

KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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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, photos in high quality and the content should be original work relevant to Killin and environs. All personal emails are acknowledged by a reply. If you do not receive a reply please contact us by phone or drop the article in the office letterbox.

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Editorial

At least the days are becoming brighter as Spring approaches even if doom and gloom is the order of the day. Nothing can surprise us now. Even the fishing opening seemed to be less well attended than usual.

Local Tourism

The prospect of an increase in home grown tourism as the popular overseas destinations become less attractive might lighten the gloom of local service providers. Killin has such a lot to offer, much of it hidden from public consciousness or known only to those who live here. We should let it out into the public domain to help discerning visitors choose Killin as a venue. The Homecoming offers an opportunity for us to offer more to visitors. We can help by "putting Killin on the map" (p.16), advertising local businesses, supporting local providers and making Killin an attractive choice.

The Tourist Association meeting identified the importance of our historical roots for visitors to research their family history and to examine the many important historical artefacts in our area. Many other communities have developed a tourist industry on a fraction of the resources available here.

A few years ago a leaflet in the form of a business directory for visitors was produced. It would not be difficult to maintain a small directory in electronic format available to all businesses in Killin to print or send electronically to their clients. Visitors coming to Killin need to know what they must bring and what is available here. Artists, craft workers and others who work from home could also be represented. Involving more people in the process would increase the distribution of the leaflet.

KAT Energy Meeting

The talk by Michael Carr of Energy Agency in the Killin Hotel was received with some enthusiasm. While the attendance was less than expected, the response indicated that an energy project, led by KAT, would be beneficial. From the response of those present it is likely that the majority of Killin residents would agree to have their energy use assessed. Much of Killin consists of old housing stock which is difficult to insulate and has solid stone walls but even in such cases measures can be taken to reduce energy use. Some residents are likely to opt in to the scheme attracted by the prospect of a free consultation and thermal imaging assessment, where some will opt to have free loft and cavity wall insulation installed. For some the prospect of saving over £250 per year on heating costs might encourage them to participate. The consultation and insulation costs would be financed by government and other charitable funds. It could be accompanied by an educational programme involving the school. The government would gain the benefit of public co-operation in striving to achieve its carbon emission targets. Now the Directors of KAT need to decide how they wish to proceed.

Rural Midwife Cover

Strathfillan CC describe the new arrangements for midwife cover (p.11). This has already been experienced by mothers in Killin. The midwives, stationed in Callander, now cover a very large area. It is reported that the midwife is more likely to be late arriving for clinics. There is no longer the continuity and close contact that patients were used to under the old system and the postnatal 'daily visits' are no longer daily. Infant feeding, especially for first-time mothers, may suffer and mothers turn to bottle feeding from lack of support and advice. The mother/midwife relationship used to be central to the process of managing a baby. To whom does the worried first-time mother now turn - NHS24? **WA**

Front Page:

The Visitors' Centre, New Years Eve at the fireworks display

Killin Mountain Rescue Team

2008 was another busy year for KMRT, with 29 incidents spread over the months. The Team spent nearly 1000 person hours involved in search and rescue, helping 39 people and one dog. The busiest month was November with 7 incidents. Search and Rescue Helicopters were involved in 12 incidents, assisting with Team deployment, searching and recovery of casualties. Thanks to John Morris for maintaining the statistics for the Team.

Details of incidents are: 12 people lost, requiring search and rescue; 9 people overdue turning up before search initiated; 6 people with leg injuries and 1 person serious multiple injuries requiring rescue; 4

people +1 dog crag fast, requiring rescue; 3 people with medical conditions requiring rescue; 1 vehicle accident, requested assistance; 3 well intentioned false alarms, requiring search.

flashes) repeated every minute. The response to the emergency signal and the search signal is three blasts/flashes. The two lost walkers on Ben Ledi were located by this method, their whistles heard 650m away. Spotting a light on a dark hillside is also very helpful. One night, a casualty was located by him using a mobile phone, the light from the tiny screen being seen 1.5km away by the searchers!

Training is an essential part of Team skills. The team trains twice a month, one evening and one day. In November 20 members attended a First Aid course. On the way home from the course the Team were called to assist a casualty with a broken ankle, who had slipped half way up

Ben A'an. Eager to use their new found First Aid skills, the Team rushed to the scene to assist, only to find our local Community Paramedic Practitioner in situ treating the patient! The Team were left to do the stretcher work.

Enjoy the hills, remember your whistle and torch and tell someone where you are going. Be safe.

John Wyllie



The longest search - 250 person hours - was in February, for 2 people lost in thick mist on Ben Ledi. The Team attempted to locate them at night, unsuccessfully, using whistles and lights. In the morning and in worsening visibility, down to 5m, the whistles proved more effective. A faint response was heard and the two missing walkers were located and escorted off the hill.

The Team uses the "Light and Sound" search technique to locate missing people, assuming they are able to respond in some way, either with a torch, whistle or shouts. This technique allows them to cover the ground quickly in small groups, targeting recognised walking routes. The system is to walk the route, stopping every 150m to blow whistles and shine torches. The Team then listens and looks for a response. The emergency signal is six blasts on a whistle (and/or light

The newly refurbished Library will be back in the normal place from Monday 16th February. Come and have a look!

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Hogmanay Fireworks Display

Happy New Year to everyone for 2009 - that was clearly the message from Killin at the fabulous Hogmanay fireworks display on the Dochart Bridge at the Falls of Dochart. Year upon year the organisers have us spellbound with a fantastic firework display to the accompaniment of a chorus of "Ooohs!" and "Aahhs!" This year did not disappoint as once again it was a huge success - some even said better than previous years!

This display is only made possible by the hard work and effort of local volunteers such as Kay and her helpers with the donation buckets, the Killin Mountain Rescue Team, Henry Forster with his public address system and John Sinclair with his assistants who put up the



platform. Therefore, organisers of the 2008/09 fireworks display would sincerely like to thank all those who helped with setting up, stewarding and clearing up after the Hogmanay event. Thanks are also extended to the emergency services.

Even with input from volunteers, the fireworks display is an expensive event to stage. A Christmas Dinner/Dance is held in the McLaren Hall each year to raise funds to help finance the event. The dance is very well attended and we thank you for your support. In addition, financial input from businesses, villagers and visitors is also sought and donations are very gratefully received at any time throughout the year.

For the fireworks display to continue we desperately need more helpers - especially at the bridge at midnight. If you enjoy the event

and would like to see what has become a bit of a tradition in Killin continue, can you please get in touch with Charlie Grant to offer your assistance for the 2009/10 display - it would be very much appreciated. Tel. 01567 820 342

Special thanks are also extended to Charlie Grant who has volunteered to facilitate this spectacular and popular event every year since the Millennium (just the last Millennium - he's not that old!).
Linda FitzGerald



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Seen at the New Year Dance



Photos by Iain Campbell

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GIFT VOUCHERS

Killin Community Council Meeting January

Northern Energy: An application for a plant at Acharn will go to planning within the next 2 months. Fergus Tickell has offered to speak to the KCC again outlining the application.

Road Maintenance: Although the roads department has had a team in the village painting white lines on the road, still no zig zag lines have been painted on either side of the pedestrian crossing. Paul Owens will speak to the department to try to have this done as an urgent matter.

Rural Housing: The planned development for new build housing in the village will go ahead. There is no time scale.

Flooding: Flooding is still a problem in the school playground. Other areas have improved following the work that has been done.

Health Service: A meeting took place with Bruce Crawford, members of the KCC and members from Balfron. Clarification of the Ambulance statistics is still awaited. Killin now has ambulance cover at weekends from Callander. The presence of double crewed ambulances has been reduced in Killin. More paramedic personnel are being recruited.

National Park Local plan: The draft version of the Local Plan is now available for viewing. There will be a copy in the National Park office in Callander from 27th January. Consultation meetings will be held to allow discussion. The nearest meeting for Killin will be at Lochearnhead on January 27th. Planning permission has been granted for the Transerve truck park.

Christmas Tree: The tree was supplied by Gordon Aitken and put up by Stitt Bros. The lights which cost £227 have been well received by the village. There was only one minor incident of tampering which did not cause any damage. A cheque for £60 will be sent to the Episcopal Church for electricity. The lights will be stored in Douglas McRobbie's store. Thanks to all concerned.

Community Profile: Volunteers are required to update the village profile. Anyone interested please contact Lesley Campbell at the National Park.

Bench at Manse Road: A couple of sites have been identified for a replacement bench. Further discussion to take place.

KAT: A presentation by Michael Carr of the Energy Agency will take place on 23rd January at the Killin Hotel.

Planning: Railway Cottages at Killin Junction: passed by Planning. From March all NP planning applications can be done on line and full plans will also be accessible.

Youth Project: As Alan Hewitt has resigned there is a need for someone on the committee to be responsible for Youth issues.

RAF: The RAF would like to talk to local communities about the need for low flights in areas such as Killin. Suzanne will contact both neighbouring communities to see if it is sensible to arrange a meeting for all in one venue.

Community Profile: Volunteers are needed to update this important work. Contact Lesley Campbell of the National Park for details.

Petitions Panel: This committee deals with decisions made by organisations including local Councils, NHS, Police, Health Boards, the Fire Service and others. It can respond to community suggestions as to how policy can change for the benefit of the community by organising petitions.

Alien Species: Stirling Council want to address the problem of alien species such as Giant Hog Weed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. A local volunteer is needed to liaise with the council. The letter is to be passed to John Holland of EAK.

Missing sign: The sign for Monemore is missing.

Red Squirrels: Tim Frost would like to be informed of any sightings of dead Red Squirrels on the road. He needs an OS grid ref. and a date when sighted. This might help with signage to help motorists slow down in areas where road crossings are the cause of death.

Fire Fighters: A change in the way local fire fighters will be recruited is to come into force. At present volunteers can present as "Retained Fire Fighters" or be "Volunteers". The Volunteers do not need the same level of training and do not receive a retainer fee. This is to change and all are to be recruited as "Retained Fire Fighters".

Junction by Ambulance Station: A new pavement has been built on Station Road approaching the corner by the Ambulance Station. No drop kerb has been built into the areas where wheel chairs and prams might need to cross the road as is standard practice in any council built pavement.

Next meeting: Tuesday 10th March 7.30pm at the School

National Park Draft Local Plan

The National Park Draft Local Plan was formally launched into consultation on 23rd November. Since then there has been a number of local events to let people see what is proposed in the Plan. The nearest for Killin were at Crianlarich (12th January) and Lochearnhead (27th January). If you were not able to get to either venue there is still time for you to comment. The deadline is 28th February. There is a copy of the Draft Plan at the Library or it can be accessed online at the Parks website -

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org. Why bother? It is true that, under the 2006 Planning Act rules, major planning matters - things like the Trump proposal in Aberdeenshire - will be decided by Scottish Government, but believe it or not, there are few of us who will not be affected by whatever is agreed in our own Local Plan. Specific to Killin there is a proposal to amend the Conservation Area and another to designate a parcel of land adjacent to the bottom car park for start-up business units etc. So if you want to make any comment on these, or any other of the policy proposals, you have until 28th February. Once in place the Local Plan will hold sway for five years before it needs to be reviewed. The contact for comments is: Susan Brooks at National Park Headquarters, Carrochan Road, Balloch. (Telephone 01389 722600)

The Ranger Service has now been re-organised with Rangers taking on a wider range of duties. The Breadalbane area will still be under the control of Senior Ranger Callum McNeill Ritchie.

Last year Operation Ironworks proved to be a particularly successful collaboration with Police, the National Park and Forestry Commission Rangers all working together to patrol known trouble spots and engaging with visitors so that they were aware of how to behave whilst in the Park. Following on from that and other events, a suggestion was made that some Rangers may care to train as Special Constables so that they could work even more effectively with the Police. Some of our Rangers have now volunteered and have undergone the necessary training. All we need now is for the visitors to come so they can put that extra training into practice.

If you have any queries concerning the National Park you can, as always, contact me at Community Council meetings or Phone : 01567 830214 Taigh Na Bhuth, Lochearnhead.

owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk

Owen McKee

Gymnastic success

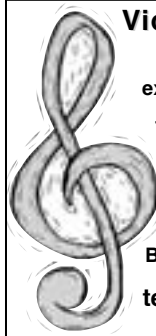
Adele Melia, aged 12, recently came second in the 12/13 year category at the Scottish Level 5 Competition, taking home 3 medals: Silver on Beam, Bronze on Floor and Bronze on Bars. Because of her achievements, Adele has now been offered the opportunity to travel to Romania in July for further training with a team from Auchterarder Club. She will be doing some fundraising for this and half of any money she raises will go to Relief Fund for Romania (Charity No. 1046737). She would like to thank all those who sponsored her mini pianothon which raised £93 for this charity and also everyone who has supported and encouraged her to continue in her sport.



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Mervyn's Weather

Thirty years or more ago, late Autumn and early Winter, with a few exceptions, followed a similar pattern to that which we have recently experienced in 2008. November was normally fairly mild and unsettled with the odd brief incursion of colder air. December almost inevitably produced a short cold snap, four or five days perhaps, during the first half of the month. Equally inevitably, the run up to Christmas saw the re-establishment of more balmy conditions – indeed there have been instances when temperatures experienced on the corresponding date in June have been on a par with those of Christmas day. Occasionally, however, in order to prove the rule so to speak, the exception would occur and a white Christmas would delight the children and possibly confuse those who indulge in wagering on the presence or otherwise of a Christmas snowflake! As the New Year approached conditions usually assured a more wintry nature. "As the day lengthens so the cold strengthens". The final weeks of 2008 have certainly "bucked the trend" of Global warming here in

Britain at least.

As one who scrapes a fairly tenuous existence from "the copulation of sheep" the more settled and drier weather of recent weeks has been most welcome for the tupping season, in particular for hill flocks, which instead of having to shelter from gale force winds and driving rain by cooing behind dykes or other bieldy refuges, could spread out under calm and frosty conditions and go about their nuptials in encouraging circumstances.

With so many ramblers roaming the hills nowadays, it is interesting to compare, or perhaps contrast, their mode of dress with that of hill folk of yesteryear. Many, it has to be said, are suitably clad for adverse conditions. Gore-Tex weatherproof clothing is obviously suitable dress. Anoraks too, despite their startlingly garish colours, have wind and rain resistant qualities. There is a plethora of footwear, which can be expensive; though no better than the sprung soled "herds" boots and hill shoes which were de rigueur among shepherds, hill farmers and stalkers, as indeed were the homespun tweeds

and thick woollen socks/stockings. Many estates still supply their stalkers and keepers with tweed suits, each estate having its particular check or "tartan" based on the type of terrain in which the wearer would operate e.g., a brownish/purple tweed for predominantly heathery ground, greyish green for rocky backgrounds, and so on.

At the other end of the spectrum one sees beavies of hikers trotting gaily along the roads en route for the heights with ski sticks, and the regulation maps strung round their necks, but clad in T-shirts, very brief shorts and trainers, surely not realising that a warm sunny day at 300 feet above sea level can change abruptly at 2,500 feet, even in high summer, to gale driven rain or sleet detrimental to their comfort and wellbeing or worse.

Mervyn K. Browne
Ardtalnaig



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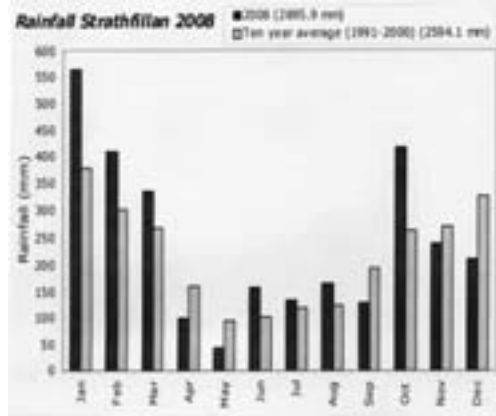
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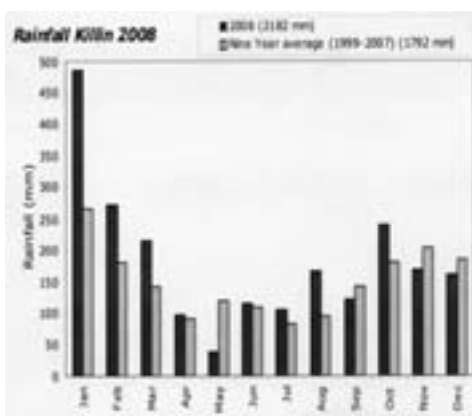
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Weather Statistics Strathfillan and Killin 2008



Rainfall Total = 2895.9 mm
 Wettest Month = January (563.5 mm)
 Driest Month = May (43.5 mm)
 Wettest Day (24hr period 09:00 to 09:00) = 25th
 January 2008 (71.8 mm)
 Wettest Calendar Week (Monday to Sunday) = Week 43
 (20th-26th October) (206.8 mm)
 Number of Days with more than 25mm (1 inch) of
 rainfall = 33
 Warmest Day (24hr period 09:00 to 09:00) = 28th July
 2008 (25.6oC)
 Coldest Day (24hr period 09:00 to 09:00) = 3rd
 December 2008 (-12.2oC)



Rainfall Total = 2182 mm
 Wettest Month = January (485 mm)
 Driest Month = May (38.5 mm)
 Wettest Day (24hr period 08:00 to 08:00) = 25th
 January 2008 (76 mm)
 Wettest Calendar Week (Monday to Sunday) = Week 4
 (21st - 27th January) (169 mm)

John Holland

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**Strathfillan CC meeting January**

The National Park is consulting on the Draft

Local Plan and Accompanying Documents which are available on www.lochlomond-trossachs.org. An Open Day for people to comment on the Draft Local Plan was held in Crianlarich village hall on 12th January and the NP staff stayed to answer questions raised by the CC. It is hoped that the LP will prove more flexible and decisions would be decided on an individual basis, negating the need to have Strathfillan defined as a settlement. The Breadalbane Summary document is available.

The CC will respond but individual responses can also be given. For further clarification contact Alan Hughes or Diana Worthy of the Forward Planning Team on 01389 722600 or localplan@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Some members met in Tyndrum village hall with David Lowes of Glenfalloch Estate to discuss the proposed hydro-schemes on the estate. John wrote to the NP planning committee and also to the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government giving our support and mentioning the dispute about the visual impact from Ben Oss and Bein Dubhchraig

Gwenn produced a list prioritising the compensatory measures wanted by Inverarnan as discussed at a meeting in the Drover's Inn, Inverarnan.

These are:-

Better signage for Inverarnan - Cllr. Fergus Wood has said that he would take this forward.

Broadband is to be provided by Avanti on contract to the Scottish Government. The equipment is free but the package offered is expensive. Joyce will ask Gordon if the equipment for the now redundant system in Tyndrum would work in Inverarnan.

Low level footpath lighting - Tony will talk to the NP about this.

Upgrade of path to Glenfalloch Farm from village - Tony will enquire about ownership of the land.

Village post box - Gwenn will contact Anne McGuire MP.

Grit bin for village - Tony will talk to Cllr. Jim Thomson about this.

Planting for village areas - Gwenn will apply to the Community Pride Fund.

In Tyndrum the proliferation of signs and the unsuitability of some of them have been raised by local residents.

John Riley spoke to Jim Kinnell, Chair of STAG and Owen McKee and a meeting with the tourist businesses took place on 15th January. An enforcement officer has been out to Tyndrum to assess the situation.

The CC discussed the draft letter from Cameron Taylor to Bruce Crawford MSP, Anne McGuire MP, Transport Scotland, and Grontmij (the engineering and environmental consultancy company) regarding the proposed Crianlarich By-Pass. John Riley has been in contact with Raymond Travers, Grontmij, who is of the opinion that the by-pass will go ahead in 2011-2012. The promised public showing of the route by Traffic Scotland will be mentioned in the letter and it was agreed to hold a public meeting soon after the Transport Scotland meeting to gauge the opinion of the community.

Scottish Government is consulting on 'Climate Change and the National Forest Estate'. Scottish Government has recently completed a strategic review of LL&TNP. This report is now out for consultation and can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/environment/countryside

Stirling Council has approved the introduction of a Petitions Panel that

**The Scotsman Recommends****Number 1 again**

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will enable Stirling's citizens and local businesses to have a direct route of engagement with the Council's decision-making procedures. Provision has been made in the Council's timetable of meetings for one meeting of the cross-party Petitions Panel in each cycle. Issues that can be considered are in relation to services provided by Stirling Council and any of the Statutory Community Planning Partners, namely: Central Scotland Police, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Forth Valley, Scottish Enterprise East and Tayside and Central Scotland Transport. Stirling Council is unable to consider petitions that are sub-judice. The criteria outlined in the guidance note have to be met before a petition can be considered. For more information contact Margaret Murray on 01786 443216

Letter from John Gilbert, Squadron Leader, [Ret'd] RAFCRO [Scotland], asking if we would like him to come to Crianlarich to give a public presentation on why the RAF needs to conduct low flying training in our area and also to answer any concerns we may have. It was agreed to invite him.

We have heard that the ambulance is only based in Killin on 2 days a week and in Callander for the rest of the

week and also that the rapid response unit is permanently based in Callander. Tony will check on the validity of this.

Keith Yates, Chief Executive, Stirling Council announced he would be retiring in a couple of months time.

Isla contacted the school about the 20mph flashing sign and the school secretary is trying to get the timings rectified.

Water running down Willow Brae is freezing at the junction with the main road. This could be the result of a blocked drain. Isla will contact Hunter Jamieson, Stirling Council Roads Dept.

Drains belonging to the railway in Station Road Crianlarich keep collapsing and a long term solution needs to be found. Isla will write to Scotrail.

In early December there were no icy roads in Stirling to keep vehicles employed, but still the very icy side roads in Strathfillan were not gritted. Tony will take this up.

There have been changes to the midwifery service provided in Strathfillan to the detriment of pregnant and nursing mothers. The nurses in Killin used to have a dual district/midwifery role, but now all midwifery comes from Callander based nurses. They come to the Doctor's surgery once a week. There

is no longer any continuity between the midwife and pregnant mother. They are not visiting nursing mothers daily for 10 days after they return home; it appears to be mainly due to pressure of workload. Some mothers feel unsupported. The Health Visitor is also based in Callander and is supposed to call weekly. This does not always happen. Moira will write to Eddie MacDonald, Community Health Partnership, to express our concerns.



Strathfillan Community Development Trust Strathfillan Life long Learning Centre

In the last issue we said that we were applying to

the Gannochy Trust for a grant to help keep the Internet Café on the road and I'm glad to report that we have been awarded £3000. We will also receive financial help from Stirling Council who are keen to help maintain this facility in this far flung part of Stirling district.

Heather Hamilton is to continue as your friendly, helpful tutor and she will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have about what's on offer at Tyndrum Hall. The Internet/Learning Café is open on Tuesdays and Fridays 11am to 4pm.

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AGM

Effie Crompton stood down after 3 years service as chair of the SCDT. Our thanks and good wishes go to her for all her hard work on behalf of the Trust.

John Riley from Tyndrum is now back chairing the Trust after a 3 year rest (if you can call writing his first book taking a rest!) John has characteristically returned to the Trust with great vigour and enthusiasm and I look forward to working with him again. Moira Robertson was elected to continue as our very valuable vice-chair (very handy at keeping John in line!!)

The other Directors are; Deirdre Burton, Alan Smailes, Fiona Tickner, John Goodale, Christine Macnab and Mary Anderson. Our Associate Directors are Sandra Logan, Head of our local primary schools, and Tony Ffinch, one of our local councillors. The Trust has several working groups reporting back to the board at regular intervals. These are; Housing group (managing our 4 houses), Woodland group (caring for Crianlarich Community Woodland and Tyndrum Woodland), SAG (organising local social events), Environment group (enhancement throughout Strathfillan), SLLC (Internet/Learning Café), Cycleway

group (still pushing!!) and Tyndrum Hall group (managing and caring for the hall/office). If you'd like to become involved with any of the working groups or have any ideas to help improve life in Strathfillan, please get in touch here at the office or speak to one of our Directors.

New Arrival

Our congratulations go to Jen and Paul Lilly of Crianlarich on the recent arrival of their bouncing baby boy Ewan.

For further information - Tel 01838 400 545

(strathfillancdt@btconnect.com)

Joyce Russell
(Development Officer)



Strathfillan Lifelong Learning Centre

You are warmly invited to come along to see the Strathfillan Lifelong Learning Centre in action. SCDT have taken over from BVLC in running of Internet/Learning Café.

Take this opportunity to have a leisurely look at the courses and activities available. There is something for all ages and abilities. Learn the advantages of being IT literate. See how

easy it is to be at least one step ahead of the children!

Children, come and dazzle your parents with your computer skills! For those of you who wish to do extra learning, the same range of courses are available to you too! Browse the internet - shopping, research, email,

bookings, Facebook, Bebo, keep up with the children-help with homework, obtain qualifications, learn @ the Library free short courses, ECDL-computing, distance Learning-learn locally, compose letters, invitations, CVs, burn music to CD, edit photographs, learn to create Powerpoint presentations.

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Crianlarich Primary School

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Christmas Fayre. It was great to see so many people. Those who attended I'm sure will agree that the children made some fantastic crafts and worked really hard.

A total of £515.65 was raised to pay for the "Vikings" to come to the School on Monday 23rd February. This will give the pupils the opportunity to participate in a history re-enactment of life in the Viking era.

Thank you again for your support; without it we would miss out on so many exciting, and educational, visits and excursions.



Competition Winners

Each year Rt Hon Anne McGuire M.P. invites children from Stirling authority schools to take part in a competition to design a Christmas card for her. P5,6,7 took part and their ideas were fantastic and lots of impressive cards were designed. After the judging took place we received the great news that James' and Nicola's designs had been awarded Highly Commended certificates. Well done, James and Nicola! This is the second year in a row that James has been selected for a commendation; perhaps next year we might have a winner!



Anne McGuire with winners James and Nicola



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Mini Laptops and the Mobile Broadband Myth

I see that some manufacturers have introduced mini-laptops with 9 inch screens - these are ideal for keeping in touch whilst on holiday or travelling around the country. Some retailers are selling these systems with "mobile broadband" incorporated - indicating that you can connect to the internet at broadband speed via a Vodafone SIM card.

If you are looking at one of these machines, please note that here in the rural community, mobile internet can only connect at a very slow speed - in fact the same speed as the old dial-up internet connections we all used to suffer with.

The mini laptops are useful computers and are marketed at a competitive price, but please make sure you fully understand the constraints prior to purchase.

Internet Security - Keeping your Anti-Virus up to date

It shocks me the number of people who are still using AVG version 7, fully believing that their machines are protected against viruses. This product has not been updated fully for nearly a year and therefore your computers are very likely to be

infected with the latest viruses. If you do not update to version 8 there is a serious risk of your internet passwords and financial details being used fraudulently as a result of a virus.

Similarly, if you have a new computer, it is delivered with 30 days trial software from Norton or McAfee. After the trial period is over, you must either upgrade the anti-virus software or replace it with a free one, otherwise you, too, will be open to infection.

Online Backup

There are now cost effective solutions for you to safeguard your data offsite. Software copies data at prescribed times to a filestore somewhere on the internet. This means your precious data is safe, even in case of disaster. Options are available to encrypt the data so that only you can view its contents. This is ideal for small businesses who have mission critical data that they need to store offsite. If you are interested in this service, it might be worthwhile talking to an expert so that you can maximise your protection yet minimise your costs.

Computer



Corner

Rural Broadband Project

The company Avanti who have been contracted by Scottish Executive to roll out broadband for the rural community have been busy in our area. I am aware of several local businesses which have recently had satellite internet connected and all are actively using their newly acquired broadband internet. This is good news for us, and I just hope that we end up with 100% broadband coverage soon.

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The Heat is On

In June 2007 the McLaren Hall Management Committee decided that we should replace our antiquated heating system. Following discussions a plan crystallised with an estimated overall cost of nearly £60,000. Applications for funding were made in consultation with Suzanne Player. We applied to 11 organisations in autumn 2007. Imagine our amazement and excitement when we received our first positive response in November of the same year for £1,000! Our next surprise was in December when a promise of £10,000 was made and we felt quite elated and confident. We had received letters advising us that many committees were meeting in the new year of 2008 so we had to wait for further developments. Along the way we also received non supportive letters but in the end these only amounted to four. In January £5,000 was pledged, in March another £16,000 came our way and in May and June our total reached £45,000. £10,000 was available from our own funds and so £55,000 was available. Work began slightly behind schedule

in July 2008. We had allowed a window of eight weeks and the hall re-opened for business at the end of August. We can only apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced by this. Our thanks to Kenny Lang, our property convener, who steered this project along with its "prickly problems". We received donations, some anonymous, which have helped the shortfall and our grateful thanks to these donors. Along with the management committee's sincere thanks to Suzanne, I must give my own personal thanks to her for help with sourcing the funders and compiling the letters to sell our project. I know she had some misgivings about getting the money in time but "it came good" and we should all be very proud of this achievement. It just remains for us to enjoy our new system and use it wisely and economically. We have a splendid venue which is the envy of many a town and village, and if bookings continue as they have been we shall see many others enjoying it too.

Glenda Mardon

Cinema Night

The next cinema night will be at 7-9.30pm on Saturday 14th February in the Community Rooms

Prince Caspian (The Chronicles of Narnia) PG

£1 entry; Tuck shop available
Drop the kids off and enjoy a few hours peace and quiet on **Valentine's Night!**

There will be a film night on 14th March, film yet to be decided
Suggestions and ideas for future films are very welcome

Louise Morris

Dancing Taster Session

Come along and give it a whirl

On Wednesday 25th February there will be an opportunity to try Ballroom and Scottish Country Dancing in Lochearnhead Village Hall 7pm - 9pm

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Pam Hopkins
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Putting Killin on the Map



A wiki is a page or collection of Web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute to or modify the content. The concept that, with cooperation, altruism and the internet, the general public could create a useful encyclopaedia, has been shown to be effective by Wikipedia which now has over 2.5 billion moderately sized articles on its database.

The website www.openstreetmap.org presents a Wiki map of the whole world, freely available without restrictions of copyright that anybody can edit, copy or use. Making copies of an Ordinance Survey map for a leaflet or card to send to your friends or customers to show them where you live or work, without permission, is against copyright law.

OpenStreetMap maps have been constructed by enthusiastic volunteers in every part of the world.

Cities and countries throughout the world are being plotted on the map all the time. Some, such as Amsterdam and Birmingham, have already completed their road networks. Mistakes are sometimes made and these are always open to correction by others involved in the project.

There are two main ways in which roads and houses can be identified and drawn. OpenStreetMap has an agreement with Yahoo to use its aerial (satellite) imagery which can be superimposed on the blank map (Slippy Map) and features can be drawn in using the online editor (Potlatch). The result is a fairly accurate representation of what is on the ground. This doesn't work well for the Killin area as the satellite photographs here are rather poor unlike some cities where even parked cars can be identified. Alternatively, those with a handheld GPS can walk along the roads taking continuous recordings and download the traces onto the map via the internet when they return home. They can then draw the lines of the roads on the map and mark in points of interest such as hotels, hostels, churches, mountain peaks, woods and services. GPS accuracy is usually limited to 7 - 12 metres, which results in reduced accuracy at higher magnifications, but the results can be improved later by those familiar with the area.

The code of conduct requires that no information is copied from copyright sources. Even street names must be taken from evidence on the ground or other local non copyright sources. Commercial maps deliberately contain incorrect information such as Knockbain Road off Fingal Road in Killin on hostelbookers.com, or Uxbridge Street at the end of The Glebe on Multimap, placed there to prove copyright ownership should a dispute arise.

Openstreetmap provides opportunities for those who are keen to contribute to the world database and those who would like to use the facility for their own purposes. You too can start mapping.

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Frost Report



Food blocks and Fairy dew

I'm afraid that there is nothing new to report on the 'ectoplasm'. Scientists are still carrying out studies and are certain that it is a kind of fungal/slime mould living on a jelly substrate. It's what the jelly is that is baffling them. It appears to be reptilian and may be from frogs, which apparently have spawn jelly in their oviducts all year round, which is distasteful to mammal predators, who spit it out. Put together the fact that frogs are amphibians and hibernate all winter, and the theory of little green (reptilian-like) creatures from space still seems to hold up! Probably better than one suggestion that it is fairy dew.

Maybe the fairies have been giving the red squirrels a few lessons as our friends are now enjoying a new and very nutritious food source. In winter deer blocks of minerals and protein are put out to give the deer an extra bite. They are put on tall posts to avoid them being eaten by other animals but, squirrels can climb up the stob and hang on to the underside of the block to get a good nibble. Gavin Skipper of The National

Park is trying to persuade the council to put up squirrel signs. You can help by reporting any red squirrel road kills either to him or myself. Pigeon fanciers are being allowed to trap sparrow hawks in Larsen traps (large wire boxes where food and water can be supplied) and relocate them to stop the now larger numbers of sparrow hawks killing their pigeons. Hooray for the pigeon fanciers but estates are not allowed to do the same to protect pheasants or wild grouse. We must still be very politically incorrect.

This may be because everyone who makes rules about the countryside seems to be urban born and bred with no desire to have actual contact with rural life personally. The recent rules that all dead farm animals must be removed and disposed of has meant, as was predicted, that birds of prey are being robbed of food and there are reported instances of buzzards becoming cannibalistic through hunger. What is the sense in protecting a species till its numbers become so high and then removing its food? Maybe crofters and farmers will soon be told to supply clinically clean food stands

with processed rabbit shaped food pellets for the raptors.

The R.S.P.B. has been requesting people to take care not to disturb birds too much in the cold weather as they need rest and a good roost site. Hooray for the birds but could we please extend that to the deer and sheep who also find themselves constantly disturbed by people.

Tim Frost



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Wildlife Crime

Alan Stewart, Police Wildlife Liaison Officer, will be known to some in Highland Perthshire. Some may know him for the wrong reasons! He will be the guest speaker following the formal but fairly brief AGM of Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust. Alan is a retired Police Inspector, author of "Wildlife Detective", and is respected nationwide for his work in fighting wildlife crime. His talk is titled "Wildlife Crime in Highland Perthshire".

At the AGM there will be displays and exhibitions. Meet the trustees. Give them the benefit of your opinions, good and bad. Why not join the Trust and get involved. The meeting is open to all and is free. So, everyone and anyone, come along, listen, talk, and participate. Molteno Hall, Fortingall, Saturday 7th March 2.30pm - Displays, exhibitions, and chat with Trustees. 3.00pm AGM, followed by Alan Stewart's talk, and open discussion.

Bill Hoare

01887 830685

Paul Jarvis

01887 820988

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

www.hpclt.org

Award for Liz



Lizzie Stevens was nominated for a Clubsport Stirling Sports Award by Sheila Aiken and Sandra Logan for the hard work she has put into organizing the Junior Golf lessons and events at Killin Golf Club. Although she didn't win in her category (she was competing against a winner who had given over 50 years service to his local boxing club and we all know that Lizzie isn't that old!) this was a great opportunity for one of our local club members to showcase her sporting achievements and she received a beautifully engraved silver plate for "Local Service to Sport". Thanks to Lizzie and her team of coaches, there are lots of keen young golfers in the Killin area.

Sandra Logan

Presentation to Retirement Home



The local Masonic Lodge presented a cheque for £150 to the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home, as part of the funds raised at the recent Soup and Sandwich Lunch. The money was to bring a little festive cheer to the residents and maybe a nip or two of Yuletide spirit was found in the Christmas glasses on the 25th.

Above: Alex Stewart, Lodge Secretary, Lesley Stitt, Home Treasurer, Mandy Hay, Manager, Jeni McCarron, Senior Carer and Colin McRae, Lodge Treasurer.



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Species Recovery at Ben Lawers

The National Nature Reserve and the National Trust for Scotland property were both established to conserve the rare mountain plants for which the site is famous. Therefore, when one of these species declines to extinction it is logical that steps are taken, if possible, to forestall its demise on the Reserve. A case of such 'species recovery' at Ben Lawers was the highland saxifrage, *Saxifraga rivularis* L. It is a national rarity, adapted to growing in very cold niches on high mountains.

Anecdotal and photographic evidence indicates that the Ben Lawers population has undergone a significant decline over the 20th century. Since 1981 the few remaining plants have been monitored almost every year. Until 1988 the number fluctuated between two and six, with only two of these being established, mature plants, and the other seedlings mostly failing to establish and grow. In 1988, a third plant was recorded, well-established, growing rapidly and flowering well. It was soon dug up and stolen by person or persons unknown, an unlawful act, showing that this pernicious habit is still a threat to such rare species in the wild. The last two plants were not thriving, rarely flowering and therefore unlikely to produce seed. Soon one had disappeared, probably dead from natural causes.



Sax rivularis, planted blue tag and regenerated red tag

We decided to restore a viable population by propagation and planting, but the poor flowering performance of the last plant left us with a dire shortage of potential seeds. The nearest population was on the NTS property at Glencoe and was healthy enough to spare some seeds for our use. After some precautionary research* to test the suitability of this population for translocation to Ben Lawers (a long story), seeds were collected under permit. It took a few years to produce strong plants for planting**, six of which were placed

in the same area in 2004. It was not possible to check them until 2006, by which time the last original plant had also died. However, all the new plants had survived, with four thriving, and a new plant that had grown, presumably from one of the transplants beside which it was growing, and which was flowering well. A second group of six plants was placed at a new site, to try to evade the collectors, but these six plants failed. Another six were placed at the original site in 2007, so that in 2008 we had 12 plants growing well, some flowering and fruiting, giving us hope that the population might sustain itself into the future, and that the proven extinction has also failed. Ongoing monitoring is necessary to show whether this hope is realised, or whether further action might be needed.

How might climate change affect such a species? Intuitively it sounds like a threat to species adapted to some of our coldest places. However, no confident predictions can be made, but a discussion of that complex issue is beyond the scope of this report.

David Mardon

*The research was funded directly by Scottish Natural Heritage, who also support the NTS work programme at Ben Lawers.

**The propagation was carried out by Richard Marriott, a stalwart volunteer supporter of the work.



Rural Stirling

HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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Opening of the Salmon Season



One of the wettest opening ceremonies for some years heralded the start of the season. At both Auchmore and Morenish the day got off to a good start and at least two fish were caught later.



Jack Stewart



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Gerry and Eileen McCarron



Photos by Iain Campbell

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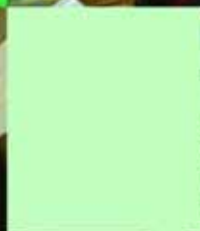
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If you have visited the business recently, you will see that the old Snack Stop is history and has been replaced with a lovely retail shop. The feedback has been superb, and many visitors have had the 'WOW' factor as they have come in the front door.

The Outdoor Store moved into the main building in the New Year and now has a much more spacious area for you to have a browse around.

The original Outdoor Store has been stripped for transforming into the new Snack Stop. Early morning and evening catering will be available as soon as possible !

There is more to come....we will be making changes to Goodies and Gifts too. Please let us know what you think when you come in to visit us.

Brand New Community Bus



Vic Hughes

grant application forms, helped by Kathryn Storey and Charlie Grant, with advice from Jean Cowie (Stirling Council funding officer) and Suzanne Player (Stirling Council Rural Community

Worker). The spanking new white Community Bus arrived on November 21st and it has already taken local folk to Runrig, Argaty Red Kites, team golf matches, Christmas shopping at Braehead, Stirling and on various Christmas outings. The Citroen Relay is not only useful but also proudly proclaims the name of Killin on its travels. It has a manual side step and a wheel chair lift at the back which are both stowed away inside the vehicle. Additional good news is that Stirling Council have approved the new bus for use every Thursday for their local Day Care transportation.

We are planning a celebratory Launch, so watch out for that. Thank you to all who have worked hard to raise the funds, decided which vehicle and what modifications, and got it on the road. Jill Higgins completed lots of

grant application forms, helped by Kathryn Storey and Charlie Grant, with advice from Jean Cowie (Stirling Council funding officer) and Suzanne Player (Stirling Council Rural Community

Worker). Many local groups also gave donations and helped with fundraising events. Thanks to you all. The Booking Diary is kindly hosted by News First. The hire rate is 60p per mile (including petrol). Regular users will note a change here - the old green bus counted in kilometres, this new wonderful white one counts in miles.

Management committee

Charlie Grant (Chairman Director), Jill Higgins (retiring Treasurer), Lyn Fenna (new Treasurer), Allan Chisholm (Driving Licences), John Connor (Maintenance Manager) Vic Hughes (Website) and Sue Wyllie (Secretary).

Please do feel free to contact us.

Thank you Jill

Jill Higgins has been the friendly face of Killin Community Bus for



many years. She has worked so hard keeping on top of bookings and finances, as well as being a volunteer driver herself. She has brought many of us a lot of pleasure by organising Community Bus trips to Theatres, music shows, shopping trips, exhibitions, garden shows and so much more. THANK YOU Jill, we will miss you. We will miss your cheerful helpfulness and your tireless (or so it seems from the outside!!) energy. We wish you and Colin all the very best in your move to pastures new. **Sue Wyllie**

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Killin SWRI 85th Anniversary

Mrs Fiona Inglis welcomed everyone to the 85th Birthday Party Dinner at the Bridge of Lochay Hotel, Killin, on 8th January.

There were 33 Ladies present and the Hotel put on an excellent meal for us in very comfortable surroundings.

We are fortunate to have a few ladies who have been members of the Killin S.W.R.I., for a number of years and we felt that this achievement should be recognized, Mrs Fiona Inglis presented a framed certificate and plant to Mrs May Graham, member for 60yrs, Mrs Margaret McDonald, member for 58yrs and Mrs Buntly MacGregor, member for 56yrs. The evening was rounded off with entertainment from a new local band who played lovely melodies, scottish music and led a wee sing song. A thoroughly enjoyable night was had by all.

Jane Brown

Buntly MacGregor, May Graham and Margaret MacDonald holding certificates presented to them for fifty years service with the Killin SWRI



The 85th Anniversary party of the Killin SWRI being entertained by "The Killin Wind and Strings" (?)

Photographs by Ron Allner



May Graham cutting the 85th anniversary cake



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Tel : 0131 444 4955 E:mail mmunro@trustha.org.uk

or Margaret Fenna, Sheltered Housing Co-ordinator
Ballechroisk Court , KILLIN FK21 8TD

Tel : 01567 820206 Website : trustha.org.uk

Tarmachan - and Basset Griffon Vendeen

In 2002 we wrote about hounds in Killin when we were heading to Crufts for the first time. How things have evolved since then! Our first Crufts was certainly one to remember. Fern was only 11 months old and we were both complete novices, although I think showing highland cattle for Judy Bowser did help a little! We came out triumphantly, not only winning Best Puppy, but also Reserve Best Bitch. In 2003 and 2004 Fern was Top Bitch in the UK. In 2007 she became the first ever Irish Champion in the breed. In 2004 Fern had her first litter. We kept a bitch from this litter, "Gaby", who followed in her mother's footsteps by winning many major championships including the National Elevage in France. In 2005 Gaby won Junior Bitch at Crufts only to be out-staged by her mother Fern who won Best Bitch and was narrowly beaten for Best of Breed by the current World Champion whom she had already beaten in 2003. In 2006 Fern had her second litter. We went to Holland to collect the dog and whilst in Amsterdam competed at the Winners' Show, the Dutch equivalent to Crufts, where both bitches were graded excellent.



Gaby won her class with Fern second in hers and both received gold medals. We returned home with an International Dog Champion and plenty of cheese for Dr De Laat! Once again we kept a bitch, Lottie who, not yet 3 years old, has become our third Irish Champion and in 2008 was Reserve Best Bitch at Crufts. One of the dogs from this litter now lives in Norway and became a Danish Champion in 2008. The litter sister, who won Best Puppy at Crufts in 2007, is now living in Australia and hopes to establish the breed out there. So here we are in 2009. We have just had our third litter, puppies from which have gone to Holland,

Denmark, Ireland & Wales. Crufts is looming so it is time to get the dogs and handlers back into shape, Fern is still recovering from an operation for a cruciate ligament tear. In May we are heading for the European Championships in Dublin. No doubt we will have to sample the Guinness again!

By the end of March we hope to have the certification to microchip dogs, so anyone who would like their dogs chipped please feel free to get in touch.

Michael & Fiona McLaren

£247 for Charity

At the start of a winter series of evening dinners held in November for local customers the Old Smiddy raised £247 for Rachel House Hospice for Sick Children. The meal comprised an 8 course taster menu accompanied by a variety of different wines. The money raised was from profits and donations made at the event. Many thanks to Michael Crow and family for all their hard work.

Mental Health Quiz Answers

In the last edition of the Killin News page 30 there was a test for your mental health IQ. Here are the answers to the 12 questions:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 True | 7 True |
| 2 Ethnic Minorities | 8 False |
| 3 False | 9 True |
| 4 True | 10 True |
| 5 True | 11 Anorexia |
| 6 True | 12 True |

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2009 -----



Myrica Reid Millie Tigwell Laura Aitken

Congratulations yet again Killin Drama Club for three nights of excellent entertainment. Hard work, meticulous planning, artistry, experience and co-operation came together in a wonderful production that held the attention of the audience from the opening moments to the very end. The excellence of the youngsters with their enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated how well the team had coached and prepared them for their roles. The confidence they have gained, a tribute to the team, will stay with them and enhance their lives. The whole cast gave of their best from the principal characters down to the youngest in the chorus. This is truly a village production that reflected the "professionalism" behind its success. Of course small lapses occurred, but these added to the humour and reminded us that this is our very own, home-grown, real, entertainment. We are greatly indebted for the hard work and expertise of those behind the scenes who planned and produced the show, those who trained and coached the cast and back-room staff, set the scene, made the costumes, managed the changes and helped on the day; indeed, the whole team. Thank you all.

WA



Jinny Dowling



Alex Tigwell

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----- Panto



Glenda Mardon



Jinny Dowling Megan Rhys Kay Dowling Glenda Mardon



Bill McAlpine Susan McRobbie Jane Brown

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Killin Primary School

MP's Christmas Card

Competition: Emma Aitken and Ellie Thomson, both pupils in Primary 5 at Killin Primary School, were highly commended by The Rt Hon Anne McGuire for their designs for her annual Christmas card competition. The girls went to the Smith Art Gallery and Museum to be presented with a certificate and a small gift each as an appreciation for the effort and hard work put into their designs.



Award for teacher: Killin Primary School teacher Emma McGuigan has been recognised for her Excellent Practice and has received an award from the National Association of Science Education. Two assessors had reported that the children and parents of Killin Primary should feel

privileged to have such an excellent practitioner in the school. Although everyone at Killin Primary School is very proud of Emma's achievement, we're not entirely surprised. Emma has received £1000 in recognition of her good work. The school will also be presented with £1000 to spend on science.

Graduation: Mr Alasdair Lunan will shortly graduate with a Postgraduate Certificate in Primary Physical Education.

Stable Manners: Thanks to everyone who came to support our Christmas Show on Friday 19th December. The children's performances were very entertaining and enjoyable. Chuck the Chicken, played by Robbie Taylor, had us chuckling at all his corny jokes and Baaaaaaarbra, the sheep played by



Lesley Meek, made everyone giggle every time she spoke (or should I say "Baaaaaaarbraed" !). The dancers were cute and groovy, so much so, that the two frosty fingers danced even when they were supposed to be sitting still. Each year people think that we'll never top this show but the children always seem to manage it!!

Christmas Party: Huge thanks to the ladies of Killin SWRI - the feast they laid on was fabulous. The children had a great time dancing and playing party games. They were entertained with a hilarious panto production of Aladdin performed by some parents and friends, followed by ice-cream and jelly. The ladies of SWRI even remembered to ask Santa to come and visit. We had a ball and the children all looked lovely in their party clothes.

Gaelic Club and Choir

Every Tuesday Rev. John Lincoln runs a Gaelic Club for primary school pupils in Primary 3 and above. This year they have been invited to take part in the Rural Blend concert in the McLaren Hall on Saturday 7th March.

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Killin & Crianlarich Nursery

Your school needs you:

This term:

In Primary 1/2/3 they're learning about "Toys from the Past"



In Primary 3/4/5 they're learning about "The Victorians"

In Primary 6/7 they're learning about World War 2

If anybody has a particular interest in any of the above topics, or can help us with our learning in any way, please contact the school on 01567 820265.

Open evening: On Thursday 12th March the children will share their learning with parents, friends, or interested members of the community.

Killin and Crianlarich Nurseries had a busy schedule leading up to the Christmas holidays.

The children in Crianlarich visited the school fayre in the village hall and attended the school concert. The 3-5 children visited the school with Natalie and had Christmas dinner with the children.

In Killin the 0-3 children visited the Retirement Home to sing Christmas songs to the residents and while they were there they bumped into Santa. The 3-5 children visited the infants in Killin Primary and sang Christmas songs for them and also went along to the McLaren Hall to

see the school Christmas Show which they thoroughly enjoyed. These visits give the pre-school children who will be attending Killin and Crianlarich Primaries the opportunity to become familiar with staff and children in the schools before August.

Elizabeth Hancock is Acting Head of Nursery and Jeanette Weir Acting Depute Head whilst Lucy Paulin is on secondment at Hillview Nursery. Lucy will be missed by all the staff and children.



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Letters

Christmas thanks

Killin posties would like to thank everyone for gifts at Christmas and wish all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Piano Exam

A huge thank you to Kathryn Storey. You are a brilliant piano teacher and make every lesson exciting and enjoyable. Thank you for my exam success.

Adele Melia

Thanks everyone

A big thank you to all my friends and colleagues, not forgetting Dr A De Laat and staff who dealt with me so efficiently following the surprise attack on my health. I was overwhelmed with the cards, offers of help and the visitors that I had. It was a great help that I really appreciated.

Gregor Macaulay

Warm thanks

We would like to sincerely thank the members of Killin Fire Service when our chimney went on fire. Also for their prompt attention and cleaning up after they so professionally and quickly got the blaze under control.

Bill & Alice MacPherson

Recovering

We would like to say thank you to all our family and friends for their good wishes, concern and care during Tom's recent illness. We are delighted to report that Tom is recovering well.

Tom and Louise Coffield

Group Captain David Dowling

On behalf of my family and myself I wish to thank all those whose messages of sympathy and deeds of kindness are truly appreciated. Your cash donations have been divided between the Earl Haig Poppy Fund and the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. We are most grateful for your generosity.

Ethel Dowling

Mary Hunter

The relatives of the late Mary Hunter wish to express their thanks to all Mary's friends who paid their last respects at the church and cemetery, and for their expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to the staff of the Home for their wonderful care which made Mary's stay so comfortable, and to the doctor for her medical attention. The comforting services of the Rev. John Lincoln were very much appreciated, as were the care and efficient funeral arrangements provided by

Mr Andrew Anderson. The retiring collection in aid of the Home amounted to £156.

John Forest

Duncan McNee

Annie, James, Johanna, Naomi, Karen, Steve and the rest of the grandchildren, also his two sisters Mary and Nan would like to thank all our relatives, neighbours and friends for all the support, cards and lovely flowers received following Duncan's sudden death. I would like to thank all the doctors and nurses who were so kind to Duncan throughout his illness and Rev. John Lincoln for his very comforting service and for all his visits to see Duncan in hospital and at home. Thank you also to Mr Anderson and Ross for all their help and compassion and for arranging and attending to the funeral. Thank you to all Duncan's ex Hydro colleagues, the Brethren of the Mansonic Lodge and the British Legion for their support and comfort. We also appreciate all who visited Duncan whilst he was in hospital and to those who assisted the family with transport. Also thank you to the manager and staff at Bridge of Lochay Hotel for providing refreshments which were appreciated by everyone. Duncan was born and brought up in Killin.



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He served his time as a butcher, completed National Service, worked in the Forestry, the Railway and latterly the Hydro Board for 24 years. Thank you to everyone who attended the funeral from near and far, it was such a great comfort to see so many people there. The collection at the service raised the grand sum of £1,160 for the Falls of Dochart Home which is very much appreciated.

**Annie,
Naomi, James, Johanna,
Karen and Steve**

Health Service Journal Awards 2008

Throughout the year Dr Holden & Fiona Buchanan were involved with a pilot project on Patient Safety. The aim of the project was to improve the knowledge and skills of practices and primary healthcare practitioners in the area of patient safety and clinical risk reduction and involved a small selection of practices from both NHS Tayside & Forth Valley.

This pilot project was short listed for a Health Service Journal Award 2008, which was presented at the Grosvenor Hotel, London. This is an annual awards ceremony celebrating the best innovations within the NHS and was attended by 1300 candidates hoping to win one of the 18 available awards. The shortlist was packed with inspiring examples of healthcare at its very best. Developing patient-led services, improving safety and tackling health inequalities were just a few of the themes that shone through in the work.

There were 8 projects short listed within our group with the eventual winners being Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. NHS Tayside & Forth Valley were very highly commended and ended up in the runners up spot, flying the flag for Scotland in an event very much dominated by the bigger trusts from England.

Tai Chi

Classes will start again on Tuesday 10th February in the Church Hall at 10am - 11.30am.

In order to sustain the class a 5 week block is planned with payment in advance for the 5 weeks. If 7 people sign up then the cost will be £5 - if more people sign up then the cost will be less. Without 7 people the class cannot run.

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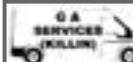
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Group Captain D.E.B.Dowling AF.C. 1930-2008

David was born in Runcorn and spent his childhood mainly in Cheshire and during the early war in Fairbourne, Wales, before going to Malvern College, which he left in 1948 to go to RAF College Cranwell. There he qualified as a pilot and embarked on a career that took him all over the world including Norway, Turkey, USA, Peru, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong where he was Station Commander during the Communist troubles in 1966 and 1967.

In 1957 he met his future wife Ethel in Canada and they married in 1958. His son, Anthony, was born in Wales in 1959 and twin daughters, Jenny and Susan, in 1961 on the Isle of Man.

During his career he flew 36 different types of aircraft, from Tiger Moths to VC10 airliners. In between and after his flying posts he was undertaking Command and Training duties. His final posting in the RAF was to a training job at RAF College Cranwell where it all began. During his career he received the Air Force Cross, the Queen's Jubilee Medal, the Peruvian Cross and the Borneo Medal.

He retired in 1981 and the same year inherited his father's farm in



Wales which had been part of his life since he joined the RAF as, whenever possible, he would go there to help out. However it proved too small to be viable so in the early 1980s David and Ethel toured Scotland looking for a larger farm resulting in the purchase of Kinnell in 1986 and their 32nd, final and biggest move together, involving 5 removal vans, 2 cattle lorries and an artic.

David took an active role in the estate business right up to his death

and worked quietly on committees and organisations locally to try to preserve the "essence" of Killin and Loch Tay and to improve local services. He took a wider view as many MPs will testify. He liked this area and had a great respect for the local community whom he found always helpful and generous.

David was the local representative for the Earl Haig Fund and over the last 17 years collected for the fund. He had many hobbies and one of his greatest loves was sailing. He would often set sail from Oban on his yacht with his family out to explore the West coast.

With four of them living next door, David always had time for his five grandchildren. He very often did the school run and enjoyed joining in the local politics discussed at the school gate.

In October 2008 David and Ethel celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary at Kinnell, and this included a 6 course Victorian dinner with all the family.

The lives he touched were many and he will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Anthony Dowling

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Local Planning Applications

National Park

Week 46

Other Planning Issues

Former Youth Hostel Association site
Killin Provisional Tree Preservation order was made on the thirteenth of November 2008 because:-

The National Park Authority has recently been alerted to tree clearance works being undertaken within the grounds of the former Youth Hostel Association site in Killin. The landowner has stated that work is being undertaken with a view to developing the site for housing, although no current planning consents exist for the site. The remaining trees on the site make a significant contribution to the amenity of the area and setting of the existing Victorian villa on the site as well as forming part of a wider belt of woodland that forms the backdrop to the north western part of the village. In order to ensure that adequate consideration is made of the contribution that the remaining trees can make to the amenity value of any future use of the site, it is considered expedient to serve a Tree Preservation Order to protect the trees.

A certified copy of the Order and map may be inspected at National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG between the hours of 8.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.

You may make objections or representations to the Planning Authority in terms of Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 1975 as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations, 1981.

REGULATION 7

- (1) Every objection or representation to the Planning Authority with respect to an Order shall be made in writing, shall state the grounds thereof and specify the particular trees, group of trees or woodlands in respect of which it is made.
- (2) An objection or representation shall be duly made if it complies with paragraph (1) of this Regulation and is received by the Planning Authority within 28 days from the date of the service of the notice of the making of the Order or the date of the publication of the notice by advertisement as the case may be.

Proposal: Hydro Electric Scheme
Location: Allt Fionn Hydro Scheme, Glen Falloch Scheme near Crianlarich
Decision: Object to the proposal as currently presented to the Scottish Government.

Week 47

Proposal: Erection of two stables and change of use of ground at rear of Inn to outside riding area.

Location: Falls Of Dochart Inn Killin
Applicant: Lochearnhead Developments Ltd.

Application Type: Detailed Consent

Week 48

Proposal: Erection of front extension to form covered seating area.

Location: The Real Food Cafe Tyndrum

Applicant: Real Food Cafe

Application Type: Detailed Consent

Week 49

Proposal: Demolition of existing outbuilding.

Location: Lochleven Cottage Killin

Applicant: Frank Cornfield,

Application Type: Conservation Area Consent

Proposal: Erection of rear extension with first floor balcony and erection of front porch.

Location: 2 Willow Square Crianlarich

Applicant: Mr I MacPherson

Application Type: Household

Alteration/Extension

Proposal: Reconstruction of overhead electricity line.

Location: Auchtertyre - Tyndrum 11KV

Overhead Electricity Line

Applicant: Scottish And Southern Energy

Power Distribution

Application Type: Statutory Notification

Week 51

Proposal: Change of use from agricultural/grazing land to storage site for vehicles and secure

containers.(Temporary Period - 3 years)

Location: Land North Of Dochart House

Lyon Road Killin

Applicant: Scotland Transerv

Application Type: Detailed Consent

Decision: Approve with Conditions

Week 1

Proposal: Erection of dwelling house.

Location: Lochleven Cottage Killin

Applicant: Frank Cornfield

Application Type: Detailed Consent

Proposal: Erection of front porch.

Location: Alpine Cottage Killin

Applicant: Mrs L Edmunds
Application Type: Household Alteration/Extension

Proposal: Proposed restoration of 2 No. derelict buildings to form one dwellinghouse

Location: 1 And 2 Railway Cottages Killin FK21 8RF

Applicant: Dr Alistair Lee

Application Type: Detailed Consent

Decision: Approve with Conditions

Proposal: Reconstruction of overhead electricity line.

Location: Auchtertyre - Tyndrum 11KV

Overhead Electricity Line

Applicant: Scottish And Southern Energy

Power Distribution

Application Type: Statutory Notification

Decision: No Objections

Stirling Council

Nil

Perth & Kinross Council

21 November 2008

Proposal: Erection of 8 timber lodges and associated carparking, access paths

Location: Lochtay Highland Lodges, Killin

Applicant: Loch Tay Holiday Lodges

Application Type: Approval of Reserved

Matters

Decision: Pending Decision

24 December 2008

Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse

Location: High Creagan, Killin

Applicant: Mr Alastair Kennedy

Application Type: Full Application

Decision: Pending Consideration

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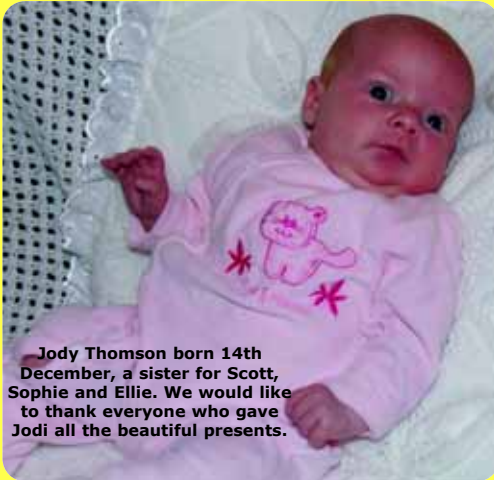
No minimum quantity

Contact Maggie Hibbert

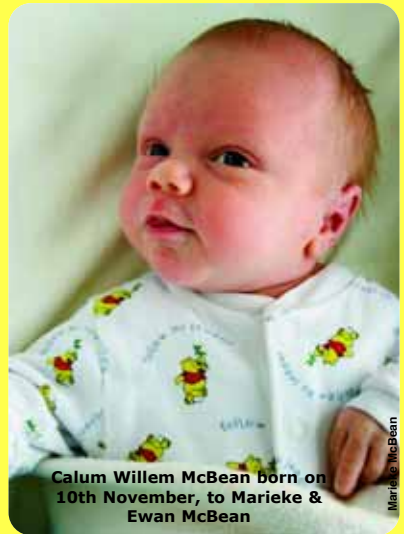
01567 820422

Email: Lilacstitches@aol.com

Celebrations



Jody Thomson born 14th December, a sister for Scott, Sophie and Ellie. We would like to thank everyone who gave Jodi all the beautiful presents.



Calum Willem McBean born on 10th November, to Marieke & Ewan McBean



Jack Harvey Rennie, born 15th December 2008 at Stirling Royal Infirmary, a brother for Liam. Gail and Arthur would like to thank everyone for all the gifts, cards and flowers.



Lorna Wilkieson and Craig Murray, of the Police House Crianlarich, at the Glen Orchy Hotel after their recent marriage at Strathfillan Church, Crianlarich



Across the Globe
Dr. David Syme at Angel Falls in Venezuela
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Walking Through the Glen The Wild Traveller

Perthshire artist Eric Timms left the Fortingall Hotel on 5th January, accompanied by Angel the mountain pony, his paints and a desire to feel inspired by the dramatic winter scenery of Glen Lyon. After his nine day trip the plans are to pipe him into the Fortingall Hotel following his walk to raise money for his art gallery, Boltachan Gallery. Eric hopes to come back with ideas for a series of ten Glen Lyon paintings to be exhibited in the gallery in April. Following in the footsteps of Denavan Adams, one of the last people to undertake such a trip in Victorian times, Eric Timms enjoyed the mystery, solitude and, above all, the majesty of the remote Glen Lyon in winter. He has also experienced severe cold temperatures and says: "The cold weather really added to the austere beauty of Glen Lyon and I am delighted with my initial sketches. I am hopeful that all ten pictures will portray the Glen in a new and interesting way." For more details and photos, contact Ann Fazakerley on 07770 830595 or Julie McLean on 0131 225 5225.

Julie McLean

Blend Concert

Killin Library Launch 4pm 7 March Killin Library FREE

The Blend joins forces with Stirling Council's library service to celebrate the re-opening of Killin's refurbished library. After the launch come and join in a wee procession along to the McLaren Hall where there will be a pre-gig reception.

The Anna Massie Band with Rachel Lincoln, Siobhan Anderson and

Killin Primary School Gaelic Choir Saturday 7th March 7.30pm McLaren Hall, Killin Tickets £10/£8 from News First

Anna Massie is a talented multi-instrumentalist in the fiddle, mandolin and tenor banjo, though perhaps most impressive is her guitar playing - equally at home accompanying in her unique rhythmic style or flatpicking. Anna's band features the impressive guitar and vocal talents of Jenn Butterworth and the outstanding accordian and border pipe playing of Mairearad Green. Support comes from two of Killin's young talents, Rachel Lincoln (clarsach) and Siobhan Anderson (fiddle), who are becoming regular players at the Blend and are joined by Killin Primary School Gaelic Choir.

Think about it

In late January 1956, during the tense days of the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott, civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King Jr. could not sleep. A threatening telephone call had terrified him. So he prayed, "I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But Lord, I must confess that I am weak now, I'm faltering, I'm losing my courage. Now I am afraid.... The people look to me for leadership and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers - I can't face it alone."

Dr King later wrote, 'At that moment I experienced the presence of the Divine as I never experienced Him before. It seemed as though I could hear the quiet assurance of an inner voice saying, 'Stand up for righteousness, stand up for truth, and God will be at your side forever.' Almost at once my fears began to go. My uncertainty disappeared. I was ready to face anything.'

The rest is history. Dr King wanted to see people of all colours free of the damage done by racism and prejudice. The recent election of President Barack Obama is the fulfilment of Dr King's dream.

If we face opposition when we're trying to do what's right, we too may cry out to the Lord. He alone is our "rock of refuge, a fortress of defense." (Psalm 31:2) He is a reliable source of strength and protection. When we trust the power of God, we experience peace, not panic. **Ladd Fagerson**

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Does your organisation need anything?

The CFSLA Payroll Lottery (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Local Authorities) is made up of the employees of all three participating councils and the Police, Fire and Assessors Service as well as Forth Valley College. Cash is raised by way of a voluntary monthly prize draw. After paying out the prizes, the remaining money is used to help mainly local groups. Funding is normally in the form of equipment, materials, etc. We only give cash in exceptional circumstances.

The CFSLA Payroll Lottery donated over £10,000 in 2008 to local community organisations and local, national and international charities. It donated equipment and supported council staff fundraising efforts to a wide variety of organisations including scout groups, youth football, playgroups, community newspapers, cancer charities, hospices, overseas orphanages etc.

The committee meet 4-5 times annually to decide which applications to support with the profits of their monthly payroll lottery. The lottery is open to all employees of the 6 organisations above and to former employees. Staff can apply for additional help with their fundraising efforts and organisations can apply for equipment to help them maintain or improve the services they offer. The next meeting will be held on 11th February 2009 but organisations can apply at any time.

Forms are available from lottery_russell@hotmail.com or shortly from the new website www.cfsla.org.uk

Traditional Music Session

A new traditional music session is going to start in Killin. It will take place each second Sunday of the month in the Coach House pub, from 8-11pm. If it turns out to be successful, the session might happen more regularly. The first session will take place on Sunday 8th February and all are welcome to join in or just listen. We're looking forward to seeing you there. For more information contact **Marieke or Ewan 01567 829341**

More on Electoral Roll

The new Register of Electors (Voters Roll) published on 1st December shows an increase in the number of eligible electors in the Forth Valley Area as 222,616, an increase of 3924 over the last published register on 1st February 2008.

Over 12% of households have not yet returned the annual form but the number of households responding increased and the additional electors registered will now be able to vote in any future elections including the European Parliament Election on 4th June 2009.

There has also been an increase in the percentage of voters who have chosen to withhold their names from the Edited Register of Electors hoping to lessen the amount of junk mail they receive.

In Killin the total electorate is 782, of whom 202 (25.83%) opted out of the Edited version and in Crianlarich/Tyndrum the total electorate is 248, with 88 (35.48%) opting out.

The Local area 1st December Register of Electors is available to view in local libraries and the full Register in the Council headquarters and the office of the ERO.

Anyone who has still to register or needs to notify the ERO of a change of address or name can obtain a form in their local library or download a registration form from www.saa.gov.uk/central or

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk Postal Vote forms and more information about registering to vote and voting options are also available from these websites or from Electoral Registration Officer, Hillside House, Laurelhill, Stirling FK7 9JQ Tel 01786-892200 or Fax 01786-892255

Love's Extremities

Capriciously love contradicts itself,
Embracing opposition on the way:
It rests not wearily upon the shelf
But circulates in continuity.

Its nadir is alight with inner fire,
Impelling us to take but not to give.
When driven by the fuel of desire,
It's recipe for life is 'Let it live!'

Its zenith is the brightness of a light
That shines from those who give
but
do not take.
Illuminating others with the might
Of due reciprocation in its wake.

The downward slope is easy to
traverse,
The upward path both difficult and
steep,
But to achieve our goal we must
reverse

The course of nature that we're
wont to keep

So bound by one, yet needful of the
other,
Life's compromise must be to give
and take
But mindful of humanity as brother,
We have to work together for its
sake.

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New Year's Day Killin



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Tyndrum/Crianlarich

Fortnightly Fridays
Feb 20, Mar 06, 20
April 03

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 16, Mar 02, 16, 30

Glenlochay 10.50 – 12.30
Ardeonaig 2.00 – 2.45

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bringing hope to those affected
by divorce or separation

Are you or someone you know suffering
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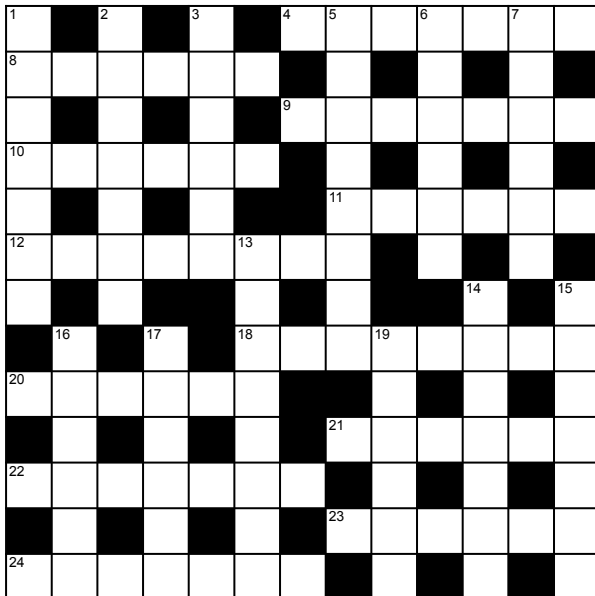
Feeling overwhelmed, lonely, depressed,
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New Course beginning
Monday 16th Feb - 30th March
2009

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info@hearttoheart.org.uk
www.hearttoheart.org.uk

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Street, Callander, Fk17 8BN

Crossword by Scorpio



Across

- 4 Eastern limb with emmet is very smart (7)
 8 Tin and primate join for party nibble (6)
 9 Make even better (7)
 10 Has father's attempt been successful with this crust (6)
 11 Room for movement (6)
 12 Can be assured of proper service (8)
 18 A drinking act (8)
 20 She makes a male US attorney (6)
 21 It is fowl to prohibit little Scottish Thomas (6)
 22 Second most aged is rather pushy (7)
 23 No alarm can create lack of standards (6)
 24 An area of frequently demolished castles (7)

Solution 107

- Across** 4 obelisk 8 impart 9 scandal
 10 Thieve 11 preset 12 fantasia
 18 and 22 Take it or leave it 20 cigars
 21 pen nib 23 red ant 24 tenable
Down 1 Lift off 2 options 3 trivia 5 backpack
 6 lender 7 seabee 13 sit still 14 etonian
 15 probate 16 misere 17 salvia 19 evened

Down

- 1 A kingly symbol of authority (7)
 2 Reflective result (7)
 3 Ancient city renowned for military prowess (6)
 5 Put an A into extended rental for well known animal park (8)
 6 Scraped by tooth (6)
 7 Sugary fluid favoured by the Gods (6)
 13 Circumvented (2-6)
 14 Past events (7)
 15 Am snail oddly in the same class as larger creatures (7)
 16 I am assuming an attitude in which to obtrude (6)
 17 Positively opposite of cathodes (6)
 19 Remove 50 from all limbs and get shocks (6)

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What's On in Killin and District

February

- 14 Childrens Cinema night Community Rooms 7-9.30pm (see page 15)
 18 Herb Society "Herb Cookery" demonstrated by Michael Crowe - Grantully Hall 10 am to 12 noon
 25 Dancing Taster Session Lochearnhead Village Hall 7-9pm (see page 15)
 28 Safari Supper

March

- 5 SWRI meeting Lesser Hall 7.30pm
 6 Killin Heritage Society meeting "Gaelic Surnames" Lesser Hall 7.30pm
 7 Blend Concert McLaren Hall 7pm
 10 Killin Community Council meeting School 7.30pm
 18 Herb Society "Bach Flower Remedies" Sarah Kelly Locus Centre, Aberfeldy 7.30 - 9.30 pm
 26 -28 Drama Festival McLaren McLaren Hall

April

- 2 SWRI meeting Lesser Hall 7.30pm

Yoga

Wednesdays
 Church Hall
 12.30pm
 Tel Ann Corbett
 01877 376291

Quilter's Group

Tuesdays
 Church Hall 2pm

Keep Fit

Wednesdays
 McLaren Hall
 7-8pm 8-9pm

Highland Dancing

Tuesdays
 Crianlarich Hall
 3 classes 4.30-7.30pm

Tuesday Club

Church Hall 2pm

Guides

Wednesdays
 Church Hall
 7.30pm-9pm

Brownies

Mondays
 Church Hall
 3.30pm-5pm

Fire Cadets

Mondays
 Fire Station 6.45pm

Art Class

Tuesdays
 Church Hall
 4pm-6pm

Carpet Bowls

Mondays
 Lesser Hall
 7.30pm

Badminton

Mondays
 McLaren Hall
 6pm for juniors
 7pm adults

Upholstery Class

Mondays
 Lesser Hall
 10.30am-1.30pm

Slow Progress



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Aloe Vera	35	MacFarlane Gray	9
Anderson Dentistry	26	MacKinnon Services	6
Andrew Anderson & Sons	29	MacGregor, R.A.	12
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If you go down to the lochside you might see Leo. A very sociable cat, Leo will always join you when far from home. Interrupting his tete a tete with camping fishermen, he decided to walk with me back to Killin. Sadly his fitness is long gone as a result of his sociability, food being one of his downfalls.

Having commandeered me as his walking companion, we made slow progress back to Killin.

Every-so-often Leo needed to lie down on his side to catch his breath. Carrying him more than 100 meters was not acceptable, either to Leo or to me, in my case due to his enormous weight. A sack of potatoes would have been an easier proposition. If you are on his visiting list and have real concerns about his health please listen to the plea of his rightful owner (if a cat can have a rightful owner) not to feed him as he gets enough at home. He really visits you for your company and you are only one of many on his list. He only accepts food out of politeness.

WA

Which bin which week?

Week beginning
 9 Feb Brown
 16 Feb Grey/Green
 23 Feb Brown
 2 Mar Grey/Green
 9 Mar Brown
 16 Mar Grey/Green
 23 Mar Brown
 30 Mar Grey/Green



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