

KILNINFORD NEWS

Issue 2

December 1998

Here we are again with Issue 2 packed with indispensable information as to what's going on in and around Kilmelford and Kilniver - an impressive choice of activities for a small and far-flung community. By consensus it's been decided that the name 'Kilninford News' should stay - alternative suggestions were few - all but four of you missed out on the excellent odds of 4:1 of winning the bottle of whisky! The winners, drawn by Robin Asbury, wish to remain nameless, no doubt so that they can enjoy their winnings themselves! One suggestion which we'd be happy to adopt is that our 'team' should include a representative from Kilniver - any offers? Thanks to Wendy, the 'Kilninford News' box is still in the Kilmelford Post Office so please let us have your suggestions, letters, adverts, comments etc. either in the box or by contacting Fiona. Issue 3 is planned for March/April.

Merry Christmas and a very happy 1999 to one and all!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 6th March - Monty Python Theme Dance in Kilmelford Village Hall in aid of hall funds. Band Gallus Ramaigh. Tickets £5 from Helen Thompson (Tel: 200384)

Most people would have rested on their laurels after the huge success of the Ambassador's Reception, but not Helen - she's at it again. With her usual efficiency she's come up with a load of suggestions to spark our imaginations and everybody should manage to find something 'to be' on the night. Choose from

Lumberjacks, The Spanish Inquisition, Dead Parrots, Hell's Grannies, Scotsmen at Wimbledon, Spam, The Ministry of Silly Walks, Mr Smoke Too Much, The Bruces, The Life of Brian, Mr Luxury-Yacht, Upper Class Twit of the Year, The Church Police, The Philosophers Song, The Meaning of Life, The Holy Grail, Cheese Shop, Always Look on the Bright Side of Life, Headscarves and Pinnies, Centurions, Gourds, Large Wooden Badgers, Castle Anthrax, The Grail, Wink Wink Nudge Nudge, Vikings, Shrubberies, Spitfire Engines, Peasants, Bearded Ladies, Dancing Knights, Enchanters, Learned Professors

Saturday 12th December - Tree decoration and auction in Craignish Village Hall in aid of the hall funds. 5 - 6 p.m. tree decorating, 6 p.m. auction.

Tuesday 15th December - Mothers and Toddlers and Playgroup Christmas party in Kilmelford Village Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Friday 18th December - Carol Singing. Meet at Melfort Club at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 20th December - Parish Christmas Tea Party in Kilmelford Village Hall from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Everyone welcome 0 - 100 year olds. You will be entertained by Don McAllister and Kilninver School and Father Christmas has promised to fit us into his hectic schedule.

Baking donations would be much appreciated and parents bringing children should name their presents for Santa's sack (maximum value £2).

For further information, and anyone needing transport, please contact Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373).

Wednesday 30th December - Mid Argyll Charity Ball at the Cairnbaan Hotel from 8.30 p.m. Tickets £15 each from Jan Brown (Tel: 01852 500 689). Coach places still available with pick-ups from Oban down - leaves the Galley of Lorn at 8 p.m. Surplus funds for the past two years have been given to the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme.

Tuesday 12th January - Community Council meeting in Kilmelford Village Hall Time

Saturday 30th January - The Burns Big Breakfast in Kilmelford Village Hall from 9 to 11.30 a.m. in aid of the hall and parish funds. Contact Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373) for information.

Donations of bacon, eggs, sausages etc would be much appreciated.

KILNINVER PRIMARY SCHOOL - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 21st December - Christmas Service/Nativity. Kilninver Church at 6.45 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd December - last day of school.

End January - Burns Supper. Date to be decided.

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Mothers and Toddlers (5 year olds and under, but most are three years old or less) meet **every Tuesday** in the small hall between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. £1 for the first child and 50p for each child thereafter. Last meeting 15th December and starting again on 5th January.

For information contact Melissa Oatts (Tel: 01852 200314)

Playgroup - due to lack of numbers there will be no playgroup in the new year.

Indoor Football - **every Wednesday** from 7 to 9 p.m. 50p per player. Last session 23rd December starting again on 6th January.

Junior Indoor Football - starting from 11th December there will be a session for Juniors (Primary School) **every Wednesday** starting at 6.30 p.m., and possibly a little earlier if there's a big turnout.

Badminton Club meets **every Tuesday** from 7 to 9 p.m. alternating between Kilmelford and Craignish halls. Last session will be 15th December, starting again on 12th January in Kilmelford. 50p per player.
Co-ordinator - Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373)

Country Dancing - held **three out of every four Thursdays** between 8 and 10 p.m. Last session will be 10th December, starting again on 7th January. £2 per person.

All welcome - beginners or experts alike.

Co-ordinator - Melissa Oatts (Tel: 01852 200314)

Bowls - Colin Clark (Tel: 01852 200 259) or Donald Smith (Tel: 01852 200284) would still like to hear from people keen to revive bowling sessions in the hall.

Whist - the next whist drive will be on 15th January at 7.30 p.m. £1.50 per adult and £1 per child (including tea).

All welcome - beginners or experts alike.

For information and dates of future whist drives nearer the time contact Neil McCorkindale (Tel: 01852 316282)

Art Classes - **weekly on Thursdays** in the small hall from 2 to 4.30 p.m. £5 per session.

Classes stop: 17th December

Classes restart: 7th January

Classes stop: 25th March

Classes restart: 15th April

All welcome - beginners and more experienced alike.

Teacher - Fiona Blakey (Tel: 01852 300579)

Yoga Classes

Chrissie hopes to run some more classes - these will be during the daytime and will cost £21 for six sessions (concessions available).

Please contact Chrissie Tucker (Tel: 01852 500612) to register your interest and for more information. All welcome!

BADMINTON AND SQUASH

Badminton £2 per hour

Squash £3 per session

Badminton ladder - it's planned to re-instate the ladder early in January with the board in the office window where it cannot be tampered with. All

those on the previous ladder should be contacted but, in case not, or if you haven't been on the ladder before, please contact Alasdair Wyllie (Tel: 01852 200301).

BOOKINGS

All hall bookings etc should be made with the caretaker, Jill Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373).

Did you know that tables, chairs and crockery etc. can be hired from Kilmelford Hall?

COME DANCING

Thursday evenings at the hall finds a motley crew skippered by Mike Murray enjoying an evening of Scottish Country Dancing.

Having sampled a class down south, where much was made of perfecting the angle of one's toes, it was with some apprehension that I approached this class. I need not have worried, this class is FUN. Mike's expert, but laid back tuition encourages all levels, from beginners upwards; old and young from Easdale to Crinan enjoy a friendly and energetic evening, and refreshments at half time make the second half of the evening go with even more of a swing.

Everyone is welcome, including visitors. We've recently had Americans and Czechs joining in the fun.

No special dress, shoes or ability is required, although it does help if you know left from right - not always easy!

Elizabeth Asbury

KEEP IT CLEAN

Notice in the café at Torosay Castle: "Will ladies please rinse out teapots then stand upside down in the sink. On no account must hot bottoms be placed on the worktops."

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SERVICES

Services are held every Sunday at 12 noon **alternately** in Kilmelford Parish Church and Kilninver Parish Church.

13th December - Kilninver

20th December - Kilmelford etc

13th December - Christmas Gift Service at Craignish Church at 10.15 a.m. and Kilninver Church at 12 noon.

Gifts donated are distributed by Social Services.

18th December - Carol singing. Meet at Melfort Club at 6.30 p.m.

20th December - Carols by Candlelight in Craignish Church at 6.30 p.m.

24th December - Christmas Eve Early Watchnight Service in Craignish Church at 7.30 p.m.

Mince pies, tea and coffee afterwards.

24th December - Watchnight Service in Kilninver Church at 11.30 p.m. with carol singing starting at 11 p.m.

25th December - Christmas Service in Kilmelford Church at 11 a.m.

Services are held every Sunday in Craignish Parish Church at 10.15 a.m.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

Funds from the Summer Festival were split as follows:-

Village hall	£300
Kilmelford and Kilninver parish churches	£400
Kilninver Primary School	£100
Playgroup	£100

GRAND SALE OF LUNCHEAS AND PRODUCE

A great success! - this event achieved the ideal combination of people enjoying themselves whilst they contributed generously to the Kilmelford and Kilninver parish funds to the grand tune of £1,015.

The hall was a buzz of activity as locals and friends made their selections from the wonderful array of plants, baking and produce, and a large bin of fresh prawns, tried their luck at the bottle stall and purchased their raffle

tickets before sitting down to a hearty bowl of soup with rolls and home baking.

The generous support of the community and the hard work of the organisers made this an enjoyable and fruitful event.

Rev Lindsay Robertson

THE AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION

To: The Chairbeing, Security Council, United Federation of Planets.

From: Chief of Security, Federation Embassy, Kilmelford and Kilninver.

Preliminary Report - The Ambassador's Reception, Saturday 3 october
(Stardate 019987.542)

CONFIDENTIAL

The Reception held at the United Federation of Planets Embassy, Kilmelford and Kilninver Hall, will live long in the memories of all those present.

The Qo'noS band, the Sultans of ChoocH!, played with considerable energy and dancing throughout the evening was brisk. The two hundred or so guests were a colourful and cosmopolitan mixture, including among their number Bajorans, Ferrengi, Borg, Oriens, Vulcans, Betazoids, Romulans and, regrettably, Klingons.

The first half of the evening proceeded in an enjoyable yet safely controlled manner, with no security breeches to report apart from the behaviour of a band member's pet Targs (I believe that Jack Russell Targs are the most excitable and will almost always react to flashing lights in an energetic manner).

Embassy staff prepared a lovely spread of foodstuffs for the break, and we are pleased to report that there were no incidences of guests attempting to consume each other.

During the speeches, the alleged kidnapping incident occurred. The Chairbeing, of course, will bear in mind that Ambassadorial staff can be 'prone to temperment' and that several casks of Romulan brandy had been broached by this point in the proceedings. There was certainly a slight commotion involving a band of renegade Klingons who stormed on to the stage. The embassy party did leave the stage in their company and might have appeared to be threatened briefly, and certainly one of the embassy staff did attempt to raise a ransom. However, I assure you that Embassy Security had complete control over the entire situation and at no time were any of the Ambassadorial party at serious risk. In my professional evaluation the Klingons and the Ambassadors were having a bit of a joke, which may have got slightly out of hand. I must put on record my resentment at Ambassador Kira's comments regarding Embassy Security, we were NOT all at the bar when the alleged kidnapping incident occurred, I believe that Kennet and Jin were in the toilets and that I'Math was having a lie down. In any case the Klingons soon settled back down again and dancing was resumed. As I said earlier, the whole incident was mere high spirits. I believe £850 was raised towards Kilmelford and Kilninver Hall funds.

Please issue a general edict advising Security personnel against participating in a dance called "The Cardssian Circle".

In conclusion, a most enjoyable night was had by all.

Thank you for my new posting - I believe the Gamma Quadrant is lovely at this time of the year.

Helen Thompson

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Kilmelford and Kilninver Village Hall was the venue recently for a very successful craft and produce fair in aid of Barnardo's and Kith and Kids. More than a dozen stalls offered everything from Christmas cards to Christmas trees including locally produced pottery, jewelry, decorated boxes, bric-a-brac, paintings, hand knitting, chocolates and smoked fish, as well as crafts from as far afield as Africa and South America. There was

brisk trade as usual at the baking stall and for soup, filled rolls, teas and home baking - not to mention fresh oysters! With an exhibition in the small hall by the Thursday Art Group there was certainly something for everyone. A big thank you to all the willing helpers and to everyone who supported the fair in any way. The day raised a staggering £770 which will go to →

TREK ARABIA

26th February - 6th March 1999 from Damascus to Aqaba : a desert Trek

I have accepted the challenge to help raise money which will be used specifically for the vital work with children and young people with disabilities, undertaken by Barnardo's and Kith and Kids. I have pledged to raise a minimum of £2000 by completing the journey from Damascus in Syria to Aqaba in Jordan, four consecutive days of which will be on foot, covering nearly 20 km each day in temperatures between 80 and 95 degrees and sleeping overnight under canvas. £1,180 of this sum will go to the charities but everything that I raise over and above £2,000 will go towards the vital work carried out by Barnardo's and Kith and Kids.

I will be organising several fund-raising events over the next few months - watch your local notice board for details! There's a sponsor form in Kilmelford Post Office. For further information or to make a contribution please contact me on 01852 200381.

Janet Thom

CHARITY DANCE IN AID OF ERSKINE 2000 AND THE DOCHAS FUND

A warm welcome from Ishbel and Hamish McNicol set the scene for a good atmosphere at the St Andrew's Night Dance at Craignish Hall on Saturday 28th November.

Thanks to Judith and John Stannard there was a well stocked and cheerfully manned bar.

Parties gathered and sat at tables lit by the candles which made the centre pieces of Rhona Thompson's lovely soft coloured flower arrangements.

Morna Shaw, with Dawn and Miranda's help, presided over the groaning buffet table covered with a wonderful variety of dishes all of which were kindly donated.

A tartan backdrop for Peter Sinclair and friends, Rosie's light fiddling and Donnie's box for the dances and his solo piping provided the tradition for 'The Night'.

The young Patersons woke any sleeping guest with some great rock 'n' roll music which set many feet tapping and calls of YEE HA!

A very relaxed and happy evening which raised the marvellous sum of £1,980 for the Erskine 2000 project and the Dochas Fund for care and research into Motor Neurone Disease and Guillain Barre Syndrome.

Many grateful thanks to all who supported, sponsored and helped to raise the money for and awareness of these charities.

Ishbel, Judith, Morna and G

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

There was a Community Council meeting in Kilmelford Village Hall on 13th October 1998. Five members of the council were in attendance with sixteen members of the public.

The matters arising from the last meeting were dealt with. The secretary announced that the proposal for speed restrictions in Kilmelford had been advertised in the Oban Times, and it was planned that this would be implemented by the end of the year. It was noted that the promised work on the school safety barrier had not been completed. Willie Wilson reported that the television reception was nearing completion and only needed final installation of hardware to complete. The secretary then reported that the shore cleaning campaign had raised £390 towards local youth organisations, leaving a further £360 unclaimed due to lack of

support for the campaign. It is hoped that the public response will be much greater next year.

Other items for discussion were:-

The secretary reported that the previous changes to the Council's constitution and standing orders had been approved by Argyll and Bute Council so they were signed and adopted.

The subject of a playing facility in Kilmelford was discussed, and the Chairman reported that M and K McLeod had refused to provide any land on the Glebe for such a facility. There were other options discussed, but the Chairman felt it necessary to gauge public support for this project before taking it any further.

Suggestions for millenium celebrations were discussed and again it was felt that ideas from the community should be invited and provisional plans made at the next meeting in January. This would still leave time for an application for Argyll and Bute Council Millenium Lottery funding.

Georgina Dalton reported that the Summer Festival raised around £920 despite heavy rainfall.

There was brief discussion, but no objections to planning applications from Mr G Brownlee, Arduaine Farms, Mr Atkinson (Ardenstuur) and Mr A Sandilands.

At the end of the meeting there were a number of road safety issues raised. These were:- poor visibility at Blaran road end; lack of safety barriers at the bottom of the hill on the Kilniver to Easdale road; lack of no overtaking signes/double white lines outside Kilniver School; trees obscuring visibility at Degnish road end; speed of traffic (local and tourist) along the Degnish road. It was agreed that these issues would be pointed out to the roads department and discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman concluded the meeting with a discussion on the plight of the food producers, especially on the West Coast of Scotland. Everyone agreed that the situation was no good, and decided that everyone should insist on local produce in the supermarkets where possible.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday 12th January, 1999 in Kilmelford Village Hall.

There was an **extraordinary meeting of the Community Council** called on 3rd November to discuss the proposals of the Boundary Commission to rearrange the council wards and split Kilninver and Kilmelford.

It was reported that the Boundary Commission had rejected the arguments put forward by this and other community Councils, local Councillors, Mrs R Michie MP and Argyll and Bute Council itself and that it was recommending the changes proposed to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Community Council still felt that the changes had to be opposed, and it was agreed to write to the Secretary of State and protest in the strongest possible terms to the proposals. It was also agreed to encourage members of the community to write and protest at the same time. To assist this, a copy of the Community Council; letter would be available in Kilmelford Post Office for guidance in this matter.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, no notification of a decision has been received.

Neil Manchester

LETTERS

Dear Editor

As many of you know our Community Council has been discussing the possibility of creating playing fields for football, shinty, hockey etc somewhere close to Kilmelford Village Hall. It is hoped that a facility such as this could not only be used for local team sports but also by the primary school.

The school has already expressed interest in such a project. However, the Community Council feels that, if a concentrated effort is to be made to set up a scheme, gather funds, and attract grants, an indication of support from the community would be necessary. I therefore, as Chairman of the Community Council, ask you to contact myself or any of your Community Councillors, to let them know how you feel about this matter.

If enough support is forthcoming it is possible that this could become our Community Council Millenium Project and attract extra funding. It is important that you let your views be known as soon as possible to allow application deadlines to be met.

Angus McFadyen
Chairman, Community Council
Tel: 01852 316220

FOR YOUR EDIFICATION

What's in a name?

PA34 ??? or Cill a Mhill àird? PA34 or Cill an inbher? In the first instances a letter so encoded at the present date would probably reach Kilmelford and Kilninver respectively. Yet the latter addresses would have been needed when the parishes were first unified in the mid 14th century - such is change!

Unfathoming Gaelic names when one has minimal knowledge of the language is a minefield; but I have tried, with the aid of a Gaelic dictionary and that seminal work 'The Place-names of Argyll' by H Cameron Gilles. It was published in 1906 when remnants of the old Gaelic were still extant, and is generally regarded as the ultimate source.

Whilst the postcode alone ought to ensure delivery within the UK, a bit more is needed for a written address - Argyll, Scotland would help. But it was not until the 10th century that the name Scotia was transferred from the north of Ireland to the present Scotland; and as late as 1030 before Malcolm II was called the first '*rex Scotiae*'. In Gaelic no such name as Scotland or Scotia was known; the present Scotland was - and is - known as Alba. Gilles states no satisfactory explanation for Alba or Scotia have yet been found, but doubtless numerous scholars have by now propounded numerous differing theories.

Argyll, Argyle, Earaghàidheal is more simply explained as the 'East-land of the Gaels'. One early scholar proposed that it meant 'cattle-stealers'. His premise was enforced by a Glasgow judge in the last century who

stated that “a man must be a fool to let a cow out of his sight beyond Dumbarton”. Fun as this scurrilous definition may be, the scholar was mistaken, for he misconstrued *earachall* (misfortune, loss of cattle, mischief).

Gilles proposes a tortuous route from Earaghàidheal via Oirir-ghàidheal to Oirthir-ghaidheal. Oir = east (as in English Orient); thir = tir = land (as in Latin terra). But as ear also means east in Gaelic, it would appear to me that a simpler derivation is *Earthirghàidheal*; ear = east; thir = land; ghàidheal = gael.

One may question why land on the west coast should be referred to as ‘east’, but it was the name given by the Gaels of north and east of Ireland to their kinsmen in Argyll. In old Latin documents Argyll is usually referred to as Ergadia, and was then much larger than now, stretching from Kintyre east to the Grampians and north almost to Sutherland. Over the years the area shrunk until present-day Argyll covers roughly the same area as the old kingdom of Dalriada.

As for the English spellings, Argyle is the older by far, going back, with slight variations, for hundreds of years. Gilles comments contemptuously: ‘The form Argyll has no history, and is very modern’.

Lorne - all that part west from Loch Awe to the sea from the foot of Loch Awe to Loch Etive - takes its name from Loarn, who, in about 500, crossed from Ireland to Kintyre with his two brothers in order to carve out kingdoms for themselves. Angus settled in Islay and Jura; Fergus took south Argyll; and Lorn the northern part of Argyll that still bears his name.

And what of *Cill a Mhill àird* and *Cill an inbher*? By now you should have cracked these easily! Cill = kil = church; mhill = mheall = hill; àird = high. So church of the high hills, which when one looks south, east and north from Kilmelford is all too apparent. At Kilninver the name is equally apt, for inbher = confluence; hence church of the confluence (where the River Euchar meets the sea).

Tony Dalton

NEW ARRIVAL

The village of Kilmelford was delighted to welcome its newest resident on 12th November when Emma Chloë was born to Colin and Mandy Carmichael. We wish all three of them much happiness and quieter nights in the future!!

THANKS

Thank you Dorothy for your kind help in distributing the Kilninford News in copies of the Oban Times and thank you Melfort Club for your help and for the use of photocopying facilities.

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