KILNINFORD NEWS

Issue 3

April 1999

With the publishing of Issue 3 we will have covered a year of local news, views and events starting with the inaugural issue in the autumn which alerted everyone to the resumption of winter activities in the Village Hall. The winter edition acted as a reminder and covered the festive season. The spring edition contains fewer regular hall events as we gear up for the summer months ahead, but there's plenty going on. We hope that the newsletter has filled a gap and encouraged people to participate in events which might otherwise have been forgotten. Issue 4 should drop onto your doormats in September - please continue to let us have your contributions and any suggestions for items you'd like to see included in future issues.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 18th April - Loch Melfort Annual Beach Clean meeting at Kilmelford Village Hall at 2 p.m.

A total of £670 is available for clearing up the 15 miles around Loch Melfort, which will go towards local children's charities. All volunteers welcome on the day: your support is vital not only in raising money for children's activities, but also to preserve the natural beauty of Loch Melfort. Refreshments available afterwards.

Co-ordinator - Neil Manchester (Tel: 01852 200272)

Coffee mornings in aid of parish funds and the Village Hall - 10.30 a.m. till noon in the Village Hall. Friday 30th April Friday 28th May

Friday 25th June Friday 24th September

Organisers are Melissa Oatts (Tel: 01852 200314) and Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373)

Saturday 22nd May - Parish Hill Walk meeting at 2 p.m. at the head end of Scammadale.

The 4 mile walk over the Stringe of Lorne takes you through the site of the Battle of Alt Dearg and down on to the Lochavich road. Those who park at Scammadale can either walk half way and back to their cars or organise to be collected at Lochavich. James Ritchie has kindly given permission for one or two 4 x 4 vehicles to drive up from Lochavich for those who wish. Read the article below "An Historic Cairn in Argyll" and add yet another dimension to what should be a great day out. Co-ordinator - Mike Erskine (01852 200373)

Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th June - Hilary Hill's annual Garden Opening from 2 - 6 p.m. at Coire Daraidh, Kilmelford in aid of North Argyll Eventide Home.

Entrance - £1.50 with usual concessions and accompanied children free of charge.

Teas - £1.50. Plants for sale.

Local gardens open under the Scotland's Gardens Scheme

Hugh Campbell-Gibson, Tigh na More, Kilmelford - by appointment Sheila Downie, An Cala, Isle of Seil - 1st April - 31st October 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Minette Struthers, Ardmaddy Castle - open all year dawn to dusk Arduaine Gardens - open all year 9.30 a.m. to sunset

Entry $\pounds 1 - \pounds 1.50$. The Queen's Nurses Scotland and the National Trust Gardens benefit from this scheme and Hugh also contributes to the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Sunday 15th August - Kilmelford and Kilninver Summer Festival

Last year's festival was memorable not only for the horrendous weather but also for the high standard of floral exhibits, produce and crafts. Below is the schedule for this year's festival.

Donations of baking and/or sandwiches on the day for teas would, as always, be much appreciated.

KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER SUMMER FESTIVAL SUNDAY 15th AUGUST

SECTION A - FLOWERS

FOR THE DALTON TROPHY - Most points Section A and B

To be grown by competitor

Class 1	Single rose
Class 2	Single bloom - any variety
Class 3	Vase of garden flowers - mixed
Class 4	Vase of garden flowers - one variety

SECTION B - PLANTS

Class 5	Foliage pot plant
Class 6	Flowering pot plant
Class 7	Selection of three or more pot plants in one container

SECTION C - FLORAL ART

FOR THE BP TROPHY

Not necessarily grown by competitor

Class 8	Arrangement using plant materials and flowers depicting a
	song title
Class 9	Floral table arrangement including candles
Class 10	Floral arrangement with variegated foliage and maximum of
	3 blooms
Class 11	Bridesmaid's posy

SECTION D - PRODUCE

FOR THE MELFORT FARM TROPHY

To be grown by competitor

- Class 12 Bunch of fresh herbs
- Class 13 Four tomatoes
- Class 14 Selection of three root vegetables
- Class 15 Selection of leaf salad

SECTION E - GARDEN PRODUCE

FOR THE CULFAIL HOTEL TROPHY

Class 16 Selection of fruit and vegetables from the same garden grown by competitor

SECTION F - HANDICRAFTS

FOR THE ARDUAINE CRAFT TROPHY

Class 17	Hand knitted article for a baby
Class 18	Base for a table lamp (any material)
Class 19	Still life (any medium)
Class 20	Cushion cover
Class 21	Set of four photographs entitled "Caught in the Act"
Class 22	Hand made article using any material

SECTION G - HOME PRODUCE

FOR THE FISH FARM TROPHY

- Class 23 Selection of canapes (4 varieties)
- Class 24 Apple pie (pastry top and bottom)
- Class 25 Vegetarian roulade
- Class 26 Soda bread (brown)
- Class 27 Four flap jacks

- Class 28 Lemon cake
- Class 29 Treacle toffee
- Class 30 Child's birthday cake (decoration only)
- Class 31 Raspberry jam
- Class 32 Fruit punch (non-alcoholic)

CHILDREN'S SECTION

UP TO 11 YEARS OLD

SPECIAL PRIZE - For most points in these four classes

- Class 33 Picture frame decorated with pasta
- Class 34 Four home made biscuits (1 variety)
- Class 35 My favourite sandwich
- Class 36 Poster entitled "Year 2000"

TWELVE TO SIXTEEN YEARS

FOR THE MELFORT PIER TROPHY

Class 37	Home made pizza
Class 38	Home made candle holder
Class 39	Computer designed poster entitled "Year 2000"
Class 40	Chocolate pudding

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. Stops - 30th March Restarts - 20th April Stops - 29th June Restarts - 24th August For information contact Yvonne MacGregor (Tel: 01852 200374) Indoor Football - last session end of March starting up again in the autumn.

<u>Junior Indoor Football</u> - this additional session for Juniors (Primary School) has proved to be popular and will also start up again in the autumn. Co-ordinator - Angus McFadyen (Tel: 01852 316220)

N.B. <u>Outdoor football</u> (for Primary 7 and upwards) will be starting after Easter on the Galley of Lorne field every Tuesday from 7 - 9 p.m. Co-ordinator - Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373)

<u>Badminton Club</u> meets every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. alternating between Kilmelford and Craignish halls. Last session will be 30th March, starting again in the autumn.

Co-ordinator - Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373)

<u>Country Dancing</u> - these sessions have now stopped but it's hoped that Mike will again point people in the right directions come the winter. Co-ordinator - Melissa Oatts (Tel: 01852 200314)

<u>Whist</u> - the next whist drive will be in the autumn. For information and dates of future whist drives nearer the time contact Neil McCorkindale (Tel: 01852 316282)

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

Classes stop:	25 th March
Classes restart:	15 th April
Classes stop:	End of May

These classes will be starting up again in October after a break over the summer.

All welcome - beginners and more experienced alike.

Teacher - Fiona Blakey (Tel: 01852 300579)

<u>Yoga Classes</u> - on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. starting on 15th April and continuing through till end of June (possibly end of July). Per session - £3 Per block of 4 sessions - £10 Teacher - Maureen Ponting (Tel: 01546 830257)

BADMINTON AND SQUASH

Badminton£2 per hourSquash£3 per session

BOOKINGS

All hall bookings should be made through Yvonne MacGregor (Tel: 01852 200374)

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

KILNINVER PRIMARY SCHOOL - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1st April - end of term Easter service at 1.45 p.m. in Kilmelford Church.

Exact dates for the following to be confirmed:-

Summer Fair - end of May

Open Assembly - end of May

School Sports - mid June

End of term production in Kilmelford Village Hall - provisional date 29th June

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SERVICES

Services are held every Sunday at 12 noon **alternately** in Kilmelford Parish Church and Kilninver Parish Church. 28th March - Kilmelford 4th April - Kilninver etc.

4th April - Easter service - Kilninver Saturday 1st May - Blessing of the boats - 11 a.m. at Ardfern Yacht Centre 20th June - Communion - Kilmelford

An evening service will be held on the last Sunday of each month at Kilmelford between April and October at 6.30 p.m. Services are held every Sunday in Craignish parish church at 10.15 a.m.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

Do you like games? Do you like quizzes? Do you like juice and biscuits?

Do you like singing? Do you like stories? Are you 4-12 yrs old?



If the answer is "yes" The place to be is: the Village Hall The day: Monday The time: 4 - 5.30 p.m. (flexible) The name: the **Monday Club** Starting at the end of August - more details later.

What's it all about? Many churches throughout Scotland are finding that Sunday is 'family away day' for sport, shopping, leisure pursuits or visiting Granny. Surveys in a number of parishes show that children find the idea of Sunday School old fashioned, and not very exciting, but parents would still like them to have church-based Christian education. In view of all this a number of churches have formed mid-week clubs, which children and parents find more convenient and accessible. These clubs have become very popular and numbers are increasing very significantly.

The Kirk Session of Kilmelford and Kilninver have agreed to support this idea and have a childrens' church-based club in our parish starting at the beginning of the new school year at the end of August. Further details will be announced in due course and it is hoped that parents will support this new venture.

Any suggestions or questions please contact the leaders who are:

Elisabeth Asbury (Tel: 01852 200377) Helen Thompson (Tel: 01852 200384) Yvonne McGregor (Tel: 01852 200374)

Elisabeth Asbury

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

We have now completed the second winter of Scottish Country Dancing which has brightened up the dull winter evenings no end.

We have learnt lots of interesting new dances, pausing for refreshment at half time.

Many thanks to Mike Murray for making learning so easy and pleasurable and for putting up with the gigglers!

New recruits are most welcome when dancing commences in the winter.

Melissa Oatts

THE MONTY PYTHON DANCE

Kilmelford and Kilninver Village Hall turned completely Pythonesque for the Gallus Ramaigh Monty Python Dance on the night of Saturday 6th March.

Dead parrots and large feet were, of course, very much in evidence as motifs, but among the more impressive decorations were Castle Arghhh built on the balcony wall, flag hugn Roman trumpets suspended from the ceiling, a replica stall from the Jerusalem market and Michaelangelo's David.

The occasion was made colourful by some of the characters in attendance which included: a delegation from the Judean Peoples Front, the Black Knight, the Spanish Inquisition, Tennis Playing Scotsmen, a Viking, a Man-Eating pram, a Vicious Keep Left Sign, a gang of Hell's Grannies (all very badly behaved), Bearded Ladies, Witches, Two Fish Slappers and lots of Lumberjacks. Connoisseurs of good taste will be particularly interested to know that Mr Alan Thompson's bare behind was on display for most of the evening - photographs of the spectacle are available.

Gallus Ramaigh were in excellent form. Bob and Brian, well acquainted with local peculiarities at the Star Trek Dance, were eccentric enough to come back and were joined on this occasion by Marianne, Gregor and Big Al. If you've ever wondered exactly how fast an accordion can be played, come and watch these guys the next time they visit and be amazed! Around a hundred people enjoyed the music and the dancing was fast and furious right from the very start. Well, as the band pointed out, "We're not being paid for you to sit here and watch us !" Special mention must be made of Gallus Ramaigh's extra efforts to contribute to the Monty Python theme, it all helped to make the evening special. In particular the rousing finale to the evening, a fine rendition of "Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life" was enjoyed by everyone.

Thanks and acknowledgement must go to everyone who lent a hand, without whom etc, etc... £205 was raised towards hall funds.

N.B. We're hoping to be able to put something together for early October, the tentative theme at the moment is "Hollywood Nites."

Helen Thompson

TREK ARABIA

Well, here I am back in wet and cold Argyll after a wonderful trip to sunny Arabia. Our first day was spent touring sites ancient and modern in Damascus, followed the next day by a memorable 14 hour steam-train journey to Amman. From there we began the walking part of the trip combined with visiting some of the holiest sites near the Dead Sea - before travelling by bus to Petra. This ancient deserted city carved into the rock more than lived up to our expectations - the sheer scale and the setting even more stunning than the guide books convey. The next day began our walk into the desert of Wadi Rum - for me the highlight of the trip - with the most incredible scenery of sand and rock carved by wind and rain. This combined with the novelty of camping in Bedouin tents and sleeping out under the stars - magic! Our final day was one of relaxation on the beach at Aqaba.

It was an amazing trip - our accommodation was fairly basic and the days long but the Jordanian and Syrian people unfailingly friendly. We all completed the trek and felt a real sense of achievement. I couldn't have done it without all the support you gave me so I thank you very much from not only myself but also from Barnardo's and Kith & Kids who stand to gain over £3,000 from my participation and a total in the region of £150,000 from the week.

Janet Thom

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held on 12th January, 1999

A meeting of the Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council was held on Tuesday 12th January 1999 in Kilmelford Village Hall.

There were five members of the Community Council present, also Cllr Macaskill, Constable Raymond Law and eight members of the public.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting included confirmation from the secretary that the following projects had been completed: speed restrictions in Kilmelford; barrier and gate at Kilninver School; television reception in Kilmelford. Discussion took place regarding various road safety issues in the community; the secretary reported that he had received acknowledgement from the Roads Department on these matters and hoped to report in more detail at the next meeting.

The secretary then showed a letter from Henry McLeish MP to Ray Michie MP confirming that the Secretary of State had supported the proposal of the Boundaries Commission to separate Kilninver and Kilmelford into different electoral wards. Cllr Macaskill confirmed that the Community

Council could continue as normal, but would require the presence of two Councillors at each meeting to represent the two wards. It was agreed that a full explanation of the Boundary Commission's disregard for all the local objections should be sought. Cllr Macaskill suggested waiting a couple of years until electoral parity had been compromised, and then push to revert to the previous boundaries.

There was discussion regarding the Kilmelford playing field project, and a sub committee has been set up to drive this forward. The secretary showed a letter from M and K McLeod to Fiona Wyllie objecting to the previous mention of their refusal to allow a piece of the Glebe at Kilmelford to be made available for a playing field. Since this had caused some local embarrassment it was decided that McLeods should be invited to make public their reasons for being unable to donate some ground.

It was reported that there still had been no suggestions as to a project to celebrate the millennium. Lottery funding was to be investigated, and ideas for celebrations would continue to be sought.

There were no planning applications to report, and no correspondence of any significance.

The state of the Degnish road was discussed and it was agreed that following erosion in the winter storms the road was in need of urgent repair. The problem of seaweed and debris along the roadside was also highlighted. It was agreed that the Community Council should write to the Roads Department and press for the necessary work to be carried out as a matter of priority.

At the end of the meeting Constable Law showed a video on the background and workings of Strathclyde Police and asked members of the public to complete a short questionnaire on community crime issues.

The next meeting will be held in Kilmelford Village Hall on Tuesday 9th March 1999.

Meeting held on 9th March, 1999

The Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council held an ordinary meeting at Kilmelford Village Hall on Tuesday 9th March.

There were five members of the Community Council present, plus Cllr Macaskill and five members of the public.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting included details of a reply from the Roads Department to various road safety issues raised from previous meetings. The issues in question were Blaran road end visibility (limited funding available, and only a private access anyway), Degnish road end scrub cutting (to be carried out when resources allowed) and the bad corner on the Kilninver to Easdale road (did not fulfil national criteria for safety rails). Also discussed was the idea of a speed limit outside Kilninver School. On all matters it was decided to contact the Area Committee to press for action.

There was some discussion as to ideas for a millennium celebration after the secretary reported that lottery funding was not available for social events. Suggestions are still being invited as to how the community may celebrate the millennium.

The state of Degnish road was discussed at length, both in terms of disrepair and litter along the head of the loch. Complaints from Cath Manchester and Hugh Campbell-Gibson appear to have pushed the council's Amenity Services and the Environmental Health department into taking action to clear up the worst of the mess. The council budget for coastal erosion repairs has been exhausted after the severe winter gales, and further work has been delayed until funding becomes available.

The secretary announced that the annual beach clean would shortly be taking place (see above for details).

There were three planning applications discussed, with the proposed development at Melfort Pier drawing objections. It was agreed that the

Community Council should object to further development until more information is available regarding the future plans of the complex.

Various items of correspondence were discussed, but of no great import. It was agreed to take up the offer of a presentation by the Community Firefighter on "Fire Prevention in the Home". The date of this presentation to be announced later.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting and the AGM on Tuesday 15th June at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. respectively in Kilmelford Village Hall.

PLANS FOR A PLAYING FIELD

A small sub-committee of interested parties has been formed to drive this forward. Anybody interested in helping, please contact Angus McFadyen (Tel: 01852 316220) or Colin Clark (Tel: 01852 200259).

LETTERS

Dear Editor

Those of you who read my article "What's in a name?" in the last newsletter will have been puzzled - I hope - by the first line. Entirely my fault, but it should have read:

PA34 4XA, or Cill a Mhill aird? PA34 4UT, or Cill an inbher? not PA34 ??? or Cill a Mhill aird? PA34 or Cill an inbher?

Tony Dalton

P.S. and, of course, the parishes were first unified in the mid 16th century, not the 14th. I never was very numerate!

AN HISTORIC CAIRN IN ARGYLL by Seton Gordon

In the Highlands of Argyll, between Loch Awe and the Firth of Lorne, is a wide area of moor, bog and loch, the home of the raven, eagle, and hill fox; of hardy sheep and cattle and a few red grouse. A map of the area shows many place names, all in Gaelic, of the hills and glens, the burns and the freshwater lochs. It is sad to think that the Gaelic language is fast dying, and that few of the coming generation will be able to understand the meaning of these names, or even to pronounce them.

One name that may attract attention - it is spelt in capital letters - is CARN CHAILEIN, which translated into English, is Cairn of Colin. Those readers who are familiar with the Gaelic styles of the great Highland chiefs will know that the Celtic title of the chief of Clan Campbell (who is also Duke of Argyll) is McChailein, in English son of Colin, and that he takes his hereditary title from his distinguished ancestor, Colin, sometimes named Cailein Mór, Great Colin, whose burial place is at Kilchrenan above the shore of Loch Awe.

WHERE CHIEF WAS SLAIN

This great freshwater loch, the home of salmon and huge *Salmo ferox* trout, is four miles distant from a lesser loch named Loch Avich, and from the south-west end of Loch Avich a rough track winds among hills and lochs to Loch Scammadal and Glen Euchar. Near the watershed it passes the Fiddlers' Well, ice-cold even in summer, and the walker sees beneath him the islet on Loch na Sreinge, now abandoned by its pair of nesting black-throated divers. Rather less than a mile north of this loch stands an old moss-grown cairn of stones which marks the spot where Great Colin, chief of his clan, was slain in a fierce fight with the MacDougalls about the year 1293.

At that time the MacDougalls were an even more powerful family than the Campbells. They were descended from Dugal, elder son of Somerled, Lord of the Isles, and as Lords of Lorne were perhaps the most powerful family in the west. At the time of the battle the MacDougalls and the Campbells were at variance over the boundaries of their respective territories. The two chiefs agreed to meet and discuss these boundaries at Loch na Sreinge, beside a small stream which falls into the loch and which still bears, in Gaelic, the name it then received, Burn of the Conference. Both chiefs were wise enough to bring a considerable number of men, armed with bow and arrow and claymore, with them. The MacDougall chief and his men, coming from the west, rested beside Loch Scammadal. Here the clan's magic crystal was produced which, in the hands of a seer, would foretell, with certain rites, the outcome of the fateful meeting. The crystal, to the dismay of all those present, fell from the hands of the seer, struck a rock on the shore of the loch, and picked up was found to be cracked.

DESPERATE BATTLE

It is traditionally said that, because of this dark omen, MacDougall of Rara, chief cadet of the clan, returned home with his men, but the chief and his followers continued, heavy-hearted, on their journey to the prearranged meeting place. Much time had been lost because of the disaster to the crystal, and the Campbells thinking that the MacDougalls no longer wished to assert their claim, began to advance into MacDougall territory. It is not surprising therefore that the MacDougalls, seeing their land being invaded, abandoned any thought of the conference and a desperate battle at once began.

The Campbells were now superior in numbers and it seemed as though the MacDougalls would be defeated when one of their archers from the shelter of a boulder high on the opposite side of the glen fired his arrow from a very great distance and, so sure was his aim, inflicted a mortal wound on the Campbell chief. The name of the highly-skilled archer has not been handed down to us, but the boulder which afforded him partial concealment is still pointed out. The sorely-pressed MacDougalls, seeing this, attacked with greater spirit and fresh courage. The Campbells withdrew, carrying with them the body of Cailein Mór.

So great was the slaughter in this fight that the burn where the two clans met was choked by the bodies of the slain and ran red with blood. To this day the ford across the stream bears the name Ath Dearg, Red Ford, and the stream Allt Dearg, Red Burn.

CRYSTAL SURVIVES

The day when I visited this historic cairn, known to few, was dark and in keeping with the grim tradition of the place. Ravens with deep, farcarrying croaking passed overhead in steady flight, and it was remembered that this bird has special associations with the MacDougall clan, for in early times a raven was displayed on their battle banner. Mist rested lightly on the hills, On the far horizon the Paps of Jura rose faintly and, nearer the cliffs of Loch Buie on the Isle of Mull.

It is of interest to record that the cracked crystal is still in the keeping of the chief of the MacDougalls; the crack in it, received on the rocky shore of Loch Scammadal, brings vividly before the mind those days of long ago when a Highland clan held their land by the power of the sword.

Reprinted from the Times, Saturday 6th November, 1965

The following incident occurred in the course of the battle: a small conical hillock called Tom-a phiobair i.e. "the Piper's Hillock" stands close to the battle-field. It was on the top of this hillock that the piper of the Campbells stood and played while the battle raged. Sympathising with the MacDougalls, and regretting the havoc made among them, he composed a pipe-tune, the purport of which is expressed as follows:-

"My loss! my loss! that I have not three hands, Two engaged with the pipe and one with the sword. My loss! my loss! that I have not three hands, Two engaged with the pipe and one with the sword. My loss! my loss! low lies yonder MacDougall with his pipe, whose sound was soft and sweet to me."

The Campbells, perceiving that this was not one of their own tunes, were so enraged at the piper that one of them ran where he was and chopped his

head off. It is said that the piper's fingers played three or four notes on the chanter while his head was toppling to the ground.

Extract from "Records of Argyll - The Battle of Ath-Dearg"

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Christine and David Roberts on the birth of Madeleine, a sister for Jonathan, who was born on 9th February, 1999 weighing in at exactly 8 lbs.

THANKS

Many thanks to Anne Saunders for agreeing to help with the distribution of the Kilninford News in the Oban Times and thank you Melfort Club for your help and for the use of photocopying facilities.

VOLUNTEERS

Offers of help with the distribution of the Kilninford News would be much appreciated. If several people would take on the delivery of only 10 - 20 copies in their immediate area this would make a huge difference to our task of distributing the newsletter. Please phone any member of the team.

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ADVERTS

Feedback has it that last issue's adverts yielded good results so if you've anything to advertise let us know in time for the September Kilninford News.