

KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Price £1

Issue 122

June 2011





DEADLINES
Issue 123 :
Advertising
8th July
Copy
15th July

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, 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

The final open meeting for the community consultation has been held and Suzanne Player will use the information she has gathered to draft out a Killin Community Development Plan. Everyone has had an opportunity for their views to be considered. The results will inform us of the priorities and the issues in which the community would like to see change. A document outlining the results of the consultation will be produced.

Change is inevitable. "Harsh economic realities" affecting the Stirling Council budget will undoubtedly continue to affect the services the council provide. It is important that the community is a partner and involved in the decisions about setting local priorities and making savings so they reflect local needs. Bob Jack, Chief Executive of Stirling Council has already discussed the issue, presented by Strathfillan Community Council, of having a local maintenance team based in the area rather than having to waste time, expense and carbon emissions coming from far afield. Some isolated communities already employ local people in part time work to cover a wide range of community services from repairing the roads to social care. Local employment and management can prioritise the things the community find important and ensure cuts are in the areas where they are less likely to raise an objection.

This could be the start of a new relationship between Stirling Council and Community Councils involving dialogue, partnership, commitment, support and the sharing of aims and goals. Working together will mean that communities also share responsibility for the process and outcome. We are ready for that, aren't we?

Important artefacts abound around Killin - cup marked stones, archaeological remnants, stone circle, the axe factory, Lawers village, shellings, peat roads, Finlarig Castle, Ellanryne, Eilean Puttychan and Innes Buidhe. Many visitors arrive and leave the area without being made aware of the wealth of history that surrounds the village. One or two groups within the village are considering erecting information boards within the village. Having had a poor tourist year last year anything that will enhance the experience must surely be good.

WA

Front page picture Ploughing Match at Innishewan
 by David Robertson

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Ploughing Match



David Robertson

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David Robertson

Great Day!



David Robertson

Hamish McDiarmid, winner of the reversible plough, the judge, Derek Pitcaithly of Ballinluig and Finlay Macaskill, overall winner, at the Suie Lodge Hotel

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Killin Community Council May Meeting

Road Maintenance: The road outside Craigbuie House on Main Street is deemed to be of required standard and safe although unsightly after the jet patcher repaired it.

Breadalbane Park:

Funding: has been secured for £10,000 to buy new equipment for the Playpark. Equipment will be discussed at the Killin Consultation Meeting on 21st May.

Drainage: Work on the football pitch has already started as stage one of the plan and stage two will begin when more funding has been secured.

Goal Posts: Grants are available and funding is being applied for **Breadalbane Forum:** Next meeting 30th May.

Dochart Bridge: Ian Young, Stirling Council, has reported that the bridge is safe. A copy of the survey taken is to be obtained.

Glen Lyon Road: A letter to be written to ask what exactly the intentions of the landowner are.

KAT: Killin Cutting Carbon has now ended.

Correspondence:

Funding is available through Stirling Council Local Estate Action Plan

which can be used to improve fencing lanes and open spaces etc. for Council tenants.

Craignavie Wood is to be felled from June -16.7 Hectares in total. The area will be replanted

Cemetery: Work is to recommence soon.

Killin 10K Run: To take place on 27th August starting from the War Memorial at 12noon and on to the Glenlochay loop and back. There will be a partial road closure on the Main Street but not the Glenlochay Road.

ACOB

Tir Artair Wood trees are overgrown - the land owner is to be asked to trim them back.

Dog Litter has been reported as a problem at the Fingal Road pond

PC Malcolm O'May Is the new Rural Wildlife Crime Officer

Grit Residue has been reported as a problem on the pavements - a request will be made for it to be cleared

Youth Group: A member of the killin Youth Group will attend future Killin CC meetings.

The Youth Group held a meeting with David Brown to discuss a possible bus pass for after school activities and the possibility of

renewing the Young Scot Cards that the School won't replace. There was also discussion about the prospect of a Sunday morning bus to Killin from Callander.

The A84 Callander to Strathyre

Road will be closed from 7pm to 6am for a week in June. It has been asked if this can be put back to 10pm as 7pm was deemed too early for locals and tourists alike. A mobile home at the bottom car park is to be investigated as it has been there since December. Police to check.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th July 7.30pm in the Lesser McLaren Hall.

The Council AGM was held after the meeting. Officers will remain the same:

Chairperson: Fiona Kennedy

Vice Chairperson: Charlie Grant

Secretary: Tim Frost

Minutes Secretary: Pamela Farquharson

Treasurer: Gillian Farmer

Examiner: Lesley Stitt

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Road Closures



Scotland TranServ is proposing to carry out essential carriageway maintenance on a section of the A84 Trunk Road which will unfortunately require night-time road closures on two sections between Callander and Strathgryre. The road in places is less than 6m wide so will not allow room for traffic to pass during the work and the safety of the workforce and travelling public is paramount. The two schemes are currently programmed as follows:

12th -14th June

A84 - Somerled Cottage, Kilmahog, drainage works

12th -17th June

A84 - Runnacraig House North, Surfacing and antiskid works

Work will be carried out over 5 nights (Sunday night to Friday morning) 22.00 to 06:00 hours (changed from 19.00 to 06.00 at the request of local communities). At all other times, there will be no restrictions to normal traffic movements. A diversion route will allow an alternative route for traffic to bypass the closure while the works are being carried out.

Killin Medical Practice

New Computer System

As mentioned in the last edition of the Killin News, we are rapidly approaching the installation of our new computing system. The changeover will start on **Monday 27th June** and will continue for a week. During this period there will be considerable disruption. We will not have access to any medical records, or be able to issue prescriptions. Please ensure that you have enough repeat medication to see you through until at least the 8th July.

Once the installation is complete, we will then have to learn how to use it, so please bear with us - we will try to get to grips with it as soon as possible.

We have been advised by other practices in the Forth Valley area that have already switched to the new system to cancel all routine appointments, so only urgent appointments will be available during the changeover.

Balquhiddar Summer Music



This is the twenty sixth year of providing classical music concerts in Balquhiddar Kirk on summer Sunday evenings. In 2011 there are five concerts, the first on 10th July and the fifth on 7th August, all at 7pm. A good lineup of musicians has been arranged. Details are on the website, www.balquhiddersummertime.org.uk which includes the concert programmes and pictures of some of the participants. Tickets £8 (concessions £7) and season tickets £30. Do come to this long-running concert series which has built up a reputation for high-quality music by young professional players and singers. For more details, call

Alan Clarke
01877 384 338

Auction

There was a truly wonderful response to this year's auction with numerous donations from which the delighted Lodge Members created 400 lots.

The selection of goods was astonishing in range and variety with many in the "hardly used" category.

The evening attendance was amazing with a steady flow of curious visitors from 4.30pm through to the start of the sale. There were ninety-eight catalogues issued and with the bidding support teams the hall was well filled.

The last lot came under the hammer at around 10.20pm and in the following hour and a half goods were paid for and collected by delighted purchasers.

Throughout the sale the goodies from the kitchen were in steady demand, as were the refreshments from the bar.

The Lodge wishes to thank the community most sincerely for the huge support received which repaid the work that went into making this a night to remember and a mighty thanks to all who so generously donated the goods. Donations will be filtering into various local organisations, which will help in some way in this difficult economic period.

Please make a note in next year's diary the 2012 Auction will be held on Easter Saturday.

Alex Stewart, Lodge Secretary

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Emergency Services Event

As part of the nursery transition we held an emergency services event on Tuesday 17th May. This involved all the nursery children who will be coming into P1 next year, all the current P1s and all the P6 pupils who will be buddies for the nursery pupils. These pupils ate their lunch together and then just after 1pm had the chance to look round a fire engine, an ambulance, the mountain rescue vehicle and a police car. Also we hope to have a mountain rescue dog visiting us!

Grounds Day

On Monday 23rd May we held our annual Grounds Day. Once again children split into their buddy groups and this year the nursery children joined us for a short time as part of their transition to primary school. Many great activities took place including vegetable planting, developing our pond area, designing playground games and painting a fence and picnic tables.

Spring Clean Event

On Thursday 26th May we went spring cleaning during our 'Keep Scotland Beautiful, National Spring Clean' event. Small groups of children and adults visited designated sites within

Killin Primary School

Killin including the lochside to complete a number of litter activities. Each group received a Clean Up Kit which included a map highlighting a designated site requiring cleaned up. They then visited their site where pupils and/or adults took on specific roles. These roles included a photographer, a surveyor and litter pickers.

Bee Plus

As well as our spring clean and grounds day during eco week we did a 'Bee Plus Project'. The 'Bee Plus Project' involved all the children completing many activities to find out about bees and their habitat. There were outdoor events involving the creation of a bee garden and workbook activities. All the children got a 'bee' goody bag including seeds and honey!

Readathon

On Thursday 9th June, Killin Primary School will be having a Readathon, this will be during school time. It will be happening for a week. We will get leaflets so people can sponsor us. We will also get bookmarks which will have advertising on them about the Readathon such as "Where's Wally?" and they will also have the Readathon logo on them.

Swimming

The Primary 5/6s have been going to

McLaren Leisure Centre for swimming lessons. Their swimming teachers are called Mrs Brisbane and Mr. Russell. When we get there we are split into two groups. One group are in the shallow end and the other group are in the deep end. In the deep end some of the P5/6s practise the back stroke, front crawl, butterfly stroke and diving. In the shallow end they are practising diving and gliding. We have 5 more weeks, including this week, of swimming.

Alaya P6

Guitar Hero

In class 3 at Killin Primary School the pupils have been divided into rock bands. The reason for this is our new "novel study" topic, the divided city. It is about sectarianism in Glasgow involving Celtic and Rangers. So far we have named our rock bands, Fatality, Hard Core, The Demons of Disaster (not a spelling mistake), Scream and T.R.S (The Rock Stars). Later on we will write songs dedicated to the book using Guitar Hero World Tour on the Nintendo Wii. My colleague and I think that the topic will be a fun activity to get away from the stress of the classroom (Maths).

Euan & Max P7

The Gaelic Choir

Killin Gaelic Choir will be participating in the Aberfeldy Mod. The Aberfeldy Mod is a competition in which all the school choirs in the surrounding area sing the two songs that they have been practising. It will take place on Thursday 9th June. Good luck to all the children taking part!

Hazel P6



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Killin Youth Group

Many thanks to everyone who attended the recent UV themed Ceilidh organised by the Youth Group. Two hundred and five tickets were sold making a fantastic total of £850. It was great to see so many young people really getting into the ceilidh dancing. Thank you to all the local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes. The money will be going towards a planned residential weekend away to an as yet undisclosed location in October. A special mention must go to Jinny Dowling and Eilidh Shearer who put a huge amount of effort into selling tickets, decorating the hall and helping tidy up at the end. Well done girls, you were brilliant, thank you!

The Group recently held a logo design competition. Millie Tigwell's winning design is shown next to this article. The logo will be appearing on hooded tops that the group will be wearing proudly very soon! There's lots happening for the Youth Group over the coming months. We will be having five visits on Tuesday nights to Firlush Outdoor Centre for water sports activities and on Wednesday nights the Group will be working through the John Muir Award and finding out about local wildlife - with the focus on bats!

This is being organised by PC Iona Frickleton, who has been instrumental in getting the group interested in the idea and sourcing funding. They will be visiting the John Muir Centre in Edinburgh and designing a bat trail around the village, amongst other things. The Group will continue meeting over the summer holidays with a variety of activities and in August will be welcoming in a big group of new 1st year pupils. Young people of secondary school age who live in the Killin and Ardeonaig area are welcome to come along. For more info please contact

Pete Waugh

Youth Group Leader
07786 558861



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The Brownies presenting a cheque for £300 to the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home which they raised from their Christmas card delivery - a wonderful effort and an introduction of the young to care in our community. Lydia Hill holds the cheque and in the photo with the Brownies are Julie Rhys and Fiona Boath together with Home residents Elma Wilson and Bunty Macdonald, with Deputy Manager Freda Cairns looking on. Well done girls it is really appreciated.

Jim Cushley

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Strathfillan

New homes for affordable rent in Tyndrum

Rural Stirling Housing Association has

marked the completion of seven new affordable homes for rent in Tyndrum with an official opening event.

A crowd of guests gathered to view the three large family houses and four cottage flats. All are highly energy efficient with renewable heating and hot water systems powered by ground source heat pumps. At the community's request a new footpath and footbridge across a burn to local facilities was also constructed.

The site was originally to be

developed in 2000 through a self-build arrangement but that fell through. The plots then stood vacant until 2007 when RSHA acquired the site and, jointly with Strathfillan Community Development Trust, commissioned an independent housing need study to help establish the type of housing most needed in the area.

The local community was then involved in regular meetings with RSHA staff and the architect to discuss the housing mix and design of the new homes.

Under a Local Lettings Initiative all the new homes have been allocated to people in housing need who live in or have a need to move to the local area.

At the event Community Council Secretary Moira Robertson welcomed residents to their new homes. Bruce Crawford, MSP, also commended the Association for the very high quality of the new homes and for the community engagement process undertaken.

Tony Teasdale

Director, Rural Stirling HA

01786 841101

tony@rsha.demon.co.uk



New resident Jennifer Riley, with Moira Robertson (Strathfillan Community Council), Bruce Crawford, Owen McKee (Chair of Rural Stirling HA) Councillors Owens and Goss and other local residents and guests



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Strathfillan Community Development Trust

Internet/Learning Café

Many of you will be aware of the First Click project being run by the BBC to encourage the terrified to take their first steps into the world of computing. In Britain it is reckoned that 9.2 million people have never touched a computer! At the Internet and Learning Café we would like to help bring that number down - well at least by a few dozen! There are laptops available or you are welcome to bring your own along. Our friendly tutor Heather will help you take your first steps into the World Wide Web. Whether it's shopping, chatting, banking, finding a job, booking a flight or any other of the myriad options available via the internet, Heather can help. There are also distance learning courses covering a multitude of subjects available. The Internet Café is open Tuesday and Friday each week from 11am to 4pm at only £2 per hour.

The PAL Club (Play and Learn) for our youngsters is on Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm. Mums and Dads are welcome too!

Saplings

It's that time of year again! The working group has been busy organising this year's summer activities programme for youngsters 8 years and over in Strathfillan. We are putting the final details on an exciting and varied schedule. Again we have to say thank you to those volunteers who have agreed to prepare for and lead their days. We couldn't do it without them! So Mums and Dads please keep an eye on the schoolbags for the booking forms later this term.

Crianlarich Into Action

(Heritage Trail Project - funded by Forth Valley Leader, Stirling Council and SCDT). The working group have now viewed and commented on our consultant's initial findings and recommendations. This initial draft shows how carefully they have listened to what our community has had to say about future developments in Crianlarich - and not just a Heritage Trail.

Their ideas take into account the residents as well as visitors to the village. The consultants will present a final draft in June and plan to come along to the next Community Council meeting.

Craft Group

A chat with like-minded others after the Wednesday Tai Chi has resulted in a Craft Club being held in Tyndrum Village Hall on the first Monday of the month 11am-1pm. So if you fancy getting your creative juices flowing please come along (£3 for 3 hours). We hope to do a bit of everything - sewing, jewellery making, creative recycling of fabrics, clothes etc. We plan to have a couple of sewing machines and to build up a stock of fabrics for all to use. The end result could be a stock of well-crafted goods to be sold at a Christmas Fair!!! Who couldn't use a few more pennies?! So bring along old remnants and half finished projects - your old curtains could be someone else's luxury cushion covers!!

Joyce Russell

(Development Officer)

Tel 01838 400 545

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Strathfillan by the Way

Strathfillan Community Council

Goldmine

The appeal from Scotgold has been dropped.

All the comment sheets filled in at the Open Day will be submitted with Scotgold planning application. At the Rural Stirling Housing Association [RSHA] Open Day for the new houses in Mansefield, Bruce Crawford mentioned the impact of the goldmine on the community.

A scoping consultation has been issued by Scotgold and can be viewed at

<http://eplanning.lochlomond-trossachs.org/OnlinePlanning/> then insert the application reference 2010/0330/PAC.

Transport

There are traffic lights at the unsafe bridge at Corriechoarach and there does not appear to be any action. Alan Smailes will contact TranServ to find out what is happening. Cameron suggested that the traffic lights on the Killin side should be moved further back as it is a potential hazard. TranServ's response to Alan's email can be found at

<http://www.scottishdemocracy.com/discussion/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=392>

Defibrillators

Gwenn Hunter contacted the British Heart Foundation [BHF] to find out about grants for defibrillators. BHF will provide 50% of the funding. A defibrillator for each village will cost £3000, so the community would have to find £1500. Isla Craig will ask Murray McEwan, Community Resuscitation Officer and Scottish Ambulance Service how discussions with the Fire Brigade went. Cameron Taylor as Vice-Chair of Strathfillan Tourist Action Group will ask members for donations. If more money is required then an article will be put in the Killin News asking residents for donations. Isla has agreement from hotel owners in Crianlarich and Tyndrum. Gwenn will approach The Drovers Inn.

Fire Service Consultation

Gwenn responded to the Consultation on the Future of the Fire and Rescue Service in Scotland on behalf of the Community Council.

Housing

Theresa Elliot and Moira Robertson for the Housing Group and John Riley for the Community Council attended the official opening of the new houses in Tyndrum on 15th April. Moira said the Housing Group were really pleased to have been so involved from the start with planning the houses, and how great it was that they have all been allocated to people with local connections.

Bulk Buying Initiative

Cameron Taylor said eighteen local businesses, from Bridge of Orchy to the Flax Mill, have got together to arrange bulk buying of LPG supplies. He is meeting with representatives of J-Gas, Alba Gas and Shell to get the best deal. Others, including domestic consumers, will be able to join in once everything is set up. This could lead to bulk buying in other areas.

Moira Robertson





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Internet Security for Mobile/Smart phones

More and more of us are using our "phones" for tasks other than

making voice calls. We are demanding more and more functionality from these devices and a large proportion of us are treating our mobile phone as a small internet communication device. The established range of "smart phones" and other similar devices have full email and internet access, capabilities of storing music and video, text and video messaging and, would you believe, also allow you to make and receive phone calls.

These phones have the capability of running programs which are downloaded from the internet - these are typically referred to as "apps", which is an abbreviation of "applications" which is the terminology used in the computer software industry for software programs that perform some task or other. Creating an "app" is fairly simple for anyone with a basic knowledge of computer software. There are apps which are used for entertainment, with no real functionality, and there are apps which solve truly key problems. For instance some apps just play abuse in various UK dialects and others allow you to completely manage your travel and holiday arrangements right through from booking and paying for the holiday, checking in to your flight and storing your tickets and boarding passes on your phone.

The number of applications is growing

rapidly and soon most online shopping and online banking will be done via apps rather than via personal computers.

Many apps will request access to features from you or your phone, which is mostly perfectly legitimate, for instance apps for hotel bookings will need access to the internet and quite likely access to your email address, but other apps are not as scrupulous. Our phones contain some very personal information, including our friends' contact details, our phone call and texting history and our internet browsing history. It is very easy for an app to gain access to this information and it is just as easy for it to store a hidden program on your phone which will read your passwords and personal details and then use them for fraudulent purposes.

There is no doubt that using apps is the way the internet market is going, so we need to protect our phones from those apps which are designed to take advantage of personal information without our knowledge. Such apps are viruses and we need to protect against these, in the same way that we protect our computers.

There are a growing number of mobile security products available some from leading Internet Security corporations, such as Norton and AVG. I strongly urge all mobile users to protect their phone with these types of products.

Netbook versus Laptop

I recently treated myself to a Netbook - which is a small handheld computer which would fit inside a lady's typical handbag. These devices use a cut down version of Windows 7 and, due to their limited size, they have less power and functionality than larger laptop computers. The main benefits of the netbook are its size, that it

is easy to pack when travelling, and that its batteries last anything up to 10 hours without needing to be recharged. These machines retail at £180-£350, with the more expensive machines typically having faster processors and/or better batteries.

As long as you understand that they are mainly designed for internet browsing and limited office functionality and that the quality of music and video playback is limited, then these machines are excellent tools.

Online Backup

Whilst on the subject of security, I will return to the need to ensure you have your data backed up in a safe place. This relates to all electronic data/emails/pictures/music and documents, either on your computer or your mobile phone. I have seen the heartache when a computer fault has resulted in complete loss of family photos and I have also seen commercial disaster after businesses lose all their data after a computer fault. It is so cheap to protect and backup your data over the internet so that all your important information will be secure if you suffer a hard disc crash, or your mobile phone is lost or stolen. Automatic online backup functionality can be installed where key information is copied (securely) over the internet at night to a backup service. Typically the cost of the rental of the secure backup service is reasonable, with the price dependent upon the amount of data you wish to be stored and the speed of access to the service.

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The Big Shed

Building for a sustainable future

The Big Shed, the new community building at Tombreck, will be opening very soon. Finally after years of planning from local residents with tremendous vision the new community venue will be open for use in July 2011. The Big Shed will provide a venue for workshops and events and supply work spaces for local people to develop skills and talents.

After months of hard work it seems that progress is finally going at a tremendous rate and The Big Shed site is a hive of activity with all the rooms being finished off. In the main hall the beech flooring looks fantastic and the high wood ceiling with exposed beams is stunning. The kitchen has now been tiled, the ventilation system is in place and the bakery is ready to create all sorts of tasty treats. Blairish Restorations, the local construction company, will be off site by the end of May and then a team of volunteers will be involved in clearing and landscaping the site, fitting out the kitchen and work spaces and painting and decorating. Volunteers have enjoyed workshops on clay plastering and have now finished all the walls upstairs to an exemplary standard.

Outside a market garden has been created by a local resident and the Loch Tay Food Link - a transport link of local food around the Loch - will

begin on August 1st as part of The Loch Tay Food Chain. The Big Shed will be the hub for these activities. Local producers are busy sowing seeds, planting seedlings and creating raised beds.

Interest in using The Big Shed is growing fast now that the building is nearing completion and it has already been booked as a venue for Perthshire Open Studios. Bookings are now being taken and workshops and events are being timetabled. Please phone Jane for more details and prices or to take a tour of the Big Shed or discuss ways that you could make use of this exciting new facility.

The Big Shed Opening Launch Saturday July 2nd from 2pm

An exciting afternoon and evening are planned for the launch of The Big Shed and everyone in the local communities is invited. At 2pm there will be the opening ceremony where everyone present is invited to bring and then lay their own local stone to construct a permanent cairn to mark the completion and opening of The Big Shed. There will be events for children - face painting, archery, bouncy castle, circus skills, willow work, felt making, garden pot planting and story telling. There will be a barbecue, stalls from local organisations, an exhibition by local children of the recent and very



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successful forest school project held at Tombreck, jam making, chocolate making, followed by a bonfire and a mixture of music to suit all tastes. Alasdair MacIntosh will talk about rekindling communities. Please come along to enjoy the day and to see the launch of The Big Shed.

Jane Watts

Project Development Officer

jane@bigshed.org.uk

07766 566935

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Frost Report

Fears and Feathered Friends

There is disturbing news of a new disease mainly affecting foxes and dogs but which can prove fatal to humans. Alveolar Echinococcosis is associated with, and carried by, tapeworms. Dogs are required to be wormed on entry to Britain and this should stop the spread of A.E. into the country from areas of Europe where it is endemic in up to 40% of foxes. Since the main hosts are dogs, foxes and rodents, gamekeepers are in direct line of infection. In Switzerland, a smaller country with far fewer foxes twenty to thirty people die of A.E. per year and it is estimated that Britain could suffer ten times this number of deaths. After infection it may take ten to fifteen years for diagnosis and 90% of individuals contracting the disease die. So it is not good or sensible that the law requiring dogs to be wormed on entry to G.B. is being relaxed. Hopefully the fox who frequents the village and has learned to salvage food from the bins is O.K. There are reports that he or she is also being fed by

householders.

I have only been out a few times to the dens this year since retirement and, although its great to be out on the hill in the dead of night, my warm comfy bed is also very attractive and then I can get a 'report' from the boys next morning. Now that you have been thoroughly depressed, let's think of happier topics. It is proposed to have a concerted effort to eradicate mink in the Perthshire area - very good news for oystercatchers and other ground nesting birds.

I am enjoying watching pheasants, ospreys and partridge from my window while I have a more leisurely breakfast these days, though not yet emulating our neighbour who has the partridges on his window sill. One of the most useful things to be unpacked was my special tick tweezers, they really do the job. Which is just as well as Ardeonaig seems to be the tick capital of Europe.

One bird which doesn't seem to have returned in great numbers yet

is the martin. Hopefully the mild weather and southerly winds will bring some more along.

The sunny weather early in May seemed to bring out all the campers to the usual spots on the bank holiday weekends. Most try to be tidy but the lack of bins, prompt uplift of bagged rubbish and the odd few who don't care are still causing problems. Before a recent Green Team event, the National Trust and my son collected six bags of rubbish from one area. The National Park have realised that wild camping needs to be addressed and are proposing dedicated sites - maybe with toilets. Pity they can't keep the toilets open in the villages! The figures from the helicopter deer count are now in and it will be interesting to see what effect the last two hard winters has had on numbers and distribution. I'll go back to walking the dog (and gathering ticks) now life is more relaxed - but my tacketts aren't rusting yet!

Tim Frost

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Mervyn's Weather



In most languages there are many words that imply several varied meanings. English is no different. The word compensation has many connotations ranging from concealment of shortcomings in order to present a more acceptable picture; compensation culture which has become a litigious issue, through to the story of the Tinker who was helping at the stacking of hay in Glendochart when he lost his grip at the heading of the stack and while slipping rapidly earthwards was heard to shout, "Compensation, Mr Stewart, compensation!" Weather too has a claim on the word. The abnormally Arctic spell in December 2010 and part of January 2011 has been offset (or compensated!) by a reasonable March and, apart from three wet days early in the month, a most acceptable April, which incidentally served up five days of unbroken sunshine during the final week - a rare occurrence in recent years.

It is often suggested that a cold sunny winter will inevitably be followed by a glorious summer. While it has to be said that occasionally this sequence does occur, sadly it is usually just wishful thinking. Some examples being 1979, a long drawn-out cold winter, followed by an abysmal summer; 1963 notoriously sunny winter, summer best forgotten!; and as recently as 2010 prolonged wintry periods preceding, as we no doubt remember, a summer that never was. On the other side of the coin the winter of 1947, "Shinwells Winter" of ill repute, gave a late summer of blue skies and blazing sunshine. 1984 too was in this category when compensation was fully paid up by a summer which went on and on from April 'til September. Mostly, however, all one can expect is that a long spell of disturbed or frigid conditions will sooner or later be repaid to a lesser or greater degree.

Hill lambing has been blessed by the balmy interludes, with ewes in surprisingly good condition and with plenty of milk - which fact, of course, enhances the maternal instinct - and lambs coming fast with minimal complications, though adversely compensated (yes again!) by extortionate costs of concentrates for feeding. The burgeoning of trees and shrubs over the past fortnight has been truly dramatic, even the laggard Ash is coming into leaf hard on the heels of the Oak. The Cuckoo arrived on cue on 24th April but has been heard but little since. Swallows are unusually vocal. In early May grass growth has slowed up due to the dry conditions but the new moon of 3rd May heralded a damper regime and renewed growth.

Mervyn K. Browne
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National Park News

How is it possible to feel disappointed when Bank Holiday weekends are blessed with exceptionally good weather? Unfortunately we all know the answer. Along with the very many people who come to enjoy our beautiful area there are always some who have no respect for others or the countryside. I am always challenged when asked what the Park Authority is doing about it for in my heart of hearts I know only too well that unless we have Rangers or Police covering every spot 24 hours a day there will be problems. Operation Ironworks is making a big difference in reducing the mayhem but still we are left to clear up the mess left behind. We are more than grateful that we get so much voluntary help clearing up. Oh for the day when that willingly given help can be utilised to bring improvements to paths and the like instead of clearing up health hazards!! The Bylaws for East Lomond banning wild camping in the stretch from Drymen to Rowardeneen will come into force on 1st June. Following that exercise we will now be looking at what can be done in the area of Lochs Venachar, Achray, Lubnaig, Voil/Doine and Earn. Because of its proximity to the trunk

road, it is accepted that Loch Lubnaig is a priority and discussions are already taking place with the relevant land owners and community councils to try to put in place some facilities this year. Also we will shortly have a special Board meeting to finalise our special pleading for extra funding to tackle the problem throughout the Park.

It is not all bad news. One area where voluntary help has produced a big improvement is in the building of the replacement bridge at the Bracklinn Falls in Callander. We have just heard that the new bridge has been shortlisted in the nominations for the International Footbridge Awards. The other nominations in the category are from USA, South Africa, Portugal and England and the awards will be made at a gathering in Poland in June. I will let you know the result even if we don't win. The Reporter will continue his examination of the Local Plan over the next couple of months, after which he will let the Park Authority have his views. With a little luck we will have a finalised Local Plan for the Park by the autumn. **Owen McKee**

01567 830214

owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk



Free Business Toolkit

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park are offering tourism businesses an opportunity to register for a new, innovative online Business Toolkit. The 'Business in the Park' toolkit is a free service designed to support local businesses. It provides National Park information for their customers and includes downloadable maps, case studies, green tourism ideas, and lots of tips on how to successfully promote your business, event information and daily weather forecasts. The toolkit will be regularly updated with news and developments in and around the area and will include visitor statistics, event information and monthly recommendations from National Park Rangers.

It is estimated that within the National Park there are nearly a thousand tourism businesses. To find out more about the Park's business toolkit, visit <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/business toolkit> and complete a registration form.

Sharon McLaughlin/Katie Ronald

McLaren Community Leisure Centre Funding Campaign

We would like to take this opportunity to up-date the Trossachs Community on our proposal for a full-size outdoor Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) based at McLaren Leisure Centre. The Multi Use Games Area Project is a partnership between McLaren Community Leisure Centre, McLaren High School Parent Council and Stirling Council.

We would like to clarify that contrary to previous press information we have not secured funding for this project. A working group (McLaren MUGA Working Group - MMWG) has been established by the partners stated above and is charged with progressing the project. We are making a concerted effort working within a tight timescale to secure sufficient funds to bring this much needed and desired facility to Callander.

The total projected costs are approximately £450,000 and, whilst we have secured £70,000 from Stirling Council, the working group is embarking on a major fundraising campaign and would welcome any support or sponsorships with match-funding businesses to realise this aspiration which will be a benefit to all in the wider community.

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Netherlands Concert

On 19th February we got ready to attend the concert in the city hall in Tilbourg. Earlier Jack McRobbie, Morvyn Menzies and Charlotte Gunn had attended rehearsals in the hall. Nine of us were driven into Tilbourg by taxi bus to the impressive glass fronted three storey building. We waited and watched as people began to throng into the bar and realised what an ordeal this was going to be for the youngsters. Backstage the youngsters did not seem particularly fazed by it all. I went onstage after Ogham's fourth song to introduce the Scottish youngsters. Should we have worried if the youngsters would be too nervous or overawed by their surroundings? Not a bit of it - they just got out there and did their own thing. Morvyn sang beautifully and was well supported by Charlotte and Jack and then the band. Charlotte had the audience in stitches as she introduced her own tunes and then played beautifully. Jack had the audience laughing as well but it was his reticence that they were laughing at, he just said the names of the tunes



and then started playing, and he played brilliantly as well. The concert was obviously a major success for Ogham as the applause was overwhelming at the end and they were singing enthusiastically 'Whisky in Killin' during the encore. After the concert, as we stood in the drinks area, we heard applause and saw it was for the youngsters coming through towards us. They were on a high and all the people roundabout were trying to speak to them. Jack was even signing

autographs.

On the Sunday night Ogham had a dinner for us in the hotel where we were staying. The youngsters could relax and enjoy themselves along with the rest of us. I have to thank Ogham for all their help and support in this venture because it was not just a case of the youngsters playing a few tunes and the band then getting on with their own playing, but the band integrating with the youngster's music. The youngsters have been invited back to the Netherlands in May for a big concert in

Ogham's home town of Goirle.

We have already started preparations for this year's concert in Killin on either 21st or 22nd October so mark the dates in your diaries. We hope to get a lot of new talent on show. We are looking for performers from all stages; from those who know a couple of tunes to highly talented players. If you know someone who might like to take part contact Neil MacKenzie or myself.

David Osler



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Bob MacGregor Memorial Trial

We would like to thank everyone who supported the April Disco to raise money for the Bob MacGregor Trial. We raised enough money to buy trial markers unique to Killin with a photo of the Falls on them. This means we won't have to borrow flags from other clubs so this will add to the smooth running of the trial. Thanks to Davie Robertson for supplying the photo for the section markers.

This year is the 5th Anniversary trial on 4th and 5th June and there will be new routes and new sections as well the ever popular Falls of Dochart again (weather permitting).

To celebrate there will be a Hog Roast in Kinnell field on Saturday evening, 4th June. Tickets cost £6.00 and it will be run by Alisdair Gourlay of 'Meat at the Door' whose family are also involved in motorcycle trials. So come along for the "Hog and the Craik" and let's hope the weather is kind to us.

Karen Lafferty



The forecast for 15th May was for heavy rain but to everyone's relief the day of the Killin Golf Club Centenary celebrations stayed dry and the crowd who attended could take part in all the outdoor activities which had been arranged.

The morning was taken up with a Texas Scramble between 18 teams made up of a senior, a junior, a gentleman and a lady. It must be many years since so many people played the course at the same time. More members, families, friends and visitors then watched the Comrie Pipe Band lead junior members on

to the course carrying the new Centenary Flag, which was sponsored with money from the Safari Supper, Stirling Council and individual donors. Captain Douglas McRobbie welcomed everybody and thanked all concerned for their contribution to the day. Vice Captain Andy Cousins and Ladies Captain Liz Stevens assisted as Honorary President Chrissie Fenton then hoisted the flag up the new flagpole - just as the wind disobligingly and temporarily dropped.

An excellent buffet meal was served by new Stewards Lukas and Monika and a special cake was ceremoniously cut with a sword. Whilst adults had a happy afternoon chatting and taking refreshment, children of all ages had their faces painted, enjoyed the bouncy castle, the putting and the welly-throwing and with great enthusiasm invented games of their own involving water-soaked sponges. There was the usual raffle and the Club bar was well patronised.

Centenaries are rare so should be celebrated and the Club made quite sure theirs would not be forgotten by the many people who attended and enjoyed the day. Here's to the next hundred years. **MM**



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f Club Centenary



Bill Rew and Hayley Ramsay

Bill Rew, Jim Ronald, Olivia Ridgewell, Andy Cousins and Jean Iliffe

Oldest member Bill Rew with youngest member Emily Fraser



Captain Douglas McRobbie, Hon. President Chrissie Fenton

Vice Captain Andy Cousins, Ladies Captain Liz Stevens



Killin Golf Club members with the new Centenary Flag

All photographs by Ron Allner

Chairman's Report

The main items on the Agenda include the Community Consultation, the Breadalbane Park, the Play Park, premises for the community in the village and concerns about the toilets. The Community Consultation will feed into the Community Development Plan. Everyone has had an opportunity to share their ideas. KAT will try to take on some of the priorities generated by the final consultation.

Killin Cutting Carbon

This project has now come to an end but the problems of carbon emissions and increasing costs of food and fuel remains and will continue to be one of KAT's priorities.

The project produced the following benefits to the community.

*Rental over the period produced an income of over £8,000 for the Sports and Social Club which will help them in their facilities and activities.

*Our two half-time employees were

employed for 17 months and achieved their City and Guilds 6176 National Energy Awareness Course in domestic energy efficiency.

*280 households were surveyed and over a 16 month period a total saving of 709.84 tonnes of carbon emissions was made.

*We learned more facts about the community that will help KAT in future developments.

*Those who participated will have made some savings and all have had an opportunity to make informed choices leading to substantial savings in energy costs that will continue year on year.

Mairi Wilkie and Bernard Mallett-Griffiths worked hard to design, develop and support the project. They were able to use their expertise to help many who contacted them. We had hoped to re-engage them but our bid was unsuccessful. They were a very committed and effective team and did an excellent job.

Funds for Community Organisations

The thrift shop generated some profits which have been set aside for the community. The Trust Directors

Thrift Shop funds available for Community Groups

decided that this could be distributed to community groups within the village. We invite any community group or organisation to apply giving details of the project it will be used to support. The amount is limited and donations will depend on the numbers applying. Send applications to: KAT, No1 Glebe Cottage, Main Street, Killin, FK21 8TN. The closing date for applications is Friday 1st July. Results will be published in the August issue of the Killin News.

Willie Angus

Going Carbon Neutral Stirling

Going Carbon Neutral Stirling(GCNS) has set up Energise Stirling with help from the Climate Challenge Fund. GCNS has been working with manufacturers of solar panels, wind turbines and ground source heat pumps to arrange a bulk buy purchase to make them cheaper to install.

For example, solar panels to heat water normally cost around £5000 but GCNS can source them from £3000 to £3500.

Solar PV that generates electricity is usually well over £10,000 for a 3kW system (the recommended size for a medium to large home). GCNS can offer this at around £5000.

Even better news is that you would get around £1000 a year from the government for the energy you

generate, meaning that the panel would pay for itself within five years. And did you know ... solar panels are not dependent on the sun's heat but its light - they even work when it's cloudy. They can save around a tonne of CO2 each year. GCNS will be visiting homes to survey their potential for the different technologies. It has found that people in houses with stone walls are fed up of getting vague or even incorrect advice and are working with specialists from Historic Scotland to provide householders with the expert advice to identify best measures and materials for saving energy in older properties.

To make it more affordable, GCNS

has again arranged discounts with manufacturers and installers of products such as insulation and glazing.

A GCNS worker would be happy to visit your home to see what measures are suitable for you. As a non-profitmaking organisation, GCNS will give impartial advice. If renewables or other energy saving measures are not suitable for certain homes, especially if they don't really save much energy or carbon, GCNS will make that clear to householders.

For more information, contact GCNS on 01786 468762 or email simon.gooden@ksbscotland.org.uk

Alan Rennie

Carbon Reduction
Community Facilitator



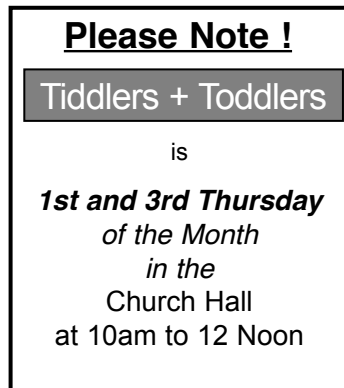
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Please Note !
Tiddlers + Toddlers
is
1st and 3rd Thursday
of the Month
in the
Church Hall
at 10am to 12 Noon

Play Park Progress

At our meeting on 5th May, David Crighton, team leader of Stirling Council's Land Services, confirmed that he has managed to secure funding from the Stirling Capital programme for Breadalbane Park to be improved.

None of us expected it would be £10,000! This amazing amount has to be match funded and this, often lengthy, process has begun.

Community and business contributions would be most welcome. The results of the sub-group consultation were discussed and in line with the ROSPA safety and play value surveys we have come up with six priorities which will be sought over the next 2 or 3 years.

Equipment

1) Flying Fox - endless "flying" fun which appeals to many of those consulted. It is physical, playful and requires lots of energy for wonderful end results.

2) Climbing Feature - the park lacks height in its play equipment - this would be high ropes with a platform at the top - designed like a pirate ship!

3) Springies - for toddlers and small children giving instant fun and



physical activity.

4) Pod/Basket Swing - sociable, fun motion swing to suit all ages and abilities giving hours of entertainment to individuals and groups.

5) Small Rotator - challenging, physical modern piece of equipment

for older age groups of up to 4 people.

6) Basket Ball Hoop - with a safety surfacing of 16 square metres to provide the best area for using the hoop with a small group in the park. David found the round-house to be a great asset to our park and has proposed that it should be cleaned and repainted. Along with the swings and the see-saw being painted, the wooden equipment being re-stained; new bins sited in the park will give an immediate fresh look for this summer.

Alma Walker

Killin and District Sports Club 100 Club

Congratulations to the recent Lucky Winners of the £100 prize

April: Julia Thornton

May: Moira Meek

Draws are held on the first Friday of each month.

We currently have a few numbers spare. If you would like to buy one of these numbers the cost is £25 per annum - please contact Julie Rhys. There is a draw each month for £100 You could be the next winner!



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Killin Hotel Riverside Conservatory

From June 2011 a significant addition to the Killin Hotel will be available in the form of a new timber framed conservatory. This combines the need for more dining space and takes advantage of the views from the riverside of the hotel. With help and advice

from Graeme Harley of WD Harley Architects, the idea of an Orangerie (a fancy word for a conservatory) was discussed and this fitted the bill perfectly. The new area will seat approximately 40 people and will be used as an extension of the bar area during

the day for casual dining, snacks, afternoon tea etc. and as a restaurant during evening service. This will provide the hotel with three eating areas including the Bistro and the Tartan Room which will continue as normal.

The severe frost, along with structural design variations, have delayed this new build but with deadlines for later this month the pace is quickening and the conservatory (or Orangerie - if you prefer) will soon be open for everyone to enjoy.

The hotel is also continuing with the conversion of the former Village Pub into five bedrooms of varying capacities, aimed at both families and budget breaks. These rooms will sleep between four and eight guests, each with a starting price of £20 per person per night, including breakfast. Management of the hotel would like to thank the community for their continued support and plan to continue to invest in this facility.



Find us in Facebook page Killin Hotel

Cosy Bar and Friendly Restaurant
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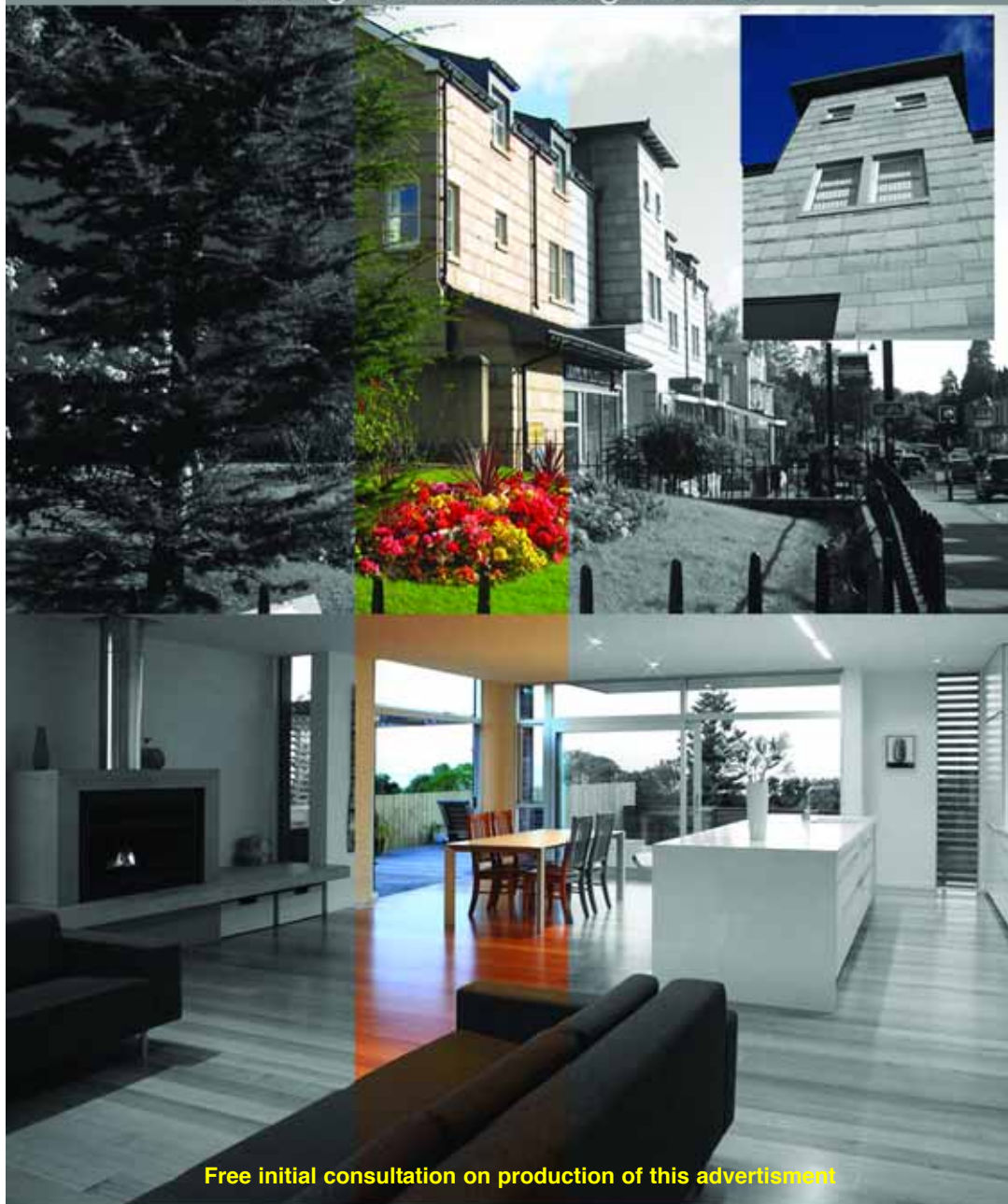
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Rural Skills - Working with the Ranger Service



During the past few weeks we have been working with the ranger service as part of our Rural Skills Course. We went to Bracklinn Falls and looked at types of drainage and how we could improve some existing drains. We also learnt about manual handling and working with tools.

We visited the cycle route number 7 which isn't very far away from the school and there we put up a feeder fence onto the new bridge making it safer for the people crossing the bridge.

Most recently we have been helping the ranger service in Lochearnhead learning how to fix and make a path more pleasant for people who walk on it. We were out of school all day and it was a fun day for everyone.

John Graham S3

Mufti Day - Comic Relief

On Friday 18th March McLaren High School held a very successful Mufti Day in aid of Comic Relief and DebRA. Each pupil paid £1 to wear casual clothes to school, and the Charities Committee held a raffle with prizes ranging from a box of chocolates to a date with the Head Girl! We raised £809.76 in total.

Forth Valley Schools Dance Competition

On 14th and 15th March many talented pupils took part in an annual dance competition at the MacRobert Arts Centre in Stirling. We were once again very successful when FTW, a group of eight S6 pupils, took 3rd place in the large

senior dance category which was choreographed by Mairi McLellan S6. The school entered six dances and all dances were commended

Rebecca Davis S6

School Show

Following the huge success of McLaren High School's recent productions of 'Grease' in 2009 and 'West Side Story' last June we are delighted to announce that preparation has begun for our production of 'Guys and Dolls'. The cast will continue to wow local audiences with their outstanding renditions of memorable show classics. Already rehearsals show promise for yet another fantastic McLaren production with leading characters being played by talented and experienced S6 pupils Jamie MacDougall, Eve Malloch, Luke Melia, Mairi McLellan, Robbie Oman and Angus Waite. The show will take place on 20th, 21st and 22nd June at 7.30pm. Tickets will cost £6, concessions £4.50 for the performance on 20th June only. Tickets will go on sale on 6th June and will be available from the National Park Office, Main Street, Callander, or from the ICT Department at the School.

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Aberfoyle	Drymen	Buchlyvie
Kippen	Gartmore	Deanston

If so, Rural Stirling Housing Association may be able to help.

The Association's aim is to support rural communities in north and west Stirling by providing and managing affordable good quality homes for people in housing need.

We currently have 450 homes for rent throughout the Stirling Council area

If you would like more details and an application form contact

Rural Stirling Housing Association
Stirling Road, Doune
Tel: (01786) 841101

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

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High School

S1 Curriculum for Excellence Update

The S1 Curriculum for Excellence group recently showcased their group activities through a 'celebration of success' assembly. The pupils worked for several weeks on a variety of activities culminating in an alternative Snow White pantomime. They also modelled innovative clothing designs in a fashion show with the pieces made entirely from recycled or waste products.

Rugby Success

Congratulations to our U-16 side who won the Central Cup. As Stirling High were unable to play, the team played the winners and losers of the Plate final in two short games, beating Wallace 10-0 and drawing 5-5 with Balfron. This rounds off a great season with the boys reaching the Scottish Semi Final, winning the Central 7s and the Central Cup. Well done to the team!

PTA 200 Club Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the March draw, Mr & Dr Gonnella. April draw Mrs Ross, Dunblane and Mrs Taylor, Ardeonaig who each receive £25.

Fashion show



U-16 Rugby team



This spectacular sixteenth century castle, restored by the Menzies Clan Society welcomes visitors. Seat of the Chiefs of the Clan Menzies for over 400 years and importantly situated, it was involved in the turbulent history of the Highlands. Architecturally fascinating, it is a splendid example of the transition between earlier rugged fortress and later mansion house. Castle Menzies stands north of the River Tay at Weem on the B846, one and half miles from Aberfeldy.

The castle is available for weddings, functions and corporate events. Also ghost hunts and historic tours.

Open from Easter to mid October

10.30am - 5pm (Sundays 2-5pm)

Admission charge: Adults £6, Concessions £5 & Kids £2.50.

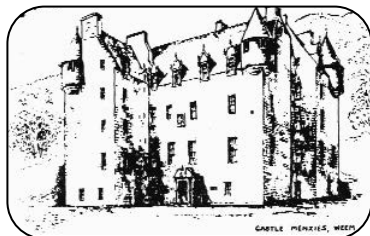
Family rate available

All proceeds exclusively used for the continued restoration and maintenance under a Charitable Trust.

Gary Knight's haunted castle tours 0784 009 4667 suitable for children, Wednesday and Saturday nights.

Castle ghost hunt every night 10.30 - 12.30 for over 15s only, minimum 4 people, £10 pp contact

John Jack 01887 820982 castlemenziesmanager@gmail.com



*Period Costumes
available for photography*

Castle Menzies

Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve Guided walks & Events

Close Encounters

Tuesdays 12th & 26th July and 9th & 23rd August

A children's walk. Enjoy activities and games that will bring you close to some of the less obvious animals and plants that live on the lower slopes of Ben Lawers.

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: adults £2, children £5. (Adults must be accompanied by a child and vice versa).

Bring: Wellies and waterproofs.

Meet: 10.30 am Ben Lawers NNR car park.

Hillside safari

Wednesdays 6th & 20th July and 3rd & 17th August

Experience some of the varied plant and animal life on the lower slopes of this famous nature reserve.

Duration: 2½ hours.

Cost: adults £5, children £2.

Bring: Walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing.

Meet: 1.30pm Ben Lawers NNR car park. No need to book.

Mountain Flowers

Wednesday 13th July

A high-level guided walk to see some of the arctic-alpine plants for which these hills are famous. Requires a reasonable level of fitness.

Duration: 7 hours

Cost: adults £25, children £12.50.

Bring: Walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, packed lunch and drink.

Meet: 9.30am Ben Lawers NNR car park. Booking essential, please.

An Introduction to Mountain Plant Identification

Friday 15th - Sunday 17th July

A weekend learning the basics of how to use keys to identify mountain plants on this botanically rich nature reserve. Requires a reasonable level of fitness

Information and bookings

0844 493 2136

benlawers@nts.org.uk

Duration: 2 days

Cost: adults £100 including bunkroom accommodation; £50 non-residential.

Bring: Walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, a copy of Francis Rose's Wild Flower Key and a hand lens if you have one (available for loan if not).

Meet: 7pm Ben Lawers NNR office, Llynedoch, Killin. Booking essential.

Moths of Ben Lawers

Saturday 6th August A chance to see some of the less visible moths of the mountain. Watch as they are attracted to our harmless traps. The rangers will be returning to the traps

National Trust

on Sunday morning to inspect the overnight catch and you are welcome to join them again then.

Duration: As long as you like

Cost: adults £2, children £1

Bring: Warm clothes, midge repellent, torch and sunglasses.

Meet: 8.30pm Ben Lawers NNR car park.

An Introduction to Navigation Wednesday 10th August

Get to grips with the basics of how to use a map and compass in the hills. Requires a reasonable level of fitness.

Duration: 6 hours

Cost: adults £12.50, children £7.

Bring: Walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, food, map (OS Landranger 51 or Explorer 378) and compass.

Meet: 10.30am Ben Lawers NNR car park. Booking essential, please.

Hidden History

Wednesday 7th September

Explore the rich archaeological landscape on the slopes below Ben Lawers NNR.

Duration: 4 hours

Cost: adults £10, children £5

Bring: Walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, packed lunch and drink.

Meet: 10.30am Kiltyrie Booking essential, please.



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Ben Lawers NNR Talks Programme

Illustrated talks by NTS conservation staff and guests, held at NTS meetings room, Lynedoch, Main Street, Killin at 8.00pm:

Close Encounters of the Turf Kind

Wednesday 6th July
Dugald MacInnes, Field Archaeologist, tells us about his 20 year love affair with Glen Lochay.

Pioneering botanists of Ben Lawers

Wednesday 20th July
Dan Watson, Ecologist, introduces some of the fascinating characters who discovered the botanical riches of Ben Lawers.

Generations of Perthshire Traditions

Wednesday 3rd August
Dr. Margaret Bennett, renowned Scottish writer, folklorist, ethnologist, broadcaster and singer illuminates the lives of people in the glens and villages of old Perthshire.

St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve

Wednesday 17th August
Liza Cole, Property Manager, showcases this famous NNR and the surrounding Voluntary Marine Reserve.

Botanising in the hills-Scotland and Norway compared

Wednesday 31st August
David Mardon, botanist and hillwalker compares and contrasts two mountain environments.

Green Team Birthday Barbecue

Past and present members of Green Team and their parents gathered together on Friday 6th May to celebrate 20 years of the Young Naturalist's Club. Fifty three people attended a barbecue at Coilaig in Glen Lochay, thanks to Judge Stroyan, and enjoyed a barbecue followed by a cake. This was cut by Linda Frost. Many people remained for a night under canvas, despite the overnight rain.

The Green Team has been running as a partnership between the Trust and Killin Primary School since May 1991 and a large proportion of pupils from the school have attended, but over the years we have also had members from nearby Crianlarich and Lochearnhead and several from Kenmore Primary.

Helen Cole



Killin Youth Hostel
formerly Tigh an Duin

Then ...



... and Now

Killin Drama Club



A team from the club travelled to Inverness on 5th May to perform "A Man of Letters" by Tim Firth in the Scottish Final of the Scottish Community Drama One Act Play competition. The chance to perform on the stage of the Eden Court theatre was a fantastic prize. The experience was like a dream come true. Our actors, Gordon Hibbert and David MacAskill, did the club proud and the backstage and technical support was of equal standard. Yes, we came home empty-handed but with memories that we will cherish for many a year.

Lesley Syme

Aberfeldy & District JAC

Aberfeldy Young Farmers have had quite a quiet month as everyone is busy with lambing & calving so we always have a break for a couple months after the AGM. By the time you read this we will have held the first meeting of our summer syllabus - new members afternoon at Grandtully Playing Fields - update in the next edition!

Carse of Gowrie are hosting Perthshire Field Day on Saturday 11th June at Southfield Farm, Abernethy - it will be a great day of competitions and a dance, let's hope Aberfeldy can get a big team together and bring the trophy home! The Royal Highland Show is Thursday 23rd-Sunday 26th June at Ingliston, Edinburgh - the young farmers will be there taking part in various competitions over the week. Our Summer syllabus is now printed with some details TBC:

Tuesday 14th June 7.30pm

Valuation & Mock Auction
Glassie Farm (Rickard Family)

Tuesday 28th June 7.30pm

Stockjudging

North Amulree Farm (Brady Family)

Friday 8th July Annual Sheep Dog Trials & Shearing Competition - local dogs 6pm, open dogs start 7.30am, shearing 1.30pm

Saturday 9th July.

Marquee Dance 9pm.



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Friday 12th & Saturday 13th
August Aberfeldy Show - visit us at
 our Young Farmers stand on the
 Saturday for tent activities & prizes.
MARQUEE DANCE 9pm
Tuesday 23rd August 7.30pm
 Valuation Remony Estate
 (Mr J Duncan Millar)
 Show versus Young Farmers Stock
 Judging (date & venue TBC)
 Fun day out in September (TBC)
 Contact Ally on 07900 347810 or
 Kirsty on 07789 776121 or see the
 JAC roundup on Mondays farming
 page of The Courier.



Killin Breadalbane Angling Club

From 1st August onwards, there will
 be stalking in progress in the area of
 Lochan nan Geadas (the Pike Loch)
 and this water will not be available
 to club members from this date -
 i.e. the area should be left
 undisturbed (fishing at the
 Breachlaich is not affected and
 remains accessible to members).

G McCarron
 KBAC Secretary

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 www.breadalbanebookkeeping.co.uk

Ardeonaig and Ardtalnaig WRI



The Ardeonaig and Ardtalnaig WRI had their AGM at the Cruachan Farm restaurant on 15th April. It was a lovely meal that gave us an opportunity to look back over the last year and reflect on what had happened. We started the year by visiting the Big Shed at Tombreck, giving us a real understanding of how the project is hoping to run and benefit the local area. In our November meeting we had a very interesting talk about the education system in Ethiopia by Simon Marchant who worked out there with VSO. Our next two meetings were sadly affected by the snow and we were unable to get to them. February brought less snow and also a visit from Michelle Russell, who spoke to us about Leprosy, how it affects those suffering from it and how the Leprosy Mission helps them with their treatment. February also brought the very popular Whist drive which as ever was well supported by the local community.

March saw us travelling to Karelia house at Comrie Bridge, where we learnt about the history and diversity of Quilting and patchwork. We even had a go at it ourselves and enjoyed a lovely supper at Karelia house. However all the programme was eclipsed by the success of Ardeonaig A-team who very proudly represented Breadalbane and won the Women's Rural Olympics held in Bankfoot and also by the birth of three very bonny baby girls to ladies within the Ardeonaig WRI; we hope that they will be members too one day!

Quilters Grand Raffle

The Killin Quilters are holding a Grand Raffle in aid of Cancer Research UK to be drawn at the Cancer Research Coffee Morning in November. Prizes, all made by members, include two quilts, a wall hanging, eight cushions and two workbags. Tickets £1 from any member of the Quilters Group.

Jenny Huntley
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Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise

Alasdair Tollemache, who previously set up Recyke-a-Bike, has been recruited as Chief Executive of Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE).

SVE is the new organisation that will assist and promote volunteering, voluntary group development and social enterprise across the Stirling local authority area.

The organisation will also work to ensure that voices from groups throughout Stirlingshire which are neither part of the public nor the private sector, are represented within the local Community Planning Partnership.

SVE has been established to meet the Scottish Ministers' request that a 'Third Sector Interface' is established in each local authority area. Third Sector is the term used to refer to all those community and voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises that are not part of either the public or the private sectors.

To help meet this broad remit SVE has absorbed the duties, staff and offices of both the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Stirling and the Volunteer Centre Stirling into the new organisation.

Many people will know Alasdair Tollemache through his work in both the public and the third sector and his various roles as a volunteer. Alasdair worked for Scottish Water for a number of years, for Stirling Council promoting reuse instead of sending waste to landfill, and set up Recyke-a-Bike, a bicycle reuse social enterprise based in Stirling, in conjunction with Fallin Community Enterprises.

SVE will shortly be embarking upon an exercise to identify and contact all the voluntary, volunteering, community and social enterprise organisations in the Stirling local authority area. A Stirlingshire wide gathering of all third sector organisations will meet, share, agree priorities and establish a collective voice for the Third Sector in September.

If you wish to contact SVE then please use the existing CVS or Volunteer Centre websites, offices, email addresses or phone numbers until new details are announced.

01786 430000

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July 8, 22, Aug 5

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Clifton 11.15 – 11.40

Mansefield 11.45 – 12.00

Crianlarich

Willow Square

12.05 – 12.35

Police Station & School

1.40 – 2.30

Benmore 2.35 – 2.55

Suie Lodge 3.05 – 3.25

Glen Lochay/Ardeonaig

Fortnightly Mondays

June 6, 20!

July 4, 18

Aug 1

Glenlochay 10.50 – 12.30

Ardeonaig 2.00 – 2.45

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Young Carers are children and young people aged 7 to 18yrs who care for a parent, sibling or other relative who can't manage without their help. The family member may have;

- Long term/terminal illness
- Physical or sensory impairment
- Mental ill health
- Addiction to alcohol or drugs
- Learning disability

What does a Young Carer do?

Young Carers provide emotional support, intimate caring, additional child care, general caring, and domestic chores. These incredible children assume a level of responsibility usually expected of an adult. The Government cannot provide all the support services that often we might need and sometimes children and young people can naturally assume these caring roles out of their love for the family member. Because of their responsibilities to others, Young Carers often miss out on the educational, vocational and leisure opportunities their peers take for granted. Stirling Young Carers try to minimise the impact of the children and teenagers' caring role, help them with any problems they might have, introduce them to others in the same position. We can help by offering Young Carers free short breaks and days out, groups - a place to chill out and have fun, individual support if it's needed, advice, advocacy and workforce training.

Is this you or someone you know?
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Comrie Bridge, By Aberfeldy,
Perthshire, PH15 2LS
www.kareliahouse.co.uk
email: shirley@kareliahouse.co.uk
tel: 01887 822 999

Letters

Ian McGregor

We would like to thank all those who sent kind expressions of sympathy on the recent death of Ian: from letters, cards and flowers to neighbours who thoughtfully provided baked items to cope with visitors. We are also indebted to the skill of the nurses in the cardiology unit S.R.I. and our own doctors and staff in the Killin Medical Practice. Without all their expertise Ian would not have survived for the nine years he suffered from his heart problems and finally thanks to everyone who attended the funeral services and donated £548.03 to the British Heart Foundation. We hope that will help to fund research and enable people with conditions like Ian's to enjoy a better quality of life. Many thanks to you all.

May and family

Rubbish by the River Dochart

I am sad and disappointed to find myself writing again on this topic. The banks of both the Lochay and the Dochart were almost pristine over the winter but as soon as anglers appeared in early spring, so did the litter and garbage.

While walking near the join of the two rivers recently, I found a broken, discarded angler's chair, a broken umbrella, and several supermarket bags full of rubbish hanging from tree-branches. Going back the next day to collect these, I found they had already been removed by some kind person.

During the May holiday weekend, four anglers fished in this area for just one day. The garbage they left behind filled a black bin-bag and included everything from sweet-wrappers, to soiled toilet paper, empty food containers, bottles and abandoned equipment. All four men had "used the toilet" judging by the piles of toilet-paper and excrement. This sort of behaviour will doubtless continue until the end of the fishing season. I doubt if I am alone in finding this completely unacceptable; the question is what to do about it. I am not a river-user - I don't boat, sail or fish, and I don't own any part of our two lovely rivers but they make an important contribution to the environment of Killin and riverside walks are enjoyed by many Killin folk, myself included - enjoyment which is severely diminished by the presence of litter and human waste. There are various individuals and estates who do own stretches of the rivers and there is a community of local people - anglers, boat-owners - who use the rivers for sport and recreation. It should not be beyond the abilities of this group to come up with strategies to prevent the despoiling of our river environment and I suggest there is no time like the present to get started. As a first step, signs could be erected, where appropriate, pointing out the general responsibility not to litter and the swingeing fines which can be applied to those who do. This information could also be handed out as a simple, single-sheet leaflet to people buying permits or fishing-tackle in the village. This might not be much, but it would at least be a start.

David Paterson



Obituary

Jake Green

12.1.1947-21.3.2011



Jake loved Killin where he lived for almost twenty years. He will be missed by many especially myself. He suffered at the end so it was a blessing when he passed on in his sleep.

I would like to thank Dr. Syme for his regular visits and kindness and Dr. de Laat and all the nurses.

Also thanks to everyone for the kind wishes and flowers.

Ruth Campbell

Jake was Village Officer for many years and a well-known figure in the village. Killin's streets have not been as well cared for since he retired and proved to be irreplaceable.

Killin & District Telephone Book

The production and sales of the local telephone book has so far raised £1,850 for the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. Thank you to all the advertisers and purchasers.



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Local Planning Applications

National Park

13 April

Proposal: Installation of LPG gas storage tank

Location: Tarmachan, 52 Manse Road, Killin

Applicant: Mrs Alicja Fraser

Application Type:

Decision: Approve

18 April

Proposal: Development of an underground mine to extract gold and silver including service, production and storage buildings, tailings management facility (TMF), access road, car parking, bridge and other associated infrastructure (revised scheme - previous application 90/01102/DET/S)

Location: Minerals Cononish Road Tyndrum

Application Type:

Decision: Approve

Appeal Decision: Appeal Withdrawn

27 April

Proposal: Erection of extension to dwellinghouse

Location: Dunfraoich Crianlarich

Applicant: Louise Rolfe & Matthew Brook

Application Type:

Minerals Planning Permission

Decision: Refuse

Appeal Decision: Appeal Withdrawn

6 May

Proposal: Erection of extension to dwellinghouse

Location: Kerrera Manse Road Killin FK21 8UY

Applicant: Mr Gordon Webster

Application Type: Householder

Planning Permission

Decision: Pending Consideration

Perth & Kinross Council

2 May

Proposal: Conversion of steading to form dwellinghouse

Location: Cragganester Steading, Lawers

Applicant: Mr Robert Gane

Application Type: Planning

permission local

Decision: Approve the application

Stirling Council

18 April

Proposal: Siting of toilet and amenity block

Location: Killin Log Cabins The Sheiling, Killin

Applicant: James Bradley

Application Type: Full

Decision: Pending Consideration

3 May

Proposal: Extension of main building to provide additional social space, changing facilities and

bedrooms

Location: Firbush Point Field Centre, Killin

Applicant: The University Court Of The University Of Edinburgh

Application Type: Full

Decision: Approved with Conditions

Proposal: Proposed enclosure for plant equipment

Location: Firbush Point Field Centre, Killin

Applicant: The University Court Of The University Of Edinburgh

Application Type: Full

Decision: Pending Consideration



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Celebrations



Fiona Mitchell and Robert Boath would like to thank everyone for the wedding gifts they received and all those who attended the evening reception on 4th March and for making it a memorable time.



**Ella May
Vasby-Burnie**
born
6th April
weighing
9lb 6oz.
to Kat and
Mark



Rhona Ineke McBean,
born 19th March
to Marieke and Ewan McBean,
held by her brother, Calum.

70th Birthday

On Saturday April 2nd a group of friends got together at the Capercaillie Restaurant to celebrate Margaret Ogilvie's 70th birthday. As a measure of her popularity some of her friends had travelled from Yorkshire and the South of England. Everyone enjoyed a very pleasant evening and a delicious buffet meal as well as enjoying substantial amounts of wine! As a very kind gesture Margaret asked for no presents but requested donations to the Falls of Dochart Care Home instead. This resulted in the sum of £230 being raised.

Dot Southern



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Across the Globe



Three generations of Wilkies in Montana last year spending a week riding in the wilderness for a once in a lifetime trip. Lesley Wilkie, Fiona Robertson and Jessica Wilkie



Marion and John Strang on the Isla Mujeres (Island of Women), which takes its name from the idols of the goddess 'Ixchel' in Mexico



Taekwondo Gold

Anna Holden and Robbie Player won their categories in the recent Traditional Taekwondo Association UK Championships. Anna achieved her fifth individual gold trophy while Robbie won his first championship title. Their efforts helped the Callander/Falkirk Club win the Best Team Spirit Trophy and more medals than any other competing club.

Suzanne Player

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Scouting Award



David Robertson being presented with the Medal of Merit, the third highest honour in scouting, for outstanding service to the organisation, by the district commissioner for Falkirk, Charles Stevenson.

Dancing Duo

Emily Fraser and Amy Forster recently took part in a "Dance Connection" show in the MacRobert Centre. Both families are extremely proud of them and their Streetdancing.



All Up Hill

Some think reaching the age of sixty is a time for easier living, taking things slower, more downs than up.

For local hill runner Herbie Maclean, 64, life is about up hills as well as down. Herbie is often seen training on Sron a' Clachain. He won't climb Sron a' Clachain just once but six reps (check) are needed to complete his days training. So far in 2011 Herbie has won four Hill Races for his age group (over sixty) including Stuc a' Chrion. Herbie competes in the Scottish Hill Runners race calendar. Look at their website to find out more about hill running in Scotland. A few years ago Herbie finished 3rd for his age group in the SHR series - a great achievement. He has also represented Scotland competing in the Alps. If you want to give it a try there is the Killin Highland Games hill race and on 15th and 16th October there are the Meall nan Tarmachan and Sron a' Clachain hill races with Saturday night ceilidh in the Maclaren Hall. So get running. Lochayside runners www.shr.uk.co or www.killinoutdoor.co.uk



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Tin Tabernacle Update

Work has continued on the grant aided repair of St Fillan's Episcopal Church. Under the protective canopy, the corrugated wall sheets had been removed to allow timber repairs to be made. All the original wall sheets, still in good condition after 135 years, have been carefully re-fitted using as many of the original nails as possible. The next task was to tackle the roof. Again all corrugated sheets were removed. Underneath the timber sarking, which also forms the pine ceiling of the interior of the church, was very wet. A number of problems were found with the roof sheets which were causing water ingress and it was decided to fit new corrugated sheets. These have been installed to modern standards making the roof more water tight whilst using the original fixing patterns in traditional fixings to retain the appearance of the listed building. This should provide a sound repair



protecting the church for many years into the future. Next will be a fresh coat of paint before the canopy comes down.

Sonya Linskaill
Architect for St Fillan's



Killin and Ardeonaig Parish Church

A Fundraising Flurry

Over the next few months you can expect to see a flurry of activity from the local church as we try to fundraise to keep the building open. As with many small local churches and many charities in this current climate, Killin and Ardeonaig Parish Church are struggling to keep the doors open. With the amount of work required over the next few years just to keep the building safe, there are going to be lots of costs. The congregational board would like to make everyone aware of the current situation as well as the efforts that are going in over the next few months to fund raise so that the church can remain a centre point of the community. Keep your eyes peeled for Tubes of Smarties, a Flower Festival, a Soup Lunch, a Drawing Competition and much more. We would be delighted to receive any suggestions you may have which will help us in our efforts. Contact

John Lincoln
The Manse
or **Louise Thom**
louise@ellim.co.uk

Think About It

June 19th is Father's Day. You do not have to meet a man face to face to know what kind of a father he is. Just listen to the way his children refer to him.

The respect that children have for their parents can be a good indicator of how much respect they deserve. One of the Ten Commandments is for children to honour their father and mother. But how many parents live in a way that is worthy of honour?

Nothing would make my heart beat quicker than if a child of mine pointed me out in a crowd and said proudly, "That's my dad!"

A good test of whether you are a father who is respected by his children is to ask yourself, "Do I want my son to be what I am, to do what I do, to go where I go?" With the help of God's strength and wisdom, determine to be the kind of parent whose child is proud to say, "That's my dad!"

Ladd Fagerson

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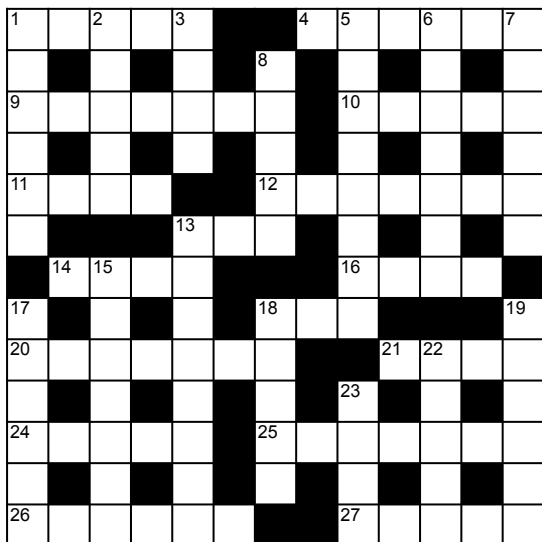
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Crossword by Scorpio



Across

- 1 Mountain hut or shelter (5)
 4 Reorganise store perhaps initially for advertising (6)
 9 Supreme ruler or commander in chief (7)
 10 Complete and absolute write off (5)
 11 Bad diet constrained and inhibited (4)
 12 Poor nun gets confused with a grammatical substitution (7)
 13 Lettuce commonly found in Tesco shops (3)
 14 Tedious sounding African settler (4)
 16 Nonsense or rubbish usually spoken (4)
 18 Unhappy sort of promotions (3)
 20 Object to 500 and was resisted (7)
 21 A desire or request (4)
 24 To fear a common sort of Scottish snake (5)
 25 Repeat instruction and rearrange (7)
 26 Rearrange again for a holiday destination (8)
 27 Cornish snack with sallow complexion? (5)

Solution to 121

Across 4 maltese 8 amidst 9 scented 10 new day 11 steely
 12 walks out 18 earphone 20 detour 21 aliens 22 stengun
 23 misery 24 destiny

Down 1 barn owl 2 oil well 3 essays 5 ancestor 6 tandem
 7 steals 13 overturn 14 covered 15 measles 16 settle 17 sonnet
 19 pallid

Down

- 1 Bather out of wind (6)
 2 Temporary dwelling for tourists and natives (5)
 3 Standard measure of an American garden? (4)
 5 Faraway bases or settlements (8)
 6 Military displays of personal adornments? (7)
 7 A governing decision (6)
 8 Supports theatrical furnishings (5)
 13 Cruder South African sort of religious warrior (8)
 15 Subjugate and keep down (7)
 17 Rock like, I hear, or more tenacious (6)
 18 To decorate or furnish lavishly (5)
 19 Reticent about to go wrong for a fortified wine (6)
 22 River in Hindustan (5)
 23 Birdcage or local shop (4)



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What's On in Killin and District

June

- 6 Craft Club Tyndrum Village Hall 11am-1pm
- 16 Green Team meet at the school pond 6pm
- 20, 21, 22 McLaren High School Show see page 24
- 30 Green Team meet at the school pond 6pm

July

- 2 Opening of The Big Shed see page 13
- 4 Craft Club Tyndrum Village Hall 11am-1pm
- 6 NTS Safari see page 26
- 6 NTS Talk Lyndoch 8pm see page 27
- 10 Balquhiddie Summer Music see page 5
- 12 NTS Walk see page 26
- 12 Killin Community Council meeting McLaren Hall 7.30pm
- 13 NTS Mountain Flowers see page 26
- 14 Green Team meet at the school pond 6pm
- 17 Balquhiddie Summer Music see page 5
- 15 - 17 NTS Plant identification see page 26
- 20 NTS Safari see page 26
- 20 NTS Talk Lyndoch 8pm see page 27
- 24 Balquhiddie Summer Music see page 5
- 26 NTS Walk see page 26
- 27 Guild Craft Morning McLaren Hall 10am
- 28 Green Team meet at the school pond 6pm
- 31 Balquhiddie Summer Music see page 5

August

- 3 WRI Coffee morning McLaren Hall 10am
- 3 NTS Talk Lyndoch 8pm see page 27

Brownies

Mondays
Church Hall
3.30pm-5pm

BVLC

Thursdays
Library
10am-5pm

Internet Learning Café

Tuesdays and Fridays
Tyndrum Village Hall
11am - 4pm

Killin Youth Group

Tuesdays
Sports & Leisure Pavilion 7pm

Learning Café

Tuesdays & Fridays
Tyndrum Hall
11am-4pm

Bowls

Mondays & Fridays
Bowling Green 2.15pm

Tiddlers and Toddlers

1st and 3rd Thursday
of the month
Church Hall
10am-noon

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