

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

April/May 2015





DEADLINES

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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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Front Page picture
The New Post Office
by Ron Allner

Editorial

Japanese Knotweed in the Killin, Glen Lochay and Glen Dochart areas, close to the village, is targeted by the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. Localised areas of Japanese Knotweed have been identified and treated over the past three years and shown a marked reduction in growth. These will be reviewed yearly for three or four more years as unconfirmed observations indicate that existing rhizomes can live for up to 20 years. Disturbing the site can lead to an increase in growth. If you see or believe you have Japanese Knotweed growing near you and live in the Killin area, please notify Stirling Council as it decided to treat invasive species following the Priority Based Budgeting exercise last year. The knotweed growing in the Turning Circle site made an initial response to treatment after two years. This will be checked again for two or three more years before it can be considered clear.

Superfast Highspeed Broadband is on its way. 216,000 businesses and homes have already been connected at a speed of 80Mbps. Remote hard-to-reach regions are being given a priority. A check on the Scotland Superfast Facebook site indicates that it is coming soon to Killin, the stage before orders can be submitted and orders are already being accepted in parts of Callander. You too could have High Speed Broadband shortly... Openreach vehicles have been seen in the area making the preparations for installation.

"Community benefit" is a financial benefit given to local communities by organisations involved in renewable energy activities. This also includes communities close to a landfill site. For example some of the landfill tax can be paid to local community groups. Similar conditions apply to onshore wind farms and hydro generation schemes. Unfortunately this area was exploited by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board in the fifties, well before the concept of community benefit was introduced, as demonstrated by the dams, power stations, overhead lines and half-empty river beds. The lack of untapped burns and the absence of windfarms in the National Park leaves this community without recourse to benefits of that sort. Now few can remember what Killin was like before the Hydro came.

WA

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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.

Flying By

In 2011, at a time when libraries were being closed, a small book sculpture of a tree growing out of a book appeared in the Scottish Poetry Library with a little note supporting the importance of books and libraries. Subsequently other sculptures, all with similar notes, appeared in other libraries and museums. Among them were a book shaped into a travel chest, containing wings and a miniature book, and another as a birdhouse with nest containing three eggs, suggesting perhaps flights of fancy and the dawning of knowledge which books can inspire. Fifty paper flowers were also left around the Edinburgh Book Festival.

Beautifully and intricately made, all the pieces aroused a lot of interest and speculation about who made them. She is still unknown but a BBC interview held by e.mail revealed she was a woman. She said she made items to suit places she loves and did it anonymously as she wanted people to concentrate on the message rather than the maker. However she did accept commissions and made one for an auction to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. This is called Butterflies and was bought by the Mackenzie family. Colin Mackenzie said he didn't see the point of buying something so

interesting and just keeping it in a glass case so he is taking it on tour around Scotland. It has already been to the BBC in Glasgow and will be going to Stromness on Orkney, Aberdeen and Abbotsford and other places yet to be arranged. However Colin has Killin connections and has arranged for Butterflies to be on display in Killin library from the beginning of May until at least the 18th, coinciding from 8th-18th with the Stirling Off the Page Book Festival. This gives everyone here an opportunity to see something very unusual without having to travel very far.

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February Meeting

(delayed from January)

Turning Circle: Stirling Council would need to meet with the community to decide a parking strategy - if the land is no longer required for parking it could potentially be sold.

Old Youth Hostel site: Traffic management continues to be a problem and the Police will continue to monitor the site.

DRT: This is now co-ordinated centrally by Stirling Council, who can be contacted between 9am and 3pm.

Hospital transport: The Scottish Ambulance Service provides Patient Transport and information on eligibility and the number to call is available from

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/WhatWeDo/pts.aspx>

Advertisements for local volunteers resulted in only 2 offers of help. The WRVS also tried to set up a local service. People are encouraged to feedback through Bruce Crawford and the Patient Participation Group.

Post Office: This is now up and running with improved opening hours. MacGregor's Market were congratulated by the Community Council.

Doctors' Surgery: More people are needed in the Patient Participation

Group. Training for First Aid and use of a defibrillator will be organised.

Road Repairs: A substantial pothole has developed around the drain outside the bank entrance.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park sign: This is cemented in place and will be removed.

Hogmanay: The lantern procession was successful and Alma Walker and all involved were congratulated by the Community Council.

Police Service of Scotland

Community Council Report:

Licensed premises were visited throughout the Festive period.

An arrest was made in Strathyre for assault and dangerous driving.

There were two incidents of domestic assault with offenders being kept in custody in Stirling Police Station cells.

Police have carried out winter safety checks on vehicles and speeding remains a focus.

A motorcycle pillion passenger suffered serious injuries at Lix Toll junction due to icy conditions.

The new drink driving limit came into effect.

The Village Shop at Lochearnhead was broken into and property stolen.

A stolen car from Plean was traced to St. Fillans.

There was a break-in at an isolated house but nothing was reported missing.

There was a break-in at Stitt's builders yard.

Police officers will be on patrol in Killin particularly around the school start and finish times.

Killin Mountain Rescue team assisted when a woman suffering from dementia was reported missing in Callander.

Dog Fouling: A letter has been received by the Community Council on this continuing problem and was passed to Andy Fleming.

Loch Tay Internet Project: A letter of support for this project will be sent.

Killin.info: Gregor Mackenzie was congratulated on the website

EV Charging Point This has been installed through a Government Scheme and once connected it will be open to all and free to use.

March Meeting

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report:

Individuals are encouraged to report incidences of dog fouling with a description of the dog and the owner.

The wintry weather has created difficult driving conditions and the public are advised to ensure they and

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Community Council

their vehicles are prepared.

Any vehicle strikes to bridges should be reported for repairs. The Dochart Bridge parapet will be repaired and options are being considered to reduce vehicle strikes.

Two drivers have been stopped who were over the alcohol limit.

There has been a theft of a caravan near Strathfillan.

Police are carrying out spot checks of vehicles to deter criminals who are travelling around aiming to steal power tools from businesses and individuals. It is recommended that all power tools are marked and that a description and serial numbers are kept in case of theft.

The Police Control room at Stirling is now closed and calls are taken in Edinburgh. It will take time for staff to become familiar with all the localities.

Hospital Transport: Dial-a-journey can provide transport to people with an impairment for £9.10 each way. Individuals need to register with Dial-a-journey **Tel: 01786 465355**. The Community Council continues to encourage feedback through Bruce Crawford MSP. It was noted that once hospital staff are aware that people live far away they are willing to make later appointments to allow time for travel.

Defibrillator Ten people have expressed an interest in training to use the defibrillator but there was no update on the purchase of the Public Access Defibrillator. This will be followed up at the next Community Council meeting.

Turning Circle Flower Beds:

Stirling Council will be asked about putting down tarmac within this financial year or early in the next one. SC will then provide tubs and plants for the Killin Floral Society to maintain.

Road Repairs: Some repairs have been carried out but there are many more areas requiring attention. Stirling Council will be asked about the widespread need for resurfacing throughout the region and the trunk road system and how the reduced roads budget will be used.

Christmas Lights: The current lamp posts are in a poor state and new posts would be required if Christmas lights are to be installed on the street lamp posts. This matter will be pursued.

Electric Vehicle Charging Point:

This machine is blocking the pavement. Parking in that space will be restricted to those wishing to charge their vehicle.

Road Repair: Repair works on the A827/080 Allt a'Bhaile Chruim culvert

will be carried out by the Bridges Department from 20th April and will require the road to be closed at night, currently proposed from 19.00 to 07.00 but from 22.00 - 07.00 will be suggested. Temporary traffic lights will operate during the day and it is estimated the work will take 10 days.

Repairs to the railway line path;

Complaints were raised about the quality of the work and the condition of the path subsequently and passed to Owen McKee.

Invasive Species: Japanese knotweed continues to thrive and extend along the Ardeonaig Road. The matter will be pursued.

Gritting: It was reported that gritting lorries are not gritting the last section along the Ardeonaig Road before the boundary with P&K Council, despite turning beyond the boundary. This and the need for grit bins to be replaced throughout Killin will be pursued.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th May at Killin Primary School.



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Chairman's Report

This issue, completed before the KAT AGM, will not be delivered until a week after that event. Work on the Breadalbane Park has started and is on course to finish by the end of April. Following that, planning for the next stage will commence. Progress on all major charitable projects is slow and takes a great deal of time especially during the planning, consultation, feasibility, funding application, discussion and tendering processes before construction work starts. It is not always possible to achieve initial aims as the world does not stand still during that time. Inflation, planning regulations, delays, competitive quotes, weather, unexpected legal costs and other hurdles arise and, as with the Park, can lead to reducing the scope of the work. For this reason another stage has been added during which more funds will be sought to add more to the Park and we all need to maintain our enthusiasm. Nobody said it was going to be easy. We started work on the Old Mill in 2012. The Business Plan was produced in 2014 to persuade the Council to transfer it to community ownership. Now, in 2015, we are about to discuss plans and costs with the Big Lottery. If all goes to plan the repair and building work will start in 2017.

Work with the Sports and Leisure Club to renew the Astro Turf is now going ahead. The full plans for the Club need to be determined if the community wishes for the lease to be transferred from Stirling Council. More years of work and consultation lie ahead.

That is why the Trust needs your support to ensure that it represents you, the people of Killin and Ardeonaig. Volunteers are always welcome. Come and join us and work for the local community.

Willie Angus
Chairman
01567 820238

The Old Mill Report

The Mill is now open 10am-4pm seven days a week and has had a busy start to the spring season with over 250 visitors in the first week. Many thanks for the great amount of goods donated over January and February we now have a healthy stock of books to help see us through

the season. If you are looking for anything in particular then please ask as we cannot display all the items that come in. We keep a log of all the curtains that we store.

Sally Connor's quilting class is now up and running on a Monday pm. There will be no class on Easter Monday 6th April.

The Old Mill is always keen to reach as many people in the community as possible and we have worked alongside the Killin Nursery, Killin Primary School and with students on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. We are establishing a group of wheel volunteers who have offered their expertise to maintain and get the wheel running. If you would like to volunteer in any way please contact me on 01567 820628. We really appreciate all your donations but please note that we cannot accept baby pushchairs, car seats, cycling and motor cycling helmets and duvets. We also cannot accommodate large electrical items or large items of furniture. Please contact me in advance if you have a large amount of goods to donate.

Franny Morrison
francesmorrison@killincdt.co.uk
01567 820628
07802 929796

Project Worker's Report Breadalbane Park

We eventually started on the park on 24th February and the work on the drainage has been progressing despite the weather. We had to put drainage pipes under the road which has been completed so no more traffic lights will be needed and the renewal of the pipe work in the park has now started. As I write this the job is four days ahead of schedule so hopefully this will continue throughout the project. At present

the end date of construction should be Friday 1st May, but seeding of the grass will need to be carried out the first week in May.

Because of the nature of the work being carried out machinery will be digging up a lot of the park, which will cause a lot of mess. 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 Old Mill has been successful in receiving Stage 1 Growing Community Assets funding from the BIG Lottery. We have a meeting with BIG Lottery in a few weeks to talk about how we proceed to Stage 2. The hydro project has received the report for phase 1 from Local Energy Scotland and we have now started phase 2 of the funding which is to develop the option identified in the report from phase 1 to produce drawings of the scheme and look in more detail at the water level being fed into the lade.

Sports Pavilion

We are still waiting for news from the Legacy 2014 fund to see if we are successful and are in the process of filling in more applications to other funders.

Theresa Elliot
Project Worker
07789265823 theresa@killincdt.co.uk

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Scottish Opera Highlights



On 5th March an enthusiastic audience in the McLaren Hall enjoyed a visit from four young singers and a pianist from Scottish Opera Highlights. We were invited to attend a party and, with clever changes of scenery, this linked a mixture of great music from tragic to saucy. There was great appreciation of the singing, the range of emotions portrayed and of the skill of the pianist. Killin is fortunate to be one of the places selected for such performances. **MM**

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Mervyn's Weather

In the manner of a boa-constrictor with severe stomach ache, the jet stream has been writhing and twisting all winter as though in pain, thereby causing a seemingly unending procession of weather fronts to sweep over our islands. For several months conditions have been oscillating between comparatively mild, wet, spells emanating from somewhere around Bermuda or the Bahamas or, on the other hand, colder, wintry incursions originating in polar, maritime areas have held sway. In the latter case cold rain, sleet or wet snow, plus strong N.W. winds are particularly severe on out-wintered livestock being not only wet but cold also. Now at the beginning of March this has all culminated in the heaviest snowfall of winter. It remains to be seen whether or not this month will exit in the hoped for manner, "lamb like" or will it defy tradition and

depart angrily? Now however, as these notes are penned, a surge of mild air has arrived banishing the snow completely, with even the highest ground reduced to patches. Having a very volatile climate encourages us continually to complain about its vagaries, although we rarely experience extremes of long lasting heat or cold. At one time it was a recognised fact that Cherrapungi, near Shillong in Assam, was, due to Monsoon rains, the wettest place on Earth, the coldest being somewhere in N. E. Siberia, while various sites claimed to be the hottest recorded on the planet. More recently a treatise on the Andes of South America has suggested that in the rain forest of Peru the average annual temperature is 80°F while in

Southern Chile the figure is below zero °F. In the Atacama desert there are areas where no rain ever falls, while the town of Tutuendo in Colombia lays claim to being the wettest place on earth. So perhaps the inhabitants of the various regions around the Andes have more to complain about than we do! Returning to the norm, signs of Spring are beginning to appear snowdrops, croci and daffodils are already established and oyster catchers have arrived on the shores of Loch Tay, while birdsong is increasing daily as indeed is daylight. Soon we may be complaining of the heat!

Mervyn K. Browne
Ardtalnaig

Julie Baird Pilates

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Killin Gun Club

Killin Gun Club had its first shoot of 2015 on the third Sunday of March. The sun was splitting the sky, a good day for a clay shoot. We held a 50 Bird Sporting Compact which was well attended with 20 shooters. One of the more interesting targets was a rabbit (clay of course!). When it reached the half way point of its run, it jumped over a piece of 9 inch pipe and then it was anyone's guess as to where it would land. Steve Bennett was High Gun for the day, with Colin Pennington very close behind him, only one point separated them. Ian Hall was third being two points behind Colin. A very closely fought shoot. Henry Paterson was awarded the Auchlyne Shield for aggregate High Gun for 2014, and Mark Louthier was awarded the Lix Toll Aggregate Shield for Junior High Gun for 2014. The Killin Gun Club shoots are held on the third Sunday of the months March through to December. Novice and experienced shooters alike are welcome to come along and have a go. 1st Steve Bennett 46/50 2nd Colin Pennington 45/50 3rd Ian Hall 43/50

Henry Paterson 01567 820354
Stuart Ogston 07999 510014
John Morris 01567 820787

Old Thoughts of Train?



In September it will be 50 years since the Killin Railway closed and for our August/September issue we would like to collect together memories of the event and stories of using the train. Do you remember the closure? Did you go to school on the train? Or hospital? Or work? We'd love to hear your tales so please either write to us, speak to one of us or give us a ring on 820 014, leave a message and we'll come and talk to you. Was public transport better in those days? We look forward to hearing from you.

MM



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Strathfillan Community Council

Transport:

Potholes on the main trunk roads

are causing real problems, especially at night. The defects are numerous, varying in seriousness and are located every few hundred yards with at least four between Tyndrum and Crianlarich in both directions.

Serious suspension/wheel or tyre damage could result from hitting one at speed. The CC will write to Transport Scotland re potholes and the damage being caused to cars. It was suggested that this could include some photographic evidence.

Concern still remains about the gritting/ploughing of the trunk roads this winter. While too late for this year, it was agreed that the CC would write to Transport Scotland with these concerns, in the hope that more budget could be allocated for next winter.

There are anecdotal reports of a significant number of minor accidents at each of the roundabouts on the Crianlarich bypass. Fortunately most of these accidents have not required Police involvement, so no formal statistics are available, but it is believed the number is well into double figures. It was suggested that "countdown" signs approaching the roundabouts would be helpful. The kerbstones around the roundabouts are also becoming dislodged. It is believed that the geometry of the roundabouts mean that they are too tight for the large lorries. The CC will write to Transport Scotland with these concerns.

Patient Transport: This continues to be an issue and the CC have not had a response to the letter sent to NHSFV. Bruce Crawford MSP has also written to NHSFV on behalf of

the community. Killin Medical Practice has a list of services which can be provided at Oban hospital and it may be more appropriate for Strathfillan patients using public transport to access these where available.

DRT: Stirling Council are consulting on changes to the way in which DRT bookings are made. Specifically, bookings would be made via Stirling Council rather than directly with the operator. The CC have responded to the consultation asking that the booking office hours are longer than the proposed 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. It is believed that this would cause problems particularly for school pupils and for anybody wishing to book for a Monday.

Housing: Rural Stirling Housing Association are proposing introducing a local lettings initiative for RSA homes in Mansfield, Tyndrum. This would give greater housing priority to people who work/live in/have sourced employment in Strathfillan. The CC has responded in favour of the introduction of this initiative.

Crianlarich Village Hall

The committee of the Crianlarich village hall would like to thank all those who attended this year's charity bric-a-brac auction in the hall on Friday 13th March. The night was a great success and helped to raise a fantastic amount of money that will go a long way to help to keep this vital resource running for another year. Particular thanks to all those who donated their unwanted items to the event and to all those who provided the cakes for the teas and helped throughout the week and on the night. We look forward to welcoming everybody back again next year."

Bryan Craig
Hall Chair

Strathfill



Strathfillan Community Development Trust Tyndrum Community Woodland

The Woodlands Group has been very

active, developing a new management plan and attending several events, networking with other groups and getting inspiration. We plan to hold a 'Get to Know Your Community Woodland' event in June. This will include a guided tour, a Treasure Hunt, information on the Community Woodlands and how to get involved. There will, of course, be tea and biscuits! You can learn about the local flora and fauna, how it has changed over the years, what our plans are and, most importantly, how to get involved.

From March to August we will be holding monthly Community Woodfuel Days in the Tyndrum Community Shelterbelt, opposite the entrance to Lower Station Road. Come and help us split and bag logs. If you volunteer you can take away as much wood as will fit in your car - for FREE! Otherwise, come and grab some bags of pre-split logs for a pound a bag.

The works on the Crianlarich Heritage Paths is going out to tender so fingers crossed we can get some spades in the ground over the next few months.

Tyndrum Hall

This belongs to the Tyndrum community and is underutilised. It is hoped that an active hall committee can be formed. So if you live in the Tyndrum area and would like to get involved in the running and management of your hall, then please get in touch through email or facebook or come to the meeting on Tuesday 21st April at 10am where there will be tea, coffee and biscuits and a temporary creche for those with childcare issues. There are Tai



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Chi sessions in the hall every Wednesday morning from 9.30-10.30am.

The Trust are currently undertaking a feasibility study into piloting a seasonal 'Shuttle Bus' between the villages of Tyndrum and Crianlarich, to cater for visitors and locals alike. If you have any ideas or suggestions about this new service please email the Trust.

Although we are coming to the end of another excellent Cafe Sci season, we are looking forward to a fun packed summer, full of activities and

events. So with ideas of Bring and Buy Sales, woodland events, SAPLINGS, and other seasonal events in mind, come and get involved in the Trust. We are always looking for new members and ideas. So if you have any activities/events that you would love to see in the area - get involved!

You can contact us at strathfillan@btconnect.com and 01838 400545. our facebook page 'Strathfillan Community'. You can also help us fundraise as you shop with easyfundraising. Use the

link below, then 'Support a good cause' and search for Strathfillan Community Development Trust. It's easy to use and doesn't cost you a penny: www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

Dates for your Diary:

Community Woodfuel Days (10am-4pm): April 11, May 16, June 13, July 18, and August 15. Get to Know Your Woodland at Tyndrum Community Woodland, Dalrigh car park - June 13 (10am-4pm).

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Wednesday	15th April	9.30 - 11.30
Wednesday	29th April	9.30 - 11.30
Wednesday	13th May	9.30 - 11.30
Wednesday	27th May	9.30 - 11.20
Wednesday	10th June	9.30 - 11.30

TELEPHONE 01887 820771 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Crianlarich School Burns Supper

We invited members of our community to join us at our Burns Supper this year.

We sang songs, recited poetry, played music and danced to entertain our guests. The haggis, neeps and tatties were then piped in.

Afterwards we asked our guests to dance with us, we had a great time. At the end we all joined hands to sing Auld Lang Syne.

This event was truly a combined effort and everyone had a brilliant afternoon, many thanks to the children, parents, Parent Partnership, school staff, Rod & Reel, Crianlarich Store, Brodie's and all our invited guests.



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Pitlochry and Highland Perthshire Group

The next meeting of the 2014-15 session is on Monday 20th April when Ann-Marie MacMaster will give a talk titled 'Perthshire mink – why are they a problem and what's the solution?' in the Tryst Hall, Pitlochry PH16 5EB. All welcome.

Boxing Day Dip

The final total for the 2014 dip was a wonderful £1041.20
Many thanks to all who took part.
Anna Nicholson

Eak Events



A Date for your Diary



Friday 19th June
starting at 7.30 at
The McLaren Hall, Killin
A savoury and wine evening
to raise funds for
Cancer Research UK

Litter pick April 11th

Metal pickers and bags will be supplied for this annual event to tidy up the head of the loch and the approaches. Meet at the Council Car Park at 10am all welcome.

Dawn Chorus Walk May 23rd

Join the group at 5am at the Council Car Park. The group will be led by Dr John Holland who will translate the vocal chorus which will be at full volume between 5am and 7am. All early risers welcome.

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Community Newspaper Awards

This year's Awards Evening was held in the Killearn Village Hall, a very impressive modern building which is becoming a popular place for weddings. The room we were in has a balcony and a wall of windows with wonderful views which had everyone grabbing their cameras to take pictures of a glorious sunset. Representatives from many of the twenty local community papers spent an interesting evening exchanging information on printing, readership numbers, volunteer numbers, operating systems, distribution, advertising and all other things to do with producing a paper.

***Community Newspaper of the Year** award went to **Ben Ledi View**

***Most Amusing Contribution** was won by Killin News for **Allan Chisholm's** Referendum Cartoon (chosen by the other newspapers)

***Outstanding Contribution Award** went to our **Judy Forster** for "24 years (since the paper started) selling advertising. A very tenacious lady – but in a nice way."

*Runner up in the **Best Regular Contributor** category to **Tim Frost**

*Certificate as a **Young Contributor** to **Euan Watson**

A worthwhile trip to Killearn in every way.



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Patient Participation Group

There have been two meetings of the group so far. Although this cannot be a forum for individual complaints, we have discussed issues which appear to be of interest or concern to local people. The object of the group is to promote co-operation between the practice and patients to the benefit of both.

Information: With the many recent changes in doctors and other staff at the surgery, many patients did not feel knowledgeable about many issues. From this it was decided that the newsletter would be put in the Killin News and in other local newspapers as a flyer and notices of closures would be e-mailed to group members in Tyndrum, Crianlarich and Ardeonaig to be put on local noticeboards.

Hospital Transport: The difficulty of obtaining hospital transport was raised and the possibility of re-instating the car service run by locals was discussed. The seriousness of this was also noted by the N.H.S. representative and taken on board. It was noted that this was not just a problem for the elderly but young people also attending e.g. orthodontist appointments. Patients in Tyndrum would sometimes find it easier to attend Oban so the services available there

have been investigated and noted by the surgery. All Larbert clinics should now allocate you an appointment at a time suitable for travelling the long distance. This should flag up with your postcode and if not then you can ask for a more suitable time. Appointments for surgery may have to be earlier of course.

Surgery Routine: Doctors take surgeries from 8 till 6 with time out for paperwork and some home visits, though these are limited. There are triage slots left in appointments so that a sudden illness can be assessed by a doctor to see if the patient needs an urgent appointment. Every two months there is an evening surgery for working people who need routine check-ups.

Defibrillator: The P.P.G. is helping to organise the evening for defibrillator and CPR training. If you haven't seen information on this please contact us. It will be an event made possible by local paramedics, Killin Community Choir and the participation group working together and is potentially life-saving, maybe for one of your family! If you would like to sign up for this or get further information please get in touch with me soon so that we know numbers and can plan further.

The Patient Participation Group: As you can see, this is already proving a useful tool so if you would like to join please contact one of us. Scott Wilson, Kay Riddell, Frances Chisholm (Community Council rep.), Alistair and Beatrice McDonald (Strathfillan C.C.), Audrey Whitton (Practice Manager), Olivia Ridgewell (youth rep) or myself.

Linda Frost
(P.P.G. chair)

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Think About It

The publication date for this edition of Killin News is April 3rd Good Friday. The churches season of Lent began on February 18th with Ash Wednesday, and lasts for 40 days as did Jesus' time of preparation in the wilderness before he began his work. Lent is a time for prayer and reflection which comes to its most intense day on Good Friday when Jesus was crucified, died and was placed in a burial tomb. It continues through the next day, Holy Saturday, and ends with the resurrection of Jesus on a very joyful Easter Day on Sunday morning.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, there are a few books I have read and feel the need to read again from time to time. This is because they say something I want to hear, or lift my spirits and make me feel good. Oddly enough, the opening chapters of the first Harry Potter book, 'The Philosopher's Stone' is one of them! It's a story of goodness, truth and love overcoming cruelty, betrayal and despair.

There are many wonderful stories of that kind in the Bible. My wife Jeannie and I have learned over many years that if you tell them well, children will love them and will want to hear them again and again. The story of Jesus in the four Gospels is not an easy read. It would be just great if a good author would write the life of Jesus as a story. I think it would be a compulsive read.

I've written a wee bit of it at the top of the page, but I'm no author and it is a great story. After all it has been at the heart of building our present day way of life and democratic government.

It is definitely worth another read - yes?

John Shedden



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Frost Report

Winter's Tail

Hopefully we are at the end of the snowy weather and like last year, the amount of snow on the hill has been much more than would appear from falls lower down. Maybe this is why more people seem to be getting stranded on the Ben Lawers Road although there is a sign saying that the road is not recommended in winter conditions. One day in January, while going stalking with my son, we found a police car at the side of the road by Loch na Laraig. A little further on a car had been stranded in the snow drifts for some considerable time. After they had been rescued by Lix Toll another car proceeded to try to go where the first car had been stuck but managed to turn and go down the hill. At the beginning of February two cars, each with an elderly couple in (or my age according to my son – old enough to know better anyway) were stranded in the same place. There is no mobile signal unless you walk a good distance in the drifts so how long would they have been there had my son not come along and pulled them out? I would urge such motorists and walkers, even in the summer, to realise that many areas on the hill have no signal and not to rely on this as a safety measure.

As snow drifts up fences it can soon cover them, enabling deer to walk over into areas such as S.S.S.I.s or newly planted woodland. The fence can also be damaged. This means that the deer have to be moved back out by a line of people or, if this is not possible, shot. Discussing this on the radio 'Out of Doors' programme they wondered what the outcome would be if this

happened to the fenced sites proposed for introductions of e.g. wolves.

Of course if we were polar bears we would take all this snowy stuff in our stride. 'But the polar bears are in danger from the ice caps melting' you say. Actually, according to new study results they are doing particularly well being well distributed throughout their range and enjoying plentiful supplies of scrummy seals for tea. After all polar bears can swim huge distances and animals do adapt. The report questions whether the B.B.C. amongst others is guilty of taking a political view.

It's not so sure if the ospreys and kingfishers at Strathallan will have enough time to adapt to T in the Park when it is moved there this year. The ospreys have been provided with an artificial platform 400 metres from their usual nest tree and tarpaulins have been put over kingfisher banks but the R.S.P.B. has not objected. If a keeper wishes to relocate a buzzard nest away from pheasant pens or Joe Bloggs inadvertently strays too near an osprey nest the fat is in the fire.

Something which does not seem to be going so well is the introduction of beavers to Knapdale. Research has been done by Stirling University showing little effect has been seen on rivers and streams in the area. A study by Oxford University found that, of fourteen kits born, only one or two survived and of the sixteen adults released, three died and five are A.W.O.L. Those left were having an effect on some of the internationally important lichen habitat. So our Tay beavers seem to be doing better on their own. Apparently some are wanting the one

on the Lochay removed.

Recently you may have heard a helicopter circling the hills for a time. This may have been the local deer count which is done by air every few years. This can give a more accurate count covering 30,000 acres in about 40 minutes. Other years a more traditional count is made on foot by neighbouring estates counting on the same day. Sometimes a helicopter count is needed to cover all the ground. As well as pilot, navigator, cameraman and data recorder, the stalkers are also invited to help. Large herds are photographed to count later. This also enables more information such as number of stags, hinds and calves to be recorded. In densely afforested areas the census can only be done by dung counting.

As the winter comes to an end then so will the daily emptying of the mouse traps in the sheds with the valuable help of my terrier to sniff out the sprung traps. This will disappoint one crow who waits each morning for his breakfast as I throw him the night's catch. I think that he then flies up the brae where our neighbour also sees the dead mice disappear.

We are beginning to see the first of the migrant birds. The pier at Ardeonaig seems to be a stopping off point for oystercatchers with 35 on it one day, one of the few days recently when it's not been underwater. As of 9th March we have not yet heard curlew but we have a blackbird doing a very good impression of one. He may be applying for Britain's got Talent.

I don't know if it has been photoshopped but have you seen on facebook the green woodpecker with a weasel hitching a lift on its back?

Tim Frost

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Supported by Andrew Anderson & Sons, Funeral Directors Callander, we are organising a Charity Golf Day on Saturday 23rd May 2015 to raise funds for the Chloe McIntyre Fund within Yorkhill Children's Charity in memory of our daughter.

The aim of the fund is to build a sensory room and roof top garden within the new Yorkhill Hospital. The rooms will be named after Chloe and will be opened in summer this year. The fund stands currently at £54,000 which is just amazing!

Chloe was born with a heart condition called Truncus Arteriosus and she spent most of her life in Yorkhill Hospital, in particular in the Cardiac Ward 5a and the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. She underwent successful open heart surgery at four weeks old but due to complications was placed on an ECMO (life support) machine after the surgery and sadly passed away at six weeks and two days old. There are so many children in Yorkhill fighting for their lives and raising money helps these children have a better time in hospital. We currently have availability for teams of four at £140 per team (£35pp) and that includes tea/coffee & bacon Roll, 18 holes of Texas Scramble golf, 2 course meal in the Clubhouse, raffle & prize-giving. To enter a team and support the Chloe McIntyre Fund within Yorkhill Hospital please call Callander Golf Club 01877 330975.

For further information please contact Andrew Anderson & Sons, Funeral Directors Ltd, Funeral Home, Glenartney Road, Callander, FK17 8EB
01877 330398
Many thanks

John and Janet McIntyre

Callander Young Photo Club

Callander Photo Club, with the support of the Callander Youth Project, would like to invite students from P-6 through S-6 to join us for a special photo club. Members will learn to use their cameras to take photos and to compose and process photos. There will also be field trip opportunities.

Meeting Dates Tuesdays 5:50-7:00 at Bridgend Youth Hub

21st April Photographing Things That Move. Bring a camera and torch

5th May Processing Your Photos: Working with Lightroom
19th May Presentations and Choosing Best Photos

2nd June Pizza and Open House

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Burns Lunch

Traditional haggis neeps and tatties were served in the cafeteria on 26th January, a tribute to

Robert Burns. Lunch proved popular as ever and haggis was even included as a panini filling too! It may make a more frequent appearance - watch this space!

Sam Frost



Rugby

On 17th February McLaren High travelled to Balforn High to play for a place in the Central Schools Final. The final score was 48-14 to McLaren, and the game was a good, physical encounter, which was a great advert for school rugby in the local area. McLaren will now move onto the Central Schools Final. The Central Schools U18 Final was contested between Wallace, Balforn and McLaren High Schools on a wintry night at Ochilview, Stenhousemuir. In the first match Wallace beat Balforn 19-0 and moved to the next match knowing a victory against McLaren would see them

become champions. The inexperienced McLaren team worked hard and gave the match 100% but Wallace ran out well deserved winners to secure first place. Congratulations Wallace! McLaren and Balforn were left to play for second place. Although McLaren lost both matches, the boys still had an enjoyable night with a number of inexperienced players stepping in and not looking out of place. Well done to all involved. The 14 man squad was James Wray, Sam Frost, Connor Clark, Grant Pringle, Cameron Cairns, Andrew Innes, Andrew Nixon, Michael O'Connell, Lewis McCaffrey, Luke Maher, Kieran Rennie, Alastair Craig, Scott Dineley and Louis Stewart.



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High School



Junior Ski Course

McLaren High School once again organised a Junior Ski Course for thirty-one pupils and three members of staff. The group headed to Bormio in the northern Italian Alps. The week was a great success with plenty of snow and sun for Alpine skiing. The pupils were split into four groups depending on their ski ability and received first class instruction from the local Italian Ski School. The beginners group consisted of twelve pupils who had never skied before and it was great to see their progress as the week went on, becoming more confident, developing their ski skills and gradually making their way to

the top of the mountain.

The rest of the group had a wide range of experience and these pupils decided to try the annual challenge, of skiing from Peak to Creek - from the peak at 3012m to the bottom of the slopes without stopping. No records were broken, but the pupils managed it in a very respectable time of thirteen minutes. I'd like to thank the office staff, Mr Robertson, Miss McKell and all the pupils for their contributions to the success of the week and look forward to the 2016 Junior Ski Course.

Mr Carrol

(Ski Course Organiser)

Basketball

McLaren High Senior Boys Basketball team followed up their recent win over Stirling High by beating St Modan's 83-33. After an even first quarter McLaren blew the opposition away with some outstanding offensive play. Most Valuable Player (MVP) goes to Andrew Innes who controlled the tempo of the game. After a tricky start to the season MHS have gelled as a team and have started to produce some excellent results against very competent opposition. The team have hit form at the right time with fixtures against Bannockburn and Wallace just around the corner.



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2nd Killin & District Scout Group Stirling & Trossachs.

Scouts

In May the Killin Scout group will be 2 years old! I am sure many will agree with the leaders that time has flown by. The group has strong numbers in both young members and adults with the help of many people in the background. There are changes apace which will require the help of the people of Killin and the greater area.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 14th May at the Lesser Hall, McLaren Hall, Killin at 7.15pm. Last year's turnout from parents and others was poor so we hope the forward notice will encourage more to attend. This is the only time in the year that all the leaders and adult helpers will be in the same room at the same time. Thus it is the best way to hear news about the group and to voice your opinions on any issues within the Scouting Group. Please try your hardest to attend, there may well be tea and biscuits...

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Parents Committee

One thing that was discussed in last year's AGM was the need for a Parents Committee. A few volunteers offered their help but a couple more members are required. This group would be similar to the school's PTA and would meet once a month at the most. The group's main role would be helping with fundraising but also providing a platform for any concerns to be raised which they can then filter down to the leaders. It is generally parents who help but any adult is welcome. If you are interested contact David Robertson or any of the adult leaders.

Section Reports

Beavers (aged 6 – 8 years)

After the Easter holidays the Beaver section will have lost all its founding members who will have moved on to Cubs. Numbers will also be critically low so new members are essential. Having taken over the leadership role in September, I am now facing the pressures of family life, as well as commitments in and out of Scouting. It is for this reason that some of our meetings will have to take place fortnightly after the Easter break and why we are looking for another leader to take my place. This will be a gradual process as I will still be assisting with the Scout section. Those interested in helping in any way please get in touch! Don't worry - we still intend to have our annual Sleepover in May and to have a great programme in the Summer!

Stephen Rawlinson

Beaver Leader
07742 886918
killinbeavers@yahoo.co.uk

Cubs (8 to 10½ years)

The cubs attended the recent Big Shed Astronomy evening with everyone learning something new. This will help towards everyone's Astronomy badges. Unfortunately, it was raining so we could not look at the stars but will get the chance soon. After Easter our numbers will be near capacity so there may be a waiting list for new members.

Charles Kemp

Cub Leader
01567 820835
the2ndkillincubs@outlook.com

Scouts (10½ to 14 years) and Explorers/Young Leaders

The Scouts have been as busy as ever on their weekly meetings. One of our newest Scouts, Brodi, who recently moved up from Cubs, explains our 'Ready Steady Cook' style evening: "We had to play games in order to earn food, so the group that won that game got first pick of the food. It was really fun to play for our food and then to make our recipes. My group made burgers, egg fried rice and a salad. I thought the burgers were really nice." Did you see the Scouts wandering around Killin mid-March? Our Scout Sam explains what we were all up to: "We went on a walk to find out more about Killin's past and present. We looked at old maps to see what had changed. We walked the Killin Heritage Trail and learnt what the Outdoor Shop used to be and that it was connected to the newsagents. The evening was to earn our Local Knowledge badge." The Scout leaders are currently finalising plans for our summer camp which we are all very excited about.

Harriet Wishart

Scout Leader
07581 151442
2ndkillinscouts@gmail.com



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Young Leaders and Explorers (14 to 18 years)

The Adult leaders are gratefully assisted by some amazing young leaders who have become an integral part of the group and without whose help the group would be struggling at times. A lot of them have joined through the volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh award but have stayed on. Many are now interested in going through the Scouts Young Leader training scheme and it is not long now until an Explorer unit will be required to help them fulfil their role. So, keep an eye on this space as the group may well be growing. Any young people who are interested please let a section leader know.

Now on Facebook! Many of you will have already liked the 2nd Killin & District Scouts page, if you have not, why not? This is a great way for us to keep all the parents and villagers up to speed especially with last minute changes such as snow cancelling nights! Please do not post pictures of the children, as the page is open to all members of the public.

Fundraising thanks

The Christmas post was completed by the group for the first time last December. Many thanks to all those who helped especially considering the very wet weather. A superb £430

was raised and a donation of £150 out of this was given to the Tiddlers and Toddlers group in recognition of help given by other charities within the village. There were so many other donations made that we have lost count but we want to thank everyone for their help.

Group Scout Leader – David Robertson to step down

The founding member of the Killin & District Scout group, David Robertson, will be stepping down from his post as Group Scout Leader (GSL) after the AGM in May. I am sure everyone in Killin and Scouting throughout Scotland will thank him for all his help. He said he would be taking things easy but I'm sure he will be offering guidance and support for a long time to come. However, it does mean that one last request for assistance is required. A new GSL will desperately be needed after May. This role would suit anyone who is comfortable with networking with people, dealing with admin especially on computers and assisting leaders in their day to day work. Scouting knowledge would be preferable but just like many of the leaders in Killin, this knowledge can be picked up quickly. Anyone interested should contact David Robertson directly.

Stephen Rawlinson

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Killin and Crianlarich Nursery

The children in Killin Nursery regularly visit Macgregor's Market to collect fruit for their snack. Some of the learning that is taking place through this experience includes development of social skills; numeracy skills and understanding about healthy eating. Children are also developing an awareness of their place in the community. We would like to thank all those who support the nursery by contributing to the donations box in Macgregor's Market.



The under three's in Crianlarich have been exploring and learning through role play, stories and rhymes. The older children thought it would be a good idea to visit the local shop to help them research what they needed and wanted in their shop in the nursery. We took a camera and clipboard, recording what we saw and shared it with our friends. We created a shop using our research, ideas and new role play resources. Through the shop children have been developing their numeracy skills, taking ownership and leadership through acting out different roles in the shop. We have had fun finding tracks in the snow and retelling the story of 'The Gruffalo's Child' and 'The Bear Hunt.' The children were using their imagination and surrounding environment to improvise the story of The Bear Hunt and to create their own story book. The younger children have been experiencing rhymes using puppets and props. A particular favourite is 'Five Little Ducks'. Through this children are developing their early numeracy and literacy skills, counting, learning new vocabulary and sequencing. They are building on their social skills through communicating and interacting with their peers.

Mobile Libraries

**Tyndrum/Crianlarich
Fortnightly Fridays**
Apr 10, 24: May 8, 22

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**
April 6, 20: May 4, 18, Jun 1

Glenlochay 10.50-12.30
Ardeonaig 2.00-2.45

**Perth and Kinross
Fortnightly Tuesdays**
Apr 7, 21: May 19: June 2

Tombreck 16.40-17.00
Lawers 18.10- 18.25

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New Route for Stuc a' Chroin Hill Race

The Stuc committee are in the process of relocating the starting point of the Hill race. The original starting point is now up for development and we have no wish to stand in the way of progress and would like to give a huge thank you to Mr & Mrs Norrie Beaton, the proprietors, for allowing us the use of their property over the years. The new starting point will be from the recreational grounds [Tennis Court] and a new pathway will be hewed out on to the hill leading to the forest track. By the time this goes to print all remedial work "should" be completed.

This will involve quite a bit of clearance of old trees, large boulders, whin bushes etc and possibly some new drainage where necessary. When it is completed we will have an open path onto the hills, which will be ideal for walkers, locals and visitors and I'm sure a few excited dogs!!!

We will also undertake to clear and enhance the area as a whole, ie the pathway up to the war memorial and the area surrounding the tennis court which will shed much more light and hopefully help dry it out. The start of the new path will also

allow wheelchair access to the court when the refurbishment starts.

When completed, the new route will still join the original so will only change the overall distance of the race slightly, but it will create an opportunity for new records to be set, with the old ones set in stone, never to be broken.

The committee has carefully planned this route, which will become the official hill race route and we hope everyone is in agreement with what we are doing. Please remember, we will only use this once a year.

This path should be beneficial to the community as a whole but if anyone has any issues regarding this proposed route and would like to air them, then please advise any committee member.

This year's race will be on Saturday 2nd May and as always we are looking for any volunteers to help in any way they can, especially putting up the Marquees on Friday and taking them down on Saturday.

Wullie D

The Stuc a Chroin committee
07768 221661

strathyrecleaning@btinternet.com

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Moirlanich
kitchen

Last season we recorded 978 visitors to the property and again a big thank you to all our volunteers who make every visit memorable with their knowledge and stories. Over the winter the house is regularly checked and some work has been carried out to improve the

Display Hut and make space for a number of objects on loan from the Killin Heritage Society, which will help to build up the picture of life at Moirlanich Longhouse. During this closed period we have realised how many people keep an eye on Moirlanich Longhouse and have

bravely popped in for reassurance that it is NTS staff on the Property. Thank you all, you are appreciated. This year's Pre-Season Meeting for volunteers will be held at Lynedoch on Wednesday 22nd April and we are pleased to have Violet Dalton as speaker. Violet is the Head of Volunteering at the National Trust for Scotland and will be speaking about the essential roles carried out by volunteers throughout the organisation.

The season starts on Easter Sunday with our special event for families – a Cadbury's sponsored Easter Egg trail, so come along and take part in our story trail and win a Cadbury Easter egg. The house will then open in May for its usual season. We are always in need of new volunteers to open up the house and show visitors around. Volunteers work in pairs, so feel free to persuade a friend to volunteer too. If you are interested please contact

Eleanor Murray
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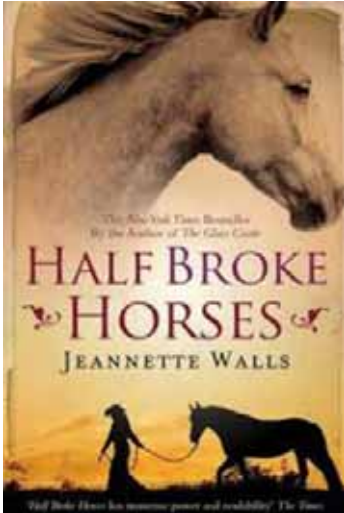
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Book Review



This is a real-life novel about author Janette Wall's grandmother, Lily Casey. Lily was born in 1901 on a ranch in Texas and is right out of the western movies I watched with my father as a kid. She's a spitfire woman who never lets life hold her back. We first meet Lily as child and right away she is something special, as she saves her siblings from a flashflood that spreads across her father's ranch. Her father is a hard man, but she

loves him for it. He teaches her how to survive and expects she'll do just fine. Lily's mother doesn't come on the scene much and we learn she's not really cut out for ranch life, so much so that Lily has to grow up quickly and hard to take care of all the things that need to be done. Lily's father was kicked in the head by a horse as a child and he has a hard time speaking clearly. Lily becomes his "righthand man" for everything from translating to ranch hands and salesmen to breaking horses.

When World War One starts, Lily is only fifteen. Educated mostly by her father, Lily is whip-smart and driven. She sees an opportunity to head out on her own when most teachers have enlisted in the military or taken over their husbands' jobs elsewhere. With her horse and satchel, she sets out on a lone trek to start her career as a one-room schoolteacher and from there her adventures continue. Lily didn't have it easy. Tricky, family misfortunes and tragedy touch her life as they do ours, but she takes her dad's advice when he says, "Most important thing in life is learning how to fall" and "Hope for the best and plan for the worst." Half-Broke Horses is an amazing story of hope during hard times, lots of "life lessons" and a woman who just won't give up.

Leigh Nelson
Chapter 3" Book Club



Music by the Loch for C&WP members

Picture, if you will, an early evening in May looking out on the waters of

Loch Venachar with afternoon tea before you and music for your pleasure! Musical groups from Perth, Forth Valley and our own U3A will come together to entertain you at this beautiful venue on 18th May. Further details will be published in our next members' newsletter.

Safer driving

The Third Age Trust has secured an arrangement with the Institute of Advanced Motoring (IAM) to offer free driving assessments to U3A members. Our local IAM, based in Stirling, has been contacted with a view to holding a meeting in the summer when a representative will give a talk followed by free half-hour driving assessments to members who have pre-booked. Further details can be obtained from the C&WP Secretary. We welcome new members at any time; the membership fee for the remaining six months of the year (March to August inc) is only £6.00, so if you are interested in finding out more about us, please have a look at our website. Just Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.

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Letters

Welcome Support

It is now two months since my cousin Mairi died, and it still seems unreal. At least I can now think of her not bedbound as she was latterly, but what she was like when young and full of vigour. I can remember the laughter we shared and the long walks we took, putting the world to rights en route, and the happy times when all our extended family got together.

Tributes were paid to Mairi by the number of people who attended her funeral, when £880 was raised to be donated to the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home, and it was impressive to see how many of her stalwart friends braved the blizzards to attend her burial in the cemetery. Now is the time to say thank you to our friends who have shared our sadness and have helped to overcome our loss, firstly with hugs and words of condolence, and then with practical help following her death. Special thanks in the sorting-and-house-clearing activities must go to Annie McNee, officially 'retired' but still helping, to Audrey Weaver and Liz Howard who have given unstintingly of their time, and to Jimmy Gauld who seemed to have an expanding car by the huge loads he is able to transport to charity shops or tip.

It is heartening to live in such a supportive community, and we are glad that cousin Mairi encouraged us to retire here nearly 30 years ago. Thank you Killin.

Elizabeth Ingram

David Blaney

Julia, Laura, Camilla and Gordon would like to thank the many, many kind and thoughtful people of Killin for their heartfelt response to David's death. The phone calls, cards, texts and personal visits to us, offering up condolences, often with a small personal memory of David, have meant so much to us. We were also overwhelmed by the response of the many of you who travelled to Edinburgh to attend David's funeral and we thank you for your attendance there too.

Julia Blaney

Thank you

I would like to thank everybody for the lovely cards and best wishes I received after my recent operation. Also thank you to the Walking Group for their lovely flowers and the Church for the floral arrangement. Last but not least thanks to George and my daughter, Fiona, without whose help I could not have managed.

Dot Southern

Scots Magazines on offer

Over the past 36 years I have accumulated monthly editions of the Scots Magazine which I now wish to dispose of to somewhere or somebody who would appreciate their content – they are all in yearly binders and excellent condition – so easy to place on bookshelves. I do not want any remuneration for them, but for them to have a good home as I feel they are too good to simply take to the local refuse tip! The weight of them is 18 stone or thereabouts so the cost in sending them would be quite expensive – however if you have any ideas of someone /or place in the Killin area then I would be happy to transport them during June when I holiday in Killin.

Andrew Dunlop
01945 583314

Margaret's Hair Studio

I am relocating to 4 Main Street, Callander and would like to thank all my clients who have supported me these last four years - neighbours Sandra and Niall, Jimmy and Maureen and also Dougie and Liz at News First and Pamela and the girls at Grant's Laundry.

Margaret
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Ardeonaig SWRI



The ladies of Ardeonaig SWRI held the annual AGM at the Real Food Cafe in Tyndrum. We had an informative evening with Colin and his team. Colin took us through the art of making a good fish supper, starting with the fish itself. He presented us with four different types of fish; pollock, haddock, cod and hake. We had the opportunity to touch and hold the whole fish, but many ladies declined. We then moved to different oils, the right chipping potato and a good batter. The four different types of fish were then cut into strips and fried for our meal, with all the traditional trimmings. We were then treated to a delightful gluten free lemon drizzle cake made from potatoes. We all left with a goodie bag filled with an Albert Bartlett recipe book and Roosters, as well as a Real Food Cafe magic mug for further visits. We would like to thank Colin and his team for a superb evening.

Maryke Steyn-Barker

Eclipse on 20th March



Images brilliantly caught by David Mardon who said he could only do so because of the cloud

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Obituaries



Professor David Daniel Blaney
24.7.1956 - 31.1.2015

David was born on 24th July 1956 in Edinburgh. He was the eldest child of parents Daniel and Beatrice. His father Daniel was a painter and decorator, whilst Beatrice concentrated on raising the family. On completion of his schooling, David was accepted to do medicine at Edinburgh University. He had initially intended to study Law "but on a whim" chose medicine, a decision that benefitted many. On completion of his studies, David became a GP based initially in Dedridge, Livingston.

In 1989 he decided to combine his work with his love of rural life and joined the GP practice in Killin. This was to be his place of work for the next ten years. He loved his time in Killin, especially the many friends he made there. He fondly remembered his time as an amateur dramatist, trying to get his lines right and woefully getting them in the wrong order each night. He was touched by the generosity and forgiveness of folks who were at the end of his 'jokes', notably the FitzGerald's and residents of Craignavie Road, and grateful for the patience of those watching out for Rainbow as she wandered into yet another house for a biscuit or two. Combining his passion for running and the countryside, he was an accomplished hill runner and proud of his Ben Nevis race result of 2hr 20min! His love of the hills, mountains and the outdoors drew him to running the hills as often as he could. He became an experienced and knowledgeable mountaineer. He joined the Killin Mountain Rescue Team, where he could offer his valuable skills both of knowledge of the mountains and his professionalism that came with being a General Practitioner. He recalled how, at a Killin Mountain Rescue team AGM the

item of women being admitted to the team was discussed and dismissed: "women would distract the men and they were also afraid of blood". Goodness how David laughed at that idea, more so in today's climate. David said he always felt humbled by the requests of many to 'please return to work' in Killin. He missed the 'family' of Killin and being part of it and felt like a returning son each time he went back. David's love of the mountains and lochs was the reason he retained a home in them even after he had moved on professionally. Not a visit would pass without an ascent of Sron a' Chlachain. David's professional interest lay in Medical Education, striving to support and improve medical practitioners' skills. He became Director of Post Graduate GP Education in South East Scotland, and moved to Edinburgh in 1999 with the family, working for NES and became Associate Post Graduate Dean there. Eager to ensure he had a continued understanding of GP issues on the front line, David never gave up his clinical duties and continued a day a week in an Edinburgh practice. He was academically gifted achieving no fewer than 8 post graduate degrees, culminating in a doctorate in medical education in 2009.

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Obituaries

David was head-hunted for a position as Undergraduate Dean of York Medical School in 2009 and so we moved to York. He made many friends and inspired colleagues and students alike and still found time to work as a General Practitioner in a York practice. Much as he enjoyed his roles, David yearned to return to Scotland, his homeland. He accepted a full time position with the Medical Protection Society and returned to Edinburgh at the end of 2011. David never stopped learning, or teaching. He enjoyed a challenging conversation, a problem to solve and a story shared. He provided many with food for thought and gave valid input to many a discussion. Someone once described him as 'always willing and supportive - but he could spot a fool or a fraud'.

David was thrilled when he became a Grandpa in 2012, firstly to Sequoia, followed soon after by Charlotte and Aivan. David just loved being a Grandpa and saw them all as often as he could. He loved his family and was proud of their achievements, doing everything he could to support them. On Saturday 31st January, David was admitted to hospital in the morning. Tragically he passed away later in the afternoon having spent time with Julia

and the children, Laura, Camilla and Gordon. A fit and healthy man throughout his life, it was a real shock to all when he died.

David will be remembered as a much loved husband, father, grandpa, brother, uncle and long-term friend and colleague of many.

Julia Blaney



Tommy MacGregor

10.4.1930 - 15.2.2015

Tommy MacGregor's sudden and sad death has shocked so many in Killin where he was so well known from the late 50s until regionalisation when he held a contract with Perth & Kinross and drove the hard working roadmen from Ardhulie to Loch Lubnaig side

to Tyndrum and the Falloch and into Killin and Morenish. The main depot was at Maragowan. It was a very busy road during that time with many trucks carting sand and gravel from Callander and Comrie to Glen Lyon and Ben Lawers, buses transporting workers from the hydro scheme home to the cities and all the fish lorries from Mallaig travelling to the south. Tommy was a mechanic and helped so many people whose vehicles would have a breakdown during day or night - no mobiles then. He was affectionately known as 'the Spanner'. He kept Glenogle pretty clear during the winter months and if needed got help from Dunblane or a tractor from Glenogle Farm - no pot holes or choked drains in those days. Tommy lost his dear wife Betty after fifty happy years and then his much loved son Ewan was killed in a tragic accident three years ago. He was blessed with three grandchildren whom he adored and they gave up a Saturday in rotation to drive him over to Killin to shop and have lunch at Burnbank. He was a gentleman and will be sorely missed by all.

Morag and Dugald MacGregor

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Obituaries



**Alan William Skelton
1939-2015**

Alan William Skelton passed away suddenly but peacefully at home with his family on 12th March 2015, aged 75. Loving husband of Helen and a much loved father. Known in the village for his distinctive laugh and sense of humour, Dad still worked for Later Life Training at Silver Cottage, Main Street. Much as he joked that I would not let him retire, he still very much enjoyed being part of the business, having been the main Administrator since we first set up in 2003 down in London. Dad was born in Abbassia, Cairo, Egypt. His father was a Major in The Royal Artillery at the time. He was a

boarder at Steyning Grammar School in Sussex and went on to study Civil Engineering at Manchester University. He first worked for Taylor Woodrow as a site Engineer, and one of his first jobs was the Marriot Hotel (previously Albany Hotel) in Glasgow. He met my mother, Helen, in London and they married in 1967 and had just celebrated their 48th Wedding Anniversary where he jokingly asked for his lifetime achievement medal. Mum and Dad lived in Ealing, West London, most of their married lives. Dad worked as a Structural Engineer in a small London based firm, FJ Samuely and Partners, for the most of his working life. On retirement, as he had always been a bit of a workaholic, he first went to work in a local Garage and then, when I set up Later Life Training, he became the full time administrator. His attention to detail, warmth and sense of humour with all the students and hosts for the training courses we run meant they all felt that this small family business training provider was right for them. He cut back his working hours in 2004 when he first fell ill whilst on holiday in Rannoch. In 2006 we made the decision to move up to Scotland and found our true home in Criannlarich. He continued to run the business until we took on David Riddell, although kept his hand in almost full time until the office moved to Killin two years ago,

when he started working on a more part time basis. He had started spending more time enjoying the beauty of the area, a particular favourite was Glen Lonan where we often stopped to picnic on the way to do our shopping in Oban. Despite many operations over the years (Ninewells, Edinburgh) and a cloud of uncertainty over just how long he might be with us, Dad absolutely loved living here and said everyday was a bit like a holiday with the spectacular surroundings and the wonderful people. Mum and I are thankful we made the move and his final years were so happy, full of laughs, friends and of course, special memories. His laughter and teasing will be sorely missed but we are so grateful that we were with him and that his passing, although untimely, was so quick and peaceful. There will not be a funeral as Dad bequeathed his body to medical research, so Mum and I will attend a memorial at St. Andrew's University. We ask that you just enjoy your memories of this special man and raise a glass in his honour. Many thanks to David, Jennifer, Kirsteen, Louise and Jen for all their help and support since the office moved and of course, recently. Our thanks also to Dr Syme for his time and support with Dad over the years. We are grateful to everyone in Criannlarich and Killin for their kindness and making us feel we were amongst family. In particular, our wonderful friends and neighbours, Ray and Sue Nixon, Tom and Louise Coffield, Isla and Brian Craig and our wonderful postie Jim, for their support since we moved here and with recent events.

Dawn Skelton



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Andrew Burt

Andrew Burt, the Loch Tay Potter, passed away Friday 6th February 2015, peacefully at home. This is a great loss to both his family, daughters Lesley and Megan, son Colin and six grandchildren, and also to the local and outlying communities.

Andrew and his late wife Hazel came to the region to establish the pottery business, 33 years ago. They became a strong part of the community, with villagers and tourists calling in regularly. There were organised trips to the pottery with Andy giving demonstrations at the wheel, and on-lookers encouraged to have a go.

Helping others was something Andrew did a lot. He was a good listener to those who called round and he also actively helped youngsters even in his curling exploits.

Andy enjoyed and participated in the Country Dancing and joined in social events in the area. He even created get-togethers amongst newcomers, by knocking on their doors and introducing himself and later inviting these 'new people' around to his place for a meal, so they could all get to know each other a little more.

He was a quiet social legend, who will be very much missed. However, his pots live on and are all around. In the service at Perth Crematorium on Friday February 20th, the minister, Ann Brennan, spoke fondly of how everyone there would no doubt have a pot or two of Andy's - in fact his Tattie Pots are renowned in the area! Many thanks to all those people, family and friends, who came to share with their presence, their thoughts and their memories at the funeral and at the village hall. Thanks also to those who could not make it, through distance or distress.

Aye, he will be very much missed.

Lesley Clayton

Once upon a time...

Dundee Courier 3rd March 1882

The friends and neighbours of Mr. Alexander Stuart of the Hotel, having resolved upon giving him a day's ploughing, on Friday morning a large turnout of ploughs was on the ground by 9 o'clock, and by 6 o'clock a large amount of good work had been done. The wants of both men and horses were well seen to throughout the day.

Glasgow Herald 25 September 1885

Highland Coach Horses - Great Annual Special Sale of over two hundred brougham and matching carriage horses, draught, van and harness sorts, cobs and ponies, comprising a stud of twenty valuable posting and coaching horses, withdrawn for the Killin and Loch Tay Coaches, the property of Alexr. Stuart Esq. Killin Hotel, Perthshire and sold on account of the near completion of the Killin Branch Railway.

Glasgow Herald 12 March 1886

Important to Coaching and Hotel Proprietors, Post Masters and Others 8th April, Killin Hotel at 12 noon. Messrs. Hutchinson and Dixon have received instructions from Alexander

Stuart Esq. Killin to sell as above the whole of his Coaching Plant, Harness and Coaching Horses comprising :- Three Coaches, to carry Twenty Passengers each: One Coach, to carry Sixteen: brake, new, by Messrs. William Kinross and Sons, Stirling: Two Omnibuses, one as good as new, to carry Sixteen and Twelve respectively: One Two and One Four Wheeled Dog Cart, Two Wagonettes, one Reversible to a Stanhope: Also EIGHT POWERFUL SHORT-LEGGED COACHING HORSES, 15 to 15.5 hands high, and from four to nine years old: sets of Four-in-Hand, Double, Single and Pony Harness, Odd Harness etc. (Sold in consequence of the Opening of the Branch Railway Contract to Killin on the 1st April).

Note - the Horses are all in the Best Hard-fed Seasoned condition, and will be in constant work up to the 1st April. The Coaches were newly done up last season, and are all in splendid order.

Full particulars in Catalogues, in course of preparation, to be had on application to the Auctioneers, or from Mr. Stuart, Killin Hotel, Killin.

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Celebrations



Emily Margaret Rose McLean was born on 3rd October 2014 by emergency C section. Arriving 14 weeks early and weighing 840g (1.8lbs), Emily spent four and a half weeks in the Simpsons Intensive Care Unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary before being transferred back to Forth Valley Hospital where she spent a further eight and a half weeks in the neonatal unit before finally being allowed home on New Year's Eve, a full week before her due date. Niall and Joanne would like to thank all the amazing staff that helped to care for Emily and all the well-wishers during Emily's stay in hospital.



We would like to say a big thank you to friends, neighbours and family for cards and kind wishes. We celebrated in Inverness, all our family came with us and had a jolly good time. Sixty years together and still happy
May and Sandy Graham



Big Birthdays

My parents, Irene and Hector Hall, have just celebrated milestone birthdays. Dad was 85 on 22nd February and Mum was 80 on 10th March.

Evelyn Howson



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Do you find yourself spending a lot of time sitting indoors and wishing you could get outside for some fresh air, exercise and some social time? If so, Walk in the Park can help. It may be that you are elderly, or have had a period of inactivity due to a recent illness. It may just be that you have had a winter where the weather has been so bad and you have lost your confidence to go out again. Or you have just retired and are looking for new friends and a gentle way of exercising. Get in touch with Cathy (details below) who would be happy to chat to you about the first steps you need to take to get you back out walking again. On the main walk there is an opportunity to start off slow and build up – see

details. For those who would like to go on a bit further, we will soon be introducing Nordic Walking into our main walks. Walking with specially designed walking poles this activity can provide a full body workout with fitness building that is not present in normal walking. More information will be given about this activity at a later date.

If you have any questions regarding joining any of our walks, please contact the Project Coordinator Cathy Scott on 01877 330055 cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Date	Meeting place	Route
8th April	McLaren Car Park	Loch Circuit Old Railway if wet
15th April	Capercaillie	Kinnell Circuit
22nd April	McLaren Car Park Car share	Glen Lochay
29th April	McLaren Car Park Car share	Golf Club
6th May	McLaren Car Park Minibus	NCR 7 Mhor 84
13th May	Capercaillie	Craignavie Road
20th May	McLaren Car Park Minibus	Kenmore



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Local Planning Applications

National Park

12 January

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

16 January

Proposal: Erection of conservatory extension and raised balcony to dwellinghouse
Location: Brigairn Craignavie Road Killin
Applicant: Miss C Johnstone
Application Type: Householder Planning Permission
Decision: Approve

26 January

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: Approve

26 January

Proposal: Modification of Planning Obligation
Location: Minerals Cononish Road Tyndrum
Applicant: Scotgold Resources Ltd.
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission
Decision: Approve

28 January

Proposal: Renewal of planning permission for the installation of a wood fired combined heat and power plant
Location: Acharn Forest Killin
Applicant: Mr Fergus Tickell
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission
Decision: Approve

30 January

Proposal: Construction of an electricity sub-station
Location: Land South East Of Auchessan A85 Crianlarich
Applicant: Mr Allan Coburn
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission
Decision: Pending Consideration

4 February

Proposal: Erection of agricultural shed
Location: Gray Street Crofts Killin
Applicant: Mr George Bickerton
Application Type: Prior Notification
Decision: No Objections

9 February

Proposal: High voltage overhead line reinforcement works, minor route alterations and upgrade in voltage.
Location: Land at Mid Lix by Killin
Applicant: Mr Allan Coburn
Application Type: Statutory Notification - overhead lines
Decision: Pending Consideration

9 February

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: Approve

11 February

Proposal: Proposed high voltage overhead line reinforcement works and upgrade in Voltage from 11KV to 33KV (Screening Opinion)
Location: Land Around Allt Coire Chaorach Crianlarich
Applicant: Nikki Anderson
Application Type: Pre Screening / Scoping Requests
Decision: Pending Consideration

24 February

Proposal: Installation of replacement windows
Location: 2 Dochart Road Killin
Applicant: Mr W Stewart
Application Type: Householder Planning Permission
Decision: Pending Consideration

24 February

Proposal: Tree works within a conservation area
Location: The Cedars Main Street Killin
Applicant: Mr James Woods
Application Type: Tree works application
Decision: No Objections

25 February

Proposal: Change of use from retail to residential
Location: 1 Myrtle Grove Main Street Killin
Applicant: Mrs Jackie Bremner
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission
Decision: Pending Consideration

Perth & Kinross Council

7 January

Proposal: Formation of access track to the powerhouse and landing points
Location: Ardtalnaig Hydro Scheme Ardtalnaig
Applicant: Achomer Energy Ltd
Application Type: planning permission
Decision: Pending Consideration

16 January

Proposal: Renewal of permission erection of environmental visitor centre with associated car parking

and formation of new access

Location: Land To The North Of A827 Killin
Applicant: Tony Allen and Belinda Snoxall
Application Type: planning permission in principle local
Decision: Pending Consideration

30 January

Proposal: Extension to dwellinghouse
Location: Tigh Na Clachan Fearnan Aberfeldy
Applicant: Mr Nicholas Grant
Application Type: planning permission local
Decision: Approve the application

3 February

Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse (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: Refuse the application

11 February

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: Application Refused

Stirling Council

1 February

Proposal: Construction of 100 kW hydro electric generating scheme with reinforced concrete intake structure with Coanda intake screens, buried pressure pipeline, access track to intake and traditional built powerhouse with outfall to the Ardeonaig burn
Location: Succouth Farm Killin
Applicant: Messrs N And E Campbell
Application Type: Full
Decision: Pending Consideration



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What's On in Killin and District

April

- 4 Strathyre Open Day 10am p23
- 8 Walk in the Park p33
- 11 EAK community litter pick Council Car Park 10am p13
- 11 Community Woodfuel Day Tyndrum p11
- 15 Walk in the Park p33
- 21 Tyndrum Village Hall meeting 10am
- 22 Walk in the Park p33
- 29 Walk in the Park p33

May

- 2 Stuc a' Chroin hill race p23
- 12 KCC meeting 7.30pm Killin School
- 13 Walk in the Park p33
- 16 Community Woodfuel Day Tyndrum p11
- 18 U3A Music by the loch p25
- 20 Walk in the Park p33
- 23 EAK Dawn Chorus walk 5am Council Car Park p13
- 23/24 Mhor Festival p5

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

Cubs
Tuesdays
7.15 - 8.45pm
Lesser Hall

Internet Cafe
Thursdays
Killin Library
11am-4pm

Craft Group
Tuesdays
Littlecroft
10am - noon

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

Scouts
Wednesdays
7-9pm
Lesser Hall

Quilters
Community Rooms
Wednesdays
2 - 4pm

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

Tai Chi
Wednesday
Tyndrum Hall
9.30am

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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Saturday: 10am-2pm
Sunday: Closed

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Tuesday and Thursday
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Saturday and Sunday
10am-5pm

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Monday-Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday & Sunday
9am-5pm



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Week beginning

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April 13 Brown
April 20 Grey/Green
April 27 Brown
May 4 Grey/Green
May 11 Brown
May 18 Grey/Green
May 25 Brown
June 1 Grey/Green

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