

# KILLIN NEWS

KILLIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

April/May 2026

Issue 204

Price £2



# 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.



## DEADLINES

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

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Front Cover

Photo Ron Allner

## Diesel spill into River Dochart and contamination of Killin's water supply

On Thursday 19th February 2026 it was reported that oil had been seen in the River Dochart in Killin, and the next day residents reported a chemical smell from drinking water. Residents were told to only use the water supply to flush toilets. Scottish Water delivered bottled drinking water to homes and businesses. Pallets of water were positioned in the McLaren Hall car park along with a snack van to provide hot meals to those unable to cook at home. Special arrangements were made to support Killin Primary School and the Retirement Home.



Local businesses, Killin Community Council, the Killin Resilience Team and others came together to support residents. Support with bottled water, showers, laundry facilities etc were much appreciated. So far, there have not been reports of wildlife being affected or environmental damage but time will tell if there are long term consequences. Residents still have many questions about what happened and while the response was excellent there are

concerns about lessons being learned, compensation for local businesses affected, and avoiding a repeat of this incident.

The reopening of the filling station at Lix Toll has been put back, which is inconvenient for locals and visitors to the area. Thanks to Stacey Anderton for her photos.





## Garden Waste Permits for 2026-2027

Stirling Council residents can now apply for their 2026/27 annual Garden Waste Recycling Permit.

The new permits will come into effect on 13 April, with councillors confirming at this year's budget-setting meeting last Thursday (26 Feb) that the permit will rise by £8 to £60.

The price of a permit for Stirling Council residents remains in line with many other local authorities in Scotland, averaging at £2.30 per uplift.

The permit allows residents to have garden waste collected in the same bin as their food waste every two weeks. Those who do not purchase a permit will still have food waste collected in the brown bin, for free, every two weeks.

More than 19,000 were purchased last year, and details of how to register and pay for the permit are available at [www.stirling.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

Some households, including those in receipt of a council tax reduction, will receive the permit for free as part of a concession scheme. The Council will send out these permits to anyone eligible by 13 April 2026.

The cost of a permit remains the same regardless of when it is bought, so residents are encouraged to purchase as early as possible to ensure they get maximum benefit.

Permits purchased before 28 March 2026 will be delivered before the service starts. Any orders after 28 March 2026 are not guaranteed to arrive before 13 April 2026.



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# Killin Medical Practice

## Important Notice: Upcoming GP Practice System Change

The Health Board will be introducing a new system to most Scottish practices during 2026/27. Our system is expected to transition in May 26. We will work to ensure this change is as smooth as possible and will keep you informed throughout the process. This upgrade is to help us improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of the care we provide.

## Planned System Downtime – Emergency Service Only

To complete this upgrade, our *current* clinical system will be unavailable from the 11<sup>th</sup> May until 15<sup>th</sup> May.

During this period:

- We will be operating an *Emergency Service Only*
- Routine appointments, repeat prescriptions, and non-urgent requests will be limited
- Our team will still be here to support patients with **urgent medical issues only**

## How This Affects You

- Please submit any non-urgent requests in advance, where possible, no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Repeat prescriptions should be ordered by the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Expect longer waiting times as we prioritise emergencies during the downtime
- Once the new system is live, we aim to return to normal service as quickly as possible

## Thank You for Your Support

We appreciate your patience and understanding while we make this important upgrade.

This change will allow us to offer a more modern, efficient, and reliable service for all our patients.

If you have any questions, please contact the practice team.

## Davidsons Chemists – We're here to help

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, ringing in your ears or itchy sore ears? It could 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](mailto:killin@wdavidson.co.uk)



# Killin Mountain Rescue Team

facts.

## Callouts Winter 2026

It has been an exceptional winter so far with generally consistent snow and only brief significant thaws. However, the strong Easterly winds have certainly made for interesting winter conditions too with considerable avalanche hazards occurring at times.

The beautiful week of blue sky and white mountains in February did subsequently lead to a high rate of callouts.

Highlights include :-

- a lower leg injury crossing a snow bridge on Ben Challum.
- A female fell on Beinn a'chroin in Glen Falloch, complaining of severe pain in her back. Excellent flying from the Coastguard and packaging support from two Team Members meant she was in Glasgow for important treatment quickly. We wish her a speedy recovery.
- One male became disorientated on Stuc a'chroin descending South rather than North, with members finding and walking him off in some quite miserable weather.
- Another male became stuck on extremely steep icy and snowy ground on Cruach Ardrain. Given the avalanche forecast and their location, the safest option was to be winched off the mountain by the Coastguard helicopter.

As you can see, we work closely with the Coastguard helicopters and they are invaluable in rescuing many of our casualties.

However, one stand out rescue which shows poor judgement and experience was two Males who fell some distance on Ben Vorlich receiving soft tissue injuries as they were not adequately equipped for being on the hills. This is not an unusual occurrence for young males pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones and subsequently needing rescued. For some Teams in England and Wales this is a regular occurrence, fortunately for us this is quite rare. This is a difficult demographic to advertise mountain safety to, so we make no judgement of their rationale. We are simply there to rescue people and report the

## Winter Preparation

With this in mind, we would like to remind people of the need to treat the conditions with respect. As we enter the Easter break and the longer days, many people will want to explore our hills and mountains. However, winter may still be present so it is important to plan ahead and check if you have the necessary experience, skills and equipment to have a safe and enjoyable day.

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



training with highlights including a Joint Avalanche Training day with our neighbouring team of Tayside MRT. It has been a long time since we trained together and it was a great opportunity for learning for us, as they have national experts on their team. It was also good to put a name to a face as we have certainly attended a number of joint rescues together.

Furthermore, we undertook our annual Winter Training weekend in the Cairngorms. The avalanche forecast was not kind and we were expecting a washout. However, the weather gods were kind and we had some good weather with great learning opportunities provided by the experienced instructors on hand who also have mountain rescue experience too.

If you do have any questions or queries, do please contact the team via email at: [secretary@killinmountainrescue.scot](mailto:secretary@killinmountainrescue.scot)

**Stephen Rawlinson**  
Secretary

## Training

We have also been keeping busy



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## SWT Callander

### Future SWT Events

**12 March 7.30pm 'Waterfalls to Wildlife: Clyde Valley's Natural Treasures'** by Angus Keating, SWT Ranger

**16 April 7.30pm 'All about Hedgehogs'** by Morag Boyd, People's Trust for Endangered Species. + Brief AGM

Both in St Andrew's Church Hall, Callander.  
£3 suggested donation includes tea/coffee and biscuits

### Welcoming back the birds: can you provide a home?

Finally, it feels like spring is on the way and birds are singing to defend their territories and attract a mate. However, our swallows, swifts and martins are just starting on thousands of miles' migration from warmer wintering grounds.

Sand Martins (brown and nest in river banks including Callander Meadows) will be the first back from mid-March, travelling ~4000km from south of the Sahara.

House Martins (white rumps and nesting at McLaren Leisure) will be back from N Africa in April/May.

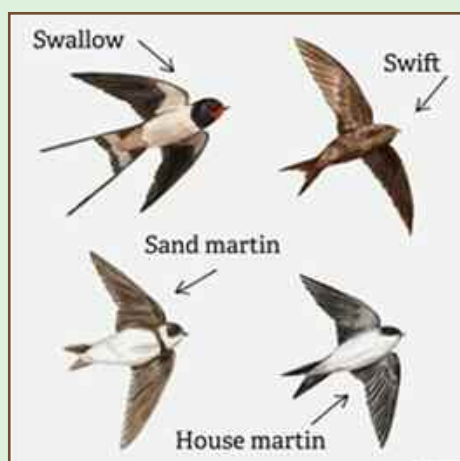
Swallows (forked tails) also appear from mid-April, having flown from S Africa.

Last to arrive from mid-May is the swift (all black, scythe-shaped) from as far away as Mozambique. Did you know that swifts may fly continuously for 3 years after fledging until they nest, if grounded their legs are too short to take off again?

Children at Callander Nursery (and their families?) are learning all about these amazing birds. Next time you are in McLaren Leisure Centre coffee area, have a look at their impressive display and keep an eye out for information panels to be installed by Keir, builders of the new school. Unfortunately, all of these species are in decline across the UK with climate trends impacting food supplies and breeding success so they need as much of our help as possible.

All readily use nest boxes so would you consider putting up bird boxes on your house? If you are worried about droppings beneath boxes, a platform underneath will catch it and swifts are good housekeepers that do not make any mess near their nests. Boxes should be installed before the end of March.

On-line sites give installation information, patterns to make your own and boxes to buy in wood or long-lasting composite materials. An examples is: RSPB [www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/build-a-birdbox](http://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/build-a-birdbox)



## SWT Pitlochry



### Wild about Inverbroom

Scottish Wildlife Trust talk Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Join the Pitlochry and Highland Perthshire branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust for our final talk of the season – and it's a big one!

We'll be hearing about the Trust's ambitious plans for nature restoration at Inverbroom Estate in the Highlands.

Acquired in 2025 Inverbroom Estate is the Scottish Wildlife Trust's largest ever land acquisition, made possible by a £17.5 million private donation, the biggest gift in the charity's history.

Covering 7,618 hectares – larger than the city of Dundee - the land was previously managed as a sporting estate and includes a diverse range of habitats such as peatland, ancient semi-natural woodland, farmland, and numerous lochs and lochans.

Come along to hear about the Trust's plans for habitat restoration across the estate and discover how the project will support wider efforts to tackle the nature and climate crises.

Date: Monday 20th April 2026  
Time: 7:20pm for a 7:30pm start (finishing around 9:00pm)  
Venue: The Tryst, Church of Scotland, Church Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5EB

Suggested donation: £3 non-members / £2 members (cash on the day). For more information contact [markandrosie@btinternet.com](mailto:markandrosie@btinternet.com)

To hear about future events, sign up to the Scottish Wildlife Trust mailing list: [scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-mailing-list/](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-mailing-list/)

## Dun Coillich – where people and nature thrive



### Dun Coillich – where people and nature thrive

Dun Coillich is a community owned landscape regeneration and rural skills training project in Glen Goulandie. The site is owned by the charity Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, which manages the land for wildlife and for the local community.

### HPCLT Annual meeting and lecture

If you would like to find out more about our work, please join us at our annual meeting at the Birks Cinema on Saturday 25 April from 2pm. Our guest speaker will be Anthony McCluskey from Butterfly Conservation. Anthony lives locally and will be speaking about special butterflies and moths of Highland Perthshire, some of

which are found at Dun Coillich. For more information, please contact

### Apprentices and Rural Skills Trainees

We were delighted to receive lots of strong applications for our Apprenticeship scheme, an innovative partnership with FLS, NTS Ben Lawers and Kynachan and Dalchonsie Estate. The two Apprentices appointed have progressed from our Traineeship. We very much look forward to working 'on the hill' with new apprentices and the new rural skills trainees during the year ahead.

### HPCLT at the Aberfeldy Thrift Shop in February

Thanks to everyone who came along to support our February stint at the Thrift Shop in Aberfeldy, it helped us raise some

funds and it was good to talk to visitors about our work.

### Join us!

Why not become a member of HPCLT? Our members support our work and become part of our community. Annual membership is £15; to find out more please go to [www.duncoillich.org/support-us-2025/](http://www.duncoillich.org/support-us-2025/)

### For more information -

Visit the What's On page of our website [www.duncoillich.org](http://www.duncoillich.org) to find out where we are, what we do and how to book. You can also follow our Facebook Group (Dun Coillich Community Land) for regular updates!

## Killin Tool Library

Your local tool library has been growing, with over 230 tools on offer (we started almost 5 years ago with 50), but our membership price remains the same - for only £10 per year, you can borrow as many tools as you need.

We have tools for DIY, decorating, cleaning, gardening, crafts and cookery and you can find them all on our website [www.recykillin.myturn.com](http://www.recykillin.myturn.com) or you can pop along to the Reuse Shop on Saturdays 12-1pm and Tuesdays 2-3pm to take a look around.

If you are interested in volunteering, pop in for a chat and if you are spring cleaning and want to clear out some tools you no longer use, drop them in at the Reuse Shop



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**Example activities include:**

- Building deer fencing in a community woodland
- Hands-on conservation work
- Working with NTS & SCDT rangers
- Removing old fencing on a National Nature Reserve

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# A New Era for Highland Safaris

## Highland Safaris Begins a New Era of Family-Led Ownership

Founded by Donald and Julie Riddell in 1992, the iconic Highland experience near Aberfeldy enters a new chapter as second-cousin Robbie Winton acquires the business from Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels, building on its legacy and future potential.

Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels has announced the sale of Highland Safaris to Robbie Winton, reconnecting the much-loved Highland attraction with the wider family of its original founder.

After acquiring Highland Safaris in 2022, and following a period of careful stewardship and development, the Leckie family felt this was the right moment to hand the business on. Ensuring Highland Safaris continues with clear direction and deep respect for its roots, this handover allows the Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels to focus its future investment on its core hotel and hospitality portfolio.

Robbie Winton is the second cousin of Donald Riddell, who founded Highland Safaris in 1992. With strong family ties to the business, previous managerial experience as their own Operations Manager and a deep personal connection to the Highlands, Robbie brings both continuity and fresh ambition to the role.

Commenting on the sale, Richard Leckie of Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels, said: "Highland Safaris has given us many memorable adventures and immense satisfaction, both as owners and in the experiences we've been able to offer our customers. We are genuinely pleased to be passing the

business to Robbie and have every confidence in the continued success of Highland Safaris under his leadership."

Highland Safaris has spent more than 30 years offering guests unforgettable encounters with Scotland's landscapes and wildlife, combining adventure, conservation and storytelling. The business has now become a cornerstone of nature-based tourism in Perthshire.



The business provides a broad portfolio of guided experiences, including mountain safaris, outdoor activities such as Archery and Axe Throwing, their unique red deer and barn owl experience, private bookings and corporate events. These offerings attract visitors from across the UK and internationally, contributing to Perthshire's reputation as a leading destination for responsible tourism.

For Robbie, the acquisition represents more than a business move: "Highland Safaris has been part of my life for a long time now, so taking on ownership feels incredibly special. I've seen first hand the care, passion and hard work that goes into creating these experiences and my focus now is on continuing that legacy while bringing new energy and ideas into the mix.

I'm also excited to be doing this alongside my partner Rebecca, who brings a huge amount of creativity

and energy through her business, Socially Organised. She'll be spearheading our marketing and supporting the day-to-day running of Highland Safaris, helping us tell our story in a way that feels authentic and true to who we are."

Looking ahead, Robbie's focus will be on strengthening Highland Safaris' connection with the local community, welcoming returning and new visitors, and expanding opportunities for private, group and corporate experiences.

"Supporting the local community is incredibly important to me. Highland Safaris is part of the fabric of Aberfeldy and wider Perthshire and I'm keen to work closely with local businesses, suppliers and partners to ensure the area grows together", says Robbie.

The transition has been warmly welcomed by the team at Highland Safaris, with a strong sense of continuity and

shared excitement as the business enters a new era under family-connected ownership. Reflecting on the transition, Harriet Gray, General Manager of Highland Safaris, said:

"On behalf of the entire team, I want to welcome our new owners with excitement and optimism. We look forward to working together to grow the business and continue delivering excellence. You have a committed, passionate team behind you, ready to support this next chapter."

Highland Safaris remains open year-round, welcoming visitors, locals and corporate groups. Those interested are encouraged to experience Highland Safaris for themselves and be part of its next chapter. To book an experience or find out more, visit [www.highlandsafaris.net](http://www.highlandsafaris.net)



## Strathfillan Community Development Trust

### Woodlands



The woodlands have been a busy place over the previous few weeks, with lots of forestry activities on-going. After successfully installing the new roads and landings courtesy of JM Dewar of Crieff, the harvesting of the remaining conifer stands is now well underway. This was brought forward due to the availability of the harvesting managers RTS Ltd, also of Crieff. The operation is going very well, and we've now harvested around 1.5 ha of Sitka Spruce. Extraction of the timber has now begun, and we hope work can continue to progress. Obviously, we are now approaching bird nesting season, and we will continue to monitor the felling coupes to ensure we are not disturbing any nests and other wildlife. Works are expected to continue for another 4-5 weeks. Please bear in mind that the woodland is currently an active

forestry site, so please be cautious if entering the woodland and please observe all site signage.

The overall aim of this project is to further restructure the Tyndrum Community Woodland as an extensive area of native woodland. These works are supported through the Nature Restoration Fund, enabled through our participation in Wild Strathfillan initiative and cooperation with the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.

On the ground, Jimmy has been busy repairing the perimeter deer



fence in the woodland. Thanks to the Nature Restoration Fund and the Wild Strathfillan Project, we secured additional funding to purchase the materials necessary to complete repairs.



The fence repair will offer protection to our re-planting efforts, following the completion of the harvesting works in the summer.

If you have any questions on anything going on in the woodlands, please drop an email to [Euan@strathfillancdt.org.uk](mailto:Euan@strathfillancdt.org.uk)

### Dalrigh Car Park Upgrade

As reported last month, the Trust secured funding to commission a Concept Design Report for a re-developed car park at Dalrigh. After a very competitive tendering process, the Trust were delighted to appoint Ironside Farrar to deliver this report. We have now received a very exciting concept design, which we hope to develop further over the coming months. The new concept includes an



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improved surface and drainage layout, with new visitor infrastructure facilities and an increase in overall capacity. If you'd like to hear any more about this project, please get in touch with [Euan@strathfillancdt.org.uk](mailto:Euan@strathfillancdt.org.uk)

### Strathfillan Angling Association

The SAA have decided to keep permit prices level with the previous season. Permits and maps for 2026 will soon be available from the usual places, i.e. Crianlarich Stores, the Rod & Reel and the Green Welly Stop. Online permits and day passes will now be exclusively booked through our website

[www.strathfillancdt.org.uk/projects/fishing-in-strathfillan](http://www.strathfillancdt.org.uk/projects/fishing-in-strathfillan)

The updated map for 2026 will also soon be available on our website. Follow us on Facebook and share your photos of your catch and our lovely area

[www.facebook.com/Strathfillanfishing](https://www.facebook.com/Strathfillanfishing)

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

### Crianlarich Community Cinema



Thank you!

To everyone who has supported and attended our community cinema film showings over the initial months and, to Stirling Council for their support in getting our Community Cinema started, via their Community Enterprise Grant.

We are now planning for the months ahead and looking for ideas and suggestions on what films to show, so please send us a message with any suggestions you have.

As we move into the next phase of our project we will be trialling a membership model for our community cinema. This will be free to join (although donations are always welcome) and is open to everyone. If you would like to become a member of the Cinema Club please get in touch with

either Sheona or Dawn at the Trust to have your name added to our membership list.

[sheona@strathfillancdt.org.uk](mailto:sheona@strathfillancdt.org.uk) or [dawn@strathfillancdt.org.uk](mailto:dawn@strathfillancdt.org.uk)

We look forward to seeing you !

### Strength & Balance Classes

Our Strength and Balance class meets every Thursday in the Committee Room at Crianlarich Village Hall at 2pm, and we follow every class with tea and biscuits, or sometimes homemade cakes! Our classes continue to be well attended, and we thank everyone for their enthusiasm and for coming along - no matter the weather! We are grateful to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs Countryside Trust for their continued support of the project and to Fiona and Diane for managing and supporting in the delivery of the classes. We have been fortunate to have been assisted by one of the volunteer instructors from the Killin class, Isobel, over the past few weeks, and we look forward to creating closer ties with them in the future.

### Saplings 2026

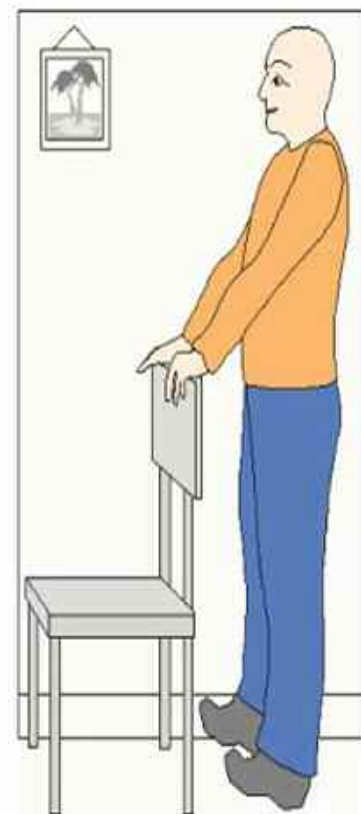
The year is moving on, and it won't be long before we begin planning our Saplings summer activities sessions, so keep an eye on our social media posts for information on what will be happening. If you have any suggestions for a suitable activity or would like to be added to our mailing list then please get in touch with Sheona via email.

[sheona@strathfillancdt.org.uk](mailto:sheona@strathfillancdt.org.uk)

### Keeping strong and balanced at home

As we progress into better weather and get out a bit more, in this issue we bring you 'toe raises'. This exercise will help ensure you lift your toes more easily when stepping over things and reduce your chance of tripping or falling backwards. It works the muscles at the top of the foot and challenges your balance and core strength to stay upright. Just ensure you have something solid to hold on to if you need to - it's harder than you think! Try to keep your body straight (no bums out

backwards). Once you have mastered the toe raise, see if you can walk about for a few steps on your heels - like a penguin.



#### Toe Raises

- Stand tall holding your support
- Raise your toes taking your weight back into your heels without sticking your bottom out
- Hold for a second
- Lower your toes with control
- Repeat 10 times (slowly)

**A Message from the Killin Parent Partnership**

The Killin Parent Partnership is ramping up for the hugely popular duck race on Saturday May 30th. The big news is that following a gap in the long tradition, the ducks will again start from the falls- watch them hurtle! A massive thank you for your continued support by buying ducks for the race. We are hoping to raise over £1000 so keep your eyes peeled for the giant ducks quacking around the village and get your duck before they run out!!  
Quack quack!  
Many thanks,  
Jeremy Hannah, Chairperson



Congratulations to our Scots Poetry Competition winners and a huge thank you to Mr Dunn for judging. As ever, it was very hard to choose the winners. Everyone performed extremely well.



Class 3 Art



C3 Outdoor Learning

C2 Outdoor Learning





P4 and P5 went to an athletics competition at the McLaren Leisure Centre to compete against other schools. We did an obstacle course, relay races, speed skills and weight ball. It was lots of fun and we met new friends.

**Blair and Bella, P5.**



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, we represented Killin PS at the Callander Rotary Quiz. There were 12 teams in total and there was a good mix of questions. We finished in THIRD place and we were very happy with that.

Here are some of our questions - What does L.E.D. stand for? Where are the Andes? What is the square root of 225? Where is the biggest music festival in the UK?

**Lockie, Zach, Euan, Alexander and Thomas**



In STEM Club we have been designing roller coasters and bridges. We have also made and programmed robots. It has been fun running this club for a variety of age ranges.

**KPS Digital Leaders - Alexander, Thomas, Angus and Euan**



On World Book Day, we brought in our favourite books. Our favourite book is 'Rabbit and the Bear' by Julian Gough. At the start of the story, Rabbit steals Bear's food so Bear makes a big snowball and blocks Bunny in his borrow! We did some shared reading with Felix in Class 3. We also had a book swap.

**Innes and Ailsa P2**



On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, children from Class 3 represented Killin at the Dunblane Cross Country Race. There were children from schools all over Stirling. Euan came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of all the P6 boys. It was a great day out and we all did very well.

**Libby, P7**



### Ben Lawers Gets Ready for the 2026 Season

At Ben Lawers NNR, we are welcoming new faces to the team this year as we say farewell to Helen Cole, who retires after an incredible 35 years with the Trust. Helen first arrived at Ben Lawers as a Ranger/Naturalist and later became Property Manager. Helen played a huge role in shaping the work that happens here today.

Over the years, Helen led everything from visitor management and guided walks to major conservation and habitat restoration projects. She also oversaw incredible footpath work and species monitoring. Not only was Helen immensely busy working in the nature reserve, she also engaged with the local community and Killin Primary School, encouraging the next generation of nature conservationists with her knowledge and skill.

We're delighted to welcome our new Property Manager, Sven Rasmussen. Sven is thrilled to be joining the team and brings a wealth of experience in conservation, having previously worked with Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Forestry Commission Scotland, and most recently as a Reserve Manager with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. He's looking forward to joining the experienced team at Ben Lawers and getting to know the landscape.

It's shaping up to be a busy season ahead, with recruitment beginning



soon for seasonal roles including a Ranger, Ecologist and Visitor Services Assistant. Lots of planned work for the year includes installing a new section of footpath to divert visitors around an area of peatland restored last year through the Peatland Action programme, as well as rebuilding part of the path leading to the summit of Ben Lawers.

We look forward to keeping the community updated on all of the news and projects from Ben Lawers over the coming season.

**Moirlanich Longhouse** will reopen on Easter Sunday, 2-5pm, so do come and visit us - free for NTS members. It has been almost 30 years since the National Trust for Scotland opened the restored property to the public, the official opening ceremony being held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1996. At that time the earliest known reference to a settlement at Moirlanich was on General Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1745-46 but we have since traced it back in the Breadalbane Muniments to 1536, where it appears as "Moyerlonich".

We appreciate all the support we have had locally, particularly the huge number of people who have donated their time to volunteer at the property over the years, but also the information we have received on its history and even some of the items now used to dress the house. If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer do get in touch [moirlanich@nts.org.uk](mailto:moirlanich@nts.org.uk)

After Easter, we will then close again and begin our usual season in May, opening Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, 2-5pm until the end of September.

You will find all the information on opening times and prices on our website [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)



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 FB: @moragfelgatemassagetherapy

**DALL LODGE**  
 COUNTRY HOUSE  
 We would like to express our gratitude towards the Killin News- team and their great work!  
 Monica & Brian  
 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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### Rural Skills Programme

Rural Skills participants spend day with RSPB Loch Lomond – more opportunities coming in May and June

The first session of the Rural Skills programme took place in March, in partnership with RSPB Loch Lomond. Participants spent the day learning about conservation work while helping remove invasive plant species from the reserve. The programme is aimed at young people aged 16 to 25 and is designed to give practical outdoor experience while offering insight into rural and conservation careers. Sessions are small and hands-on, allowing participants to learn directly from professionals working in the field.

Further sessions are planned in the coming months. Young people interested in learning new outdoor skills or exploring rural and environmental work are encouraged to get in touch. Places are limited. To register interest or find out more, please email [skillsdevelopment@killincoo.co.uk](mailto:skillsdevelopment@killincoo.co.uk)

In May, participants will work in Tyndrum Community Woodlands with Strathfillan Community Development Trust, learning how to build a section of deer fencing and gaining practical woodland management skills. In June, the programme will continue at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve with the National Trust for Scotland, where participants will take part in conservation work such as removing old fencing and helping maintain the reserve.

### St Fillan's Church – what the community has said

The initial findings from the survey have revealed that there is a higher percentage of support from the community for the project to provide visitor accommodation and heritage facilities. However, the community would like space in the design for:

- small weddings and funerals and the occasional small service
- a space for quiet reflection and prayer
- for retreats (yoga, artists, etc)

People also want the plans to take into consideration that:

- the building is iconic and important to Killin
- the future should benefit the local community
- the heritage and character must be respected
- decision making must be inclusive and evidence based

Arc Architects is now working on a design to incorporate all of the above.

### Community and sensory garden plan is taking shape

There is a small group involved in the design of the new community and sensory garden. They include representatives from the nursery, Falls of Dochart retirement home, Killin Sports and Recreation Hub, KAT and members of the community. We are working on a design for the space at the moment and hope to have something for the next issue of the Killin News to share with you.

Killin Sports and Recreation Hub has put in a funding application with Stirling Council for some match funding to help progress the project.

### RecyKillin at Fassiefern turns one

On February 28, it was one year since Fassiefern opened its doors and allowed RecyKillin to expand what it does in helping to reduce the environmental impact to the village and surrounding areas.

We wanted to share with you some of the facts and figures that, between KAT, it's amazing volunteers and our supporters and customers, we have achieved in the 12 months:

- At least 12,000 items have been sold through the Reuse Shop – more than £37,000 has been rung through the tills (helping to

support other KAT activities) and this has prevented more than 8 metric tonnes from going to landfill. We have also held more than 10 upcycling, crafting games and social events.

- The Tool Library has loaned out 135 separate items, has increased the number of tools available by 17% (there are now more than 233) and increased its membership by 31%.
- The Community Fridge has prevented 4 metric tonnes of edible food going into landfill.
- It has also held six food waste cookery workshops, put four people through professional food hygiene training and bought kitchen equipment available for loan through the Tool Library.



We hope you agree that in its first year, RecyKillin has gone from strength to strength at Fassiefern. It takes a team of 23 volunteers to run these services and so from us all we want to say a huge thank you to them for their work and dedication – Killin wouldn't have the Reuse Shop, Tool Library and Community Fridge without them.



We are hoping to extend the hours of the Reuse Shop to occasional Sundays, Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. If you are interested in volunteering at the shop on any days, please email [rachel@killincdt.co.uk](mailto:rachel@killincdt.co.uk)



Come and browse the panel, discover more in our rummage boxes and discover what the twelve featured items reveal about the heritage of the area. Our thanks to everyone who has helped and contributed to this exhibition!

Images: Food waste and cookery skills workshops held at Fassifern and The Big Shed last year

**What's happening at the Fassiefern Hub**

We continue to have Start-up Stirling and Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) coming in every Thursday 10.30 to 11.45 before the warm hub. So, pop in to see them.

Our business and learning hub is available for bookings for:

- A meeting space for up to 30 people.
- Need a place to work for a few hours? You can book a desk space.
- Need to hold a video conference? We have great technology for this.
- Want to organise a training event? Great space & technology for that too.
- Need a private space to meet clients/customers? We also have a great comfy relaxed space to enable this to happen.

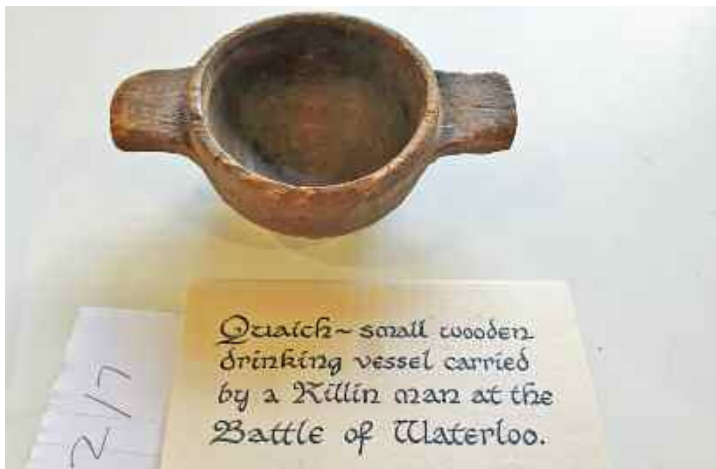
Whatever your needs are, come and chat to Theresa and have a look around, I'm sure we can accommodate you. Email [theresa@killincdt.co.uk](mailto:theresa@killincdt.co.uk)

**Catch up with the news from RecyKillin and The Old Mill on Facebook**

Look out for more information on our Facebook pages about events and news from RecyKillin ([www.facebook.com/reuseshopkillin](http://www.facebook.com/reuseshopkillin)) and The Old Mill ([www.facebook.com/OldMill.KAT](http://www.facebook.com/OldMill.KAT))

We have a new exhibition at the Old Mill: Hame, Cloth, River and Loch. It is an exploration of Killin and Lochtayside heritage and folklore. Based on some objects in the Killin Heritage Archive and Collection, the exhibition focusses on the research and knowledge of Ella Walker, one of the founder members of Killin Heritage Society and well known and loved by many in the village.

The Old Mill is now Open right through until December 20<sup>th</sup> this year. The Makers' Market is open 7 days a week 10-5 Wed-Sat and 11-4 Sun-Tues. We have some great events lined up, including a wolf-themed storytelling and clarsach event, funded by Scene Stirling and Stirling Council. Expect more heritage this year! Keep your eyes open for our events as they come up on [www.facebook.com/OldMill.KAT](http://www.facebook.com/OldMill.KAT) We hope to see you soon!



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# Senior Citizens Burns Supper



On Friday 23rd January, the second Senior Citizens Burns Supper hosted by Killin Youth Project, Killin Primary School and Killin Primary Schools Parent Partnership was a great success. A night of Haggis, traditional Scottish music and entertainment from the wonderful Killin Primary School children, made for a very enjoyable night. Thank you to our hosts who worked so hard to make the evening a success and thank you to the band who kept our toes tapping.



# Community Meal

Our last community meal of the season will be on Sunday 5th April 12pm to 2pm with an Easter egg hunt. As usual there will be soup and sandwiches, tea, juice and cake. All welcome. Free event.

Some photos from the previous meal in February where we had free massages and haircuts courtesy of Morag Felgate and Mancave Barbers.





# Killin Breadalbane Angling Club

## Diesel Spillage

The Club made the decision to close all fishing under the Killin and Breadalbane Angling Club

permits. This was due to the diesel spill being released into the River Dochart. The decision was made to eliminate any risk to fish that may have been caught and exposed to the diesel. We are pleased to report that there has not been any reported fish being killed as a result of the spill. The club waters remained closed till we had confirmation from Perth Council to state that it was safe to be on the water or coming into contact with the water. The committee did not want any anglers or any of their property being damaged as a result of coming into contact with the diesel. The Committee would like to thank all anglers for their patience in this matter and appreciate your understanding.

## Salmon

And so the first Spring salmon has been caught and safely released on Loch Tay which is fantastic to see after the diesel spill earlier on this year. The Tay system offers the best value spring salmon fishing in Scotland. Scotland's largest river can boast one of the highest numbers of rod caught salmon in Scotland. During the early months of the year the traditional Tay method of Harling (Boat trolling) is without doubt the favoured method.

The committee is reviewing the Scottish Government publications and this has meant the club has introduced catch and release only. As you can see from the following figures taken from the website the numbers have dropped dramatically.

## Total wild salmon and sea trout catch

Most recent figures show that in 2025 Scottish fisheries caught

- 28,993 wild origin salmon
- 14,282 adult sea trout
- 6,925 finnock

Compared to 2024, this represents a decrease of 19,620 wild-origin salmon (40%), 400 (3%) adult sea trout and 497 (7%) finnock.

## Salmon and sea trout rod catch - all Scotland

Scottish rod fisheries caught :

- 28,020 wild-origin salmon
- 13,025 adult sea trout
- 6,925 finnock

Compared to 2024, this represents a decrease of 19,598 (41%) wild-origin salmon, 1,079 (8%) adult sea trout and 497 (7%) finnock.

Since the 1970s, the total estimated number of salmon returning to Scottish rivers has declined from around 1 million to 400,000. Over the same period the number of spawners increased from around 380,000 in the early 1970s to a high point of 670,000 in 2010 before declining to around 350,000 in recent years.

## Trout

The trout season will be open on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 until the 6<sup>th</sup> October and we are looking forward to getting out fishing for the Wild Brown Trout. The Committee and AGM all agreed that we would increase the size of keepable fish to 12" as this is to let the trout numbers increase. There has been some reports of Rainbow Trout within the Loch, these are non native to the loch. They were first introduced to Scotland in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century from America.



## Pike

There have been some fantastic numbers of pike being caught recently with fish in the 20lb plus mark. This is good to hear as they have been in fantastic condition recently and not affected with the diesel spill. Although pike are deemed as predators of the river and loch they are very delicate fish and as a result there is no fishing for them during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April until the 30<sup>th</sup> April to let them spawn.



## Outings

The club is still trying to organise the outings for the year, see list at bottom of the page with dates and locations.

These days out will be, in the first instance open to members and then to non-members. If you are interested please email [kbacsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:kbacsecretary@gmail.com). If you would like the club to run some tester sessions, then we can create some dates and get them shared to the village. Please let us know if you are interested!

## Grounds

The club has hired Finlay Boath to help with keeping up to date with the ground around the jetty and at the shed.

## Volunteers

If you are able to help the Angling Club, whether you like to fish or not, but would be able to donate a couple of hours a month, we would love to hear from you on [kbacsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:kbacsecretary@gmail.com)

Thank you  
Stephen Hay  
President of KBAC

## Club outings

Day	Date	Month	Location	Method	Cup	Numbers	Transport
Sunday	5	April	Lake of Menteith	Fly Fishing		10	Bus
Sunday	3	May	Loch Tay	Fly Fishing	Peter Ross	10	Car
Sunday	7	June	Loch Earn	Any Legal Methods		10	Car
Sunday	5	July	Orchil (Course)	Any Legal Methods		10	Bus
Wednesday	15	July	Mackerel (kids)	Feathers		9 Kids	Bus
Saturday	18	July	Mackerel (Adults)	Feathers		12	Bus
Sunday	2	August	Lawers	Fly Fishing		No limit	Car
Sunday	6	September	Breaclaich	Fly Fishing		No Limit	Car

# Killin Community Council

## Chairman's Report March 2026

### Killin Water Supply

The Community Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March was attended by a representative of SEPA, who briefed the community on the nature of the recent diesel spill that polluted the water supply and left the village without water for several days. He outlined the steps taken to remedy the problem and answered questions from those attending.

It seems that the contamination of the river Dochart will take many months to clear, due to the diesel saturating the ground between Lix Toll and the Dochart, but the water supply to Killin will be carefully monitored. Wildlife, fortunately, seems to be little affected, but this will also be closely monitored.

Certas, as the operator of Lix Toll petrol station, accept liability for the spill, and will operate a community compensation fund, which will reimburse losses, prioritising individuals for early payment.

Alternatively, people can claim through their own household insurance, and leave the choice of whether to request reimbursement from Certas to their insurer.

Ironically, this spill appears to have been occasioned by remedial work

undertaken by Certas in order to reopen the petrol station later this year. Sadly, this programme has now been set back by the spill by at least a further year.

During this disruption Scottish Water were exemplary, distributing information and water door-to-door, and free food from a catering van in the McLaren Hall car park. Members of the community were also active in support, and the River Inn provided an initial batch of bottled water at their own expense, as soon as the problem was identified. Charlie Grant proposed a vote of thanks for all these local heroes.

### Stirling Council Report

Gene Maxwell delivered the Stirling Council report. There will be an 8.75% rise in Council Tax, with the escalating costs of the Health and Social Care Partnership commanding the bulk of this extra revenue. The Roads budget, however, has been increased by £3M, something we can all agree is long overdue. In certain parts of the village, the roads and pavements are in a state of serious disrepair. I have rarely seen such a number of dangerous potholes.

There seems to be a new fissure or sinkhole appearing every day. Members of the Community Council

have been petitioning Stirling Council for at least two years now for improvements to the roads and pavements. Dilapidated infrastructure shows the village in a very bad light, and presents a serious hazard to motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians. Members of the community can also lend weight to this effort by reporting potholes directly to Stirling Council's 'Report a Pothole' service, by telephoning 01786 404040.

### Community Council Membership

We are losing the services of Toni Dowling, who is moving on to greater things. We thank Toni for the service and help she has given us over the years, and wish her well in her new adventures.

### AGM and Next Meeting

We shall be holding our annual AGM on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, followed by a scheduled meeting of the Community Council. We hope as many of you as possible are able to attend. The venue is the Lesser McLaren Hall. The AGM is from 7.00pm followed by the meeting.

Our email is [communitycouncilkillin@gmail.com](mailto:communitycouncilkillin@gmail.com)

**Andy Aitken**  
Chairman



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### 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Killin Walk in the Park recently celebrated their 14th anniversary, with 21 walkers turning out for our Pier Road Walk. The first walk took place on 7 of March 2012, and we still have several regular group members who can remember those early days and walks. We now have more than 15 regular walkers who turn up every Wednesday, in all weathers. The Head of the Loch Walk remains a firm favourite with many, and the social aspect of meeting regularly is an important part of belonging to the group. We shared memories of the early days over coffee and a bit of birthday cake! A big thank you to all the volunteer walk leaders who have supported the walk over the years and helped to make it the success it is today.

One participant noted "Everyone is really friendly. I feel really good and refreshed when walking with the group."

### Thank you for your support

Thank you to the Killin community member who recently made an anonymous donation of £100 in support of our Walk in the Park activities in Killin. We are humbled by your generous donation which helps us continue offering a supportive, social space for participants to come together over tea and cake after the walk. Our recent survey shows that 9 out of 10 Walk in the Park participants report benefitting socially from our activities, highlighting just how important these opportunities are. As a charity, we work hard to secure funding so that there is no direct cost to our participants. We are very grateful for all donations in support of our activities. If you'd like to contribute to our fundraising efforts, you can make a donation via JustGiving () or get in touch with us to discuss.

### Health Walks

Meeting at the Sports Pavillion and Recreation hub (and Monemore - see below), join us every **Wednesday at 10.20am**. See the list of walks at the top of the page for what we've got in store for you throughout April and May.

If you are looking for an enjoyable way to spend the lighter nights, then we are pleased to advise our popular **evening walks** will restart on Monday

### April and May Health Walks

Wednesday 08 April – Meet Sports Pavillion – Glen Lochay (CS)  
 Wednesday 15 April – Meet Sports Pavillion – Pier Road/Finlarig Castle  
 Wednesday 22 April – Meet Sports Pavillion – Tyndrum (CS)  
 Wednesday 29 April – Meet Monemore – Kinnell Estate  
 Wednesday 06 May – Meet Sports Pavillion – Golf Club (C/S)  
 Wednesday 13 May – Meet Sports Pavillion – Head of the Loch  
 Wednesday 20 May – Meet Monemore – Craignavie Road from forestry (CS)  
 Wednesday 27 May – Meet Monemore – Acharn Railway Line

(CS symbolises a car share – contact Fiona@trustinthepark.org for details)



6<sup>th</sup> April 6.50pm for a 7pm start. Meeting fortnightly at the Sports Pavillion. The walks are a great opportunity to enjoy a leisurely stroll and connect with others and nature. Our walks are **FREE** with thanks to funding from: **Loch Lomond and the National Park Authority, Peoples Postcode Lottery, Scottish Forestry.**

### Strength & Balance Sessions

Our Killin Strength & Balance session was joined at the end of January by local pupils from Killin Primary School, who put together a great performance celebrating Scottish Song and Poetry and, of course Robert Burns. After a short movement warm up led by our trained volunteers, we settled down to performances of 'The Birks of Aberfeldy', 'Coullars Candy' and 'Donald, Where's Your Trousers'. There was plenty of movement throughout the afternoon, including a lively rendition of Three Crows with Makaton actions. The pupils were fantastic - not only did they throw themselves into the interactive songs, but each one also delivered an impressive piece of Scots poetry. It truly was a lovely session, and one participant summed it up perfectly: 'the kids did an amazing job, fun was had by all and smiles all round for a great afternoon'.

A huge thank you to the local children for joining us, and to our Strength & Balance participants for getting so involved. Well done, everyone!

### 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.

With thanks to funding from **Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority, Stirling Voluntary Enterprise, Peoples Postcode Lottery and Scottish Forestry** our sessions are **FREE**

(although donations are greatly accepted) with no need to book - just turn up!

**To find out more about:** Walk in the Park, Strength & Balance, or volunteering with us please visit our website at [www.trustinthepark.org](http://www.trustinthepark.org) or get in touch: [Fiona@trustinthepark.org](mailto:Fiona@trustinthepark.org) or call 07843 842323 (Monday to Thursday)

# WILD STRATHFILLAN COMMUNITY UPDATE

April 2026



## Landscape Connections: A Boost for Wild Strathfillan

Exciting news for nature and local communities - a new initiative called **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Landscape Connections** led by the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park alongside the Countryside Trust and RSPB Scotland, has received a significant funding boost, unlocking the opportunity for one of Scotland's most ambitious woodland restoration programmes. With £670,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop plans, the project could unlock up to £10 million for an eight year programme to restore native woodland across an area more than twice the size of Glasgow.

Landscape Connections brings together three significant landscapes - The Great Trossachs Forest, the Loch Lomond Rainforest, and Wild Strathfillan - creating a unified '**woodland restoration zone**' at the heart of where these habitats meet. The programme will continue Wild Strathfillan's long-term vision by supporting woodland recovery, improving deer management, creating training and job opportunities, and working hand-in-hand with local communities and land managers.

### Long term vision for Wild Strathfillan

Alongside Landscape Connections, Wild Strathfillan will continue to work with communities and land managers to strengthening its roots, and develop and deliver its own projects - all in the aim to realise a long-term vision for the people and nature of Wild Strathfillan.



Follow us on social  
@Trustinthepark  
#Wildstrathfillan



Wild Strathfillan is funded primarily through the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund, managed by NatureScot and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with support from the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Countryside Trust fundraising.



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# Tombreck Market Garden

Sunshine, rain and sleet, with snow on Ben Lawers as I write this (13<sup>th</sup> March)– so spring must be on its way! However, it's too early for us to start planting anything outside, that will wait until April.

Next week we will start off our indoor seedlings, leeks, salads and several different types of squash; Red Uchike Kuri, Buttercup, Desert Spirit Landrace, Buttercup and Cinnamon Girl plus courgettes both yellow and green, and cucumbers.

This will be followed by the brassica seedbed in the polytunnel for the cabbages, kale and brussels sprouts. We are trialling 'kalettes' this year, so watch out for those!

The seed potatoes are in a cool place to start the 'chitting' process where the new shoots start to grow. Some of the seed potatoes have been saved from last year which helps to keep costs down, although we are also introducing some different varieties.



For produce, all the winter root vegetables are finished, and we have been harvesting salad leaves and pak choi stir fry. The spring cabbage, kale and purple sprouting broccoli will soon be ready, they just need a little bit more sunshine.

Our produce is sold in the Tombreck Farm Shop (six miles out of Killin on the A827 north Lochtayside road) and MacGregors Community Hub.

Sue Manning  
Tombreck Farm  
07725320546  
[suemanning@tombreck.co.uk](mailto:suemanning@tombreck.co.uk)



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You are very welcome to come and have a look around.  
All of our timber and sheet materials can be cut to your own required measurements, so why not talk to our team and get some advice on your DIY projects?  
We're easy to find, there's parking on site, why not try here first?

### Doune Woodyard

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# Local Planning Applications

## National Park

### 06 Jan 2026

Proposal: Erection of external staircase to first floor level  
Location: Carna Cottage Crianlarich  
Applicant: Ms Rebecca Turner  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission  
Decision: Current

### 19 Jan 2026

Proposal: Internal and external alterations to Category B Listed building  
Location: Crianlarich Church Crianlarich  
Applicant: Mr Alby Palmer  
Application Type: Listed Building Consent  
Decision: Current

### 19 Jan 2026

Proposal: Change of use of B Listed building from church (class 10) to dwellinghouse (class 9) and external alterations  
Location: Crianlarich Church Crianlarich  
Applicant: Mr Alby Palmer  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission  
Decision: Current

### 20 Jan 2026

Proposal: Erection of 5 holiday cabins with associated parking  
Location: Land At Wester Lix, Lochearnhead,  
Applicant: Shed Collective  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission  
Decision: Current

### 21 Jan 2026

Proposal: Installation of welfare facilities  
Location: Crianlarich Water Treatment Works  
Applicant: Scottish Water  
Application Type: Detailed Planning Permission  
Decision: Current

### Perth & Kinross Council:

Nothing to Report

### Stirling Council

Nothing to Report

## Lodge Breadalbane St. Fillans No. 815

Members of Lodge 815 have been active during the winter period throughout Perthshire and Stirlingshire supporting fund raising events for charities.

In the past few years Scottish Freemasons have raised £1,500,000 to help fight Prostate Cancer, and we are now supporting Child Literacy.

We have also had a great year fundraising within our own community with the New Year's Dance and the Christmas Hampers etc. The funds raised by the hampers are being donated to the Nursery School and The Walk in the Park Group, other benevolence is being given to Stathcarron Hospice, The Air Ambulance, The New Year Lantern Group, and The Pier Road Cemetery Maintenance Group and others.

We will be starting the maintenance of the Old Cemetery behind the Killin Hotel soon with grass cutting etc. if anyone would like to give us a hand you will be made most welcome.

Last month Lodge 815 held a very successful open day, which allowed anyone to come and see the inside of our wonderful little building and chat about freemasonry in general. We hope to hold another later in the year.

We will also be holding a stall at the Killin Agricultural Show so please come and support us and have a chat to our members.

## Loch Tay Association

If you love Loch Tay, we need your help.

Loch Tay is the heart of our community, but beneath its pristine surface, the water is fast arriving at a tipping point.

From devastating diesel spills and sewage incidents, to the surge of invasive species and choking algal blooms, the warning signs are clear. Nutrient levels are climbing, threatening the clarity and life of the loch we love. With limited official monitoring, the responsibility to protect this magnificent asset falls directly on us.

The **Loch Tay Association** is stepping up, but our impact is limited by our numbers. To fight back, we need more than just passion - we need a stronger mandate and the funds to take action.

Your membership changes everything. This year, our volunteers are launching a year-long water testing project to establish a vital data baseline.

For example with your support, we can move from manual testing to **automated, high-tech equipment** that provides the undeniable evidence needed to force meaningful intervention from environmental agencies.

Don't let Loch Tay's beauty become a memory. **Scan the QR code to join us today.** Your small annual contribution is the investment our loch deserves.

**Scan to Protect Loch Tay**



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It's been an exciting term welcoming lots of new Beavers and completing our builder and experiments badge.

With beavers falling on Shrove Tuesday we experimented with different ingredients to make pancakes, made lava lamp jars, raisins and eggs float, as well as the classic exploding cola with mentoes experiment!

Going forward we are going to work on the communicators badge before our Easter break.

Beavers is for ages 6&7, we meet fortnightly on a Tuesday 6-7pm. We are very nearly at full capacity but please do get in touch if your child is interested and if we cannot offer them a place right now they can be added to our waiting list.

Laura Carmichael  
Beaver leader  
[Killinbeavers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Killinbeavers@yahoo.co.uk)  
07708216065

Welcome to Heartland Vets Clinic in Killin  
We offer a clinic in the sports pavilion in Killin. We run this every two weeks to help those that are unable to get through to our practice in Aberfeldy. Our clinic opens at 9:30am and finishes at 12.30pm Repeat prescriptions, food etc can be provided and collected on the day.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ORDER THEM IN ADVANCE**

1st Apr	13th May	24th June
15th Apr	27th May	8th July
29th Apr	10th June	22nd July

Appointments: 01887 820 771

**Have you heard of our pet health club?**  
The pet health club is a fabulous way to save money every year on your pets vaccinations, flea, tick and wormer, 6 month health checks, urine sample check and much more!!

If you join the the PLUS plan this includes unlimited consultations!

There are discounts on some lifelong medications & treatments. You can also get information regarding prices by scanning the QR code provided.



email: [aberfeldy@heartlandvets.co.uk](mailto:aberfeldy@heartlandvets.co.uk)  
www.heartlandvets.co.uk



## Do you need an affordable home?

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Deanston	Doone	Drymen	Gargunnoch	Gartmore
Killearn	Killin	Kinlochard	Kippen	Locheamhead
Strathblane	Strathyre	Stronachlachar	Tyndrum	

Further new build developments are being planned for 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](http://www.rsha.org.uk) providing affordable homes: sustaining rural communities

Rural Stirling Housing Association,  
Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA  
01786 841101 [www.rsha.org.uk](http://www.rsha.org.uk)  
[enquiries@rsha.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rsha.org.uk)

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# Frost Report

## Changing Times

Well into March we are seeing the seasons change. Nature's changes heralding warmer days after the cold and snow of winter is one of the most welcome times of the year. On 'The Chase' recently the question was 'what advice did the Scottish government give regarding walking on icy pavements?' The correct answer of 'to walk like a penguin' brought peals of laughter. If you have lived through a Scottish winter, walking like a penguin is no laughing matter, more a way of survival.

So keen are we to welcome Spring that many of us note the dates and compare year on year. For instance, Mervyn's roadside daffodil display at Ardtalnaig began in early February but still a few days later than last year's Jan 31st. The first lone oystercatcher appeared on Ardeonaig pier this year on 31st January, soon to be joined by about 30 more. Our own little penguins with their white chests and black wings. They stayed together there for a few days, probably catching up on oystercatcher gossip, before pairing off to go house hunting. I heard the first curlew on 9th March.

A female curlew with coloured rings as part of a study at The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust is the longest living of her species, as far as it is known, at almost 34 years.

Two bumble bees were noted on 4th March and the expected 'frogs on the road' was on 9th March closely followed the next day by frogspawn in the pond.

Talking of ponds; I was told recently of a woman near Perth whose pond was blocked by a beaver causing her entire garden to flood and be totally ruined. The worst part is that she can get no compensation from any organisation. Also near Perth a man lost a 60 year old specimen tree to the furry folk. Also, did you notice the floods near Balquhidder station? Guess what caused that by building a dam? No planning permission either.

It's a bit easier to think about the cold now, and the snow, especially the snows of yesteryear. The Winter Olympics reminded us of sledging down the steep braes at Loch Choire in Sutherland on big metal trays, with outside light on as it was dark from three o'clock. We could expect to be snowed in for up to 3 months so you had to find something to do!

One snow story is particularly apt as it recalls the recent passing of a local true countryman, James Sinclair. About forty or so years ago a small posse of us were lamping up the Rhealdt road heading for the valve house above Finlarig power station. A little foolhardy as the snow was higher than the Land Rover, a track having been dug out by Stitts. The drot digger was parked, abandoned and blocking the track so James climbed out of the Land Rover window onto the snow and moved the drot to let us turn. Apologies to William if this is news to you but James did put the drot back. Just one of many happy times on the hill with James in our younger days.

Of course, some creatures like the cold. It was thought that sharks could not survive the waters of the Antarctic but recently sleeper sharks

have been found to have superpowers. (Maybe a bit like some of our local ladies enjoying their wild swimming?) These sharks have a very sluggish metabolism and spend life in the slow lane – yes, maybe they are retired! They may live to be 400. One creature who does not have the superpower to withstand cold is the iguana. Some pets had escaped in Florida and a cold spell had seen them falling out of the trees frozen. Some folk who picked them up were shocked when the iguanas' superpower thawed back to life in the warm car.

A superpower for a reticulated python in Bali seems to be eating. The Baroness, as she is known, is 23 feet long, can swallow a calf or even a cow. It took eight to lift her onto the scales where she weighed in at 213 pounds, empty that is.

But enough of looking back to the cold and let's look forward to warmer times again. Cricket will be back on the agenda but not, hopefully, like last year at The Oval where Mr. Fox stopped play by streaking across the pitch. Well, technically he wasn't streaking as he had his fur on. Bet he was looking for the sandwiches at teatime.

One of Mr. F's relatives was in trouble when he took up residence in the engine compartment of an Amazon van. I don't know if he was delivered but watch out local delivery ladies, Kate and Sandra.

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## Yoga Retreat

One day yoga & meditation retreat with Aberfeldy based Fi Lumsden Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 4pm.

It's suitable for all ages and abilities and costs £60, which includes £10 deposit.

A simple lunch of soup, bread, snacks and tea and coffee will be provided.

Contact Fi Lumsden at [filumsdenyoga@gmail.com](mailto:filumsdenyoga@gmail.com) to book

Fi says: "A Spring day of gentle, seasonal yoga and movement. We will take our meditation practice

outdoors (or under shelter if needed).

*Meditation in nature and the elements allows us to use all the senses to anchor us in the present, enabling us to find calm and quiet in our noisy heads.*

*A particularly healing practice in the beautiful surroundings of the Big Shed in Spring"*

Fi's website is:  
<https://www.filumsdenyoga.co.uk/>

The Big Shed, which you can hire in full or in part, sits in a beautiful spot adjacent to the Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve, with views over Loch Tay. It's a lovely space for wellness

retreats of all kinds, as well as celebrations.

To find out more about the Big Shed, have a look at the website, the Facebook page or email us at [websitecontact@bigshed.org.uk](mailto:websitecontact@bigshed.org.uk) The Big Shed is at Tombreck on the north side of Loch Tay, a couple of miles after the Ben Lawers hill road. Access is signposted from the main road, though you'll see Farm Shop signs first, and there is parking.

**www.bigshed.org.uk**  
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# Killin Bin Collection Timetable

Collection Schedule for Killin  
with normal glass collection Lorry



: Glass   
 : Plastic, cans and cartons   
 : Non-recyclable Waste   
 : Paper & Cardboard   
 : Food and Garden

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2			5	6	7
8	9		11	12	13	14
15	16			19	20	21
22	23		25	26	27	28
29	30		31	1	2	3

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31		1	2	3
5	6		8	9	10	11
12	13			16	17	18
19	20	21		23	24	25
26	27			29	30	1

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4		6	7	8	9
10	11			14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25			28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

June 2026

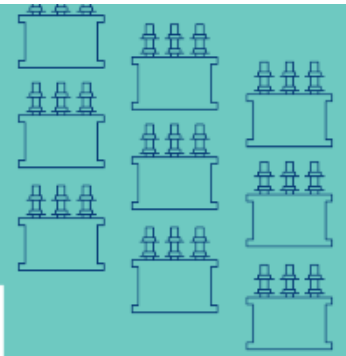
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1		3	4	5	6
7	8			11	12	13
14	15	16		18	19	20
21	22			25	26	27
28	29		30	1	2	3

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6			9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20			23	24	25
26	27		29	30	31	1

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3			6	7	8
9	10	11		13	14	15
16	17			20	21	22
23	24		26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



# Lochay Transformer Replacement Newsletter

April 2026

**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

The site team have been working to install the raised flooring in the control building with this work now complete. The communications racks and the LVAC board have also been installed. While these are still to be connected, this represents good progress for the project. A number of smaller tasks have also continued alongside this work.

## Upcoming works

In the coming period, work will focus on erecting the busbars, which are now on site, alongside the installation of the post insulators. Preparatory work is also planned to install osprey deterrents on the towers.

## Transformer deliveries

We are planning to deliver the new transformers to site on **Monday 11 May 2026**.

On the day, the convoy will travel through Killin and cross the Dochart Bridge before continuing up the Glen to the substation site. Exact timings are still being finalised as part of the delivery programme. Once these are confirmed, we will undertake a targeted mail drop to share the agreed timings directly with affected residents, helping you plan ahead and minimise disruption. We will continue to keep the community informed as plans progress.

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

**Louise Anderson**  
Lead Community Liaison Manager  
SSEN Transmission, 200 Dunkeld Road,  
Perth, PH1 3GH

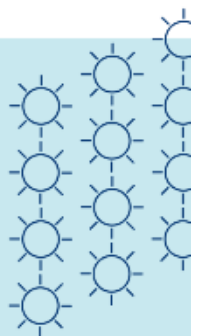
**Tel:** 01738 341 975  
**Mobile:** 07384 454 233  
**Email:** [louise.anderson@sse.com](mailto:louise.anderson@sse.com)



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

 @ssetransmission

 @SSETransmission



### Mobile Banking Van Killin

**Royal Bank of Scotland**  
operate weekly on a Tuesday  
between 10.55 and 11.15 at the  
Coach Stop.

### 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

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The Killin community hub continues to be a popular place  
to be on a Thursday.

Held in the Pavilion between 12:30 & 2:30 pm every  
Thursday, this is a chance to get together and enjoy a  
light lunch in good company.

It's open and free to everyone and Citizens Advice  
advisors regularly attend to help with any issues with  
benefits, housing or energy costs etc.

The community hub is a great place to go to catch up with  
friends old and new.

Pop in anytime between 12:30 and 2:30 pm.

Gail and her volunteer helpers look forward to welcoming  
you every Thursday.

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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 07879 258229
- 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, Sports Pavillion (every other Tuesday)
- Tuesday Club, 2-4pm, Community Rooms
- Pilates 5.00pm 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.
- Rhyme Time 10.30am Killin Library

### 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](mailto:alasdair@cyp.org.uk)]
- Multi-Sports Session - Wednesdays (Fortnightly), P5-7 5-6pm, S1-3 6-7pm [sign-ups: [mckennac@activestirling.org.uk](mailto:mckennac@activestirling.org.uk)]
- Killin Comm Choir, 7.30pm-9pm, Killin Church
- Pilates 6pm Lesser McLaren Hall booking required. 07866 018629

### Thursday

- Running Club, 6pm, Acharn Forest carpark
- Killin Community Hub, 12.30-2.30 Sports Pavillion

- 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)
- Stay Blay Blether away. Killin School Gym hall. 2pm fortnightly.

### 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of month March-December. Contact Iain Lowther 07468245239 Henry Paterson 01567 820354

### Various:

- Killin Angling Club dates, p.22
- Walk in the Park dates, p24
- **April**
- 5 Apr Moiralanich Longhouse Special Easter Opening p16
- 5 Apr Community Meal p.21
- 16 Apr SWT Callander p.7
- 20 Apr SWT Pitlochry p7
- 25 Apr Dun Coillich AGM. p8
- 26 Apr The Big Shed Yoga Retreat p30
- **May**
- Morlanich Longhouse seasonal opening p 16
- 5 May Killin Community Council AGM and meeting p23

## Church Services

### Killin & Ardeonaig Parish Church

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month - 10am service with Sunday School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month - 10am Cafe Church service
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month - 10am Communion service with Sunday School
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month - 10am Service with Creche
- Tuesdays 8pm - Bible Study
- Last Monday of the month - 2pm service in the Falls of Dochart Home
- Third Thursday of the month - 2pm Guild

Website: <https://killinardeonaigchurch.org.uk/>

Contact for more information: [sessionclerk@killinardeonaigchurch.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@killinardeonaigchurch.org.uk)

**Episcopal Church** - [www.strathearn-episcopal-churches.org](http://www.strathearn-episcopal-churches.org)

**Roman Catholic Church** - Sunday Mass in Callander at 11:30am

## Which bin?

Tues/Wed

1 Apr

7 Apr

14 Apr, 15 Apr

22 Apr

28 Apr, 29 Apr

5 May

12 May, 13 May

26 May, 27 May

Green=green bin

Blue=blue bin

Brown=brown bin

Grey=grey bin Red=glass

## Recycling Centres

### Callander

Booking Reference Required

Monday-Friday: 5pm-7.30pm

### 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 Apr, 24 April, 8 May, 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

14 Apr, 5 May, 16 June

Tombreck 16.10-16.30

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[www.thegreenwellystop.co.uk](http://www.thegreenwellystop.co.uk)

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