie, Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman.

Notice Boards: It was agreed there was no need for another notice board, but that a covering should be put on the McLaren Hall board to prevent notices deteriorating.

Waste Skip: The skip closed early on 7th January, as it was full. Most accepted this but one man threatened to dump waste in the river. The registration of the vehicle concerned would be reported to Stirling Council along with names of other people who have been abusing the skip.

Planning: A re-application from Fairview House for replacement windows would be supported by the Council. Mr. McKee, National Park, asked to be informed if people had problems with planning. The Area Forum in Killin on 16th February would discuss planning and a list of issues for debate would be made by Charlie Grant and Alda Noble.

Businesses closing: Six businesses were or are closing down in the village and was increasingly difficult to get a tea/coffee in the village at this time of the year.

Health Matters Update: The ambulance situation is still ongoing. The Community Council agreed to give written support to the proposal that doctors surgeries operate in the evenings.

School Bus Transport: A new bus has been put on the Killin run and a further meeting is planned.

Christmas Tree/Hogmanay: Thanks were given to all involved with the arrangements for the Christmas tree and the Hogmanay fireworks which had again been a success.

Community Community money: Councils are each to be given £1,000 to support their work. Discussions would take place between Strathfillan, Killin and Balquhidder/Locheearnhead/Strathyre about further money to be spent in the area.

Litter clearing: Work is to be carried out by people doing community service and the South Loch Tay road and east and west of Lix Toll had been suggested to Stirling Council as areas which could benefit from this. It was commented that too few litter bins mean more rubbish in the countryside. The National Park and Stirling Council are doing a litter campaign for spring/summer.

School 20 mph speed limit: This is in hand.

Icy roads: There was concern about slippery surfaces in Fingal Road and the Breadalbane Park. Cllr. Finch would try to get something done about this matter.

Car-parking: A complaint was received that all day car parking prevented staff and customers getting to the Killin Laundry.

Potholes: Areas on the Glen Lochay road, Ardeonaig road, behind Bovain Farm and on the road to the doctors surgery were brought to the attention of the Community Council.

New seat: Siting of one to be gifted by

family of the late Duncan Clark was considered

Next meeting: Killin Primary School, Tuesday, 14th March 2006 at 7.30 pm.

Opportunity for Charity Funding

Local community groups and charities who need new equipment are being encouraged to apply immediately to the CFSLA Payroll Lottery for help. The lottery is run by employees and former employees of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling councils as well as Police, Fire & Assessors services.

Funds are available from the profits of a monthly lottery and the committee prefers to buy the equipment for the community group or charity. More information and forms are available to download from www.cfsla.org.uk or by telephoning or faxing 01259-211052.


Killin Sports Club

The pavilion is now available for hire for groups and private functions. These can be booked for single events or on a long-term basis. N.B. AGM will take place in February. New members welcome. Check notice boards for information on dates and membership or phone

Joe Reilly 820010
or Jill Higgins 820679



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Coming Soon

The next Safari Supper will be held on
Saturday
25th February 2006

Anyone interested in being a host for
the evening please contact

Marion 01567 820719
or
Elizabeth 01567 820667

Tickets will be available from Saturday
4th February and will be sold on a first
come first served basis -tickets cannot
be reserved in advance

Tickets £15
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Salmon Season Opening at Morenish and Auchmore



Kenny Lang

Peter Goman from Ontario



David Dowling

John Lincoln

Morenish

Bacon rolls, whisky, tea and coffee were on offer courtesy of Clive and James Booth for whom this is the last opening they will host as they will sell their business this year. It's a good opportunity to thank them for their generous hosting and managing of the Salmon Fishing Opening over the time they have been in Morenish.

The loch level was too high to expect good catches but the rain held off for the first part of the day. Roger Sharp, the piper, gave the traditional introduction to the ceremony and thin cloud cover allowed an unaccustomed early morning light as the Reverend Ladd Fagerson delivered his address and blessing. The first boats soon ploughed their furrows out into Loch Tay for what is hoped to be a very successful season. **WA**

Auchmore

Mud and water underfoot did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd, who enjoyed hotdogs, beer and whisky, courtesy of the visitors from Germany and Grouse. After a blessing from the Rev. John Lincoln, eight boats left with hopes of catching salmon despite the conditions. **MM**

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Killin School Notice Board

Christmas Assembly

On Tuesday 20th December 2005 we had our Christmas Assembly. Lots of parents and visitors came to watch us. Primary 1 & 2 acted out the Nativity play and the other classes sung Christmas carols in between. The staff told everyone a poem and at the end said "Merry Christmas to you all". Mr Lincoln told us about the children who are too poor to have a Christmas Assembly like us. All the parents enjoyed it and we had great fun learning all the songs.
By Catherine Allan

Jamie the Magician

Jamie the magician came to Killin Primary School on the 22/12/05. He entertained the whole school for an hour and did well at it for he got the kids to join in. He did tricks and stories. The first trick he did was a ball trick, a foam ball that was a red colour. Jamie told us it was a reindeer's nose. He turned it green and split it in half. This is just one of the tricks he did; he did loads and never bored anyone. I hope he comes back soon as his magic was great.
By Katie Holden P6

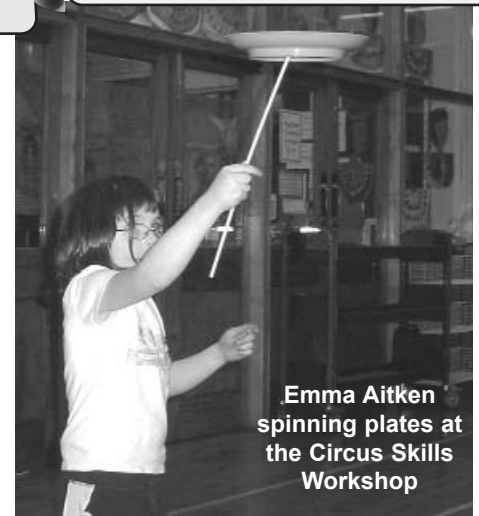
Sheltered Houses

On Friday 16th December Primary 6/7 from Killin Primary School entertained the residents of the Sheltered Houses round near the Doctors Surgery. We sang Do you Hear what I Hear? and the Christmas Children. Some other people played the Recorder and the Violin. Camilla Tigwell and Ishbel Taylor even did some Highland Dancing. At the end we gave each resident a card and a handmade gift. We all got some sweets and a drink from them. I am sure they all enjoyed it as much as we did.
By Laura Aitken P7

On 16th December, P6/7 went to the sheltered housing to entertain the old people with our singing, Highland dancing, violin and recorders. The songs we sang were Do You Hear What I Hear and Christmas Children. The highland dancers were Ishbel Taylor and Camilla Tigwell. The violinist was Camilla Tigwell and the recorders were Katie Holden, Stuart Berrow, Skye Farmer, Laura Aitken and Jinny Dowling.

The Christmas Fayre

On the 2nd December we had a Christmas Fayre. There was a P1/2 stall, a P4/4/5 stall, a P6/7 stall, and Hobbies club stall, a tombola, a toy stall, a book stall, a raffle, a guess the weight of the cake stall & a Soap Stall. There was also mulled wine & shortbread available. The school raised the grand total of £308.29 & the PTA raised £600.33



Emma Aitken
spinning plates at
the Circus Skills
Workshop

Reflexology

In Reflexology the feet are a map of the body. Working these reflexes with alternate pressure from the thumb and forefinger stimulates the body's own healing system and thus holistically rebalances the body for better health.

Reflexology may help chronic or acute illnesses and muscular sprains and strains.

Gill Hunt

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Homer

Homes and Gardens

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Lots of fun and romance at Homer in February!

**Join us for Sparkling Wine, Cake and Chocolate on
Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th of February!**



The Old Mill Barn, Mill Street, Aberfeldy, PH15 2BT
Tel: 01887 820 802 - Web: www.athomer.co.uk

LIVE @ LAWERS

The Ben Lawers Hotel is now the only Hotel between Killin and Kenmore on the North side of Loch Tay. It has long been a favourite stopping-off point and watering hole for folk passing by, whether after a days climbing the nearby mountains or just breaking a long journey East to West.

The owners, Ian and Sián Hitchins, have spent the last nine years building the business up and bringing up their brood of four youngsters. The Hotel now has a fine reputation for good food and a friendly atmosphere.

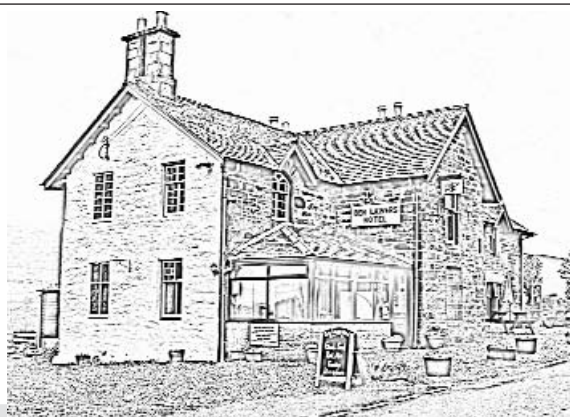
Over the last winter the couple

Open All Year

have taken a well deserved break from the day-to-day running of the Hotel. Normally, the Hotel has closed from November to March, with the exception of weekends. This year, however, two of the Hotel regulars, both with business and hospitality experience, volunteered to run the Hotel for three months.

There were a number of reasons for this: there is no other focal point in the Lawers area and the Hotel generates some sort of sense of Community; there are a number of local youngsters who rely on having work in the Hotel at weekends; keeping the Hotel open keeps the fabric of the building warm and lastly, if the Hotel is open all year, it is less confusing for locals who never need to be unsure of whether it is open or not. The couple who have been

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running the Hotel, Katy and

Music Nights

Dolan, are musicians and were keen to try out Live Music Nights in the Bar. A number of musicians from the Loch-side and further afield have been along to perform on a Friday or Saturday night and the response, generally, has been good.

LIVE @ LAWERS plans to continue with Live Music at Weekends

The line up for each month can usually be found in The Quair, Comment or Killin News. In addition, posters are distributed monthly from Aberfeldy to Killin.

There are also plans to organise and run **music workshops** and **fun days for adults and kids**, starting in the Easter Holidays. Watch this space!

If you would like more information, have any good ideas or would like to come and perform at the Hotel, please phone on 01567 820436 or email us at info@benlawershotel.co.uk Remember the 1st Sunday of the month is Open Session night 8.30pm

The Open Session Night

This is like a Kitchen Ceilidh and brings together many local musicians who just get together and play for fun. Anyone is welcome to join in - there are no rules, other than instruments should be acoustic. We play a variety of music although mostly traditional and contemporary Scottish and Irish tunes. **Singers, Storytellers, Children and well-behaved dogs also welcome!**

A Treasure of a Panto!

In January the Killin Drama Club presented their eleventh consecutive pantomime. This year's production, Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure story *Treasure Island* was adapted for the stage by Lesley Syme. As ever, the Drama Club excelled themselves. A mixture of old and new faces put on a fantastic show. Confident and strong performances from all the usual suspects were complimented by some very impressive debuts.

The story, naturally, diverged from the original in several significant respects. Myrica Reid playing our hero, Jim Hawkins, was predictably lumbered with a mother, Dame Hilarity, played by Glenda Mardon, and a 'love interest' in the shape of Nancy Livesey, played by Suzanne McAlpine.

The baddies of the piece, a fearsome and mutinous rabble of cut-throat pirates, were ably commanded by drama club veteran Gill Hunt as Long John Silver, with Tam Bolton as Captain Smollett leading the goodies. New members Suzanne McAlpine and Lois Barnes, who played Nancy's father, Doctor Livesey, were outstanding and we expect great things from them in the future. Best of all were the children playing both goodies and baddies with their customary style and enthusiasm. Once again they stole the show, with particularly impressive performances from Luke Melia as Blind Pew, and the Dowling sisters in the mop drill.

If we were to make one small criticism, it would be that there was a bit less audience participation than in previous years, and some of the usual devices, such as "Yes it is. No it's not", were not as fully exploited as they might have been. That said, *Treasure Island* was a remarkably slick and polished performance, an absolute delight to watch, and a credit to the cast and crew, and to Killin.

Andy Aitken

Technical Controllers

This quiet little village really comes to life in its Drama productions. For some years the Drama Club has extended its vision, training and development to the extent that it would be difficult to believe it is not a professional production. Its popularity was born out by the shortage of available seats. Could it be that people come from far and wide to see the shows? The stage design, set changes, and co-ordination were all first class. The backdrops were so well designed as to give the impression of being three dimensional. The fluorescent fish, mermaids, rotating lights and patterns all added to the surreal scene and atmosphere. I was invited to visit the hub of this wizardry, where the electronics interfaced with the events on-stage and was surprised to see three large contraptions, controlled by Gregor Mackenzie, Jamie Hunt and Douglas McRobbie, each looking like the controls in a professional recording studio. Two controlled lights and effects and one programmed sound. Each scene had been programmed in and the operators' skill was to match the timing to the action on the stage, making lights, colours and patterns whirl in sequence or independently. The pre-programming itself requires hours of work and research before it is co-ordinated with the action on stage. It may not be 'professional' in the true meaning of the word but it certainly achieves that standard in the way it supports the panto. **WA**

A Recent Experience

The panto was called *Treasure Island*. It was really exciting because my cousin was in it. When we got there, there were lots of people buying plastic swords and eye patches with the Jolly Roger flag on them and then it all began. Everyone sat down and the pantomime began. I was really excited as the lights went down wondering what was going to happen first. A lot of people were on stage and then Mrs Chisholm started to play the piano and the sailors all started to sing very loudly. A woman introduced herself as Mrs Hawkins and said, "I don't like people having fun and enjoying themselves". They all went off stage. The woman put a sign up saying "Room to Rent". A man came in with a recycling bin marked *Treasure Chest*. After that a man came in and gave him the "black spot". He was so terrified he ran away. I wondered what he was afraid of. My favourite bit was when the cannibals came down the hall to the beat of a drum. It was quite creepy. They were dressed all in black and had masks with patterns on them. Their grass skirts were really cool. I wondered what they might do when they arrived on the stage. No cooking pot alas! It was a brilliant panto.

Andrew Clement
Primary 7
Crianlarich School



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Designed by Gregor MacKenzie



Streathfillan Community Development Trust

The Board of Directors and the staff of the Strathfillan Community Development Trust would like to wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all the Killin News readers.

Tyndrum Woodlands

Now that we have permission from the Scottish Executive to go ahead with the community purchase of the woodland, we are knee deep in funding application forms! Our largest funding application will be to the Scottish Land Fund, part of the Big Lottery Fund. The Trust is happy to share our experience of community land purchase, good and bad, with other groups planning to do the same.

Tyndrum Kickaround

I'm delighted to report that the Kickaround pitch is now completed. Sadly, the recent wet weather hasn't allowed much play, but that hasn't stopped some die-hards having some fun. We plan to have a proper opening ceremony in the Spring. Although this

project has been "on the books" for what seems a long time, it has taken almost exactly one year from start to finish. Our thanks go to all those involved, Colin McKay from Stirling Council, Deirdre McKenzie, the Trust Director of the working group, our contractor David Burton and not least, all the children and their parents who helped make it happen.

Tyndrum Village Hall

Our grateful thanks go to Mr Ian Cleaver of Highland Heritage Hotels who has kindly donated 40 new (to us) chairs for the hall. His programme of refurbishment has produced a very positive spin-off for us and all who use the hall, and is a great example of recycling locally. Does anyone out there need some black vinyl stacking chairs? Give us a call.

BVLC (Internet Cafe)

The Internet Café continues to provide its excellent services on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am - 4pm. Increased numbers of visitors to the Cafe have come through the West Highland Way website - a service which is much appreciated by the many walkers.

Café Sci

Originating in France, the aim is to give communities the opportunity to learn about science in a friendly and informal

atmosphere. Tea, coffee or a glass of wine and nibbles are available for a small donation.

Wed.22nd March 2006 -

What is cancer? (Irvine Delamore MB ChB PhD FRCP FRCPath - a consultant from Manchester Royal Infirmary)
There can hardly be a reader who has not been touched by this cruel disease, so we expect there will be a big demand for places, so please reserve your seat early. Further information - 01838 400 545 - Joyce or Gwyneth.
(strathfillancdt@onetel.com)

Christmas Trees

In early December, our Woodland Officer Bill Scott came up with the idea of providing Christmas Trees locally. It was decided to cut self-seeding Sitka Spruce of various sizes and offer them to the locals in exchange for a donation. We advertised in Tyndrum and Crianlarich by poster and leaflet drop and set up our stall in Crianlarich. In just a couple of hours we had raised £85, which we in turn donated to the local Lunch Club and the Youth Group. Flushed with our success we are now planning something bigger for next Christmas - potted trees, carol-singing, mince pies and mulled wine and maybe even Santa himself! Many thanks to Bill and Gwyneth and all those who came along on the day.

Board Meeting

The new Board of Directors met for the first time on 17th January. After years of selfless dedication, inspiration, hard work and sheer bloody-mindedness, John Riley has stood down as Chairman of the Board. In recognition of his hard work, the Board of Directors asked John to

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Open All Year Round

Three Vacancies Strathfillan Community Council

We are looking for members of the local Strathfillan community to join the team, to be co-opted on to the Council to help in the running of rural life of the Community
No previous experience needed
Help will be given
For more information please get in touch with the Secretary

Moira Robertson
3 Glenfalloch Road
Crianlarich
Tel 01838 300 296
E-mail: moirarob@onetel.net.uk

Strathfillan - "By The Way"

become Honorary President of the Board. Happily he accepted, so he hasn't escaped completely! No doubt we will be seeking John's help and advice often. We all wish him well with his plans for the future.

Our new Board of Directors

Chairperson

Effie Crompton from Tyndrum

Vice-Chair

Deirdre McKenzie from Dalrigh

Finance Director

Alan Smailes from Crianlarich

Groups

Theresa Elliot Housing.

Mary Anderson Housing.

John Goodale Woodland.

Jim Kinnell Strathfillan Activities.

Lamond Gosden Village Hall- Associate Director

Gordon Gaughan Strathfillan Activities.

Tom Reynolds Strathfillan Activities.

Tony Finch Associate Director

Gwyneth and I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors and wish them well in all their future endeavours. (But be warned, we don't stand for any nonsense!)

Joyce Russell
Development Officer

Strathfillan Community Council 9th January

Community Council Membership

There are now only 7 Community Councillors, which is the minimum number. Members are to actively campaign for new members to be co-opted. It was suggested that someone from south or east of Crianlarich and from the Tourist Association be asked.

Test Census

The General Registry Office for Scotland is carrying out a test census in selected parts of Scotland including Strathfillan. This is voluntary, but a good response is expected. 3 new questions are proposed and the information received will help ensure the 2011 Census runs smoothly. Census Enumerators are being recruited. Contact 0131 314 4638 or email Census.recruitment@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

£1000 for each Community Council

All CCs in the area are to receive £1000 to further projects in their area. A further £30,000 will go to the Area Community Planning Forum for projects in the Breadalbane area. It was agreed to discuss this with other CCs in the area.

Litter Pick-up

The litter pick-up arranged by Effie Crompton and Gwyneth Scott was attended by about 20 people. People

carrying out Community Service Orders are used for litter pick-ups and when they worked alongside community volunteers in Lochearnhead, this proved very satisfactory. The environment group will take this forward.

Housing

The Local Estate Action Plan [LEAP] budget has paid for removal of trees at Tyndrum Terrace and Glenfalloch Road. Crianlarich projects have to be on land belonging to the housing department of Stirling Council.

Lower Station Yard

A meeting has been arranged to apply for funding for the Lower Station Yard Project. The group has been enlarged to involve several young people.

Cleansing Department

The Cleansing Department of Stirling Council has been put out to tender for both rural and urban areas.

John Riley has not made much progress in trying to get commercial waste recycled in the area north of Callander.

Silver Award for eco-schools

Ranger Gavin Skipper is helping Crianlarich Primary School to work towards a Silver Award for Eco-Schools. The playground now has wooden frogs and chickens seats.

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Strathfillan - "By The Way"

Strathfillan are working with other interested parties to try to find solutions to the behaviour problems of some pupils on school transport and the condition and safety of the vehicles provided.

Discussion paper

John Riley, Joyce Russell and Moira Robertson are meeting to discuss a response to the discussion paper 'What can we do to help CCs fulfil their role?' issued by the Scottish Executive.

Next Meeting Monday 13th February 2006 at 7.30pm in Crianlarich Village Hall.

West Highland Way Development Forum

The second leg of the West Highland Way Management Development Forum (members of the West Highland Way management team and the accommodation and service providers along the Way) was held in Tyndrum village hall on Wednesday 18th January. A presentation was followed by a ten minute preview of the new West Highland Way DVD and video and by a

second on the business opportunities along the way to join in the 'Green Tourism Business Scheme'.

The Glasgow Herald recently suggested that a charge be levied on West Highland Way walkers. This was discussed in the open forum and Gill Cox, the WHW Development Manager, stated that comments made to the Herald about maintenance costs had been taken out of context and there were no plans to levy a charge on walkers.

Various suggestions were made including the formation of an Association of West Highland Way Service and Accommodation providers which would allow the business community a voice in WHW Management/Development matters. A second suggestion was for the creation of a 'Friends of the West Highland Way' society, which would enable walkers and businesses to contribute to the 'wellbeing' of the Way. It was emphasised that this idea was very much in its infancy but it was felt that a large number of both walkers and businesses would voluntarily contribute towards its future upkeep and development.

Debate is needed before any progress can be made. Killin News will keep our readers informed of this.

Jim Kinnell

Strathfillan Community Path Network

The Strathfillan Paths Group that was formed after the initial public consultation, in June 2004, are pleased to announce a second drop-in session to view the proposed plans for a new Strathfillan Path Network. The group, working with various landowners, have nominated a series of paths, some well established, others that require upgrading and some that need construction from scratch. We are keen to receive feedback from the local community so please come along to view the plans, fill in the questionnaire and let us know what you think of the proposed routes. What route do you regard as a priority? Have we catered for your needs? Do you have a suggestion for a path that has been omitted?

Turn up to find out more, hope to see you soon!

Saturday 18th February 2006.

Drop - in Session. Tea and Coffee.

Crianlarich Village Hall. 1 - 4 pm

Tyndrum Village Hall. 6 - 9 pm

**Gavin Skipper
Breadalbane Area Ranger**

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CHAS



The Green Welly Stop would like to sincerely thank all of their customers and suppliers for their generosity during this years Christmas charity fundraising week. This annual event has been running for several years. This year donations totalling Seven Hundred and Seventy pounds were collected on behalf of CHAS, the Children's Hospice Association. The money will go directly to the Association's Robin House in Balloch, a very special place for children with life limiting conditions and their families.

The Magic Roundabout

I should really know better. Every year I make a New Year resolution and consider very carefully which of my many weaknesses would benefit from more determined resolve. Sometimes it lasts for several months, sometimes for several weeks and if it's a bad year, only for a few days. This was a bad year. My New Year resolution was to become less cynical. All was going smoothly for the first day of 2006 but on day two I drove down Loch Lomondside to Glasgow. Now that in itself shouldn't be a problem, and indeed it wasn't until I reached the new National Park Gateway roundabout at Balloch. What is that all about? To my, admittedly untrained, uncultured, non-artistic, eye it looked as if someone bought a job lot of 'Blackpool Illumination' cast-offs (without the illumination) and nailed them to some old railway sleepers. I half expected to see it moving slowly round with Dougal and Zebedee on board, but in truth (considering the upheaval, roadworks and resultant traffic delays) it's more of a Tragic than a Magic Roundabout. I wonder how much it cost and who really believes it is a fitting Gateway to the National Park.

Who was fooled completely when being told of its artistic merits; who nodded sagely? Who voted for it? I suspect if Hans Christian Andersen's wee boy who 'exposed' The Emperor's New Clothes had been at the committee meeting he would have rolled about the floor in absolute hysterics. I tried to imagine the moment when the Park high heid-yins chose the design. I tried to imagine the reasoning behind it, the rational, well-informed and intelligent discussion of the merits of post-modernism sculpture embodying the essence of the history, ethos and cultural heritage of the National Park and then my baser instincts took over. I wondered if the sculptor was simply a friend or relative of someone on 'the selection committee'. At that point my 2006 New Year 'less cynical' resolution bit the dust. I will definitely have to think of an easier resolution for next year.

Yours, Self confessed,

Phil I Stine

(Name and address supplied)



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The Internet Café, Tyndrum



It is 18 months since the Café opened. Soon there will be one in Killin (McLaren Hall) and one in Lochearnhead (Village Hall).

All sorts of people drop in to Tyndrum with different IT needs. Overseas visitors walking the West Highland Way want to access emails or to download pictures from digital cameras; hotel staff require email facilities and access to a photo printer & scanner; locals want or need to come up to date with commerce through college courses. Schoolchildren can also play games or download music to their MP3 players. The Café has a friendly atmosphere and tea and coffee are available to coax folk in from the cold and wet.

Julie Rhys

The difference it has made to us

My friend and I came down to Tyndrum when the Internet Cafe first opened. I was a total beginner so just finding out how to use a mouse was a great achievement. Felix had done a course at Strathyre but had to do some catching up. Through attending the Internet Café, we became confident with the PC and attended the

course on Digital Photography, which, although not long enough, really whetted our appetite and kept our interest in digital photography growing so we became confident enough to buy our own cameras and PCs. Living in a remote location it has also proven to be a great place to meet new friends who we can now email, something we could never have done before. Having facilities such as this has opened up a whole new world for us.

Annette Gray and Felix Aitken
Achallader, Bridge of Orchy

(In December, Annette produced her own Calendars, using her own scenic pictures taken on her digital camera. A marvellous achievement considering her lack of confidence only a year ago. JR)

I started the ECDL course in Strathyre but unfortunately the Learning Centre closed and I thought I'd lost the chance to continue until I found the Internet Café. I have a wonderful time and have met so many nice people. We chat over a cup of coffee and catch up with each other's lives. We share computer problems and can now fix things for each other - something I would never have attempted before. I too have bought a new PC and digital camera and am enjoying taking pictures of the family and sending them to relatives in France.

Michele MacLennan
Glen Orchy

Brownies & Guides Christmas Post

A big thank you to all those Brownies, Guides and parents who helped sort and deliver cards around the village before Christmas. We raised an amazing £259 this year to be split equally between Brownies & Guides.

Thank you to everyone in the village who gave us their cards to post and to Kay, Dougie & Liz for providing collection points. This is currently the only fundraiser we do during the year so it's very important to us. This service will be repeated next year!

Fiona, Julie, Linda & Isla

Killin SWRI

December 2005

An excellent demonstration of cookery using Christmas leftovers and useful recipes was given by Steve and Sarah Wolsey of the Real Foof Café. All enjoyed sampling the end results particularly the Hot Tea Punch!

January 2006

32 members enjoyed an excellent meal at Cruachan Restaurant to celebrate the 82nd birthday followed by charades which provided great amusement and entertainment. The birthday cake was cut by our guest from Canada, Marion MacGregor. (see opposite)

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Marion MacGregor

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Across the Globe



Moira Robertson with the Killin News at Bluff in New Zealand. Bluff is as far south as you can go on the South Island.

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Frost Report



Winter Work

Mid January is a testing time for wildlife. The deer are looking for any opportunity to find extra sustenance. Although the snow cover has not lasted long so far, the weather has been extremely wet and wet coats do not retain heat well. We have spent most of today lifting and re-installing pheasant feeders, which the deer overturned while trying to get a juicy bite of corn. A deer's coat is well adapted for insulation with specially spiralled hollow hairs, which trap air. Many small birds depend on 'freebies' at the pheasant feeders and feed rides. Occasionally, on milder days, the chattering and scolding of red squirrels carrying out raids on the corn bins can be heard from a good distance. Those of you with bird tables will notice a rise in tourism as well. Feed rides are paths between bushes where straw is laid and sprinkled with corn to encourage the pheasants to stay around and not wander too far away. My son has a couple of 'pet' or 'cheeky' cock pheasants who follow his quad on the feeding rounds, come up to peck at his boots, display their wattles and chatter. Maybe they are just disappointed that they didn't get a quad for Christmas – or is it the green wellies? It is thanks to pheasant shooting and rearing that wild

birds not only have freeby food but also their habitat as many ancient broadleaf woods have been preserved over the years for this precise purpose.

It is interesting to see how the odd little 'jenny' wren can be disturbed from a tiny nook under an overhanging fern or a heather root at the side of a hill burn, sometimes 1500 feet up. Presumably living off insects, which do not hide or hibernate in the winter as she flits back and forth in front of you up the burn. On the subject of birds – if you keep 50 or more on commercial premises including pheasant shoots, you are legally required by 28th February 2006 to register with D.E.F.R.A. (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to try to prevent outbreaks of bird flu and reduce the impact should an outbreak occur.

We, like almost everyone it seems, are back on the exam bandwagon. Stalkers and keepers now have to obtain a trained hunter's certificate for both large and small game. I expect that I will need a beardnet as well as a hairnet when working in the larder in order to be certified. (Yes, I know that there are those who think I should have been certified years ago.)

Over the years of taking guests stalking you meet many who are involved in wildlife management and conservation. It

causes concern that some lack knowledge and experience and are more interested in one-upmanship. Interviewed on Landward last week Ronnie Rose expressed concern that many societies are membership-led by members from an urban environment with little knowledge or understanding of rural life. He states that habitat, positive management and vision, the three key ingredients for true conservation, are the only way to preserve our grandchildren's wildlife heritage.

A deer count is soon to be undertaken by the local (Breadalbane) management group. Some areas have used helicopters and digital photography and a guy immune to air sickness while hanging out of the helicopter door and looking through a camera. Research is under way in the use of heat-seeking imaging equipment to count deer in woodland. It is thought that it may be possible to sex them by the different levels of heat emitted. It is also believed that species other than deer may be detected in the undergrowth! This year our dung count is being undertaken on foot. An accurate count is needed to gauge the number of stags and hinds to be culled. This will entail a great deal of wear and tear on boot leather, telescopes, pencils, notepads and stalkers' patience. Maybe reminiscent of a visit by Queen Victoria when every stalker in Scotland was reputed to have been instructed to drive deer from all corners of the land to a central area so that her Majesty could have the pleasure of such a magnificent sight. And however ill thought this was, what a truly remarkable event it must have been with glens resembling the migrations of The Serengeti. A sight not soon forgotten! I don't think the local farmers would be overjoyed.

Tim Frost

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National Park

Helping endangered Black Grouse

The fastest declining bird in Britain is to get a helping hand thanks to a joint initiative by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, RSPB Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. Black grouse have declined rapidly across the UK and these three organisations are working together to help land managers and black grouse in central Scotland, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The initiative will fund visits by ecological consultants to the managers of important black grouse areas so that they can develop positive management plans for their land. Alan Bell, ecologist for Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park said that, like their cousins the capercaillie, black grouse have suffered a huge decline in the last few decades. We know from projects elsewhere in the UK that conservation work by land managers can turn that around. This project will help land owners to make a real difference for black grouse along the east side of the National Park.

Black grouse are found mainly in areas of upland moorland and hill farms, often near forestry plantations. Positive management of these areas could include the promotion of low intensity mixed farming, a reduction in grazing intensity, the marking or removal of deer fencing, the management of the deer population and the introduction of more sympathetic forest management.

Habitat losses and overgrazing have resulted in severe population declines which make this bird a Red List species. Scotland is home to two thirds of the UK's black grouse, but a new UK survey estimated the number of displaying males fell by 29% over the last decade. Local surveys across central Scotland suggest

the decline has been even more extreme, at roughly 35% in the last five years.

Ruth Crosbie

Public Relations Officer, Loch Lomond
& The Trossachs National Park
Direct dial 01389 722016
email
ruth.crosbie@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Killin Paths Leaflet Hot off the press.....

The Killin Paths leaflet should now be available at various tourism establishments and the local library. Local paths with something for everyone, residents, visitors, walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, dog walkers, buggy pushers and joggers, to help you to be more active and healthy to enjoy the countryside and the National Park's special qualities.

The four main routes that have evolved through consultation and negotiation with the local landowners are the Acharn Forest, the Auchmore circuit, Sron a' Chlachain and the Heritage route around the village. The paths will take you through a variety of

landscapes from woodland to riverside, open hill to lochside. They include many points of local interest, such as Fingal's Stone, Breadalbane Folklore Centre, views of Loch Tay and the hills of Glen Dochart. There are many different lengths of walk or ride and surface types to suit most people.

The leaflet was developed with the help of the local community, working with the National Park Ranger Service. Particular thanks are due to the Environmental Action Killin (EAK) group, Killin Heritage Society and to local landowners

over whose land many of the paths cross. This leaflet is the first stage in an ongoing project to do with the paths in and around Killin. During the summer it is hoped to install some signage to complement the leaflet and in the long term there might be an opportunity, depending on funding, to extend the path network. This leaflet is the first in a series of "park paths" promoting opportunities to travel around the National Park on its extensive network of paths.

Gavin Skipper



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National Park

Park Plan Update

2006 is a very important year for the National Park. It is the year when the Park Plan will finally be topped, tailed and see the light of day. It will show exactly what is proposed for the next five years and set the base marks for the Park wide Local Plan which will be prepared for local consultation within the next eighteen months. In some respects the Local Plan has a far more immediate influence on local communities because it is the guiding light on development control ie. planning permission for that new house etc. In that respect it is fortuitous that new Planning Laws are currently being considered by the Scottish Executive who hope to have the new legislation in place for 2007, a happy coincidence.

It is often difficult to be pleased and excited about a new development at the other end of the Park when you are constantly trying to attract new developments here, but I am excited by the proposed new HQ to be built in Balloch. The decision to base the HQ in Balloch was taken a couple of years ago but it is only recently that the site and the funding was given approval by the

Scottish Executive. I attended a meeting with the design consultants last week and was very impressed with the plans. Firstly it will be a delightful building to work in (the staff have and are being consulted all the way) and will be in stark contrast to the Portacabins in which the staff are currently housed. The structure will be built predominately with local wood, some element of stone cladding and will incorporate as many energy saving devices as possible. It will be heated by a wood chip system supplied from our local woodlands. I am confident that it will be an exemplar for other developments not only in the Park but across Scotland as a whole. If you have questions, suggestions or problems concerning National Park Issues please contact me.

Owen McKee

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owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

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Red Tails in the Sunset

Living as we do in one of the UK's most scenic areas we tend to take our wildlife for granted but our little friend the native Red Squirrel (*Sciurus Vulgaris*) looks likely to need a great deal of help from us in order to survive. At first sight this would seem to be an ironical situation since in the early 1900s the Red Squirrel had increased in numbers to such a degree that it was regarded in Scotland as a forest pest. Records show that in the 15 years up to 1917 the Highland Squirrel Club killed 60,450 Red Squirrels, with 1907 showing 7,199 having been killed. The present overall UK population of Red Squirrels is in the region of 145,000, of which Scotland has 75%. So, what is the problem? The recent reliable reports of sightings of Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus Carolinensis*) in the Lochearnhead and Aberfeldy area must surely set off alarm bells to anyone having the smallest interest in the future of our native Red Squirrel. Introduced to the United Kingdom from North America in the late 1800s, the Grey Squirrel presents a very real threat to our local and native Red and must not be underestimated. Locally, our Red Squirrel population already faces threat from: Road Kills; Domestic Cats; Food Shortage; Avian predators, including more recently the buzzard which has increased greatly in numbers in and around Loch Tayside. However, these threats will pale into insignificance should a virus carried by the Grey Squirrel get into our Red Squirrel population. Although, Grey Squirrels are virtually immune to the effects of squirrel pox, they carry the virus and transmit it to the native Red, sending Red populations into freefall. Academics have already predicted that it is only a matter of time before the killer pox reaches Scotland with devastating consequences for our native species. Having contracted the virus, the Red Squirrel succumbs very quickly and will generally die within ten days. In England, where Red Squirrel numbers have been decimated by the Grey, a last ditch attempt was launched in November 2005 in an endeavour to save the Red from total extinction. In this scheme, no go areas have been introduced. These areas surround 16 of the Reds' last outposts in Merseyside, North Yorkshire, Northumberland and Cumbria. Greys that enter three mile exclusion zone around these core Red reserves face extermination by trapping or shooting.

In Scotland, the 'Scottish Squirrel Survey' is underway and will, hopefully, identify all areas of woodland where our native Reds proliferate and will also identify the danger zones where the introduced Grey may be gaining access. Like so many surveys, the 'Scottish Squirrel Survey' is very much dependant upon help from the general public. This will be used to evaluate the present predicament of our Native Red Squirrel and to determine the fate of the introduced Grey sub species. (see Contact numbers below) The European Squirrel Initiative states "There is only one way to save the Red Squirrel and restore it to British woodlands thereby protecting our native trees and wildlife. The Grey Squirrel must be removed entirely from Britain and Ireland". This solution is a drastic one but has been scientifically proven to be the only realistic one. The good news from the European Squirrel Initiative is that researchers believe that they have found a humane, non-lethal method of doing this by immuno-contraception (IMC). At the moment the British research project urgently needs funding to explore this solution further and



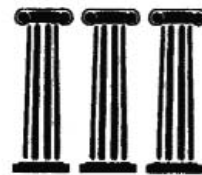
it is hoped that the European Commission will view this work as a priority. Be vigilant, and report any sightings in our area of the introduced Grey Squirrel immediately to one or other of the Red Squirrel Groups, to the Killin News Office or to one of the local gamekeepers, or even to the writer if you so wish! Be sure to record the exact location of the Grey in your report. Appropriate action can then be taken to dispose of the unwanted Grey Squirrel humanely.



Contacts for the Red Squirrel Survey:

The Perthshire & Kinross Red Squirrel Group, Tel 01250 872710 or 07880 90642
Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Red Squirrel Working Party 01567 830430
or gavin.skipper@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Colin Scott



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Congratulations

Married at
Park Circus
Registrars
Office
Glasgow on
Friday
December 30th
December,
David
Hutchison and
Amy Fleming.
David lived in
Killin from
1981 - 1987 and is Grandson of the late Jock and Cathie
Campbell of Fingal Road



Audrey
Campbell of
Stewart Road
became a Great
Great Grand
Mother for the
second time in
October 2005.
Audrey is
pictured here
with latest Great
Great Grandchild
and family



Five Generations

Golden Wedding Surprise



We were absolutely speechless on the evening of 29th December, when we were supposed to be going to Rhona's house at Fingal Road for wine and nibbles with the family, to be driven instead to McLaren Hall. What a big surprise to be greeted by so many friends and family who made it a wonderful evening for us. We thank everybody for joining us and for the many lovely gifts we received. We were overwhelmed. A big thank you to all.
Helen and Gordon MacGregor

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Graduation



Ross McAllister, son of Morag and Eric and Grandson of Audrey Campbell, graduated from the University of Glasgow as Master of Arts with honours in Philosophy

The Law of Echoes

A young lad lived with his grandfather high up in the Swiss Alps. Often, just to hear the sound of his voice echoing back to him, he would go outside, cup his hands around his mouth, and shout, "Hello". Up from the canyons the reply reverberated, "Hello, hello...hello." Then he would call out, "I love you... I love you...I love you..."

One day the boy misbehaved and his grandfather sharply rebuked him. Reacting angrily, the child yelled, "I hate you". To his surprise, the boulders across the mountainside responded in kind: "I hate you...I hate you... I hate you..."

Now this is true throughout life. We get in return exactly what we give. It all comes back. The results are often embarrassing, or even tragic.

Luke tells us Jesus once said: "Treat men exactly as you like them to treat you. Don't judge other people and you will not be judged yourselves. Don't condemn and you will not be condemned. Make allowances for others and people will make allowances for you. Give and men will give to you. For whatever measure you use with other people, they will use in their dealing with you."

(Luke 6: 31, 37-38 - Phillips translation). We might call it the law of echoes.

Tennyson wrote: "Our echoes roll from soul to soul and grow forever and forever." Whatever you deposit in the echo bank, you will draw in return, sometimes with interest.

Charles Windoll tells us the delightful story of a student who was sitting at her second floor window when she was handed a letter from home. As she opened the letter, a new ten pound note fell out. She was pleasantly surprised, but as she read the letter her eyes were distracted by the movement of a shabbily dressed stranger down below the building. She couldn't get him out of her mind. Thinking that he might be in greater financial need than she, she slipped the ten pounds into an envelope on which she quickly wrote "Don't despair". She threw it out of the window. The stranger below picked it up, read it, looked up, and smiled as he tipped his hat and went away.

The next day she was about to leave the house when a knock came at the door. She found the same shabbily dressed man smiling as he handed her a sheaf of bank notes. When she asked what they were for, he replied: "That's the sixty pounds you won, lady. 'Don't despair' paid five to one."

J.L.L. Fagerson

Back to school for fun!

In December 1990, my husband, Brian, and I came to Balquhider, setting up a stalking/training business. We retired four years ago and came to live on Auchessan Estate. Life was great and, for the first time in our married life, I had TIME! In 2004 I went to Killin School to ask about their newspaper collection point and was welcomed by Sandra McKellar, the Secretary, who found two boys to help me. Finding myself in a school environment and having been a teacher for many years, on the spur of the moment I asked if the school ever had, or needed, volunteers to help pupils with reading. I was taken straight away to meet Sandra Logan, the Head Teacher, who put me in touch with the Retired Senior Volunteer Programme in Stirling (R.S.V.P.). After going through disclosure and other formalities, that August I started helping Mrs. Frost with Primary 1 & 2 one morning a week, now one day. How I have loved being back among these small people and at the end of the day having no paperwork to do! I'm working with the age group I really enjoy and the staff are a great bunch who have made me feel so welcome and also that I can help. In a group last year we were discussing the story of The Old Woman Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle. Unsurprisingly she's thoroughly discontented. A fairy then helps her to try other 'upwardly mobile' homes but she finds fault with them all so the fairy returns her to her bottle.

Mrs. H: I don't think I'd like a bottle home, would you?

Children: No, horrible!

Small Girl: It would be better if it was a wine bottle.

Others (unsure): Well, maybe.

Mrs. H: Have you tasted wine?

Various children: Just a drop. Didn't like it!

Small boy: You wouldn't know, Mrs.

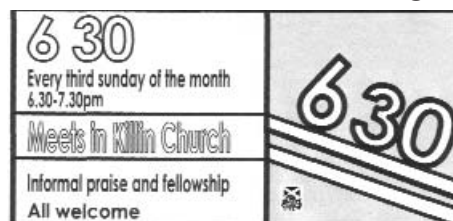
Hughes. You're *much* too old to drink wine!

Others: Oooh!

Collapse of Mrs. H. in laughter!

R.S.V.P. is always looking for volunteers in many different fields. Anyone wanting more information can phone Stan Sanderson 01786 475 800.

Helen Hughes



In the next few weeks there is going to be an informal meeting, called "6 30", happening in the Killin Church which will include some praise songs and a short address by somebody from the church. One of the main goals is to help people in the church get to know each other outside of the time we spend together on Sunday mornings.

Claire Woolsey

Ardeonaig Outdoor Centre



Rural Stirling

HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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

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Strathrye	Balfroun	Aberfoyle	Drymen
Buchlyvie	Kippen	Gartmore	Deanston

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Stirling Road, Doune

Tel: (01786) 841101

E-mail: Enquiries@rsha.demon.co.uk

Planning Applications

Week 47 Week ending 21 November 2005. None

Week 48 Week ending 28th November 2005 None

Week 49 Week ending 5 December 2005
Ref LT/2005/0409/NST/S

Erection of additional wooden powerline pole

Location: Old Sawmill Loch Dochart House

Application type: Statutory Notification

Ref LT/2005/0410/NST/S

Erection of additional power line pole

Location: Benmore Woodland Crianlarich

Application type: Statutory Notification

Ref LT/2005/0413/NST/

Formation of new access

Location: Land to the north Tyndrum

Application type: Statutory Notification

Ref LT/2005/0351/DET/S

Renewal of planning consent for the change of use of car parking for the siting of Hot Food Snack Bar (retrospective)

Location: McLaren car park Killin

Decision: Approved with conditions

Week 50 Week ending 12 December 2005 None

Week 51 Week ending 19 December 2005

Ref LT/2005/0386/DET/

Alteration and change of use of restaurant to staff accommodation (associated with

the Royal Hotel)

Location: Former West Highlander

Restaurant, Tyndrum

Decision: Approved with conditions

Week 1 Weekending 9th Jan 2006

Ref LT/2005/0429/DET/S

Replacement of timber sash and casement windows with UPVC sash and case style windows.

Location: Fairview House Killin

Application type: Detailed consent

Ref LT/2006/0016/DET/S

Formation of new external terrace including ramped access

Location: Rod and Reel Crianlarich

Application type: Detailed consent

Ref LT/2006/0012/LBC/S

Proposal demolition of remains of small flood arch, reconstruction of existing main masonry arch and construction of new large flood arch

Location : Edinample bridge, Lochearnhead

Application type: Listed building consent

Ref LT/2005/0120/DET/S

Change of use of former butcher's shop to hot food takeaway Fish and Chip shop, Main Street Killin

Application type: Detailed consent

Decision: Refuse

Ref LT/2005/0421/HAE/S

Extension to dwelling house

Location: Pathways Manse Road Killin

Decision: Approved with conditions

Week 2 week ending 16 January 2006
None

Week 3 week ending 23 January 2006
LT/2006/0032/DETS/S

Creation of vehicle access to existing dwellinghouse

Location: Muileann Sabh, Main Street, Killin

Application Type: Detailed Consent.

LT/2005/0246/DET/S

Change of use of dwellinghouse and adjacent vacant land to permit the continued operation of taxi business

Location: Land between Station House and Dunvegan House, Station Road, Crianlarich

ApplicationType: Detailed Consent

Decision: Approve with Conditions

Full information for the LLTNP area may be obtained from

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/ and follow links to planning lists.

For areas in Perthshire go to www.pkc.gov.uk/ and follow links "A-Z Services Site Map", "Planning Applications Registered" and current and archival planning lists.



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Letters

Message in a Bottle

We thought this might be of interest to you as an item for the Killin News, especially as the Walker Family was remembered in issue 89 - Remembrance Day.

This message, placed in a whisky bottle, was found when the floor boards were being replaced in the old bothy building at No.6 Gray Street Killin. Although now extremely faded after almost one hundred years, it reads as follows:-

Erected by Alexander Stewart Walker

This shed was erected in October 1914 during a period of great excitement throughout the empire owing to the Great European War caused by the lust for power and territory of the German Empire.

Head of household Grace Walker

Serving with the colours in Black Watch
William Walker

Alexander Walker

With Clyde Shipping Co in Glasgow.

James Walker

Gilbert Walker

Union Bank Keith Banffshire.

Peter Walker (whose name is on the Killin War Memorial ed.)

Serving with colours in Black Watch.

Allan Walker

Hamilton Ontario Canada

Grace Margaret Brise

John Walker Brise

Grandchildren of the Above Grace

Walker

October 1914

Gerald & Jenny Buntley

Rowanbank

Auchmore Staff Photo Issue 88

You were asking if anyone knew any of the people in the photo of the Auchmore staff. My grandfather, Tom Johnstone, was chauffeur at Auchmore and is pictured in the back row, just right of centre, with not too much hair and to the right of the woman in the very fancy hat! This would be 2-3 years before my mother (Jean McArthur nee Johnstone) was born in 1914. He came from Newcraighall, just outside Edinburgh and married my grandmother, Jane McAnally, sister of Johnnie McAnally (who had the butcher's shop, now Shutter's Restaurant - where my grandmother looked after the accounts) and of Susan who lived in Mrs Colmar's old house, Ila. Tom Johnstone married my grandmother just 5 days before my mother was born.

Unfortunately my grandfather died when my mother was just seven or so, probably at the time of the flu pandemic but the story goes that he attended the war memorial service for the First World War

- perhaps the unveiling of the Killin memorial - caught a chill and died days afterwards (end of 1919 I think). I have tried to trace his relatives but have not succeeded so far. There is also a picture of Tom Johnstone in the little green book of Killin photos - standing beside a old Auchmore car that looks like it is off the road! I've always assumed that the accident was not his doing as he looks quite proud of it. He must've been one of the first drivers in the village and traffic jams on the Dochart bridge were probably not an issue then!

Jane (McArthur) Calder

Thank you

On behalf of the Doctors and staff we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our patients for the generous gifts that we received for Christmas. Thanks again.

Fiona Buchanan

We would like to thank all friends and customers for their show of appreciation over the year and for the cards and presents received over Christmas. It's nice to feel appreciated for the job done. Happy New Year to all in Killin and Ardeonaig.

The Killin Posties

Boys' Brigade

Kay and I were saddened to hear of the demise of the Boys' Brigade in Killin. I was one of the original officers and Kay joined later. We had a lot of fun with the boys on Friday nights and took them on quite a few holidays. The most memorable was the Centenary Camp in 1983 when there were hundreds of boys from all over the region. I think that quite a number of boys here used their B.B. membership on their CVs. Of course our fun was in the days before all the safety regulations etc. Obviously it is a lot more difficult nowadays. Kay and I would like to congratulate Christopher and his officers for keeping it going in these times. It will be missed, I am sure.

Margaret Ogilvie

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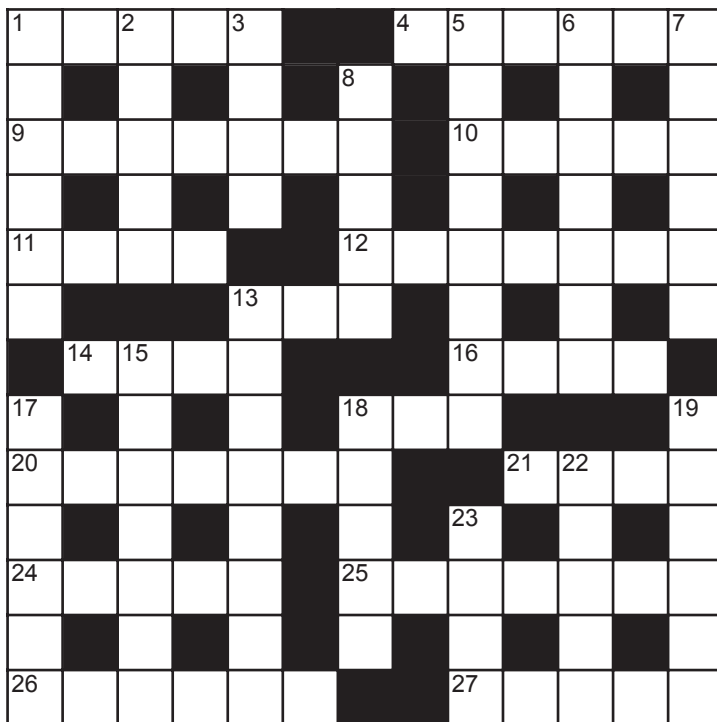
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Crossword by Scorpio



Across

1. One hundred can produce thick twisted rope (5)
4. Couple able to produce tropical bird we hear (6)
9. Having received no help (7)
10. Acquires possession of (5)
11. Initially the Scottish Executive Education Department can be sown (4)
12. Oddly tiled I'm controlled by boundaries (7)
13. and 18. Bird part for a tasty nibble (3,3)
14. Presidential plant (4)
16. Dispatched (4)
18. See 13 Across
20. Riverside plant attacked by angry bovine I hear (7)
21. Pay attention in temporary dwelling place (4)
24. Square skin ailment is just rubbish (5)
25. New hero upset and completely isolated (7)
26. Relating to continental country (6)
27. Silent 500? - no just softened (5)

Down

1. This play area sounds rough (6)
2. Courageous Indian (5)
3. Miniature whirlpool (4)
5. Always looks on the bright side (8)
6. Kite can be used as kitchenware (4,3)
7. The end of the rugby match (2-4)
8. Fully developed (5)
13. Hot thugs can lead us to considerations (8)
15. Get rid of accumulated knowledge (7)
17. Ate bad mixture and became less intense (6)
18. Leaves and flowers preparation of Indian hemp (5)
19. Listen or at least turn up (6)
22. Make a choice (5)
23. An odd way to get to France but a few can do it (4)

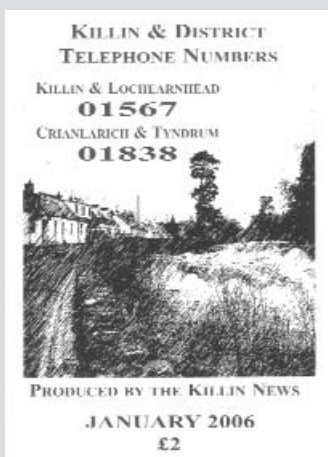
Solution to 89

Across 1. cumin 4. smirch 9. runaway 10. sober 11. ouch
12. overall 13. can 14. etna 16. ends 18. tad 20. explore
21. spur 24. noose 25. debated 26. tester 27. delay

Down 1. carton 2. manic 3. newt 5. mastered 6. rebrand
7. herald 8. pylon 13. carotene 15. topdogs 17. peanut
18. tends 19. Friday 22. petal 23. abed

New Killin & District Telephone Directory

The New Directory is now on sale in Killin and at Crianlarich Store and Brodies in Tyndrum. We apologise for its late arrival which was caused by almost everything that could go wrong going wrong! Anyone with a copy marked Winter 2005 may exchange it at New First for a January 2006 version.



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e-mail:

jen-lil@supanet.com



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What's On in Killin and District

February

13 Strathfillan Community Council meeting Crianlarich Village Hall 7.30pm
 15 Herb Society meet Aberfeldy Town Hall 7pm
 15 Floral Association AGM McLaren Hall Committee room 7.30pm
 18 Strathfillan Path Consultation Day (National Park) Crianlarich Village Hall 1pm - 4pm & 6pm - 9pm
 25 Safari Supper

Brownies
 Mondays
 Church Hall 6pm

Art Class
 Tuesdays
 Killin Church Hall
 4pm - 6pm

Bowls
 Lesser Hall
 Monday evenings

Badminton
 Mondays
 McLaren Hall
 evening

March

2 WRI meeting Lesser Hall 7.30pm
 3 Heritage meeting Lesser Hall 8pm
 3/4 Drama Festival McLaren Hall
 14 Community Council meeting School 7.30pm
 16 Tourist Association Leaflet Day McLaren Hall (provisional)
 19 Glenlyon History Society Inaugural meeting Invervar Lodge
 Glenlyon 8pm All welcome
 25 Weaving with Willow Crannog Centre 11am - 4pm

European Computer Driving Licence
 Tuesdays
 Killin Primary School 7pm - 9pm

Keep Fit
 Tuesdays
 McLaren Hall
 7pm - 9pm

April

6 WRI meeting Lesser Hall 7.30pm

Highland Dancing
 Tuesdays
 Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced
 Crianlarich Hall 4.30pm - 7.30pm
 Contact Aileen Tel 01301 - 704283

Upholstery
 Mondays
 McLaren Hall
 10.30am - 1.30pm



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 Feb 24, Mar 10 and 24, Apr 7
 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 - 2.55
 Suie Lodge 3.05 - 3.25

Glen Lochay/Ardeonaig
 Fortnightly Mondays
 Feb 20, Mar 6, 20 Apr 3
 Glenlochay 10.50 - 12.30
 Ardeonaig 2.00 - 2.45

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