

KILNINFORD NEWS

Issue 9

April 2001

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

As everybody must be aware, our fragile economy is under threat because of the spread of Foot and Mouth. Whatever one's views on the political and economic issues surrounding the situation, it is clearly in our interests to help combat the spread of the disease. If in any doubt, please contact the following sources of information.

INFORMATION ON ACCESS

At the time of going to press, Arduaine Gardens has re-opened, access is now allowed in a number of Forestry Commission areas and British Waterways has just announced that the Crinan Canal is open again. The Tourist Information Office is being kept informed of what is and what isn't open to the public and they are issuing daily up-dates on the situation.

For information contact:-

Oban Tourist Information Office

Tel: 01631 563122

Fax: 01631 564273

Web sites

www.visitscottishheartlands.org

www.scotexchange.net

A FARMER'S MESSAGE ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Foot and mouth disease is undoubtedly the most devastating ailment of cloven hooved animals that I have encountered in the time I have been farming at Bragleenmore. The affect on the farming industry is terrifying, widespread and economically disastrous. The way that this particular strain of the virus is behaving makes it very difficult to control. It is highly contagious and it passes readily between animals and it also spreads in the wind very easily. Contamination can be carried in many ways; footwear, clothing, pets and vehicles are all possible methods of spreading the disease.

Fortunately, we have avoided Foot and Mouth so far in Argyll but the influence on farmers and the whole community is crippling. Only with continued vigilance, the ongoing use of disinfectant and hard work can it be kept at bay and therefore allow us to go about our daily business as normally as possible.

Clearly it would not be sensible to go walking in the countryside in infected areas. But, in other parts of the country where there are access opportunities which do not bring the public into direct contact with animals, and where risk assessment has been undertaken, they should be used to the full. We do not want "Closed" signs all over Scotland. But, where there are "No Access" signs, it is vital that they are respected.

Farming businesses and farming families are often dependent on visitors. We are part of the tourism industry, and the land being used by the farmers is a key contributor to Scotland's famous landscapes. So there is a common purpose in telling the public that there are places where they can go.

Opening up access in places where it does not go against official advice, will help. It will take pressure off those areas that are more sensitive and where containment is essential thus helping the eradication of this dreadful disease.

Angus MacFadyen

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 11th April – **Garlic Theatre** presents **Flea Circus** as part of the **Puppet Animation Festival** at 7.30 p.m. in **Craignish Village Hall**.
Adults £3, children £1.50.

“A feast of comedy, fantasy and razzamatazz”.

Saturday, 21st April – **1960's Night** from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in **Ardfern Village Hall** in aid of parish funds and the village hall fund. Music provided by a 5-piece band.

Tickets £3 each available from **Mike Erskine** (Tel: 01852 200373), **Katie Ritchie** (Tel: 01852 500271) or at the door.

Saturday, 28th April – **Blessing of the Boats** at **Ardfern Yacht Centre** at 11 a.m. followed by the **Spring Fayre** at 12 noon in **Ardfern Village Hall** in aid of the church Fabric Fund.

Friday, 27th April, 2001 - **Coffee Morning** from 10.30 a.m. till noon in **Kilmelford Village Hall** in aid of parish funds and the Village Hall.

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

Saturday, 19th May – **Mexican Night** in **Craignish Village Hall**. Food, drink and salsa music.

Saturday, 2nd June – the joint **Parish Hill Walk** is on hold at the moment pending information on **Foot and Mouth**.

Wednesday, 13th June – **Coffee Morning** from 10.30 a.m. till noon in **Kilmelford Village Hall** run by the **Mother's and Toddler's** group in aid of their funds.

Saturday, 28th July – **Sale of Work** in **Ardfern Village Hall** from 1 – 5 p.m. in aid of the church.

Sunday, 26th August – **Summer Festival** at 1 p.m. in **Kilmelford Village Hall**. (See Schedule below)

Friday, 28th September, 2001 – Coffee Morning from 10.30 a.m. till noon in Kilmelford Village Hall in aid of parish funds and the Village Hall. Organisers are Melissa Oatts (Tel: 01852 200314) and Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373).

LOCH MELFORT ANNUAL BEACH CLEAN

**WILL BE HELD ON A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED IN APRIL 2001
(WATCH OUT FOR THE NOTICE AT THE POST OFFICE)**

Around £700 is available for clearing up the 15 miles around Loch Melfort, which will go towards local children's charities and organisations.

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.

Anyone interested in getting involved, especially with suggestions for suitable good causes that may benefit from the money available should contact Neil Manchester (200272) as soon as possible.

EVENTS IN ARDFERN AND CRAOBH HAVEN

At our last Kilninford Newsletter meeting we discussed the possibility of extending the coverage of the newsletter to include Ardfern and Craobh. Our communities are closely linked in many ways and we receive support from them in terms of advertising. However, in spite of the fact that we have a volunteer "Ardfern correspondent" we decided, on balance, that we have enough on our plates with the present coverage and that none of us can spare the extra time that would be required. Ardfern is currently doing a lot of fund raising for their village hall and we decided that, as a compromise, it would be a good idea to include Ardfern and Craobh in our list of forthcoming events in all issues, not only the December issue. Valerie Day has kindly agreed to supply this information and a few copies

of the newsletter will be available in the Ardfern and the Craobh Village Stores.

LOCAL GARDENS OPEN UNDER THE SCOTLAND'S GARDENS SCHEME

Under this scheme 30% of funds raised go to the Queen's Nurses Scotland, 30% to the National Trust Gardens and 40% to a charity of the choice of the owner of the garden.

Saturday, 5th May and Sunday 6th May – Arduaine Gardens (National Trust for Scotland) Entrance fees on these two days are donated to the Scotland's Gardens Scheme.

Sunday, 15th April – Easter Egg Hunt from 12 – 4 p.m. at Arduaine Gardens.

Arduaine Gardens are open all year round from 9.30 a.m. till sunset.
Tel: 01852 200366.

Sheila Downie, An Cala, Isle of Seil – opening shortly through to October.
Monday, 28th May – special open day at An Cala in aid of Marie Curie Nurses. Teas and plants for sale.

Please verify this information for yourselves as Sheila Downie wasn't available to confirm these details.

Tel: 01852 300237

Saturday, 9th June and Sunday 10th June Hilary Hill's annual garden opening from 2 – 6 p.m. at Coille Dharaich, Kilmelford. Her choice of charity is the North Argyll Eventide Home.

The garden is suitable for wheelchairs providing there's an energetic pusher. No dogs please.

Entrance - £1.50. Senior Citizens - £1. Accompanied children free of charge.

Teas - £1.50. Plants for sale.

Tel: 01852 200285.

Minette Struthers, Ardmaddy Castle, Ardmaddy – open all year from 9 a.m. till sunset. Tel: 01852 300353.

REGULAR EVENTS IN KILMELFORD VILLAGE HALL AND LOCALLY

Mothers and Toddlers (0 - 5 year olds) meet every **Wednesday from 10.30 a.m. till 12.30.** £1 per child per session.

Stops: 4th April

Starts again: 25th April

Stops: 27th June

Starts again: 22nd August

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

The Killern Football Club - anyone wanting to arrange a match should contact: Alan Manson (Tel: 01852 200315)

Football - from the beginning of the summer term there will be weekly evening football sessions for primary school age group in Kilmelford, thanks to the kind permission of Robert Craig. The day of the week is still to be arranged.

Contact: Mike Erskine (Tel: 01852 200373)

Badminton Club - the **weekly Tuesday night** sessions in the Village Hall will stop at the end of April and resume in the autumn. The club has enjoyed an excellent season with a good attendance from all age groups. Many thanks to all who have attended.

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

Country Dancing - these popular Thursday evening sessions have now finished for the summer. A huge debt of thanks is due to Mike, not only for travelling up from Crinan through the winter months, but also for managing to impart some of his skills whilst making the classes great fun to attend.

Art Classes - classes are held **weekly on Thursdays** from 2 - 4.30 p.m. in the small hall. Fiona Blakey will take a break from teaching over the summer and will resume classes again in the autumn but the class continues to meet through the summer.

All are welcome, beginners and more experienced alike.

Classes with Fiona are £5 per person per session.

Teacher - Fiona Blakey (Tel: 01852 300579)

Embroidery Workshops - the Wednesday morning workshops will finish at Easter for a summer break and will resume again in October.

Contact: Elizabeth Asbury (Tel: 01852 200377)

BADMINTON AND SQUASH

Badminton: £2 per hour

Squash: 16 years and over £3/hr

Under 16 years, OAP's, students and unemployed £1.50/hr

CARETAKING AND BOOKINGS FOR THE HALL

Caretaker:- Deirdre Campbell Gibson (Tel: 01852 200224). A big thank you, Deirdre, for all that you do for the community in this role.

Bookings should be made during business hours at the Post Office (Tel: 01852 200271) and at Melfort Club (Tel: 01852 200257), both of whose support is much appreciated.

KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER VILLAGE HALL HIRE CHARGES

Lesser and Main Halls	Lesser Hall	Main Hall
Charity Fund Raisers	£1.20/hr	£2.50/hr
Non profit making uses other than Charities	£2.20/hr £2.50/hr after 5 p.m.	£4.20/hr £5/hr after 5 p.m.
Profit making events	£5.20/hr	£10.50/hr

*Above charges **include** kitchen power and use of equipment for light refreshment and drink preparation only.*

Additional use of kitchen cooking facilities for food preparation can be made at the following rates: £10 per event.

Evening Dances/Functions	5 p.m. – 11 p.m. (1 a.m. for dances)	
Charity	£50/session	Deposit: £20
Private	£50/session	Deposit: £20
Commercial	£75/session	Deposit: £50

N.B. Charges include kitchen power and use of equipment for food and refreshment preparation.

Hire of Equipment

1. Crockery, tables and chairs etc may be hired from the Caretaker who has a full list of the rates.
Charges will be reduced by 50% for non profitmaking local members e.g.
Tables (12) = £1 per table (50p each for non profitmaking events by local members)
Chairs (120) = 50p per chair (25p each for non profitmaking events by local members).
2. Hire is subject to a minimum charge of £10.

Membership and Lost Keys

£10 each

After each use the Hall must be left clean and tidy. Failure to do this will lead to a further charge of £50.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The AGM was held on the 21st February and the following office bearers were appointed.

Neil Manchester	Chairman
Robin Grey	Treasurer
Melissa Oatts	Secretary

KILNINVER PRIMARY SCHOOL - UP-DATE

The senior pupils recently attended a conference in Larbert organised by the Scottish Schools Ethos Network. The purpose of the visit was to speak about being senior pupils at a primary school and to tell delegates from all over Scotland about the school's Senior Pupil Forum.

The workshops were led by Catherine Birrell and Jennifer Brown, and Riona Peterson gave a talk on "How Pupils Contribute to the Writing of Policy within the School". The pupils demonstrated the workings of the Forum by holding a meeting in front of the audience.

The workshops were followed by a debate and Ciaran Stormont and Rowena Henderson contributed their opinions in front of an audience of 150.

Many of the articles in the latest Kilniver Primary School News reflect how much pupil participation goes into the decision making process in the school

Congratulations to Tammie Smith in P2 whose entry for the road safety calendar competition was commended by the judges and to Primary 6 and 7's who were awarded First Aid Certificates by the British Red Cross following a 6 hour course.

The pupils are now looking for help from the community to provide them with material for their projects on the history and past of our communities. Primary 4 and 5's project is "Old School Days" (in both Kilniver and Kilmelford) and Primary 6 and 7's project is "Memories of Old Kilniver and Kilmelford". The school would welcome any old post cards, photographs, letters etc with an explanatory description and they are hoping to interview people with memories of life in our villages in the past. Plans will be made to exhibit the results within the community once the projects have been completed.

KILNINVER PRIMARY SCHOOL – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 6th April – Easter Service in Kilmelford Church at 1.45 p.m. All welcome. School closes for the Easter holidays.

Monday, 23rd April – Summer Term begins

Friday, 4th May and Saturday, 5th May – Highlands and Islands Music Festival in Oban.

Friday in the Corran Halls – Recorders and Choirs

Saturday in various venues – Soloists and Instrumentalists

Saturday, 12th May – Summer Fayre at Kilninver Primary School 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, 14th May – Friday, 18th May – Pr 6 and 7's Outward Bound week at Castle Toward.

Friday, 1st June – the Gaelic Choir compete at the Oban Provincial Mod

Thursday, 28th June – End of Session Review in Kilmelford Village Hall at 7 p.m.

This is an opportunity to come and see the school exhibiting the year's achievements and performing the highlights of the school year. This will include displays of work, a send off for the Primary 7's, presentations of Citizenship Awards, musical performances by the choirs and instrumentalists and a gymnastic display using the new community equipment which the school has been using regularly in the village hall.

Friday, 29th June – school closes for the summer.

Tuesday, 21st August – Autumn term begins

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura Erskine who, helped by her friends, raised the huge sum of £366 for the victims of the recent Indian earthquake disaster. As Headteacher Mr McAllister said, "This was not an event organised by the school – it was a group of young people in the community acting independently for the good of those suffering thousands of miles away, and I commend Laura and her friends for that".

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SERVICES

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

	Kilmelford	Kilninver
April	1 st , 15 th (Easter), 29 th	8 th , 22 nd
May	13 th , 27 th	6 th , 20 th
June	10 th (Communion), 24 th	3 rd , 17 th
July	8 th , 22 nd	1 st , 15 th , 29 th
August	5 th , 19 th	12 th , 26 th
September	2 nd , 16 th , 30 th	9 th , 23 rd
October	14 th , 28 th	7 th , 21 st
November	11 th Remembrance, 25 th	4 th Communion, 18 th

There will be an Evening Service on the last Sunday of each month at 6.30 p.m. from April to October. It's hoped that busy people who find it difficult to attend the day time services will be able to come.

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

Episcopalian Church – morning service is held every Sunday at 10.15 a.m. in St John's Cathedral, Oban.

Catholic Church – Saturday evening Vigil Mass is held at 7 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 10.30 a.m. in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER SUMMER FESTIVAL SUNDAY, 26th AUGUST, 2001 at 1 p.m. in the Village Hall

At recent community council, hall committee and kirk session meetings people expressed their concerns at the prospect of there being no Summer Festival. Unfortunately, nobody has volunteered to take on the task of co-ordinating the running of the Festival. In order to keep the Festival going, the core team have booked the hall, put together a schedule, arranged for judges and ordered the rosettes. Colin Gladstone has kindly given permission for the field at the Degnish road end to be used for parking, leaving space around the hall for events.

But volunteers are needed to organise the following events:-

* Competitions * Games * Ice Creams * Burger Stall * Bottle Stall *
* Stock Judging * Dog Show * Teas *

In addition a new "Car Park" sign to point to the field is needed and a volunteer to erect the festival signs the week before the festival.

Contributions of home baking and filled rolls will, as always, be much appreciated.

Please volunteer your help to one of the following:-

Georgina Dalton	Tel: 01866 844212
Janet Thom	Tel: 01852 200381
Anne Smith	Tel: 01852 200284
Diane Galt	Tel: 01852 200215

SUMMER FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DALTON TROPHY - FLOWERS AND PLANTS

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
Class 5	Foliage pot plant
Class 6	Flowering pot plant
Class 7	Selection of three or more pot plants in one container
Class 8	Named plant growing from pip or stone

DALTON TROPHY - FLORAL ART

Not necessarily grown by competitor

Class 9	Arrangement using flower(s) and any other materials depicting a title of a children's book
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- Class 10 Japanese Ikebana arrangement
Class 11 Table arrangement in white and green in any container
Class 12 Decorated hat using dried and/or artificial flowers

MELFORT FARM TROPHY - PRODUCE

To be grown by competitor

- Class 13 Bunch of fresh herbs
Class 14 Four tomatoes
Class 15 One each of four different vegetables
Class 16 Selection of leaf salad

CUILFAIL HOTEL TROPHY - GARDEN PRODUCE

- Class 17 Selection of fruit and vegetables from the same garden grown by the competitor

ARDUAINE CRAFT TROPHY - HANDICRAFTS

- Class 18 Knitted Arran jumper for a child
Class 19 Decorated coathanger, any materials
Class 20 Landscape picture, any medium
Class 21 A canvas worked article
Class 22 Four photographs with a water theme
Class 23 Hand made article using any material

FISH FARM TROPHY - HOME PRODUCE

- Class 24 Salmon mousse
Class 25 Four savoury muffins, all the same
Class 26 Vegetable terrine
Class 27 Four filo pastry parcels, any filling
Class 28 Four chocolate chip cookies
Class 29 Swiss roll
Class 30 Four slices of cereal bar
Class 31 Four differently decorated French fancies

Class 32 Lemon curd

CHILDREN'S SECTION

UP TO 11 YEARS OLD

Class 33 Home made wig, any material

Class 34 Four rock buns

Class 35 Assorted nibbles on sticks

Class 36 Decorated wooden spoon

TWELVE TO SIXTEEN YEARS

Class 37 Most items in a small, standard matchbox

Class 38 Favourite pizza cooked on bought base

Class 39 Home made mobile phone holder, any material

Class 40 Victoria sponge

HIRE OF SUMMER FESTIVAL EQUIPMENT

The sound system and the portacabin loos are available for hire.

The marquee is no longer available for hire but can be borrowed, for use only within the Kilmelford and Kilninver parish.

Contact: Colin Gladstone (Tel: 01852 200232)

KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting of the community council was held on 6th February 2001, with six community councillors, both Argyll & Bute Councillors, Constable Law and eleven members of the public in attendance.

Under matters arising, the secretary reported that all the new sports equipment had been installed and commissioned in the village hall; Cllr MacIntyre reported that local landowners were contributing 50% of the costs of road safety improvements at Blaran road end; Cllr MacIntyre

reported that there may be the possibility of the installation of hazard lights at Kilninver Primary School; the secretary advised that Neil Brown of the Roads Department had promised to carry out all necessary drainage work on the Scammadale road, but that only a small part had been completed due to an apparent lack of funds. Cllr MacIntyre would be taking the matter up with Neil Brown and ensuring that all works would be carried out as promised; Colin Clark reported that the community council raffle license had been renewed with Argyll & Bute Council, permitting raffles to be held as separate fund raising events; the secretary reported that he had received a reply from Neil Brown advising that due to the shortage of funds, projects such as new and replacement road signs and road improvements to the Loch Avich road could not be carried out at this time.

Cllr MacIntyre raised the issue of SINA (Special Islands Needs Allowance) funding, and suggested that the community council compile a five year plan of possible improvement projects so that early applications may be made if more SINA funding becomes available. Cllr Macaskill listed a range of previous eligible projects, from public toilets, road schemes and bus shelters to school building repairs and playground improvements. Any suggestions from the community would be most welcome.

The secretary advised the meeting that community council elections were due in April 2001. Lindsay Robertson was appointed as Returning Officer, and would oversee the submission of nominations, and the organisation of an election if required. Notices of the election would be posted in prominent locations in the community.

Dorothy Carmichael (community council planning officer) reported that three applications had been received (Melfort Pier- variation of conditions to allow staff accommodation; Knipoch Hotel- erection of dwelling house; Mr & Mrs RA Campbell-Gibson- alterations to existing barn to form an office).

Cllr Macaskill reported that the application for the erection of a dwelling house at Eathie, Arduaine had been approved, and that M & K MacLeods had withdrawn their controversial application for eight houses on The Glebe.

The secretary advised that the community council had sent a letter of objection to the application by Mr & Mrs MacFadyen for a guest house on the Boatyard Paddock, Kilmelford. The matter was due for consideration at Area Committee level in March 2001.

Under any other business, Robin Asbury asked about the provision of community notice boards, and agreed to investigate the matter, reporting back with his recommendations at the next meeting.

Neil McCorkindale raised concern over the proposed extraction of timber from Bragleenmore and Musdale forests, when the only exit route was through Scammadale Glen. It was agreed that the single track road would suffer serious erosion as a result of heavy haulage, and that the poor state of the Argyll & Bute Council road budget would not permit adequate and timely repairs. Of especial concern was the risks that may be posed to school transport on Scammadale road. The secretary agreed to write to the forestry companies to find out exactly what was planned, and what contingencies had been put in place to prevent local disruption.

With the community council election due on April 5th (unless there are the same number of nominations as there are council seats), the first meeting of the newly elected council will meet at 8.00pm on Tuesday 17th April in Kilmelford Village Hall.

Neil Manchester

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr Stuart Cannon	Tel: 01852 200205
Mr James Mellor	Tel: 01852 316297
Mrs Dorothy Carmichael	Tel: 01852 200374
Mr Colin Clark (Vice Chairman)	Tel: 01852 200259
Mr Angus MacFadyen (Chairman)	Tel: 01852 316220
Mr Neil Manchester (Secretary)	Tel: 01852 200272
Mrs Jayne Brown	Tel: 01852 316229

COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Alan Macaskill
Cllr. Duncan McIntyre

Tel: 01852 300221
Tel: 01631 770218

USEFUL INFORMATION

MOBILE BANKING SERVICE

The mobile bank visits the area every Friday as follows:-

Craobh Haven, Kilmelford and Cuilfail Hotel between 11.15 and 12 noon.

Ardfern between 10.30 and 11 a.m.

Clachan Seil and Balvicar between 12.40 and 1 p.m.

MOBILE LIBRARY

This service is provided on a Wednesday every four weeks, the next visit being Wednesday, 2nd May. Anyone wanting the driver, Neil McIntyre, to stop at or close to their house should contact him via the library in Oban (Tel: 01631 567921). All times in the following timetable are approximate:-

9.30 a.m.	Tullich Farm
10 a.m.	Loch Melfort Hotel
10.30 a.m.	Tuckers' house
10.45 – 11 a.m.	Craobh Village Shop
11.15 – 11.25 a.m.	Kilmelford Village Hall
11.30 a.m.	Melfort Pier
11.40 a.m.	Melfort Club
12 noon	MacLeod Homes, Kilmelford
12.30 p.m.	Council houses, Kilmelford
12.45 p.m.	Kilmelford Post Office
1 p.m.	Cuilfail Hotel
1.15 p.m.	Council houses by Kilninver Primary School

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Blood donation sessions will be held as follows:-

Corran Hall, Oban 1.30 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, 15th May 2001

Tuesday, 14th August, 2001

Manse Brae Community Centre, Lochgilphead 2.30 – 8 p.m.

Wednesday, 16th May, 2001

Wednesday, 15th August, 2001

ST TRINIANS REUNION DANCE

The village hall was transformed into an old fashioned school for the St Trinians theme dance on Saturday, 16th December. Blackboards with conjugated Latin verbs and maths equations decorated the hall, visitors were asked to donate generously to the staff outing fund (proposed trip to Barbados) and pupils were strictly forbidden to run in the corridor. School rules insisted on 5 mile cross country runs and cold showers before breakfast and faggots, semolina and boiled cabbage featured prominently on the school dinner menu. Music was provided by Gallus Rhamaigh, who occasionally stopped the dancing to make sure that no one was chewing or to throw blackboard dusters at people who “could try harder”.

Very many thanks to all who helped and who supported the reunion. £350 was raised for Kilniver Primary School funds.

Helen Thompson

CAR BOOT SALE IN AID OF BARNARDO'S TREK PERU

Many thanks to all who braved the cold weather to support the Car Boot Sale at the end of February and also to all who provided baking etc. The

day's proceeds of £170 have gone towards my £2,500 target for the Barnardo's Trek Peru in May. Hopefully there will be a slide show/talk about the trek when I return in June – details to be announced. Again, a big thank you to all who have supported me in this project.

Janet Thom

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The last of the washing up team turned the key in the lock and left the Hall at 2 a.m.: it had been a good night, another good night, at Kilmelford and Kilninver Village Hall.

The idea of having our own Burns Night Supper had been proposed fully a year before: it would be wrong to give the impression that the intervening twelve months had been filled with unremitting labour, but the last four weeks certainly were! The preparations were considerable – a working committee met monthly and prepared a programme of entertainment, artistes were contacted and promises extracted; Elspeth Campbell volunteered to supervise the catering department, and Helen Keate promised to organise the Hall decoration; at this stage we knew we were “all systems go” – so to speak.

My dogs and cats had listened with horror to me declaiming the Address to the Haggis from my bath for weeks, but at least when the night arrived I was able to face the event without nerves. The hall had been charmingly decorated by Helen and her team, and there was a marvellous smell of good food from the galley where Elspeth and her minions toiled amongst the steam. We sat and dined 100 people; mostly from Kilmelford and Kilninver, with welcome guests from the Timeshare and further afield.

After the Introductory Remarks, the Selkirk Grace was given by our Minister, Mike, and then dinner commenced. We were especially fortunate to be able to field our very own piper, Fergus Gillanders, whose martial bearing and skilful playing made sure the Haggis entered with due

ceremony. Fergus played with great skill and gusto, in fact so great was his gusto that he carried off part of the hall decorations on his chanter! Having delivered my much practised Address to the Haggis it was then the turn of our local artistes. The Immortal Memory was delivered by Duncan Macgregor followed by Dave Millward's rendering of Ye Banks and Braes and then an accordion duet accompanied by Winnie. Nigel Boase gave a memorable recital of Tam O'Shanter and then Dave Millward made the Toast to the Lassies, replied to by Roxanne. It was then Cubby Mackinnon's turn to take to the floor with To a Mouse with Nigel completing the programme with Willy's Wife. The raffle was drawn by Robin Grey and it was then on with the dancing.

The evening was characterised by good fellowship and entertainment along with an excellent three course meal (see Elspeth's delicious recipe for Cock A Leekie Soup below); it would have been impossible to arrange without the enthusiastic help of many members of the community at many levels – from the catering supremo down to the humble spud peelers and table shifters; from the donors of the handsome raffle prizes, to Winnie and John who played for the dancing afterwards with their customary skill until long after 1 a.m.; from Helen's simple and effective decor, to the President of the Hall Committee wielding a brush and dustpan at 1.45 a.m.; and of course, to those artistes who gave us generously of their various skills. As a result of all this activity, the net amount raised for hall funds was just under £700.

As I stepped out into the night and watched Orion the Hunter dipping towards the West, I reflected that Rabbie himself would have given us all his nod of approval.

Bruce Howard

ELSPETH'S COCK A LEEKIE SOUP

1 oz butter/oil
½ lb onions
½ lb carrots, chopped
3 sticks celery, chopped
4 pints chicken stock

½ oz parsley
1 lb leeks, chopped
Chicken scraps from the bones
1 oz stoned prunes, whole
Salt and pepper

A good stock made from a chicken carcass makes the difference between an ordinary soup and an Elspeth special.

Sweat the onions, carrots and celery in the butter/oil. Add the stock and simmer till tender. Add the parsley, leeks, chicken scraps and prunes and simmer for a further 10 minutes.

Elspeth Campbell

SEAHAB EXPEDITION

In January and February of this year I headed for southern Spain along with three colleagues. Our plan was to carry out an expedition as part of the research process for our final dissertations towards a BA Hons. Degree in Adventure Tourism Management.

The aim of the expedition was to assess the feasibility of providing multi activity expeditions as part of the cancer rehabilitation process. This involved looking at the provision and safety standards of facilities within the area and also at the physical and intrinsic benefits that such a project would have for cancer survivors.

The expedition took us along the southern coastline and then into the hills, through remote white washed villages and away from the strong British influence. Despite my colleague breaking her collarbone in a cycling accident, the expedition was a huge success and we returned to a cold, wet Britain having completed all required research criteria.

It was an experience I will never forget and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our sponsors and, in particular,

