

KILNINFORD NEWS

Issue 5

December 1999

In amongst my junk mail the other day I found a collection of "Millennium Miscellany" which included the following advice for determined revellers:- if you want to celebrate twice, consider the travel company offering a party in Paris and a flight on the French Concorde to New York in plenty of time to get to Times Square for the famous midnight ball-dropping ritual, or alternatively, you could also have two parties by first celebrating west of the International Date Line and then flying eastwards on 1 January gaining a day and arriving in time to start all over again.

Simpler, and cheaper by far (perhaps!), would be to celebrate each of the days that have, over the years, been New Year Festivals in Scotland. But, you've missed one already - the Celtic New Year was celebrated at Samhain, November the first. Up until 1600 the Gregorian calendar placed New Year on March the twenty-fifth and this was still the beginning of the Scottish Legal Year until 1752. In some parts of Scotland the Auld New Year, January the twelfth, was celebrated as a holiday and gifts exchanged up until the beginning of the twentieth century. In other places it was the first Monday after New Year, Old style. Handsel Monday was like the English Boxing Day when employers gave bonuses or gifts to their employees. It began after midnight and was a repeat of New Year with more visiting and the singing and recitation of songs and ballads. There was much merriment, processions, fairs and dances but the next day it was "back to auld claes an' porridge"!

A MESSAGE FROM THE KILNINFORD NEWS TEAM

*To those who bravely till the ground,
And those who make the wheels go round,
To those who dig the coal and shale,
Those who succeed and those who fail,
To weak or strong this word of cheer -
We wish you all a Good New Year.*

Melodies and Memories, John Black 1909

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 16th December - Carol Singing. Meet at Melfort Club at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 19th December - Parish Christmas Party from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Everyone welcome 0 -100 year olds. You will be entertained by Kilninver School and Father Christmas has promised to fit us into his busy 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) or G Dalton (Tel: 01866 844212)

Wednesday 12th January - Auld New Year's Dance in the Village Hall from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The aim of the dance is for as many of our community as possible to get together to celebrate the new millennium in true Kilninford style and to this end it was decided to choose a date outwith the busy festive season appropriately the date of the Auld New Year. It promises to be a great night out with music by Neil Sinclair and friends, a licensed bar and a spread of sandwiches, home baking etc. Raffle tickets will be available shortly and tickets at the door on the night. Contributions of food would be much appreciated. A good night out is the priority but once all costs have been covered any extra will be donated to the Village Hall.

For further details contact Colin Clark (Tel: 01852 200259)

Sunday 6th February - Big Breakfast 2000 from 9 a.m. till 12 noon in the Village Hall.

Ann and Janet will be holding the first big breakfast of the new millennium in aid of a good cause (to be announced). Come along for a chat, a read of the Sunday papers and a sumptuous "fry-up" (all the post-Christmas diets will have gone by the board by then anyway!).

Organisers are Janet Thom (Tel: 01852 200381 and Ann Smith (Tel: 01852 200284).

Friday 24th March - Coffee morning in aid of parish funds and the Village Hall from 10.30 a.m. till noon in the Village Hall.

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

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

The Village Hall is the place to be on "the night". Everyone's welcome and there will be fun, games and dancing from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. B Y O B please (squash and tea will be provided) and contributions of finger food would be very much appreciated.

Early on there will be games for all ages and there will be varied music and dancing throughout the evening. The bonfire will be lit before midnight and after the big countdown a piper will pipe in the new millennium and there'll be a fireworks display in the first minutes of the year 2000.

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.

Stops: 22nd December

Starts again: 12th January

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

Indoor Football - thanks to James and Gordon these sessions have continued **every Wednesday** from 8 p.m. till 9 p.m. The last session will be on 15th December starting up again on 12th January.

Contacts: James Dalton (Tel: 01866 844212) and Gordon Peterson (Tel: 01852 500231)

N.B. See letter from Angus MacFadyen re the future of the Kilferrioch Football Club.

Junior Indoor Football - Peter and Jack have kindly taken over since Duncan left and these sessions for the primary school age group have continued on Wednesdays from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. The last session will be on 22nd December and may recommence in January depending whether other sports arrangements have been made for this group or not. Contacts: Peter Menzies (Tel: 01852 200221) and Jack Stoddard (Tel: 01852 200361)

Badminton Club meets **every Tuesday** from 7 to 9 p.m. in Kilmelford Village Hall. All welcome from Primary 7 upwards.

Stops: 14th December

Starts again: 11th January

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

Country Dancing takes place **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.

Stops: 9th December

Starts again: 13th January

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

Whist - it's hoped that there will be a whist drive early in the New Year. The possibility of finding a suitable weekday night as an alternative to Fridays is being explored with a view to organising future whist drives. For further details contact - Neil McCorkindale (Tel: 01852 316282)

Art Classes - these classes are held **weekly on Thursdays** in the small hall from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

All welcome - beginners and more experienced alike.

Stops: 15th December

Starts again: 13th January

Teacher - Fiona Blakey (Tel: 01852 300579)

BADMINTON AND SQUASH

Badminton £2 per hour

Squash £3 per session

BOOKINGS

Fay Ewing has taken on the role of Caretaker/Cleaner for the Village Hall and bookings for the hall can be made with either Fay or Steve (Tel: 01852 200294).

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 ceilidh held on the 1st of December was yet another successful event. The £200 raised is to be used to provide a much needed ball fence.

The newly formed Kilninver Primary School Gaelic Choir came a very creditable second over all at the Lochgilphead Mod in September. They also enjoyed performing at the National Mod in Fort William in October where they came fourth. The school wishes to extend their grateful thanks to Annie Graham for conducting the choir.

Sunday 19th December - Parish Christmas Party from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Village Hall when the school will be providing the entertainment.

Tuesday 21st December - Christmas Nativity Service in Kilninver Church starting with carols at 6.45 p.m. All welcome.

Don McAllister

OTHER EVENTS IN THE LOCALITY (CRAOBH AND ARDFERN)

Friday 10th December - Whist Drive at 8 p.m. in Craignish Village Hall

Saturday 18th December - Christmas tree decorating at 3 p.m. and auction of trees at 4 p.m. in Craignish Village Hall. (Decorating to be completed within an hour and for less than £5)

Saturday 18th December - Carol singing around the village starting at Craignish Village Hall at 6 p.m.

Friday 24th December - carols in the Galley of Lorn starting at 9.30 p.m.

Thursday 30th December - quiz in the Galley of Lorn starting at 9.30 p.m.

Friday 31st December - join the crowd at the Galley of Lorn and carry on at the Hogmanay party in Craignish Village Hall from 11 p.m. till 2 a.m. with fireworks, bonfire and bar.

1st January 2000 - Millennium Hangover Brunch in the Crafty Kitchen from 11 a.m. till 3.30 p.m. Free glass of Bucks Fizz with every full breakfast.

2nd January - Banger Race at Lunga Bay followed by prize giving and disco at the Lord of the Isles.

End of January - Murder Mystery Party in Craignish Village Hall. (Watch notice boards for details.)

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SERVICES

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

12th December - Kilninver

19th December - Kilmelford etc.

Special services

Sunday 19th December - Carol and Gift Day Service in Kilmelford Parish Church at 12 noon

Anybody wishing to bring a gift for distribution by the Social Services Department in Oban should please mark it for either a boy or a girl and the age that the gift is suitable for.

The after school club 'Blast-off' will be taking part in this service on the theme "Follow the Star".

Tuesday 21st December - Kilninver Primary School Nativity Service starting with carols at 6.45 p.m. in Kilninver Church

Friday 24th December - Early Watch Service at 7.30 p.m. in Kilmelford Church and the Watchnight Service at 11 p.m. for 11.30 p.m. in Craignish Church.

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day Service in Kilninver Church at 11 a.m.

Saturday 1st January - the Kilninver Church bells will be rung, along with others all over the country, at 12 noon

Saturday 1st January 2000 - Millennium New Year Service - a service of thanksgiving and looking forward at 6 p.m. in Kilmelford Church

Regular services

Sunday 26th December - Boxing Day service in Kilninver Church at 12 noon

Sunday 2nd January - Kilninver

Sunday 9th January - Kilmelford etc

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.

THE PARISH LUNCH held on 26th October

With many thanks for all the help of the stallholders and people who kindly donated soup, lunch provisions, produce, baking etc, and as a result of everybody's hard work and generosity, the tremendous sum of £862.58 was raised.

It was not only a fund raising event but also a social occasion which we hope both visitors and locals enjoyed alike, with the chance to chat and meet friends, both old and new.

It's hoped that the Parish Lunch will be an annual autumn event and will provide an opportunity for those newly moved into the area to meet with others in the community on a very informal basis.

Dorothy Carmichael, G Dalton and Jane Rentoul

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Another very successful Craft and Produce Fayre took place in the hall on Thursday 11th November. Nearly twenty stalls displayed all manner of goodies to get the Christmas shopping off to a flying start, with home made soup, filled rolls and delicious home baking to keep the inner man (and woman) sustained. The terrific sum of £630 was raised for Barnardo's work with disabled young people. As always, many thanks to all who helped cook up, set up, plate up, wash up and clear up and who contributed in any way to the success of the day.

Janet Thom

BLUE PETER BRING AND BUY SALE

On Saturday 4th December there was a Blue Peter bring and buy sale in the hall, which raised a total of £128.70. The money will go towards their "New Life" appeal - providing incubators for babies in hospital. Thank you to all the people who brought things to sell, and thank you to my friends who helped on the stalls.

Laura Erskine

MASKED HALLOWE'EN DANCE

On Friday 29th October around a hundred people enjoyed a night of masked merriment in the village hall. Gallus Rhamaigh kept toes tapping and feet flying with their usual brand of ceilidh funk. £320 was raised for the indoor football team. Very many thanks to everybody who helped out.

Helen Thompson

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGAIN! UP-DATE



Blast-off! (the new after school club) 'blasted off' on Monday 26th October with 14 young people staying after school for an hour of letting-off-steam games followed by juice and biscuits before splitting into two groups, the All-Stars (5 - 7 year olds) and the Trailblazers (8 - 10 year olds). Puzzles, bible teaching and craft activities follow within the groups before everyone gets together again for singing, prayers and a quiz with two teams, Challengers and Voyagers, competing to be the first to 'blast off' their rockets with the most number of points - at the time of going to press it's a close run race !

All children from P2 upwards are most welcome - come and try us in the New Year!

Elizabeth Asbury (Tel: 01852 200377)

Helen Thompson (Tel: 01852 200384)

Elizabeth Asbury

THE PROCEEDS OF THE SUMMER FESTIVAL

The proceeds of the festival have now been allocated to the following:-

Kilninver and Kilmelford Parish Church	£375.00
The Village Hall	£275.00
Mothers' and Toddlers' Group	£200.00
Kilninver Primary School	£200.00
Blast-off Club	£ 50.00

THE FUTURE OF THE SUMMER FESTIVAL

In a letter published in the last issue of the Kilninford News Colin Gladstone raised the issue of the future of the Summer Festival. It was agreed at the last Community Council meeting that this item should be on the agenda and public opinion sought at the next meeting on 8th February. It's hoped that anyone with any views on the subject will come along to the meeting and make their opinions known.

THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE ROYAL BLIND SCHOOL, EDINBURGH, taken in Kilmelford, realised the grand sum of £143.83. A most appreciative letter from the treasurer of the school thanked all those who gave so generously to this very deserving cause. Judging from the annual report, Kilmelford, in relation to the size of its population, has the best "givers" in Argyll. Well done everybody.

Dorothy Carmichael

KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A Community Council meeting was held in Kilmelford Village Hall on 16th November 1999.

There were six community councillors present, five members of the public and Cllrs Macaskill and MacIntyre. Apologies were received from eight members of the public.

Matters arising from the last meeting were as follows:-

- a) Kilmelford Playing Field - the field that has been offered by J Tilly of Loch Melfort Estates at a peppercorn rent was discussed as to the level of work required. At present there is no-one able to lead this project

further (see article in this newsletter), but funding would be available for this.

- b) Millennium Celebrations - a raffle is being organised in advance of the event (see Colin Clark) to raise funds to cover the cost of a ceilidh on January 12th. Prizes are currently being sought. A band and the bar have already been booked.
- c) Blaran Road End - there had been a site meeting between Peter Menzies, Cllr MacIntyre and Neil Brown (Roads and Transportation, A & B Council) on that morning to discuss the issue, but the council stand was that there was no funds available for this type of project. The roads department will erect bollards and signs, and paint road markings in the vicinity as soon as possible. While there had originally been plans for improvements to the road from Oude to Glengallan, the loss of trunk road status had put these plans on hold. Cllr MacIntyre urged the community council to place pressure on A & B Council to undertake essential road repairs and improvements in this area. Cllr Macaskill suggested that the community council write to the finance department to urge an increase in the roads budget for next year.
- d) Easdale to Kilninver Church Corner - David Kilpatrick expressed concern that the Barnacarry road repairs was wasting quality spoil when it could be used to good effect to make safe the corner at the bottom of the hill in Kilninver. The engineers on the Barnacarry project were unable to assist in this matter, but David Kilpatrick was having a meeting with Barrs again, and would press further with Cllr Macaskill's assistance.
- e) Barnacarry Road Repairs - David Kilpatrick reported that he had been told by the engineers working on the road that it really had been a worst case scenario, but the repairs were within the budget and hadn't resulted in the number of road closures previously predicted. The timescales has been slightly longer than planned, but should be completed by Christmas.
- f) Kilninver School Speed Limit - the secretary reported that Neil Brown of the roads department had responded to an application for the introduction of a speed limit outside the school by saying that it didn't meet national criteria for speed limits and would be un-enforceable anyway. He intended to introduce traffic calming measures in due course. Cllr Macaskill supported the introduction of a speed limit and

suggested that the issue would be discussed at Area Committee level. It is hoped that a 40 mph speed limit can be imposed in the area of the school.

- g) The Glebe - the secretary advised that he had written to MacLeods inviting a representative to attend the meeting and discuss the resident's concerns over the development, but had not received a response at the time of the meeting. Cllr Macaskill advised that the original planning permission did not mention the road surface, so this wasn't a council matter. The landscaping conditions were not very clear, but the council will write to MacLeods to ask them to complete the landscaping scheme. Cllr Macaskill advised that Neil Brown had written to MacLeods notifying them of a roads inspection to decide what, if any, work is required. Cllr Macaskill advised waiting to hear Neil Brown's response, but that the other grievances of the Glebe residents must be dealt with locally. If publicity were to be given to the situation, it would be better to come from a residents' committee rather than the community council, where there may be legal implications.

The next item under discussion was the suggestion of purchasing sports equipment for the village hall to allow increased use by the school and local children. The secretary advised that the Loch Melfort beach clean had raised nearly £800 in two years for this project, and that the school board were interested in donating also. Cllr Macaskill advised applying to the Area Committee for a Leisure Development Grant, which could meet 50% of the total costs. The secretary agreed to take this forward.

There were two planning applications reported on. Firstly, a retrospective application for access to Melfort Pier. Cllr Macaskill advised that this would be discussed at Area Committee. Secondly, J Mellor at Barndromin had applied for a dwellinghouse and conversion of a barn to a dwelling house. There were no objections raised to either of the applications.

The secretary reported on various items of correspondence, including a letter from the Scottish Executive outlining their response to the MacIntosh report on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament. One item of interest here was the suggestion that there could be a change in the structure of the Local Government Boundary Commission which could

help lead to the reinstatement of the original ward boundary which linked Kilninver and Kilmelford. Cllr Macaskill advised that he will keep the community council aware of any changes as they happen.

Any Other Business saw discussions on the erection of a community council notice board, Kilmelford Summer Festival success and proposed changes to format, and the request for more helpers to take on the organisation of the festival. There was also some discussion regarding the proposed cancellation of the Campbeltown - Ballycastle ferry link due to lack of profitability. The chairman felt that it was important to retain this link, and suggested that the community council write to MPs, MSPs and MEPs to urge support in maintaining the ferry service.

The next meeting will be held in Kilmelford Village Hall on Tuesday 8th February at 8 p.m.

SOME MEMORIES OF MELFORT

The following extracts from the recollections of Barbara Campbell of Melfort (1804 - 1891) give an insight into life in the parish during the last century.

“I was born at Ardenstur in 1804, the daughter of Archibald Campbell of Melfort. My father was the direct lineal descendant, or rather I should say the property of Melfort and Kenmor has descended directly from father to son in the same family since the 14th century and the early charters are still in existence. King David Bruce granted the lands in 1343 to Sir Archibald Campbell, the 12th Knight of Lochawe and chief of the Campbell clan; Sir Archibald bestowed the property on his younger brother Niall who was thus the progenitor of the Melforts and henceforth the head of the family was known in gaelic as ‘MacNeill Mheallaird’ (son of Niall of Melfort) or just ‘MacNeill’ as he would be addressed locally. The ‘N’ of MacNeill was always pronounced as an ‘R’ and I remember my mother saying when she visited London soon after her marriage (1795) the first sound that startled her slumbers was a cry of ‘Macriél, Macriél’ in the streets, when on jumping up much astonished, discovered it to be ‘Mackerel, fresh mackerel’ and not her husband’s gaelic patronymic.

The present house on the part of the estate known as Fearnach (alder woods) was finished in 1808 and for some 200 years before that the family had lived at Ardenstur; previous to that the main dwelling house had been at Kenmor (Ceann mor) with its outlook to the East and the Braes of Lorn, from where the most likely attack from marauding tribes might have come. The house at Ardenstur was burnt down during the Montrose Wars (about 1647) when a large body of men from Ireland under the leadership of Alasdair Macdonald were plundering the Western highlands, burning and destroying all before them. The following story is related of this raid - 'on arriving at the house of Ardenstur the raiders found no opposition as John Campbell of Melfort was absent with his retainers, in attendance upon his chief (Argyll) and lying in wait for Montrose. John's wife, endeavouring to appease the fierce enemies of her clan, had laid out food on her table while she and the other womenfolk hid in the surrounding woods; Macdonald was so impressed by the hospitality he received, that in high good humour, he gave orders that none of Melfort's property should be destroyed. Shortly after leaving he noticed the house in flames, and he was so enraged that his instructions had not been observed, that he erected a gallows on Kenmor hill and hanged the three Irishmen who were responsible.' The spot was thereafter called Tom-a-chrochaidh (the mound of hanging) and there is a rock and a small cairn marking the grave which we used to pass on our way to church by a short cut across the hill. Ardenstur house was rebuilt by my great grandfather.

There were one or two quite good public roads, but all the private roads were very bad. We children generally travelled in carts or rode. My father had a gig and I remember my mother accompanying him when he went to Campbeltown to do duty with the Argyllshire Militia. The post came twice a week from Inveraray and we had a visit by a smack from Glasgow once a year which brought all our groceries and other stores. Although my brothers sometimes went away to school, we girls seldom left home except to go once a year to the dancing school in Oban for six weeks, when we lived in lodgings.

The Melfort estate had adopted a crofting system from very early times and families of MacColl, MacOran and MacDermitt had farmed their lands for generations, and were probably the oldest to have had tenures.

There were few strangers in Argyllshire in my young days and there was a good deal of pride and narrowness, in consequence, at being so much at home. I remember being told of a rather startling instance of this; my grand-uncle was sent by his father to be educated by a Mr Campbell of Auch in Glenorchy, and after some time on returning home, the boy was asked by his father if he knew who Christ was, to which the boy replied 'No' but added 'I'm sure he couldn't be very important for he never came to Glenorchy' ”.

Hugh Campbell Gibson

LETTERS

Dear Editor

KILFERN FOOTBALL CLUB

Last year Kilfern football Club was formed. The team was chosen from local lads from Kilninver, Kilmelford and Ardforn hence the name. A start-up grant was obtained and funds raised which enabled the club to purchase football strips etc. Under the guidance and management of Duncan MacGregor the team played several games around the Oban district and at the beginning of this year moved into the glebe at Kilmelford to play their home games. It is hoped that Kilfern could join the (Yeoman) Morven village league in the near future.

However, as you all probably know, Duncan MacGregor has left the area and the team now lacks a manager. To that end I am writing in the Kilninford News to ask if there is anyone in the community who would be interested in taking charge of the Club. As I said before, there are plenty of willing helpers, so assistance would always be available.

Anyone interested could please contact me.

Angus MacFadyen
Tel: 01852 316220

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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 April. Letters and articles can be left in the box in the Post Office or sent to the Editor.

ADVERTS

Advertising rates:-	Private ads	£1 each
	Commercial ads	£5 each per quarter page

Adverts in the newsletter are not only cheap but are also proving to be very effective. Let us have your adverts for the April issue in plenty of time either by placing them in the box in the Post Office or by contacting one of the editorial team.

