

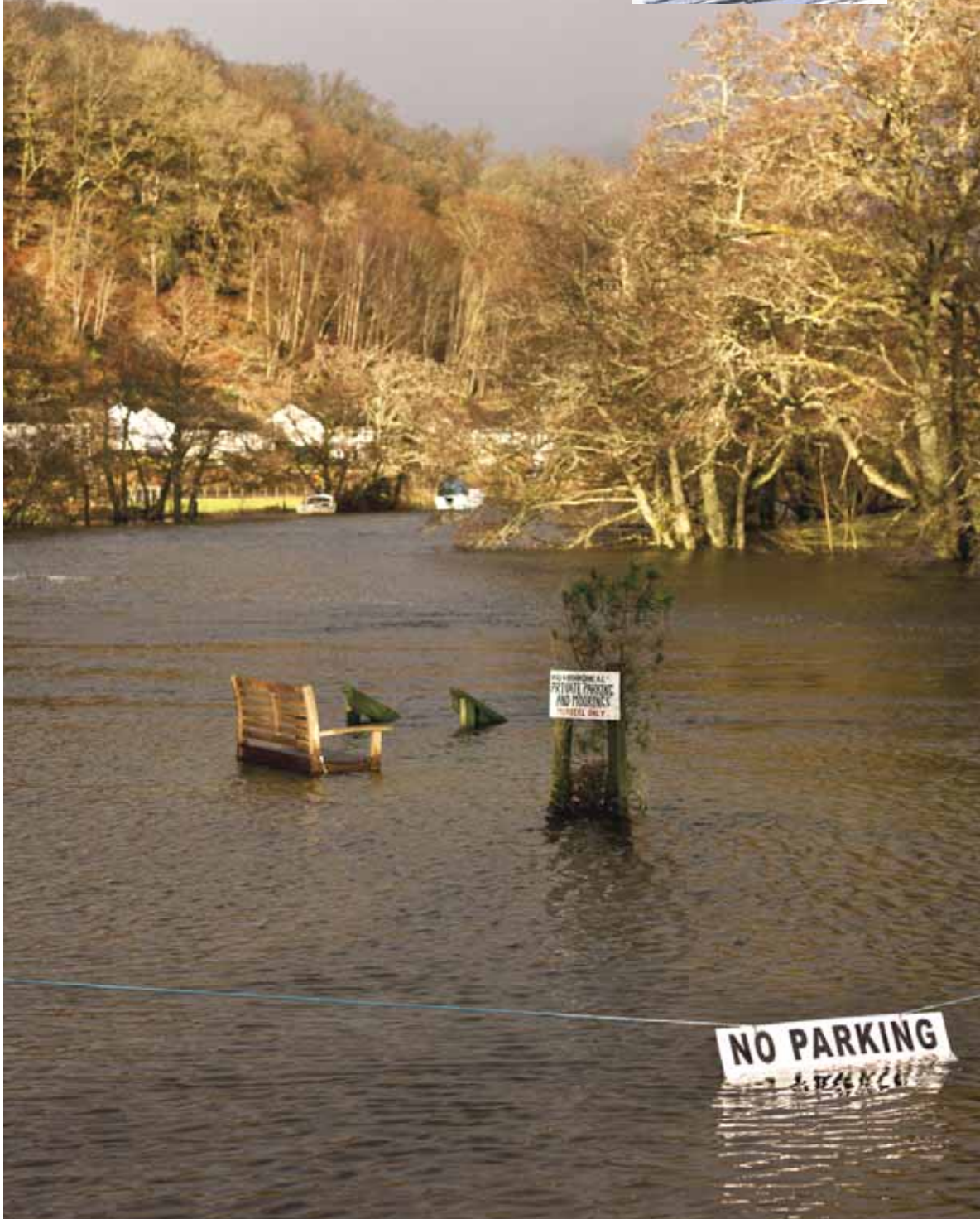
# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Price £1

Issue 144

February/March 2015





## DEADLINES

**Issue 145**  
**Advertising**  
**6th March**  
**Copy**  
**13th March**  
**Publication 3rd April**

## 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.

### Production Committee

Gina Angus, Willie Angus,  
 Allan Chisholm, Judy Forster  
 Dani Grant, Liz Howard, Angus Inglis,  
 Margaret MacIver, Anneke Mayo, Kay Riddell,  
 Marion Strang

### Delivery Volunteers

Jim Beattie, Lynne Ferguson, Linda Frost, Elizabeth Hancock, Marion MacGregor, John and Jennifer Morris, Julie Rhys, Janet Somerville, Gordon Webster, Mary Anderson, Margaretanne Browne, Theresa Elliot (and James), Catherine Macmillan, Rosie Mochan, John Riley, Jen Riley, Moira Robertson, Isla Craig, the family at Rubble Cottage + some committee members

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**Office Phone : 01567 820014**

**pdf versions of the paper can be viewed on the Killin News website**

Front Page picture by Ron Allner  
 "....except for boats"

## Editorial

Snow is such a controversial commodity. It adds value to the countryside by the outstanding views that are characteristic of the Killin area in winter. Visitors can more readily see deer close to the road and the more intrepid can walk, climb, ski or langlauf in the lower slopes, giving them an experience for which many travel abroad. The downside is ice and snowmelt that add excitement and danger to travel. We hope visitors, on whose visits the Killin economy depends, will return again to see what other remarkable things Killin has to offer throughout the year.

Our weather appears to be less predictable than before with episodes of more extreme events at unexpected times. The World Meteorological Organisation published figures showing that 2014 had the highest global average temperature, 0.68C higher compared to the first average figures based on readings from 1951 to 1980. It doesn't seem much, but in world terms, what we experience, the effect on wildlife and crops, make us all aware of the change.

Change can come in many forms. Dr Mairi McColl MBE died on Saturday 3rd January leaving behind a space that can never be filled. Dr Mairi was an essential element of Killin following in the footsteps of her father as the sole general practitioner to the community. For many years everyone in the village and around was her patient and she was very highly respected. Her knowledge of Killin was encyclopaedic and sadly much of this has not been recorded. She was the authority on points of local history and a great resource for us all.

The Hogmanay Fireworks were spectacular this year. This is a notable event in the Killin calendar that draws people and visitors to Killin at the darkest time of the year. You should not need to be reminded that this show is expensive to produce so please buy the Killin calendar and donate now for next year's show. Thank you to all who produce the event.

The Fishing Opening was disrupted by the weather this year, both Auchmore and Morenish events being cancelled, but the ceremony for the required opening was held at the Breadalbane Angling Club slipway.

Unfortunately change is being imposed on the Killin News (see page 3) leaving the future of the paper uncertain. Several members of the team are likely to leave in the next year or two. Its future depends on you. **WA**

### Would you like to join the KILLIN NEWS Mailing List or send copies to your friends?

If so please send your details to us.

(See left)

Annual cost: UK £15: Outside UK £35

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### Your copy of Killin News

Just a reminder that copies of Killin News are delivered free to most households but anyone outside normal delivery routes who does not receive a copy can pick up one from the Library.



A Killin Community Bus Christmas Shopping Trip

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## Killin News Could Fold

Killin News was started in April 1991 by Sinclair Aitken and Allan Walker. Financed by the sale of advertising, it has grown and improved and has become an accepted part of Killin life. It is delivered free to all households in the area and has a substantial mailing list with subscribers from many parts of the world.

Over the years the paper has been produced by a committee of enthusiastic volunteers most of whom are retired. The present committee consists of eleven people, our Chairman, a Production/Editorial team of four, two members who sell the advertising, two who produce the adverts and two who, because of their occupations in the village, know what is going on in the village. Currently the Secretary and Treasurer are also part of the Production team but book-keeping is now done outside the committee. We are now in the situation where three of the eleven for various reasons (not connected to Killin News, we hasten to add) are actively seeking to sell up and leave the village and one other is considering doing so. Many of the committee have worked on the paper for many years and two of them have been on it since the paper started. At least five are in

their seventies and may at any time need to give up the paper. We could therefore be faced with the loss of team members without much notice and, without people to take over, the Killin News could abruptly cease. We would not like this to happen and don't believe the village would either so we are looking for volunteers to join us.

At the moment the paper comes out bi-monthly, with deadlines for adverts and copy respectively a fortnight and a week before production work starts. Editing and producing the paper involves the production team for various amounts of time over six to seven days, using the computer software Quark. Apart from the committee, there are people who organise distribution, people who put in flyers and many others who actually deliver the paper. We are looking for enthusiastic people who are interested in keeping the paper going. Experience with the Quark programme is not necessary – training will be given. Why not contact us and come along and find out more? Just email us or leave a message on the office phone 01567 820 014 and we will get back to you. We are a friendly group and look forward to hearing from you.

MM



## Support Officer's Report

My position to date has been funded by LEADER, Stirling Council, Loch Lomond Trossachs National Park and Architectural Heritage Fund. This funding came to an end on 31st December 2014. KAT have applied for other funding but have not yet heard from funders. We have been lucky to receive a small grant from Stirling Council to fund the position until end March 2015 by which time we hope to have heard from the other funders.

## Breadalbane Park

Hopefully by the time you read this, work should have started on the park. We hoped to have started on Monday 19th January, but the ground was still covered in snow/slush and it was windy. The forecast for the start of the week was for it to be cold, so we are crossing our fingers we will have got started. If we start on time and there are no delays with the weather, we are hoping that the work will be completed by Easter.

The work that is being carried out in the park is to renew the drainage and put in a new path network. Stirling Council has also been storing some play equipment for us that will now be installed. Because of the nature of the work being carried out, machinery will be digging and causing a lot of mess so the park will be closed during construction for the safety of the public. Stirling Council will be taking some of the play equipment out of the play park during construction so please do not try to access this area or any other area of the park that has been fenced off. KAT apologises for any inconvenience caused to the community while work is being carried out.

## Old Mill

The development project of the Old Mill has been quiet over the last two

months as the grant application has been submitted to the BIG Lottery - Growing Community Asset Fund. Until we hear back from the funders there is little to be done. We have received an indicative grant offer from Historic Scotland of £77,937.

## Hydro Project

We received the report from Highland Eco Design which looked at the options available for using the waterwheel to produce hydro-electricity. The report highlights 3 options:

Option 1 is to use the wheel to produce power. This option means that power can only be produced while the Old Mill is open and will produce only 1.2KW. If we were to sell the power to the grid, it would mean that we would spend slightly more annually on maintenance than income.

Option 2 is installing a turbine below the lade at the wheel. This would not use the wheel directly to produce electricity and one advantage of doing this means that electricity can be produced 24hrs a day. It can produce 2.1KW and more annual energy than option 1. This option would cost more initially to install but would enable the Old Mill to generate a small annual profit as the income from selling to the grid exceeds maintenance costs. Because it generates more KWs, it would also mean that while the Old Mill is open the building could run more electrical items for free than option 1.

## Option 3

To combined option 1 and 2. It was felt that that this option would not be cost-effective for the return generated.

## Sports Pavilion

The funding application to the Postcode Lottery for renewing the synthetic turf was not successful. We

are still waiting for feedback from the funders as to why we were unsuccessful. We will have an application in to Sports Scotland Legacy 2014 by 1st February.

## Space Audit Report

We have a draft report which will be completed by the time this article is published. More on the findings in the next edition of Killin News.

**Theresa Elliot**

Project Support Officer

theresa@killincdt.co.uk 07789 265823

## Mill Report

The Christmas Fair was held on Sunday 13th December. We had a very festive day with the wheel turning and we were entertained by the Killin Community Choir. A fantastic £544 was raised and thank you to everyone who supported us that day.

In the first week of December I walked from the Old Mill in Killin to the Watermill in Aberfeldy and back. The journey took three days and the walk raised £1,100. Thank you to everyone who donated and for all the support especially to Theresa Elliot who joined me on the first day when we walked over 26miles.

**Beginner Sampler Quilt** - An eight week course designed to introduce beginners to Patchwork and Quilting - no experience necessary". We are thrilled to have Sally Connor, who has over 25 years experience in this field, taking this course at the Mill from March 9th 1.30-3.30. The cost is £65 payable on the first class. We also have a sampler quilt and a list of requirements for people attending to bring. There is a maximum of ten places.

The Mill is open at weekends from 1.00-4.00 in January every day 1.00-4.00 in February and from Monday 9th March will open every day from 10am-4pm.



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Thank you to everyone for leaving donated goods in the storage chest when we are not open. I would ask that you please put your items in a watertight bag or box to protect them from our severe weather. We are not allowed to accept baby buggies, car seats, cycle or motorbike helmets (for health and safety reasons). Please contact me if you want to leave a lot of items so that I can organise the delivery and sorting. We are always needing volunteers so please contact me if you would like to be involved.

**Franny Morrison**

Mill Manager

francesmorrison@killincdt.co.uk

07802 929796

### Chairmans' Report

The Park development up to this point was not straightforward. As you will be aware it has already taken four or five years, if not more. Having to take on a lease from the Council was the only way in which the community could sort out the problem. In order to be allowed to do work on the site we were obliged to obtain a Licence to Occupy. Assuming this would be a fairly simple agreement with Stirling Council and the Lottery we estimated that this and the subsequent 10 year

lease would cost about £1,000 in solicitor's fees. Not only did the matter of the Licence delay the start of the work but the Licence and Lease together are likely to cost several times that amount, we estimate a cost of about £5,000 that will not be covered by the grant. We feel that the work between the three sets of solicitors could have been better organised. We understand that we may receive a similar invoice when it comes to the work on the Old Mill and applied for £4,000 for solicitor's fees. This is an important point for any other community who work with their Council. However Stirling Council have generously contributed £7,676 to support Theresa for a period of three months while we attempt to acquire funding for her post. We are seeking people with an interest in the community prepared to devote their time and experience to become directors of the Trust. If you can offer your services please contact me. The Community Trust is a charitable business and profits are used for the community

**Willie Angus**

Chairman

01567 820238

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## A Ribbon of Light at Hogmanay

**The thought** ... "Nothing much for kids to do at New Year"

**The idea** ... "We could make lanterns and have a lantern walk"

...and we did!

Funding was applied for from Stirling Council and was successful. All materials were ordered, hall booked, posters up and folk recruited to attend our lantern-making workshop. Almost fifty folk had an amazing time learning skills and methods used to construct lanterns using withies and tissue paper. Withies are willow saplings which are

grown and processed using traditional methods and are sensitive to our environment. It was lovely for everyone to use such a nice friendly resource. Looking at the picture, you can see how much fun it was!

Our 'Ribbon of Light' was created on Hogmanay when our lantern makers walked through Killin with a fantastic assortment of lit lanterns on poles. The red, white and blue theme reflected the Homecoming Celebrations. Welcome, if quite unexpected additions, were the many

villagers and visitors who cheered us on and clapped as we went by. The girls from the band helpfully decided on three prize winners - Eilidh Kemp, Naomi Grant and Danny Luke - who received Amazon vouchers. Each child on the first Killin lantern walk got a chocolate penguin or snowman as a 'thank you' for all their amazing work. An event worth repeating!

**Alma Walker**



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Tel: Julie **07963 088 112** (Body Control Pilates Instructor)



### Hogmanay Fireworks

Huge thanks to all who helped with the setting up, collecting donations, stewarding and clearing up after the display. This was the fifteenth anniversary so it was decided to do something a bit different and Alma therefore very kindly organised the Lantern Walk. This was followed by music by Marit and Rona at the bridge. A great night was enjoyed by everyone. As I am sure you are all aware, they couldn't go ahead without the kind and generous donations from all attending and without the sales of Killin Calendars produced by Ron Allner. Very many thanks to Kay Riddell, the Old Mill, Bridge End Mill and The Studio for promoting the calendar sales. If you have any creative ideas for fundraising, I would love to hear from you on 07768 333792 or 820342. It's never too early to start planning. Thank you all once again.

**Charlie Grant**



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The Killin Drama Club presented their 20th Panto on 15th, 16th and 17th January to sell-out audiences despite bad weather. Everyone was delighted to welcome Stirling Provost Mike Robbins and his wife to the first night. The audience was treated to a wonderful treasure of comedy and a very high standard of acting with belly laughs throughout. The pantomime was written by Stage Manager Lesley Syme and produced and directed by Gordon Hibbard. All the cast were locals from the Killin area.

## Salmon Fishing Opening

The Annual Opening Ceremony to mark the start of the fishing season on 15th January was held at the slip in Killin, by kind permission of the Angling Club. Auchmore is the usual venue, but Stefan Schumann, who

hosts the event and provides refreshments, was not able to attend this year and in addition the flood water was high.

Famous Grouse were our sponsors again this year, providing miniature whisky bottles as well as the prize bottles, and we are very grateful for their support. The whisky was enjoyed with a hot dog or two at the Angling shed. Thanks to Roy MacGregor for braving the bad weather to bless the boats on this very wet and damp morning. Bill Hill, our secretary/treasurer,

welcomed everyone at the evening dinner held at The Bridge of Lochay Hotel where the raffle raised £126. Bill suggested this money should go to Cancer Research. In his 49 years of fishing Loch Tay on the Opening Day, this was the first time that Bill unfortunately did not manage to go out.

The meal in the evening was appreciated and enjoyed by all who came - thank you Amanda, Bob and staff for your organisation and hospitality.

**Grant Tigwell**



### Apology from KBAC

David Paterson should have been included with the volunteers who gathered for the rubbish clean up by the Angling club covered in the last issue.

## Ospreys Homeless

A bit of bad news for local bird lovers, the dead Scots pine which hosted the Morenish osprey nest blew down during the night of 9th/10th January. Not only that but one of the living pines on the same ridge blew down as well. So where there were five Scots pines only a few years ago, only one now remains.

**Ken Chew**



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## Frost Report

### Money Makes

#### The Natural World Go Round

As I write this we are seeing the first snowfall on the lower ground this winter. The local buzzard is flitting from one hydro pole to another scanning the ground for brunch. Maybe he will finish up with a mole as one little brown hill has appeared in the white. The pheasants are really glad of the feeder and one is sporting a white tail – the only bit still covered in snow after a good shake and feather-fluff-up. Another animal sporting a white patch on his back recently was a stoat in the garden. He had only changed partially into ermine so had probably been watching the weather forecasts and was hedging his bets.

I don't know if the buzzard will manage to make himself a pair of moleskin breeks after brunch but a man in Liskeard in Cornwall made himself a hat, neckerchief, coat, waistcoat, trousers, gaiters and shoes from rat skins. This unusual recycling project required 670 skins collected over 3 years. Closer to home a woman in Glasgow had a pair of ratskin shoes made from the skins of 60 rats. Does The Old Mill have any plans to add this to their 'waste not want not' upcycling?

On the subject of wasting – the government seem to be happy to waste money on an S.N.H. initiative to reduce the population of geese on Islay. Having 70% of the world population of barnacle and white-fronted geese means that farmers' fields are being damaged by the geese eating and fouling the grass. The farmers will most likely have to continue the legal cull but not until the 'Islay sustainable goose management strategy' devised by S.N.H. and National Farmers Union has spent 30 to 41 million pounds on radio-controlled drones, lasers and robotic 4x4s. I'm not joking – they have already failed with self-launching kites (not specified if fabric or feathered type!), helium balloons, sirens, fireworks and scary-man mannequins (a.k.a. scarecrows?)

Still talking money, the R.S.P.B. is paid £60 for every member who switches to Ecotricity and £40 each time someone opens an account with the wind farm funding Triodos bank. Could that be why the many birds killed by wind turbines are not given the publicity that a shot bird would receive?

It sometimes appears that certain organisations have rules of their own. The Loch Lomond and Trossachs

National Park has both grey and red squirrels in the Callander area. Landowners in this area are obliged to eradicate the greys to try to preserve the reds' safe area. The National Park says that pine martens will prefer to eat greys before reds as they are easier prey. This seems a little haphazard, admits that pine martens will take reds and so is it not perhaps time to review legislation on the ever increasing pine martens?

A new form of publicity, in the form of infographics, was sent to every M.P. to explain the positive impact of managed grouse moorland both to the environment and the economy. They are now rarer than rainforests. This initiative by The British Association for Shooting and Conservation was well received. You can visit the B.A.S.C website which is updated every weekend to highlight current key issues.

Mr. Urban-Fox has been showing his intelligence lately as early morning paper boys have observed him standing next to them at busy crossings waiting till the lights change to get safely across. I haven't heard of any plans yet to use them in school road safety demonstrations.

**Tim Frost**

Date	Meeting Place
11 <sup>th</sup> February	McLaren Car Park
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Capercaillie
25 <sup>th</sup> February	McLaren Car Park
4 <sup>th</sup> March	McLaren Car Park (Car Share)
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Capercaillie
18 <sup>th</sup> March	McLaren Car Park (Mini Bus)
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Capercaillie

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in Killin on the following dates  
Repeat prescriptions, food or any other veterinary  
requirements can be collected on these days, providing  
they are ordered in advance.

Wednesday	4th Feb 2015	9.30-11.30am
Wednesday	18th Feb 2015	9.30-11.30am
Wednesday	4th Mar 2015	9.30-11.30am
Wednesday	18th Feb 2015	9.30-11.30am
Wednesday	1st Apr 2015	9.30-11.30am
Wednesday	15th Apr 2015	9.30-11.30am
Wednesday	29th Apr 2015	9.30-11.30am

TELEPHONE 01887 820771 FOR AN APPOINTMENT



## Strathfillan Community Council

### Police Report

**Antisocial Behaviour :** Two reported disturbances where one person was arrested for Breach of the Peace. Licensing checks have been carried out at local public houses with no issues found.

**Road Safety:** 12 road traffic related incidents. One person reported in relation to dangerous driving.

**Theft:** Two thefts in the area one where property was stolen and one where nothing was taken probably due to the alarm activating. The CC understand that the thefts have similarities with others happening across the west of Scotland and Police Scotland are actively working to identify the ringleaders. It is not believed that the culprits are local people.

### Green Highland Renewables

Alex Reading, director of Green Highland Renewables (GHR) gave a short presentation of the proposed Hydro scheme at Allt Coire Charoach (east of Auchessan). Some work on the access track has already been

carried out, and GHR plan to start scheme development from April 2015. It is intended that the first electricity will be generated in June 2016. GHR propose to make legally binding "community benefit" contributions to Strathfillan (via SCDT) at the rate of £5000 per MW per year (ie £10,000 per year, index linked), starting 6 months after first electricity generation - for the life of the scheme. This offer was unanimously accepted by the Community Council, and will be an extremely useful regular income source for SCDT once it starts.

### Community Rail Partnership

James Wilkin of Association of Community Rail Partnerships gave a short presentation on the role of community rail partnerships (CRPs) and the proposed West Highland Rail Partnership (stretching from Mallaig to Crianlarich). A CRP consists of all stakeholders (Network Rail, Scotrail, Transport Scotland, local Community) and aims to re-engage the local community with the railway. CRP projects might include landscaping around stations, or having vegetation cut back to improve journey views. Dutch company Abellio are taking over the running of the WH line in

April 2015. Their plans include upgrading Crianlarich station to be a "hub" for the new sleeper service. Abellio will also have funding available to help CRP to carry out their projects. The CC unanimously agreed that Strathfillan should be represented on the WH Community Rail Partnership.

### Health

Alan responded to the NHSFV consultation, focusing on hospital transport problems. Alan has so far been unable to identify a named NHSFV director who is responsible for patient transport, but will keep trying. Alistair attended the recent KMP patient forum on behalf of the CC.

### Transport

Charlie attended a Transport Scotland workshop on the A82 Tarbet to Invernanan upgrade, on behalf of the CC. Proposal options are: widening and updating the existing road; taking a more direct inland route, with new sections of road at various points; extending the road out over the loch, or a hybrid of all three. The upgrade will also deal with the A82/A83 junction at Tarbet. Transport Scotland intends to select the preferred option during summer 2015.

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## Strathfillan by the Way



>Newsletter; the agreement of a ten year lease on Lower Station Yard in Crianlarich, from Stirling Council; and a very successful season of SAPLINGS sessions. The current Directors of the Trust are John Riley (Chair), Isla Craig (Vice Chair), Moira Robertson, Fiona Robertson, Ellen Cattanach, Alan Smailes, Chris Macnab, John Goodale and Jen Riley. Directors up for re-election were Fiona, Ellen and Isla, they were re-elected by the membership. Many thanks to the Green Welly Stop and the Tyndrum Inn for the wonderful fare provided for the buffet and to those who braved the elements to attend. A great night was had by all. For those who live in Strathfillan we are always looking for new members, so if you fancy joining the Trust and getting involved in some very exciting local developments please contact me at strathfillancdt@btconnect.com. All ages and abilities are welcome, all that is needed is a passion for your community. Best wishes and have a great 2015

**Kelly Clapperton-Bates**

### Charity Auction

This year the Strathfillan Auction will be on Friday 13th March at 6 pm. As usual the committee will be delighted to receive all donations throughout the week.

These can be dropped off at the hall from Tuesday 10th or collection can be arranged by contacting me  
**Bryan Craig**

**01838 300245**

**07800 532649**

## Mobile Libraries

### Tyndrum/Crianlarich Fortnightly Fridays

Feb 13, 27, March 13, 27

### Crianlarich

Willow Square 11.50 – 12.15  
Glen Falloch Road 11.30 – 11.45  
Police Station 10.45 – 11.25

### Tyndrum

Station Road 1.30 – 1.50  
Clifton 1. 55 – 2.20  
Mansefield 2.25 – 2.50

### Glen Lochay/Ardeonaig Fortnightly Mondays

Feb 9, 23, March 9, 23

Glenlochay 10.50–12.30  
Ardeonaig 2.00–2.45

### Perth and Kinross Fortnightly Tuesdays

Feb 10, 24, March 10, 24

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## Boxing Day Dip



On a misty, but pleasant Boxing Day nine of us braved the freezing waters of the River Lochay to raise money for The Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. The fancy dress competition was won by a beautiful blonde who was visiting Glen Lyon over the festive period. Sadly his wig was last seen floating towards Loch Tay!! We also had Rupert Bear, a surfer and Mrs Brown off the telly in the fancy dress line up. Huge numbers of people turned out to support us and were amazingly generous with their donations. Over £350 was collected in the bucket down at the river on the day. I haven't got all the monies in yet but it is looking like we will raise somewhere in the region of £1,000 for the home. A huge thank you to all who came to the river and gave so generously and also to others who couldn't be there but sponsored us anyway. Thanks as always to Iain and the staff at The Killin Hotel for the soup, coffee and changing room - all were most welcome. Lastly thanks to the other seven crazy folk who jumped in and of course to Sarah Heward, who was thrown in. Thank you all for taking part and see you again next year.

**Anna Nicholson**

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## 2014 Weather Statistics

The main features of the weather in 2014 were a wet start to the year with very little snow at farm level, but deep snow on the mountains, a sunny, warm and relatively dry June and July, a very dry, sunny and warm September, and a very wet October.

The total rainfall recorded at the Met Office automatic station at Kirkton in 2014 was 2896.7 mm (114 inches) which was 368.5 mm more than the twenty year average (2528.2 mm [1991-2010]). The wettest month was October when a total of 491.6 mm (19.35 inches) of rainfall was recorded, making it the wettest October since 1995. From the start of the year up until 14th April there were only four days when no rainfall was recorded. The driest month was September with a total of 29.4 mm of rainfall (only 14% of the average September rainfall). This was the driest September since recording began in 1991 and the 5th driest month. Only 3.2 mm of rainfall was recorded between 1st September and 21st September. The highest rainfall over a calendar week (Monday to Sunday) was 215.8 mm in Week 43 (20th to 26th October). The highest rainfall in a single 24 hour period (09:00 GMT to 09:00 GMT) was 80.0 mm on 26th October. The highest rainfall in a single 12 hour period (21:00 GMT to 09:00 GMT) was 55.2 mm on 27th October. The total number

of rain days was 291 (79.7%). There were 28 days when there was more than 25 mm of rainfall recorded, seven days when more than 50 mm of rainfall was recorded and three days when more than 75 mm of rainfall was recorded. The heavy rainfall on 25th, 26th and 27th October (a total of 200.4 mm) caused the River Fillan to burst its banks at Kirkton resulting in some serious flooding and damage to fences. The lowest temperature recorded during 2014 was on 29th December when the temperature fell to -7.2°C. An air frost was recorded on a total of only 44 days during 2014 (compared to an average of 86 days over the previous seven years). The highest temperature recorded was on 25th July (27.7°C). July was the warmest month with a mean temperature of 14.67°C. Temperatures of over 25°C were recorded on five days, one day in June (17th) and four days in July (22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th). Sleet or snow was recorded falling at the weather station on only 22 days during 2014 and lying snow was noted on only 12 days. Although the start of the year was characterised by a succession of Atlantic depressions bringing very wet weather and very little snow at farm level, above 700m snow accumulated to exceptional depths not seen for many years. Snow patches on the surrounding hills lasted

right through until August (the last patch on Ben More finally melted on 18th August).


There were only two days when sustained gale force winds were recorded (19th and 20th March) and three days when thunder and lightning were recorded (18th October, 10th December and 11th December).

### Killin

The total rainfall recorded in Killin in 2014 was 2258.5 mm [88.92 inches], significantly higher than the 2002-2011 ten year average of 1837.1 mm. 2014 was the second wettest year since recording began in 2002 (2011 was wetter). September was the driest month with only 20.0 mm of rain, while January was the wettest month with 374.5 mm. The first four months of the year were all wetter than average, while May, June and July were drier than average. During 2014 Killin received approximately 78% of the rainfall recorded in Strathfillan (i.e. some 638.2 mm less). The rainfall was higher in Strathfillan in all months apart from June and November. Thanks to the Met Office for supplying the data from the automatic weather station at Kirkton.






**John Holland**

SRUC Hill & Mountain Research Centre  
Kirkton



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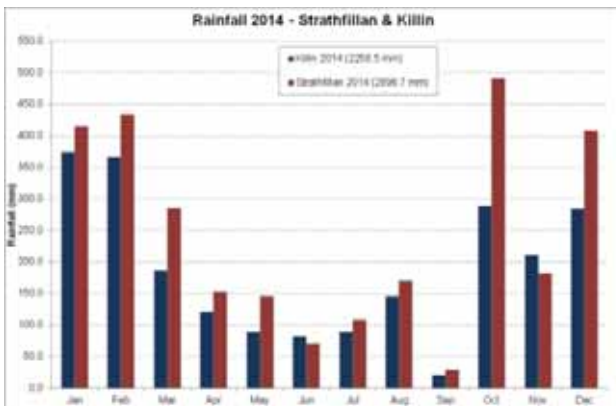
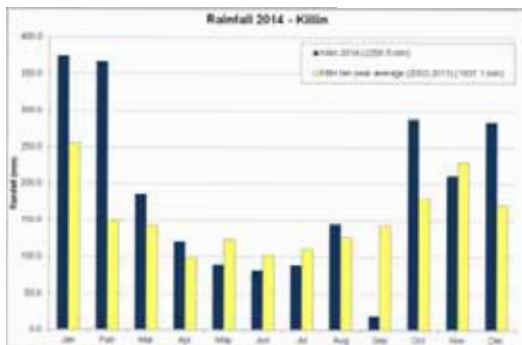
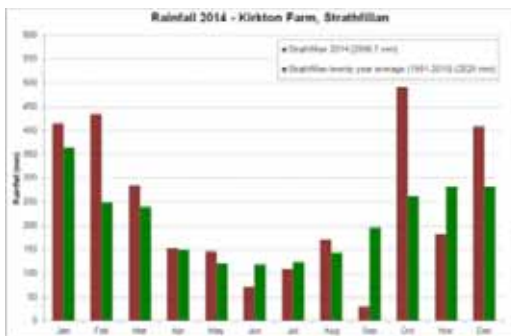
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## Mervyn's Weather

Except perhaps in mid-Sahara or circumpolar regions, it is rare to experience two days, seasons, or years exactly alike; our maritime climate sees to that! Having said this, it would appear that early winter 2014/15 has been attempting to emulate the winter period of 2013/14. With the resultant sodden state of the land, this winter has so far produced oscillations between prolonged spells of heavy precipitation though, until recent days, not much in the way of gales; and short periods of polar maritime winds giving heavy snow cover above about 2,800 feet. Below this level any snow lie has been intermittent and short lived. Prior to the foregoing conditions, autumn 2014 was a season of extremes. After a wet rather cold August, September was a

delightful, Indian summer-like interlude, before a return to an unsettled October/November. These two months, while wet, were unseasonably mild, allowing grass to grow unchecked until Christmas.

There has been a series of television programmes highlighting the prognostications of some scientists who reckon that extreme weather patterns, flooding, gales, snowfalls, or droughts, already becoming more frequent over recent years, will occur yet more often and with greater intensity.

The year 2080 is often highlighted as something of a yardstick of what may become established as regards future statistics, weather wise, and the changes involved.

There would be, of course, a limitation on numbers of those of

us who would experience this "day of reckoning"!

I have for some time nourished a pet theory that the increased volume of cold snow/ice-melt water from the Arctic colliding with the warmer waters of The North Atlantic Drift, which line of demarcation is, in conjunction with the Jet Stream, the "production workshop" of most of the low-pressure systems that pass close to or over these islands, has "hyped-up" the vigour of these depressions. Indeed the Jet Stream itself has been indulging in increased oscillations and waverings, contributing to the instability of our recent weather patterns. Just a theory - which may have some relevance!

**Mervyn K. Browne**  
Ardtalnag

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# Tom Weir Remembered



Jimmie MacGregor, Tom, Rhona Weir, Cameron McNeish

All roads led to Balmaha on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December as hundreds of people from all over Scotland witnessed the unveiling of an impressive bronze statue in memory of countryside legend and "Scotland's most popular mountain man," Tom Weir. They joined in the celebrations by raising replicas of Tom's signature red and white toorie hat to mark the

centenary of his birth and his great contribution to introducing generations to Scotland's outdoors through his adventures as a climber, naturalist, writer and broadcaster. Well-known outdoor writers and broadcasters, Cameron McNeish and Jimmie MacGregor, joined Tom's widow, 94 year old Rhona Weir, to unveil the statue against the idyllic backdrop of Balmaha Bay. A special

musical tribute was performed by popular Scottish minstrel Alistair McDonald who played some of Tom's favourite music, including Loch Lomond and The Rowan Tree.

Tom's widow, Rhona Weir, is delighted with the quality of the statue and said: "The level of detail and likeness to Tom is amazing and I am pleased the statue has been sited at one of Tom's favourite spots on Loch Lomondside which inspired so much of his writings and broadcasts on Scotland's great outdoors."

£70,000 was raised partly by hundreds of knitters who donated thousands of Tom's signature red and white toorie hats, which has been a great fundraiser.

The statue sculptor Sean Hedges-Quinn, who was in attendance at the statue unveiling presented Tom's widow, Rhona with a miniature replica.

The delivery of this project, which included a phase 1 facelift to the existing picnic area and creation of a raised plinth and walling to provide a high quality setting for the statue, was coordinated by the conservation charity, Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs. The site contractors were Alexander Fraser Electrical Services Ltd and Lomond Grass of Balmaha.



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## Old Cemetery Project

Throughout the Spring, when it is carpeted with snowdrops, followed by crocus and then daffodils, and the sun is shining, the Old Cemetery is a beautiful place to explore. For the past few years Killin Heritage Society has been transcribing all the inscriptions on the gravestones in order to make the information available to all. The information gathered is of particular interest to those researching their family history and it is pleasing to note that our efforts have already proved very helpful for many visitors to the village and to those contacting us from much further afield.

Recording details of each gravestone and plotting its location is a time-consuming task but one which becomes addictive! Sometimes the transcription is straightforward and can be completed in a few minutes.

At other times it requires several visits to the same stone to try and decipher the wording and even then it is sometimes impossible to read all the information. There are recognised techniques that we use to help us and sometimes we have to try various ones before we achieve success. At other times it can be simply the removal of loose vegetation from the surface of the stone and then allowing it to dry that

enables us to read the inscription. Many of the headstones provide a vast amount of information about a person, or a whole family, whilst others just have the initials of the deceased, or sometimes two sets of initials set either side of a heart and not even a date. The latter tend to be the older stones, some of which are just rough, uneven slabs of rock crudely carved with initials and perhaps a small cross. Last winter, Sally Connor and I hoped to complete the transcriptions but by prodding the ground with sticks we kept finding more and more gravestones hidden under the overgrown vegetation. What is interesting about these finds is that a few are dated 1765 but the majority are 1766. All give a name or an initial but none, so far, has provided a month of death. However, the fact that so many deaths occurred in the same year set us wondering as to the cause.



Despite extensive research on our part and kind assistance from professional archivists, we have not been able to come up with a definite answer. Diseases such as smallpox and typhus were common at the time but we have not found evidence that points towards an epidemic of either in the Killin area in 1766. One possible cause identified was that the winter, from November 1765 to February 1766, was extremely severe in Scotland, with lots of snow and long periods of very cold temperatures when everything remained frozen. This may well have contributed to the numbers of deaths, particularly of the young and elderly, bearing in mind the very poor living conditions at that time. The dreadful winter was then followed by a very warm and very wet summer, which would create



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# Age Society

more problems, especially with crops and animals. Life was hard enough without these extremes of weather and the difficulties they would bring to a community ill prepared to cope with them.

Work on the project will continue until we believe we have located all the graves. Dugie McInnes, ACFA Glasgow, has kindly offered to survey the site for us this spring and draw up a grid on which we will be able to mark accurately the location of every grave. In the meantime, if anyone requires assistance in locating a grave, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Dr Mairi MacColl

The recent death of our President, Dr. Mairi MacColl, marks the end of an era for the Society. Dr Mairi was such a wonderful support and an endless source of information, on so many topics relating to the Killin area and beyond. If there was a local history question that needed answering, she was the first person we would contact and she invariably came up with the information. If she didn't know the answer she would always suggest someone else who may be able to help or some resource we could try. Dr. Mairi will be greatly missed by present and past members of the Society.

## Programme of talks Spring

### Thursday 19th February

A.G.M. 7.00p.m. followed at 7.30p.m. by "A look at some of the Society's archives and artefacts".

### Thursday 19th March

"Borrowers' Register 1747 - 1800, Innerpefferay Library. The books your ancestors read." - Cairns Mason, FSA Scot.

### Thursday 16th April

"The small schools of Fortingall, Kenmore and Killin: a rural perspective on the history of education in Scotland." - Helen Young, ESRC Doctorate Candidate, University of Stirling.

**Gillian Ford**

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# McLaren High School



## Badminton

On Wednesday 5th November seven McLaren pupils entered the under 14 Stirling Council Badminton competition at the

Peak organised by Active Stirling. The Under 16 and Under 19 competitions were held at the same venue on 12th November. McLaren entered 19 pupils into the event. Several of the pupils reached the semi-finals and finals, guaranteeing them a position in the Central Schools Competition. Harris Kliskey (S3) and Kim Russell (S3) came 3rd in the U16 Mixed Doubles; Alasdair Murphy (S5) and Jamie Cox (S6) made it into the semi-finals of the U19 Boys Doubles; Chris Orr (S5) and James Ronald (S5) got a gold medal for the U19 Boys Doubles and Ross Paterson (S5) and Monique Ibhharalu (S5) got a silver medal for the U19 Mixed Doubles. The Central Schools Competition was then held on Wednesday 10th December. The McLaren Badminton team managed to secure several places in this round with 8 pupils participating. The U14 Boys Doubles (Max Dimmer and Zach Neufeld) and U19 Boys Doubles (Chris Orr and

James Ronald), battled their way through heats into the semi-finals and then into the finals where they were both awarded silver medals. Once again well done to all pupils who took part in the event and a thanks to everyone who helped to organise the event.

## Loch Eil 2014

Forty S3 pupils took part in the five



Aaron Hibbert

day Outward Bound Course at Loch Eil in December. Here are some of their thoughts on the week. After a 3½ hour bus journey we arrived at Loch Eil near Fort William. We were split into our 'clans' (Stuart, Cameron, MacDonald and MacLean) and met our instructors. We then collected our equipment, had a tour and took part in some team building activities. The next day we engaged

in high wire activities and in the afternoon had a raft building competition (Stuart clan v MacDonald clan) and the MacDonalds were victorious! That night we had a great game of basketball.

On Wednesday there were the exhilarating activities of climbing and canoeing and they were both great fun. On Thursday the MacDonald clan went on a canoeing expedition which we all thoroughly enjoyed. On the Friday everyone was sad to be going home. Everyone was shattered by the time we arrived home but we all absolutely loved the Loch Eil experience and have memories that we will never forget!

**Kim Russell S3**

## Christmas Dances

The S1/2, S3/4 and Senior Dances all took place in the run up to Christmas. Ian Milligan and his band provided the great ceilidh music for all three dances while Allardyce Photography were on hand to capture all the action on the dance floor. Pupils got dressed up for the occasion and enjoyed a night of fun and music with their friends as they whirled around the floor. A great time was had by all!



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**Alex Tigwell**

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the National Trust  
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Landscape architects, Ian White Associates, were commended recently in a competition "Placemaking in Scotland" for their work designing the new Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve car park and interpretive shielings. The competition was run by Architecture & Design Scotland and the Landscape Institute and there were over thirty entries of which The Helix at Falkirk was the winner. The Ben Lawers

## Ben Lawers Car Park



project was one of four which were highly commended and details were exhibited at A&DS in Edinburgh and The Lighthouse in Glasgow. The National Trust for Scotland initially commissioned Ian White Associates to carry out a feasibility study looking at alternatives for the provision of facilities for visitors on the Reserve. The conclusion from this was that the former Mountain Visitor Centre should be demolished and facilities on the hill reconfigured to leave a lower visual impact and greater sense of wildness. They then designed and managed construction of the new car park within a series of natural terraces in an area already fenced to allow restoration of woodland. The construction plan carefully defined working areas and methods to ensure minimal impact on the sensitive montane habitat and

reuse of materials on site. The work, including sensitive restoration of the previous car park site, was carried out by McGowan Outdoor Access. The design and construction included the dry stone structures to house the new interpretation and information. These were inspired by and designed to echo the many ruinous shieling huts scattered across the reserve which evidence the long history of transhumance. They were intended to provide some shelter yet not divorce visitors from the mountain environment whilst accessing the interpretation. Trust staff worked closely with Edinburgh artist Tim Chalk who created the interpretive structures to resonate with the content and stimulate the curiosity of the visitor before they pass onwards into the reserve.

**Helen Cole**



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# New CEO for the National Park



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority is pleased to announce the appointment of Gordon Watson as its new Chief Executive following the announcement in October that Fiona Logan is moving to a position in the private sector. Gordon is currently the National Park's Director of Operations. Gordon brings a wealth of National Park experience and knowledge from his current role to help him lead the work of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority and coordinate successful delivery of an ambitious National Park

Partnership Plan. Between 1999 and 2002, he was instrumental in establishing Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, including as a new planning authority. He subsequently developed the planning function into a delivery focused operation using innovative approaches and partnership working to attract high quality and sustainable development to the National Park. Gordon took up his post in January. He lives in the village of Gartocharn, with his wife and two daughters.

**Kelly Paterson**



We started off 2015 in style with a lunch for our members hosted by Callander Golf Club. It was a

very pleasant, warm venue on a miserably wet day and after a delicious meal the tables competed with each other in a challenging quiz organised by John Champness, our Membership Secretary. Questions came thick and fast on a wide variety of subjects and heads were bowed in conference as

answers were scribbled down. Winners and runners-up were justifiably pleased with their efforts and gratefully received their prizes. Barbara Legg, our Chairperson, proposed a vote of thanks to Fiona Martin who had organised the successful event and to the staff at Callander Golf Club for their excellent services. Courses are once again in full swing and anyone interested to find out more is welcome to look at our website, just Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.

**Marguerite Kobs**

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We may be able to build in other communities in the future – please let us know to if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future.

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# The Big Shed

The Big Shed hopes to host six yoga workshops again this year.

**Saturday February 28th** 10am to 4pm with Sue Atkinson, priced £40 including a home-made lunch. The morning session will look at how we can use gravity to assist our yoga practice and bring lightness and vitality to our movement and postures. The afternoon will consist of gentle movement leading to an extended 'yoga nidra' or deep relaxation.

**Saturday 25th April** Sadhita returns for a one day workshop also priced at £40 including lunch.

**Sunday 26th April** again with Sadhita and specifically for teachers

of yoga. It is priced at £45 including lunch.

The remaining workshops will be in summer, early autumn and late autumn and details will be published once finalised.

**Saturday 28th February** starting at 6.30pm, a group from the Stirling Astronomical Society will hold an astronomical evening. The price is £5 for adults and £3 for children and will include a mug of soup. The group will advise people how to witness the Solar Eclipse of 20th March when 95% of the Sun will be covered by the Moon. More details of the programme will be published on the events section of the Big Shed

website as soon as they are available.

To book for any of these events, text or phone the Big Shed on

0750 864 5453

websitecontact@bigshed.org.uk

You'll find the Big Shed on the north side of Loch Tay, about 6 miles from Killin. Access is signposted from the main road and there is parking.

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## Quite a Year

2014 did not get off to a good start. Those of you who remember Fern, our first Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen, will be sad to know that she passed away at the ripe old age of thirteen in February. She set the standard for us. Our aim was to breed and produce her offspring and hopefully make an impact on the show scene.

Fergus and Lottie went to the Killin Tuesday Club and have developed quite a fan base in Killin. In March off we went south to Crufts. We have been very fortunate to qualify every dog that we have bred and shown ourselves so no pressure.

Fergus, aka Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Cartier, had just turned two years of age so we were worried that it might be a little bit too much for him. How wrong were we! He won Best Dog and then went on to win Best of Breed, a title that his mother won in 2010. His mother Lottie, aka Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Arc en Ciel, won Best Veteran!

The year just got better and better. Fergus has become the top Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen in the UK and Ireland. His mother, now eight and a half, ended up Top Bitch, Top Brood Bitch and Best in Show at the Basset Griffon Vendéen Club Championship Show. She is still the breed record holder for wins at Championship



shows. Ir Ch Tarmachan Albanwr became top Stud Dog and our latest addition, Tarmachan Solitaire, won Top Puppy. The icing on the cake was the fact that we are now also Top Breeders for 2014. I don't think that this has ever been achieved before, with one kennel winning all the major titles. So you see we have had an amazing year.

We are now planning 2015 and our first outing will be to the Top Scottish Show Dog of the Year, where twenty-

four of the top dogs in Scotland are invited to compete against each other. Then it's on to Crufts in March. We have also qualified for the UK Top Dog "Contest of Champions" which is held in London in April so another busy year ahead.

**Fiona & Michael MacLaren**

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## Book Review



1945 Moscow: as Stalin and his generals celebrate victory over Hitler, shots ring out. A teenage girl and boy lie dead on a nearby bridge. These are no ordinary teenagers, but the children of Russia's most important leaders, who attend the most exclusive school in Moscow. An investigation begins, directed by Stalin himself, to ascertain if it's murder, a suicide pact or a conspiracy against the state. Children, as young as six, are arrested, imprisoned for six months

in the notorious Lubyanka and forced to testify against their friends and parents. The terrifying witch-hunt reveals family secrets and illicit love affairs in a state where the smallest mistakes will be punished with death. Montefiore has written non-fiction books on Stalin and Russia. This novel is based on the true story of "The Children's Case" of 1943, for which he interviewed survivors of the case. It is a gripping thriller about private life and poetic dreams in Stalin's Russia.

Fear permeates the whole story – fear of Stalin's displeasure when one could be imprisoned or sent to Siberia on a whim: fear for the children whose elite, wealthy parents were too frightened to even enquire about their children's incarceration! (In Stalin's time 12 year olds could be executed).

Montefiore insists it is a book about love. There is teenage romance, the passion of adultery and family love. It is also full of bravery, suffering and survival. A darkly enjoyable, good read!

**Mary Fallon**  
**Book Club One**

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## Electoral Register

### Change in Voter Registration

With the UK Parliamentary election on 7th May less than 6 months away, any new elector or anyone who has moved address recently and who hasn't yet applied to register is reminded to register now. As it is now an individual registration system, you will need to supply your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance Number when registering. Registering to vote can now be done online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) making it quicker and easier.

A Household Enquiry Form (HEF) and reminders have been posted to addresses where no-one is registered to vote or where forms haven't been returned since 2012. Anyone still to return a form should do so now as visits by members of staff will take place from January to each address. The new Register of Electors will be published on 27th February and it's important that as many eligible electors are included as possible. Anyone who wants to vote by post at the next election can apply now. Application forms are available to download from [www.saa.gov.uk/central](http://www.saa.gov.uk/central) or can be collected in your local library. More information on the changes is available at [www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters)

**Pete Wildman**

Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)

## Community Auction

As the annual auction will take place on **Saturday 4th April**, it's time to start thinking about items which you have and no longer use, but are in good or working condition for donation.

Flyers will be posted through letterboxes during the last week of February and collection of items from 6th March.

As before local Clubs and Organisations will receive donations from the proceeds. Reductions in funding in many areas mean associations, particularly those dealing with youngsters, are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Local organisations are at the top of the list of recipients from the Auction as all Masonic Members have had or still have family participating in them.

Over the last five years the Local Lodge has supported the Masonic Charity appeal to help CHAS and during the next five years the Masonic Order will be raising funds for Prostate Cancer.

The community has always been generous in donating items and supporting the auction and we all look forward to another great day of fun and laughter.

**Alex Stewart**

## Tuesday Club

The Club resumed on 6th January and we heard from Dr Syme about his trek in Bhutan. It was very interesting and enjoyed by all members.

During the next few months we have a very varied programme. A talk on Burns is first, followed by the work of Killin Mountain Rescue Team, then life as a Paramedic. In March the meetings will be an open talk from the Fire Service, Deanston Distillery, also open and then Amanda from the Bridge of Lochay Hotel will talk about the 250th anniversary of the hotel. Our last meeting is an outing to Dobbies for a talk on plants etc. The Tuesday Club is flourishing, we have welcomed eleven new members this year. Why not come and join us, there's always room for more.

**Margaret Ogilvie**



**andrew baird**  
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# Obituaries



## Dr Mairi MacColl

1929-2015

Mairi was born on March 14<sup>th</sup> 1929 in Sleat, on the Isle of Skye. Much of her early childhood was spent in Dalmally, where her doctor father had taken over the practice. In 1937 he took over the Killin practice, and the family moved to live in Loch Tay Cottage, where the surgery was originally held. Mairi went to the village school, then to McLaren High in Callander, travelling by train and staying as a weekly boarder. She then went to Glasgow University to study medicine, graduating in 1952.

After working in a few hospitals, she was persuaded by her father in 1956 to join him in the Killin practice, where she stayed until she retired in 1989, running the practice single-handed after the death of her father, with administrative help only from 'Mac' MacArthur and later Hope MacDonald. This was no easy task, as the practice is widespread, and the population considerably increased in size while the Hydro-electric scheme was under construction.

Eventually she was joined in September, 1982 by Dr David Syme, who helped to share the load.

Many tributes have been paid to Mairi's work as a doctor, and numerous former patients have told how much they appreciated her treatment of them, seeing them as friends as well as patients. It should be added that, though small in stature, she was known to strike large, husky men with dread, to ensure they obeyed her medical instructions.

I knew Mairi all my life, having first been introduced as a baby to the family in Dalmally. My doctor parents had moved to a practice in rural Lincolnshire, and when surrounding airfields were being bombed during the second world war, my MacColl relatives took me to stay with them in Killin, where I attended Killin school in 1940, and Mairi and her sister Margaret were like big sisters to me. Sadly, Margaret died in the early '60s, and shortly afterwards Mairi was persuaded to come for a holiday with me and my family in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where we then lived. She disliked having her photo taken, but I did manage to take one of her beside the statue of David Livingstone at the Victoria Falls, reminding her of her Livingstone family connections back in Scotland.

My cousins and I have spent many very happy holidays over the past years at Loch Tay Cottage. Cousin Rosemary writes of the warm welcome always found in Killin, and how Mairi believed in the importance of family, and cousin Craig says that 'the MacColl family and Killin were responsible for many of the happiest times of my life'. It was Craig and his wife that Mairi chose to accompany her to Buckingham Palace to receive her well-deserved MBE in 1988. Mairi was one of the

most generous people I knew, generous of time as well as money. She supported many charities over the years, and many clubs in the village, enjoying activities such as golf, curling, fishing and walking. She was also a keen bridge player, an enthusiastic supporter of the Heritage Society and she encouraged Gaelic meetings, which were held in her home.

Finally thanks are due to her many friends, too many to mention individually, who supported her, and also to the doctors, nurses and carers who looked after her during her last weeks. Thanks, too, to Annie MacNee, housekeeper and friend over many years, and for the help and support given recently by solicitor Hazel Langen, funeral director David Gault and accountant John Cleary which made my task as executor so much easier. Nor could I forget new Minister June Johnston, who gave us such a beautiful funeral service by which to remember Mairi.

**Elizabeth Ingram**

## Frank Ogilvie

Frank passed away peacefully in the Ashwood Home on 10th November. He had spent the last fourteen months being very well cared for by Trish Grant and her dedicated staff. Although confused due to his illness, he still knew me till practically the end.

As a young man he studied and qualified as a Chartered Accountant but then chose to follow his parents in the hotel business in the Lake District. In 1984, with his wife, he bought the Bridge of Lochay Hotel but sadly Marcia died in 1987. I joined Frank in 1989 and we were there till retiring in 2000.

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# Letters



Frank's son Mark, who lives in London, visited on many occasions and was a great support to me, as were my own two sons Douglas and Robert.

Sincere thanks to all who sent cards and messages of sympathy, to the staff at the Ashwood and to Andrew Anderson and Sons for their efficient services.

**Margaret Ogilvie**

## Getting Better

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, gifts and good wishes for my recovery and to all those who offered lifts to my wife while I was in hospital. It is very much appreciated. I am now on the road to recovery. Thank you all again.

**Gordon Smith**

## Local Support

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to everyone who has shopped with us at Escape in Killin since we opened in August 2014. The support we have received from local people has been wonderful and very much appreciated. Wendy is looking forward to seeing you soon, wishing you health and happiness for 2015. Kind regards.

**Wendy, Jackie and Adrian**

## Christmas thanks

Thank you to everyone who gave us gifts for Christmas. We wish you all a good 2015 from your local posties

**John, Gregor, Donald and Paul**

## Thanks to Friends

With regard to recent family bereavements, we would like to thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes to us over what was a very sad festive period. Your comforting words are very much appreciated.

We would also like to give a special thank you to the people who helped out on occasion with delivering papers (you know who you are), sometimes on days with less than favourable weather.

We hope that 2015 is a good year for all. Kind regards.

**Dougie, Liz & Douglas**  
Newsfirst

## Helpful Killin

In early December, my husband and I had the misfortune to break down in Glen Ogle heading south on the A85 towards Lochearnhead. We would like to thank the great number of drivers who stopped to offer assistance, especially the gentleman who helped us summon the AA when we had no phone signal at all in that area. We would also like to thank the staff of the Capercaillie Restaurant in Killin, where we stayed overnight. (They also allowed us to occupy a table in their restaurant and bar the next day until 5pm, when our car was finally fixed.) Thanks also to Jazz and the staff of the Lix Toll Garage who attended to our car at such short notice. They even gave us a lift to and from Killin. Everyone we met in Killin was extremely friendly and sympathetic to our situation and we hope to return to the area again in the spring. If any of your readers would consider a short exchange visit, we would be very pleased to hear from them. We live in a two-bedroomed flat in South Queensferry, near Edinburgh.

**Joyce and Jim McIntosh**

11 4 Stoneycroft Road  
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EH30 9HX  
joycejim@btinternet.com  
07931 901115

## Fingal Road Hill

I would like to thank all the locals who kindly give me a lift up the hill. There are too many to mention but I'm so very grateful to all. It seems to get steeper every time. Thank you very much.

**Jessie MacLeod**



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## Think About It

I have the good fortune to be on holiday for most of January and am writing this on 30th December. When you read it (if the editors are their usual kindly selves and publish it) a significant date will have been passed. The second of February was Candlemas here in Britain and Groundhog Day in the USA and Canada.

What it is in folklore is a pause in the long season of winter. Just think how long it must have seemed before electric light and all sorts of heating for our houses, to say nothing of having to feed and milk farm animals for weeks and months by oil lamps. The day falls half-way between the winter solstice and spring equinox and so marks the beginning of the end of winter. The church used to bless all the candles that were to be used in church for the following year, hence the origin of the name Candlemas. Some people still put candles in their window to mark the day. A sign too that the nights were growing ever shorter and candles soon no longer needed.

But the weather was the preoccupation. What was the next half of winter to be like. The day itself was thought to predict the answer. There are various forms of the rhyme:

If Candlemas be fine and fair,  
Half the winter's to come and mair.  
If Candlemas day be wet and foul,  
Half the winter was gone at yowle. (Christmas)

In North America, the groundhog emerges from its winter burrow and if it sees its own shadow, meaning the sun is shining, it disappears in again for six weeks. If it has no shadow, it can go out and in - the worst of winter is past.

Religious faith and folk culture are closely intertwined. Together they express people's deepest concerns, hopes and fears and ways of dealing with them. Anyway, in another two weeks it will be Lent - woe is me!

**John Shedden**



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### A Coincidence on the Pathway to Peace

In recent times I have been troubled by the vastly unfair distribution of wealth in our society. Perhaps this has always been so but due to TV and the internet, it's now very evident. On the basis that there's no way I can influence it, I've tried to put it to the back of my mind but it keeps reappearing; most recently via the current programme 'The Super- Rich and Us'. Typical thoughts are:

The highest paid public salary should be related in some way to that of the prime minister of £150,000/annum: Someone on minimum wage gets about £15,000 and in a fair society the maximum should be ten times higher.

In this way public servants would be paid somewhere between £15,000 and £150,000/annum

The problem arises in privatised public utilities where there seems to be a free for all. How can a clearly incompetent senior executive of Network Rail concede his £1million bonus, when this alone is 6.66 times greater than the prime minister's annual salary? Similarly, how can bankers, who caused the financial collapse in 2008 and received £billions from the government, continue to operate in the same manner? A common assertion in our capitalist society is that entrepreneurs should be free to earn vast sums of money. I totally agree with this but surely they need to contribute significantly via taxation.

For several years I've read a couple of volumes written by the Indian spiritual teacher, Paramahansa Yogananda (PY), entitled 'The Second Coming of Christ'. Apparently he went into seclusion for five years to explain the true meaning of the New Testament, King James Version, in spiritual terms. I've tended to refer to these books occasionally but recently have been prompted to read them properly. I've been housebound since the heavy snow fell as I'm recovering from a total hip replacement and a fall could be disastrous. Yesterday, I picked up Volume 2 on my way upstairs, opened it at random (page 1086) and read the following explanation by PY which startled and amazed me:

"The earth would be a veritable heaven if nations as well as individuals would heed Jesus' admonition to make God the primary aim of life. When people concentrate on political and business selfishness for national and personal accumulation of power and luxuries at the expense of others, the divine law of happiness and prosperity is broken, creating disorder and want in the family, the nation, the world. If the leaders of different nations, instead of extolling aggression and patriotic selfishness, turned the minds of their citizens toward the acquirement of inner peace, love of God and neighbour and the bliss of meditation, then material prosperity, health, and international harmony would automatically be added unto the spiritual treasures of the nations."

**John Riley**

### This and That

Once upon a time there was the Clachaig and nearby was Falls of Dochart Cottage. In the village was the Falls of Dochart Hotel. The Falls of Dochart Hotel then became the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. The Clachaig became The Falls of Dochart Inn - and got confused postally with the Falls of Dochart Cottage and the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. To add yet more confusion, part of the Falls of Dochart Inn is now on sale as "The Falls Cottage, Clachaig".



# Celebrations



90th Birthday Celebration

Judge Angus Stroyan celebrating his 90th birthday surrounded by his family and staff at Boreland in November before the start of the shoot.

## Award for Dee

Dee Melia has been a health visitor at the Callander practice for many years covering a huge area including Killin and has just taken retirement. Unbeknown to her a group of very grateful families nominated her for the NHS Forth Valley 'Outstanding Care' Award'. There were over 150 nominees in this category and, to our delight and her total shock, she achieved first place and accepted the award from the head of NHS at a formal lunch. Dee really is an amazing, kind and wise lady, who always went above and beyond her duties. Even though she has retired she still keeps an eye on her 'gals' - I speak from personal experience. She is incredibly modest and would never put herself forward for an article, but we all think she needs the recognition for her work.

**Victoria Scrivenor**

## Birth



Morven Isobel White born 1<sup>st</sup> November to Louise and Pete White; first grandchild for Phil and Rosemary Simpson (Grandparenting skills developing) and niece for Roger and Sheena.



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# Local Planning Applications

## National Park

### 4 November

**Proposal:** Variation of Condition No. 13 attached to planning permission to allow extended hours for construction, decommissioning & restoration and for processing plant operation

Location: Minerals Cononish Road Tyndrum

Applicant: Scotgold Resources Ltd  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Pending Consideration

### 11 November

**Proposal:** Construction of a hydro scheme: Variation of existing Section 36 Consent under Electricity Generating Stations Regulations 2013

Location: Land At Benmore Road Around Allt Coire Chaorach Crianlarich

Applicant: Mr Oliver Moffat

Application Type:

Consultation/Notification - S36 Elec.Act

Decision: No Objections

### 14 November

**Proposal:** Amendment to Planning Permission to install woodfuel storage container above existing biomass heating unit

Location: The Green Welly Stop Tyndrum Crianlarich

Applicant: Mr Edward Robertson

Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

### 17 November

**Proposal:** Demolition of dwellinghouse

Location: Clisham Cottage Ardlui Crianlarich

Applicant: Mr James Palmer

Application Type: Demolition Notification

Decision: No Objections

### 20 November

**Proposal:** Amendment to planning permission for erection of dwellinghouse - revised design

Location: Land Adjacent To Riverview Main Street Killin

Applicant: Dr Colin Mackenzie

Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

### 24 November

**Proposal:** Amendment to planning permissions. Alterations to design of dwellinghouse.

Location: Land Next To Dalchenna No22 Craignavie Road Killin

Applicant: John and Pamela Walsh  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Pending Decision

### 25 November

**Proposal:** Erection of conservatory extension and raised balcony to dwelling house

Location: Brigairn Craignavie Road Killin

Applicant: Miss C Johnstone

Application Type: Householder Planning Permission

Decision: Pending Decision

### 3 December

**Proposal:** Internal and external alterations to building and erection of retaining wall

Location: The Old Mill Main Street Killin

Applicant: Dr Willie Angus

Application Type: Listed Building Consent

Decision: Approve

### 5 December

**Proposal:** Modification of Planning Obligation

Location: Minerals Cononish Road Tyndrum

Applicant: Scotgold Resources Ltd.  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Pending Consideration

### 16 December

**Proposal:** Construction of a hydro scheme

Location: Auchessan House Crianlarich

Applicant: Mr Alan Cory Wright

Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

### 18 December

**Proposal:** Construction of a hydro scheme

Location: Allt Essan North West Of Auchessan Hamlet Crianlarich

Applicant: Mr Peter Christie

Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

### 22 December

**Proposal:** Change of use from storage building to form holiday let

Location: Storage Building Portnellan Crianlarich Perthshire

Applicant: Ian Cram

Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

### 9 January

**Proposal:** Removal of old storage sheds for fodder storage

Location: Grey Street Crofts Killin

Applicant: Mr George Bickerton

Application Type: Agricultural and Forestry Notification

Decision: Pending Consideration

## Perth & Kinross Council

### 7 November

**Proposal:** Variation of conditions 3 and 4 of permission (Erection of 3 chalets, associated function suite and a dwelling house) to vary occupancy

and phasing

Location: Land At Craggantoul Farm Lawers

Applicant: Mr Greg Deacon

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision: Application Approved

### 8 December

**Proposal:** Erection of reception and staff units

Location: Lochtay Highland Lodges Killin

Applicant: Largo Leisure Park

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision: Application Approved

### 12 December

**Proposal:** Extension to dwellinghouse

Location: Tigh Na Clachan Fearnan Aberfeldy

Applicant: Mr Nicholas Grant

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision: Pending Decision

### 16 December

**Proposal:** Variation of condition 3 (occupation) of planning permission for extension to boathouse

Location: The Croft Fearnan Aberfeldy

Applicant: Mr And Mrs Douthwaite

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision: Pending Consideration

### 18 December

**Proposal:** Erection of dwelling house (in principle)

Location: Land 60 Metres South Of Easter Auchtar Fearnan

Applicant: Mr and Mrs W Seath

Application Type: planning permission in principle local

Decision: Pending Consideration

## Stirling Council

Nothing to Report

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# What's On in Killin and District

## February

- 5 SWRI Talk by the Street Pastor Lesser Hall 7.30pm
- 11 Walk in the Park p9
- 18 Walk in the Park p9
- 18 Cafe Sci Tyndrum 7pm
- 19 Heritage Society meeting 7.30pm Lynedoch p18
- 25 Walk in the Park p9
- 28 Yoga workshop Big Shed p25
- 28 Astronomical Evening Big Shed p25

## March

- 4 Walk in the Park p9
- 5 Scottish Opera Highlights McLaren Hall (flyer)
- 11 Walk in the Park p9
- 13 Auction Crianlarich p12
- 18 Walk in the Park p9
- 18 Cafe Sci Tyndrum 7pm
- 19 Heritage Society meeting 7.30pm Lynedoch p18
- 25 Walk in the Park p9

**Beavers**  
Tuesdays  
6-7pm  
Lesser Hall

**Book Club**  
last Wednesday of the month  
Tyndrum Hall  
1-3pm 01838 400 545

**Bowls**  
Mondays  
Lesser Hall

**Badminton**  
Mondays & Tuesdays  
McLaren Hall  
Juniors P7 and up 6-7pm  
Adults 7-10pm

**Badminton**  
Monday  
evenings  
Crianlarich Hall

**Choir**  
Usually Tuesdays  
Church 7.30pm  
phone Franny  
01567 829048

**Internet Cafe**  
Thursdays  
Killin Library  
11am-4pm

**Craft Group**  
Tuesdays  
Littlecroft  
10am - noon

**Cubs**  
Tuesdays  
7.15 - 8.45pm  
Lesser Hall

**Quilters**  
Community Rooms  
Wednesdays  
2 - 4pm

**Laptop Access**  
Tues, Wed and Friday  
Tyndrum Hall  
11am-4pm

**Tai Chi**  
Wednesday  
Tyndrum Hall 9.30am

**Scouts**  
Wednesdays  
7-9pm  
Lesser Hall

**SWRI**  
First Thursday  
of the month.  
Lesser Hall 7.30pm

**Softplay Club**  
Tuesdays  
Sports Pavilion  
12.30 - 2.30pm

**Yoga**  
Fridays  
Big Shed  
10.30-noon

**Strath Lunch Club**  
Fridays  
Crianlarich Hall

**Tuesday Club**  
Community Rooms  
2pm

**Tiddlers & Toddlers**  
1st and 3rd Thursday  
Community Rooms  
10am-12 noon

**Youth Group (Killin)**  
Tuesdays 7.30pm  
Sports and Social Club

**Youth Group (Crianlarich)**  
Thursday evenings  
Crianlarich Hall

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**Sunday: Closed**

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**Saturday and Sunday**  
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**23 Feb Grey/Green**  
**9 Mar Grey/Green**  
**23 Mar Grey/Green**  
**26 Jan Grey/Green**

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**February**



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