

KILNINFORD NEWS

Issue 41

December, 2011



WISHING ALL OUR READERS

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

PEACE AND HAPPINESS

IN 2012

HELP NEEDED

TO HANDLE THE ADVERTISING IN THE KILNINFORD NEWS

This isn't a very onerous task (it really isn't!). The team usually meets only four times a year, for our AGM and a few weeks before the December, April and September issues. It's the role of the person dealing with the advertising to contact all regular advertisers and any possible new advertisers, before each issue, to check whether they want an advert and to obtain the advert from them, hopefully in the format ready for insertion into the newsletter. On occasions they may need to update regular adverts with minor changes.

The person therefore needs to be computer literate and have some idea of how to make changes to adverts and how to insert and arrange the layout of the finished adverts in the newsletter which will have been sent to them by the Editor when she has completed all the text for the newsletter. It is then their responsibility to get the newsletter, in its completed form as a hard copy, ready for photocopying, to the place where it's being printed, usually the Melfort Club.

Contact details of advertisers and the graphics for previous adverts would be handed over to anyone taking on the role, and help would be at hand throughout the handover phase.

The newsletter is dependent on the income from advertisers to cover our costs and we would love to hear from anyone who might be willing to volunteer.

Please phone: Fiona (Tel: 01852 200227) or Georgina (Tel: 01866 844212)

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER

Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month – Music Night from approximately 9.30 p.m. at Loch Melfort Hotel. The hotel will be closed from the 9th of January, reopening on Thursday, 26th January. Music nights will therefore be Friday 16th December, Friday 6th January and then a gap until the normal pattern starts again on Friday 3rd February.

Every Monday – Music Night from 8 – 10.30 p.m. in the Shower of Herring. Come and join in and musicians, bring along your instrument.

Wednesday, 7th December – Arduaine Garden Support Group AGM at 7.30 p.m. in Kilmelford Village Hall.

Saturday, 10th December – Friday, 16th December – Melfort Village Community Week. Free use of facilities.

Monday, 12th December – Ladies Day and Music Night

Tuesday, 13th December – Massage Taster Sessions

Wednesday, 14th December – Cottage Tours

Thursday, 15th December – Coffee Morning at the Shower of Herring

Contact: Melfort Club Office Tel: 01852 200257

Friday, 16th December – Community Carol Singing at 7 p.m. in Kilmelford Church.

Friday, 16th December – Craignish Primary School Show in Craignish Village Hall.

Saturday, 17th December – Craignish Christmas Party with Cabin Fever. Entry £5. Bring a dish, licensed bar. Booking essential.

Tel: 01852 500746 E-mail: cvhartsevents@gmail.com

Saturday, 17th and Sunday 18th December – Santa's Grotto from 12 noon till 4 p.m. at Arduaine Garden.

Adults accompanied by a child/children, free. Children pay normal garden entrance fee.

Adults without children pay normal garden entrance fee.

Wednesday, 21st December – Solstice Walk from 8 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. guided by Dr Sharon Webb. Celebrate the Winter Solstice and find out what it meant to our prehistoric ancestors. Free event. Booking essential.

Contact Kilmartin House Museum Tel: 01546 510 278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Wednesday, 28th December – Children's Christmas Party from 3 – 5 p.m. in Kilmelford Village Hall. Parents please bring a plate of savoury and a plate of sweet party food and presents (value £5) for Santa's sack, wrapped and named (including surname please).

Contact: Lucy Files Tel: 01852 200722

Wednesday, 28th December – Christmas/New Year Dance in Craignish Village Hall in aid of Glasgow Childrens' Holiday Scheme. Dancing to Archie John McVicar Trio. Bring your own food and drink. Tickets £17.50 per adult, £12.50 per student - available in Ardfern Village Shop.

Contact: Dawn Stewart Tel: 01852 500291

Saturday, 31st December – Hogmanay Party in Kilmelford Village Hall from 9 p.m. till late. Music, dancing, games and a raffle. Tickets at the door: Adults £4, children under 12 years, £2. Please bring your own alcoholic beverages and food if required for your own table.

Contact: Diane Scaife Tel: 01852 200208

Tuesday, 10th January – AGM of the Kilmelford and Kilninver Community Association (Village Hall Committee) in Kilmelford and Kilninver Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Those wishing to come on the committee, please contact Diane Scaife Tel: 01852 200208

Friday, 13th January – Coffee Morning from 10.30 a.m. till 12 noon in Kilmelford Village Hall in aid of parish funds and the village hall.

Offers of help and donations of baking would be much appreciated.

If you know anyone who does not have transport and who would appreciate a sociable morning, please bring them to the monthly coffee mornings!

If anyone would like to help with a coffee morning and donate funds to a worthy cause, please call Melissa.

Contact: Melissa Oatts Tel: 01852 200314

Wednesday, 18th January – Whale and Dolphin Conservation Talk by Julia Hamilton at Kilmartin Museum Café from 7 – 8 p.m. Donations to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

Contact: Tel: 01546 510278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Saturday, 21st January – Felting Butterflies, Bugs and Beasties with Amy Neville at Kilmartin Museum from 1 – 4 p.m. £12 per child. Booking essential.

Contact: Tel: 01546 510 278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Sunday, 22nd January – Botanically Inspired Silk Painting with Amy Neville at Kilmartin Museum from 10.30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bring your own botanical inspiration and learn how to paint them on silk. £25 per person. Booking essential.

Contact: Tel: 01546 510 278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Wednesday, 1st February - Family Fling for a Fiver hosted by Kilninver Primary School in the Skippinnish Hall.

Wednesday, 1st February (date to be confirmed) - Kilninford Association AGM at 6.30 p.m. at Traighuaine Ard.

Contact: Fiona Wyllie Tel: 01852 200227

Wednesday, 1st February – Polar Bears, Adelie Penguins and Arctic Wolves. Talk by Mark Smith, Frozen Planet Cameraman in the Living Stones in Kilmartin at 7 p.m. Early booking recommended.

Contact: Tel: 01546 510 278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Friday, 3rd February – Coffee Morning from 10.30 a.m. till 12 noon in Kilmelford Village Hall in aid of parish funds and the village hall.

Offers of help and donations of baking would be much appreciated.

Contact: Melissa Oatts Tel: 01852 200314

Saturday, 4th February – an Evening of Contemporary Scots Music in Kilmartin Museum Café at 7.15 p.m. till approximately 9.30 p.m. Singer songwriter Ken Campbell is joined by cellist/vocalist Linsey Aitkin. Tickets £10 include a glass of wine, cheese and biscuits. Booking essential.

Contact: Tel: 01546 510 278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th February – a Weekend of Aboriginal Art at Kilmartin Museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Jan Hendry, who will help you draw inspiration from the Glen to produce your own piece of aboriginal style art. Suitable for adults and accompanied teenagers. Cost £55 which includes all materials. Booking essential.

Contact: Tel: 01546 510 278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Friday, 2nd March – Coffee Morning from 10.30 a.m. till 12 noon in Kilmelford Village Hall in aid of parish funds and the village hall.

Offers of help and donations of baking would be much appreciated.

Contact: Melissa Oatts Tel: 01852 200314

Wednesday, 7th March – Exploring the Bryophytes of Argyll's Ravines with Stan Phillips of SNH at Kilmartin Museum from 7 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. A talk and practical session exploring the richness of Argyll's mosses and liverworts.

Contact: Tel: 01546 510 278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

Saturday, 24th March – Annual Boat Jumble and Car Boot Sale from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. in Craignish Village Hall.

Contact to book a space: Jan Brown Tel: 01852 500689

End of March (dates to be confirmed) – Puppet Animation Festival in Craignish.

Contact: Tel: 01852 500746 E-mail: cvhartsevents@gmail.com

Friday, 13th April – Coffee Morning from 10.30 a.m. till 12 noon in Kilmelford Village Hall in aid of parish funds and the village hall.

Offers of help and donations of baking would be much appreciated.

Contact: Melissa Oatts Tel: 01852 200314

Sunday, 8th April – Easter Festival/Cadbury's Trail at Arduaine Garden.

Look out for posters.

ART GROUP

The group meets **weekly on Thursdays** from 2 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. in the small hall in Kilmelford. All welcome. £1.50 per session.

Contact: Agnes McColl Tel: 01852 200365

COUNTRY DANCING

As ever, very many thanks to Mike and also to those who have stood in for Mike during his absences.

Christmas/ End of Session Party – Thursday, 15th December

Starts again – Thursday, 5th January, 2010

Organiser: Toni Mitchell Tel: 01852 316151

'CRAFTS and THINGS'

For anyone interested in embroidery, tapestry, sewing, knitting, crochet and other similar crafts, meetings are in the Kilmelford Village Hall every Wednesday morning from 10am - 12noon. £2.00 per person for each session.

Contact Dorothy Carmichael Tel. 01852 200374 or Toni Mitchell Tel: 01852 316151

CRAIGNISH BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Craignish Baby and Toddler Group meet every Thursday during term-time in Craignish Village Hall from 10 a.m. till 12 noon for coffee, snack, play and good company. All 0-5 year olds and their carers made very welcome!

Contact: Laura Neville Tel: 01852 500369 E-mail: lauramneville@gmail.com

MELFORT UKELELES

Classes are held every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in Kilmelford Village Hall. £2 per class, £3 per family.

New members always welcome.

Contact: Peter Salmond Tel: 01852 200787

TEENS' BEETLE DRIVES

Monthly Beetle Drives in the small hall on Friday evenings from 7 – 8.30 p.m. have seen fast action dice throwing and some very exotic looking Beetles. The young have found the oldies surprisingly competitive!

Tea, juice and home baking restores everyone and games of cards are played till time to go home.

A date will be arranged for a January drive.

Contact: Georgina Tel: 01866 844 212

CRAIGNISH VILLAGE HALL

For regular events such as Coffee Mornings, "Keep Fit" and "Knit and Natter" please check their website www.craignishvillagehall.org.uk or their Facebook page.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SERVICES

Services are held every Sunday at 12 noon **alternately** in Kilninver Parish Church (from Sunday, 1st January) and Kilmelford Parish Church (from Sunday, 8th January). Services are held every Sunday in Craignish Parish Church in Ardfern at 10.15 a.m.

	Kilmelford	Kilninver
December	25 th Christmas Service	18 th
January	8 th , 22 nd	1 st , 15 th , 29 th
February	5 th , 19 th	12 th (Elder led service), 26 th
March	4 th , 18 th	11 th , 25 th
April	1 st , 8 th (Communion at 8 a.m.), 15 th , 29 th (United Service)	8 th , 22 nd

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday, 24th November – Advent Communion at 6 p.m. in Kilninver Church

Sunday, 4th December – Xplorers Christingle at 5 p.m. in Kilmelford

Friday, 9th December – Reading and Meditation at 7.45 p.m. in Kilbrandon Church.

Sunday, 11th December – Gift Sunday at 12 noon in Kilmelford Church. Anybody wishing to bring a gift for distribution by the Social Work Department in Oban should please mark it for either a boy or a girl and the age for which the gift is suitable.

Friday, 16th December – Carol Singing at 7 p.m. in Kilmelford Church

Sunday, 18th December – Carol Service at 6 p.m. in Craignish Church

Saturday, 24th December

Early Watchnight Service at 7.30 p.m. in Craignish Church

Late Watchnight Service at 11.30 p.m. Kilninver Church

Sunday, 25th December - Christmas Day Service

12 noon at Kilmelford Church

LENT SERVICES

MID WEEK DISCUSSION SERVICES

Tuesday, 20th March at 6 p.m. in Craignish Church

Tuesday, 27th March at 7.45 p.m. in Kilbrandon Church

Tuesday, 3rd April at 7.30 p.m. in Kilmelford Church.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer will be on Friday, 2nd March, 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Kilmelford Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICES - St John's Cathedral, George Street, Oban.

Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Communion
10.15 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Fourth Sunday – Choral Matins)
Wednesday 11 a.m. Holy Communion

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES - St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

Saturday 7 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday 10.30 a.m. Sunday Mass

FAITH TIME

A new initiative launched by the churches of Craignish, Kilmelford and Kilninver is "Faith Time" which is held on the last Monday evening of each month. The aim is to provide an occasion when people can explore questions of faith and compare experience. Each month it is hosted in a different home. Everyone is welcome whether they make it a regular fixture or drop in now and again. No qualifications are required other than an interest in the spiritual side of life and a willingness to engage with questions of faith and doubt. Some like to get things off their chest. Others prefer to ponder quietly. The format is flexible and it is hoped that a variety of approaches will be developed. It takes a mid-winter break in December-January but look out for a Spring series starting at the end of February.

THE NETHERLORN CHURCHES GATHERING

Living Water

A focus on water and an emphasis on looking out to the wider world defined the 2011 Netherlorn Churches Gathering held at Kilmelford Village Hall on Saturday 1st October. People came from all corners of Netherlorn and were joined by guests from further afield who came to lead different sessions.

The hall presented a busy scene with displays all round the walls and a big screen showing an amazing succession of views of water in Netherlorn – seascapes, fresh water lochs, rivers, burns and waterfalls. So we were reminded at the outset of the beauty of our surroundings and of the abundance of water with which we are blessed, even if we sometimes grumble that there is too much of it falling from above!

Opening worship included a video prepared by the children of Kilninver School to show the work which they had done on water. This got everyone thinking – and smiling, as the funny side of water came into view. Group work got everyone thinking about the ways we use water and then delving into the Bible to explore the many different meanings which water has for faith.

Claire Hollingsworth of Water Aid reminded us of the large numbers of people in the world who do not have access to clean drinking water or adequate sanitation. Both are prerequisites for good health and prosperity so the work of Water Aid and other charities driven by a vision of safe water for all is strategic.

Generous provision was made for a lunch break since it is recognised that one of the things people enjoy most about the Gathering is simply the opportunity to meet and chat with people from other parts of Netherlorn. Excitement came in the form of a chip pan fire – deliberately started in very controlled conditions by members of Kilmelford Fire and Rescue Service in order to offer another perspective on water and promote fire safety. Gathering participants were invited to visit the nearby fire station and to chat with members of the crew.

The afternoon sessions were focussed on Christian outreach closer to home. It was a revelation to many that there are significant numbers of homeless people and drug addicts in the Oban area. Hope Kitchen is a pioneering initiative in Oban which seeks to offer physical nourishment and a caring environment for people who are affected by such difficulties. The Gathering was moved by the honesty and passion of

Jessie MacPhie who spoke of her own experience as a recovering alcoholic and her motivation to develop Hope Kitchen.

Also very inspiring was a presentation on the work of "Hope to Oban" – H2O. Founded seven years ago, it concentrates on a wide-ranging ministry to young people at Oban High School. Chair Roy Clunie and youth worker Ewen Munro described the ways in which they participate in the life of the School and the excellent relationship which they enjoy with its management. As well as giving students the opportunity to engage with faith questions, they play a leading role in enabling fruitful interactions between the School and the wider community in Oban.

Parallel to the adult programme there was a drama workshop for children led by Fiona Stewart from Edinburgh. This resulted in a gripping performance of Noah and the Ark which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Artistically gifted participants had created a waterfall on which people were invited to stick small notes indicating what they had taken out of the day. Among the notes found on the waterfall were:

- The need of so many people for love and sustenance makes one sit up.
- We can share resources and support each other.
- There are people on our doorstep who need to know God.
- Springs of living water – picture of lots and lots of small springs – us – flowing out sparkling in God's glory.
- Hope, friendship, God's power.
- Like God water is essential. He provides.
- Vision for the future.
- The power of God working through HOPE, H2O and Water Aid. May his power work through us too.
- I have been inspired by the wonderful fellowship amongst the people here today. It has been a very happy day.

Good thoughts like these were taken into the closing communion service which brought us back to the core of our faith and pointed us outwards to the service prompted by our day together.

Kenneth Ross

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Darkness and light: surely one of life's most vivid contrasts and one which we all immediately recognise. Certainly as winter advances with days getting shorter and nights getting longer we realise how much we long for light.

No wonder that darkness and light have often been used, when reflecting on our human experience, as images for the deeper realities of the soul. No wonder that it is often a spine-chilling moment when we hear during the approach to Christmas the text which states: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Darkness we know. It may be the personal darkness of sorrow and loss, of failing health, or of the disappointments life brings. It may be the economic gloom which has settled upon the world in our time, with our own country and our own community not being spared.

Can we know light? Christmas lights, whether hung in our streets or strung on the tree at home, are there to tell us that there is a force which dispels the darkness. The story we tell at Christmas brings us the sure hope that God has not left us in the darkness. Something exceptional happened with the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. As John's Gospel put it: "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." In due course Jesus himself was able to say quite unambiguously: "I am the light of the world." Still today we may discover him as the light of our lives.

One of our new hymns could be adopted as a Christmas prayer:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

With all good wishes for a very happy Christmas,

Kenneth Ross

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura (Lamont) and Ian MacLeod who were married on the 29th of October at Loch Melfort Hotel. A very happy day and celebrations with family and friends.

BIRTHS

Congratulations:-

To Hannah (Milton) and Nicholas Chalmers, a daughter, Erin Elizabeth, on the 20th of August in Glasgow. Cousin to Finlay and second grandchild to proud Granny.

To Rachel and Calum Ross, a son, Alexander Ian Murray on the 21st of November, brother to Hugh.

XPLORERS

The Xplorers group chose the theme of Journeys for the start of the new session with Noah and his Ark for September, Ruth for harvest in October and Joseph and his dreams in November.

Christingles, gift boxes and cards will be made on 4th December with discussion on the part the Angels played in foretelling the Christmas story.

Many thanks to all the group leaders for being involved in the preparations as well as on the Sundays.

Thanks also to the Mums who have helped with the refreshments and contributed to the baking and to the ukulele band who have greatly cheered our singing in the Prayz Time.

Dates for Xplorers 2012 on the first Sunday of the months: February 5th, March 4th, April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd and July 1st.

Georgina Dalton

PARISH LUNCH AND PRODUCE SALE, HELD ON 5th OCTOBER

Many thanks to everyone who helped in the kitchen and at the tables at the Parish Lunch and also to those who looked after the stalls.

Last year, having asked Yvonne Anderson and Beth Nicholson to help and then left them to "hold the baby" while I happily held our first grandchild, I was very thankful that it did not put them off rallying round again with lists, ideas, contributions and moral support. It's great that the organising team grows and strengthens and that new folk to the area come along and meet neighbours and hopefully make new friends.

Many people played their part in providing pots full of soup, rolls, fillings, baking, crafts, plants, raffle prizes and bottle stall donations.

Thanks to everyone's generosity the sum of £1,030 was raised.

Our minister, Ken Ross, and members of the Kirk Session very much appreciate everyone's support for this annual fundraising event.

Georgina Dalton

KILMELFORD & KILNINVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chair	Toni Mitchell
Treasurer	Fergus Gillanders
Secretary	Diane Scaife
Committee member	Matthew Anderson
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“	“
“	“
Caretaker	Colin Gibson
Bookings	Kilmelford Village Stores

Committee meetings of the above association were held on 13th September and 8th November 2011. The full minutes of the meetings can be found on www.kilmelford.com

MAINTENANCE

a) Toni Mitchell has succeeded in securing a grant of £9494 from "Awards for All". Part of the money has been used for the purchase of new tables and chairs (stacking & folding), supplied by CGL of Oban. These are a lot more attractive than the previous ones and easier to carry and store. The remainder of the funding is to pay Alternative Insulation Solutions for the fitting of internal insulation panels in the lesser hall along with its redecoration, and the insulation of the entire roof space. The lesser hall now looks much cosier, as in addition to the new furniture, Olga Salmond has remade the existing curtains to fit on the new curtain pole.

b) The sports equipment is now stored in the trolley under the stairs for easier access.

FUND RAISING

a) The Christmas Fayre, organised by Olga Salmond, was very well attended and a great success, raising £1238.71. Santa's Grotto was especially popular, with Father Christmas arriving in a fire engine. Our thanks go to all the many people who helped to make it such fun.

b) The Hogmanay Party will follow the same format as in previous years as this proves to be very family-friendly. (Details elsewhere in newsletter).

c) The 100 Club is running smoothly, but could always do with a few new members to replace drop-outs. If you wish to have the chance to win one of three prizes in the monthly draw, please contact Diane Scaife 01852 200208. This is a useful source of income for the Village Hall.

KILMELFORD & KILNINVER VILLAGE HALL CHARGES

SPORTS

Squash: 16 years and over £4.00 per hour
 Under 16 years, OAPs, students and unemployed £2.00 per hour

Badminton: £3.00 per hour all categories

Junior Football: £3.00 per hour

Indoor Tennis: £3.00 per hour

ALL BOOKINGS TO BE MADE AT KILMELFORD VILLAGE STORES Tel 01852 200271

	LESSER HALL	MAIN HALL
Charity Fund Raisers	£1.50 per hour	£3 per hour
Social use other than charities	£3 per hour	£6 per hour
Commercial use	£6 per hour + £25*	£12 per hour + £25*

* The £25.00 charge is for the Caretaker to set up the tables & chairs beforehand, and clear up afterwards.
 Above charges include kitchen power and use of equipment for light refreshments and drink preparation only
 Additional use of kitchen cooking facilities for preparation of hot food is £10.00 per event

EVENING DANCES & FUNCTIONS	5 p.m until 11 p.m (1 a.m for dances)
Charity	£65.00 per session Deposit £20.00
Private	£65.00 per session Deposit £20.00
Commercial	£90.00 per session Deposit £50.00

Above charges include kitchen power and use of equipment for food and refreshment preparation

After use the Hall must be left clean and tidy. Failure to do this will lead to a further charge of £50.00

Under 16's – please note that, owing to safety issues, no-one aged 16 or younger can be allowed into Kilmelford and Kilninver Village Hall without the supervision of an adult.

HEATING CARDS FOR MAIN & LESSER HALLS - £1.50 each

MEMBERSHIP AND LOST KEYS - £10 each

HIRE OF EQUIPMENT

Residents of Kilmelford, Kilninver and Arduaine may hire equipment, and by special arrangement for those resident outside the area.

Tables £2.00 per day. Chairs £1.00 per day. Prices of cutlery and crockery on request.

A full list of rates and availability can be obtained from the Hall Caretaker.

Hire is subject to a minimum charge of £10.00

HALL CARETAKER - Colin Gibson Tel: 01852 200 204 or 07825 987 696

THE LESSER HALL

At the time of writing, mid-November, the Lesser Hall has undergone a major refurbishment. The same guy, Danny Sumsion from AIS, (Alternative Insulation Solutions) who made such a brilliant job last year of insulating the main hall has been back and insulated the Lesser Hall. He has done this with foam backed plaster board. I think the result is marvellous. Not only is the room more aesthetically pleasing but certainly warmer with improved acoustics. My grateful thanks must go to Danny for doing another great job. I would also like to thank Olga Salmond for kindly re-vamping the curtains in the Lesser Hall and giving them a new lease of life and Christine Roberts for supplying the curtain pole.

At the same time as the above project was being undertaken, Danny using his special environmentally friendly Warmcel, has insulated the loft space above the Lesser Hall, over the toilets right through to the end of the corridor and including the corridor to over the switch board cupboard. Owing to the area immediately above the kitchen being boarded he has not been able to do this. We who have been working in the hall recently have already noticed the difference in warmth.

Obviously a new look hall needed some new look furniture. So we have replaced the 12 static tables that lived in the Lesser Hall with 12 slightly larger folding tables which can 'live' mainly in the store cupboard in the back of the main hall when not in use. Similarly our old brown stacking chairs have been replaced by 60 stacking and 50 folding chairs which can also be put away in the cupboard when not needed. My aim, now the hall looks more like a meeting room, is not to use it as a storage facility for ugly upended tables and loads of stacked chairs. A major cupboard clearing by some of the hall committee has meant this is now possible.

All the above projects have once again been FULLY funded by a grant I obtained from AWARDS FOR ALL, part of the Lottery Funding. So once again benefits to the community at no cost to the community or Hall. I hope you will be as pleased as I am with this latest update to your Hall as these projects do help to make the hall more user friendly.

Antoinette Mitchell (Chair of the KKCA)

CHRISTMAS FAYRE IN KILMELFORD VILLAGE HALL

Sunday, November 20th saw Santa doing a practice run, before the big night, through Kilmelford Village helped by the local Fire Brigade. He stopped off at the Village Hall and spent time at a wonderful grotto kindly giving children early Christmas presents.

It wasn't only the children who enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Fayre at the Kilmelford Village Hall. The venue was transformed with over 20 colourful stalls, refreshments and live entertainment. A festive event, that drew many village families together for a very enjoyable day.

However, such a successful occasion does not happen without weeks of prior planning and preparation and I would like to take this opportunity again to thank collectively EVERYONE who worked so hard to make the Fayre such a profitable and happy day. A special thank you must go to Olga and Peter Salmond who masterminded the whole affair and did the lion's share of the work, supported by the sub-committee of Lucy Files, Christine Roberts, Ellen Coyle and myself. Santa's grotto was a work of inspiration thanks to Lucy and thank you Philip Coyle for persuading Santa to spend so much time in the grotto. Grateful thanks also to the kitchen helpers headed up by Christine, all the stall holders too numerous to mention who gave their profits to the hall. Thank you too, to those who gave their time to creating crafts, baking, making soup etc, before the day. All the kind people and organisations, who donated gifts for the Raffle. All the people on the day who spent their time helping on stalls or doing all the behind the scenes jobs that make an event like this a success. Last but not least, the Committee's thanks to all of you who came and spent your money, the hall committee appreciate this. After expenses the figure should be a profit in excess of £1,300. This will at least cover the electricity bill for the next 12 months!!

Antoinette Mitchell (Chair of the KKCA)

USED STAMPS

A quick reminder that every used stamp from your Christmas cards, and all letters throughout the year, can be converted into funds to support The Church of Scotland World Mission Council's project of the year. So, don't chuck your stamps in the bin! Please leave them at the shop or give them to Dorothy Carmichael or Georgina Dalton.

KILNINVER AND KILMELFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes

The meeting of the above council was held on Tuesday 9th August 2011 at Kilmelford Village Hall.

Present: Nigel Mitchell (NM) Chair, Antoinette Mitchell (AM), John MacLean (JM), Sarah Edwards (SE), Lucy Files (LF)

Also in attendance were Councillor Elaine Robertson, PC Jeremy Moore, 2 representatives of Lakeland Marine and 28 members of the public.

Apologies: Matthew Anderson, Colin Clarke.

Councillor Donald MacDonald

Prior to conducting the business of the meeting NM declared a minutes silence in remembrance of Councillor Donald MacDonald who died suddenly last week whilst on holiday in North Uist. Councillor MacDonald represented the SNP for the Oban North and Lorn ward.

Minutes of the previous meeting: All present were given the opportunity to read through the draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th June 2011. The minutes were taken as a true and accurate representation of the meeting and approved. Proposed JM, seconded SE

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1. Clachan Wind Farm:** NM advised that the planning application has not yet been submitted. The applicant is waiting for the completion of an ecology report and it is now expected that the application will be submitted in late August or early September. The applicant asked how the community council was going to assess the opinions of the local community. NM then invited opinions and ideas for garnering feedback from the community so that KKCC can put together a representation on the matter. A member of the public suggested using the Electoral Register as a basis for distributing a questionnaire to canvas opinion but NM pointed out that this might be insufficient since it is a restricted Electoral Register and, therefore, not everyone in the community is listed in it. Judith Stannard suggested using the Kilninford News Directory and Georgina Dalton suggested the circulation list for the Kilninford News which is complete and up-to-date unless anyone has moved to the area very recently indeed. NM stated that any form of canvassing of opinion/questionnaire distribution would have to be allocated to addresses so that responses could be clearly identified as coming from within the community otherwise the process could be abused. AM confirmed that she has compiled a fact sheet which is ready for distribution but that she will now change the design to include a questionnaire. The question of when to send this out was then raised and NM stated that an opinions/feedback from the community is likely to be needed by the next KKCC meeting; he also advised that community members will need to see the application once it is published and find out for themselves exactly what is proposed and involved in it. NM advised further that the application will go to a hearing and that he will ask for an extension if necessary.
Fiona Wylie asked how the questionnaire is to be worded and AM responded that it would include a list of facts with a for/against response and a request to forward the completed questionnaire to KKCC in order that it might represent the community. AM then asked all attending whether

everyone was happy for the answers to be forwarded to Barochreal and stressed the need for the public to respond in time for an answer to be prepared before the next KKCC meeting in October, there was no response given. NM then reiterated that the application will come out in September and warned that it will not be a five-minute read. Stuart Cannon (SC) asked whether KKCC will be summarising the application. NM responded that KKCC will not attempt to do so since the application will contain a great deal of technical detail which people need to read for themselves so that they know exactly what they are saying yea or nay to.

Chris Liversedge, asked where planning applications are advertised and NM responded that within the community they have to be held at the Post Office. It is also possible to see planning applications at the ABC Offices in Oban. Councillor Elaine Robertson confirmed this. Georgina Dalton suggested that if the application is not out by the time of the next Kilninford Newsletter then the newsletter could be used as a means of flagging it up. NM responded that perhaps a flier could be included with the newsletter giving the application number with a request to view it and give a response but Georgina said that she was thinking that even if the application number reference number was not to be available at that point a paragraph giving pre-warning of the imminence of the application, advising where it might be viewed and requesting comment could be included in the circulation.

NM advised that individuals have the right to put in their own representations and he earnestly recommended that people do this. AM advised that the drop-in sessions have already happened and leaflets have already gone out. Fiona Wylie asked if KKCC will send in a representation and NM responded that KKCC has the intention of doing this but it will need to be drafted and no representation will be made until he has spoken to all the Community Councillors.

2. **Kilmelford Notice Boards:** Both notice boards have arrived and been erected. Many thanks to Colin Clark (CC) for putting up the board at the shop and Colin Gibson for putting up the board at the Hall. NM asked the KKCC to send a letter of thanks to KKCA for securing the funds for the boards. LF to attend to this.
3. **Fences Around The Glebe:** NM reported that he has had no news regarding the fences and that he doubts that they will be changed
4. **Planning Applications:**

Melfort Pier Restaurant: An application has been submitted for a change of status from business to dwelling house. AM has the application reference number if anyone wishes to write regarding this.

Installation of Micro-Hydro scheme at Barndromin, Knipoch

Celtic Sea: Application for change of use of building to a dwelling house and annexe has been permitted. This is tied in to the operation of the fish farm.

Ardmaddy Fish Farm: 11/01066/MFF | Relocation of Ardmaddy fish farm - comprising 12 No. 100m circumference cages plus installation of feed barge | Port Na Morachd Seil Sound Argyll And Bute Relocation of fish farm to Sound of Seil.

AM said that KKCC should have received a communication about this from the applicant, Lakeland Marine. In response to Ian Tegner's wishing to speak on the matter, AM invited him to do so. Ian drew attention to a briefing note, (not supplied by the CC) provided on each chair for each member of the public attending the meeting. This briefing note, compiled by Ewan Kennedy, summarises the proposal and highlighted questions raised on ecological and energy grounds.

The briefing note indicates that the proposed fish farm will be much more intrusive in Seil Sound in ecological terms, sailing terms and in terms of impact on an existing fish farm round Degnish Point.

The note states that the proposal outlines plans for an installation of double the capacity of the fish farm it is to replace which is nearer to Ardmaddy. It will include a substantial 3m high structure and represents a major intrusion in the channel.

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone wishing to read this briefing note in full could contact Mr Kennedy for a copy

AM raised ecological concerns in particular the issue of pollution for a farm of 2500 tonnes. AM quoted information which indicated that the pollution could be equivalent to the raw sewage of 50000 people and pointed out that this would be a matter of concern since although the tide in the area is fast the channel is narrow and shallow, and it is an area of marine conservation.

AM also raised the issue of the practice of shooting seals which would have a direct impact on tourism since the proposed farm will be near to a seal colony which attracts many tourists each year.

AM indicated that there have been many objections to the proposed fish farm and that there will probably be a hearing on the matter.

A member of the public asked if it would be appropriate for KKCC to pass a resolution to ask ABC for a full environmental assessment on the impact of the proposed fish farm, given the volume of objections and to avoid lengthy discussion at this meeting.

Angus Matheson of Lakeland Marine asked to speak. He stated that the viewpoint in Ewan Kennedy's briefing note is that the proposed fish farm will be very prominent. He also stated that he disputes this and asserted that it will not, in fact, be as visible as the existing fish farm that it will replace. The proposed farm includes 12 cages and a feed barge and the area of surface equipment will be 9500m². The existing farm comprises 18 cages and sheds and has an area of surface equipment of 13400m². He went on to say that there will in fact be a reduction in the area of surface equipment.

Angus Matheson raised the issue of the site causing navigation problems and stated that the maximum distance from the shore for surface equipment is set at 150m. All other equipment will be underwater and the deepest installations will be at a depth of 6m. He stated that neither the Lighthouse Board nor the Coastguard have any objections to the proposed fish farm on navigation and safety grounds.

Angus Matheson responded to the issue of pollution by saying that the statistics mentioned were not true or accurate. He stated that all the calculations for pollution are in the planning application. He stated further that SEPA would not allow an installation which would generate the aforementioned levels of pollution. He reiterated that the information stating that the proposed installation would generate pollution equivalent to the raw sewage of 50 000 people was not accurate.

Peter Stott quoted from EK's briefing note that there is permission for 6 cages 10m x 10m. Angus Matheson explained that there appears to be confusion between an existing mussel farm (which presently occupies the site for the proposed salmon farm) and the proposed salmon farm. The farm presently existing in the Seil Sound is a mussel farm which comprises 6 rafts. The proposed farm for this site is a salmon farm which will comprise 12 cages in 2 rows of 6. The proposed salmon farm is a relocation from a site at Ardmaddy which has 18 metal cages. He referred all present to a map showing diagrams and site positions.

NM observed that the diagrams still seem larger in size than what currently exists and Angus Matheson responded that the area of surface equipment is actually less. A member of the public asked if it is correct that the proposed farm will produce twice as many fish. Angus confirmed that this is the case and the same member of the public asked how this comes to be if the site is smaller. He responded that the reason for relocating the site is to secure better conditions for the fish such as deeper water and tidal conditions. It is believed that this will help increase production.

Angus Matheson was asked by KKCC to forward a clear exposition of the dimensions of the site and what is involved in terms of the new and old sites. He agreed and reiterated that that seabed mooring area does not affect navigation in the channel. He went on to explain that a series of yellow buoys are navigation markers in the Seil Sound. The mooring area is nowhere near these yellow marker buoys. Planning requirements demand that the mooring area is specified clearly in the application. Meriel Tegner enquired whether the existing farm will be removed and Angus Matheson confirmed that it would. Meriel asked whether there would be any sheds at the new site and Angus responded that there would not. There would only be a barge. NM stated that the

application would go to Hearing and that he would talk to Richard Kerr the Planning Officer for an extension. Angus Matheson was asked whether he could give a time scale for the relocation operation. He answered that he couldn't give a time scale at this time but added that he did not want to cause any problems. Christopher Liversedge asked when the fish farm would need to be relocated in the future and Angus replied that it will be up to SEPA to police this. NM observed that pollution should be monitored and Angus answered that pollution has to be monitored. PC Jeremy Moore confirmed this and said that SEPA publishes all monitoring results. PC Moore asked Lakeland Marine to attend the next meeting of Seil Community Council.

Ian Tegner asked whether KKCC is going to put in a formal request that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out on the proposed fish farm. AM put this to the vote and requested a show of hands to determine whether KKCC should make this request. The result was 14 for making a formal request for an EIA and 7 against.

Peter Hammick (PH) objected that this result was not fully representative and that this motion should go to the whole community. NM responded that correct procedure had been followed and the vote to make a formal request for an EIA stood. PH objected further saying that the wider community should not be ridden roughshod over. NM said that KKCC is fully entitled to go with the vote, stated that he would talk to Richard Kerr asking about an EIA and closed the discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Notice of a mast at Musdale: this really concerns Kilmore not KKCC
- b) Notice of a proposed wind farm at Garraran. This primarily concerns Craignish
- c) A letter sent to Angus MacFadyen by mistake, regarding Raera Forest Scoping Report. This is not a full planning application but a report concerning the removal of timber, re-planting, roads and tracks and deer fencing.
Stuart Cannon (SC) asked whether this will affect our trunk roads and NM responded that it will be up to the ABC and the Roads Dept to monitor and regulate any disruption to the trunk road. AM added that we don't know enough to be able to comment about this yet. NM recommended that we do need to voice any concerns. Ian Tegner asked whether the timber extraction will be by road or sea and John Stannard observed that the access for timber haulage is at Blaren. PC Moore said that any haulage will be joining the main road from this access.
- d) Community Council Elections. There has been notice that any nominations must be in by 19th August. Judith Stannard asked whether anyone was standing down but there was no response. NM clarified that there must be 10 community councillors before the matter becomes one for public elections and that there are only 6 in at present. Judith Stannard asked if there is any apportioning of representation between Kilniver and Kilmelford. NM answered that this apportioning no longer applies.
- e) Beacon for the Diamond Jubilee. NM asked if anyone is interested in following this up but received no response
- f) NM has received a letter from the Royal Horticultural Society about possible participation of Kilniver and/or Kilmelford in Britain in Bloom. NM asked if anyone was interested in this and again received no response.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fiona Wylie brought up again an issue that she described as a problem. At the end of March a letter was sent on behalf of KKCC to the Planning Officer regarding Kames Farm and a series of planning applications submitted by the owners. Fiona Wylie stated that the letter made a mistake by referring to the fact that the applications were submitted on different dates and that this was "deceitful". Fiona clarified that all the applications had been submitted on the same date but not all of them were validated at the same time. Hence the different dates appearing on the applications. Fiona was away at the time of

the last KKCC meeting and, therefore, was taking the opportunity at the present meeting to put forward the suggestion that a letter of apology should be sent to the owners of Kames Farm.

NM responded that the reason no letter of apology had been written was that he had met with the Andrew Read and Anne Young the owners of Kames Farm and apologised in person on the day of the Hearing. He had also telephoned Andrew, after Fiona's continual complaints, and apologised unreservedly yet again. NM stated that he and Andrew Read had agreed that there was no need for any further discussion, the whole issue was finished. NM then said that this conversation was terminated. In response to further attempts by the floor in particular Fiona Wylie to continue debating this matter NM added that he was not willing to discuss it any further, that as Chair it was up to him to set the agenda and there would be no more discussion of this matter.

Fiona Wylie then raised the issue of the Community Council's representation of the community as a whole. NM responded that it is the duty of the Community Council to represent the majority. Fiona countered that the Code of Conduct says that Community Councillors represent the community as a whole. If an issue is carried by a very small majority she expressed the belief that both sides should be represented. She also pointed out that the opinion poll regarding the wind farm at Raera returned only a very small majority against the wind farm and said that those in favour of it were not represented at all. AM answered that the time lapse between the poll and the public hearing was nearly a year by which time opinions and the public mood had changed quite substantially and a far greater majority was against the wind farm. John Stannard gave it as his opinion that the matter of Raera Wind Farm was handled badly by the Community Council and the Councillors should not have made a judgement of opinion. NM responded that there was not time to keep on doing polls and that this is not a practicable approach. Councillor Elaine Robertson interposed saying that with all community councils it is the majority vote which decides an issue because this is democratic. Councillor Robertson stated that KKCC went with the majority but emphasised that any individual has the right to speak at a public hearing provided that the individual has submitted a written representation. Councillor Robertson added that if a group of individuals share an opinion it is usual for that group to appoint one of their number as spokesperson. Councillor Robertson stressed that a public hearing gives everyone an opportunity to express their view and concerns and she urged people to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Fiona Wylie said that it is really important to be democratic and that the representation of the Community Council reflects the views of the community. Councillor Robertson commented that it is not possible to submit two conflicting votes on an issue. Judith Stannard countered that Seil Community Council had said it would have to sit on the fence because the numbers of those for and the numbers of those against were so close.

Sarah Edwards (SE) observed that KKCC should have seen the summing up. AM said that this had not been possible because, having already given the representation at the hearing, she was invited, unexpectedly, to give a summing up which she had to do "ad lib". AM then emphasised that, when delivering the representation at the public hearing, at no time did she say that the community "objected" and that she was very careful not to use the word "object". She stressed that she had said that the community had "concerns". Fiona Wylie repeated that she was requesting that any representation should reflect the whole community.

SE observed that this is an experience that we have to learn from and that she herself has learned that she needs to speak up more.

NM interjected that 2 to 4 days before the public hearing about Raera he saw a document to the Public Protective Services and Licensing (PPSL) Committee advising that it was unimportant what Scottish National Heritage or the local communities had to say and telling the PPSL to ignore the community councils as irrelevant to the application. Fiona Wylie tried to interrupt but was silenced by NM. Fiona apologised.

NM quoted from "Good Practice Guidance For Local Authorities and Community Councils" item 7 "Campaigning On Issues"

How a community council might decide which issues it will consider, and how to pursue them.

' You will be presented with a large variety of issues and problems. Some will affect a single member of the community, some the entire community and beyond. Your Community Council must try it's best to make a balanced decision on what issues it will tackle and how:

Start by applying the 'community benefit' test. Your actions should be directed towards securing the most positive results for the greatest number of local people, as long as the minority does not suffer in the process. When faced with a number of issues, give first and most attention to those that affect the most people and on which you can realistically have a positive effect.....'

NM stated that we have to go with the majority and go with it strongly. Fiona Wylie answered that she was requesting a balanced approach and said that at a public hearing views should be reflected in a balanced way. NM responded that he resented her implications.

Grant for Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Association: AM said that she had recently been made aware that many community associations get grants from their local councils. KKCA does not get a grant and AM asked Councillor Robertson why not. Councillor Robertson undertook to investigate this.

Council Elections: Councillor Elaine Robertson entreated all present to consider standing for their community council, stressing the need to maintain community councils. Councillor Robertson emphasised that a community council has a statutory right and that it is vital to keep KKCC going, pointing out that debate is good for everyone. Councillor Robertson exhorted all present to keep KKCC up to strength.

Re-cycling bins: ON behalf of KKCA, AM asked Councillor Robertson if it were possible for the re-cycling bins to be moved to the area near the water processing plant to free up the Village Hall car park. Councillor Robertson responded that this should be all right as long as Scottish Water does not have any problems with the bins blocking or endangering access. If Scottish Water agrees to this then ABC will move the bins accordingly.

Dorothy Bark said she felt that moving the bins to this site could block the road and cause problems and said that the bins might be better sited on the land across the road from the Village Hall which belongs to Mr Tilly. AM said she has investigated this possibility but so far made no progress with the owner of the land.

Holes in the verge, Degnish Road: Jenny Moody raised the matter of holes dug in the grass verge along the Degnish road about twelve months ago. One of these holes has not been filled in and the traffic cone placed to warn of this hole has disappeared. The hole has further become obscured by grass cuttings left after the verges were cut and is now quite dangerous to pedestrians. Councillor Robertson responded that ABC Roads Dept has the authority to look into this and ask Scottish Water to sort it out and undertook to pass this on to the Roads Dept. CL added that the hole needs a cap on it.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting and the AGM of Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council will be held in the Kilmelford Village Hall on Tuesday 11th October at 8.00pm. NM thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Georgina Dalton thanked NM. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

KILNINVER AND KILMELFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AMENDED DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the above council was held on Tuesday 11TH October 2011 at Kilmelford Village Hall, starting at 8.10pm following the AGM

Present: Nigel Mitchell (NM) Chair, Antoinette Mitchell (AM) Planning Officer, Lucy Files (LF) Secretary, Matthew Anderson (MA) Treasurer, John MacLean (JM), Sarah Edwards (SE), Colin Clark (CC).

Also in attendance were Councillors Neil MacKay and Duncan MacIntyre and Chief Inspector Brian Auld and 24 members of the public.

Apologies: Stuart Cannon, Peter Hammick and ABC Councillor Elaine Robertson.

Minutes of the previous meeting: All present were given the opportunity to read through the draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th August 2011. The minutes were taken as a true and accurate representation of the meeting and approved. Proposed MA seconded JM

Declaration of Interest

No conflict of interest or involvement with any items on the Agenda was declared.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Clachan Wind Farm

Mr Young's application is to be submitted at the end of the month. The public has been notified by leaflet about a drop-in session regarding the proposed wind farm.

2. Wind Farms – General

The Chair is to meet with a representative of the Scottish Community Foundation (SCF) on Friday 14th October. The purpose of the meeting is to look at the possibility of setting up a community Trust to manage any funds coming into the community as a benefit of a wind farm being established in the area. There would appear to be benefits to having a Trust but the SCF Rep does take his fees from the developer.

3. Ardmaddy Fish Farm

KKCC is unable to take any action at present. Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) Planning Department appears to be unhappy with the application as it stands and there is debate over accuracy regarding elements of the application. The applicant has been invited, by ABC Planning Department, to address the science and accurately assess the potential environmental damage prior to submitting the application. Questions were raised about SEPA's involvement and level of concern but it was pointed out that SEPA cannot act in this matter until they are asked to do so although Lakeland Marine (applicant) has been asked by ABC to approach SEPA. Cllr Neil MacKay pointed out that there will be many pre-application discussions between the applicant and the Planning Department and added that he is fairly certain the matter will go to a hearing. He urged the community to inform itself and, accordingly, take the opportunity to object or support the application at hearing.

At this point a brief overview was given of the website www.savescilsound.org.uk. This is an ongoing project providing information about issues surrounding the development.

4. Training for Community Councillors

NM raised the issue that Community Councillors have absolutely no training and the want of this is felt in particular with regard to dealing with planning applications the most contentious of which (at present) are those for wind farms and fish farms. ABC Councillors were asked about the possibility of training for Community Councillors. The ABC Councillors responded that no training courses are in the pipeline and advised drawing on the knowledge of people within the community who have relevant training and experience. KKCC was also advised to approach elected Councillors or Planning Officers for specific information. A general comment was that Marine Planning in particular is a fairly new area of planning and everyone involved is on a steep learning curve.

5. Planning Applications

Ref. No: 11/01961/NMA. Land at Eleraig, Kilninver, PA34 4UX, amendment for revised access position relative to 2 dwelling houses – pending decision

Ref. No: 11/01835/NMA. Lagganbeg, Kilninver, PA34 4UU, amendment for minor changes to self-catering unit and outbuilding – application withdrawn

Ref. No: 11/01719/TPO. Melfort Pier and Harbour, Kilmelford, PA34 4XD, proposed felling of 8 trees, lopping of 13 trees and re-planting of 22 trees – application permitted.

Ref. No: 11/01594/PNAGRI. Land adjacent to Clure Cottage, Kilninver, PA34 4UU, erection of agricultural shed – application permitted.

Ref. No: 11/01490/PP. Land SE of Tigh Na Bata, Kilmelford, PA34 4XA, erection of single storey dwelling house with septic tank and new access – pending consideration.

Ref. No: 11/01471/PP. Land NE of Ardenstur, Kilmelford, erection of boathouse and office facility – pending consideration.

Ref. No: 11/01407/PP. Melfort Pier Restaurant, Kilmelford, PA34 4XD, change of use from restaurant to dwellinghouse – application permitted.

Ref. No: 11/01066/MFF. Port N Morachd, Seil Sound, relocation of Ardmaddy fish farm – pending consideration

Ref. No: 11/01164/PP. Barndromin, Knipoch PA34 4QS, installation of micro hydro scheme – application permitted.

6. Correspondence

A letter from Fountains regarding Forestry UKWAS Certification. The letter invites KKCC to comment on their Forest Management Practices as part of a re-evaluation process by Control Union Certifications.

A questionnaire from the NHS. SE to complete this on behalf of KKCC.

7. Community Policing

Brian Auld (BA), Chief Inspector at Oban Police Office, (Ch Insp BA) presented a short report on incidents relevant to Kilninver and Kilmelford in the past year as follows:

4 single vehicle accidents - 1 in Kilninver and 3 in Kilmelford.

9 speed Checks in Kilninver area resulting in 8 drivers being charged and 17 warned. No reports to the Procurator Fiscal.

2 speed Checks in Kilmelford with no charges or warnings and no reports to the Procurator Fiscal.

0 crime reports and no reports of any acts of violence, disorder or dishonesty.

There have been an increased number of reports of diesel spillage and there has been concern from the public about these.

There were requests from the floor for better information about road closures and concerns about all calls being routed through Glasgow. More speed checks in Kilmelford were requested. Chief Insp BA advised that he would leave a direct contact number for the Oban Police Office and that speed checks in Kilmelford would be increased

The issue of anti-social behaviour was discussed. Chief Insp BA advised that where possible it is preferable for individuals to resolve matters between themselves. If police involvement is thought necessary then an incident should be reported at the time of occurrence so that patterns can be perceived and analysed which in turn helps with proactive, preventive policing.

Finally the Chief Inspector apologised for the advertising of a meeting with the community at 7pm this evening. This was in error although he will arrange such a meeting; date to be determined.

8. Fence Around the Electricity Substation

Concerns were raised about the inadequacy of the fence enclosing the electricity substation sited at The Glebe. The fence is in the form of a wooden stockade with horizontal straps to the outside and is inviting for children to climb. Young children have been observed trying to scale the fence and recently some teenagers succeeded in scaling it to gain access to the roof of the substation. This matter is of utmost importance with regard to safety and requires urgent attention. ABC Cllrs were asked for their help in resolving the issue forthwith and ABC Cllr DM said he would look into it.

9. Street Signs

ABC Cllr DM reported that MacLeods will put up signs for The Glebe when the new development there is finished. Other areas in Kilmelford lacking signage are Cuilfail Terrace, Cuilfail Cottages and Cuilfail

Garden. It was pointed out that Cuilfail Garden is private ground and the people who live there do not necessarily want signage. ABC Cllr DM undertook to ascertain who is responsible for signage. He also reported that he was unable to locate a dropped kerb which was reported at a previous meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Training

There is to be a training evening for Community Councillors at the Regent Hotel in Oban on Wednesday 26th October. NM and AM said they would attend.

Grass Cutting

Many thanks to Duncan MacMillan and Linda MacKinnon for cutting the grass beside Kilmelford Church.

Email from Fiona Wylie regarding transparency

The email referred to asks for a hard copy of the speech delivered by AM at the Raera Wind Farm Hearing

This issue has been raised previously so AM reiterated that a hard copy of the speech does not exist. AM then delivered a detailed response which she had prepared in answer to FW's emails the salient points of which are:

- a) AM wrote a letter to the planners of behalf of KKCC to the Planners. This letter was approved by all KK Community Councillors, was printed on line and was also printed in its entirety in the Kilninford News.
- b) The speech delivered at the Raera Hearing was based on the letter and did not contain any additional information. The only alterations were of a grammatical, syntactic nature to facilitate delivery of the content as a speech rather than reading a letter aloud.
- c) The summary was delivered ad lib because AM was unaware that this would be expected. Thus no hard copy exists or has ever existed. The only additional information in the summary was that an email had been issued by NPower advising that the PPSL should ignore community opinions and this information had only come to light within the day before the Hearing.

Community Councillors commented as follows:

- that the matter of Raera Wind Farm has been dealt with and finished
- that the issue of the speech and summary has been answered more than once
- that it is contrary to guidelines and protocol to allow this matter to take up any more time at KKCC meetings

It was further ascertained that ABC, as the public body convening the Raera Hearing, holds minutes of the proceedings. While these are not a verbatim transcript they do provide a detailed record of what took place and would include an outline of AM's summing up. These minutes are available on the ABC website. It was also pointed out by Dr Allan Henderson that it is the responsibility of the public body calling any meeting or hearing to keep records of the proceedings. It is not the responsibility of the person delivering the speech or evidence. MA then proposed a motion that this document is not going to be discussed any longer and LF seconded this.

Solar Panels

Fiona Wylie is putting together information on solar energy photovoltaic panels and is willing to provide information to anyone interested.

Draft Minutes and Agenda

There was a request from the floor for the draft minutes to be emailed to anyone who has submitted their email address. KKCC responded that it is planned to publish the Draft Minutes on the Arduaine, Kilniver and Kilmelford website and ways are being looked at to make the draft minutes more accessible

Garnering public opinion

This issue was raised by a member of the public. KKCC responded as follows:

- this has been discussed among the KK Community Councillors and it has been decided that KKCC will not be proactive in gathering opinions and responses from the community.
- KK Community Councillors will be available for members of the public to contact
- KKCC will invite opinions from the floor and will take opinions from any members of the public provided that they leave a name and address

Declaration of Interest

ABC Cllr Duncan MacIntyre cautioned that if there is to be a Declaration of Interest at each meeting then Any Other Competent Business must be managed so that declared issues are not discussed.

Village Hall

AM announced that the new tables and sixty of the new chairs have arrived; also insulation of the loft space above the Lesser Hall and other ancillary rooms, including the toilets and kitchen, is to go ahead within the next few weeks. The Lesser Hall is to be fully insulated using a similar method to that used in the Main Hall. The whole project is being funded by "Awards For All".

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council will be held at Kilmelford Village Hall on Tuesday 13th December at 8.00pm. NM thanked all present for attending. Deidre Campbell-Gibson proposed a vote of thanks to KK Community Councillors for their hard work. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

KILNINVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a busy time at school recently. There was a really good response to our Roald Dahl Dress up day, all children came dressed as their favourite character and lots of mums, dads, grandparents and friends came along to participate in the activities the children in P4-7 had arranged. Quizzes, sports events, dance routines and a picnic with BFG themed foods kept us on the go. You can view photos of the day on our website if you go to www.kilniverprimary.com – there is even one of Mrs Scott dressed up as Willy Wonka in the Great Glass Elevator that we built from K-Nex.

We have taken tables at local craft fairs, and while preparing a range of items for sale, have learned lots of new skills and put lots of our basic maths and language skills to good use. Many of you will have seen our wares at the Kilmelford Hall or at the Childrens Fair at the Corran Halls. Many thanks to those of you who supported us by purchasing the recycled cakestands, snowmen biscuits, sugar mice, reindeer dust, tablet, cupcakes, cushions, dream catchers, paintings etc – as you can see – quite a list!

Following the success of last years event we will once again be hosting the Family Fling for a Fiver. It will be in the Skippinnish Hall on the 1st Feb 2012.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 1 st December	Whole school to Pantomime at Corran Halls to see Cinderella.
Monday, 5 th December	Visit and talk by Dental Hygienist
Wednesday, 14 th December	Xmas Party – with a special surprise this year
Monday, 19 th December	Nativity Play in the school – All welcome
Wednesday, 21 st December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday, 22 nd December	School Closes.
Monday, 9 th January	School reopens.

Berni McMillan

ARDUAINE GARDEN SUPPORT GROUP

September Newsletter

Firstly apologies for the lateness of this – however there is a very specific reason. As I am writing this (Friday afternoon, 23 September, when I should be working on something else!) the NTS have formally announced that Arduaine Garden is saved, and I believe will be announcing this as a special achievement at the AGM tomorrow.

This of course is excellent news – a combination of endowment money reaching over £2m (mostly the NTS's fundraising, and generosity of garden patrons), and visitor numbers / revenue up (part AGSG, part Loch Melfort Hotel, part NTS) means that the deficit between revenue and income can now be sustained. It also gives time to continue all the work being done to raise the Garden's profile, because it doesn't stop here.

The AGSG has continued its events in the Garden, though slightly inclement weather (rain) did reduce numbers at our Summer Festival below what we had hoped (there is a lovely photograph somewhere of about 10 people sitting on chairs in the rain listening to the live music – which was under cover - just!) somewhat. However it is encouraging that stallholders are and will come back, and we hope to have these now as regular annual events. This year we still have the Halloween event (new for us) at the end of October, and it is strongly rumoured that Santa Claus will return to the garden a week before Xmas. And interestingly, whilst the events have been designed primarily to raise the garden's profile, we have also been able to donate nearly £2500 to the garden to date from raffles, refreshments and donations from stallholders.

Next year we hope to vary the activities, and are pursuing ideas such as concerts and plays (more cost to put on, but potential to make money) – any feedback from you would be welcome as this is slightly unknown territory for us, but we do want to have a range of activities, and not just the same each time. However the reason for keeping doing this is, whilst the garden is saved, any further increase in visitor number and revenue will always help. In addition the NTS commissioned a report on the future of the garden (which the AGSG had input to) which raised a number of issues (a more welcoming reception, road signs etc) and some good ideas (increasing retail, plant sales etc). Whilst these should increase revenue, they will require a certain amount of capital investment (from a few hundred pounds to develop the planting on the path down to the garden, to “quite a lot” to extend and/or relocate the reception area), so we all need to continue to show that Arduaine is worth it. On this last point, if any of you have any ideas or comments on the garden and its surrounds, please let me know, as we are at a time when all can be considered.

Membership is now over 200 (around 300 actual members) and still continues to grow – thank you all again as it is the revenue for this which allows us to pursue what we need to do. Recent purchases included Summer Festival banners to complement the Xmas ones – whilst these were quite expensive (around £300), they can be used very year – certainly people can see them!

Our AGM is coming up on Wednesday 7 December again at Kilmelford Village Hall – those who can please note in your diary, as now the garden is saved, we may need to think again about our role as a Group, whether we want to stay separate, or become a “Friends of” as other gardens/properties have, but then be tied more closely to the NTS – again any feedback from yourselves will be useful.

So once more thank you everyone for your support – it does seem quite a short period since we started this in April 2009, but I think that all of us have achieved a lot – well done!!

Rick Potter
Secretary – Arduaine Garden Support Group
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News from Arduaine Garden – September 2011

Not the best summer in living memory really! As I write on the 23rd September the rain is pouring down on to a very wet garden, with flowering border plants lying flat on the ground or broken of at half-mast! I've not seen anyone in the garden today, but there's always the afternoon! Visitor numbers started well this year but have dropped more recently and we've had a pretty quiet period for a while. Cary is out there putting the finishing touches to yet another huge bonfire – we've been pruning shrubs along the Cliff Path this week and the bonfire heap has built up rapidly. We've begun to build our fires as we go along, with a dry central core protected from the rain, so that even on a day as wet as this it's easy to get the fire going quickly.

Everyone's talking about a wet summer, but on this side of the country it really hasn't been that bad. Until a few weeks ago we were actually fairly dry, with the soil moisture only penetrating an inch or so. Back in July I thought that the weather was moist enough to allow me to split a number of clumps of various candelabra primulas but I ended up having to water them several times a day for a week or more! The level of our ponds is always a good indication of rainfall and it's only recently that they've filled up and as always, the rain doesn't know when to stop!

Many plants have not really recovered from the May gale, with a lot of brown foliage still around, particularly on the ferns. Just to add insult to injury the gale on 12th September didn't exactly improve matters, though we got off more lightly than I had expected and the front moved more to the south by all accounts. Damage was limited to much debris and another round of battering for our poor old herbaceous borders but in spite of that we've had a good display from kniphofias, or red hot poker, and the lovely agapanthus. If the weather would give us a chance then we still have asters and aconitums to come so there's still potential for colour for quite a while yet.

We had a group of people from the NTS Glasgow Conservation Volunteers here for a weekend in August and working alongside our First Gardener Robert Carroll they managed to remove a huge layered plant of *Rhododendron ponticum* from the centre of the Lower Garden. This was cut down and burnt, and the stumps winched out wherever possible, leaving a huge space for redevelopment. Gardeners are being encouraged to remove this plant wherever possible as it's a host for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the dreaded Sudden Oak Death, and is better gone! It's also very invasive anyway and rapidly overtakes other plants if not checked.

Talking of Sudden Oak Death, we were rather disappointed to receive news of three positive plants earlier this month, the first since October last year. One of them is actually an oak – our first, but the evergreen Holm Oak, *Quercus ilex*. Another was a very large hybrid rhododendron, both too big for us to dispose of ourselves. A great shame.

The difference between west and east was brought home to me forcibly recently when I attended the NTS Head Gardeners' Meeting, held this year in Aberdeen. We visited Castle Fraser, Crathes and Drum and the fine borders of upstanding plants were glowing in the sunshine! I began to make a mental note of what was in flower, only to realise that there was a great similarity to those that we grow here, although ours had already finished and gone or in some cases blown down! I'm constantly being reminded of the value of a good shelterbelt; during the May gale there were places up in the woodland here where not a leaf was stirring, in spite of the storm-tossed ocean a couple of hundred yards away!

We find ourselves looking forward to a new spring! Next year can only be an improvement on this one! As ever, we're delighted to meet members of the Support Group in the garden – there's always something going on! I'm at 01852 200366 or mwilkins@nts.org.uk should you wish to contact me for any reason. Please don't forget that volunteers are always welcome – whatever skills you have, there'll always be a place for you!

All good wishes, Maurice.

POPPY SCOTLAND COLLECTION

This year's poppy collection raised the grand total of £434.45 in the Kilmelford and Kilninver area.

USEFUL INFORMATION

EASDALE MEDICAL PRACTICE

Normal working hours for phone calls are 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday to Friday. Tel: 01852 300223.
In case of emergency outside normal working hours, dial 999 for an ambulance. For health advice, phone NHS 24 Tel: 0845 24 24 24.

The Surgery will be closed as follows:-

Monday, 26th December, 2011

Tuesday, 27th December, 2011

Monday, 2nd January, 2012

Tuesday, 3rd January, 2012

MELFORT CLUB FACILITIES – CLOSURES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

As our check-in days move temporarily to allow for Festive bookings, the Swimming Pool will be closed in the evenings ONLY on the 10th - 15th of December 2011 inclusive, opening as normal on Friday, 16th December 2011 at 8.30am. All members of the community are welcome to use our facilities from 10th – 16th December inclusive during Community week.

The Swimming Pool will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day and during our annual maintenance from 5pm on Friday, 6th January, 2012 until Saturday, 21st January, 2012 when it will re-open at 8.30 a.m. Please phone the office for information (Tel: 01852 200257).

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE BLOOD DONATION SESSIONS 2012

Tel: 0845 90 90 999 or 0141 357 7700

At the time of going to print these dates and times had not been confirmed so, please check.

Corran Hall, Oban

Wednesday, 8 th February, 2012	16.00 – 19.30
Thursday, 9 th February, 2012	13.30 – 15.45 and 17.15 – 19.30
Wednesday, 23 rd May, 2012	16.00 – 19.30
Thursday 24 th May, 2012	13.30 – 15.45 and 17.15 – 19.30

Community Centre, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead

Wednesday, 22 nd February, 2012	14.30 – 15.45 and 17.15 – 19.30
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Dates of blood donation sessions can also be found on www.scotblood.co.uk under "Where to Donate"

LOCAL WEBSITE www.kilmelford.com

A big thank you to Alex Tweedly who administers our local website and keeps the site up to date. Please e-mail editor@kilmelford.com if you have any articles, news etc. for the website and these will be posted on the website (subject to the suitability of the content) and forwarded to the Kilninford News team for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.

LOCAL DIRECTORY

The Directory was up-dated in October and is on sale at £1 a copy at Kilmelford Post Office or by contacting one of the Editorial team.

UPDATE

Simon and Sally Currin - Tel: 01852 200792

Colin Gibson - now has a Landline in addition to his Mobile number. Tel. No. 01852 200204

Tom Mackay - Delete landline and add Mobile: 07554 541 548

KILNINFORD NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM

Unfortunately, due to work and personal circumstances, David Turner, after this issue, will no longer be able to deal with the advertising for the newsletter. We would love to hear from anybody interested in taking on this role.

The newsletter is dependent on the income from advertisers to cover our costs and we are very grateful to all those who advertise with us. We, on the team, are all busy with jobs etc. and we put the newsletter together on a voluntary basis in the hope that it provides our community with useful information. We would really appreciate it if contributors and advertisers would take this into account and provide information promptly, without having to be chased, and in the format that is requested.

Georgina Dalton (Distribution) Tel: 01866 844212

Olwen Goulding (Treasurer) Tel: 01852 200393

David Turner (Advertising) Tel: 01852 200225 Mobile: 07775 720191

E-mail: david.turner@unit4.com

Fiona Wyllie (Editor) Tel: 01852 200227 E-mail: mail@fionaw.co.uk

Local website: www.kilmelford.com

Please hand in any adverts, letters, articles etc for the newsletter at the counter of Kilmelford Post Office. Alternatively, send them to the Editor, in plenty of time for the next issue. The team is very grateful to all those who kindly help with the printing and distribution of the newsletter.

ADVERTS

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