

KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Killin News

Editorial Policy Statement

The Killin News is a free community newspaper produced and distributed every two months by volunteers to households and businesses in Killin and district. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertaining journal for those who live, work and visit in this area. Letters and articles published in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Production Committee and they reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any item. Contributions will be attributed to the author. Vested interests will be declared where applicable. Articles should be between 200 and 300 words, photos in high quality and the content should be original work relevant to Killin and environs. All personal emails are acknowledged by a reply. If you do not receive a reply please contact us by phone or drop the article in the office letterbox.

Production Team

Sylvana Ginella, Jo Goddard, Susan Howard,
Paul Howard, Angus Inglis, Angus Kay,
Anneke Mayo, Chris Rose, Pam Walsh

Photographer Ron Allner

Delivery Volunteers

Jim Beattie, Margaretanne Browne, Ellen Cattenach,
Theresa Elliot (and James), Lynne Ferguson, Tim and Ruth Fison,
Tim Frost, Linda Frost, Elizabeth Hancock, Andrea Hobson,
Jillian Laurence, Katy MacLeod, John and Jennifer Morris,
Billy Noble, David Pritchard, Kay Riddell, Moira Robertson,
Lynne McPherson, Vesna Podrzaj, Gordon Webster, Kathleen
McLennan, the family at Rubble Cottage,
and some committee members

Proofreaders

Lynne Ferguson, Frances Inglis

Web sites: www.killin.info and www.killinnews.co.uk

e-mail: editorial@killinnews.co.uk
adverts@killinnews.co.uk

Address: Morenish Place, Main Street, Killin FK21 8UR
Office Phone : 01567 820014

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**Front Cover
Photo Ron Alner**



DEADLINES

Issue 199

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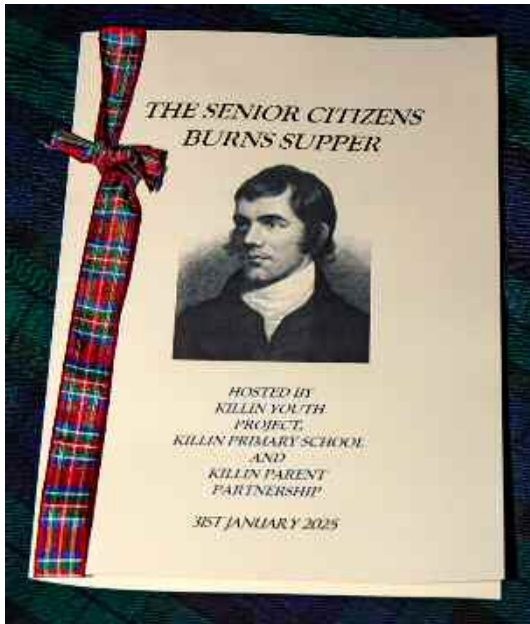
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Senior Citizens Burns Supper



Senior Citizens from Killin enjoyed a fabulous Burns Supper in the McLaren Hall, courtesy of Killin Youth Project, Killin Primary School and Killin Parent Partnership. Great food, entertainment, music and dancing. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it such a great evening!



✦ MCLAREN HALL ✦

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL



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11AM - 3PM

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12 NOON - 2 PM

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Your local pharmacy, Davidsons Chemists, is committed to caring for you and our community

EAR AND HEARING HEALTH

Davidsons are now providing the following service's; Ear examinations, ear wax removal and hearing tests. Are you having trouble hearing others, annoying ache in your ears, ringing in your ears or itchy sore ears? It could just be wax, which we can easily remove in store by microsuction. Speak to a member of staff to get further information, prices or to book an appointment.

NHS PHARMACY FIRST SCOTLAND

Your pharmacy is the first place you should go for advice and treatment for many common conditions and ailments. Particularly as we come into spring and summer we can help with hayfever and insect bites! The pharmacy team will give you advice on how to manage your symptoms and, if necessary, supply you with free NHS treatment or arrange onwards referral. Both Laura and Melissa are prescribing pharmacists and will often be able to help you with a wide range of conditions; we ask that if possible you phone ahead to make an appointment if you wish to be seen for a consultation.

LUNCHTIME REMINDER

Our pharmacist's lunch break is usually between 12.30-1.30pm. If they are not on the premises at this time we will not be able to hand out your prescription or sell certain medicines so please avoid this time if that is the purpose of your visit.



Davidsons Chemists, Myrtle Grove, Main Street, Killin Tel: 01567 829006 killin@wdavidson.co.uk

Moirlanich Longhouse



Moirlanich Longhouse will open again this Easter Sunday with an Easter Egg trail for families. There will be puzzles to solve throughout the house and if you solve them, you will be able to open Tom's Toolbox and claim a chocolate treat – we have Malteser eggs and MooFree eggs this year, so something for everyone.

The trail is £5 (includes one adult and one child) and runs from 11.30 am – 1.30 pm and then from 2pm until we run out of eggs!

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/moirlanich-longhouse>



The house will then be open for all visitors from 2-5pm and then from May to September, Wednesdays and Sundays, 2-5pm. If you have a group visiting and would like to come out with these hours, get in touch – moirlanich@nts.org.uk

If you love local history, we are always in need of volunteers to staff the house and greet our visitors. Get in touch moirlanich@nts.org.uk



We would like to express our gratitude towards the Killin News- team and their great work!
Mona & Ronan

If you would like to support your local crafter, please check Facebook for the opening times of "The Nook".
Our local honey can be bought from our new honesty stall.

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Memories of Moirlanich.

The National Trust for Scotland, in conjunction with the Killin Media Project 2025, are looking for any recollections about Moirlanich Longhouse, Tom Proctor and the Robertson family. Join us on Sunday 27th of April from 2pm, for a free tour of the house and then tea and chat by the lum. Transport is available, contact Eleanor on 01567 820988 or moirlanich@nts.org.uk

Please note, this event will be filmed.

Killin Mountain Rescue Team

Callout Summary

Once again winter has been a passing season with some periods of extreme winter conditions on the hills, spaced out by benign sunny periods or warm, thawing conditions. This has meant we have been kept somewhat busy with callouts, as the conditions have been catching people out, or been challenging to negotiate. Some of the highlights have included two walkers cragfast in deep snow on Stuc a'Chroin. This required some technical ropework and searching to ensure safe extraction from the deep and steep snowy ground.



Two rescues have occurred on Ben More, one nearly at the summit of the hill and requiring a long stretcher recovery. Thanks go to Lomond MRT and the Coastguard helicopter team

for their assistance.

We also had a callout near the summit of Ben Lui which again required the assistance of the Coastguard helicopter as well as Oban MRT to bring to a safe conclusion.



As a point of note, the majority of our winter rescues have been completed in the dark. With this in mind, always carry a head torch until well into the Summer months as any minor mishap can take longer than expected to rectify.

Training

The fickle nature of our winters is also having an effect on our ability to complete winter training as effectively as we would wish. It can take many years to gain the necessary personal winter experience to operate in demanding and difficult conditions over steep and hazardous ground. Additionally, we have to train ourselves in the skills unique to mountain rescue such as avalanche rescue and recovery, winter rigging and rescues in winter conditions. To overcome these challenges, we once again undertook a Winter Training weekend in the Cairngorm Mountains delivered by mountain professionals. Using local guides means we can utilise their experience to get the most out of the conditions.



Everyone fully enjoyed the weekend and it also enables members to have a rare social get together too.

Winter preparation

We hope winter is behind us now but our mountains can still get sudden blasts of winter conditions especially so during the Easter break.

As a reminder, don't be complacent and 'Think Winter':



<https://www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and-skills/thinkwinter>

Planning

Behind the scenes, a huge amount of work is also being undertaken. This includes procuring new equipment including an additional vehicle, ensuring all members are PVG registered, liaising with Scottish Mountain Rescue as they undertake an independent review of their structure as well as looking at our future plans.

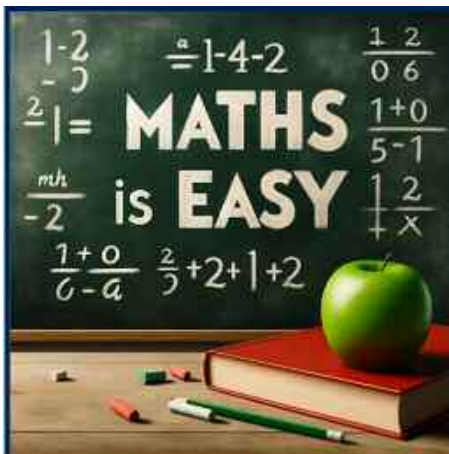
Contact

As ever, thank you to all our members who have been working so hard. But, also to all our supporters and people who donate to us. The support is greatly appreciated. If you do have any questions or queries, do please contact the team via email at:

secretary@killinmountainrescue.scot

Stephen Rawlinson
Secretary

Killin Mountain Rescue Team



Get in touch for a friendly chat about your **math tutoring** needs with me, **Malcolm**.

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[@malcolmappleby46](https://www.instagram.com/malcolmappleby46)



Iconic *STILL* Sculpture Returns to Loch Earn

The beloved *STILL* sculpture, created by renowned Scottish sculptor and environmental artist Rob Mulholland, has triumphantly returned to the waters of Loch Earn, offering locals and visitors alike the chance to experience its mesmerising reflection against the Highland landscape once more. Positioned serenely in the water in St Fillans, the 3m tall mirrored figure has become a landmark for the village and a symbol of the powerful bond between art, community, and nature.

First installed in 2014, the *STILL* sculpture quickly became a celebrated attraction, drawing admirers to Loch Earn with its unique ability to blend into its surroundings, reflecting the ever-changing beauty of the landscape. After an absence, its return was made possible by the

efforts of St Fillans in Bloom, the local volunteer group dedicated to enhancing the village's beauty and appeal, alongside support from community members and funders.



reflects the stunning landscape around us but also represents the resilience and creativity of our community. We're delighted to bring *STILL* back to St Fillans, where it can inspire and captivate all over again."

Rob Mulholland, the artist behind *STILL*, expressed his excitement to see his sculpture back in Loch Earn, saying, "I created *STILL* to symbolise the physical and spiritual relationship between humans and the natural world.

The figure is purposefully static in stance reflecting the awe and power of nature. It's incredible to witness how the sculpture has resonated with the people of St Fillans and visitors from far and wide. I'm deeply honoured that *STILL* has found a home here, and I look forward to

seeing how *STILL* continues to engage with the community and the landscape."

"The return of *STILL* to Loch Earn is truly a gift to the village and to everyone who visits," said Audrey Gavigan, Treasurer of St Fillans in Bloom. "This sculpture has a special place in our hearts. It not only



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SJP Approved 04/09/2024



Join the Green Team

The Green Team is run by the National Trust for Scotland rangers for local youngsters aged 6-11 interested in nature. We go out and about exploring the local environment and its wildlife with plenty of fun activities and games.

There are amazing habitats to discover, all within easy walking distance of the village including woodland, wetlands, rivers and Loch Tay. Sometimes we venture further afield too. We meet monthly between April and September on the fourth Thursday of the month from 4 to 5.30pm. The first meeting this year will be on 24th April.

For further details of the programme or to sign up please email benlawers@nts.org.uk or direct message via <https://www.facebook.com/BenLawersNationalNatureReserve>



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Killin Nursery



Killin Nursery children celebrated Science Week with a variety of different science experiments, from making ice cream to learning how a lava lamp works. As fun as these experiments are, they are also a fantastic way to support development of critical and creative thinking as well as problem-solving. Other benefits include increased vocabulary, numeracy and physics skills. Not all the experiments were successful and this can help children to develop perseverance and an understanding that failure can help them to learn.



Our Stay, play and blether away group continues to be well received in the community. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet other families, enjoy a cuppa and have a chat. We have invited some professionals to our next couple of sessions to support the community with getting to know the services available in our local area. Please feel free to join us on the following dates:-

Thursday 27th March 2-3pm – Our local Health Visitor, Charlotte will be joining us.

Thursday 1st May 2 – 3pm – Aileen from Stirling Council ASN Outreach service will be joining us.



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY
3 MARCH



The children celebrated Wildlife Day by taking a nature walk around our local area. They spotted lots of animals – an emu, a horse, sheep and a newt to name a few! In being involved in these events, the children can learn the importance of animals and plants and the

benefits they bring to our world. We also aim to raise awareness about the importance of protecting wildlife.



Killin Rhyme Time

Sharing stories, songs and rhymes with babies and young children has many benefits including supporting children's language, learning and social skills. Our rhyme time sessions are held in Killin Library, every Tuesday at 10:30am. Please join us! It's fun, free and simple, and the benefits will last their lifetime.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU for the recent fundraising and donations that the nursery has benefitted from.

Thank you to our fabulous Nursery Parent Partnership who have worked so hard to offer fun events and raise money in the process to support the nursery. The NPP are also paying for our Pre-school end of nursery Safari trip as well as a live show event for all nursery children to celebrate the end of term in June. Thank you to the members of Lodge Breadalbane St Fillans No. 815 for your extremely kind donation of £1000. We appreciate your support. Thank you also for a very kind anonymous donation of £500. We are very grateful for your support.

The money received has allowed for the purchase of two new storage containers. One is for the storage of nursery resources and the other is for



the storage of the Stay, Play and Blether away Group resources. This will allow us to open up more space in our garden for the children to play and learn outside. Special thanks to Gregor and his team who helped to build the containers and make the area around them safe.

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Threads of Home Photography Exhibition

Threads of Home is a self-funded and independently created photography exhibition that showcases the diverse and personal interpretations of the concept of 'home' through the eyes of Killin residents. This unique visual arts project has been crafted collaboratively by a cross-section of residents who have come together to share their personal stories, experiences, and connections to the place they call home.

By blending a wide range of portraiture, Threads of Home creates a rich tapestry of images that invite viewers to reflect on their own relationships with the idea of home. The exhibition serves as both an artistic exploration and a celebration of the collective essence of home, offering a unique opportunity to experience the diverse ways in which the notion of home is interpreted and cherished by those who live in it.

The exhibition will start on the 29th of March at the Old Mill and continue until June.

James Holloway

Killin Church of Scotland Easter Services - All welcome

Every Sunday - 10am service

Saturday 12th April, Open church & Easter afternoon tea 2-4pm

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Open church for quiet reflection and evening services 8-8:30pm

Saturday 19th April, Open church for quiet reflection & Easter Fun activities for children 2-4pm

Sunday 27th April - Children leading 10am service with Easter Story

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Photographs courtesy of GODE PHOTOGRAPHY





Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Countryside Trust invite you to join their weekly 'Walk in the Park' health walk & mobility-confidence building activities!

Walk in the Park – Happy Birthday to Killin

It's a big happy birthday to our Killin health walk group who recently celebrated their 13th birthday. To celebrate the group enjoyed a local walk along the Old Railway line and finished off with cake at the Pavilion Sports and Recreation Hub. Since the start of the year, the group has been utilising the great facilities at the Sports and Recreation hub. Our participants noted a sense of community and inclusivity when we have returned to share home baking and chat over a warm cuppa. From a recent survey we know that ninety percent of our participants have benefitted from the social aspects of joining our health walk groups, and our Killin group are certainly a sociable and welcoming crowd!

Evening Walks – restart 7 April

Great news too, this month our evening walks recommence fortnightly from Monday the 7th of April. Meet at the Pavillion Sports and Recreation Hub at 6.50pm for a 7pm start. A great way to meet new people, keep fit and explore the beautiful surroundings that Killin has to offer.

We're fundraising for 'Walk in the Park'

The Countryside Trust are walking this year's Kiltwalk to raise funds in aid of 'Walk in the Park'! We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to join the team. If you or anyone you know would like to make a donation, you will be helping us to continue supporting our community-based health walk programme. Please scan the QR code or visit; www.justgiving.com/campaign/countrysideside-trust-healthwalk-fundraiser. Thank you!

Weekly Strength & Balance Sessions

In between our health-walks or just by themselves, join us for our weekly sessions in a safe environment. Led by our volunteers, strength and

balance exercises focus on building strength, improving balance and mobility, which may help build confidence. Stay for a cuppa and chat afterwards :-

LOCH LOMOND
& THE TROSSACHS
COUNTRYSIDE
TRUST



Wednesday's, 2-3pm, Killin & Ardeonaig Parish Church - weekly

We also like to end our sessions with tea and coffee, as the social element of our sessions is equally important.

Thursday's 2-3pm, Crianlarich Village Hall - weekly

In partnership with the Strathfillan Community Development Trust our Crianlarich sessions are weekly with participants invited to stay for a cuppa afterwards.

Our sessions are FREE with no need to book (although donations are appreciated no matter how small).

Coming up

We are pleased to advise that as part of May walking month, we will be delivering an all-ability pop-up Health Walk in Tyndrum in May. All our activities are volunteer led and if you would be interested in supporting

your community to be more active and connected to nature then our **Walk Leader training** opportunity could be for you.

For further information about any of our activities or volunteering opportunities please drop an email to Fiona@trustinthepark.org or call on 07843 842323

Alternatively, please visit our website at www.trustinthepark.org for more details.



For 2025 - Join us for one of the best health walk programmes in Scotland!

Meeting at the Pavillion Sports and Recreation hub join us every Wednesday at 10:20am, come rain, shine, snow or a touch of frost. Here's what we've got instore for you in April and May:

- 2 April – Golf Club (The Pavilion for refreshments) (D/F, CS)
 - 9 April – Meet at The Capercaillie – McNab island visit (D/F)
 - 16 April – Meet at The Capercaillie – Kinnell Estate (D/F)
 - 23 April – Pier Road/Finlarig Castle (D/F)
 - 30 April – Meet at The Capercaillie – River and railway to memorial (D/F)
 - 7 May – Away Day Trip – To be confirmed (D/F, CS)
 - 14 May – Meet at The Capercaillie – Craignavie Road (D/F)
 - 21 May – Glen Ogle (The Pavilion for refreshments) (D/F, CS)
 - 28 May – Lochearnhead railway/Edinchip (D/F, CS)
- (*D/F symbolises a dementia friendly route/CS car share)



Strathfillan Community Development Trust

Crianlarich Community Garden

Thanks to the volunteers who came out to help install our new furniture in the Garden. We now have 12 new ground beds, 3 elevated beds, and a hot composter. The Garden is looking great, and we have space to accommodate lots of new gardeners. If you'd like to take on a bed or would like to get involved in some capacity, please get in touch with

Sheona@strathfillancdt.org.uk We have a range of new information leaflets and growing guides, so even if you've little experience in the garden, you will be able to get involved!

We'd also like to say a big thank you to Ian Macpherson for completing the repair of the Community Garden perimeter fence. It's made a huge difference to the look of the garden and makes for a more welcoming sight as you enter the village.

We really hope that the investment delivered through the Growing Food Together fund has kick-started a renewed enthusiasm within the community for the Community Garden. We have really enjoyed being part of the Growing Food Together programme, and we are delighted that it has provided us with the resources to ensure we can meet a growing interest from the community. We'd like to say a big thank you to the Green Action Trust for working with us to deliver this project!



Woodlands

Good progress is being made in our Native Woodland expansion project in the Tyndrum Community Woodland, as part of the Wild Strathfillan Project. We have been granted felling permission to fell 7.14ha of the remaining conifer stands, leftover from the previous plantation. This will remove the largest remaining stands of non-native conifers, which will be re-planted with a mixture of native species such as Scots Pine, Birch, Rowan, Alder, Willow & Hazel.

We are now seeking permissions to install and upgrade the access infrastructure in the Woodland, to support the felling and extraction operations. We hope this work can be completed over the summer, with felling and re-stocking taking place towards the end of the year. If you'd like to hear more about the work going on the Tyndrum Community Woodland, please get in touch with our Woodland Officer euan@strathfillancdt.org.uk. The Trust decided to close the Tyndrum Shelterbelt after further significant damage was inflicted on the woodland by Storm Eowyn. We advise that members of the public should not frequent the woodland due to the number of dangerous hazards which are present in the woodland. The Trust has decided that the best option for the Shelterbelt is to fell and replant, removing the possibility for continued wind and fell damage. We need to know what the community would like to see the woodland space used for, so please get in touch with our Woodland Officer euan@strathfillancdt.org.uk to have your views heard.

Cycle Path

We'd like to say a big thank you to Sustrans (funding) and LUC (consultants) who have completed two further feasibility studies for the Tyndrum to Killin Cycle Path. These studies featured as additions to the *Kirkton to Killin Path Feasibility Study* completed last year, which followed well attended community and landowner consultations. The results of these studies can be found on our website

<https://www.strathfillancdt.org.uk/projects/cycle-paths>.

If you have any questions about these studies, or you're interested in the next stages of the Cycle Path development, then please get in touch with our Community Project Officer, euan@strathfillancdt.org.uk

Strathfillan Angling Association

Trout season got underway on the 15th of March, so all systems are now go! All members should have received a renewal form in the post for this season. Membership for the season remains at £50. If you fancy becoming a member, drop us a message and we can send you a form. It can be done by post or by email, whichever you prefer.

Please note that day ticket permits will be increasing slightly this year slightly to £10 per day for adults and £8 for OAP's. It may be beneficial to take out a membership as you get your money back after fishing more than 5 days.

The new season's permits and maps are available from Crianlarich Stores, the Rod & Reel, the Crianlarich Hotel and the Green Welly Stop. Fishing can also be booked online via the Fishpal website

www.fishpal.com/Scotland/Tay/StrathfillanAA/?dom=ta y. The updated map for 2025 is available on our website at <https://www.strathfillancdt.org.uk/projects/fishing-in-strathfillan>. Follow us on Facebook and share your photos of your catch and our lovely area at www.facebook.com/Strathfillanfishing/.

As always, thank you to Colin McGeoch for chairing and steering the Strathfillan Angling Association.

Indoor Bowls

We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Crianlarich Village Hall at 7.30pm and costs £4 per person. We have a good attendance, but we are always on the lookout for new members so please come along and give it a shot!

Membership

We are always on the lookout for new members to join the Trust, at any time of the year. There are two levels of membership, Ordinary and Associate, which allows anyone to become a member no matter where you live. It is free to join, and further information can be found on our website www.strathfillancdt.org.uk or by contacting us via email at office@strathfillancdt.org.uk

Strength and Balance Classes

Are you interested in getting active? Or are you looking for an opportunity to socialise within the community? Come and join us at our local Strength and Balance classes in Crianlarich Village Hall. We meet on Thursday afternoons between 2 – 3 pm, followed by tea and biscuits. Our sessions are FREE (although donations no matter how small kindly accepted) with no need to book! Everyone is welcome and if you need help to get



here, please contact Sheona or Dawn at the Trust to arrange a lift. We look forward to seeing you! If you would like further information on the classes, you can contact Fiona@trustinthepark.org from Trust in the Park or Sheona@strathfillandct.org.uk



The 5 Ways to Wellbeing



Knee Bends

- » Feet should be hip width apart, toes facing forwards.
- » Bend the knees and push your bottom backwards as though you were going to sit down.
- » Ensure the heels do not lift and the knees do not roll inwards.
- » Come back up to the start position slowly.
- » Use a support if you need to but try first with hands near support but not holding on.
- » Don't go too low, make sure you can comfortably stand again without too much strain on the knees. As time goes on and you strengthen the muscles around the knees with this exercise you may be able to drop lower without discomfort.
- » Repeat up to 5 times, eventually build to 10 times.



Let us know how you get on – give us some feedback on the SCDT Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/strathfillandct>

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We enjoyed lots of reading based activities during World Book Day on the 6th March.



Stuart Reid, author of the Gorgeous George series, visited us and gave us a memorable assembly and workshop on story writing.



Children from KPS and CPS went to Murrayfield to watch Scotland v Ireland in the 6 Nations. They had a fantastic experience and hopefully some unforgettable memories! It was a shame about the score, but other than that, they had a great day! A huge thanks to Kevin and Linda Fitzgerald from Killin, whose generous donation kept the pupils' heads warm!



Class One have been learning about Light and Shadow in Science. We made some long shadows because the sun is low in winter.



Whit a Celebration O' Scots! The school wis fair thrang wi talent as we celebrated the Scots language in style. There wis singin' that could mak ye greet, poems that had us aw in stitches, music that got toes tappin', and art sae guid we're thinkin' aboot startin' an auction!

A huge weel done tae the weans, wha proved they're no just guid at bletherin' in Scots – they can fair perform it an aw!

Here's tae keeping oor Scots heritage alive!



Class 3 have been part of the Salmon in the Classroom Project with Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board and Gareth Kett from Lomond and Trossachs National Park. We monitored 100 eggs in the classroom with 98 alevins hatching! After making a redd (a nest in the bottom of a river for salmon to lay their eggs) we released the young salmon in the Acharn Burn. Thank you to everyone who has organised this fun and engaging project for the children.



Class 2 and 3 had a fun day of den building and team building. They created portraits of the staff using natural materials.



A fantastic effort from our P6 and P7 runners at the Stirling Schools Cross Country event in January!

All the staff and children would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Macaskill for her years of hard work and dedication. She was a HUGE asset to KPS and will be missed dearly. We would like to wish her all the best in her next adventure.



The Pupil Council were visited by PC Iona and PC Iain. They got to use the radar gun to check drivers were keeping to the 20mph limit around school.



We were joined by PC Iain who led an assembly on Road Safety. He reminded pupils of the safest and best practice when using and crossing roads and talked about the differences between road safety in villages, towns and cities.

♪♪Primary 4-7 from Killin, Crianlarich and Strathyre Primaries came together for a fantastic water themed musical workshop. In the afternoon, parents and P1-3 were treated to a concert showing what the children had learned. ♪♪

Local Planning Applications

National Park

14 Jan 2025

Proposal: Siting of new pod in garden grounds of Carna Cottage for use as short term letting accommodation

Location: Carna Cottage Crianlarich

Applicant: Ms Rebecca Turner

Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission

Decision: Current

31 Jan 2025

Proposal: Tree works within a conservation area - Crown reduction to Copper Beech tree

Location: Craighuie Main Street Killin

Applicant: Mr Alan Fernie

Application Type: Tree works application

Decision: Refuse

Perth & Kinross Council

18 Feb 2025

Proposal: Alterations to dwellinghouse

Location: North Steading Tombreck Lawers

Applicant: Mr Chris Horner

Application Type: planning permission local

Decision: Approve the application

Stirling Council

Nothing to Report



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Crianlarich Primary School

Rugby - Scotland vs Ireland

Three pupils from Crianlarich attended the game with children from Killin P.S. This was a new experience for the pupils, and they had a great time. The children were sat front row, meaning they got high-fives from the mascot. Although it wasn't the score we were hoping for, the atmosphere was amazing. Mr & Mrs Fitzgerald kindly donated money for the children to get a Scotland hat each.



Skiing/Snowboarding for P5-7

P5-7 went to Glen Coe for 2 days to ski and snowboard. The children were given lessons by instructors on the mountain. We practiced our techniques on the dry slope, then went up to the top of the mountain. The top group were able to go up the button tow and chair lift to explore the mountain further. We are lucky to have this opportunity, being in a rural school.



World Book Day P1-7

We celebrated World Book Day this year with a dress up or dress down option and it was wonderful to see all the incredible costumes and cosy outfits. We invited parents in for cosy reading in our library, making bookmarks and doing a book themed quiz.

Wildlife in Winter Talks

P1-3 loved having Sharon Cawston (Trust in the Park) and Helen Cole (Ben Lawers National Park) into school to teach us how to support wildlife in winter and make our own sustainable bird feeders using apples! It's been great to get back outside as the weather improves and understand how we can support our local environment in the winter.



Killin and Ardeonaig Trust

An opening day to remember at Fassiefern

Well, what can we say but thank you so much for the overwhelming support we received from the community on our opening day. It felt like most of the village turned out to enjoy the food, entertainment and spend; our till was ringing non-stop! Please see the photo spread and article in this publication for all the details of the day. KAT would really like to thank all the help and support from volunteers for the hard work they put in during the run-up and on the day.

RecyKillin – people power needed

The aim of RecyKillin is to help the area cut down on its environmental impact through our three initiatives, reuse where possible (the Reuse Shop and Tool Library) and reduce food waste (Community Fridge).

We have a great team of volunteers who keep these projects up and running but we would love to be able to do more and so we are on a recruitment drive. If you have a few hours to spare on a regular or ad hoc basis, please read about the opportunities below and get in contact with RecyKillin project manager Rachel Horner. A big shout out to Reuse Shop volunteers Janet, Ruth, Jan, Gary, Jane, Jeanette, Janice, Frances, Noa, Gordana, Moira and Lou; Tool Library volunteers Eleanor, Fig, Mark and Keith; and Community Fridge volunteers Monica, Claire, Jayne, Louise, Jo, Robert and Eleanor.

We hope that you agree the new Reuse Shop is an amazing space to browse and blether. Dogs are welcome (with biscuits provided), and we have a social hub area where you can sit, chat, read, do a jigsaw, or play a game. We don't provide refreshments but please feel free to bring a take-out from our local cafes or bring your own flask.

Our opening times are currently: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays midday to 4pm, and Wednesdays 10am to 1pm. We would really like to extend these times to include one evening until 6pm and possibly even Sundays during the summer months. Do you have a passion for fashion, books, art, or vintage and

collectibles? Do you have an eye for merchandising? Do you love having a good sort out? Do you have some spare hours to volunteer? If anything of these sound like you, the Reuse Shop could do with you on board. We have opportunities on the shop floor, windows and displays, in the stockroom and light cleaning.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/reuseshopkillin for when we can take in donations, and what we are looking for, or call the shop on 01567 230041 for up-to-date information.

The **Tool Library** is now located at Fassiefern and you will find our volunteers there on a Saturday from midday to 1pm and often but not always Tuesdays 2pm to 3pm. We would like to make this a more permanent arrangement but could do with some extra people power. Pop in for a chat and a look at all the tools and craft items we have, or you can also browse the catalogue at recykillin.myturn.com. Membership is £10 for the year, £5 concession. We also accept donations of tools, which you can drop off at the Reuse Shop.

The **Community Fridge** volunteers collect unsold food from the Co-op in the evenings now. The advantage of this new arrangement is that we can take items at their use-by date and freeze immediately. You will find these in the freezer in the Reuse Shop. We will put items such as bread and potatoes outside in the mornings when we can, again we would like to recruit another volunteer or two to be able to do this regularly. The aim of our project is to reduce food waste, so please help us to do this by using up any items that you can. Since we began in March 2022, we have redistributed more than 14,000kg of food.

Name the wolf at the Old Mill

The Old Mill is now open again for the season and we were excited to reveal our wolf's new look. A massive thank you to the talented Elizabeth Murphy for giving him a new lease of life! We are inviting people to put a name suggestion into our competition, so do pop in to take a look. Also have a look at our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/oldmill.KAT to

see this year's programme of markets, events, talks and exhibitions coming up. Currently on display is a photography exhibition *Threads of Home*, by local photographer James. Do come and have a look at his poignant work.

In June to August we will have our *65 Years of Killin School* exhibition, being produced as a collaboration between Killin Primary, local storyteller Amanda Edmiston www.botanicafabula.co.uk, the Old Mill and community members who went to Killin Primary 65 years ago. We will be focussing on the social side of school life – games, songs, food and friendships, both now and then, so do come and see their memories and add yours, too!

Running in September and October is the travelling exhibition *Forgotten Fleece Tales*, a curated collection of works made using waste or unwanted organic Scottish fleece and byproducts of industrial fleece processing. This will be an immersive and in-depth exploration of the enduring value of Scottish fleece, both in terms of farming and textiles heritage and hopes for a sustainable future www.ardbeagcrafts.com/exhibition. We are really excited about this exhibition, and its links with the history of the Old Mill itself.

We are hard at work, with the much appreciated help of Scottish Community Archives and the University of Stirling, developing our acquisitions policies and forms to become a community archive. Expect more announcements on this in the coming months! We will be looking for volunteers to help with the archiving project so please register your interest by emailing raina@killincdt.co.uk.

Youth Group update

Although we don't have an update this month, there's plenty going on as always, and we'll have a full update next issue.

Want to know more about KAT?

You can find out more about each of the KAT projects, the trust's longer term plans and everyone who contributes tirelessly to support our community, on our website www.killincdt.co.uk

Rachel Horner

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Fassiefern Opening



We did it – Fassiefern is finally open!

I hope by now many of you have been in to see Fassiefern in all its glory, if not you should come and visit us.

We are still looking for a tenant for the wee unit; well it feels small compared to the Reuse Shop and the rest of the building, but it's not really that small. If you are interested contact Theresa for more information, contact details below.



It the meantime, we are using the wee unit to display our 'Tales of Killin' exhibition that was in the Old Mill last year. Our exhibitions in the Old Mill tend to be on the

first floor which makes it hard for people with mobility issues to come and see. This exhibition was the work of local people who formed the Old Mill Heritage Reference Group and it's a lovely display of old local photographs with quotes. The exhibition is open when there is someone in the building. If the door is locked ask a volunteer in the Reuse Shop to open it for you. It's free, but as always donations are very welcome.

Anyway, back to the main event, our opening. Well, we were very surprised, relieved and grateful at the turn out. Rachel, our Project Manager for RecyKillin counted over 70 people who came to the actual opening and many more continued to come as the day went on. Thank you to each and every one of you who attended,

we hope you liked the changes.

We were surprised at how long it has taken us to get to this point; 5 years from when KAT started talking about the possibility of buying the Old Co-op. I suppose Covid might have slowed us down a tiny bit, but there were other delays along the way, legal issues held up the purchase, building warrant, the starting of the refurbishment and obviously the electricity scenario, but we made it through.



A lot of people and organisations helped us to get here too. Our funders: Scottish Land Fund (Scottish Government funding, delivered by Highlands & Islands Enterprise & National Lottery for



Fassiefern Opening



Community Fund) who funded the purchase, Placed Based Investment Programme (Scottish Government Funding, delivered by Stirling Council) who funded the refurbishment. Our Contractors: Community Enterprise, MacGregor Building Services, Survey Solutions, Kenneth Kerr, Centurian Signs, Martin Electrical Services.

Our volunteers worked tirelessly the weeks prior to the opening to empty the old shop and get the new shop ready and worked at the opening making sure everyone had refreshments. We cannot do what we do without their commitment; they are the

backbone of our success. I know I have said thank you to them before, but I think it needs to be said again and again, thank you, you are all amazing.

On the day, a big thank you needs to go to Ron Allner for taking so many photos, to Ian Campbell for videoing the opening for the 2025 Video Project. A huge thank you to Judy Foster who we were honoured to invite to cut the ribbon.



The final thank you needs to go to the community. You have been



so patient waiting on us to open, and so many of you have been holding onto donations for months. We are taking in donations regularly, though sometimes we need to put a hold on donations, mainly due to the stock room being too full. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information on what donations we are looking for and when we can take them.

We now have the Business & Learning Hub up and running. We've not said much about this before, so here's a quick summary. The space hosts very fast Wi-Fi over 100mbps upload and download. We are not on the main Openreach system, we are on Bogons which is overall faster. The space has a video conferencing system that is pretty impressive. This is not only my view, but that of a few people who have used it. The space can be hired for a training event, a group of people who want to get together or start a new activity, or individuals who need/want a desk space to work, etc. If you want to look at hiring the space, please contact Theresa to come and look around and have a chat to see if we can help you.

We hope to see you in Fassiefern soon.

Theresa Elliot
Senior Project Manager
Email: theresa@killincdt.co.uk
Phone: 01567 230040





The Community Hub is the place to be on Thursdays between 12.30 & 2.30 pm in the Pavilion, Main Street, Killin.

Gail and her volunteers have a light lunch and a warm welcome for all every Thursday, an opportunity to catch up with friends old and new.

Citizen Advice advisors will also be on hand for any issues with housing, benefits, energy costs etc.

Pop in anytime between 12.30 & 2.30 pm.

For more information contact Gail on 07951 013470

gail@startupstirling.org.uk

#workingtogether #cuppaandchat

Lodge Breadalbane 815



As part of their ongoing local community support, two members of Lodge Breadalbane St. Fillan's No.815 Paul Norris and Ron Allner presented a cheque for £1,000.00 to Killin Nursery School to help fund a secure storage facility for the schools' activities equipment.

The money presented was raised within the local community with the wonderful support of local people and visitors to Killin by purchasing tickets and attending the New Year Dance also the hamper draws and other fundraising events. A big thank you for all your support.

The Lodge will soon once again start to maintain the Old Cemetery behind the Killin Hotel - this takes a lot of effort, so we would be happy for anyone that is able, free and happy to assist, to do so.

We also intend to have an open doors day during the summer so this will give you an opportunity to pop along and ask questions and understand what we are about.

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Thank you Killin

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Killin Community Council Meeting

The Community Council meeting on the 4th March was very well attended.

SSE Update

There was a presentation by SSE representatives on the proposed replacement of the generating equipment and associated repair and maintenance work on the Glenlochay power station. This is in addition to the new transformer project in the same area, and both of these major projects will overlap for a period. Although the exterior of the existing building will be largely unaffected, the renewal and modernisation of the turbines and pumps is a highly technical operation, and will require a fluctuating workforce of between 60 and 100 people. SSE plans to fully replace one machine at a time, due to functionality and safety. Work will begin in April 2025, and it is planned to be completed by July 2028. As well as improving efficiency, it will extend the life of the power station by 40 years. This, of course, will lead to a further increase in traffic on the Glenlochay road over the short term, which will only partially subside with the completion of the transformer station. SSE will notify the community in advance of any very large load transits through the village.

Stirling Council Funding

There is to be an 8% rise in council tax. This was seen as the only alternative to significant cuts to local services, though the council will still go into the following financial year in deficit. Stirling is currently considering levying a 'tourist tax' on visitors. This will likely be modelled on Edinburgh's visitor levy, which will come into force next summer, and which will be set at 5% of paid accommodation prices. There is a

consultation process on this under way, and details of how to make your voice heard can be found in our local library.

Roads

The village is now a 20mph zone for most of its length, though the 40mph zone from the caravan park to the golf club remains. The Community Council has been campaigning, on behalf of local residents, to have this reduced to 30mph, and we hope this will happen soon. Concerns have been raised about the safety of the school crossing. Sited, as it is, immediately after an awkward bend in the road, it has been suggested that more and better signage alerting drivers should be provided. The school has requested that a Stirling Council traffic officer comes to review the situation and make recommendations. Work is due to start on renewing the road markings in the village, and it is hoped that this, along with the reduced speed limits and other improvements, may make the village a little safer for all of us.

Maragowan "Hedge"

The overgrown conifer 'hedge' at the caravan park continues to blight local residents. Originally planted as a hedge, a couple of metres high, to provide a sound barrier and some privacy from the road, this has been allowed to grow to 15-20 metres in places. The resultant thinning out of the lower limbs means that the hedge no longer fulfils its original purpose – it merely casts the houses on the other side of the road into almost permanent shadow. The Community Council will continue to support the residents in their efforts to remedy the situation.

Old Railway Path

The Community Council has been awarded a grant of £100,000 for the complete renovation of the old railway line from the Station Road car park to the head of Loch Tay. This will provide a permanent, durable, all-weather path suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and buggies, and will be a valuable addition to the village's amenities. We still require a small amount of top-up funding, and we will be pursuing this over the coming months.

Minutes Secretary

We are once again looking for a Minute Secretary to attend meetings and take the minutes. This is a paid position and will be remunerated at £50 per meeting. Anyone interested should email communitycouncilkillin@gmail.com for further information.

AGM & Next Meeting

Our AGM and next meeting will be held in the Lesser Maclaren Hall at 7.00pm on the 6 May 2025. All welcome.

Andy Aitken
Chairman



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Update on the C60

The C60 Killin - Callander bus now has an illuminated sign in the windscreen to help differentiate it from white vans / motorhomes! Please try to use this service for getting to Callander. Unfortunately there is no bus run in the middle of the day, which means a longer stay in Callander (unless you travel on to Stirling).

This issue has been flagged up before, so we hope the council may change that.

So yes, the service is far from perfect, but if too few people use it, we may lose the service altogether when its two-year trial period ends!

It is pictured after dropping off passengers at the top of Glen Ogle.



Trossachs Explorer



Last summer, the Trossachs Explorer took to the roads, allowing visitors and residents to travel to areas of the National Park usually only accessible by car.

The pilot project aimed to reduce car dependency, and provide an accessible, sustainable transport option for visitors, residents, and workers.

Since then, an independent evaluation by University of Strathclyde, based on 29 stakeholder interviews, 195 public survey responses, insights from 11 Volunteer Rangers, and ticket data, has provided a detailed assessment of the pilot's impact. Key findings include:

- ✓ Improved accessibility - making remote trails & destinations more reachable
- ✓ Strong community & business support – boosting local connections
- ✓ Convenient & reliable travel – offering an easy, friendly alternative to cars
- ✓ Environmental benefits – supporting sustainable tourism
- ✓ Positive branding – creating a trusted, high-quality transport service

Want to know more?

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/the-trossachs-explorer/>

What's next?

We're exploring options for a 2025 return, and we'll provide further updates when we have a clearer picture of the 2025 pilot's feasibility.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you again to all those partners, stakeholders, business, residents and locals for their invaluable support in making the 2024 pilot a success.

The Trossachs Explorer project was delivered in partnership with Stirling Council and supported by local businesses, community groups, and bus operator Midland Bluebird.

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Killin Medical Practice

We have not increased our fees for services that are outwith the NHS contract for many years. We have now had a chance to review them, they are on our website: www.killinmedicalpractice.scot.nhs.uk and will be effective from 1st April 2025

We are now able to take card payments.

If you require urgent care or advice, please can you call the practice before 10am, this helps us get you the best care you need.

All vaccinations are now carried out by Forth Valley NHS Immunisation Team. If you get a letter asking you to attend the practice for a vaccine, it should read The Nurses Station.

If you have any vaccine queries or need to change an appointment, please call 0800 130 3120 or email fv.vaccinationenquiries@nhs.scot

Wishing you all a Happy Easter

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Killin and District Volunteer Car Scheme

Exciting Volunteer Opportunity

Killin and District Volunteer Car Scheme (KDVCS) are looking for a treasurer to join the scheme. The current treasurer has been with us for a number of years and would like to remain as the Bookkeeper, handling administrative tasks, maintaining accurate records and communication. This would mean that the person we are looking for would be responsible for managing the finances and maintaining the accounts. Someone who has a background in accounting or finance would be beneficial. However, the current treasurer and Chair will be happy to support whoever feels they would be interested in taking this on.

KDVCS is run by a small group of Trustees and the new treasurer would be part of this group. The entire committee decides on fundraising and spending matters.

All members of the committee and drivers are Volunteers. We work closely together which is why we are a thriving group that has grown from

strength to strength over the past 7 years. This is mainly due to the fact that we all believe that providing transport to those who are not able to access alternative ways to travel, is of prime importance, for many people.

Please do remember that the car scheme is not just for hospital visits, but can be available to those who find it difficult to access public transport to get to places they need to be. Just contact us and tell us what your needs are, and we will do our best to get you to your required destination.

We very much hope that there is someone out there who feels that they would like to join us and keep this vital car scheme going.

If you feel that you have an interest in supporting the car scheme, please call Don Fraser 01567 820690 or 07400621000.

**To use the car scheme call
07988280743**

Community Meals at Killin Church

Community meals at Killin Church starts Sunday 27th October and then on the last Sunday of the month (Oct until Easter). 12-2pm.

Free meal and activities for children. All welcome.

Volunteers also welcome.

Contact Vicky Burns
vickyburns83@gmail.com



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Breadalbane Heritage Society

After a popular series of illustrated talks during the autumn and winter months The Breadalbane Heritage Society has no activities planned for the month of April. Following on the talk in March on *Springtime at Cluny* by John Mattingley, who with his wife Wendy is the owner of Cluny Gardens on the Strathtay Road near Aberfeldy, in May the BHS plans a visit to Cluny. Spring is a glorious season at Cluny, with carpets of N. American bulbs and tubers coming into flower in April, and May brings Candelabra primulas and the brilliant blue Himalayan poppies. The visit will be on Wednesday 21 May, when John will show us around. For further information please contact Ian Stewart at bhsaberfeldy@gmail.com

The BHS's website <https://breadalbane-heritage.org.uk/> features a video of local scenes of interest, and provides up-to-date information about talks and activities, events and publications. Ongoing Society projects include the maintenance of the Killiehassie private burial ground in Strathtay, and the recent publication, in association with the Aberfeldy Museum Group, of an illustrated leaflet, *The Aberfeldy and Weem Heritage Trail*, with a trail map and information on the many places of interest in the area. QR codes with information at each of these sites are currently being installed. The BHS also provides a free service of assistance with family history research. Recordings of all the recent talks are available on the website.

Beaver talk at Dùn Coilich AGM

Save the date! It's the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust (HPCLT) Annual General Meeting at 2pm on Saturday 26th April and this year the guest speaker will be talking about beavers, a topic which always generates healthy debate.

HPCLT manages Dùn Coilich Community Land by Schiehallion and the Wee Birks Field in Aberfeldy, with three core aims: to restore biodiversity, support rural skills development, and encourage people of all ages to embrace the outdoors.



It's been a really busy year for the Trust, with the creation of a new website, the launch of a Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills, new paths and perch seats and the planting of thousands more trees, to



ecology, history and reintroductions, shine a spotlight on the benefits of beavers and offer management tools

for living with beavers when their land management strategies clash with human land management aims!



name just a few achievements!

Come along to The Tryst, Church Road, Pitlochry to hear about what we've been up to, find out about membership and volunteering

Visit www.duncoilich.org or join our Facebook Group to discover more about us and the training, volunteering and walking options on offer.

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Killin Breadalbane Angling Club

The club has had its first outing this year, held at Lawfield Trout Fishery near Houston.

Everyone had a great day out, even with the cold temperatures!



The club is hosting more outings/competitions as the year progresses and the dates and venues are on the website <https://kbac.fish/>

If you would like more information or have a query for the club there is a 'Get in Touch' section on 'Our Club' page on the website.

Stephen Hay

We had had a good mix of members from juniors and seniors which gave the opportunity for knowledge to be shared.



The fish were in a fantastic condition and landing them was great fun.

Well done to all that managed to land fish, heaviest was 3lbs 2oz. Top rods had landed five fish during the day, most successful fly was the 'Ally McCoist'.



Lawfield Fishery put on a very nice lunch for us which brought back some heat to all on the day, and the owners were super hosts and very forthcoming with advice to help us catch more.



Do you need an affordable home?

Rural Stirling Housing Association aims to support local communities by providing quality homes at affordable rents for families, couples and single people in housing need.

We currently have over **680** rented houses and flats.

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Strathblane	Strathyre	Stronachlachar	Tyndrum	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killearn, Balmaha and Tyndrum. Please let us know if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us to plan.

For a downloadable application pack please visit our website www.rsha.org.uk

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- The Association's tenants or prospective tenants – either directly or indirectly; or
- Rural Stirling communities more generally.

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(Buchlyvie)



Stirling Carers Centre



Bench seat (Killin)



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The Food Train



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Further details visit our website news and events page:

www.rsha.org.uk/community-donation-fund/



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Ben Lawers Guided Walks & Events 2025

Saturday 4th May: Bees and butterflies

Anthony McCluskey, Conservation Manager for Butterfly Conservation Scotland will lead a walk to look for bees and butterflies on the lower slopes. Our restored mountain woodlands host a variety both 'social' bumblebees, and 'solitary' bees which nest in the soil. We may also see some early butterfly species

Duration: 2 hours

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

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

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

Wednesday 25th June: 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 £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.

Wednesday 2nd July, 30th July & 27th 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.

Tuesday 8th & 22nd July & 5th & 19th 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 £2.50, 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 11th & 18th of 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: £35

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

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

Wednesday 16th July & 13th August: Hillside safari

Enjoy a walk beside the picturesque Edramucky Burn, experience the rich flora of the lower slopes of this famous nature reserve and the varied wildlife flourishing in restored native plant communities.

Duration: 2 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.

Wednesday 3rd September: Hidden History (Scottish Archaeology Month)

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

Duration: 3 hours

Cost: adults £10, children £5

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

Meet: 13.30pm Kilturie. Numbers are limited, so booking is advisable



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It's been yet another busy term for our Beaver Scouts in 2025. We've been doing our cooking badge alongside my world challenge badge. This has involved integrating things like learning about a local festival - we chose to cook haggis neeps and tatties to celebrate Burns Night. We also made great pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

Learning about a different culture and seeing as Killin is going crazy for noodles this week, we made our own Japanese ramen and had a go learning to use chopsticks! We also focused on the world of Scouting and learnt about Robert Baden Powell who set up the movement, and what Beavers are called around the world.

Next term, with the lighter nights, we'll hopefully get outside a lot more to enjoy some outdoor activities!

Beaver Scouts are aged 6&7, they meet 6-7pm in Killin on alternate Tuesdays. We have space, so if you'd like your child to join us, please email killinbeavers@yahoo.co.uk

**Laura Bathgate
Beaver Leader
07708216065**



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Frost Report



The Squirrel and the Dishcloth

Reading this title, you could be forgiven for thinking that a previously unknown Beatrix Potter story had been discovered. But 'No', this is both true and recent. Towards the end of January we heard a strange scratchy noise in an open shed. This proved to be a red squirrel repeatedly trying to pull a dishcloth off a nail. The cloth had been left there to wipe bird feeders etc. but Tufty obviously had a different use in mind. Eventually the cloth was free and Tufty rolled it up and, clutching its find to its chest, set off. She was seen heading to the beech woods with the prize now in her mouth, presumably to have the softest and cosiest nest in the area. I am not making the politically incorrect assumption that Tufty is female on her nest building behaviour but the fact that we had seen her tummy well stretched out on the bird feeder!

Only Tufty and a couple of other squirrels have returned to our fast-food outlet so far this spring. Hopefully some more will return as usual as their Winter stores are depleted. Though there is the worrying observation brought to mind by an Ardtalnaig neighbour, that there seem to be fewer red squirrels around here. Hopefully this doesn't prove to be true as they are having to fight both the danger of squirrel pox and an increased number of hungry pine martens. Squirrel pox has been identified in reds in Bridge of Allan, one year after being noted in Dunfermline.

Apart from the return of the squirrels, other signs of Spring have sprung. A lone oystercatcher stood

on the Ardeonaig pier on 18th January (10 days earlier than last year), it disappeared then a flock of thirty plus arrived on same pier on 21st February and continued their annual rave together for a few days before going off to find nest sites. The rave (or is the current term 'gaff'?) appeared to be a little spiritual as the loch was high and just over the pier so the birds appeared to be walking on water.



And so the Spring continues with frogs appearing at the beginning of March, frogspawn by 11th and very early baby newts in the pond. Now, in early March the snowdrops are still looking lovely, daffodils blooming and tulip buds are almost ready to burst. Harry the dog alerted us to one animal which was not quite ready for Spring when he saw a white creature bounding across the field. This was a stoat still in its Winter ermine outfit. It had probably been listening to the forecast of more snow. So, the annual circle of the seasons comes around again as it has done for millennia. Always the same but always slightly evolving. The Natural World!

Protecting this planet is supposed to be the job of politicians and ecologists but they are all planning for another conference, COP 30 and guess where?

Belem in Brazil. Shame they are building a 4-lane highway through the Amazonian rainforest for it! There will be around 50,000 hypocrites arriving mostly by plane. Kind of puts the guilty feeling of taking a wee holiday jaunt to the Algarve into perspective. Maybe they will discuss the 'garbage mountain of Delhi'. A 200-foot-high mountain of rubbish covers over 7 acres (50 football pitches apparently) emits toxic run off, more methane than 500,000 cars and the smell that you would expect. People were crushed in 2017 when there was an 'avalanche'.

On a slightly more fragrant note, an ice age fly has been discovered in a loch at Mar Lodge. Its nearest known neighbours are in arctic areas of Finland, Norway and Russia. Every day is a school day!

Jim Fairlie, agriculture minister for Scotland recently spent a day on the hill with a local deerstalker. He went in with the whole stalk and was willing to observe and learn about this area of land use. He even took a turn on the drag rope. (For those not familiar with stalk-speak, a drag rope is an old but still used method of getting the shot stag or hind off the hill using just your own strength pulling it along the ground.) Unlike previous similar invitations to Green MSPs it was good to see this taken up.

I'm not sure where Mr. Fox is taking his Easter break, but he may go to stay with relatives in Orpington in Kent. A chap on his way home from Tesco was fox mugged for his stick of garlic bread. The foxy population there must be getting more international tastes or are they worried about vampires?

Tim Frost



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Textile Project Update

You may know that the Crannog Centre has a fragment of textile which was found at the Oakbank Crannog. This is a magnificent gift to us from the Iron Age crannog dwellers as it tells a story of great skill and craftsmanship. It is a woollen fabric of extraordinary fineness, woven as a twill (much like modern suiting fabric), although after 2500 years in the mud, the original colour of the textile is a mystery. This piece of textile is at the centre of our current conservation project. On February 4th, AOC Archaeology came to collect this fragment to take it for preservation work. 20 days later, on February 24th, we received the exciting news that the textile was ready! Our team is working alongside UNESCO RILA and Maryhill Integration Network on a larger project which will be unveiled later this spring. This even includes a brand-new case for the textile to be displayed in.



Day in the Life Workshops

Half-day workshops to get more hands-on with the Iron Age! Different crafts from the age are included along with a lunch, teas and coffees, and biscuits. Our workshops can be tailored to your interests and can be for 1 person or more.

Have a go at tin casting, spinning, foraging, cooking, wire jewellery making, wood carving and so much more. Workshops are available every Wednesday and can be booked through our website. We can offer workshops on other days upon request.



Forge Update - It is Back!

On Valentine's day, while visitors enjoyed our special event day, I completed a major project: the new forge. This was a replacement for the forge hearth we used last year which sadly could not be used this year.

The base of the forge was made by mixing five parts gravel sand, one of horse dung, and one of clay. The base was thicker than the base of the old hearth. This was partly to make it last longer and in order to raise up the overall height of the hearth. After the mixture was put in place, it was fired using a small wood fire in order to dry out the mixture.

After the base was ready the main wall between where the fire is and where the bellows sit was built. There is a hole in the middle of this wall which allows air to travel from the tuyere (the nozzle the air comes out of) into the heart of the fire. The main wall off the forge was put together by mixing three parts sand, one part horse dung, and one part clay. After being fired, the forge hearth was ready to be used with charcoal, which is the main fuel used for metalworking in the iron age.



Want to Volunteer?

Join our community on our brand-new site by becoming one of our amazing volunteers. We are looking for people from all walks of life with a range of skills to help develop our Iron Age village and our museum. Our volunteering opportunities range from everyday tours and talks, woodworking and weaving, and building our brand-new crannog. Our volunteers can come as often as they like with flexible hours and days. Whether you want to volunteer once a year or 5 days a week it is up to you. We are also open to including any specialist skills you want to share or any knowledge you can bring to the table. If this sounds like the perfect opportunity for you, email us at volunteers@crannog.co.uk

Free "Active in Spring" Session Thrives at Killin Sports & Recreation Hub

On Sunday, 16th March, Killin Sports & Recreation Hub hosted a vibrant "Active in Spring" session, offering the local community and visitors a day full of outdoor activities. Several groups came together to make this event a success, providing opportunities for participants of all ages and abilities

- **Cycle Crieff:** Offered free bike health checks along with basic bike maintenance classes.
- **Active Stirling:** Presented their innovative "Bikes Without Barriers" program.
- **Trust in the Park:** Encouraged attendees to try an e-bike or join a refreshing health walk.
- **Edinburgh University Fribush:** Led a guided mountain biking experience, giving participants an introduction to riding gentle trails.

The event truly embraced the spirit of spring. Over 30 bikes were inspected, sorted and given a clean bill of health, while participants trialed adapted bikes and e-bikes by completing laps of the park. The mountain biking induction culminated with a ride along one of Killin's newly marked forest trails.

Community Feedback:

Here's what some of our participants had to say about the event:

"It was great—very quick! They sorted the problem and provided useful tips for the future."

"What a worthwhile morning at the Sports Pavilion! I took along my cube bike for a check-up, including brakes, wheels, and new handlebar ends—now I'm good to go! The volunteers were welcoming, knowledgeable, and patient. I even tried a side-by-side bike with a friend and enjoyed a great cup of coffee and cake!"

"Having someone look at our bikes was a much-appreciated service, especially now with the longer, drier days ahead. The friendly and professional team ensured both our bikes are now well-oiled and running smoothly again. A free service like this is truly invaluable. We'll be back for sure if it's offered again—thank you!"

Shab, who conducted the bike maintenance session, received glowing reviews:

"Shab was fantastic at explaining and demonstrating basic bike maintenance. As someone who finds cycling enthusiasts intimidating, his gentle approach was perfect and really built my confidence."

Participants also enjoyed trying e-bikes for the first time:

"I thoroughly enjoyed my first e-bike experience. I was a bit hesitant at first, unsure if I could manage it, but Jim provided all the guidance I needed to feel confident. I'd definitely use e-bikes again and even consider hiring one in the future."

The mountain biking session also impressed attendees:

"The level of pre-ride safety and instruction was excellent—it's been a while since I did any mountain biking! The instructor's patience and encouragement made me feel confident, and there were plenty of rest stops along the way. Overall, it was such a fun ride!"

The event was a resounding success, and we are planning to run more initiatives like this in the future!



Adaptive cycling



Scottish Wildlife Trust Pitlochry

Helping Hedgehogs - and AGM Notice

It's the last talk of the season for the Pitlochry and Highland Perthshire branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust on Monday 21st April at The Tryst, 7.30pm – and if you want to help our hedgehogs, you won't want to miss it!

The talk will be preceded by our local Annual General Meeting at 6.00pm – everyone is welcome to review the previous season's talks and share ideas for future programmes.

Seeing us out on a high will be Morag Boyd, Rural Hedgehog Officer from the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Once a common sight in British gardens and the countryside, West European Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) have been declining in numbers – particularly in rural areas – with the International Union for Conservation of Nature recently adding them to the list of near threatened species on its Red List. Morag will explore the biology and ecology of these fascinating,

nocturnal animals, before highlighting the threats that our hedgehogs face and what we can do to help them. This will be followed by an opportunity to put your hedgehog-related questions to her, so don't miss it!

Date: Monday 21st April 2025

Time: AGM from 6.00pm, talk starts at 7.30pm

Place: The Tryst, Church of Scotland, Church Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5EB.

Suggested donation: £3 for non-members, £2 for members (you can donate in person on the day).

Contact

markandrosie@btinternet.com for more information. Sign up to hear about events and find out more about activities on the numerous reserves in our area and beyond. <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-mailing-list/>



SWT Callander Future Events

Thursday 10 April, 7.30pm

'Cuckoos' by James Silvey, RSPB Senior Species and Habitat Officer. Plus brief AGM. St Andrew's Church Hall, Leny Road, Callander FK17 8AL. Suggested £3 donation includes tea/coffee and biscuits

Sat 24 May, 10am to 4pm

Greener Callander Annual Plant Sale & Tombola, Ancaster Square, Callander



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Lochay Transformer Replacement Newsletter

April 2025

The project has a dedicated website, please scan the above QR code to be taken to the project website or use the following URL:
ssen-transmission.co.uk/lochay



The construction of a new substation compound, including building to house indoor equipment as part of SSEN Transmission's 132kV transformer replacement project adjacent to Lochay Power Station continues to make progress.

Safety is always our first priority at SSEN Transmission and with this in mind, we ask that you please remain vigilant of signage or direction around the construction works and do not enter our working areas.



Progress on site

Construction works are progressing well as depicted in the photo above. The main structures are now erected, underground ducting for cabling has been installed within the substation compound, the building externally is now complete with the internal fit out ongoing and the substation road has been started.

Upcoming works

Our civil works contractor will complete their works including the erection of the substation fence, installation of cable ducts out with the substation, laying the road, erecting the perimeter fence, building the freestanding wall, and completing landscaping. The electrical works will progress with the installation of indoor and outdoor plant.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Community Liaison Manager:

Louise Anderson Lead Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH

Tel: 01738 341 975

Mobile: +44 (0) 7384 454 233

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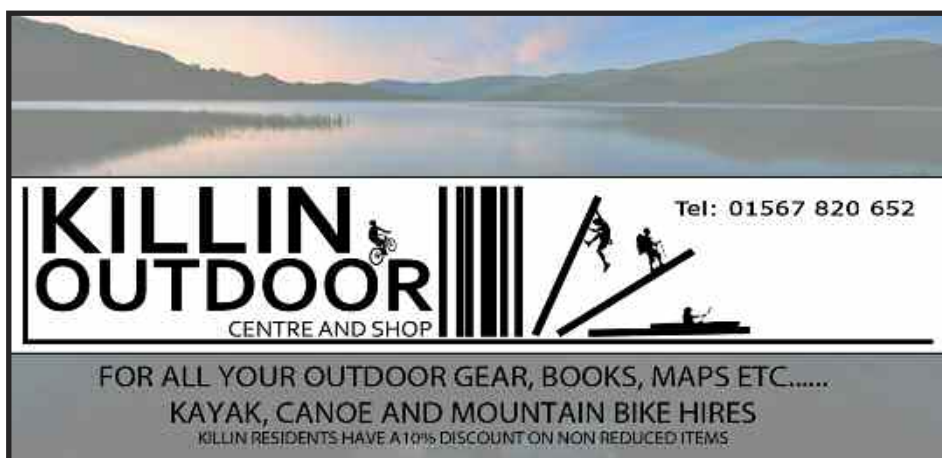
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What's On In Killin And District

Regular Activities

Coming Soon !

Monday

- Adult Badminton, 7-9pm, McLaren Hall
- Junior Badminton, 6pm, Crianlarich Hall
- Bridge, 7.15-9pm, Killin Hotel, contact Marion 829027
- Indoor Bowls, 7.30pm, Lesser Hall (winter months only)

Tuesday

- Bee Creative, 10am-12pm, Community Rooms
- U3A Art, 2-4pm, currently being held in Lochearnhead Hall
- Beavers, 6-7pm, Lesser Hall (every other Tuesday)
- Tuesday Club, 2-4pm, Community Rooms
- Pilates 5.30pm and 6.30pm, Community Rooms, booking required on 07866 018629
- Aikido 7:30-9 Adults/Young people from 16 years.
- Aikido 6-6.45 aged 5 to 8, 6:45 - 7.30 aged 9 to 15.

Wednesday

- Walk in the Park, 10.20, refer to schedule for locations
- Strength & Balance, 2-3pm, Killin & Ardeonig Church Hall
- Highland Hustle, 6.30-7.15pm, McLaren Hall
- Youth Club, P6/7 5.45-7.15pm S1-3 7.30-9.00pm [Sign-Ups: alasdair@cyp.org.uk]
- Multi-Sports Session - Wednesdays (Fortnightly), P5-7 5-6pm, S1-3 6-7pm [sign-ups: mckennac@activestirling.org.uk]
- Killin Comm Choir, 7.30pm-9pm, Killin Church

Thursday

- Running Club, 6pm, Acharn Forest carpark
- Killin Community Hub, 12.30-2.30 Sports Pavilion
- CAB drop-in session 12.30-2.30, Killin Sports Pavilion
- Golf Club - Junior Coaching Session, 6.30-8 pm. 8-16 years.

May to September

- SWI, 7.30pm (1st Thursday of month, Community Rooms)

Friday

- Pilates, 9am, 10am and 11am Community Rooms. Booking essential on 07866 018629
- Yoga, 10.15 - 11.30 McLean Hall, Fearnan.

Saturday

- Football in the Park, 12-17 years, 12-2pm

Sunday

- Football in the Park, 8-11 years, Check for times with Andy.
- Killin Gun Club, 3rd Sun of month March-December. Contact Stuart Ogston 07999 510014 Henry Paterson 01567 820354

April

- 10 SWT Pitlochry, 7.30pm p36
- 19 Car boot sale p4
- 21 SWT AGM 6pm p36
- 21 SWT talk about hedgehogs 7.30pm p36
- 26 Dun Coillich beaver talk 2pm p27
- 27 Memories of Moiralanich, 2pm p25
- 27 Community meal, 12-2 p26

May

- 1 Killin Rhyme Time, 2-3 p9
- 4 Ben Lawers walk, 10.30 p30
- 21 Braedalbane Heritage, p27
- 24 SWT Callander, 10-4 p36

Church Services

- **Killin & Ardeonaig Parish Church**
- **1st Sunday of the month** 10:00am Sunday worship including Sunday School
- **2nd Sunday of the month** 10:00 Sunday worship including communion
- **3rd Sunday of the month** 10:00am Cafe Church including Sunday School
- **4th Sunday of the month** 10:00am Sunday worship
- **5th Sunday of the month** 10:00am Sunday worship
- **Episcopal Church**
- See www.strathearn-episcopal-churches.co.uk for details
- **Roman Catholic Church**
- Sunday Mass in Callander at 11:30am

Killin Library

Books, DVDs, dog waste bags and hearing aid batteries.

Monday	10-1pm 2-5pm
Tuesday	10-1pm 3-7pm
Wednesday	2-5pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	10-1pm 3-7pm
Saturday	Closed

Which bin? Tues/Wed

1 Apr	2 Apr	6 May	13 May
8 Apr	15 Apr	14 May	20 May
16 Apr	22 Apr	27 May	28 May
29 Apr	30 Apr		

Green=green bin
Blue=blue bin
Brown=brown bin
Red=glass box

Recycling Centres

Callander

Booking Reference Required

Monday-Friday: 5pm-7.30pm

Saturday: 10am-1.30pm

Sunday: Closed

Aberfeldy

Tuesday and Thursday

9am-6-45pm

Saturday and Sunday

10am-4-45pm

Crieff

Broich Road, North Forr

All Year

Thursday-Monday 9am-4pm

Closed Tues & Wed

Mobile Libraries

Please see the council websites for any updates.

Crianlarich/Tyndrum

Fortnightly Friday

10+24 April, 8+22 May

Crianlarich

School 10:45-11:30

Glenfalloch Rd 11:40-12:00

Willow Square 12:05-12:25

Tyndrum

Green Welly 13:40-14:10

Mansefield 14:15-14:45

Perth and Kinross

Three week stops, Tuesday

8+29 April, 20 May

Tombreck 16.10-16.30

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