

KILNINFORD NEWS

Issue 4

September 1999

For those of us summer people, who dread the onslaught of winter and the long dark evenings, there is one redeeming feature - the opportunity to catch up with friends, who have been too busy throughout the summer to socialise, and to participate in some of the many community activities which will be starting up again soon. For the size of our community we have excellent facilities and we are fortunate to have a few stalwarts who, year after year, organise a wide diversity of regular and one-off events for us. In addition to providing us with entertainment, they also provide financial support for our facilities and for charities and they deserve our support. We hope that the newsletter will prompt you to become involved.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Coffee mornings in aid of parish funds and the Village Hall - 10.30 a.m. till noon in the Village Hall.

Friday 24th September

Friday 26th November

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

Tuesday 26th October - Grand Sale of Produce with Coffee/Lunch/Tea from 12 noon till 2.30 p.m. in the Village Hall in aid of Church Funds. Entry free - all welcome.

Donations for baking (Dorothy Carmichael Tel: 01852 200346), bottle stall (Yvonne MacGregor Tel: 01852 200374), produce (Morag Mellor Tel: 01852 316297), plants (Hilary Hill Tel: 01852 200285 and Bridget

Oatts Tel: 01852 200276), raffle (Jane Rentoul Tel: 01852 200288), Jenny-a'-thing (old Scots for a general dealer's shop) i.e. white elephant, bric-a-brac, which must be in good condition please (Elizabeth Asbury Tel: 01852 200377) and lunches (Georgina Dalton Tel: 01866 844212). Donations, which would be very much appreciated, can be left with Yvonne MacGregor or at the hall from 10 a.m. on the day.

Come and have a bowl of soup, filled rolls, tea and scones etc. Bring a friend, meet others and enjoy a social get-together.

Don't pack a piece box on Tuesday, come and join us!

Friday 29th October - Masked Hallowe'en Dance from 9 p.m. till 1 a.m. in the Village Hall.

Get in the right frame of mind for Hallowe'en this year by coming along to the Masked Hallowe'en Dance. Teas and raffle on the night. Everyone attending should aim to arrive wearing a mask. Music will be provided by Gallus Ramaigh who, with their usual enthusiasm, intend to enter into the spirit of things! No-one can be said to have lived a full and complete life unless they have participated in one of Gallus Ramaigh's Strip the Willows. Tickets are £6, available from Helen Thompson, Peggy Taylor or Yvonne and Duncan MacGregor. Everybody who buys a ticket in advance is entitled to one free drink on the night (excluding doubles!) The bar is being run by Kilfern Football Team, who will receive all profit made. Sadly, this will be one of Yvonne and Duncan's last nights in Kilmelford before leaving for the outer islands, so look out that old Spiderman mask, strap on your dancing shoes and help make it a night they'll remember. See you there!

Helen Thompson

Thursday 11th November - Christmas Craft Fayre in the village hall from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

Following last year's very successful event Janet has decided to organise another one this year. Funds will go to Barnardo's and Kith and Kids and anyone interested in booking a stall (£10 each) should contact Janet Thom (Tel: 01852 200381)

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

As we go to press there are barely 100 days to go until the end of the year, the century and the millennium! We can't let such a milestone just slip by - so at a public meeting in the Manse it was decided that an informal party will take place at the Village Hall on the "big night".

Our idea is to have a party - open to all ages - from 11 p.m. till 2 a.m. with music, dancing, refreshments on a "bring your own basis", a countdown to Big Ben at midnight and a bonfire and some fireworks to see in the year 2000 with a bang! We are still in the initial ideas stage - so do let us know if you have any brainwaves - perhaps you could play Auld Lang Syne on the pipes! Look out for more information in the next issue.

Any donations for the purchase of fireworks would be very gratefully received at the Manse or through our Hall Treasurer, Robin Asbury.

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Mothers and Toddlers (0 - 5 year olds) meet every **Wednesday** from 10 a.m. till 12 noon. £1 per child per session.

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

Indoor Football - sessions are held every **Wednesday** from 8 p.m. till 10 p.m. starting up again on Wednesday 27th October.

Junior Indoor Football - the departure of Duncan means that this very popular activity for the Primary School age group can only continue if a replacement for Duncan can be found. There was a regular attendance of up to 20 children and it would be a shame if these sessions were to cease. Anybody willing to help out from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a Wednesday please contact Angus McFadyen (Tel: 01852 316220)

Outdoor football (for Primary 7 and upwards) - the last session will be Wednesday 29th September.

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

Badminton Club will be starting again on Tuesday 5th October and will meet every **Tuesday** from 7 to 9 p.m. in Kilmelford Village Hall. All welcome from Primary 7 upwards.

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

Country Dancing - as from Thursday 7th October Mike Murray will again be on hand **three out of every four Thursdays** from 8 p.m. till 10 p.m. (usually the third Thursday of the month is the exception). £2.50 per person per session.

All welcome - beginners or experts alike.

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

Whist - sadly the regular winter whist drives will no longer be taking place. However, Neil has kindly said that if any local organisation wishes to contact him with a view to raising funds by means of a whist drive he would be very willing to help.

Contact - Neil McCorkindale (Tel: 01852 316282)

Art Classes - these popular classes will be starting again on Thursday 28th October and will be held **weekly on Thursdays** in the small hall from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

All welcome - beginners and more experienced alike.

Teacher - Fiona Blakey (Tel: 01852 300579)

BADMINTON AND SQUASH

Badminton £2 per hour

Squash £3 per session

BOOKINGS

Sadly Yvonne and Duncan McGregor will be leaving for Shetland shortly which means that the Hall Committee are looking for a replacement Caretaker/Cleaner. Anybody interested in the post should contact the Secretary of the Hall Committee, Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373). In the meantime Yvonne will continue to handle the hall bookings (Tel: 01852 200374) and future arrangements will be notified on the Post Office board.

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

KILNINVER PRIMARY SCHOOL - UP-DATE AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The grand sum of £500 was raised at the Summer Fair at the end of May. The funds were used to purchase a new keyboard and new P.E. equipment for the Village Hall, and provided Primary 6 and 7 with an overnight stay in Glasgow to attend the RSNO Schools' Promenade in June.

World War II was the theme of a concert and exhibition in Kilmelford Hall at the end of June. This was well attended and a very successful project.

These 'extras' are an important and enriching part of school life and the school very much appreciates all the support it receives from parents and friends, both in fund-raising and many other ways.

After many years, the Kilninver Primary School Gaelic Choir has been resurrected and the newly formed choir made its debut at the Lochgilphead Mod on **Saturday 18th September**. They will be performing again on **Monday 11th October** at the National Mod in Fort William.

Wednesday 22nd September - Duck Race at Scammadale Glen.

Wednesday 6th October at 10 a.m. in the school - Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly in the school - all welcome.

Wednesday 1st December at 10 a.m. in the school - Community Advent Assembly in the school - all welcome.

Don McAllister

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SERVICES

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

26th September - Kilmelford

3rd October - Kilninver etc.

24th October - Harvest Festival in Kilmelford Parish Church

7th November - Communion in Kilmelford Parish Church

N.B. 14th November - the laying of the wreath at the Kilmelford War Memorial at 11.45 a.m. followed by the Service of Remembrance at Kilninver Parish Church at approximately 12.15 p.m.

An evening service is 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.

From November until March Mike Erskine will be the Interim Moderator for the parishes of Ford, Glassary and Kilmartin while their minister is away on maternity leave. He's obviously getting his desk in order before taking on this additional workload as he has already sent us details of the Millennium New Year Service at Kilmelford Church for inclusion in the December issue of the newsletter. You may wish to make a note in your diaries now and the information from Mike is as follows:- "In addition to all the celebrations surrounding the millennium, the church is offering a service of thanksgiving and looking forward on Saturday the 1st of January 2000 at 6 p.m. Hopefully by the early evening we shall have recovered from the revelries and folk might like to have the opportunity to mark this important date in the context of worship."

PARISH HILLWALK - 22nd MAY 1999

It was a small, but intrepid band of walkers, from both parishes, who set off on the soggy Saturday afternoon of the 22nd May for the parish hillwalk. Having split into two groups, and after much donning of waterproof trousers and other foul-weather gear, we set off; one group from Scammadale, and the other from the Lochavich end to walk to Fineglen; a picturesque abandoned croft and the place we'd arranged to meet up for our halfway picnic.

Amazingly, both groups arrived at Fineglen at the same time after a walk of 90 minutes (including a stop to drink some water from a jam jar some kind person had placed by a spring), through lovely scenery and many puddles, and decided that the best plan was to consume our refreshments

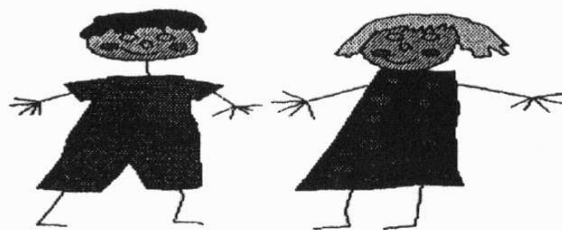
inside the croft owing to the still inclement weather. Once our eyes had accustomed to the gloom within (and the fear of spiders and other nasties lurking within, had abated), we enjoyed our picnics, and were warmed up and entertained by Georgina's "volcano kettle" - an amazing contraption which she had kindly lugged up the hill for us, and which lived up to its name when flames and sparks (no lava, thankfully) poured from out its top. It did, however, make a lovely cuppa, which we enjoyed, along with some of her delicious homemade scones (you really need those calories after such exercise!)

And so, thus fortified, and after long discussions of who was going with whom, and with which dog etc the two groups parted again, and headed for home to dry off.

So, if you like the thought of having a nice walk/being soaked to the skin (only joking - it'll be a gorgeous day next time, we promise) and are keen to have "the volcano kettle experience", then dig out your walking boots and cagoule, and watch this space for news of next year's expedition!

Jill Erskine

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGAIN! UP-DATE



Since the last newsletter, when it was announced that your club would be starting at the end of August, there have been some changes and developments. Firstly it was decided, after discussion with Don McAllister, the Head Teacher, and Mike Erskine, the Minister, that it would be easier to run the club on the school premises as an after school club. Thus the parents of the children who attend the club won't have to

collect them and transport them to Kilmelford. Children will need to be collected at 4.45 p.m. from school and parents may wish to organise a rota.

Secondly, as all parents will know, the news was sprung on the school that there was to be an inspection at the beginning of this new session. Starting a new venture when the staff and children are in the throes of an inspection didn't seem to be the best of plans. The club will therefore start on Monday 25th October (after half term) when the inspection is but a distant memory.

The parents and children will receive further details from school.

Elizabeth Asbury (Tel: 01852 200377)

Helen Thompson (Tel: 01852 200384)

Elizabeth Asbury

THE SUMMER FESTIVAL

The guardian of the weather granted us a perfect day for the Summer Festival this year. There were just over 200 entries in the produce tent and the judges were very complimentary on the high standard in all the classes. This year the handicraft section had an especially good and wide range of ideas and talents. It was also very heartening to see the children's section with more entries.

Thank you very much to the team of helpers before and during the day and never has the field been cleared so quickly. (Did it have something to do with the fact that the midges were just coming out in their droves?)

The School Board sold all their burgers, Elspeth sold all her ice cream and the teas had not one crumb left. The "wacky races" were a good laugh and everyone taking part managed to get wet.

The dogs seemed to enjoy their own show and were given a pat on the back for their good behaviour and cold wet noses by George Cochrane of the Canine Road Show, a welcome addition to the Festival this year. *

Colin Clark scored 5 out of 5 for his basket ball skills and all in all it was a grand day.

* A helpline is operated between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Community Dog Management Centre in Alexandria - anyone interested in their work or anyone experiencing behavioural problems in their dog can phone 01389 755133 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

TROPHY WINNERS

PRODUCE TENT

The Dalton Trophy

Steve Ewing

The B P Trophy

Liz Thompson

The Melfort Farm Trophy

Georgina Dalton

The Cuilfail Trophy

Georgina Dalton

The Arduaine Craft Trophy

Ian Tegner

The Fish Farm Trophy

Janet Thom

Children

Up to 11 years

Laura Erskine

The Melfort Pier Trophy

Catriona Henderson and
Douglas McCorkindale

12 - 16 years

Kilchoan Cup

Georgina Dalton

FIELD EVENTS

Camus Marine Shield

Colin Baxter

Festival Trophy

Colin Baxter

Deremore Cup (Under 21)

Jason

Hill Race

Andrew Barr

Hill Quaich Dog Show

Anne Allen and Tippy

Georgina Dalton

Grateful thanks go to Colin Gladstone and Colin Clark for their hard work in the preparation and dismantling of the field. Yet again G (Georgina), along with her team of helpers, but to a great extent unaided, has worked tirelessly, not only during the immediate run-up to the Festival but for many months before, to make the Festival the success that it undoubtedly was. Congratulations to her on winning The Melfort Farm Trophy and The Cuilfail Trophy (she didn't add up her own points!!)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting of the above Council was held on Tuesday 13th July 1999 at Kilmelford Village Hall. There were six members of the Council in attendance and eleven members of the public, including Constable Law and Cllrs. Macaskill and MacIntyre.

Various matters arising from the last minutes were discussed:- it was agreed to obtain a report on the Melfort Pier sea wall application, with Cllr. Macaskill reassuring the Council that no further building development could take place without a full environmental impact assessment; the Blaran road end was considered dangerous and action again called for, despite it not being the responsibility of the Argyll and Bute Council. Cllr. MacIntyre intended taking this on board; the Council and the School Board would press for the introduction of a speed limit outside the school; the poor standard of roadside scrub cutting needed to be addressed; subsidence at Barnacarry and a dangerous corner at Kilninver; Loch Melfort beach clean raised £590 from the Prince's Trust and a £10 donation from D Campbell - this money is to be used in a joint project between the Hall the School to provide full sports equipment in the hall; warning signs have been placed at Scammadale loch for young swimmers; suitable sites for a playing field in Kilmelford were discussed and further action identified.

The Chairman decided that since there had been no suggestions as to a suitable event to commemorate the Millennium, and since there were so many grand events on that night, there was little point in the Community Council attempting to organise anything for that night. It was felt that efforts would be better directed towards a Burns Supper or something of

the like with the 12th of January suggested as a suitable date. Colin Clark agreed to be responsible for organising this event.

Recent planning applications were reported but did not warrant discussion.

There were a number of points raised under Any Other Business:- Fiona Wyllie advised of the difficulties in distributing the newsletter, and suggestions for improvements were discussed; G Dalton advised on issues regarding the Kilmelford Summer Festival; the state of the Macleods development in Kilmelford was discussed, and how the lack of upkeep was a constant problem to residents of the Glebe. It was agreed to pursue this with Macleods in the first instance, and then take the matter to higher levels if a satisfactory solution isn't immediately reached; the roadside lay-bys toward Oban require attention, especially when used as tourist picnic sites over the Summer.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 28th September 1999 at 8 p.m. in Kilmelford Village Hall.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Community Council followed the above meeting.

In his report, the Chairman highlighted the work carried out by the Council over the previous year, and outlined areas that required attention in the foreseeable future. The Chairman thanked the Council for their efforts, and also thanked Constable Law and the Cllrs. Macaskill and MacIntyre for their support.

The Treasurer's report was given by the Secretary, who advised that there had been no large expenditure over the previous year, and that the provisional accounts showed a cash position at the end of March 1999 of £522.06. This was subject to auditing by Mrs Shelagh Cannon, whereupon the annual grant from Argyll and Bute Council could be applied for. The matter of the Secretary's expenses was discussed, and it was agreed that an honorarium of £60 per annum be allocated to cover the same.

The existing office holders all agreed to stand again, and were duly re-elected.

PLANS FOR A PLAYING FIELD

Investigations into the feasibility of the provision of a playing field are still on-going.

Contact: Angus McFadyen (Tel: 01852 316220)

HOW THE "SHOWER OF HERRING" GOT ITS NAME

The curious case of how the Shower of Herring came by its name is a surprise to the many people who assume that the "Shower" is some sort of corruption or mispronunciation of the word "Shoal". In fact the restaurant is named after a "rain" of fish which fell on the hillside at Melfort at the beginning of the last century. The event was recorded in the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, 1826:-

"..... on a small eminence above Melford House, a shower of herring fell in 1821, in every respect so large and good, that the tenants by whom they were found were induced to send some of them to their landlord, then residing in Edinburgh. In regard to the state of the weather, I could learn no more than it was exceedingly boisterous; while the hill on which they were found is exposed to the south-west wind, which blows along Loch Melford, an arm of the sea in which herrings are frequently found."

The second account is a folklore tale of dubious origins which most modern commentators are inclined to dismiss as fantasy:-

"Full of faith and hope we set forth, under a dark and lowering sky. The strong men of Kilchoan had been fishing the day before and told us the loch was full of herring. With four men rowing and the lad to steer we passed the point of Kames with the bow set for Eilean Gamhna and the rising wind lifting the choppy sea. We could see the squalls blowing across Luing and, nearer, the raft of seabirds squabbling over the shoals of herring. We were not far out when the lad let loose a cry and, looking up, we spied a commotion upon the water, a dark line rushing up the loch,

boiling and furious, with the calling seabirds fleeing before it. The nearest shelter being to starboard we turned and, pulling hard past Sgeir na Caillich, made for the lee of Eilean Coltair. With clouds skudding low across the rock we got a line ashore and cowered down, shivering and praying, to wait for the squall to pass. Disbelieving we looked to seaward and saw a swirling column of water, black but filled with the glint of silver, glittering like frost on the bark of a tree, howling up the loch. Past Baghna-Dalach, the point of Ardenstuir, to Fearnach Bay we saw it go. Scared and shaken, convinced by the rising gale, we hoisted a heavily reefed main and ran for home at the head of the loch. Beaching the boat through the crashing surf we were met by Meggy Dubh on the beach, crying her nonsense about fish falling from the sky. With the empty boat secured we set off wearily for home when, walking around the head of the bay, we came across a carpet of silver, a shoal of herring twitching and flapping on the grass with the women folk already at work among them. The storm had done what we had failed to do and brought the herring home to stew(!)"

TALKING OF STORMS

The havoc wreaked by the storm we experienced on the 8th of September was, according to Angus McFadyen senior, the worst at Scammadale since the "Great Flood" in 1963.

LETTERS

Dear Editor

Do we want a Summer Festival? The Summer Festival has changed over the years. Less people are interested in the field events. A lot of work is needed to put up the marquee, plumb in toilets etc. Could we have a similar but different event in our excellent Hall?

We do make some money from hiring out the toilets, marquee and sound system. However we need more volunteers to help maintain, tow and put up the marquee. Any ideas? Should we sell them and just use the Hall?

We could offer the hire of the marquee and toilets at £100 and £80 with any additional work to be paid for. For example, a squad of 5 to put up the marquee at £5 each. Anyone with a suitable vehicle could do the towing at so much a mile.

If anyone has any ideas, please contact me on 200232.

Colin Gladstone

Dear Editor

To all my Kilmelford friends

What a lovely surprise I got after I returned from holiday, when I was given your most generous present. How very kind of you all.

I have become really up to date and have bought a video recorder with the money, so shall have a constant reminder of all my happy years in the shop where I met so many people.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Dorothy

Dorothy, you're greatly missed by all your friends.

The Kilninford News team

NEW ARRIVAL

The community were delighted to hear of the safe arrival of Peter and Kirsten Menzies' daughter Beth Rowan on the 5th of July, a sister to Niall and Blair.

WRVS APPEAL FOR HELP WITH TRANSPORT

The WRVS are looking for volunteers to set up a rota to transport clients from Kilninner to Eadar Glinn, Oban and back one day per week. A

mileage allowance is payable. If you can help, please telephone Rosslyn Williams on 01631 570717.

KILNINFORD NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM

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Fiona Wyllie	(Editor)	Tel: 01852 200227

In addition to the Community Council, the Kilninford News provides an ideal platform for you to open a debate about local issues and to air your views.

If you have any letters or any gems of interest that you would like to share with our readers (e.g. history of the area, recipes etc) please let us have them in time for the next issue in December. Letters and articles can be left in the box in the Post Office or sent to the Editor.

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	Commercial ads	£5 each per quarter page