

# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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June/July 2015





## DEADLINES

**Issue 147**  
**Advertising**  
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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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**pdf versions of the paper can be viewed on the Killin News website**

## Editorial

It is surprising to see snow remaining on the Tarmachan Ridge in the second half of May yet new leaf growth acknowledges the coming of summer. The emerging stream of bikers arrived with the almost expected crop of accidents. Heralded by tour buses, visitors are back again looking for ways to spend their time and money in Killin. Business is picking up in anticipation of the holiday season. The Ring of Breadalbane "hop-on hop-off" Explorer bus is back in operation, giving a service for visitors and locals on a circuit of the area that includes otherwise difficult-to-access Aberfeldy and Crieff. Surprisingly, at this time when Scotland needs to have a good transport infrastructure to allow its citizens to thrive in remote areas, City Link buses no longer run from Dundee to Oban or Edinburgh to Fort William via Killin during the summer season. Travellers are routed through Glasgow, and Killin is no longer recognised on their website. Visitors must become adept at using trains, planning bus changes and waiting for connections - a marathon, if not an impossible journey, for the wheelchair bound. On that point, note that single decker buses must have facilities for wheelchairs by 1st January 2016 but if the driver considers the wheelchair is not in a safe condition the disabled person may not be permitted to travel.

The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park proposed Development Plan has been published. For KILLIN ED1 it still shows, on page 76, Economic Development (and community uses) [0.8Ha] to be exactly the area of the bus turning circle and the Bear Road Depot. The area where the knotweed is being treated, that was the Council Dump, is not marked for development. It is worth noting KILLIN RA1 where an area of 13.5 Ha, associated with the proposed Acharn Biomass Energy Plant is an opportunity for business and light industry to use the waste heat from the plant when that finally comes to fruition.

**WA**

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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.

Front Page picture by Ron Allner  
Innes and Callum testing the new park facilities

The recent felling at Lix Toll revealed views not seen for years.  
It will be many more years before this scene will be repeated.



David Robertson

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## All the Best Postie



**Tae a Postie**  
**Oor cheery sun-bronzed cold-kneed**  
**postie**  
**Will soon hae knees as warm as toastie**  
**Sat at home wi' fire and slippers**  
**Munching daily breakfast kippers**  
**Dear John, we'll miss your friendly**  
**face**  
**But growing old is nae disgrace**  
**Enjoy your life as an older man**  
**And buy yourself a wee red van**  
**POSTscript:**  
**You can always sport a kilt to let the**  
**breeze**  
**air your knees,**  
**And as they say in Killin**  
**"Lang may your knees creak"**  
**Happy Retirement. EH**

Ron Allner

John Boyd AKA John The Postie was presented with a card signed by many of Killin's residents and money collected by Liz and Dougie of News First, to wish him well in his retirement. John has been a part of village life in Killin for fourteen years now cheering everyone with his smile and wit but, as he says, he is now sixty six and it is time for him to retire. He will carry on (no doubt still wearing his shorts) with his gardening jobs to keep him fit and he says he will come to see us from time to time but we all wish him the best of luck in his retirement.



## Chairman's Report

The work in the Park is nearly complete. This has been a difficult project in view of all the unexpected delays. While we had hoped to have it completed before the bad weather expected in the winter set in, one item, obtaining a lease from Stirling Council involved three sets of solicitors from each of Stirling Council, the Big Lottery and KAT and unexpectedly took weeks to achieve. This landed KAT with an unexpected large bill and ensured that the work was delayed until after New Year, a time when the weather is notoriously poor for ground work. The alternative, to do the work in the best early summer weather would have prevented its use for the Games and Show. Now we must hope for good growing weather over the next three months or so. I would like to draw attention to Theresa's call for those interested in the Park to register their interest with her so that they can come along to meetings to discuss and help plan stage two of its development. The KAT Finance Sub Committee has made plans to disburse grants to the community, see opposite page.

**Willie Angus**

## Project Worker's Report Breadalbane Park

The park phase 1 works should be complete. The park will not be open to the public until the middle of June as the grass seed needs time to grow and the ground to settle. There have been comments about the mound beside the play area. This is included in the planning consent (14th November 2014) and measures 1.8m at its highest point. The reason will become obvious in

phase 2 as it is designed for the installation of additional play equipment. The play area will be increased in size taking in the whole area in between the paths. The group involved with the phase 2 design is still in the early stages of the process and would love new volunteers to come and join them to help them design the best play area for Killin. If you would like to be involved please email me on [theresa@killincdt.co.uk](mailto:theresa@killincdt.co.uk) or phone 07789 265823 as I will be arranging a meeting soon.

## Internet Café

The Internet café is open on Thursdays from 11am to 3pm in the Killin Library. At the café you can obtain help to use your laptop or tablet. You can sign up for courses with Forth Valley College and be supported by Heather.

Courses include:

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Advanced ECDL

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Introduction to the Internet & Email

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Getting started with Microsoft Publisher and Going Further with Microsoft Publisher

Functional Skills ICT

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For more information come and speak to Heather or check out Forth Valley College website on [http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/flexible\\_learning](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/flexible_learning)



Theresa Elliot

## Fundraising for KAT

I have been raising money for KAT by running ten, 10K, races between January 2015 and August 2015. So far I have completed seven of these races and have only three to go over the next three months. I started in Buchlyvie on 24th January and so far have been to Sauchie (with Liz Stevens), Loch Katrine, Grangemouth, Balfour, Callander and Helensburgh. My final race will be Killin 10k on Saturday 29th August. Please come to the event and give me and all the local runners your support. That would be fantastic. You can sponsor me online on the Virgin Giving website: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TheresaElliot> or if you prefer there is a paper sponsor form at the Old Mill, which is open from 10 am to 4 pm. You can follow my progress on our Facebook page 'The old Mill, Killin & KAT'. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored me so far and to those who have come along and supported me on race days.

**Theresa Elliot**  
Project Worker

07789265823 [theresa@killincdt.co.uk](mailto:theresa@killincdt.co.uk)

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### Old Mill Report

The Mill is busy with visitors from near and far who have many different interests and involvement with Killin. We also have many visitors who are particularly interested in watermills and how they have evolved in the community.

It is great that the Mill is being used both as a Thrift Shop and for classes and the sale of arts and crafts.

The Sampler Quilting course has now been completed and we are thrilled that Sally Connor has very kindly offered to donate her time again to host another Beginners Sampler Quilting course, starting on Monday October 5th for 8 weeks. The cost will be £65 for the 8 weeks and you will need to supply all materials. Please contact Franny if you wish to attend.

We are aware that we have an ever increasing amount of donated goods that we cannot display due to space. Therefore we are going to host a sale of clothes from 10-4pm on Saturday 27th June and Sunday 28th June. We have a fantastic selection of excellent, quality clothes for ladies, men and children from designer to modern brands.

If you have a large item that you wish to donate to the Mill and it is too large for us to store or display, please leave the details and preferably a photograph and we can put the information on our Facebook and Preloved pages. We have already been successful in selling items this way and it is also another good source of income for the Mill. Please note that upholstered furniture must have the fire safety tag. We cannot store or display large items at the Mill. Please note too that we do not accept any electrical items, baby car seats, baby buggies, cycle helmets and motor cycle helmets.

Our shops could not run without the help we receive from volunteers. If you would like to get involved on a regular or occasional basis please contact me on

01567 820628/07802 929796  
[francesmorrison@killincdt.co.uk](mailto:francesmorrison@killincdt.co.uk)

**Franny Morrison**  
Old Mill Manager

### Small Grants

KAT is making available £2,000 of proceeds from the Old Mill Thrift Shop to award grants for community projects or activities. They may be for equipment purchases or to run events.

The grants are intended to provide support and help enhance the lives of people in the local community. They will be available for activities such as children & education, health & wellbeing, arts & culture, the environment, the elderly and active lifestyles. They are for any amount up to £250 each and are available to any group in the Killin Community Council area who can show community benefit.

Applications are invited using a standard form that can be downloaded from the KAT website or collected in person from the Old Mill. The deadline for submission of forms is 26th June 2015.

Any funds not allocated will be made available monthly thereafter and a further amount will be released later in the year.

**Mark Beaumont**  
Treasurer

### Killin and District Telephone Book

**The last issue of the Telephone book contained details correct in 2012 so it is time for an update and we are planning to produce the next one.**

**A form requesting an entry is included with this issue of Killin News and should be returned by 6th JULY to the Killin News Office, the Library, News First or the Post Office. Please help us by meeting this date.**

**Even if your details have not changed, we must have your authorisation to include you again but you will only need to fill in your name and tick the box for "Details unchanged". Personal entries are free and Classified adverts cost £10 per business.**

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# Killin Community Council

## Summary of May Meeting

**Roads and Traffic:** The vacant land near the turning circle is currently allocated for parking. The Community Council agreed that the land is not required for parking. As it is surplus it can now be re-allocated and used for another purpose.

The trees are overgrown around the car park near the Capercaille Restaurant and need cutting back. The pavement will be brought round the back of the EV charging point. Stirling Council has advertised the adoption of the coach parking and the lines and signs will be changed. Stirling Council is currently going through the procedure of acquiring the enforcement powers for on-street parking. In time, yellow lines and no waiting signs will be renewed but no parking signs are being scrapped. Traffic wardens have been retained and will come out to all areas.

**Police Report:** There was some minor vandalism around Maragowan during the Easter holidays. Ironworks patrols have started again. Police have been encouraging dog owners to pick up and dispose of dog mess.

Winter safety checks on vehicles continued over the last period. Dealing with speeding is a Force commitment over the coming year. There have been some minor road accidents as a result of harsh wintery snow conditions. There was a double fatal road traffic accident which resulted in a lengthy road closure affecting road users including primary and secondary pupils from Crianlarich and Tyndrum. A road traffic accident on Glen Ogle resulted in an arrest for drink driving. The problems with parking at the Highland Park development are largely resolved.

Two thefts and two attempted thefts were reported.

Mountain Rescue has been busy including two fatalities. Ongoing problems of safety at the school crossing were discussed.

The Community Council expressed the gratitude of many for the support from the Co-op, the Killin Hotel, the Courie Inn and many others during the recent extensive road closure which affected Primary and Secondary pupils from Crianlarich and Tyndrum.

**KAT:** Work on the Breadalbane Park remains ongoing. The new owners of Dall Lodge have been in contact with the Community Council regarding this. Fiona Kennedy will contact Willie Angus to determine when work is expected to be complete.

**Road Repairs:** Tim Frost will begin making regular requests for the jet patcher to be brought to the area. Everyone is encouraged to report any potholes.

**Planning:** All applications and plans are now available to view online. Breadalbane Park: A large mound has been created for the aerial slide but it blocks the view between the play park and the football pitch which has raised concerns for some parents. Concerns were also raised that alterations to the plans had been made without consultation. Fiona Kennedy and Pamela Farquharson to speak to Willie Angus.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 14th July at the Church Community Rooms.



**Savoury and Wine**  
**7.30pm**  
**Friday 19th June**  
**McLaren Hall**

There are still some tickets available. Please see any of the committee members to get yours and make sure you don't miss out on a great night out.

**Back by popular demand**  
**'The Ladies Lunch'**  
**12.30**  
**Saturday 12th**  
**September McLaren Hall**

Same format as last year with food, wine and shopping opportunities! Tickets will be available nearer the time.

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# The Big Shed

## Events at the Big Shed

First is a classical song recital on Sunday 28th June at 2pm, with pianist Jacco Lamfers and Dutch Soprano Julia Bronkhorst, followed by refreshments and a singing workshop. Contact Jacco direct either by email - [pianist@jaccolamfers.nl](mailto:pianist@jaccolamfers.nl) or phone 01887 866268 to reserve tickets or get more information.

## Lochtayside and Glenlyon

**Community Council** will meet at the Big Shed on Thursday 16th July at 7.30. Members of the public are warmly welcome and there may even be cake!

**Clare Stephen** returns to the Big Shed on 25th and 26th July for two days of yoga. The workshop will start at 10am and finish at 4pm each day and is suitable for all abilities. Wear loose clothing, bring a warm blanket for the relaxation and a yoga mat if you have one. The cost is £90 including lunch on both days and dinner on Saturday. Clare herself has been practising yoga for over twenty-five years and qualified as an Iyengar yoga teacher at introductory level in 1989. She has visited India to be taught by the Iyengars and completed the intermediate level training in 2005. Her commitment to her Buddhist studies and meditation practice also influences the way that she teaches yoga. Anyone not living locally who would like to come along

for two days of yoga in a peaceful environment, is welcome to bring a tent and camp on the lawn outside the Big Shed or park your camper van in the car park at no additional cost. For those preferring more comfort, we can arrange B&B accommodation.

**On 25th July** the young people from 'Fèis Fhoirt 2015 come to the Big Shed with a traditional music concert starting at 8pm. Tickets are £10. BYOB. You'll find more about this concert elsewhere in the Killin news. Tickets are available from MacGregor's Market and via the Big Shed. To book text/phone the Big Shed on 0750 864 5453 or email [websitecontact@bigshed.org.uk](mailto:websitecontact@bigshed.org.uk) The Big Shed is on the north side of Loch Tay, about 6 miles from Killin. Access is signposted from the main road and there is parking. [www.bigshed.org.uk](http://www.bigshed.org.uk)

## Song recital and workshop in Big Shed

After the success of last year's song recital with Dutch soprano Julia Bronkhorst in Glenlyon Church, pianist Jacco Lamfers has invited her again to give a concert and workshop, now in The Big Shed. Together they will perform songs of German and Scandinavian composers. After that there will be an opportunity to benefit from Julia's lifelong experience as a singer and teacher, during the workshop. We'll sing songs together

or you can participate and receive coaching as an individual singer. Julia and Jacco have worked together for fifteen years now. They gave many concerts, including radio and television appearances. They toured through South Africa and made several CD recordings. Sunday 28th June 2015 Concert at 2pm Workshop at 4pm More information visit [www.jaccolamfers.nl](http://www.jaccolamfers.nl)

## Tea With The Provost



Sam Rosendale was invited to afternoon tea with The Lord Provost of Glasgow on Monday 4th May. He went with a group of children from an organisation called Funnylumps which supports families with the generic condition neurofibromatosis.

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## An American in Ardeonaig

Every day I look out of my window and marvel at the view. The hills of Ardeonaig are beautiful and rolling, white dots of sheep roam up and down. This time of year I hear the bleating of lambs, watching them skip about beside their mothers.

The flowers bloom in the trees, and a small breeze blows in through my partially opened windows, welcoming this warm spring weather. Quad bikes are heard many times daily and my toddler rushes to the window to tell me which nearby farmer is driving and if he has his dog with him. But my favourite sight of all is from the crest of the small hill behind our house.

We put on our wellies, put leads on the dogs and walk through the various gates and over the stiles to climb the wee hill. As we walk the pasture we pass the "fuzzy cows" (as we call them because we don't know their names), feeding them some hay leftover from the sheep that were there recently. We close all the gates and climb the last little rocky bit before the crest. And there the view spreads out beneath us, Loch Tay in all its glory down below. Whether the hills behind are covered in snow or wildflowers, that view never ceases to amaze me - its beauty rivals the Great Smokey Mountains of North Carolina, which I used to call "home."

Honestly, I thought I was used to "small towns" and knew what the word "rural" meant. Here in Ardeonaig, if you are using a SAT NAV and driving into our village, it will announce that you have "arrived in Ardeonaig city centre" when you reach the hotel. In essence it is correct, as that is the only business really, other than the Abernethy Outdoor Centre where I reside. The residents here are truly

"from here", most come from a long line of crofters. They, along with all the others I've met in the surrounding villages, have welcomed me with open arms which honestly surprised me.

Travelling outside the US before, I quickly realised Americans were not as well liked as I had imagined. Moving here, I was very nervous about how I would be perceived and whether my accent alone would ostracise me from the community, preventing me from feeling at home here. Although I am rarely asked where I am from (I mean, the U.S. is a big place ya'll, it's like not asking where you're from because you live in the UK, I haven't been treated any differently because of who or what I am. That means quite a lot to me.

The hardest part of living in rural Scotland, is not having it in my blood. I had never heard the term "crofter" and didn't know what a "burn" or a "ben" was, but more than that, I didn't have a built in support system, or a way of knowing how to get one. Thankfully the ladies of Ardeonaig helped introduce me to toddler play groups, the Women's Rural Institute and invited me round for tea at theirs.

I'm starting to feel this really is home and learning that it's ok if the sheep get into the garden, how to keep the dogs away from the chickens, and how to use the libraries and get groceries delivered right to my door. To feel really like a local though, I'm keen to help deliver a lamb. Thanks for the warm welcome all and keep up the good work.

Leigh Nelson

## Those were the Days

**Caledonian Mercury 25 May 1795**

### **Hair Powder Tax; Stamp Office, Edinburgh, May 15<sup>th</sup> 1795**

The Head-distributor of His Majesty's Stamp Duties in North Britain will receive certificates at the following office [including] Killin.

A duty of £1.1shilling for each certificate "no more is to be demanded of any person upon taking on a Certificate for using or wearing hairpowder, upon any pretence whatever, except where there are more than two unmarried daughters in the family, in which case a double certificate, stamped with two stamps of One Pound One Shilling each, is required to be taken.

**Stirling Observer  
29<sup>th</sup> December 1859**

### **'A Considerate Presbytery 1777, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Given in by John Campbell and party for marriage on one proclamation, 5 shillings. The Session returned him on account of his age being 85, 2 shillings and eleven pence'.

**Sent in by Janet Walker**

## Railway Memories

Just a reminder that we are looking for your stories about and memories of the Killin pug. Please contact either Margaret MacIver on 820 411 or Liz Howard 820 524 or leave a message on the office answerphone 820 014 and we will get back to you. Even little snippets of information are of interest.



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## Frost Report

### Welcome Back

Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> was an important day in our household. Not only did grandchild no. 9 come home after our wait but the first red squirrel came back to our feeders in the garden. There are many hazel trees and bushes in the woods nearby and from the time the first unripe nuts appear, the squirrels disappear from the feeders. They don't reappear while there is food on the trees and food which they have cached in the ground. Only then do they venture back for emergency supplies all summer. Our latest grandchild has now been dubbed 'the squirrel whisperer.'

Another new event, also of great importance, is that the RSPB is becoming open and more honest about the necessary predator control which it carries out. The organisation has culled 476 red deer across 9 reserves, 293 foxes across 23 reserves, 10 grey squirrels and 10 rabbits. This is over all their properties which extend to 200,000 acres U.K. wide. They also obtain specific licences to control goose and gull species. The conservation director of RSPB, Martin Harper, says that reserves are hotspots of wildlife density for predators to invade - a bit like having Fort Knox with the door open. Does this not apply also to

estates? Pity they don't get the same P.R. At last he has admitted that shooting activities do benefit our countryside. This would appear to contradict much of the BBC bias as seen on Springwatch and Countryfile. Still, at least one of Countryfile's presenters enjoys shooting.



A beaver on Loch Tay

On to another new arrival to the area. It would appear that the beavers have spread up the Dochart and one wonders if they will spread far enough eventually to join up with the Knapdale beaver escapees. These local illegal introductions seem to be doing far

better than the official Knapdale project which cost £2 million. (Our locals came free!) But all free offers come with a price - in the last 2 years 35 beaver dams have had to be removed in the Meigle area and diggers don't come cheap.

It is estimated that Europe has 421 million fewer birds than it did 30 years ago, 90% of which are in more common species such as skylarks, grey partridge and starlings. (The report also says that there is a decline in sparrows but I think that they are all in our garden!) I'm not sure who is doing this advanced counting but we can all see a decline and I was only having a chat with a neighbour yesterday about the decline in swallows, martins and swifts, remembering when the sky would be clouded with them not that many summers ago.

Another species which appears to be on the endangered list is the camper - at least in the National Park. You may have seen that little notices have appeared in the laybys along Loch Earnside. The Park is extending its wild camping (and even roadside parking) ban from Lubnag across many areas. We all know the damage that a few campers do but to deprive the many responsible families of this privilege is going a bit far. It is the essence of many peoples' holiday in Scotland to park in a nice wee spot with a fabulous view and have a cuppa in the car. Also any problems will shift to the areas adjoining the park and will they have the same clout to ban? It seems ironic that a National Park is on the way to totally undermining the 'right to roam' legislation.

Add to this that a recent survey by British Association for Shooting and Conservation concluded that one of the best things for your health is a bit of huntin', shootin', and fishin' or just taking time out to relax in the open countryside. Then again all us oldies already knew that - maybe an app will come out for it? If so, they can send it to The National Park.

**Tim Frost**

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## Strathfillan Community Council

### Gold Panning

Members of the public raised concern with regard to recent gold panning activity in Tyndrum. It is understood that Police Officers are asking recreational goldpanners on the Cromm-Allt burn to stop gold panning activity. Local residents, who are also recreational gold panners put forward a proposal to better regulate recreational gold panning within Tyndrum. This would require all recreational gold panners to adhere to a set of rules, and should be self-policing with responsible panners ensuring others do not break the rules. There is a successful working example of how this type of regulation works in use in the Leadhills area of Ayrshire.

Members of the CC are very aware that there have been some issues in Tyndrum with relation to gold panning, with the river even being changed in places. Some local residents in Tyndrum are known to be unhappy at gold panning taking place near to their properties. However, the CC also understand the economic importance of

gold panning to Tyndrum. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the CC supports regulated, recreational gold panning with the permission of the landowner. The CC will write to SNH and other relevant bodies (e.g. LLTNP, Crown Estates and SEPA) to show our support and seek clarification on the legalities. It will also be important to identify exactly who the landowners of the various sections of river are. Landowners who do permit gold panning on their land will need to understand clearly their legal responsibilities for this activity.

### High School Transport

Some High School parents raised concerns about the difficulties experienced by Crianlarich & Tyndrum pupils when the A85 was closed for 6 hours following a fatal accident on 22nd April. Both the McLaren High School bus and a bus containing staff and pupils from Crianlarich Primary were stuck on the wrong side of the road closure. Having waited in the queue for a considerable period of time, pupils from both buses were taken to Killin Primary School, and arrangements were made for the pupils to be fed and looked after.

However, concerns were raised about the time taken for the High School to contact parents, and also questions

asked as to why the pupils were not taken home by bus via the Balloch diversion.

It was suggested that the concerned parents should write to the Head of Education with their concerns, and copy the letter to Cllr Martin Earl, and to Mr Fleming (Head of McLaren High). If the primary school Parent Partnership share similar concerns, they may also wish to write.

Cllr Earl will seek a meeting with Mr Fleming to discuss the school response to this incident and the contingency arrangements which are in place for any future similar incidents.

### Detrunking of Glenfalloch Road

Now that the Crianlarich bypass is open, Glenfalloch Road in Crianlarich is to be "de-trunked" and maintenance will become the responsibility of Stirling Council, not Transport Scotland. However significant remedial works are required to the road (including street lighting, footpaths and culverts). After pressure from the CC and from local councillors, Transport Scotland have agreed to fund the necessary upgrade. It is hoped that this work will take place in the near future.

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Buchlyvie	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Callander	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum

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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[www.rsha.org.uk](http://www.rsha.org.uk)

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# an by the Way



## Strathfillan Community Development Trust

**Our Woodlands Group** has been working hard, and we have had several successful Community Woodfuel days (see below for dates). We are also very pleased that we have been awarded funding from both the People and Communities Fund and the Red Nose Day Community Cash Fund towards training for chainsaw use and woodland management. We have lots of plans for the Tyndrum Community Woodland, and would love to get more people involved. There will be a Get to Know Your Community Woodland Event on Saturday 13th June. This will include a guided woodland walk, a woodland treasure hunt (for adults and kids) and information and refreshments – which will be provided by the new Country Mumkins Café at Strathfillan Church.

**Tyndrum Village Hall** has a new Committee. The New Chair is Chris Macnab and Vice Chair Kelda Platt. The committee is keen to get more events and activities going, so if anyone has any ideas please do get in touch either via the Strathfillan Community Facebook page or directly to Chris or

Kelda. They hope to have new rates and information published soon.  
**The Crianlarich Paths Project** is moving on and we are now awaiting approval of our chosen tender for the works from Big Lottery. It is all looking very positive and we still plan to get our first spade in the ground this summer – so watch this space!



## SAPLINGS are back.

The Trust has put together a number of events and activities over the summer holidays for 8-14 year olds. These will be educational and, most importantly, fun. The cost is £7 per session and booking forms will be available soon.

## Medical Clinics

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Killin Medical Practice to bring outreach medical clinics to Strathfillan. Funding has been secured for this from Stirling Council and we are now finalising the details. Clinics will be held in Crianlarich Village Hall, approximately twice per month. Dates and services will be published on local notice boards.

SCD Trust is a charity which works to help our communities across Strathfillan and as such we rely heavily on donations. We are placing charity tins in businesses across the area and, if anyone is interested in obtaining one, please contact me at the email address below.

We would like to encourage more people to join as Friends: for as little as a £1 per month you can make a huge difference to your community. If you would like to become a Friend or if you have any questions or ideas, you can contact us at

[strathfillancdt@btconnect.com](mailto:strathfillancdt@btconnect.com)

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< tel no. 01838 400545, or check out our facebook page 'Strathfillan Community'. 'Like' us and you can find out what the Trust is doing, plus other events and activities in the Strathfillan area. You can even post your own thoughts, messages and photos. We'd love to hear from you!

You can also help us fundraise as you shop with easyfundraising. Click on 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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). **Community Woodfuel Days** (from 10am): June 14

NB change of date to accommodate Get to Know Your Community Woodland Events

July 18 and August 15.

**Get to Know Your Woodland Event**  
June 13th from 10am, meet at Dalriach Car Park. Refreshments provided by Country Mumkins Café, Strathfillan Church.

**Tai Chi:** Please note that Tai Chi will not be running throughout July.

**SAPLINGS:** Every Wednesday from the 1st July to the 5th August, 10am-4pm. Contact Kelly for details.

#### Little Acorns Under 5s

#### Nature Club

Monthly sessions for little explorers to discover about all things outdoors,

from hibernation and dens to animal footprints, tracking and summer bug hunts. Run by parents usually on the first Saturday of the month in the Tyndrum area. We try to be outside as much as possible if the weather allows.

[www.facebook.com/little.acorn.nature.club](http://www.facebook.com/little.acorn.nature.club)



## Community Grants Scheme Community Pride Fund

Stirling Council's small grants programmes which support a wide range of community activities are open for the financial year 2015-16 with the following deadlines and decision dates: Full details and application for at: <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/community-life-and-leisure/community-advice/community-advicegrants/community-grants> or telephone the Funding Officer on 01786 233143

Deadline date - 12 noon on:	Decision date
9 July 15	12 August 15
20 August 15	23 September 15
1 October 15	4 November 15
12 November 15	16 December 15
7 January 16	10 February 16
11 February 16	16 March 16

## Bank of Scotland Foundation

### Small Grants Programme

This scheme provides small grants ranging from £1,000 and £10,000 to charitable organisations in Scotland to support people and their local communities to gain a better quality of life. To be eligible, projects must take place in Scotland and address the theme for developing and improving local communities:

Initiatives designed to encourage the involvement in the community of those too often excluded.

Working with people on low incomes, at risk from poverty or with problems finding accommodation.

Improving the standard of local facilities.

Medium Grants Programme with grants from £10,001-£25,000 which takes in the above developing and improving local communities strand, as well as financial literacy and inclusions under which, initiatives they are particularly interested in are: Promoting financial awareness and money advice

Enhancing debt counselling services within the community Supporting life-skills in all age groups and sections of the community. Two deadlines for receipt of applications for both programmes - 5pm on 13 July 2015 and 12 October 2015.

<http://bankofscotlandfoundation.org/>



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## Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve

### Guided walks & events

#### Saturday 13th June:

##### Bumblebee Safari

Did you know that bumblebees have smelly feet? Join us for a guided walk to discover why, and to learn more about the fascinating lives of bumblebees. We'll be identifying the species found along the way, including some of the rare species found at Ben Lawers.

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: adults £3, children £1.50

Bring: Suitable footwear and clothing for a walk along low mountain paths.

Meet: 11am, Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable.

#### Wednesday 8th July:

##### Butterflies and moths of the mountain

Discover which butterflies and moths inhabit the floristically rich lower slopes of these mountains, including the elusive mountain ringlet.

Duration: 3 hours

Cost: adults £5, children £2.50, Family £12.50

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

Meet: 1.30pm Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable.

#### Friday 17th July:

##### Mountain Flowers

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

Duration: 7 hours

Cost: adults £25, children £12.50.

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

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

#### Saturday 18th – Sunday 19th July:

##### An introduction to mountain plant identification

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

Duration: 2 days

Cost: £100 non-residential, self-catering bunkroom accommodation available at £15 per night.

Bring: Walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, a copy of Francis Rose's Wild Flower Key and a hand lens if you have one (available for loan). You will need a packed lunch and drink each day.

Meet: 9.30am Ben Lawers NNR Ranger Base, Lynedoch, Killin.

Booking is essential.

#### Tuesday 21st July:

##### Burn dipping and beastie hunting

Hands-on exploration of the habitats on our nature trail to discover some of the less obvious wildlife.

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: adults £2, children £5, Family £12.50 Adults must be accompanied by a child (and vice versa).

Bring: Wellies and waterproofs.

Meet: 10.30 am Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable.

#### Wednesday 29th July:

##### Flora and fauna of the hillside

If you are a hillwalker who would like to know more about the plants and wildlife around you or training to be a mountain leader, then this could be the walk for you. A chance to familiarise yourself with some of the characteristic plants and wildlife on the lower slopes of these mountains.

Duration: 2½ hours.

Cost: adults £5, children £2.50

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

Meet: 1.30pm Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: adults £2, children £5, family £12.50. Adults must be accompanied by a child (and vice versa).

Bring: Wellies and waterproofs.

Meet: 10.30 am Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable.

#### Tuesday 4th August:

##### Burn dipping and beastie hunting

Hands-on exploration of the habitats on our nature trail to discover some of the less obvious wildlife.

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: adults £2, children £5, family £12.50. Adults must be accompanied by a child (and vice versa).

Bring: Wellies and waterproofs.

Meet: 10.30 am Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable.

#### Friday 14th August:

##### An introduction to navigation

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

Duration: 6 hours

Cost: adults £15, children £7.50.

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

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

#### Saturday 15th August:

##### An introduction to identification of grasses, sedges and rushes

Duration: 7½ hours

Cost: £50

Get to grips with the graminoids!

Come along and learn the basics on how to identify these plants on this famous botanical nature reserve.

Bring: Walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, a copy of Francis Rose's guide-to grasses sedges rushes and ferns or your favourite ID book for these groups and a hand lens (available for loan). You will need a packed lunch and drink.

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

#### Wednesday 19th August:

##### Hillside safari

Experience the rich flora of the lower slopes of this famous botanical nature reserve and the varied wildlife flourishing in restored native plant communities.

Duration: 2½ hours.

Cost: adults £5, children £2.50, Family £12.50

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

Meet: 1.30pm Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable.

#### Friday 11th and/or Saturday

##### 12th September:

##### Moist Night and/or Morning

Come and see some of the fascinating nocturnal moths of the reserve. You can either come along on Friday evening as the Trust rangers set harmless light traps and watch as the moths start to come in, or on Saturday morning to inspect the overnight catch, or both.

Duration: As long as you like

Cost: adults £3, children £1.50

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

Meet: 8.00pm Friday 11th and/or 8.00am Saturday 12th Ben Lawers NNR car park. No need to book.

For further information telephone 01567 820988 or email [benlawers@nts.org.uk](mailto:benlawers@nts.org.uk) or <http://www.nts.org.uk/Events/Ben-Lawers-National-Nature-Reserve/>

### Ben Lawers NNR talks programme 2015

Illustrated talks by National Trust for Scotland conservation staff, held in the meetings room, at the Ben Lawers Ranger Base, Lynedoch, Main Street, Killin at 8.00pm.



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Admission £1. Refreshments will be available after the talk.

**Wednesday 15th July:**

**The Long View: Habitat Restoration and Improvement at Ben Lawers**

In the last 4 years, over 100,000 trees have been planted on Ben Lawers NNR to improve habitats for wildlife. Ranger/Naturalist Paul Thompson relates the story of this project and its place in the ongoing development of woodland at Ben Lawers.

**Wednesday 29th July:**

**Good News! For Peats Sake the Bogs Blocked!**

Alasdair Eckersall, Property Manager tells us about the restoration of peat on Ben Lomond.

**Wednesday 12th August:**

**Adventures with plants; safeguarding species**

David Mardon describes long-term projects on the Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve that reveal whether rare plants are doing well enough to survive into the future, or whether they are likely to decline to extinction, and describes the difficulties and hazards involved.

**Wednesday 26th August:**

**St Kilda wildlife**

Dr Richard Luxmoore, Senior Nature Conservation Adviser. On the amazing wildlife of the Trust's only Natural World Heritage site.

## Green Team

Every other Thursday from 6.00-7.30pm. Meet by the pond in the wildlife garden at the front of Killin Primary School

18th June  
2nd July  
16th July  
30th July  
13th August  
27th August

Plant potions  
Back to basics  
Digging dirt  
Trip to Ben Lawers\*  
Deep-Dark-Depths  
Gardening for wildlife\*

10th September Mysterious moths  
24th September Patterns in nature

Parents of children attending for the first time are requested to fill in a consent form available from Helen Cole at the National Trust for Scotland Ranger Base, Killin or from your school office. For those children who have attended previously, we will ask you to update your consent form this year. If in any doubt please contact Helen Cole – hcole@nts.org.uk

\*Further information and permission slips will be issued nearer the time.



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## Fèis Fhoirt Cèilidh Trail



This summer, Stirling and Falkirk will be alive with music produced by some of the best young traditional musicians on the scene. The Fèis Fhoirt Cèilidh Trail are hitting the road for a three week tour of the Lomond and Trossachs National Park with plenty of opportunities to hear some of their wonderful music throughout July. The Cèilidh Trail project allows young traditional musicians the opportunity to tour their local area throughout the summer period as part of the Fèis movement. Fèisean nan Gaidheal aims to teach children about Gaelic music, language and culture throughout Scotland and has over 40 branches. Fèis Fhoirt is the Stirling and Falkirk branch and translates as "Festival of the Forth". Fèis Fhoirt runs two festivals every year, one in Stirling

in March and one in Falkirk in September, as well as beginner's Saturday morning classes and an annual Adult Fèis in Callander every October.

The Cèilidh Trail is now in its fourth year in the Stirling area and follows on from a very successful tour in 2014. There are over 10 projects of this kind across Scotland supported by Fèisean nan Gaidheal. After an audition process, a group of young musicians receives a week's specialist training before hitting the road.

Local musician Siobhan Anderson is the co-ordinator for the project and for the past three years the group have used the Killin Community Bus as their means of transport with the help of many of the volunteer drivers. This year will be no different and the

project would not be possible without the use of the bus and the help of the committee involved.

This year the band consists of youngsters from all over the area and features fiddles, accordion, piano, guitar and small pipes as well as some beautiful Gaelic singing. There is a very varied programme featuring concerts, cèilidhs and sessions, as well as performances in sheltered housing complexes. The group will join forces with similar projects from other areas including Oban and Speyside to put on joint performances.

For a full list of tour dates, check the website [www.feisfhoirt.org.uk](http://www.feisfhoirt.org.uk), but you can catch them at the Big Shed on Saturday 25th July at 8pm. Tickets are £10 available from McGregor's Market or the Big Shed website [www.bigshed.org.uk](http://www.bigshed.org.uk). It will be a BYOB event and promises to be a great night.

The group will also be performing alongside the Argyle group, Fèis Latharna, at Crianlarich Village Hall on Tuesday 4th August at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available for this event on the door. As in previous years, the group will also entertain the residents of the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home and busk at the Green Welly Stop in Tyndrum. Find out more at [www.feisean.org/ceilidh](http://www.feisean.org/ceilidh) or [www.feisfhoirt.org.uk](http://www.feisfhoirt.org.uk)

**Siobhan Anderson**

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The Group celebrates its second birthday this month and we welcome a new Beaver Leader - Laura Bathgate. Dealing with youth is not new to Laura as she has great experience as a former Girl Guide Leader. Stephen Rawlinson, who has been running the Beavers with Sue Manning and Young Leader Luke Hibbert, will now concentrate on the older children.

#### AGM

The postponed AGM will now be held on Thursday 18th June in the Lesser Hall at 7.15pm. We need the help of the parents and grandparents to form a Parents' Committee which plays a vital role in the running of a Scout Group. We are the only Scout Group in Stirling & Trossachs without a Parents Group. Parental Committees make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to the Group.

#### Beavers (6-8years)

The Beavers have had a very busy term with a visit to the mountain rescue team and a big get together with the other sections. Our pirate-themed sleepover and a trip to the climbing wall at Callander are still to come. If your child is 6 years old before October and wants to join Beavers, please contact me to discuss an early start.

**Laura Bathgate** Beaver Leader  
01567820930

[killinbeavers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:killinbeavers@yahoo.co.uk)

#### Cubs (8 to 10½)

We now have a waiting list for new Cubs. Contact one of the leaders for more information. A special guest, District Commissioner David Wilson, presented our GSL David Robertson with his 25 year service award. Over the last session the Cubs have gained their Book reader, Collectors and Hobbies badges, with all Cubs

working towards three Challenge badges. The Cubs visited Killin Fire Station where they were given a talk on home safety and given a tour round the fire station. Thank you to all fire fighters for their help - this was also part of the fire safety badge. The Cubs are now preparing for their 2nd Camp going to Meggerine in Glen Lyon for two nights in June.

**Charles Kemp** Cub Leader  
01567 820835

[the2ndkillincubs@outlook.com](mailto:the2ndkillincubs@outlook.com)

#### Scouts (10½ to 14yrs)

The Scouts have been developing their outdoor skills over the last term. One evening was spent lighting small fires to toast marshmallows on. A bit more practice is needed but by the time our summer camp comes around we hope to be able to cook outside on open fires. The Scouts have also been out Geocaching. Learning about grid references and then using maps, got as close as possible before using a GPS to be able to find the well hidden caches hidden around Killin. See if you can find the geocache we hid up Sron a'Chlachain.

#### Explorers

We are hoping to start an Explorer Scout section after the summer but

first need to find out how many people would be interested. Explorers are the oldest youth section of the Scout association. We hope that they will be very much led by the Explorers, with the adult leaders simply there to guide and to help organise the activities they want to do - walking, camping, climbing, canoeing or other less traditional scouting activities. So if you are aged between 14 to 18 and looking for adventure then please join our facebook page: Killin Explorer Scouts.

**Harriet Wishart** Scout Leader  
07581 151442

[2ndkillinscouts@gmail.com](mailto:2ndkillinscouts@gmail.com)

So there you have it; a new Leader, the possibility of a new section for the older child and all we need now is some help from parents and others with the skills. Since I am retiring (according to the family & doctors) or cutting back, we are looking for a G.S.L. You don't need to have been in the movement - I will be here for help. Come along, it does not need to be full time. Join Natalie Campbell who helps the various sections out and we have an offer to help in climbing and canoeing when and if needed. We are of course training our own young Leaders and Luke, Olivia, Hazel and Annie are coming along grand and their help in all three sections is most appreciated.

**David Robertson**  
Group Scout Leader

01567 829171

[killin.photog@gmail.com](mailto:killin.photog@gmail.com)



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# This Girl Can



Lizzie 2012

The past three years have been very hard work for Lizzie as she worked towards changing the way she lives and looks. One trigger for the decision to take control of her weight was the passing in 2011 of her mother, who had a long history of strokes, heart problems and type 2 diabetes. The sight of a photograph of herself taken while on a golfing holiday in Portugal in 2012 made her determined to change. "I didn't want to be fat and fifty in two years time". The early stages of her weight loss were hard going and with little social

incentive. "For the first four stone that I lost people didn't even notice". Later on, she had the opposite experience, when people she knew passed her in the street only to spin around and say "Lizzie? I didn't recognise you!" During 2013, Lizzie undertook a number of activities and disciplines, all working in the direction of concerted weight loss. She started using MyFitnessPal and Eddomondo. She took up boxercise and circuits with Tayfitness in the Killin Village Hall. In July she cycled round Loch Tay (34 miles) although she confesses that she walked up the Ardeonaig Brae. In September she again cycled around the Loch, this time without walking any of it. As part of tackling her weight problem, she took on Pete Waugh as her personal trainer. "My Golf handicap went down as my weight went down!" This must have increased the incentive she felt to keep going and by the end of October 2013 Lizzie had lost over seven stone. In February 2014 she was 50 and no longer clinically obese. In April 2014 she had lost nine stone - this also marked 12 months with Pete Waugh as her personal trainer. In June she played 81 holes of golf as a fundraiser between 5am and 6pm. Other activities, including open water swimming and kayaking came back into her life and she undertook a

number of epic cycle rides. By February 2015 she had lost over ten stone and signed up for Skidaddle's first event of the year; a 7km trail race in Aberfoyle. In March she completed the epic Ben Gullipen Hill Race. The Ben Ledi Hill Race and the Ben Ledi Walk, on 6th June, is the next event in the programme. Her story should be an inspiration to anyone who needs to lose weight - hard work and dedication but very rewarding.



Lizzie 2015

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## Triathlon

The Cancer Research UK Jenson Button Triathlon in July will be my first ever Triathlon and I am nervously looking forward to it.

Two years ago I would not have believed you if you had told me that I would be doing this in 2015 – and those that know me would certainly agree with me!

I am not really a runner, preferring the bike to my feet, but I competed in my first ever race in February – a 7K trail race at David Marshall lodge in Aberfoyle, followed by a 6 mile trail race a month later and a 13.5K hill race the week after! When this Triathlon was suggested to me by my sister-in-law I had to think long and hard about it before I signed up.

The event takes place in Markeaton Park in Derbyshire on July 12th.

The first round is a 200m open water swim then a 10k bike ride round the Derbyshire countryside followed by a 2.5k run within the grounds of the park.

The top 50 then compete in the final which is a 400m swim, 20k bike and 5k run. The rest will compete in the Wooden Spoon final repeating the first round distances.

Jenson Button himself will be competing and will be awarding the prizes at the end of the day.

Training for the open water swim will have to wait until Loch Tay has warmed up slightly (although I am hoping to start in May), but the rest of the training is underway.

I am a firm believer now that you should just get up and try rather than saying "I could not do that" – believe me by putting your mind to it #ThisGirlCan. In October I am running the Glencoe half marathon from Kinlochleven to Fort William along the West Highland Way – those that were in the team walking the WHW with me many years ago will remember that section well – and I will be running it this time!

**Lizzie Stevens**

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## Mervyn's Weather

The Gab o' May" seems an appropriate adage to apply to the first few days of the month, so far as 2015 is concerned. The fine warm spell prior to 24th April was followed by a 'U turn' in weather conditions which came as something of a culture shock to the hill lambing. On 3rd May a twelve hour spell of heavy rain, accompanied by a strong S.E. wind and a fresh covering of snow above about 2000 feet, was surely detrimental to any hill lamb that was short of milk or shelter. A brief interlude on 4th has been succeeded by another spell of heavy rain and easterly wind, by courtesy of two low pressure systems revolving round one another, but fairly static over the British Isles. However, these conditions do not as a rule continue unendingly so one must look forward to a return to more acceptable spring conditions. Overall winter and early spring

have had much in common with 2014, minimal snow cover at lower levels, though wetter than normal and with below average sunshine. As in 2014 snow cover above about 2,800ft has been deep and long lasting. Even now, in early May, cover has been coming and going and deep and extensive drifts are loath even to reduce in extent and depth at higher levels.

The cuckoo has returned, although not very vocal and would appear to be following the trend of recent years, few in numbers and brief in its sojourn with us. Swallows and house martins seem to be plentiful and full of song. However it remains to be seen as to whether swifts will continue the decline which has started over the past few years.

**Mervyn K. Browne**  
Ardtalnaig

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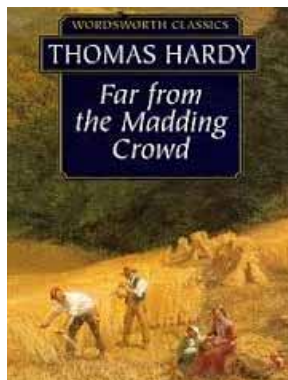
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## Book Review



As a group we have been running for over ten years and during this time we have read various genres. We try occasionally to include a "classic". This time it was "Far from the Madding Crowd".

Like Dickens and Trollope, author Thomas Hardy first published this story in monthly instalments in an 1874 magazine. He set his story in the Wessex countryside and describes in great detail its pastoral landscapes, its moods, the weather and its people. He tells a story of thwarted love.

At the start the heroine, Bathsheba Everdene, is young, carefree and wayward but by inheriting a farm is

suddenly raised within the class system. The young farmer, Gabriel Oak, loves her but loses his farm and so loses his place in society and thus his entitlement to her hand in marriage. The dashing Sergeant Troy, who loves another, wants Bathsheba for her money and finally the reclusive gentleman farmer, Mr Boldwood, loves her but is misled by a Valentine card playfully sent by Bathsheba. The story is excellent but the overwhelming amount of descriptive text got in the way of a good read. So we turned to the film! We watched the 1967 version with Julie Christie and Peter Finch and we all enjoyed the DVD.

This got us thinking - in this day and age, with all the TV, videos and films, we have a wealth of visual knowledge of geography, topography and history that people in the 1870's didn't have. The reader would probably have needed the detailed description of the area, houses, farms and jobs that Thomas Hardy excelled in. This leads one to wonder - how would he have used his penmanship today?

You may have noticed that there is a new version of the film out now. The trailers show a more realistic and less 'Hollywood' style than Schlesinger's!

**Sue Hughes**

Sequel Book Club

## Mobile Libraries

### Tyndrum/Crianlarich Fortnightly Fridays

June 5, 19, July 3, 17, 31

### 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

June 15, 29, July 13, 27

Glenlochay 10.50-12.30  
Ardeonaig 2.00-2.45

### Perth and Kinross Fortnightly Tuesdays

June 16, 30, July 14, 28

Tombreck 16.40-17.00  
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Then come along between 11.00 and 16.00 hours on Sunday 7th June when we will be opening the farms to the general public as part of the Scottish contribution to the UK-wide Open Farm Sunday events.

A range of SRUC research, farm, wigwam, teaching and consultant staff will be on-hand, together with colleagues from the Moredun Research Institute, to help demonstrate the workings of an upland farm.

We have organised a series of events and activities to help explain how the type of research we do helps farmers to produce food and manage the countryside. So come along and:

**Step back** in time and learn about the history of farming in the area;

**Hear about** the challenges facing hill farmers and other land managers in the uplands;

**See working sheepdogs** in action and sheep being clipped;

**Find out more** about the hidden wildlife living on our farms;

**Help** with a survey of pollinators on the farms;

**See a demonstration** of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs);

**Take a tour** of our wooden wigwam enterprise

**Discover** how a range of technology can help to make the farmer's life easier;

**Hear about** how the Moredun Research Institute is ensuring good animal health on upland farms;

**Find out about** the Scottish Government's *Farming for a Better Climate* Programme;

**Hear about** how Soil Association Scotland helps ensure healthy food and farming

The farms are situated 2 miles north of Crianlarich. If walking or cycling then feel free to enter via the West Highland Way. If driving, please use the Auchtertyre/'Wigwams' entrance to access parking facilities.

**Davy McCracken**

Head of SRUC's Hill & Mountain Research Centre

## Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club had their last meeting on 31st March when they had an outing to Dobbies, Stirling. This was enjoyed by all who went. The Club has doubled in membership this last year which is very encouraging. We had a variety of speakers so now the task of getting speakers for next winter is on. The first meeting will be on 6th October. We look forward to welcoming more new members.

### Sports Club

#### 100 club winners

March : Myra Patterson  
April: Eileen McCarron  
May: Kenny Lang

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### Red Nose Day

The Charities Committee organised a very successful Comic Relief Day.

Pupils came to school in non-uniform for a £1 donation, there was a bake sale during morning interval and staff/S6 boys' leg waxing at lunchtime. Each house organised their table of baking and competition was fierce to see who could sell the most cakes! Dochart were declared winners raising almost £86. Well done to Mr Smith, Mr Brown, Mr Williamson and Mr Anderson who agreed to have their legs waxed along with S6 pupils Andrew Nixon, Alex McCrorie and Sam Frost-ouch!! we had raised the fantastic sum of £862.16 – well done everyone.



Amy Forster

Sorcha McGroarty

# McLaren

## Duke of Edinburgh Report



Aaron Hibbert, Laura King, Annie Chisholm, Eve Scott, Rebecca Geddes and Hazel Lafferty

Over the past few weeks all bronze DofE participants have been attending their training weekends. The weekends involved two days of training which will help when pupils embark on their practice and final expeditions which will take place in May/June. On the first day the groups went out navigating, despite the awful weather! The catch up weekend was better as you can see from the photos! Pupils learnt basic navigating skills and put them into practice out and about around Coilhullan Woods. The second day

involved learning about what equipment we should and should not use on our expeditions, this entailed finding out about the most suitable clothing and footwear and the best foods to eat. We even got to make hot drinks on the stoves outside and after enjoying a cuppa we learnt how to put up our tents. The weekend was really enjoyable and will help us all in our actual expeditions. Thanks to all the adult volunteers who helped out.

Laura King  
S3



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# High School

## Rugby Champions



Part of the under 16s team who were crowned Central Schools Rugby Champions

### Hooked for Life

Ross Ronald S1 being presented with a spinning rod and reel by Mr Wallace. Ross has been improving his fly tying skills at lunchtimes in the Fly Tying Club. Ross is considering taking Fly Tying during Activities Week in June.

Mr Wallace



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## Patient Participation Group

At our first meeting the possibility of reopening a satellite surgery and clinic at Crianlarich was discussed and now there is two years' funding available for a pilot scheme in the village hall to take place once a month, also with a nurses' clinic. It is hoped that this will prove helpful for people with long term conditions, follow up appointments and reviews. A start date is not yet in place.

It was noted how successful the new pharmacy has been in the village. This has eased the burden of minor complaints being seen at the surgery and everyone is encouraged to investigate the many services which it offers.

Audrey Whitton has also arranged for the transport funding manager and the services manager to attend the next meeting to try to get to grips with patient transport issues.

Ms. Whitton was also able to tell us that an emergency slot for an appointment is often available if two GPs are on duty and it is early in the day. If this is not the case an emergency can be triaged by a GP to find the most appropriate course of action.

The necessary wastage of drugs, dressings etc. is to be investigated to find out if a charitable need could be addressed.

A new smart phone app. has been launched by NHS and information

about this will be available to secondary students via our young persons' representative who will channel it through McLaren. A new permanent GP is to be appointed soon and may well be in place when this Killin News comes out.

You may have noticed that hard copy patient documents have disappeared from the surgery. This is due to nationwide document scanning and I am assured that this is adequately backed up.

Our CPR and defibrillator training has gone well so far. We have had two evenings thanks to the Killin Hotel management who offered a comfortable venue and the local paramedics who give their training free. It is hoped that more of you will support them by attending future training sessions. Remember - it is most likely that a member of your own family could need you to help to save them.

Thanks to Audrey Whitton, practice manager, for extra work with the PPG. It is hoped that we can help the surgery as well as the local patients. If you are interested in joining please get in touch.

**Linda Frost**  
PPG Chair

## A Typical E

A senior member of the Killin community recently had an appointment at Larbert Hospital for a test after which he would not be able to drive himself home. He rang the number for hospital transport but they asked if he was registered with the Council, which he hadn't realised was necessary. As the formalities could not be completed in time, he decided to take the bus to the hospital. For an appointment at 2.30 he had to set out to get the 10.00 bus from Killin and went to the turning circle. It was a bitterly cold day and he was glad when the bus arrived some minutes before it was due to leave. However the driver completely ignored him and did not open the door and let him in. (It may or may not be the bus company's policy to keep the doors closed but leaving someone standing out in a cold wind instead of sitting in a warm bus is hardly friendly.)

The would-be patient arrived at Callander (where the same driver drove off completely ignoring a nearby lady waving to indicate she wanted to get on). He next took a bus to Stirling and another to Larbert, arriving about 12.00. Realising he was bus dependent, one of the medical staff tried to get him in earlier and even kindly fetched him a sandwich so that he did not have to leave the waiting area and miss an opportunity. However when he was called for the



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## Experience?

test, the first question was "have you anyone with you?" He explained he had travelled by bus so wasn't driving but was told that even so he had to have someone to take him home. In fact the appointment paperwork had merely said "Please feel free to bring someone with you to this appointment". However they wouldn't see him and he set off home. A 59 bus from the hospital to Stirling and Callander due at 2.00 was only going to Stirling that day and went all round the houses before getting there. The Stirling to Callander bus arrived about 4.00 and he was told there would be a bus to Killin at 5.00. In fact the bus was at 5.55 and he arrived back in Killin at 6.40.

So a wasted journey, a wasted appointment and a wasted day. And another few weeks to wait for another appointment and yet another long day. This story is far from unique. Hospital transport is a major problem for both patients and those visiting them. We all agree the new hospital was put in the wrong place for rural communities and that sorting out the transport problems is a top priority. Killin is no longer a place retirees would choose to live in and many older residents are reluctantly considering moving to places where medical and other facilities are more accessible. Maybe our new politicians can help to find a solution?

**MM**

## Killin Beats'on

An absolutely amazing £3,000 was raised on the night of 'Killin Beats'on' for Beatson Cancer Charity in March. I did not expect we would raise anywhere near that amount and I am so thankful to everyone who came along to enjoy the night and help raise that amount of money. I'd also like to thank everyone from around the village and outside who donated to the raffle - it was huge! Thank you to Mojo Risin' - everyone thought you were fantastic and hopefully we will be seeing you back in the village again. One last big thank you (and small apology for being pretty snappy with you all as I was a little stressed) to everyone who helped out on the day/night, it would not have been possible to make the night a success without all your help. I really appreciate it.

**Naomi MacLaren**

## Floral Association

It will soon be time to start planting up gardens, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes for summer colour. The Killin Floral Association will once again be looking out for the best displays and awarding prizes in three main categories, domestic for householders in the village, commercial for all business premises and the children's tallest sunflower competition. The judge this year will be floral and landscape artist and garden enthusiast, Eve Fudge. We will also be planting up the tubs in the village and are always grateful for help with keeping these watered and dead headed. Two of the tubs will be planted up with edible plants and flowers, to celebrate the Scottish year of food and drink. If anyone would like to help us care for the tubs please ring me on 01567 820690. Happy gardening!

**Alicja Fraser**

## Scottish Wildlife Trust

The summer programmes of short walks starts on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June with a visit to the Kinloch Rannoch Limestone Pavement to look at the lime-loving flora and to learn about the geology. Meet at 10.30 am at Lochan an Daim on the Schiehallion Road above Kinloch Rannoch. Bring binoculars. For further information contact Richard Paul 01882 632212 or 07768 881906 On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August there will be a walk to the SWT Tummel Shingle Island Reserve to look for signs of beavers and for molecastles. Wear good footwear. Meet at 2.0pm at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre carpark. For further information contact:

**Richard Horobin**

01796 474480 or 07511 286103



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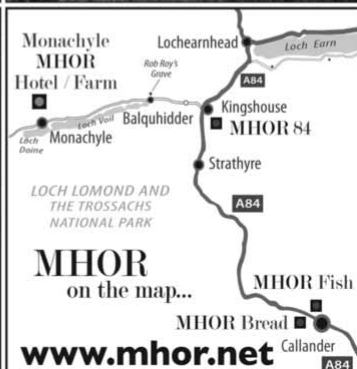
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## Obituaries

### Leonard Humphreys 1927-2015

Leonard Humphreys, better known to most of us as "Len", was born in Southend-on-Sea on 5th April 1927. The family soon moved to Isleworth, Middlesex where Len attended the County School for Boys. Maths, music and cycling were his early interests so it is not surprising that Jean first met Len on his bicycle. She was on her way to church and later that day he persuaded her to join him at the Farnborough Air Show. Their early romance led to their wedding on May 17<sup>th</sup> 1952 when Jean was 20 and Len was 25. In 2012 they gave thanks on their Diamond Anniversary for 60 years of life together.

Len was articled to become a Chartered Accountant and had to study constantly when he was not working. Their daughter, Angela, was born in 1955. To begin with, the firm of L. Humphreys and Co. consisted of Jean as Len's Secretary and one articulated clerk. As his business reputation prospered, the firm became well known and eventually merged with Collington-Crane.

Moving to Ashstead, Surrey, Len sang in the church choir and developed a growing interest in the organ. The couple enjoyed travel and Scotland was a favourite place to visit,

together with Switzerland and Norway. Eventually they had a holiday home in Kenmore and Len enjoyed singing with the Crieff Choral Society. In 1989 they saw a plot of land in Killin which interested them and when they approached William Stitt, the builder, he not only sold them the land in Manse Road but also built their house for them.

Len and Jean were faithful members of St. Fillan's Scottish Episcopal Church during their 25 years in Killin. Len was the church organist and when Dr. Tony Weaver stepped down as church treasurer, Len was the obvious choice to succeed him. He was a great support when we embarked on the church refurbishment project in 2011-12.

More recently, Len's health began to fail and in early April 2015, when he was in the Forth Valley Hospital, his 88th birthday coincided with Easter Sunday. The following day Len left this world knowing that in His Easter triumph over sin and death The Lord has "turned all our sunsets into sunrise".

Len leaves his wife Jean, his daughter Angela, her husband Richard and two grandchildren, Jenny and Robert.

**Rev. Ladd Fagerson**

### Jim Heward 8.9.1939-29.3.2015



Jim was born in Birmingham in 1939. Although a Midlands man by birth, he grew into a cosmopolitan traveller whose spirit of adventure and zest for life took him to all the corners of the globe.

He left school as soon as he could and embarked on an apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering at Averys. During this time he added to his professional qualifications by attending Aston University to complete an HNC in Engineering. It was whilst he was studying here that he met Christine (from Edinburgh)

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## Obituaries

his wife of 52 years.

Jim's interests and hobbies as a young man included walking, working on the renovation of the Midlands canal network, building cars from scratch and being a dedicated Scout Leader.

His interests widened in his later life when he became keenly interested in the arts and in particular became a supporter and huge fan of Ballet West and Scottish Opera.

After marrying in 1963 in Kirkcaldy, he and Christine moved about a fair amount between Scotland and England as Jim advanced his career in Engineering. In 1965, Sarah was born in Wolverhampton and in 1966 Angus was born in Kilwinning.

Over the years, Jim turned his attention and applied his skills to improving and renovating many of the family's homes, the chalet in Killin and Sarah's business, The Real Food Café.

On one of Chris and Jim's many adventures, while cycling through France, they stumbled on a house in the pretty spa town of Lamalou-Les-Bains. The house was in very poor condition making it an ideal DIY project for Jim!

Spurred on by his success in France, he set the bar higher to achieve

another personal dream and build a house from scratch. This was to be the house in Benvoulin Gardens in Oban, a beautiful home overlooking Oban Bay and the Sound of Mull.

The house was completed in 2006 and both Jim and Chris were very happy living here. Jim became involved in many things in Oban including sitting on the board of the cinema and fund raising for Macmillan.

He was of course immensely proud of his family. According to all of them he was the best dad, father-in-law and granddad they could wish for, always there supporting all their ventures and, of course, fixing and building things for them. But probably one of the most significant legacies he left his family was his spirit of adventure and zest for life. The list of activities they shared is a long one and includes skiing, water-skiing, white water rafting, Sea-Fari-ing off Oban, yacht chartering and sailing around the Western Isles, camping in France and at home and motor-homing all over the place. Amongst many other things he and Chris walked the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal, kayaked the Zambezi and cycled from Barra to the Butt of Lewis. Even later in life

he had been to Borneo to Climb Mount Kinabalu and was off in 2012 to Venezuela for adventures as his alter ego 'Jungle Jim'. Jim was simply irrepressible!

Over this last Christmas it became obvious that he was becoming rapidly invalided by his illness. He decided that he had best move to Sarah's house in Killin as it would be easier to cope. With his rapid deterioration in physical ability causing him and the family a lot of problems on a daily basis, a team of carers was brought together from Killin to help care for him and support the family. Our heart-felt thanks go to these wonderful women who were headed up by our dear friend Carol Campbell. Jim made it very clear that he didn't want to go into hospital or a home and the fact that he did not was no mean feat for a man so poorly. He died where he wanted to, surrounded by love and with the best care anyone could ask for. No less than he deserved and exactly what he wanted. He is buried here in Killin.

**Sarah Heward**

### **Do you take long term repeat medication?**

If so you could benefit from the NHS Chronic Medication service offered at your local Davidson's Chemist. Here's how:

#### **Serial Prescriptions**

Serial Prescriptions are long term prescriptions designed to reduce the amount of repeat prescriptions handled through GP practices. Killin Medical Practice has been issuing serial prescriptions for over 6 months to a small number of suitable patients who have registered at our pharmacy for the Chronic Medication Service.

Instead of having to request your repeat prescription from the surgery and then wait 2 days before collection, you can simply walk into the pharmacy and your medication will be made up ready to collect before the previous supply runs out. We will also help to bring all your medication in line so it runs out at the same time.

If we deliver your medication to your local shop, we would simply ask that you phone us rather than the GP and we will be able to send it on our next delivery.

Not all patients will be able to receive serial prescriptions, for example if their condition requires regular reviews or if they are taking a medication which requires frequent monitoring. Once you are registered, it is your GP who makes the final decision as to whether you are suitable to receive a serial prescription.

#### **Medication Use Reviews**

The pharmacist will sit down with you and look at your medicines and talk about how you use them to ensure you are gaining maximum benefit from them. It will give you the opportunity to discuss any problems that you may be having or any questions you may have about your condition or medication. If any questions or concerns are raised the pharmacist will create a care plan to document the issues and how we have or are going to resolve them. If we feel it is beneficial we may also discuss or share your care plan with your GP.

Patients taking high risk medicines such as Methotrexate and Warfarin will be invited for a more in-depth review focusing on this particular medicine to ensure that you are kept safe whilst continuing to gain maximum benefit from them. The service also focuses on new medicines as we understand that there can be a lot of information to take in when starting a new medication. We can take extra time to go over the instructions your doctor has given you and ensure you have had the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the medication.

#### **How to register**

You are more than welcome to pop in anytime to register for the service, at a time convenient to you. The medication review usually takes between 5 and 15 minutes depending on your conditions and medication.

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## *Celebrations*



Alisder Brown, the youngest son of Jane and Laurence Brown, married Gemma Hughes on 21 March 2015 in Montego Bay, Jamaica



Peter Campbell and Kirsty Erskine, married on 10th April 2015 on "Lonely Bay Beach" Coromandel Peninsula, North Island, New Zealand

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## Celebrations



### Rebecka Buchanan

Granddaughter of George and Mary Hunter, Rebecka graduated in December 2014 with a Masters of International Law with distinction. Rebecka has just returned from a 10-week volunteering placement in Togo, West Africa. She volunteered with the charity, Y Care International, as part of the UK Government's International Citizen Service (ICS) programme. During her trip she worked with the YMCA Togo in a prison, orphanage and health centre. Rebecka is about to begin a legal internship with the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, Netherlands.



### 50th Birthday

Sandra Laurence would like to thank everyone who attended her 50th party at Pier Road. Many thanks for the lovely cards and presents. They will all be very useful. Thank you to Gourlay catering, Ron for the photos and also Niall, Stuart, Jill and Catherine for organising and clearing up. Looking forward to New York!



### West Highland Way

Stuart, Jillian and Catherine Laurence picked a great week to complete the West Highland Way. There was blood, sweat and tears but we had an amazing week and we are looking forward to the next challenge.

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# Letters

## 50<sup>th</sup> Party

We would like to say thank you to Sandra Laurence for the invitation to her 50th Birthday party. We were all blessed by the weather as the sun shone and the evening was warm, thankfully as it was an outdoor event in a marquee. The food was a BBQ hosted by Gourlay and it couldn't be faulted, well there wasn't much left so that speaks for itself.

Thank you Sandra we had a great time.

**Herbie, Janice,  
Jamie and Theresa**

## Thank you

The family of the late William MacNee would like to thank you all most sincerely for your attendance at the memorial service in the Parish church conducted by the lovely Terry Taylor, Aberfoyle, during their recent sudden and very sad loss. Many thanks to Marion and David for such moving and unforgettable tributes, to piper Roger Sharp, to Matt of Lochearn House for such an enjoyable buffet at the McLaren Hall and to Ross Anderson for his professional and caring arrangements.

**M. MacNee**

## Thank you

The Staff and pupils of Crianlarich Primary School would like to thank the Killin Hotel and the Killin Co-operative for their generous donations of food when the pupils were unable to return home for several hours due to the recent road closure.

They also thank the community for their offers of help to support the pupils during their stay at Killin Primary. This was very much appreciated.

## Volunteer Research

My name is Shonagh Ferguson and I am a Research Intern with Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise. I am currently carrying out a Voluntary Sector Mapping research project.

My research will investigate who volunteers, why people volunteer and what benefit volunteering is to both the individual and the organisation.

There are two aspects to the research:

**Organisations:** I am looking to hear from groups, organisations and social enterprises that involve volunteers. Please complete the survey here: : <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/svevolunteer>

**Individuals:** (people who volunteer AND people who don't volunteer) I would also like to speak to anyone living in the Stirlingshire area to gather their views about volunteering. This is open to both those who volunteer and those who do not volunteer. The questionnaire can be found at: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/sveindividual>

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The walking group has been enjoying the programme of spring walks over the last 8 weeks. Some of our walks have been in and around the village while others have been a bit further afield. The group makes use of the Killin Community Bus and recently we walked at Kennoch, Glen Lochay and along the National Cycle Route 7 from Mhor 84 towards Strathyre. Our new programme taking us into summer is now available. Walk in the Park have planned an Open Day in June and are inviting

you to come and join us.  
**Walk in the Park – Open Day**  
 Wednesday 24th June 10.20 – 1pm  
 10.20am Meet at McLaren Hall Car Park  
 10.30am Short Walk by Finlarig Castle  
 11.15 refreshments at the Killin Hotel  
 12.00 Strength and Balance Session  
 1pm End  
 Come for all or just some of the activities. All sessions are free. Walkers pay only for their own refreshments.  
**Introducing Strength and Balance**  
 As part of our open day we will be introducing a session of Strength and Balance to keep you walking with confidence. This session is aimed at

older adults (65 – 95+) although anyone will feel the benefit of them. These exercises are very gentle and are done from a seated position or standing behind a chair. They include knee bends and leg raises and are based on the Otago falls prevention programme. A Physiotherapist from Callander Medical Centre will be present if you need advice with these exercises. It is envisaged that a session will run every Wednesday during the summer months. If you have any questions regarding joining any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Project Coordinator-

**Cathy Scott**  
 01877 330055

[cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

Date	Meet	Route
10th June	McLaren Car Park Car share	Glen Ogle to Viaduct
17th June	McLaren Car Park	Loch Circuit or Old Railway if wet
24th June	McLaren Car Park	Open Day Pier Road and Finlarig Castle Strength and Balance session in the Killin Hotel
1st July	McLaren Car Park	Village Walk
8th July	McLaren Car Park Mini bus	Glen Ogle to the War Memorial
15th July	McLaren Car Park Car share	Golf Club
22nd July	McLaren Car Park Mini bus	Tarmachan Path
29th July	Capercaillie	River Dochart and Old Railway

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Guardian writer Andrew Brown saw fit to include the U3A in the newspaper's regular column entitled "In Praise of....." by

comparing U3A with other universities and he recognises the fact that Third Agers come together "for the delight of learning alongside other people driven by the same need". He notes: "It (the U3A) neither gives nor recognises any qualifications. No one has to pretend that it adds anything at all to Britain's economic competitiveness.

## Callander & West Perthshire U3A

There is no campus. It has no place in league tables. The price of attendance is time and commitment. No wonder it is growing: the U3A is, in some senses, the only real university left in Britain". The social side of U3A is as important as the learning side in that new friendships are forged very quickly when shared interests are pursued and medical research points to a happier and a longer life if you can find a circle of acquaintances with whom you enjoy spending time. Our instrumental group 'Imperfect Pitch' is now well established and the 'Mahjong' group has found a leader. A very successful visit to Pompeii and

Herculeum took place recently, arranged by Peter Ireland as the climax to his Classical History course. We are now looking forward to our musical event at Venachar Lochside when members will be entertained by three groups: 'Callander Chimes' from Forth Valley U3A, the Ukelele Band from Perth U3A and our own 'Singing for Pleasure' group. The U3A year will come to a close in July and our AGM will be held in late August prior to courses starting again in September. Anyone interested in finding out more about our group please Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.

**Marguerite Kobs**

### Community Auction

The Easter Saturday Auction was once again a resounding success with around £1,500 being raised. The generosity of the community in donating the goods and the bidders who went away well pleased with their purchases, made the result the best since this event began. The hard work by the ladies in the kitchen and the girls serving the refreshments added to the jocular of the evening, and aided the competitive bidding. The support given to Local Organisations and Worthy Causes will continue to benefit all age groups and appeals for help through unforeseen calamities and circumstances are addressed in the name of our community. Once again many thanks from all in the Killin Lodge for your help and support.

**Alex Stewart** Lodge Secretary

### Flower and Quilt Festival

We are at present planning a Flower and Quilt Festival in the Parish Church of Killin and Ardeonaig from the 5th to 11th September.

The main purpose is to sell a large quilt by silent auction. There will also be smaller quilts and other craft items for sale and refreshments with home baking. All proceeds will be donated to the church. We hope to involve the community in this event and will be asking all local groups to participate by putting in a flower arrangement. If anyone would like to offer a quilt for display we would be pleased to hear from you. We will also be looking for offers of help with stewarding and baking etc. More details will be available nearer the time.

**Sally Connor (820755)**  
**Ann Watson and Sue Hughes**

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# Expedition to Assam

World famous explorer and President of the Scientific Exploration Society, Colonel John Blashford-Snell, has recently returned from leading a team which included retired Royal Engineer, Tom Gallagher of Killin on an exhilarating expedition to Assam. On the Indian border, overlooked by the towering mountains of Bhutan, lies the Manas National Park - 1000 square miles of jungle and uninhabited stretches of grassland. As yet relatively few visitors make the three hour drive out from Guwahati, Assam's capital. Encouraged by the Bodoland Territorial Council, a British expedition organised by The Scientific Exploration Society, has just completed a successful reconnaissance and community aid programme in this remote area. The 21 strong multi-discipline team's tasks were to study the wild elephant and catalogue other creatures whilst encouraging the local people to preserve the fauna and flora. Movement through the park was largely on domestic elephant and sometimes in jeeps or on foot. Twelve tame elephants, often accompanied by their one year old babies, were fitted with a newly designed howdah carrying two passengers. Directed by Dr Tessa Donovan-Beermann, a veteran of many Scientific Exploration Society elephant study projects, the team observed over a hundred wild elephant, six rhino and two tiger. They also encountered gaur (bison), water buffalo, deer, wild boar and a couple of large python, one of whom had eaten a camp chicken! The area is known as a haunt of the world's most venomous snake, the enormous king cobra. Amongst the numerous birds listed was the rare Bengal Florican, a type of bustard that is now an endangered species. Bob Atwater of the US Explorers Club made a study of the trees and plants,

which, it is hoped, will protect from illegal loggers.

At the end of a long hot day with temperatures rising over 30°C expedition members were delighted to bath their elephants in the cool clear waters of the Manas river. Inflatable rafts were used to sail down the river so that wildlife coming to drink could be counted. Water buffalo were spotted and fresh tracks of tiger leading to a kill site.



Tom Gallagher

The Bodo people rarely get the service of a team dentist. She was especially welcome - and extracted over sixty teeth. Second hand reading glasses were also handed out to those in need as well as books, satchels and their very first computer. The visitors saw the production of beautiful silk, made by the silk worms bred for this purpose and the distillation of the rice wine. Ms Parbati Barua, the legendary 'Queen of The Elephants', briefed the team at an elephant training camp where many cute baby elephants, some

only a few days old, were living. The expedition met an extraordinary group consisting of former insurgents, ex-poachers and young people known as the Manas Maozigendri Ecotourism Society. This unique body is the first to be established in India and aims to boost local economy by promoting conservation and ecotourism. This is truly poachers becoming gamekeepers.

Assam has suffered from political conflicts for many years and as there was an outbreak of violence last year, the team had an armed escort of police and para-military soldiers. However no hostility was experienced. Indeed the people made them very welcome. The only time a guard had to fire his rifle was when an angry matriarchal elephant began to charge a jeep. The shot into the air turned her away. Wild elephants often damage people's crops and sometimes attack houses in search of salt or grain. Lieutenant Colonel Tom Gallagher worked on ways of deterring elephants by testing an electric PIR device that emits high pitched sound. It was felt this might work for a while, until the highly intelligent beasts got used to it, as they do to most forms of defence that have been used up to now.

No large scale maps of the area were available so Splash Maps Ltd produced a special edition printed on cloth. It proved invaluable.

There were surprisingly few insects and the weather was usually dry and hot, but several dramatic electrical storms hit the area.

The expedition ended with a Burns Supper. Tasty haggis kindly donated by Stahly Quality Foods was an interesting change from the Indian dishes.

**Sarah Jane Lewis**

[www.ses-explore.org](http://www.ses-explore.org)

[sjanelewis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sjanelewis@yahoo.co.uk)

M:07817624935

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# Think About It

My Granny was a character. She had some wonderful sayings. She and my widowed mother would stand at the window of our house on the main street to watch the local people walk to church. This was the late 1940s/early 1950s when few had cars but many went to church. If Granny saw a woman who, though posing in her finery, was in reality a bit plain, she'd say "Aye, it's a braw burd the puddock (toad)". If she asked me to do something for her and I messed it up, I'd be reproved with the words "You're about as handy as a wee pot wi' nae arse in it". But she was the softest and kindest of souls. I would come down for breakfast in a morning and find her in tears as she read of some sad event in the morning newspaper. She could not bear the idea that any family was short of food or rent and I'd be dispatched with a gift to fill the gap. "It's nae loss what a freen gets", she'd say if I ever had any look of

doubt on my face. We had little enough ourselves in those post-war days. Though not 'church hungry' Granny was a good Christian soul and brought me up in that happy atmosphere. I'm telling you all this because I firmly believe that the love and simple honest belief in the goodness of God that surrounded me in my early years gave me a firm grounding in what I came to see as the meaning, purpose and direction of my life. That is, to love God with heart and mind and soul and strength and my neighbour as myself. But I know I must see my neighbour as he/she really is and admit to the limitations of my own 'handiness' in working out how best to love God and my neighbour. I'll have to listen hard and hope to hear what Granny says about it!

**John Shedden**

## Duck Race

This year's duck race raised a grand total of £970 net. The funds will go to the Killin Parent Partnership.

### Results

**1st Janette Weir**  
**2nd Duncan Hewitt**  
**3rd Donald Hancock**



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# Local Planning Applications

## National Park

**14 May**

**Proposal:** High voltage overhead line reinforcement works

Location: Land At Tigh Na Craoibh Crianlarich

Applicant: Alan Coburn

Application Type: Statutory

Notification - overhead lines

Decision: Pending Consideration

**12 May**

**Proposal:** High voltage overhead line reinforcement works

Location: Land At Mid Lix Farm Lochearnhead

Applicant: Alan Coburn

Application Type: Statutory

Notification - overhead lines

Decision: Pending Consideration

**24 March**

**Proposal:** Installation of 1 projecting sign

Location: MacGregor's Market Shop Morenish Place Main Street Killin

Applicant: Ms Katy MacLeod

Application Type: Advertisement Consent

Decision: Pending Consideration

**24 March**

**Proposal:** Repair of damaged parapets

Location: Bridge Of Dochart Main Street Killin

Applicant: Mrs Lorna Martin

Application Type: Listed Building Consent

Decision: Pending Consideration

**12 March**

**Proposal:** Erection of a conservatory

Location: 23 Manse Road Killin

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Gallagher

Application Type: Householder Planning Permission

Decision: Permitted Development

**7 May**

**Proposal:** Change of use from 'ancillary' retail store to Class 9 (residential)

Location: 1 Myrtle Grove Main Street Killin

Applicant: Mrs Jackie Bremner

Application Type: Detailed

Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

**23 April**

**Proposal:** Installation of replacement windows

Location: 2 Dochart Road Killin

Applicant: Mr W Stewart

Application Type: Householder

Planning Permission

Decision: Refuse

**24 April**

**Proposal:** Formation of 18 access

tracks: (2 Achray Forest, 1 Glenbranter Forest, 3 Crianlarich, 1 East Loch Ard Forest, 1 South Loch Ard Forest, 3 Central Loch Ard Forest and 4 South West Loch Ard Forest)

Location: Various Locations As Per The Proposal

Applicant: Mr Andy Malcolm

Application Type: Prior

Notification

Decision: Pending Consideration

**14 April**

**Proposal:** Erection of 2 dwellinghouses

Location: Land Adjacent To Station House Station Road Crianlarich

Applicant: Mr Peter Bradford

Application Type: Detailed

Planning Permission

Decision: Pending Consideration

**23 April**

**Proposal:** Installation of electric vehicle charging point

Location: The Real Food Cafe

Tyndrum Crianlarich

Applicant: Ms Sarah Heward

Application Type: Detailed

Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

**9 March**

**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: Enquiry/PAC completed

**Perth & Kinross Council**

**10 April**

**Proposal:** Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, erection of a garage, formation of a new access and associated works

Location: Briar Cottage Fearnan

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Bill Davidson

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision:

**24 March**

**Proposal:** Erection of a dwellinghouse

Location: Land 60 Metres South West Of Lawers Mill Lawers

Applicant: Mr Stefan Tymkewycz

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision: Pending Consideration

**8 May**

**Proposal:** Erection of a dwellinghouse

Location: Former Crofthouse

Tombrack Lawers

Applicant: Ecological Architecture

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision: Application Approved

**Stirling Council**

**2 April**

**Proposal:** Forest road upgrade and new turning area

Location: Land Some 1500 Metres South East Of Cuilodchart Killin

Applicant: TFP 2008 LLP

Application Type: Agricultural Notification

Decision: Approve

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# Killin Dramatic Club



Scene from the Comedy Festival

Ron Alner

We are pleased to have been awarded a grant of £800 from Asda as part of the money raised in the six months since the carrier bag charge was brought in. In a partnership with Foundation Scotland, Asda is distributing half the funds raised through Asda carrier bag community grants, which provide up to £2,000 for local projects and good causes. Local groups apply to Foundation Scotland for funding and, to ensure the grants are as locally relevant as possible, regional selection panels vote on the projects

to benefit. Killin Dramatic Club is one of the many projects to benefit from the first round of funding and will use the money to cover the costs of heating the hall from mid-September to mid-January for pantomime rehearsals. This will take a lot of pressure off the club and allow them to stop worrying about hall rental cost and instead concentrate more on the artistic side of the next pantomime. The hall is large and cold so it is important that heating is provided to keep the actors focused and motivated,

particularly with young children during the winter evenings. The grants can help meet a wide range of costs for community groups, including general running costs, training, equipment and materials and even local community activities and events. It's quick and easy to apply and it's not just for registered charities – the website [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/asda](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/asda) has more information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply.

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## Killin Golf Club

### Senior Gents Open 13th May Results:

#### Category 1 (0-14)

- 1 A Lyons (Tulliallan) 65
- 2 Glenn Marshall (Rye Hill) 66
- 3 George Ferguson (Cardross) 67

#### Category 2 (15-28)

- 1 John Dalton (Killin) 63
- 2 Kerr Butterworth (Killin) 64
- 3 J Delany (Auchterarder) 65

#### Nearest the pin 15-28:

John Dalton (Killin)

#### Nearest the pin 0-14:

Jim Burton (Killin)

#### Nearest the pin in 2:

G Wayte (Whitecraigs)

#### Handicap winner (Kiltyrie Trophy):

John Dalton (Killin) 63

#### Mactaggart Trophy (Best Local h/cap 15-28)

John Dalton (Killin) 63

#### Lix Toll Trophy (Best Local h/cap 1-14)

Bruce Ford (Killin) 68

#### Magic 2's

Jim Rutherford (Killin), J Miller (Whitecraigs), John Ramage (Whitecraigs), A Lyons (Tulliallan) x 2, Lachlan MacGregor (Callander), B Stevenson (Callander), Kerr Butterworth (Killin), Jim Burton (Killin), John McIlroy (Kenmore), B Lawson (Crieff), Craig Fraser (Killin)  
CSS: 66

**Liz Stevens**

## Breadalbane Killin Curling Club

### Results

**Winnipeg:** Hamish Campbell

**Gregor McGregor Medal** (Winnipeg runner up):  
Colin McRae

#### Points:

**Medwood Cup** (Overall Points winner):

Iain Wragg 30

**McGibbon Medal** (Runner up): Sheila Aitken 29

**Stroyan Cup** (Ladies): Sheila Aitken 29

**Countess of Breadalbane Medal** (Ladies runner up) Diane Devlin 24

**McGibbon Cup** (Club League): Jan McCready

**Jan Rough Brooch** (Club League runner up):  
Liz Stevens

**Dr Mairi Salver:** Cathie Reid

**Centenary Shield** (First Breadalbane League Game): Killin 1

**Fraser Cup** (Pairs):

Doug Livingstone and Kenny Campbell

**Peter Stewart Salver:** Stewart Christie

**John Willison Trophy** (Killin v Glendochart):

2013/14: Glendochart

2014/15: Killin

**Breadalbane Province:** Kenmore 2

skipped by Peter Ely

**Waldie Griffiths:** Renfrewshire 12th

**Atholl/Breadalbane Bonspeil:** Atholl

**Strathfillan Stone:** Killin

**Outing Medal:** Cathie Reid

We are always looking for new members to the curling club. We are very friendly and enjoy the craic on and off the ice - sometimes over a wee dram. There are beginners sessions at Perth ice rink at a very low cost and we also have a practice night at the beginning of the season (roughly September to March).

If you are interested in joining or would like more information please contact:

**Liz Stevens**

Secretary

07973 435917

01567 820369

[lizziekillin@gmail.com](mailto:lizziekillin@gmail.com)

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Wednesday 24th June 9.30 - 11.30  
Wednesday 8th July 9.30 - 11.30  
Wednesday 22nd July 9.30 - 11.30  
Wednesday 5th August 9.30 - 11.30  
Wednesday 19th August 9.30 - 11.30  
Wednesday 2nd September 9.30 - 11.30  
Wednesday 16th September 9.30 - 11.30

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# What's On in Killin and District

## June

- 6 Beetle Drive p38
- 7 Kirkton Farm Open Day p21
- 10 Walk in the Park 10.20am p31
- 13 Woodland Event Strathfillan p10
- 13 NTS Guided Walk 11am Ben Lawers Car Park p14
- 17 Walk in the Park meet 10.20am p31
- 18 Green Team 6pm meet School p15
- 19 Cancer Research UK Savory and Wine McLaren Hall 7.30pm p6
- 20 SWT meet 10.30am p25
- 24 Walk in the Park 10.20am p31
- 26 Killin Community Choir Concert McLaren Hall 7.30pm
- 27/28 Sale of clothes Old Mill 10am-4pm
- 28 Big Shed Concert p7

## July

- 1 Walk in the Park 10.20am p31
- 2 Green Team 6pm School p15
- 8 NTS Walk 1.30pm Ben Lawers Car Park p14
- 8 Walk in the Park 10.20am p31
- 14 KCC meeting Church Community Rooms 7.30pm
- 15 Walk in the Park 10.20am p31
- 15 NTS Talk 8pm Lynedoch p15
- 16 Green Team 6pm School p15
- 17 NTS Walk 9.30am Ben Lawers Car Park p14
- 18 Community Woodland Event p10
- 18/19 NTS Walks 9.30am Lynedoch p14
- 21 NTS Walk 10.30am Ben Lawers Car Park p14
- 22 Walk in the Park 10.20am p31
- 25 Ceilidh Big Shed 8pm p16
- 29 Walk in the Park 10.20am p31
- 29 NTS Walk 1.30pm Ben Lawers Car Park p14
- 29 NTS Talk 8pm Lynedoch p15
- 30 Green Team 6pm School p15

### Beavers

Tuesdays  
6-7pm  
Lesser Hall

### Book Club

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

### Cubs

Tuesdays  
7.15 - 8.45pm  
Lesser Hall

### Badminton

Monday  
evenings  
Crianlarich Hall

### Choir

Usually Tuesdays  
Church 7.30pm  
phone Franny  
01567 829048

### Softplay Club

Tuesdays  
Sports Pavilion  
12.30 - 2.30pm

### Internet Cafe

Thursdays  
Killin Library  
11am-4pm

### Scouts

Wednesdays  
7-9pm  
Lesser Hall

### Tiddlers & Toddlers

1st and 3rd Thursday  
Community Rooms  
10am-12 noon

### Laptop Access

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

### Tai Chi

Wednesday  
Tyndrum Hall  
9.30am

### Strath Lunch Club

Fridays  
Crianlarich Hall

### Yoga

Fridays  
Big Shed  
10.30-noon

### Youth Group (Crianlarich)

Thursday evenings  
Crianlarich Hall

### Youth Group (Killin)

Tuesdays 7.30pm  
Sports and Social Club

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**Saturday and Sunday**

**10am-5pm**

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