

# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

June/July 2019 Issue 170 Price £1



# Killin News

## Editorial

We have now reached the halfway point in the year and with it comes another wonderful change of season. As I sit writing this, my bedroom window frames a pastoral scene of lush green hills and clear blue skies. Swallows swoop down from the eaves catching insects, and bumblebees dance around colourful garden plants. Such a sight is always inspiring, and yet bittersweet, as issues of the environment come to dominate news headlines once more.

April saw the hottest Easter on record – the same weekend climate change movement Extinction Rebellion staged a series of protests in London. The following week the Scottish and UK parliaments declared a climate change emergency, with the latter aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. It is no surprise then that these issues have found their way into the local discourse. You will notice this crop up frequently in Issue 170, from forthcoming projects such as the Heart 200 and the new Glen Lochay electricity station, to eco-friendly gardening tips, moles and Ron Allner's butterfly photographs – a beautiful celebration of the area's biodiversity. Climate change is a heady topic for the Killin News, and this welcome newsletter will certainly not afford space for analysis, but we hope the issues addressed inside will encourage debate amongst yourselves.

June will bring the return of two of the year's biggest events: The Bob MacGregor Memorial Trials and Killin Music Festival. Although dirt bikes and bagpipes have little in common, both are guaranteed to be thrilling spectacles. As previous years have shown, tickets for the music festival sell fast, so hurry to book if you haven't already!

MG

## 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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## Index

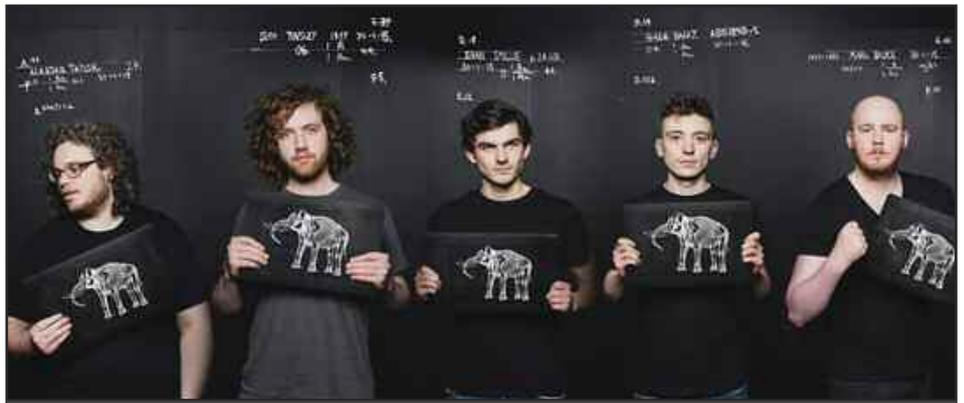
|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Ads Index                       | 38 |
| All Things Wild & Wonderful     | 20 |
| Beauty of Spring                | 21 |
| Car Scheme Update               | 24 |
| Community Auction               | 37 |
| Celebrations                    | 36 |
| Eco Friendly Weedkiller         | 20 |
| Editorial                       | 2  |
| Frost Report                    | 22 |
| Heart 200                       | 4  |
| Jumble Sale Thank You           | 28 |
| KAT                             | 6  |
| Killin Community Council        | 13 |
| Killin Floral Association       | 29 |
| Killin Highland Games           | 13 |
| Killin Music Festival           | 3  |
| Killin Primary School           | 14 |
| Local Limericks                 | 13 |
| Local Planning Applications     | 37 |
| McLaren High School             | 8  |
| Mobile Libraries                | 39 |
| Mole                            | 11 |
| Musings From The Manse          | 29 |
| Nature Photos                   | 18 |
| Natural Beauty                  | 38 |
| New Year Firework               | 32 |
| NTS Walks                       | 30 |
| Obituary                        | 33 |
| Old Mill Jumble Sale            | 28 |
| Outdoor Bowling                 | 23 |
| Ploughing Competition           | 26 |
| Proposed Electrical Sub-Station | 25 |
| Recycling Centres               | 39 |
| Ron's Village Snaps             | 18 |
| Scouts                          | 34 |
| Sports and Leisure Club         | 7  |
| Strathfillan By The Way         | 12 |
| Strathfillan Community Council  | 13 |
| Thank You Killin                | 23 |
| This Is Rubbish                 | 38 |
| U3A                             | 24 |
| Walk in the Park                | 19 |
| What's On                       | 39 |
| Which Bin                       | 39 |

## Front Cover

View from Finlarig towards  
Tarmachan Ridge  
Photo Ron Allner

# KILLIN 19 MUSIC FESTIVAL

Killin Music Festival has released the last batch of tickets for their fourth annual festival, which runs from Friday 14th June through to Sunday 16th June. Ticket buyers have ploughed through the previous batches, so the final limited release of tickets is expected to go fast. "It's a perfect distance away for a day trip and we get to sleep in our own beds when we get home!" said one 2018 festival goer. Another reveller from 2017 added "It's the best value for money music festival we have attended so far". The festival offers some of the best music Scotland has to offer in one of the most beautiful places in the Highlands. Although the line-up is impressive, the event is scaled down, so that performances are intimate, and the bar areas are sociable (no mile-long queues to get your drink!). There is something for all tastes – from a relaxed seated concert to bouncing night-time shows. All events are indoors or under cover, so there is no need to fear the



**Elephant Sessions**

temperamental weather. There is also a variety of free fringe events taking place during the weekend, including the second festival stage, competitions and a craft fair. Festival goers will have a chance to take in the stunning scenery and warm hospitality the historic area has to offer. For 2019 the festival welcomes the most exciting traditional music bands around, including headliners Trail West, Elephant Sessions and Siobhan Miller. This year sees different genres taking to the stage, including soul-funk phenomenon Tom McGuire and the Brassholes, and fresh indie band The 101. There will again be



**Siobhan Miller**

music in the Portnellan Tent from Headland, Dlù and Greig Taylor. Access to the tent is free of charge and perfect for a family day out. The tent will also be showcasing young talent from around Scotland. The full festival line-up can be found on the website. Hurry now to make sure you get your hands on tickets for a fantastic weekend of music and merriment in the heart of Scotland.

**Tickets can be purchased at [www.killinmusicfestival.com](http://www.killinmusicfestival.com)**



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# The Heart 200: A Bless

A new tourist route taking in Killin's top beauty spots is set to launch this June, in an ambitious effort to boost visitor numbers and local business.

The Heart 200 will link 200 miles of existing road networks around Stirling, Perthshire, Lomond and Cairngorm National Parks, and include attractions such as The Falls of Dochart and MacNab Burial Ground.

An interactive map pinpointing 29 key stops with sub-tour itineraries along the route will encourage users to stay longer and spend more in rural communities, claims Heart director Robert Cairns.

"We need visitors and the longer they stay the better," said Mr Cairns, owner of the Fortingall Hotel. "Footfall has increased in Stirling, but spend is down. We aim to spread out footfall and encourage visitors to stay 2 or 3 nights in each place and then return year after year."

He added: "We will also be promoting places of interest within 15 miles or so either side of the route – the benefit spread will be much greater than any other UK route."

Local opinion towards the initiative, which is marketed at young families and the over 50s, has been mixed. As a route used mainly for driving, there are fears that the Heart 200 will inherit the same problems as the North Coast 500.

A resident in Aultbea gave an account of life on the NC500 to Killin News, describing "huge motorhomes, massive amounts of litter, and human waste at the side of the roads."

Mr Cairns addressed these concerns saying: "The press thus far when comparing the NC500 and Heart 200 miss out one fundamental difference – the NC500 is predominately single track with almost no opportunities to turn right or left and additionally with minimal built infrastructure to support visitor traffic."

"As for large vehicles - the interactive map will identify roads considered unsuitable for coaches, caravans and large motor homes, for example, Coshieville through to Fearnan."

However, in a recent press release, Glen Lyon & Loch Tay Community Council revealed the extent of road safety issues along the route such as crumbling road edges and potholes. It stated: "Like the NC500, the roads in the Glen Lyon & Loch Tay Community Council area are mostly C-class – single track roads with passing places. There is definitely no huge scope for an increase in numbers."

"The Coshieville to Aberfeldy stretch – despite being a B-road, is actually in a much better state than the A827 which is one of the few direct East-West links in Scotland joining the A9 and A85."

The same report criticised the lack of public consultation, despite Perth & Kinross Council approving £50,000 investment in the project in February 2018. Susan Dolan-Betney, Chair of Glen Lyon CC, said: "Our own Councillors didn't even flag it up to us. The first the people here knew was in an article in The Courier."

Mr Cairns said that the project was not cast in stone and that public discussion would be welcomed after the route was launched. "Changes can be made to cover engineering works, congestion and local concern – communities come first," he responded.

The social and environmental impact of the route was another issue raised by locals. Tombreck residents Sue Manning and Wendy Graham argued that such 'driving routes' should be discouraged following Holyrood and Westminster's declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' last month.

Ms Manning said: "If money is available to promote tourism and travel in this area, it should be used to encourage low carbon travel such as walking, cycling, travel by horse and public transport, and should benefit locals and visitors alike."

Ms Graham suggested a new public transport route linking Pitlochry and Crianlarich train stations as an eco-friendly alternative to the Heart 200: "For these people, arrival at Edinburgh, followed by a train trip to Pitlochry and a bus across Perthshire before returning to the Central Belt via Crianlarich would be attractive."

"Ticketing could encourage travellers to take a few days over their trip and would increase the amount they are likely to spend on meals, accommodation and activities."



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# ing or Curse for Killin?

In face of criticism, Mr Cairns maintains that the Heart 200 is not a driving route but a "touring route – places to see and stay with 29 key stops offering a warm welcome, activities, entertainment and a dram or two. It is for people who want to dawdle and relax."

With Killin being one of the key stops, some residents view the route as positive development. Jackie Bremner, owner of Escape, said: "The Heart 200 roads already carry tourist buses and traffic throughout the mainly summer and autumn months. We would hope that the impact of Heart 200 would not burden these roads too much. It may however result in the need for Stirling and Perth councils to increase the frequency of road maintenance on the route."

"The village is likely to be busier, bringing more tourists and resulting in welcome revenue income to businesses and increased work opportunities for local folk."



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# KAT Killin and Ardeonaig Trust

## News First

In the last issue we reported that the shop had been closed for renovations. The renovations were completed and the shop re-opened for business at the end of March. Unfortunately, due to mistakes made by the Post Office with regard to the internet line ordered, the Post Office counter was not fully operational from day one. Until this issue was resolved alternative arrangements were made where possible to take items for posting to Strathyre. This was a stressful time for MacGregor's and we thank everyone for their patience. We hope you like the look and feel of the shop after the renovations. Our application to The Fore was not successful which left us with a shortfall for the funds required to complete the purchase and time running out. Unfortunately, most funding sources will not fund the purchase of a business, so this has meant we have had to try and find other sources to fill the shortfall. We are very fortunate that this gap has now been closed. We will be holding an official opening of the shop on Friday 31st May. For final details we will put a notice up in the shop and we would love to see you there. KAT knows how important the services that MacGregor's provide to the community, like the Post Office, Newsagents and Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). This is due to the generous support this project has received from the community of Killin. In order for this project to succeed we need to ensure your

support continues.

What do we need you to do? Simply make sure you use the services MacGregor's provides and buy products from the shop. This will ensure that the shop will continue to grow.

## Breadalbane Park

We are hoping in May that Stirling Council will be fitting the Viking Swing. This will be the start of the new play park and we hope you will all like it.

We are disappointed to have lost the centre piece of the play equipment in the sand area, but are glad that Stirling Council have managed to restore the equipment so that children can still play on it safely.

We will be submitting a funding application to the Robertson Trust in June for funds towards the new Play Park. We will keep you updated on progress.

We have also submitted an application to Stirling Council 'Your Stirling, You Decide'. Hopefully we will make it through the first stage. If we are successful in that stage, we will need your vote in order to give our proposal a better chance of being taken forward and progressing with getting more play equipment into the play park. Voting will be from 27th May to 23rd June.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further updates (Friends of Breadalbane Park Killin).

We will hear in July if we are successful with our Community Green Flag award again this year

and will update you in the next Killin News.

## KAT AGM

KAT will not be holding their AGM until September this year (date to be arranged). The main reason for this is that KAT has changed the date on which their accounts finish. Our accounts used to end on the 31st October, but now will end on 31st March to bring them in line with some of our funding. Once the end date has been reached the accounts need to be completed, audited and a report written up. This can take around 5 months to complete. We also felt that holding the AGM in the school holidays was not a good idea.

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|---------------|--|
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| Wed 12th June |  |
| Wed 26th June |  |
| Wed 10th July |  |
| Wed 24th July |  |
| Wed 7th Aug   |  |
| Wed 21st Aug  |  |

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

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**Community Sport Hub Update**

The Community Sport Hub met once again on April 30th, marking one year since the initial engagement session for the hub. In that time the hub has connected in with 16 different groups and clubs through at least one meeting and have hosted eight meetings that have seen local priorities for sport and physical activity culminating in a hub action plan. Within that, the hub is progressing partnerships and links which will provide opportunities focused on people, places, profile, participation and connection. Over the coming months we will be working closely to align initiatives based on the club's feasibility study, looking to host a clubs open door week and share more in-depth case studies of local opportunities. As always if you would like to learn more or are interested in being involved please contact:

KDSLCL at info@kdscl.co.uk or the CSH Officer Christopher McKenna at: mckennac@stirling.gov.uk  
**Easter Holiday Activities**  
Over the Easter school holidays we ran two activity days for primary 1-7 school pupils. Over the two days we had sport sessions delivered by Active Stirling, walks delivered by the National Trust and much more! We



thank all our volunteers and deliverers who helped the children to have a great time during their holidays.  
**Five-a-Side Football**  
Now that the better weather has arrived once more, we have started up football sessions again on the astro turf pitch. The sessions will now

be on a Monday evening (from 7pm) and will be for age 16 (+) (unless accompanied by a responsible adult, either playing or watching and the children must be at least 14 years old). As previously there will be a small charge of £1.

**Book Sale**

We also hosted a book/CD/DVD sale at the sport pavilion on Saturday, April 20th. Many thanks for the kind donations and endeavors of those who supported the day, culminating in funds of £120 being raised for general repairs to the building.

**Feasibility Study**

Last issue we outlined our work to undertake a feasibility study with the aim of seeing if there is demand to expand our current pavilion into a modernised, flexible community facility. The response across the surveys has been absolutely brilliant and we look forward to sharing some of the findings from this with you shortly.

**Christopher McKenna**

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**Comic Relief**

Our S6 Charities Committee organised a Mufti Day and fancy dress parade on Friday 15th March to raise money for Comic Relief. S6 pupils and staff put in a huge effort with their dressing up costumes and the winners were announced as follows:

S6 pupils 1st place—Freddie Mercury (Iona Whitehead)

S6 pupils 2nd place— 7 Snow Whites and a Dwarf (left to right - dwarf, Tyler Livingstone Angus Parson, Greg McLachlin, Peter Hayes, Cameron McLay, Max Parsons, James Isgrove, missing Harris Fisher who sadly had a PE prelim)

S6 pupils 3rd place— McLaren Care Home (left to right - Katie Drummond, Brodie Haldane, Isla Huckerby, Mika Watson, Katie Murdoch and Courtney Strachan, front)

Staff winners were the Science & Technology Faculty with 'Save our Seas'.

During the day we raised £622.04 for this good cause. Well done everyone!



**Anthony Nolan**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have been working in partnership with 'Anthony Nolan' since 2009, organising events to recruit potential donors to the stem cell register. A further 32 potential life savers were added to the Anthony Nolan register by SFRS volunteers on Tuesday 23rd April at McLaren High School.



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**Spring Concert**

Our Spring Concert took place on Thursday 28th March. This was another outstanding evening of musical performances by pupils, featuring works by Beethoven and Piazzolla as well as popular film scores, chart hits and traditional music. Our fabulous music festival prize winners also performed.



**Reindeer Trail** – congratulations to Nina Harrison (S1) whose reindeer design was voted the most popular design on Stirling’s first Reindeer Trail.

**Head Boy & Head Girl**

We are pleased to announce that the following pupils have secured positions as part of the Pupil Leadership Team for next session:  
 Head Boy: Harris Clark  
 Head Girl: Eva Fisher  
 Depute Head Boy: Michael Limonci  
 Depute Head Girl: Emily Black

**Scottish Youth Parliament**

Congratulations to Lottie Hesp who has been elected as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Stirling.

**Salters Festival of Chemistry**

Congratulations to Miss Oman’s Young Chemists for their 1st Place award in this year’s Salters Festival of Chemistry

**S6 Last Day**

On Wednesday 24th April we were delighted to provide our S6 pupils with an opportunity to celebrate their time at McLaren High School. Our celebrations started with a leavers’ breakfast, followed by a graduation ceremony. The pupils leave with a legacy of excellence in the classroom, on stage, both in music and theatre, on the sports field and of impressive service to the School community. We wish all our leavers well in their future endeavours – they have been an outstanding group of young people to work with.

**Annual Easter Egg Competition**

McLaren’s annual Easter Egg competition attracted a high standard of entries. 1st place was Queen Elizabeth II (Murray Frost – S2), 2nd was William Wallace (Freya Sherry – S2) and 3rd was a German trench (Dylan Fox – S2). Well done to Miss Allan (Physics) for winning the staff entry with Neill Eggstrong!

**Equali-tea Morning**

Thursday 18th May saw the rainbow flag hoisted over Doune Primary as P6 and P7 pupils and S6 Sports Leaders from McLaren High School welcomed parents and guests to their Equali-tea Party to celebrate Diversity. Since August, senior pupils from Doune Primary School have been part of an innovative pilot project ‘MIND your health and be YOURSELF’, funded by the Lottery Year of The Young Person, where S6 Sports Leaders have planned and delivered high quality stimulating lessons every Friday about Health and Wellbeing, and in particular, Mental Health and Equality. In March the P6/7 pupils completed a six week programme about Equality focusing on labels, stereotypes, discrimination and the LGBT Community. The P6/7 pupils showcased what they have learned about each of these areas during the Equali-tea morning supported by their S6 mentors. Their guests were challenged to reject prejudice and stereotypes through a range of activities which saw the Head Teachers of both schools going head to head on the skittles challenge, surprises (some unpleasant) in the beanboozled challenge and some rethinking required from our guests in the drawing activity. The winner of our rainbow laces showed she had listened the best during all the activities and we finished off with tea and cakes served by the children. This event supported the work Scottish Government are currently undertaking following the review of personal and social education and to implement LGBT inclusive education.

**S1 Central Schools 7s Tournament**

On Wednesday 24th April, McLaren travelled to Alloa RFC to take part in the annual Central Schools 7s

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Tournament. Due to a high level of interest from the boys, McLaren were in the fortunate position of being able to field two teams. It was great to see so many boys enthusiastic and keen to take part. McLaren A won their fixtures against Wallace B and Falkirk. However, in a pool decider, they lost narrowly to Dunblane. The McLaren B team lost their opening fixture against Balfron A. However, they bounced back with a win against Lornshill and then a draw with Braes. A great night of rugby with 10 schools participating.

### Cabaret night

On Friday 26th April, the School opened the doors for a "Cabaret Night", an event organised by the Music Department to raise funds for this year's school show "Grease". The evening saw more than 21 pupils take to the stage, several appearing more than once, to perform to a varied programme in a very relaxed hall with more than 90 seated in the audience. It was a great success and raised more than £500 towards show funds. It is hoped to hold a further similar event – watch this space for further information!

### Matilda

Over 100 staff and pupils attended a Matilda Musical trip to the Edinburgh Playhouse. Great reviews were received from everyone who attended.



### Golf Outing

"A group of determined young golfers from McLaren High will head to the 1st tee at Callander Golf Club early on the morning of Friday 21st June to start what promises to be a day of sporting endurance, raising funds through the Longest Day Challenge on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support. These seven young men, accompanied by a golf enthusiast

teacher, will each aim to play 72 holes, or four rounds of golf, on the day. Most of the boys are Junior Members of Callander Golf Club, who have supported the challenge by accommodating slightly flexible tee times throughout the course of the day. CGC Junior Convener, Jim Frail, wished the team well: "It's brilliant to see youngsters playing lots of golf, especially playing so much golf for such a great cause!"

Organiser, Ken Milligan, has his fingers crossed for good weather on the day. "It's not the end of the world if it rains, but it will make the challenge much more demanding. Mind you, if it's blazing sunshine that will also make it more like real hard work! Here's hoping for spells of sunshine with intermittent cloud and some great golfing fun."

The team are hoping to raise lots of money for MacMillan Cancer Support and will be seeking sponsorship around town. Anyone who would like to offer support should contact any of the lads concerned or school, either via main reception or direct to Mr Milligan via email [milligank04s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:milligank04s@glow.sch.uk)

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# An appreciation of the Mole

## *Talpa europea or Famh*

### Not always "the pest" they are assumed to be!

The mole is one of our most common native animals but due to its subterranean life it is rarely seen. However in the countryside, evidence of their presence in the form of molehills is almost everywhere. Originally a deciduous woodland species, they now occur in many different habitats as long as there is soil deep enough to allow construction of tunnels. They have been recorded as high as 1000 metres in the UK.

For some, the mole may appear rather strange with its tiny eyes, broad short spade-like forelimbs with 5 strong claws, pink fleshy nose and short tail. However its soft velvet black coat was once prized by the fashion industry and around 12 million skins were sent annually to America in the 1920s. Thankfully, the market for their velvet has all but died out. At one time folk remedies for illnesses such as goitre and epilepsy caused moles terrible cruelty. Moles no longer suffer an agonising death from strychnine,

though Britain only banned the poison for use on moles in 2006, despite its use having been illegal on all other animals since 1963.

Although earthworms are their favourite nosh, moles also eat insect larvae, particularly carrot fly and



cockchafer larvae. As they have poor eyesight, hunting is done by smell and "feeling" their prey through sensory hairs on their face. Upright tails help them to reverse quickly in their tunnels when necessary

Each mole lives at depths of up to 150cm (5ft) in a complex network of tunnels of more than a kilometre long, all packed like spaghetti into a territory only 30-40 metres across. The deepest tunnels are used in cold weather and drought conditions. A few of its peripheral tunnels are shared with adjacent moles - offering vital information about the neighbours. Moles, being highly territorial, scent mark the shared tunnels in warning. Encounters with other moles are rarely fatal as the subordinate animal usually withdraws. Radio telemetry has shown that moles spend only 0.9% of their time within 6 metres of another mole.

Amazingly moles can lift 2kg of soil which is 20 times their own bodyweight. As a result of all this tunnelling and digging they contribute to the health of the soil, turning it, draining it and mixing its nutrients, while their molehills can be nurseries

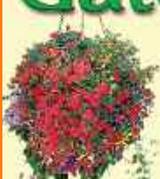
for wild flowers. Even on farmland, moles have a role, aerating soil and eating crop-damaging larvae.

Uniquely among mammals, the females have 'ovotestes': a combination of ovary, which produces eggs and testicular tissue. The latter generates the hormone testosterone, which is likely to be responsible for the female mole's aggressive defence of her territory. Male moles may move 800 metres to find a mate in the breeding

season. They breed once a year, rearing on average 3 young in a spherical nest of dry grass. The young are fed entirely on their mother's milk, gaining weight so fast that, if they were human, they would weigh 8st three weeks after birth! After 5 weeks they are independent. 64% of moles die by their first birthday yet they can live to 5 or 6 years of age. One of the major causes of mortality is predation by birds of prey, stoats and foxes. Moles are an important prey item for tawny owls, possibly contributing as much as 45% by weight of their diet in June and July, the time when young moles are out to look for their own territories. Buzzards, kestrels and red kite also eat moles frequently.

In the words of Rob Atkinson, a British mole expert and author, "surely moles - mighty, mysterious and resilient - deserve our respect and, as often as we can offer it, our tolerance".

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# Strathfillan by the Way

## Strathfillan Community Development Trust

### Adopt a Tub Scheme

All the tubs have arrived in both villages, and teams of adoptees have been working hard to fill and plant them. As we have had a significant increase in the number of tubs this year, work to fill them all is still on going. If you are interested in adopting tubs or helping our in either Tyndrum or Crianlarich, please just get in touch with Kelly or a Trustee.

### Lower Station Yard

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our application to our prospective main funder for the proposed LSY developments. We are very disappointed, however, the National Park, Stirling Council and our Leader funders are keen to support and progress the project. Therefore, we are currently working on a reduced project proposal, which will hopefully resolve some of the problems that Crianlarich has been experiencing over the past few years with the increase in visitors. So watch this space!

### Bike Skills Park

Things are progressing with the Bike Skills Park plan, and we hope to release the final design draft shortly. Following the Open Evening and further professional assessment of the site, we have decided to move the proposed location of the Park. We now plan to site it adjacent to Dalrigh car park. This relocation will help resolve resident concerns regarding parking provision in Tyndrum; provide a more accessible and suitable site, which will reduce construction costs and will enable the designers to put in all the features and abilities requested by our

local children and young people. We plan to post the draft plan on our Facebook page, Strathfillan Community, for people to view and comment. So please keep your eyes peeled. Having seen the initial plan, it does look fantastic.

### Cycle Path

The Trust is still working feverishly behind the scenes with the Countryside Trust to complete the second phase of the Tyndrum to Crianlarich Cycle Path. We have suffered a number of hiccups and setbacks over the past six months, but are hoping that things are finally starting to move forward again. We are still looking into possibly purchasing Ewich Wood for the cycle path, and will be coming to the community in the next couple of months to get their support. So please keep an eye out.

### Small Grants Scheme 2019

The Trust would like to draw your attention to another round of our Small Grants Scheme. If you are a community group in Strathfillan and are looking for a small amount of money to help buy materials, run a project or other activities, then please contact Kelly at the Trust. The funding pot is limited so please don't hang about!

### Contact

If you want to get in touch with the Trust for any reason we want to hear from you. Office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.30am to 2.30pm, at Crianlarich Village Hall. You can email Kelly at [kelly@strathfillan.cdt.org.uk](mailto:kelly@strathfillan.cdt.org.uk) or phone 01838 300249 during office hours.

## Thank You

Isla, Bryan, Alasdair and Nicola would like to thank all our friends and customers for all the good wishes, cards and gifts we received as we left Londis Crianlarich Store. We are incredibly touched by the generosity, and are enjoying choosing items for our new garden with the gift vouchers we received. We have all thoroughly enjoyed our 15 1/2 years in Crianlarich and



playing our part in the community. Alasdair and Nicola are both very fortunate to have attended Crianlarich Primary and McLaren High, two excellent schools which have given them both a great start in life. We will miss our many friends, although we will be back to visit, but are looking forward to starting the next chapter of our lives, living in Glenfarg, near Perth. We are delighted to have left the shop in such good hands, and wish Andrea and Billy all the very best for the future. With many thanks,  
**Isla, Bryan, Alasdair & Nicola Craig**



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## Strathfillan Community Council AGM

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7pm  
Crianlarich Village Hall  
To be followed by Community Council Meeting at 7.30pm

### Light Relief From Local Limericks

There was a young girl from Killin  
Who went out on her bike for a spin  
She cycled so fast  
That ride was her last  
Now she orbits the earth with a grin

There was a wee lass from Killin  
Who lost weight and got terribly thin  
So she ate very well  
And started to swell  
But went pop when she sat on a pin

There was a poor soul from Loch Tay  
Who was constantly losing the way  
To Tyndrum she wandered  
Where gold mines she plundered  
She's worth twenty million today

There was a young lad from Killin  
Who went on a trip to Berlin  
When viewing the wall  
He had a slight fall  
Now he's stuck, one foot out, one foot in

## Killin Highland Games

As you all know, the Killin Highland Games will be held in the park on Wednesday, 7th August.  
The team would appreciate some help with setting up on the Tuesday and stewarding on the day.

We are hoping for sunshine, lots of visitors and, of course, well behaved animals.  
If you are able to help please contact me.

**Charlie Grant**  
Chairman

## Killin Community Council

The new Community Council has had a preliminary meeting to elect officers.

### The new officers are:

Chairman - Andy Aitken  
Secretary - Ron Allner  
Treasurer - Pamela Farquharson.

### The rest of the councillors are

Amanda Clark  
David Fettes  
Charlie Grant  
Colin Hay (Deputy Chairman)  
Stewart Inglis  
Chaz Kemp.

Their first meeting will be on Monday 17th June at 7.30 in the School.

If you have anything you wish to be discussed, please contact one of the councillors in good time before the meeting.

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**Class 2 Poetry Afternoon**

In Class 2, we have been learning how to write different types of poems including some about colours, animals, festivals and dinnertime! We each put our poems into our own poetry books and shared them with our families and Class 3. It was great sharing our hard work with them and they gave us lovely comments.

**Paige and Rhys**



**Think Dance**

After much deliberation, the Think Dance children chose Scotland as their theme for this year's performance at the MacRobert Arts Centre. They came up with lots of fantastic ideas of landmarks, culture and past times relating to Scotland. This year, more than ever, the children grew as performers and developed confidence through team work and laughter. As always, the Killin support was by far the loudest which was fully appreciated and spurred them on even more. We are all so proud of you and what you have achieved.

**Mrs Hibbert**



**Dalguise Residential Visit**

Primary 7 attended their residential at Dalguise along with the other P7s from McLaren Cluster Schools. We enjoyed physical activities (such as archery, giant swing and zip line) during the day and at night we had team games and a camp fire. We made lots of new friends and can't wait to see them again at our induction days.

**Sean and Innes**



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**Jack and the Beanstalk**

All classes enjoyed performing our version of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' for a packed audience at McLaren Hall. Everyone sang and acted amazingly and the feedback from the crowd was incredible. Thank you to parents, family and friends of Killin Primary School who came to support us. Thanks also to the Killin Drama Club, McLaren Hall, KPP and Goode Photography. **Stewart (The Giant) and Lauren (Jack)**



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## VE Day Picnic

We celebrated the end of our WW2 topic with a VE day picnic and a singalong at the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. We all got dressed up, had jam sandwiches, spam and boiled sweets and finished off with a game of rounders. The residents at the Home told us about their experiences of WW2 and showed us some memorabilia. We sang a few songs from the era and told the residents what we had learned in class. It was a great end to our topic.

**Caitlin P6**



  
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 [Stephen.kerr.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Stephen.kerr.mp@parliament.uk)  
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 Please get in touch if you have any issues or concerns you'd like to raise.  
  
**STEPHEN KERR MP**

## More photos of the VE Picnic Day



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- 5) Do they have out of hour appointment times that suit working people?
- 6) Have they continued to invest in new technology?
- 7) Are they recommended by patients within the community?
- 8) If you are looking for implant treatment do they offer any guarantees and how many implants do they place a year?
- 9) Can you visit the practice for a free consultation to see what they have on offer?
- 10) Have they been nationally recognised within the dental profession?



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This is not an exhausted list and there may be other priorities that as individuals you wish to consider, but hopefully it will act as a guide towards helping you make the right decision.

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# Walk in the Park

| Date     | Meeting at 10.20am    | All Routes:<br>Walk from 15min – 1hour |
|----------|-----------------------|--|
| 05/06/19 | McLaren Hall Car Park | Loch Circuit                           |
| 12/06/19 | McLaren Hall Car Park | Kenmore (car share) *                  |
| 19/06/19 | Capercaillie          | Craignavie Road *                      |
| 26/06/19 | McLaren Hall Car Park | NCN7 at Strathyre (car share)          |
| 03/07/19 | Capercaillie          | Kinnell Circuit                        |
| 10/07/19 | McLaren Hall Car park | Glen Lochay Loop (car share) *         |
| 17/07/19 | McLaren Hall Car park | Mhor 84 (car share) *                  |
| 24/07/19 | McLaren Hall Car park | Loch Circuit                           |
| 31/07/19 | McLaren Hall Car park | Tyndrum River Walk (car share) *       |

\* denotes dementia-friendly walks

No need to book, just turn up | social time after the walk in a café (optional)

For more information contact: Walk in the Park Project Coordinator

Cathy Scott: [cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org) tel. 01877 330055

## Steps to Better Health

No matter how limited your activity level is, Walk in the Park would like to help you to regain mobility, strength and get you walking again with confidence. Step by step we provide a walking pathway from your armchair to a 30 minute walk and beyond.

Walk in the Park can help you to feel more confident by going for a walk as part of a group, supported and encouraged by trained volunteer walk leaders.

Perhaps you have recently retired or moved to the area and are looking for new friends and a gentle way of exercising. All our walks and sessions are led by friendly walk leaders, are fun and free of charge.

Do you find yourself spending a lot of time sitting indoors and wishing you could get outside for some fresh air, exercise and some social time? The following 2 steps might help you.

Step 1. Strength and Balance Exercise, Wednesday 1.30–2.30pm, Killin Hotel

The session is aimed at older adults although anyone will feel the benefit. These exercises are very gentle but effective 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 Exercise Programme. If you have difficulty walking due to pain in your knees, or hips or problems with your balance then this session is for you. As progression is made you will find that your strength and balance has improved enough to allow you to walk more confidently.

Step 2. Health Walk – Wednesday 10.20am

On the health walk there is an opportunity to start off slowly and build up. You can join this walk and be sure that you can go at a pace and distance that suits you on the day. All our group walks are on good walking surfaces, are risk assessed and are led by trained walk leaders and last between 30min and 1 hour. Some of these morning

walks are in the village, others are in the surrounding areas. Some walks involve car share - walkers who have the use of a car offer lifts to those who don't. We go for a cup of tea after the walk for a social time together (optional).

Booking is not necessary, however if you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator - Cathy Scott 07852 334272 or send an email to: [cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org) For more information about Walk in the Park and walk schedules for all groups including Killin, Callander, Aberfoyle, Drymen and Balloch visit [www.trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park](http://www.trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park)

You might like to check with your G.P or Physiotherapist if you think you have a medical condition that might prevent you from taking part.

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# All Things Wild And Wonderful

There has been a lot of talk recently about endangered animals, plants and insects and we think of this going on in Africa and other distant places but it is also happening here in Killin. Just in our area fifty years ago the sight of the tails of foxes and wild cats hung on the fences by gamekeepers was normal. Where are the wild cats now? And when did you last see a hedgehog – or even a squedgehog on the road? The absence of rabbits and large slugs may be celebrated by gardeners but the absence of frogs from ponds is sad. We had only a few last year and this year no croaking and cavorting and no frogspawn at all. Voles, moles and mice are less numerous and weasels

and stoats seen less often although a pinemarten has occasionally visited. Not so long ago birds like treecreepers and goldcrests were not uncommon but we never see them now. Owls and cuckoos were heard more frequently but it's been years since we saw the furry owlets. Summer visiting spotted flycatchers are fewer in number and lapwings, which used to nest in the field by the loch, have not done so for many years now. Wrens are more frequent than they were immediately after the bad winter in 2010 but still fewer than before then. Some varieties of butterflies are now rare but we still have orange tips and peacocks, and although there seem to be plenty of bumble bees around, there are no

honey bees among them. Wildflowers, too, have disappeared. Wild orchids, water avens, pink purslane, wintergreen and many more common varieties which were found at the side of woodland paths, are no longer there and even primroses are in smaller clumps and fewer areas. There used to be a rare purple grass of parnassus at the edge of the loch and I wonder if it still exists. Maybe some of these species are still more common in other parts of Killin. Should we be encouraging them to return? If so, how? Perhaps you have some suggestions.

**Margaret MacIver**  
Auchmore

## Eco Friendly Weedkiller

Many of us want to limit the amount of chemicals we use in our home and garden. I am not saying I do not use them, but I like to try alternatives when I can.

### Weedkillers

Useful for weeds in paths, drives and patios.

1 Litre of White vinegar

1/3 cup of salt

Tablespoon of washing-up liquid (any type).

Spray bottle or watering can with fine rose on it.

Mix the salt in the vinegar until dissolved then add the washing up liquid and agitate.

Apply to the weeds taking care not to apply to plants/grass that you want to keep.

**How does it work?** The vinegar contains acetic acid which is toxic to plants (but it will alter the Ph of your

soil, so be careful) and salt will dry out the weed (again be careful as it will remain in the soil for some time). The washing-up liquid acts as a surfactant making the solution stick to the weed (a bit like the oil in a simple salad dressing helps the vinegar stick to your salad). This will not kill the roots of the weeds and will not treat every weed, but well worth a try. Continuous treatment of weeds like this eventually should get rid of the weeds, as without the foliage a plant generally will not survive. Of course, the most effective non-chemical weed killer will always be the manual method using the good old fork/hoe etc.

### Weed Control Fabric

This is great under gravelled areas where you are not wanting to plant, but on a border in time will cause its own problems once the mulch on top of it decomposes. Basically, the mulch decomposes and creates a

layer of top soil which then means that roots of plants you want cannot flourish (unless you make planting holes), also worms etc. that help to improve the quality of your soil cannot pass through the weed control fabric. Of course, you can dig up the weed control fabric once the mulch decomposes, but how many people will re-use it instead of it ending up in landfill? Alternatively, you could remove the decomposed mulch and use it elsewhere in your garden and then re-apply fresh mulch.

**An Alternative** is to lay layers of cardboard (after removing any staples, tape, stickers etc.) over the weeds and top with mulch. As the cardboard decomposes it also feeds the soil. (thick layers of newspaper can also be used).

**Liz Stevens**



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# The Beauty of Spring

Spring is my favourite time of the year. Everything is fresh after the long winter. All the trees are in bloom, the first flowers have popped their heads up and for me, the most magical thing are the early butterflies. The first to emerge is the Orange-Tip, a very energetic little fellow that rarely stops in his quest for the very scarce nectar. To get a good photo is a real challenge, but here is a picture of a female orange-tip which at first I confused with the other early riser, the Green Veined

White. As you see they are quite similar, but my favourite is a real gem only found on the west coast of Scotland between Oban and Fort William, the Chequered Skipper. This very beautiful little butterfly is found in wooded areas living on bluebells, meadowsweet and a few other early wild flowers. My fascination with these beautiful little creatures started when I lived in Dorset where there are probably more species than any other county. Many rely on the warmer conditions

down there, but in recent years more and more species are seen in Scotland, probably the only good thing about global warming. A good place to visit to see some of these is Pleun Country Park where Comma's Clouded Yellow and several other species have been seen. So next time you see a butterfly take the time to have a closer look and admire its beauty. You won't be disappointed.

**Ron Allner**



**Top Left**  
Chequered Skipper

**Top Right**  
Orange Tip female showing underwing colours

**Centre Right**  
Orange Tip female viewed from above

**Bottom Left**  
Green Veined White

**Bottom Right**  
Orange Tip male



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# The Frost Report

## Save us from experts

Are you, like us, totally fed up by the jumbled stories and ideas about climate change? Everyone seems to be preaching to their own ends. People of my age can remember that when we were children we were being terrified by tales of another impending ice age, that we would all be on a two or three day working week with excess free time to fill, that we would not bother with food but just take the pills produced for spacemen and retire at 50. And don't forget reports that mobile phones would never catch on! More recently we were encouraged to use diesel as it was said to have less environmental impact but now petrol is to be preferred. It would appear that a new generation of career 'experts' are on the go again. Let's face it; they can't all be right.

Muirburn (controlled burning early in the year of small areas of long heather to create patches of young low shoots) was frowned upon by ecologist for many years. In the light of the recent spate of hill fires, they are now advocating muirburn as a good way to manage this. It has been used in many places for centuries to avoid such fire risk, even in the Serrenghetti.

It has now been argued that droughts etc. have been caused by pollution since 1900, which given the industrial Victorians it's not surprising. However research in Edinburgh is maintaining that pollution is slowing global warming by increasing cloud cover. In the 60s it was fashionable and lucrative to plant trees on the flow country of the North. This is now seen as dreadful, not so much because of lost habitats for the animals but because of carbon capture by the peat. Bit late now. At the moment it

is the government thing to plant on hill farmland. Only large blocks are to be planted. Maybe we will one day be eating trees since there is little farmland left. On the recent T.V. programme 'Scotland from the Air' many new forests were shown with the commentary that much open native woodland was making our country lovely. This was a complete untruth as we are all familiar with the acres of non-native Sitka spruce (introduced in 1831). It looks good in Alaska where wolves and bears roam over huge areas but it doesn't do much for Scotland. The freedom of information act has revealed that The Forestry Commission has culled over 30,000 deer out of season or at night in order to protect trees. Mr. Fox is happy as he is left to eat voles which eat the trees. Unfortunately for the farmers the foxes don't always know the difference between voles and lambs.

While this group are wanting to plant acres of non-native Sitka, another group of experts is wanting to fell all the beech trees as non-native. One group of experts is happy to re-introduce beavers (maybe it's an underground beaver movement infiltrating the government and advocating the planting of all these tasty trees) while another is making a 'wall' of traps around the Orkney islands to kill stoats which are, apparently, not native and are a danger to other wildlife including the Orkney vole. The R.S.P.B., Orkney Island Council, Orkney Wildlife Project and S.N.H. are spending £7.3million using 20,000 traps and 26 staff. In addition a team of stoat detection dogs will patrol the coastline, sniffing boats and lorries to intercept stoats smuggling between islands. (Eat your heart out Mr. Trump.) It sounds like a

plot for a new David Walliams book and our terrier has already filled in his application form. Yet, thanks to a certain BBC presenter crows can only be shot in England if you have a special licence. Maybe that is why a new laser replacement for the scarecrow is being brought out. It won't be as entertaining for the scarecrow competition at the Killin show though. It is interesting that the 'experts' don't know which way to lean over the incident at Kilninver near Oban where a sea eagle has killed a golden eagle.

Some animals are not at all worried about anything. They are on a constant high as many waterways in addition to the Thames are contaminated with cocaine and ketamine. Eels are becoming hyperactive and their migrations are becoming erratic. We are all aware of visitors leaving their rubbish by the roadside round here but more remote areas are becoming contaminated by modern litter. On Everest recently a great number of abandoned fluorescent tents and gas canisters, human poo and four bodies were cleared up. One chap who will be dead against reintroduction is the one who was walking in the New Forest and had his finger bitten off by a wild boar. Be aware if your children are using the internet to research a topic on bees, as the DEFRA website has been known to direct users to dodgy dating sites. The ministry say that the site has been updated! It was good to hear that all the bees on the roof of Notre Dame survived the fire. Apparently they thought that their hives were being smoked.

**Tim Frost**



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# Thank You Killin

Dear Killin,  
It has been many years since the Walker Family has caused a daft ruckus on the Main Street in Killin, but on Friday 12th April we returned to our old ways and caused no end of bother.

Therefore, I would like to thank lots of people for looking after us. My aunt June Walker took a nasty tumble on a deserted Main Street on a Friday night. Within moments John and his van had stopped to help. I'm sorry John, I don't know your second name but you live just out of Killin. A young couple from Newcastle also stopped. They and John provided protection on the road with their vehicles and stayed with us until more help arrived. Roger came out to help and brought us a lovely warm rug and a chair, it was so cold.

Then William Stitt arrived with his Mountain Rescue training and Amanda, from the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home, appeared with good sense and medical training. They advised ringing 999, provided

padding for a cut and helped get my aunt off the very cold ground. Hard on their heels came a gentle, professional paramedic. By this time my aunt was quite unwell.

The paramedic and Mr. Stitt got her to the warm retirement home where we were made very welcome by the whole team. Warm tea and a sit down for my Uncle Cameron and the best possible care for June and us all, while we waited for the ambulance.

Thank you to Amanda, Hazel, Freda and I'm so sorry I've forgotten the other ladies' names.

The (by then quite large) team of professionals looking after June, in a tiny highland village on a Friday night in April, decided that a ride to Perth hospital was the order of the night for my aunt, so the Crieff paramedic team took her there, closely followed by my brother and my uncle.

Once there, June was treated brilliantly and eventually given a

clean bill of health and was able to return to Killin the following day, bumped and bruised but ok. The Killin Hotel team could not have been kinder or more accommodating either.

I still can't quite believe all that happened in such a short space of time. We are very grateful. I hope I have not forgotten anyone. (I was a little distracted).

We will try to be less dramatic the next time we see you. June is home safe.

Killin folk you are just awesome. Thank you all so very much!  
Much love

**The Walker Clan  
June, Cameron, Ali and Iain**

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## Killin and District Volunteer

### Car Scheme

The Car Scheme continues to work well and is being well used. A group of drivers and escorts have received Passenger Awareness Training, delivered by a qualified trainer from Dial a Journey, Stirling. This provides a nationally recognised standard administered by the Community

Transport Association. Another group will receive the same training in June.

The cost of journeys remains at 20p a mile and the scheme is still covering the cost of the dead miles which drivers make to get to passengers. Help to pay for travel costs is available from the NHS, Form HC1 can be used if you are on a low income and copies of this can be found in the Doctors' Surgery and Library. You do not need to complete this form if you are receiving income based benefits as you are already entitled to full help with health costs.

The car scheme is already getting a good name for itself outside Killin. Trustees recently attended a meeting with Strathcarron Hospice Outreach team, Compassionate Neighbours, who are looking at whether they can support some of the isolated people in their community. As well as that, Don is to give a presentation to the neighbourhoods reference group in Balfroun about how the car scheme was developed.

If you want to use the car scheme, please call 07988280743  
**Alicja Fraser**



We are coming to the end of our U3A year with groups finishing for the summer break in June\* and many will have some form of end-of-term celebration. However, the work of promoting the U3A goes

on and our new leaflets full of information about C&WP U3A are now in all villages north, south, east and west of Callander. We hope to attract new members to join at our Enrolment Day in Killin on Tuesday 27th August. Details of time and place will be available nearer the time.

The umbrella organisation, U3A Scotland, held an excellent promotion day in the Scottish Parliament building recently, to inform our MSPs about the benefits

of later-life learning and the wide variety of interest groups offered in the 54 U3As all around Scotland. They have pledged their support and we hope that before long the phrase "U3A? Never heard of it" will be a thing of the past. Our website has all the information about our group so please have a look at 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.  
\* Killin Bridge Group continues throughout the summer as normal

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# Proposal of Erection of Electricity Substation in Glen Lochay

On 6th March 2019, SSE submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to Stirling Council for the above and a Pre Application Consultation was conducted in the McLaren Hall on Thursday 9th May.

Whilst it is not our intention to try and stop the proposed substation, which will replace the existing one, we do want to ensure its impact is minimised. Many of you may even be unaware that a small substation function already exists at the power station due to its careful positioning and thoughtful landscaping. The replacement of the transformer and associated substation is deemed to be of national importance due to its requirement to support the delivery of an enhanced high voltage electricity transmission grid throughout Scotland. Our intention is to ensure that as a community we have influence over the final design and that SSE are required to consider significant measures to mitigate the impact of its construction in a such a beautiful location.

I would like to stress that whilst the impact to Murlaganmore, our much loved family cottage that has been enjoyed by many over the years for its peaceful location will be significant, it is for the impact on the wider glen and everyone who enjoys it that I raise my concerns and where impact can be mitigated most. The choice of position on an open hillside slope where the two glen roads merge; the proposed use of a gravel topped platform rising above the lower road including the scale of the one acre site on which it will sit; as well as a new proposed pylon so close to the road all raise concerns as to the impact of this required development on such a significant spot within the glen.

As many of you will know, the existing Glen Lochay Hydro-electric Power Station and associated infrastructure has had a presence in the area since the 1950s and great lengths were taken at the time by locals, land owners and the Hydro Board to minimise the impact of the development. I personally feel we would be doing an injustice to the energy and effort that went into ensuring the positioning,

architecture and landscaping of the original hydro scheme by not calling on SSE to seek to carefully consider measures to minimise the impact of the construction. We will be requesting that SSE seek to mitigate any negative impacts whether visually, audibly or environmentally to an acceptable level, and that any measures be appropriate to the exposed location, scale and nature of the development.

Whilst we acknowledge this development is required and respect that SSE is a major employer in the area, neither should hinder any of us ensuring the impact of this development on the landscape of Glen Lochay be minimised in a glen regularly enjoyed by many of us. I would request that anybody who enjoys the glen considers raising their objections during the planning application phase. By the time this edition of the Killin News goes to print it will be too late to raise any issues or concerns at an early stage through the public consultation route (this closed on 24th May). Many of you will have been unaware that the event was taking place in the village due to minimal advertising and signage, so please make sure you raise your objections in a manner appropriate to planning through the normal process. You can find more about how to raise a planning objection appropriately online or by contacting [www.pas.org.uk](http://www.pas.org.uk)

Some information about the development is available at [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/)

projects/lochay-13211kv-transformer-replacement

Anyone at the consultation event will have seen initial visualisations of the proposal which have raised significant concerns. We will be requesting that SSE make final visualisations available to the public.

I am sure you will agree that the main impact that needs to be mitigated is on the visual amenity and character of the glen. Please join me in doing what you can by raising your concerns and objections through the planning process. This article seeks to raise awareness of the proposal and the impact of the exposed site and ensure we each do what we can to minimise that. As it stands the proposal has a visually overbearing impact to an unacceptable degree and will have a significant adverse impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding area.

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# Ploughing Competition 2019

We would like to thank Auchlyne Estate for the use of their field for this Aevent and many thanks to Shutters Restaurant for supplying food for the catering. This event was a success again this year despite the weather, with a good turnout of competitors. A big thank you to all who took part. **Ian Hancock**

## Competition Results

### Big Ploughs

- 1 Donald Hancock
- 2 Robert Grant
- 3 Stewart Christie

### Small Ploughs

- 1 Ian Hancock
- 2 Finlay MacAskill
- 3 Ian Noble

### Visitors

- 1 David Veitch
- 2 Jim Hamilton
- 3 David McCulloch

## Overall Winners

### Alistair Hunter Cup

Donald Hancock

### Gilbert Christie Quaich

Ian Hancock

### Straightest Ploughing

David Veitch



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\*GROUP SUBJECT TO CHANGE - T&Cs APPLY - BOOKING FEES APPLY

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## Jumble Sale Thank You

The Old Mill would like to thank the community for supporting the Jumble Sale in the Lesser Hall on the weekend of 11th May. The sum of £111.40 was raised in sales for the Old Mill which was a fantastic effort as most items were priced at a pound or less! The Killin Nursery raised money while clearing out in preparation for their upcoming refurbishment and, in addition to individuals with tables, the Killin and District Volunteer Car Scheme held a stall to raise awareness of the service they provide. We were also treated to a joyful performance by a travelling musician! The event was received positively and we will hold another Jumble Sale on Saturday August 3rd. The Old Mill will also be holding a recruitment drive for new volunteers. Contact or come into the Mill during opening hours Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. We need more volunteers to extend our opening hours. See you at the Mill!

**Wilhelmena  
Old Mill Manager**



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# Musings From The Manse

## Faith, Hope, and Love

I write these words a few weeks after Easter. Although that time is now past, the relevance of the message is perennial. In the news at the time was the fire at Notre Dame, the massacre of worshippers and tourists in Sri Lanka and the murder of the Northern Irish journalist, Lyra McKee. Alongside that was the weird and strangely counter intuitive message of Easter. I struggled this Holy week if I'm honest! I felt empty, flat, and until Maundy Thursday, I personally wasn't connecting with the narrative at all. But even, or especially clergy, can have doubts, disappointments, and struggles with faith and belief. Added to that is the pressure to deliver both comfort and challenge to those engaging, however tentatively or superficially, with the Easter services for whatever reason. As has often happened to me over the course of my Ministry, the discipline of having to celebrate Easter meaningfully was my entry point, yet again, to appreciation of this great and wonderful drama, and the starting point for that was my preparation for the remembrance of the last supper of Jesus with his disciples. However, before and during the Easter celebrations, other events were impinging upon Holy week with great poignancy. First, the fire at Notre Dame had a melancholic effect on me. It seemed a stark symbol of both the decadence and decline of Christendom in our 21st century. The former, because over the centuries the power and

influence of the church has often turned the message of Jesus upside down and inside out; the latter because of the ebb tide of Christianity in our day and age. Yet articles and commentary followed in the media, from some very unexpected places, about what the loss of the cathedral would mean; about the rich legacy of Christianity to Europe; and about the hope of restoration which could symbolise renewal in far more than material terms. I was taken aback by this, but also, pleasantly and thoughtfully encouraged.

Then the bombings! I had just celebrated a sunrise service at the head of Loch Tay on Easter Sunday morning which was wonderfully evocative and uplifting and on returning home heard the news about Sri Lanka. The sermon theme for the later services was hastily adapted. I have a friend from University days who worked in Sri Lanka during the civil war years and am well acquainted with the suffering of the Christian church in that country. Therefore, the news struck a very discordant note indeed. In the African-American Gospel churches there is a saying "It's Friday but Sunday's coming!" The two poles of Easter and human experience expressed in a nutshell: the horror of the first day and the wonderful renewal of the second. The irony for Sri Lanka was that Sunday turned out to be Friday.

Yet what has been apparent for years is that the "suffering church" outside of the West, has for centuries, even millennia, understood the Christian

Gospel and its power in a way we haven't and indeed, can't. Power corrupts and that has been the part of the legacy of Christian Europe. But it is not the whole story. The Holy week edition of the Spectator had an article by the historian Tom Holland. In this, Holland argues that the strange message of a marginalised and crucified Jew was not only counter cultural to the Greco-Roman world of antiquity, but actually the seed which has helped shaped our understanding of morality in the West. The notion of a crucified messiah was an oxymoron in the ancient world; a world that celebrated the heroic and the strong. The notion that all people were made in the image of God, and therefore had an intrinsic value, undercut the pyramidal structure of ancient society. The affirmation that God's seal of approval was upon Jesus of Nazareth, a peasant from Galilee, and not on Caesar, was more than revolutionary, it was radically counter-intuitive. The German philosopher Nietzsche dismissed it contemptuously as "slave morality". The fact that the Western church has not always lived up to the implications of this message does not rob it of the power to challenge and change hearts and lives and yes, even cultures.

Finally, a little glimpse of that message was seen in the funeral service of Lyra McKee in Belfast. Love over hate, service over power, forgiveness over revenge, goodness over evil: it was a light shining in a dark world. There is hope.

**Russel Moffat**

## Killin 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 will be awarding prizes in three main categories: Domestic for householders in the village, Commercial for all business premises and Children's tallest sunflower competition.

Please remember that our only income comes from donations and if you wish to make a donation, Sheila in the Sweet Shop has kindly offered to take these and pass them on to us. The more money we get, the better the quality and variety of plants we are able to buy for the village.

**Alicja Fraser**

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**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Ben Lawers ridge walk**  
Walk the 7 peaks of the Ben Lawers range, with a qualified mountain leader who has detailed knowledge of the flora and wildlife of the area. A good level of fitness is required. We will reunite you with your vehicle at the end of the walk.

**Cost:** adults £50

**Duration:** 8-10 hours

**Bring:** walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, plenty of food and drink.

**Meet:** 9am Ben Lawers NNR car park. **Booking is essential.**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Butterflies and Moths of the Mountain**

Discover some of butterflies and moths that inhabit the floristically rich lower slopes of these mountains, including (weather permitting) 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 5<sup>th</sup> July: Tarmachan ridge walk**

A walk up Meall nan Tarmachan and the other tops on this scenic ridge with qualified mountain leaders who have detailed knowledge of the flora and wildlife of the area. A good level of fitness is required.

**Cost:** adults £35

**Duration:** 5-6 hours

**Bring:** walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, plenty of food and drink.

**Meet:** 10am Ben Lawers NNR car park. **Booking is essential.**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> August: A kids-eye view of Ben Lawers**

Join our hands-on exploration and leave no stone unturned on the way to becoming a nature know-it-all.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July: Mountain Flowers**

On this high-level guided walk we aim to see some of the arctic-alpine plants for which these hills are famous. The ascent and descent require a reasonable level of fitness and we will encounter some steep ground.

**Duration:** 8 hours

**Cost:** adults £30, children £15.

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

**Meet:** 9.00am Ben Lawers NNR car park. **Booking is essential.**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**August: Flora and fauna of the hillside**

If you are a hill walker 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. Familiarise yourself with some of the characteristic plants and wildlife on the lower slopes of these mountains.

**Duration:** 2½ hours.

**Cost:** adults £10, children £5

**Bring:** walking boots, warm, waterproof and windproof clothing.

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

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**Duration:** 6 hours  
**Cost:** adults £25, children £12.50.  
**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.**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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,

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August: An introduction to real navigation**

Don't rely on your GPS or phone, get to grips with the basics of how to use a map and compass in the hills. The route will involve rough ground and moderate gradients so requires a reasonable level of fitness.

waterproof and windproof clothing.  
**Meet:** 1.30pm Ben Lawers NNR car park. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable.



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# Killin's New Year Fireworks Display

Over four months have passed since the display and now in May, we are having to think about planning to celebrate the start of 2020. The council have informed us that our application has to be submitted during August for an event on New Year's Eve!! So we have to get moving.

As we've previously said, there are funds which have been carried over from last year, but we still need to raise further money to provide another great display this year. To get things moving we have organised a meeting to be held at the Killin Hotel at 11am on Thursday, 6th June. We would like to see as many people there as can make it, as well as those who supported us last year. It would be great to see some new faces as well.

The 2019 display was not without



its problems and we shall try to remedy them, but new ideas for the forthcoming display would also be greatly welcomed.

The very successful sponsored cycle ride last year is to be held again on Sunday, 25th August, courtesy of Michael and Lynn at the Courie Inn. Hopefully, all of you cyclists will be getting in training for what promises to be another great day

out. Funds raised will again go towards the cost of the fireworks. Ron and Sheila Allner have also said they will produce another Killin calendar for 2020 to raise funds for the fireworks display. Thanks to you both. If any local residents are interested in volunteering to help with the event, please let

either of us know.

We both look forward to working with the community to produce a great firework display to help Killin celebrate the start of 2020.

**Mike Beresford  
Jinny Anderson**



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## Obituary : Father James Roderick McCrudden: 1945 – 2018

Father Jim McCrudden served as priest at St Fillans Parish for 26 years. The parish is extensive, covering 1,000 sq miles and he celebrated mass every Sunday, first at Doune, then at Callander, finishing up at Killin where he will be remembered by locals and many who have holidayed here over the years.

He was born and brought up in St Andrews and was proud to be descended, on his mother's side, from the fishing community in the town. The middle child of three, he spent an idyllic childhood with his head always in a book and singing in the Episcopal church choir. He was so fond of history and reading that his mother had to chase him out of the house to get some fresh air.

Young Jimmy's love of history and architecture was fostered by an aunt and uncle who were in service. He visited them every Saturday in his teenage years and was fascinated by the history of the family who employed them and the upstairs/downstairs life. He had a strong sense of family and maintained close links with his brother and sister, nephews and nieces and their families. After attending Madras College as a pupil, Jimmy (as he was known to his family) went on to read Medieval and Modern History at St Andrews University. There he became intrigued by religion, spirituality and the different denominations of Christianity, joining the Student Christian Movement society. In 1982, he decided to convert to Catholicism;



two years later, answering a call to the priesthood, he went to the Beda college in Rome to study. After completing his studies, he served at The Friary in Dundee and at St John's in Perth, before being given the parish of St Fillan's. After university, Jimmy trained as a teacher at Moray House in Edinburgh and returned to Madras College as a History teacher. It was here that he honed the skills of oratory and teaching which served him so well as a parish priest. His sermons were interesting, thought provoking and often peppered with historical references. He didn't shy away from controversy and preached honestly, with great

integrity and compassion for all. This extended to his duties as pastor in the parish where he visited the elderly, sick and housebound, regardless of their denomination. People in need were his concern and this attitude endeared him to both his parishioners and the wider community.

Away from parish life, Father Jim indulged his love of walking, birdwatching and medieval architecture. His favourite haunts were Montrose Basin, Glen Esk, Berwick and the Dales. His love of medieval architecture led him to choose Careston near Brechin as the place of his burial which took place in January this year. All these wonderful attributes, however, should not blind the reader to his faults. Father Jim was

notoriously absentminded and possibly not the best driver in the world; indeed, many of his friends and family members were reluctant to be driven by him.

His absentmindedness led him to forget about weddings, baptisms (until prompted at the last minute) and visits by the bishop. He once sent a card in the wrong name to celebrate the wedding of his niece and her husband.

Father Jim was a quiet and humble man with a wicked sense of humour whose guidance and care is sorely missed by all, especially his congregation.

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This term is always really exciting for our units as the light nights and good weather mean we can get outside more. So much of what we do in Scouting revolves around the great outdoors; whilst having fun we teach our young members how to respect and care for their surroundings. We are so privileged, as a Scout group, to have such wonderful outdoor spaces we can use on our doorstep, compared to perhaps some more urban town and city groups. All sections have an Outdoor Challenge badge to work towards and both our Beavers and Cubs worked towards these on their recent sleepover and camp. This issue we're going to tell you a bit more about Beaver sleepover and next you'll be able to find out about Cub camp.

### **Beaver Sleepover**

Our annual sleepover was held in Aberfeldy 11-12th May with a Gruffalo explorers theme to celebrate 20 years of the Gruffalo story. Saturday afternoon after arriving, we went on a nature walk in the Birks, keeping our eyes peeled for lots of different animals, plants and insects as we found out about the wildlife in our local area. We were joined on our sleepover by David who is a leader with our Scouts, but more importantly to us, an expert in all things trees, thanks to his job. David taught us lots about different trees, plants and habitats, even the myth about the fairies of the Rowan tree. Back at the hall we had a go at building shelters and cooked s'mores over a fire, as well as learning about

some basic first aid that we might need for accidents outdoors. We enjoyed a buffet dinner, like you would get at a birthday party. Struan Mc was also celebrating his birthday like the Gruffalo! After dinner, our day visitors left us and we enjoyed some energetic games outside on a glorious spring evening. This was a great way to burn off the last of the energy we had left before settling down to watch the Gruffalo. After hot chocolate and some movie treats it was time for bed! A late night and an early start left some of the leaders struggling on Sunday morning but the Beavers were ready full of energy for another day. After breakfast we had to pack our own bags and tents away (with some help from the leaders). The sun was shining and

we spent the morning exploring the river area where we saw lots of evidence of beavers nibbling away at trees on the riverside. This was super exciting to see and they've definitely done a lot of chewing since we were last here in September. We all had a go at perfecting our skimming techniques with stones down at the river before enjoying some time in the playpark.

All too soon it was time to go home. We had a final log chew (Beaver group discussion) about our favourite parts of the weekend and got given our badges we'd earned, including another hike and night away to our collections. The extra surprise was a special limited edition badge for the Gruffalo explorers celebration camp 2019 that has been produced specially for Beavers holding a Gruffalo themed camp this year. Everyone had a wonderful time – the most popular answer to the favourite part of the weekend was "everything".

### **Beavers**

*Beavers are aged 6-8, 2 colonies meet alternating Tuesdays 6-7pm  
Lesser McLaren Hall*

This term we've been working towards our "explore" and "adventure" badges! We had a think about all the great places there are to explore around Killin and each colony decided where they would like to explore more. The Lawers beavers explored the lower slopes of Sron a Clachain and the Stags beavers are going to explore the "Scout pool" area down Glen Lochay. As part of our adventure badge we're looking forward to a trip along the lochside to





## 2nd Killin & District Scout Group Stirling & Trossachs.

Abernethy, Ardeonaig where we're going to be doing some adventurous activities to finish off before the summer. More of our Beavers have been busy working towards badges at home too; Eilidh has completed her stage 1 swimmers badge and Struan A his builder badge. After the summer we will have space for a few



more Beavers so if your child is 6 or about to turn 6 please do get in touch.

**Laura Bathgate** – Beaver Leader  
07708216065

### Cubs

*Cubs are aged 8-10½ and will be meeting every other Tuesday in The Lesser Hall, Killin, from 7.15pm to 8.30pm.*

With the better weather the Cubs have been outside keeping busy. We were able to do some good work towards our community impact badge with a litter pick in the Breadalbane Park. Somehow we were able to fill 2 large bin bags of rubbish! A real achievement from all. A lot of planning has been put into our joint cub camp and I can confirm it was a success. Certainly one to remember with lots of friendships and networking as well as sub-freezing overnight temperatures to contend with. More news of this camp to follow in the next Killin News as we

are still unpacking as we write. Highlights still to come are a full day bike ride and nice local walk.

**Stephen Rawlinson** - Cub Leader  
07742 886918

### Scouts

*Scouts are aged 10½-14 and meet every Wednesday in The Lesser Hall, Killin, from 7-9pm.*

A brief follow up for the Scouts this week as the majority of our Scout leaders have been assisting with other sections camps and sleepovers. We are working really hard towards our forestry badge with some great contributions looking likely to an existing woodland in the local area. Highlights coming up are some mountain biking, wood whittling and local walks with a plan of possibly doing some bigger and exciting walks in the summer. Still lots of planning going on behind the scenes at Scouts.

**New Scout Leader – Matt Collins**  
07564 669392  
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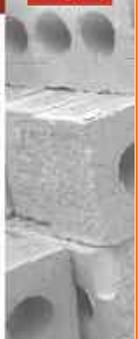
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# Celebrations

## Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Alex and Fiona Stewart wish to thank their family for the support and gift celebrating their anniversary. The Photographic Experience at selected locations, which includes the whole family is quite unusual and will provide a wonderful pictorial record of this special year. Special thanks also to our many friends for the sincere messages, both amusing and cheeky, on reaching this milestone.

We both look back over forty years with all its variances and experiences with a sense of achievement. Heather and David have done us proud and are set on their own course now. Our grandchildren are a real joy and Eva, Imogen, Skye and Lachlan will all play their role in our family history in due time.



Our involvement with local clubs and events working along with many in the community, helped to maintain an enjoyable social life and in a small way add to the history of the village we call home.

In forty years there have been many changes in shops and businesses as well as the social calendar enjoyed by everyone. However, our memories have preserved how things were, and the contribution we both made, along with that of others, helped the village to survive and move forward to where it finds itself today.

Many thanks to everyone for their best wishes and we look forward with an eye on the past.

**Alex & Fiona**

## Wedding

James Duncan Kennedy and Jennifer Sarah Thomas were married on 10th May at Callander registry office



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# Local Planning Applications

## National Park

**22 Mar 2019**

Proposal: Change of use of 2 no. agricultural barns to storage use associated with Cononish Gold Mine and formation of external storage area and explosives store (retrospective)

Location: Cononish Farm, Cononish Road, Tyndrum

Applicant: Scotgold Resources Ltd  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Approve

**19 Apr 2019**

Proposal: Erection of 2no. poles for 11Kv Overhead Line

Location: Land At Benmore Farm, Crianlarich

Applicant: Lorna Williamson  
Application Type: Statutory Notification - overhead lines

Decision: Current

## Perth & Kinross Council

**18 Mar 2019**

Proposal: Alterations and extensions to dwelling house

Location: Cragganester, Lawers  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Pete and Morven Cooke

Application Type: Planning Permission local

Decision: Approve the application

## Stirling Council

**04 Apr 2019**

Proposal: Installation of 2No. UHF antennas onto existing mast and ancillary development

Location: Killin Transmitting Station, Killin

Applicant: Arqiva  
Application Type: Statutory Notification (Telecoms)

Decision: Approve

**18 Apr 2019**

Proposal: Reinstatement of fire damaged dwelling house

Location: Myrtle Cottage, Killin  
Applicant: Mr Allan Attack

Application Type: Full  
Decision: Unknown

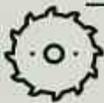
# Community Auction

The Office Bearers and Members of Lodge Breadalbane St. Fillans No. 815 wish to sincerely thank the village, and surrounding community for their donations to the 2019 Auction. Due to limited space available for storage of goods, and time needed to arrange these in a suitable order to be catalogued and numbered, donations could not be received after the morning of Monday 15th April. The organisers apologise in not making this clear on the advert and notices. The number of lots available for sale was almost 400 and despite being amateurs, we got through everything in three and a half hours.

It is the generosity of those donating as well as the purchasers, both local and visiting, which makes the evening enjoyable, and raises funds to assist organisations, clubs and worthy causes. Going forward, Easter Saturday is reserved for the 2020 Auction and the Lodge Members look forward to the continued support of the Villagers and surrounding area.

**Alex Stewart PM**

# Doune Woodyard & Hardware Shop



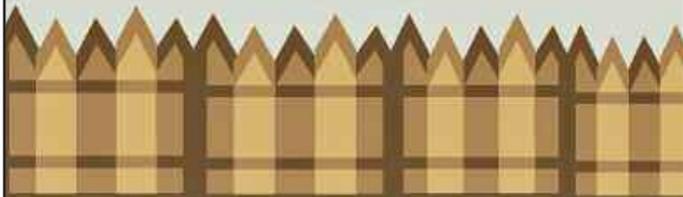
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## Natural Beauty



## Man Made Eyesore

I took this photo on the May bank holiday when down at the bottle bank and was appalled by the state of the area. What visitors must think when they see the mess doesn't bear thinking about. I'm not sure what the solution is, but maybe Stirling Council could be asked if it was possible for general waste bins to be provided. Apart from the unsightliness of it all, if the weather gets warmer the mess will become a health hazard.

**Emma Paterson**



### This is Rubbish !!

Would it be possible for spot checks of bag contents by an official to identify the culprits so that fines could be enforced? This might at least discourage some people from dumping their rubbish here.

**To advertise in the Killin News  
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## Ads Index

|                              |    |                        |    |
|------------------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| A&B Services                 | 37 | Grants Laundry         | 14 |
| Aberfeldy Optician           | 5  | Green Welly            | 13 |
| Aberfoyle Roofing & Building | 3  | Grooming Marvellous    | 35 |
| Ally Baird                   | 35 | Heartland Vets         | 6  |
| Anderson Funeral Directors   | 27 | Jasmine Beauty         | 26 |
| Andrew Baird Optometrist     | 23 | Jason Campbell         | 35 |
| Artisan Cafe                 | 12 | John Morris Safety     | 30 |
| Back Pain Clinic             | 33 | Killin Hotel           | 31 |
| BL Decorators                | 4  | Killin Library         | 28 |
| Ben Lawyers Hotel            | 32 | Killin Outdoor Shop    | 33 |
| Bridge End Mill              | 8  | Learn to Sing          | 22 |
| Bridge of Lochay             | 10 | LixToll                | 40 |
| Callander Physio             | 11 | Luib Hotel             | 5  |
| Capercaillie                 | 36 | Mains of Taymouth      | 18 |
| Care Dental                  | 17 | Marshall Roofing       | 25 |
| Charles Grant                | 30 | McLaren Leisure Centre | 8  |
| Ciro's                       | 25 | Mhor84                 | 27 |
| Coach House Hotel            | 18 | Patricia Waite         | 26 |
| Cooper Cottages              | 16 | PFK Callander Ltd      | 15 |
| Courie Inn                   | 19 | RG Electrical          | 9  |
| Crianlarich Store            | 12 | Riverside Vets         | 20 |
| Cruachan Restaurant          | 20 | Rob Roy Homes          | 35 |
| Cruachan Landscapes          | 26 | Rural Stirling Housing | 28 |
| Donnie McLeod                | 26 | S.Forster Electrical   | 19 |
| Douglas McRobbie             | 15 | Sarah Kelly            | 30 |
| Doune Woodyard               | 37 | SJB Plant Hire         | 22 |
| Eco Carpet Cleaning          | 9  | Sports & Leisure Club  | 12 |
| Eric McAllister              | 19 | Stephen Kerr MP        | 16 |
| Escape                       | 4  | Stirling Council IT    | 15 |
| Fabric Studio                | 14 | Stitt Bros             | 26 |
| Feeds & Stoves               | 36 | Sula                   | 6  |
| Gatehouse Nurseries          | 11 | The Old Mill           | 29 |
| Gaulds Funeral Directors     | 28 | The Studio             | 22 |
| Golden Larches               | 21 | TJ's Diner             | 7  |
| Gourlay                      | 32 | Tombreck Farm Shop     | 23 |
| Graham Grant Decorating      | 3  | Vision Hair & Beauty   | 24 |
| Grant and Welsh              | 9  | Window Cleaning        | 3  |

# What's On In Killin And District

## Regular Activities

### Monday

- Juniors P7 Badminton, 6-7pm, McLaren Hall
- Adult Badminton, 7-10pm, McLaren Hall
- Junior Badminton, 6pm, Crianlarich Hall
- U3A Bridge, 7.15-9pm, Killin Hotel, contact Marion 829027
- Outdoor Bowls, 6.30pm, Sports Pavillion
- Indoor Bowls, 7.30pm, Lesser Hall, (winter only)

### Tuesday

- Killin Craft Group, 10am-12pm, Community Rooms
- Internet Cafe, drop in between 11am-1pm, Killin Library
- Adult Badminton, 7-10pm, McLaren Hall
- Beavers, 6-7pm, Lesser Hall
- Cubs, 7.15-8.30pm, Lesser Hall (every other Tuesday)
- Choir, 7.30pm, Church, contact Franny 829048
- Netball, 7.15pm, Killin Sports & Leisure Club
- Tuesday Club, 2-4pm, Community Rooms
- U3A Art, 2pm, Killin Hotel
- CAB drop-in session, 10:30-12:00, MacGregor's Market, 1:00-2:00, Killin Library

### Wednesday

- Strength & Balance, 1.30-2.30, Killin Hotel
- Highland Hustle, 6.30-7.15pm, McLaren Hall
- Metafit, 7.30pm, McLaren Hall
- Scouts, 7-9pm, Lesser Hall
- Explorers, 7-9pm ( last Wed of month ), Lesser Hall
- U3A French, 2.30-4pm, Killin Hotel

### Thursday

- Women's Guild, 2pm (3<sup>rd</sup> week of month) , Falls of Dochart Retirement Home
- Running Club, 6pm, Acharn Forest carpark

### Friday

- U3A Bridge, 2pm, Killin Hotel
- Yoga, 10.30-12.00, The Big Shed

### Sunday

- Killin Gun Club, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of month March-December. Contact Stuart Ogston 07999 510014 Henry Paterson 01567 820354

## Coming Soon !

### June

- 1-2 Bob MacGregor Memorial Trials
- 3 Strathfillan CC AGM, p13
- 5 Walk in the Park, p19
- 6 Fireworks Meeting, p32
- 12 Walk in the Park, p19
- 14-16 Killin Music Festival, p3
- 15 Book Sale
- 17 Killin CC meeting, p13
- 19 Walk in the Park, p19
- 26 Walk in the Park, p19

### July

- 3 Walk in the Park, p19
- 10 Walk in the Park, p19
- 17 Walk in the Park, p19
- 24 Walk in the Park, p19
- 31 Walk in the Park, p19
- various dates - NTS events, p30

### August

- 3 Old Mill Jumble Sale, p28
- 7 Killin Highland Games
- 17 Killin Show
- 25 Sponsored Cycle, p32
- various dates - NTS events, p30
- 27 U3A Killin Enrolment, p24

## Church Services

- Sunday 10am, Morning Worship, Killin Parish Church
- 2nd Sunday of the month, 3pm, Falls of Dochart Retirement Home

## Mobile Libraries

### Tyndrum/Crianlarich Fortnightly Fridays

June 14, 28, July 12, 26

### Crianlarich

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

### Tyndrum

Station Road 1.30-1.50  
Clifton 1.55-2.20  
Mansefield 2.25-2.50

### Glen Lochay/Ardeonaig Fortnightly Mondays

June 10, 24, July 8, 22  
Glen Lochay 11.15-12.30  
Ardeonaig 2.00-2.45

### Perth and Kinross Fortnightly Tuesday

June 11, 25, July 9, 23  
Tombreck 16.40-17.00  
Lawers 17.15-17.30

## Which bin? Saturdays

1st June 8th June

15th June 22nd June

29th June 6th July

13th July 20th July

27th July 3rd August

Grey = grey bin + blue bin

Brown = brown bin + blue box

Green = brown bin + green bin

## Recycling Centres

### Callander

Monday-Friday: 5pm-8pm  
Saturday: 10am-2pm  
Sunday: Closed

### Aberfeldy

Tuesday and Thursday  
9am-7pm  
Saturday and Sunday  
10am-5pm

### Crieff

North Forr, Brioch Forr  
All Year  
Monday-Friday 9am-7pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
9am-5pm

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