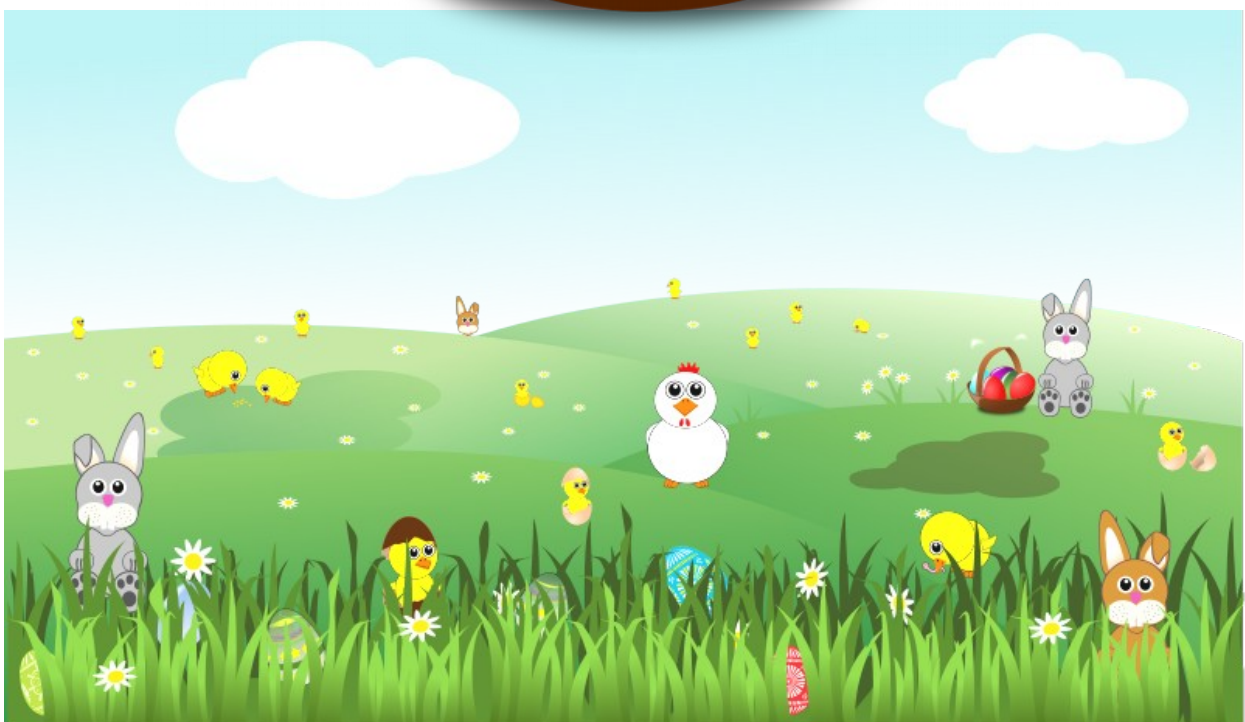


KILNINFORD NEWS

Issue 57

Digital Edition

Easter 2017



The information, opinions and views presented in the 'Kilninford News' reflect the views of the authors and contributors of the articles and are not necessarily those of the Kilninford News (KN) team. Publication of articles, advertisements or product information does not constitute endorsement or approval by the Kilninford News (KN) team. They cannot be held responsible for any errors or for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in the newsletter.

The Kilninford News is governed by the Constitution of the 'Kilninford Association 2015'.

Contact address: Kilninford Association 2015, c/o Warhelle Consulting Ltd.,
Fao Prof. Graham Wardle, Hawthorns, 79 Garton Drive, Lowton, Cheshire, WA3 2TR,
Tel.: 01942 51 3322, e-mail: warhelle@blueyonder.co.uk

Contributions to the Kilninford News

Contributions can be emailed or posted in our Kilninford Letterbox inside the Village Shop. Obviously we would like everybody to keep in mind that our newsletter is potentially read by all ages.

All contributions for the SUMMER EDITION should be with the News team by 1st July

KILNINFORD NEWS TEAM

Gill Philpotts, Iain Bark, Jane Rentoul, Astrid + Mark van der Kraan, Val + Graham Wardle

Please send any adverts and contributions to Astrid: astrid@glenbeg-it.co.uk

Adverts, articles, letters etc. can also be posted in our brightly coloured
Kilninford News Letter Box, located inside the Kilmelford Village Shop.

For any distribution issues please contact Gill: gill@thephilpotts.me.uk

Chair: Graham / Editors: Astrid and Iain

Your local KN contacts are:

- Gill Philpotts gill@thephilpotts.me.uk
- Iain Bark barkee@live.com
- Jane Rentoul j.rentoul@btinternet.com
- Astrid van der Kraan astrid@glenbeg-it.co.uk
- Mark van der Kraan
Glenbeg, Kilmelford

Current advertising rates:

B&B and self catering ads. £2 each

Commercial ads.: £7 ¼ page, £12.50 ½ page, £25 full page, £30 outside back cover

| Issue # | Edition | Deadline for contributions: | Estimated distribution: |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 58 | Summer | 01/07/17 | end of July |
| 59 | Christmas | 04/11/17 | end of November |

The Kilninford News can be viewed on-line: www.kilmelford.com

contacts for website updates : Iain Bark, Astrid & Mark van der Kraan
or use the contact form on www.kilmelford.com

Kilninford News by email

We are delighted that you continue to enjoy keeping up-to-date with what is happening in the "Kilninford" area and I wonder if you might be interested in receiving an electronic copy of the Newsletter in future? The electronic copy has exactly the same content as the paper version but is enhanced with some colour and comes to your "Inbox" on the day of issue PLUS we will give you advance warning of its arrival AND you can enlarge the print on an electronic version, making it easier to read! For us as a voluntary organisation it saves us the cost of printing and postage. If you would like electronic copies in future please send your email address to me gill@thephilpotts.me.uk and sit back and look forward to your next copy.

Gill Philpotts - Distribution

Kilninford News online

The digital form of the Kilninford News gets uploaded to the local website for all to read. This digital edition might contain more pictures / photos compared to the paper copy, as some pictures don't print well in black on white. Alex Tweedly, Iain Bark and Astrid + Mark van der Kraan try to keep the local website updated with any information / event they are made aware of. www.kilmelford.com

Local Telephone Directory

The Local Directory is for sale at £1 a copy at Kilmelford Village Shop or by contacting Georgina Dalton. Next directory will be out in September 2017. Please contact Iain Bark or Georgina Dalton with any changes for the next edition. **Georgina: 01866 844212** **Iain: barkee@live.com**



Cuilfail Hotel

Evening staff required for the summer season

Eat in or take away

Lunches 12 – 2.30, evenings 5.30 – 8.30

Fantastic coffee every day from 11.00

Bar open all day everyday

Functions catered for

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the LORD OF THE ISLES

Stunning views overlooking Craobh Marina, the Corryvreckan Whirlpool and the surrounding islands with arguably the finest sunsets on the West coast.

Lord of the Isles bar, restaurant & stores is located in the beautiful little village of Craobh Haven just in-between Oban and Lochgilphead. We are open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week and have the enviable reputation for offering a scrumptious menu incorporating fresh shellfish, prime meats, extensive vegetarian options and gluten free desserts.

FRIENDLY, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HELPFUL STAFF

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CHILDREN'S MENU AVAILABLE

DOG FRIENDLY

LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND TENNIS WITH BTSPORTS

POOL TABLE AND MORE!

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USEFUL INFORMATION

Easdale Medical Practice: The Surgery, Clachan, Seil, **01852 300223**
www.easdalemedicalpractice.scot.nhs.uk

| | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Consultations: Monday + Wednesday | 9.30 - 10.30 am | 4.00 – 5.00 pm |
| Tuesday + Thursday | 9.30 - 10.30 am | |
| Friday | 8.30 - 10.30 am | 3.30 – 4.30 pm |

Late appointments possible on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm, please phone
The surgery is open from 9 am till 12.30 pm Monday – Friday and 2 pm till 5 pm (except Thursday) to receive phone calls and to dispense medicines.

The Surgery will be closed on Good Friday (14th April) and Easter Monday (17th April)

Lorn Medical Centre Oban: Soroba Road, Oban, **01631 563175** www.lornmedicalcentre.co.uk
Opening hours: Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 6.00 pm

The Lorn Medical Centre will be closed on Good Friday (14th April) and Easter Monday (17th April)

Out-of-Hours Medical Service: call NHS 24 on **111**

Emergency: call **999** (Chest pains and / or shortness of breath constitute an emergency)

Vets Oban: 13 Tweeddale Street, Oban, **01631 562876**

Vets Lochgilphead: Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, **01546 602240**

Power Cut: call **105** to report or get information about a power cut in your area

LIONS MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

This is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home who might be reassured to know that essential information would be readily available to the Emergency Services, should they suffer an accident or sudden illness. The scheme ensures that vital information is available not only to identify you, but to advise of relevant illnesses, allergies, medication and contact addresses.

When emergency services see medical information and personal details of a patient they can render safer and speedier First Aid by short cutting time-consuming fact-finding enquiries about the patient. A separate form should be filled in for each person concerned.

The information is held inside a small plastic bottle and kept in the fridge door. This is flagged up by strategically placed small labels inside front door and on fridge outer door which allows the emergency services to have speedy access to the helpful information.

Bottles are available from Kilmelford Shop or from Jane Rentoul 01852 200331



WHAT IS ON IN AND AROUND KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER

- 2nd April:** Table Top Sale and teas / coffees at Kilmelford Village Hall, 2 pm – 4.30 pm
Raising funds for Kilmelford Village Hall
- 2nd April:** Fire Fighters Charity Car Wash at Kilmelford Fire Station, 1 pm – 4 pm
- 2nd April:** Pebble Beach Studio open, 2 – 4 pm (see page 39)
- 2nd April:** Spring Community Celebration at Kilmelford Church, 5 pm.
- 20th April:** The Healthy Villages Project meets at Kilmelford Village Hall, 10.30 – 12 noon
- 6th + 7th May:** Kames Bay Open Garden, 1.30 pm – 5 pm (see page 30)
- 27th + 28th May:** Maolachy Open Garden, 1 pm – 6 pm (see page 31)
- 25th June:** Summer Community Celebration at Kilmelford Church, 5 pm.

Music Night: Mondays from 8.45 pm at The Shower of Herring

All welcome to come and join in, free entry. Musicians – bring along your instruments. Food served till 10.30 pm.

Yoga Class: Tuesdays 6.30 – 7.45 pm at Kilmelford Village Hall

Open class, all welcome. Contact Karen (yoga teacher): 07793653080 or isleyoga@gmail.com
www.isleyoga.net (see page 22)

'Crafts and Things': Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon

For anyone interested in embroidery, tapestry, sewing, knitting, crochet and other similar crafts, meetings are in the Kilmelford Village Hall. £2.00 per person for each session.

Contact: Toni Mitchell 01852 316151 or Olga Salmond 01852 200787

Mothers and Toddlers Playgroup: Wednesdays 1.30 -3 pm at Kilmelford Village Hall

All preschool, babies and bumps welcome. We get to have a chat and a cuppa while the kids play or do crafts. It would be great to see more parents / grandparents and their little ones. Holidaymakers are also more than welcome, it's a great way to spend a rainy Wednesday afternoon. We look forward to seeing you there. **Contact: Ann af_robbs@hotmail.co.uk or Georgina 01866 844212** (see also page 29)

Gin & Whisky Tasting: Wednesdays 6.30 – 7.30 pm at The Shower of Herring

Come along and try gins in a completely different way, or try whiskies with a professional. Olwen and Fergus will tell you about the history and methods. £14 per person.

Please book through Melfort Village: 01852 200257

Melfort Ukuleles: Wednesday evenings at Craignish Village Hall

Beginners/Slow Session 6.50 – 7.25pm. Children welcome (free) when accompanied by paying adult (3 children max per adult). **Main Session: 7.30-9.00pm** Followed by refreshments. Spare ukuleles available to borrow. £4/person £6/couple.

Contact: Sarah Whittle 01852 500790 or email sarah@musicforlife.info

The Healthy Villages Project: 3rd Thursday each month in **Kilmelford Village Hall**, from **10.30am – 12.00 noon**. See page 22 for all the information. Contact Mairi Fleck: 01631 564422

Art Group: Thursdays

The group meets **weekly on Thursdays** from 2 pm – 4.30 pm in the Kilmelford Village Hall (small hall). All welcome. £2 per session. Contact: **Agnes McColl Tel.: 01852 200365**

Country Dancing: Thursday 8 pm – 10 pm at the Kilmelford Village Hall

All welcome. You can come and join us at any time.

Contact: **Bob Fleck Tel.: 01852 200258 E-mail: rfleck@btinternet.com**

Bagpipe Sessions: Thursday from 8pm at The Cuilfail Hotel

Come and play – or just listen!

Music Nights: Friday

All welcome to come and join in. Musicians, bring along your instruments.

Every **1st and 3rd Friday of the month**, from 9.30 pm at **Loch Melfort Hotel Tel.: 01852 200233**

Xplorers: Sunday

Every 3rd Sunday of the month the Xplorers meet at the Kilmelford Church at **4pm**. All children welcome, under 5's welcome too with an adult. Becky and the older Xplorers (S1 and older) are able to use the Kilmelford Village Shop Cafe (entry on the side of the shop) for hot drinks and chats.

For more information contact: **Georgina 01866 844212** or **Helen 01852 200789**

Coffee Mornings:

Coffee Mornings at Kilmelford Village Hall (**10.30 am – noon**) on:

Thursday: 6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd Aug

Everybody invited to come and enjoy the delicious home baking. Proceeds in aid of Kilmelford Village Hall and Church. Bring & buy bookstall. 100 Club draw (see page 22).

If you would like to help with the baking, please contact: **Diane Scaife 01852 200208**

Games Fest: Georgina and Helen can organise a “Games Fest” every so often at the Village Hall.

Young people / parents should let Georgina or Helen know what they would like to do in order to get the next Games Fest arranged. **Contact: Georgina 01866 844212** or **Helen 200789**

THE LORD OF THE ISLES

Events all through the season. 01852 500658 www.lordoftheisles.co.uk or facebook

CRAIGNISH VILLAGE HALL

For regular events such as Coffee Mornings, “Keep Fit” and “Knit and Natter” please check their website: www.craignish.org.uk/cvh or their Facebook page.

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

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM

A full programme of events can be found on www.kilmartin.org (also see page 34)

Information and bookings: Tel.: 01546 510278 E-mail: admin@kilmartin.org

OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY: 2nd July, 3 pm. Concert: Mendelssohn on Mull Festival Ensemble

St John's Cathedral, George St, Oban, PA34 5EQ For more info: www.obanmusicociety.org

Knipoch Hotel By Oban, Argyll



Open To Non-Residents For Dinner



Tel: 01852 316251

Fax: 01852 316249

www.knipochhotel.co.uk



Birdwatching and the Life of Faith

Since coming to live in Argyll I have been very conscious of the amazing bird life that surrounds us. I am also aware of how little I know about it. I was delighted recently to acquire the Argyll Bird Club book “Birds of Argyll” so now I have no excuse for not being better informed.

Those with more experience of birdwatching know that it often involves long periods that are very uneventful. You can spend a long day sitting in the rain with nothing much happening. But you remain on the alert. And there might just come the moment that T.S. Eliot described as “the king-fisher’s wing” flashing “light to light”. And then you know that it has all been worthwhile.

The life of faith is similar. Much of it can be quite humdrum, a matter of routine. It can feel at times very uneventful – as if nothing much is happening. But the difference is that you are living with a certain expectancy. You are on the alert. You are attentive to the spiritual dimension of life. And from time to time there comes the moment when the “king-fisher’s wing” flashes into view. You catch the inspiration that makes it all worthwhile.

Faith, suggests Rowan Williams, means “learning a new level of attentiveness to all persons, places and things: looking at everything with the eye of expectancy, waiting for something of God to blossom within it: being in Christ’s company, learning attentiveness and practising this kind of still alertness: looking and waiting for the light to break through.”

Birdwatching calls for attentiveness. So does the life of faith.

**Kenneth Ross,
Parish Minister**

Stamp Appeal 2017

The money raised with the sale of stamps is a vital contribution to funding projects.

The Stamp Appeal 2017 will raise funds to supply the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) with much needed resources.

The Giffen Institute of Theology (GIT) has relocated to Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya, after violence erupted in South Sudan. Their library was burnt to the ground. This year’s stamp appeal will raise funds to supply the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) with the resources needed to get up and running again.

GIT provides students with the training needed for ministry with the PCOSS . It was established in 1974 by the PCOSS, and was their first theological training college. It continues to play a significant role in training people for the ministry, as 75% of PCOSS’ ministers were trained at the institute.

Please cut stamps off envelopes with 3 mm border and give them to Georgina Dalton, Mary Clark or leave them at the shop. Thank you!

Church of Scotland

We hold services every alternate Sunday in Kilmelford and Kilninver Parish Churches to which all are welcome. **Services are held at 12 noon.**

Sunday 26th March kilmelford Church

Sunday 2nd April kilninver Church

Sunday 9th April Kilmelford Church

Due to repairing the heating system at Kilbrandon Church, services may be held in Seil Island Hall.

Check Netherlorn website for up to date information: www.netherlornchurches.org.uk

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Maundy Thursday, | 13 th April | Kilchattan | 6.30 pm. |
| | | Kilbrandon | 8 pm. |
| Good Friday, | 14 th April | Kilbrandon | 12 noon |
| | | Craignish | 6 pm. |
| Easter Sunday, | 16 th April | Kilmelford | 8 am. Communion |
| | | kilbrandon | 10 am. |
| | | Craignish | 10.15 am. |
| | | Kilchattan | 11 am. |
| | | Kilninver | 12 noon |

4th June: joined service in Craignish (time to be confirmed), no service in Kilmelford / Kilninver

Kilmelford Church is in the middle of the village and the car park is behind the church. Kilninver Church is half a mile off the A816 road to Oban. Take the turning to Easdale. You can park along the roadside.

Xplorers Kilmelford

The Xplorers are following the theme of animals involved in the stories from the Bible:

19th Febr. Daniel & the lion / 19th March Pigs / **16th April Donkeys / 21st May Doves / 18th June Fish**

Xplorers meet at **Kilmelford Church** at **4 pm** for crafts & activities with refreshments & prayz time at 4.45 pm. All ages welcome. Children under 5 years of age accompanied by an adult please. A Summer picnic at Barnacarry beach is planned, the date to be confirmed depending on weather forecasts. Look out for posters & website information. www.netherlornchurches.org.uk

For more information contact: **Georgina 01866 844212** or **Helen 01852 200789**

Community Celebrations

Our thanks to Fergus Gillanders for keeping a good turn out of carol singers in order – no easy task, especially with an action “The Twelve Days of Christmas” carol. Also thanks to everyone who took part with contributions and musical accompaniment. The **Spring Celebration** will be on Sunday **2nd April at 5 pm.** in the **Kilmelford Church** and the **Summer Celebration** will be on the **25th June at 5 pm.**



FAMILY DISCOUNTS

GROUP DISCOUNTS

ALLAN'S

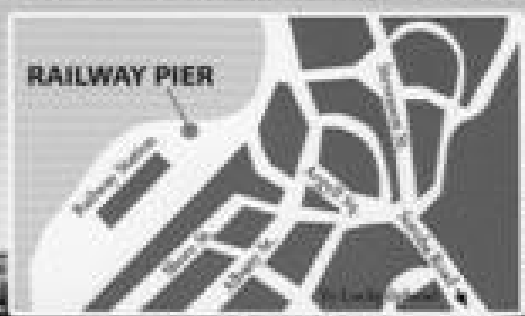
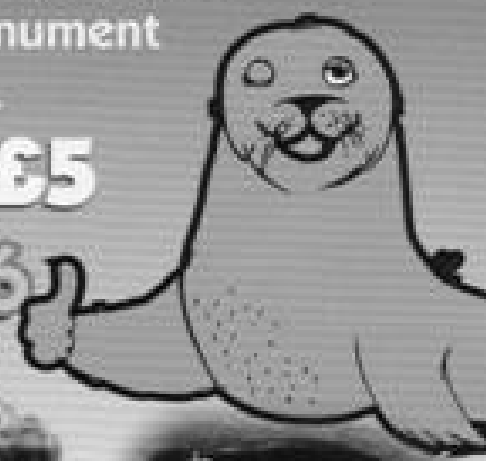
SEAL TRIPS

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Take a short cruise lasting about an hour.
See seals basking in their natural surroundings
Various sea birds and other wildlife, may be
seen as you pass Hutcheson's monument
and the historic castle of Dunollie.

Adult £10 | Child £5

TEL: 07732 554746



RAILWAY PIER



www.ObanBoat.co.uk

www.facebook.com/SealTripsScotland

Cuilfail Hotel

Take Away Menu Available until 8.30pm

Mains

Prices valid to 31/5/17

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Haddock & Chips | £7.50 |
| Lasagne & Chips | £7.50 |
| Beef Burger & Chips | £8.00 |
| With Cheese | £1 extra |
| With Bacon | £1 extra |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Steak & Ale Pie & Chips | £8.50 |
| Chicken Curry, Rice | £7.50 |
| Macaroni Cheese & Chips | £6.50 |
| Scampi & Chips | £7.50 |
| Chicken Goujons & Chips | £7.50 |

Pizza 12"

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Cheese & Tomato | £6.50 |
| Toppings: | |
| Ham, Salami, Tuna, Haggis | £1.70 |
| Mushroom, Peppers, onion & Pineapple | £1.30 |
| 12" Garlic Pizza, tomato & Garlic | £5.50 |

Sides

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| Garlic Bread | £2.30 | Garlic Bread with Cheese | £3.20 |
| Onion Rings | £3.00 | Mushy Peas | £1.50 |
| Chips | £2.50 | Cheesy Chips | £3.40 |
| Side Salad | £2.50 | Rice | £2.50 |

Soft Drinks & Alcoholic Drinks
Please ask for availability at the bar

01852 200274

Due to our alcohol licence

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



47NOON5810

Notes on previous events

Community Christmas Carol Singing

Members of the community got together on Friday 16th December in Kilmelford Church for some informal and enjoyable Christmas carol singing. A happy time was had by all, and it was a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Thanks to Georgina for making the arrangements – and for the sweeties, to Winnie for her usual prowess on the organ and to all those who brought their instruments or their voices to add to the occasion.

Fergus Gillanders

The Hogmanay Party at the Kilmelford Village Hall was once again enjoyed by many locals and visitors to our area. Thank you Neil Goulding for being the MC and thank you Philip & Ellen Coyle for your help in making this annual event a success once again. £486 was raised for the Kilmelford Village Hall funds.

Kilmelford's Got Talent Show, what a night it was!

The Kilmelford's Got Talent Show on the 4th of February was a huge success, raising £488.00 for Kilniver Primary School and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Thank you Sarah Edwards and Ruth MacCowan for organising this great event! Also a big thank you to Dorothy Bark, Jenny Moody and Georgina Dalton for running the kitchen: to all who donated baking and raffle prizes: to Alasdair Oatts for being the Compere and to the 3 judges, Dave Millward, Colin Gibson and Sue Johnson...it must have been a difficult task to pick the winners! Obviously thank you to all who came to the show to watch the amazing performances. The BIGGEST THANK YOU is due to the contestants who turned the evening into a great show, enjoyed by all: Gemma Strang & Benji, Olwen Goulding & Phil Coyle, The Melfort Misfits, The Fabba Girls, Amy Edwards and Imogen Oatts, Orla Wells, Joshua Mitchell, Fancy Pants and Neil Goulding...THANK YOU, YOU WERE ALL AMAZING!

Young contestants winner: Orla Wells...a wonderful, energetic performance!

"Not so young" contestants winner: Fancy Pants...people will wish they had been there to watch it!

Thank you all for coming along and throwing your money into the buckets to support the event! Emily, Cameron and Adam did a great job selling raffle tickets and shaking the money buckets, thank you so much! There will be a next time, so start getting your acts together to make the next talent show even bigger and better!

On behalf of "The money buckets"

Landline vs Satellite Internet in the Argyll Hills

When we first moved to Oban, both internet and mobile phone services were better than those we'd left behind in east Surrey. A year later our house in Scammadale was completed and we moved in. Despite ordering 9 months in advance and the wire already at our gate, the BT phone was connected just two weeks before and broadband two weeks after the move. At first we enjoyed 1.5mbps download speed, almost as good as we had in Surrey, and on the verge of streaming video though downloading from iPlayer gave smoother viewing. Soon the speed began to decline. I registered an interest in an 'Infinity' fibre connection but was told, because we have a wire connection direct from the exchange (i.e. no green box), fibre connection is problematic. A few months later T-mobile gave us a 'Signalbox' that connects to their network through the broadband connection and gives us a bubble of 3G connection in the house. However, we got into a regular routine contacting BT customer service every 3 months when the broadband speed had declined to 0.5 mbps, going through a 45-minute rigmarole of checking we have one computer connect by Ethernet cable to the router and BT running many tests before calling out their second line support. These technicians would call back sometime in the next 24 hours, sometimes even at the agreed time, to say they had either found no fault or had fixed one they had identified. Either way performance would improve in the next 24 hours, which it did with declining success.

After two years, we were getting 0.75mbps at best but generally around 0.5mbps. BT increased the broadband price by £2/month for this poor service, but offered to reduce it back down again if I would commit to another 12 months. Instead, I did a lot of slow (internet) research to find out what could be done. The UK government has promised to make a broadband connection better than 2mbps available to every household, the Scottish version of this is Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) and its many sub-organisations. Although BT has consistently promised to deliver a fibre optic solution, there has been no sign of it actually happening. The only alternative is Satellite internet. This offers speed 7 to 15 times faster than copper wire connection, but requires line-of-sight access to the satellite, incurs latency (delays while the signal travels out into space and back) and costs more. DSSB supports this through the 'Better Broadband Scheme' (BBS) which provides a grant covering the cost of satellite equipment and installation (£350-£400) which is the main additional cost over copper wire. Whilst the satellite providers quickly put the necessary administration in place, it took some time for the government's administration to catch up with its advertising, but eventually BBS issued an eligibility code for us to give to a satellite provider. Mysteriously BT's broadband speed rose to a consistent 1.5mbps at the same time.

Next we had to choose a provider. BBS provide a list of suitable providers, many are just resellers for the two main services Tooway and Avanti whilst there a few local schemes, at very advantageous prices, just not in our area. All the major schemes are priced by data volume, and 30 Gb/month comes out around the same total package cost as BT's ~~un~~speedlimited broadband. We tried Broadbandwherever first, who resell the Twoway service. They asked for a picture of the hill (Carn Dearg 437m) to the south of us to assess line-of-sight and promptly declared they could not provide a service. Next we tried Avonline who resell the Avanti service. Their satellite is further east where the hills are lower and further away. When the engineer came he had an app on his tablet that showed a view of the hills with the satellites in the sky, the Tooway satellite to the south was in full view but Avanti's was hidden behind the eastern hills. The engineer quickly switched us to Avanti's second satellite which is just by the Tooway satellite. After three hours of drilling, ladder climbing, bounding around in the loft, testing, etc. he declared the system working. Plugging my computer in showed a speed of 7.8mbps in a heavy down pour, in sunshine this rose to 11.5mbps. Revisiting the loft after the engineer had gone showed much of loft insulation had been lifted and left, and the data wire was just loose in the loft space.



We purchased a new router with the satellite service (not covered by the grant), which turned out to be an all swinging all dancing device, offering firewall, dual band Wi-Fi, VPN, VoIP, network disc, network printer and many other facilities. Having quickly migrated our computers and mobile phone data to the new Wi-Fi network we looked to streamlining and reducing the cost of our phones mobile and landline. The 3G Signalbox could

not live with the satellite broadband latency so we looked to move to Wi-Fi calling on our mobile phones. The good news was we could upgrade from the T-Mobile SIM-only contracts we had to EE SIM only contracts with same amount of service for £15/month less and get Wi-Fi calling at the same time. The bad news first that EE customer service is not brilliant and it took hours on the phone to get the right outcome from the upgrade (use the same name and bank account to avoid trouble) and second that our 18-month old HTC One M8 phones cannot support Wi-Fi calling. We had to go to the nearest EE shop (in Stirling) and buy a newer phone to get the feature working. This in turn caused EE customer service more confusion (their online accounts cannot handle pay as you go and pay monthly at the same time). When we got home we found that Wi-Fi calling does not work with high latency internet. To replace BT's landline service we picked VoIPtalk, where we could set up an account for nothing (though it costs a lot to call it), and then added a 1000 minutes package for £5/month and a local 01852 number. There were a few problems getting the VoIP configured in our new router, mainly down to the old BT Big Button phone being 2-wire presentation while everything else was 4-wire, but once it was all tested I placed the order to port our BT phone number over to VoIPtalk, which took about 10 days. Everything went fairly smoothly, but because the Wi-Fi calling does not work we have lost not only the use of mobile phones at home but also the ability to text.

The broadband cost has gone up, but 'landline' and mobile phone costs have come down. Overall our outgoings are slightly reduced from when we got our landline and broadband from BT, but now we have broadband that is at least 7 times faster, and generally better than 10 times. Downloads that used to take hours now take minutes. Delays caused by latency (~600milliseconds) are a nuisance but not excessive, similar to intercontinental calls on any phone, but are noticed on both phone and computer calls (e.g. Skype). Latency also means that interactive computer work runs with much the same response times (as increased speed and latency cancel each other out).

We have had endless letters and emails from BT bemoaning the fact that we have left them and that we should do the 'green thing' by returning the router to them. It is causing them grief, I can think of no one more deserving.

Brian Philpotts



**BOLLIWOOD
& THE SMIDDY**
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fionafraser2@hotmail.co.uk

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Package deals available

By appointment only phone
Melfort Village reception;
01852 200257

KILNINVER AND KILMELFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

All meetings are held at **Kilmelford Village Hall** at **8.p.m.** and of course all members of the public are very welcome to attend.

KKCC meetings this year: 11th April: 13th June: 8th August: 10 October: 12th December

Agenda and approved minutes of previous meeting are published on www.kilmelford.com Minutes are also available on noticeboards at Kilninver and at the Shop and Hall in Kilmelford and 2 printed copies are left at Kilmelford Village Shop.

Committee Members

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nigel Mitchell | Chairman | Nigel@themitchells.co.uk |
| Stuart Cannon | Vice Chairman Treasurer | stuartcannon@kames.co.uk |
| Toni Mitchell | Secretary | toni@themitchells.co.uk |
| Jane Rentoul | Minutes Secretary | j.rentoul@btinternet.com |
| Colin Clark | | colinclark11@btinternet.com |
| Roanna Clark | | roanna22@hotmail.com |
| Jamie McAndrew | | jamiemcandrew@kames.co.uk |
| David Wilkie | | ardrowan@yahoo.co.uk |

CARRAIG GHEAL WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The Wind Farm is owned by GreenPower who pay £1000 per megawatt output to the fund making an annual total of £46,000. The communities that are entitled to make a request to the Fund apart from ourselves are Kilmore, Taynuilt, Glenorchy and Innishail and Avich & Kilchrenan.

Each Community is entitled to up-to four £250 Micro-Grants a year and the major grants are worth up-to £7000. K & K have recently received 3 Micro Grants for gravel for the village hall car park: funding towards the Kilninford News and for new tubs and plants for roadside planting. The Major Grants are considered twice a year by the Steering Group and at our meeting in late March we will be reviewing 17 applications with a total value of over £90,000 so not everyone will be lucky. It is our regret that to date some very worthy applications have not met the full criteria for grant aid.

Both Groups and individuals may apply for Grants and the full conditions can be found on the website at www.carraigghealwindfarm.co.uk

The money is there - make sure you apply for it!

David Wilkie

Good News for KN!

We have been awarded another £250 by Carraig Gheal Wind Farm. They like the effort we make as a rural community to keep residents and visitors informed about what is happening in our area and they admire our enthusiasm. We'd like to thank the Wind Farm and also the Community Council for their support. This grant will make a great contribution to our production costs and enable us to look at other ways to support the community.

Excerpt from letter the KN team received from Phil Parkin, Director of GreenPower:

"... Awarding £250 towards the cost of production of your excellent newsletter...

I was lucky enough to have read last year's publications which really conveyed your production team's enthusiasm and shows what can be done in remote areas.

The information contained in these newsletters was interesting to me as an outsider, but must be so useful to your readers to keep in touch and up to date with events and issues in the local widespread community. Keep up the good work."

KN team

Re-Trunking the A816

At recent Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council Meetings, for various reasons, the possibility of re-trunking the A816 has been discussed by those in attendance. However, before the KKCC gets involved in lobbying Argyll and Bute Council or MPs and MSPs, it was thought that the opinion of the community be gained first. Further information about the complexities of re-trunking can be found on the Internet. The 'Argyll and Bute Connectivity and Economy Research Report' which can be found at www.hie.co.uk is a source of useful information and reference is made to the A 816 throughout the document.

There is a box in the Kilmelford Village stores in which your opinions may be left or email Jane Rentoul. (j.rentoul@btinternet.com), she is the member of the Community Council who has agreed to co-ordinate opinions.

Before any decision is made it may be worth appreciating that for the A816 to be adopted as a trunk road, like a private road being adopted by a local council, it has to meet certain stringent standards and requirements first.

(Antoinette Mitchell Secretary KKCC)

Petition for Loch Awe to be designated a National Scenic Area

It was very encouraging to hear that at the last Community Council meeting, support was voiced for the lodging of a Petition for Loch Awe to be designated a National Scenic Area. As we have gradually lost all previously protective designations which helped to keep damaging and excessive developments at bay, being a known and named National Scenic Area would help to re-establish that lost safety net. The Petition will be lodged during the week ending the 10th. March. There will be a 6 week opportunity, after it is published and a number allocated, for anyone wishing to make their support official, to send in their wishes to the Government Petitions Department. More details on how to do this will be circulated - but I should be happy to send details to anyone contacting me either by phone on 01866 844220 or by email to luanam@btinternet.com I am hoping that it will be possible to leave some copies of the published Petition with a support letter to sign, in the village shop. These I will then send in by post for anyone wishing to use this route for their support. Needless to say, it will be local support as well as that from the wider community which will flag up that this is needed. So numbers count. Thank you all again for your initial approval of the Petition. If we don't ask we certainly won't get - and this will in itself, raise the profile of our wonderful area.

Christine Metcalfe



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Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Community Safety

We seem to have, just about, made it through another winter leaving behind the problems the storms and dark nights can bring but we all still need to be vigilant in prevention of accidental fires in the home and, with the summer coming and the increase of road traffic, promotion of safe driving and Road Traffic Collision prevention. Here are a few tips that may help to keep you safer:

- It is essential that your home has a working smoke alarm on each level of the property. If a fire starts, this will give you and your family time to get to safety.
- Doors slow down the spread of potentially deadly smoke and flames, so it is important to remember to close them at night.
- Fire often starts in the kitchen and no-one should ever leave a cooker unattended while it is in use.
- It is also important to stay with any lit candles and make sure they are kept away from children and pets, and from curtains or other flammable materials.
- Using a mobile phone that isn't hands-free whilst driving is illegal. Even if you're using hands-free, talking on a mobile is distracting – we'd recommend that you turn it off or put it on silent, and put it out of reach
- Just drive – eating, drinking and smoking whilst driving reduces your reaction time
- Set your satnav or your sound system before you drive. If you need to adjust them, pull over in a safe place
- Always wear your seatbelt and make sure that your passengers do too
- Your braking distance is affected by weather conditions. If it has been raining or the roads are icy, reduce your speed

CPR Training

With the installation of the new defibrillators in Kilmelford and Kilniver there will be some training available in operating these pieces of equipment and it is hoped that, in partnership with the British Heart Foundation (BHF), I can provide CPR training to all who wish it. I hope to carry out the first training at the same time as the visit from the BHF for the defibs but I can return as often as required to make sure anyone in the community who wishes to gain the knowledge of how to perform basic CPR will have that opportunity. Further details will be published in the future.

In the mean time stay safe and if you wish to have a free Home Fire Safety Visit please call 0800 0731 999

Dave Millward, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



Your in-laws called, and are coming to stay
You tell your wife, Oh Nay ,Oh Nay !!



That noisy school friend wants to
visit in June.

Oh, please NO !! I will be doomed.



Your son, will soon arrive with bairns galore,
You and your wife are running out
the door.



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and the family dog too....



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Kilmelford Village Hall

KILMELFORD & KILNINVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chair: Astrid van der Kraan | Vice Chair: Ruth MacCowan | Secretary: Diane Scaife | Treasurer: Carla Banham

Committee Members: Matthew Anderson | Maggie Morsley | Elaine Mitchell | Jean Bowman

School Representative: Sarah Edwards

Caretaker: Colin Gibson 01852 200204 or 07825 987 696

Bookings + heating cards: Kilmelford Village Shop 01852 200271

The Kilmelford Village Hall is organized by the Kilmelford & Kilninver Community SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The minutes of the meetings of the Association, the constitution and the code of conduct as well as all other information regarding the Village Hall can be found on www.kilmelford.com For a copy of the (draft) AGM minutes or Chair Report please contact Diane Scaife: 01852 200208

The Kilmelford Village Hall holds a number of events and regular activities to which everybody is welcome (see "What is on in and around..." at beginning of this newsletter or check calendar page on the local website) There is a squash court, lesser hall, main hall with stage and balcony, suitable for indoor sports, dances, meetings etc. Well equipped kitchen, tables, chairs, sporting equipment, toilets / showers. Wheelchair friendly.

KILMELFORD & KILNINVER VILLAGE HALL CHARGES can be found at the hall, on the kilmelford.com website and at the Kilmelford Village Shop.

We, the newly appointed Hall Committee, would like to say a big thank you to the Members and Trustees who stepped down at the meeting on 10th January 2017.

Antoinette Mitchell - Chair
Fergus Gillanders - Treasurer
Lucy Files - Trustee
Ellen Coyle - Trustee

Thank you for all your hard work and commitment over the years of being involved with our Village Hall. Your efforts and time have been very much appreciated by us and the community.

Matthew Anderson, Maggie Morsley and Diane Scaife (Secretary) have remained on the committee, and we, the newly elected, are very grateful for their experience and continuity, also for their patience as we learn the ropes!!

**Thank you
Ruth MacCowan
Vice-Chair**

Kilmelford & Kilniver 100 Club

Don't miss out on the opportunity to win a cash prize every month. The Kilmelford & Kilniver 100 Club holds a monthly prize draw for just £1.00 per entry. There are 3 prizes every month, with half of the entry fees being returned as cheques to the winners. Any profit is put towards the running costs of the Village Hall.

Why is it called a 100 Club? Because it has approximately 100 members entered in each draw, but this is allowed to increase to any number. The higher the entries, the greater the prize money.

Joining is simple: £12.00 gives you 12 consecutive months of membership.

Please contact Diane Scaife for payment details. Tel. 01852 200208 or email: kscaife@btinternet.com

The Healthy Villages Project

The Healthy Villages Project is a partnership between North Argyll Carers Centre, and Argyll & Bute Third Sector Interface.

We are working together to bring people in rural Argyll together to share knowledge, learn new things, and help reduce loneliness and isolation.

Have some fun with people you know and people you don't know. We meet on the **third Thursday of the month in Kilmelford Village Hall, from 10.30am – 12.00 noon**. Free - tea, coffee & cake.

It's your group – what would you like to do?

Some ideas: Reminiscence, Mindfulness, Playlist for Life, Music & Dance, Gentle Exercise, Crafts, Healthy food ideas.

Call Mairi for more info: 01631 564422

Yoga Classes at Kilmelford Village Hall by Karen (Isle Yoga)

For many the doorway into yoga is through asana, the practise of physical posture. As we move our bodies through various poses we learn to observe our movement, with interest and without judgement - noticing what we feel, where we feel it, how we breathe with our movement and how that affects us. This attitude of gentle observation, developing moment by moment awareness, we can then take off the mat and bring into our daily lives, enabling us to act consciously rather than react, and become more present and receptive to life. The more we practise, the more we find ourselves able to connect with a stillness beneath the demands of routines and responsibilities, providing a respite and state of relaxation where it wasn't before. Regular practise of yoga also has many physical, physiological and psychological benefits which may include improved flexibility, strength and posture, complemented by increased vitality and mental clarity.

Karen is certified by the British Wheel of Yoga and registered with Yoga Alliance Professionals.

Open Class: Tuesdays 6.30 – 7.45 pm at the Village Hall in Kilmelford. All welcome. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one and a warm blanket. Drop-in £8 or 6 classes £45

For more information about the yoga class, please contact **Karen: 07793653080**

email: isleyoga@gmail.com

website: www.isleyoga.net

facebook.com/isleyoga

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Writers Competition:

We invite all our readers to write **“A SHORT STORY OR POEM, SET IN OUR LOCAL AREA”**.

There will be one prize for the best entry in each of these age groups:

Primary School Pupils: story (600 words) / poem (10 – 20 lines)

Winner receives £30 token to spend at Waterstones

Secondary School Pupils: story (1000 – 1200 words, not over!) / poem (14 – 20 lines)

Winner receives £30 token to spend at Waterstones

Adults: short story (1000 – 1200 words, not over!) / poem (14 – 20 lines)

Winner receives £30 token to spend with any Kilninford News advertiser

- **Entries will be screened for anonymity before submission to the judge.**
- **The story / poem should state your age group (for the judge)**
- **Please give your story / poem (= script) a title.**
- **Submit your script by 10th June 2017 at the latest:**

By email: Please state your name and the title of the script in the covering email + add your script (with age group) as attachment. Email to: **competition@kilninford.co.uk**

Hand delivered: Put your script (with age group) + a covering letter stating your name and the title of your script, in an envelope marked “writing competition” in the **Kilninford News letterbox**, located inside the Kilmelford Village Shop.

The judge for the writing competition is Hester Ross

Hester Ross lives in Kilmelford. She teaches Creative Writing with the Open University. She is currently working on a crime novel.

Some of her tips for writing a short story / poem:

Short story

- You want your opening to grab the reader’s attention and draw them in to your story.
TIP: Consider starting at the end then show how the character got to this point.
- Don’t try to pack too much in – you can keep the character list and timescale, short.
TIP: Something should happen – but perhaps not much.
- Long descriptions of setting will slow your story down. Put your character(s) into a well observed place and let them do their stuff. One or two specific details -including sensory details – can evoke a place economically.

- Choose a point of view and stick to it.
TIP: try getting right inside your character's head for a good voice.
- Some good dialogue can bring your writing to life.
TIP: make sure your characters talk to each other (or themselves) and not to the reader.

Poetry

- Generally aim for easy conversational rhythms. Be sure to read your poem out loud.
- Keep your language natural and contemporary and avoid archaic words such as 'thou', 'methinks' and 'wondrous'. Keep the word order natural. Reversals such as 'to the shore he rowed' can sound old fashioned or forced.
- Specific details and interesting, precise, well-chosen words will work better than abstractions such as 'anger' 'pain' 'love' 'pity'.
- One or two fresh images will add depth and interest to a poem.
- Do be quirky and interesting.

Winners will be announced in the Summer issue of the Kilninford News.

The Kilninford News Team hopes that lots of locals will submit their writing. The entries might be published in future issue of this newsletter / online. We might even be able to bundle all stories / poems to make a "Kilninford Family Bundle" to get printed and sell to raise money for local causes.

Best of luck with your writing!!

Terms and Conditions:

1. All entries should be the individual work of the entrant – and signed and entered with their parent's permission if under 16.
2. Only stories / poems that haven't been published before should be submitted.
3. Each entry remains the property of the entrant – but Kilninford News has the right to print extracts or the whole story with a suitable acknowledgement to the author in print or online.
4. There is no cash alternative to the prizes and the Judge's decision will be final.
5. It is a condition of entry that all entrants and their parents (if entrant is under 16) agree to these conditions.

Thank you Hester for agreeing to be the judge.

&

Thank you Waterstones Oban for sponsoring this competition.

Cherish Transport Fund at North Argyll Carers Centre

2016 has been another busy year for The Cherish Fund with regular applications from carers and people living with a variety of conditions, all of whom need transport to get them to where they need to be.

As well as direct applications from individuals, we have also received applications from Health and Social Care colleagues on behalf of individuals.

Case Study

An elderly couple, both with health issues were enabled to spend time together whilst one had to be in hospital. Without the intervention of the Cherish Fund there would not have been transport for the other to visit

This is a positive partnership and results in direct and rapid support when needed. The case studies shared, are just a few of the many people supported through the fund this year.

Case Study

A lady with significant health issues, had at short notice been given an early morning appointment in Glasgow.

Unable to travel on public transport and as hospital transport could not support this early appointment, the Cherish Fund was able to assist her.

Quotes from some using the fund include:

"I just couldn't afford to visit my daughter in residential care without your help"

"It was a weight of my mind and the nurses commented on how much calmer I was when I arrived for my appointment"

This fund makes a tremendous difference to people's lives. We work alongside existing transport options such as volunteer car schemes and NHS hospital transport to ensure we support people when we can.

Case Study

15 young carers were supported with transport to enable a respite break on Mull. The Cherish Fund enabled ferry and bus journeys to and from Camas Centre on Mull.

We are delighted to continue administering The Cherish Transport Fund from North Argyll Carers Centre and encourage anyone interested in finding out more about the Fund to get in touch with Morag or Jim at North Argyll Carers Centre on 01631 564422

or jim@northargyllcarers.org.uk

Our thanks to all who continue to raise funds in memory of Alyson Bowman and all those throughout the community who support their efforts and raise funds to ensure the Cherish Transport Fund continues to support the people of Oban, Lorn and the Isles.



Kilmelford Fire Station

As charity representative at Kilmelford Fire Station I would firstly like to congratulate Donald Smith for accepting the role as Crew Manager taking the reins from Dave Millward. Dave continues to keep us all thinking at regular pub quizzes raising money for the Fire Fighters Charity. Dave is always on hand to help us out when needed. We are all delighted to have Donald in this role as he is a fantastic leader and very supportive and encouraging we are lucky to have him. I would also like to welcome our new recruits Allan Strang, Keith Smith, Sarah Jane Edwards and Jeremy Clarkson for joining our crew and giving up their time to serve this community their commitment and hard work is very much valued and appreciated, it's great to see more volunteers willing to join up.

On behalf of everyone at Kilmelford Fire Station we would like to welcome you to our car wash on Sunday 2nd of April 13.00-16.00. We hope you can join us and help us raise money for our Fire Fighters Charity. We look forward to seeing you all there and thank you for all your support its very much appreciated.

Total raised in 2016 was £903.48 which is fantastic we would like to see if we could raise over that this year.

From all of us at the Crew of L71

Gemma Strang

Kilmelford Community Skiff

Hello Folks

"Gill Of Melfort" has wintered well at Kilmelford Yacht Haven, and for that we thank David and the team for taking such good care of her.

It is that time of year when we start to think about the season ahead for our beloved skiff.

We had a few new members last year, but would love to see more of you joining us for a row down the Loch.

For just £25 you and your family can have a years access to the skiff, whether its joining us for our organised rowing (Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon) or taking the skiff out at other times, as long as myself or Sarah know then that's fine.

Rowing is great fun and good for you too. You do not have to be an experienced rower we have all learnt while on the water, anyway life jackets are provided!!!

I am sure we will be organising some events, just like last year, with other skiff teams, these are great fun and usually involve a BBQ and a few drinks afterwards!!

If you are interested in joining our happy little group please contact Sarah at the village shop or Sue, it would be great to hear from you.

Looking forward to the rowing season, give us a wave if you see us on the Loch!!

Sue

Contacts: Sarah on 01852 200555 or Sue on 01852 200364

Life at Kilninver Primary has been busy, busy , busy.

We would like to thank everyone who came along to, and participated in, our Christmas celebration. The village hall was full of joy and was buzzing with the sound of children singing their rendition of 'Tinsel and Teatowels.' The event was a joint venture between Kilninver and Craignish primaries and raised a whopping £1,000 of the Harvest Fund to help feed our friends in Bemvu, Malawi.

In the coming weeks the children will be participating in a charity event for the British Heart foundation. The children have lots of experience of skipping, it is a regular playtime and PE class activity within the school. In addition to raising money in the Jump Rope event, the children will update their lifesaving skills through a Heart Start refresher course.

A defibrillator has been installed in the grounds of the school. The staff and some people who live locally, will be trained in how to use it. If you would like to participate in this training please get in touch with the school.

The Parent Forum hosted a successful social evening in the Village Hall. This was a family event, many people came along and helped to chase away the winter blues. Much fun was had by all and we would like to thank the brave and talented souls who volunteered to entertain the crowd with their acts.

Children from P7 participated in the Mathsfest event held recently in Oban High School. This annual event is one of the activities that is designed to help the children make the transition to high school. They enjoyed working alongside ex Kilninver pupils who are now in first year and started to get to know the senior pupils who will offer them peer support from August.

The Burns season is always a busy time for us and once again many of our pupils participated in the annual Burns event which is supported by the Oban Burns club. Our children were successful in the following classes and won a range of medals and certificates. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Currie who prepared the children so well for the recitation classes. Our results in this discipline were very good indeed. - A clean sweep for the P7s !

For some of our younger children this was their first opportunity to perform in public and they all did themselves proud, It is not easy to stand in front of an audience and recite poetry in a style of language that is not familiar to you - well done, keep trying.

The children in P4-7 participated in the Scottish Opera performance of Tam O'Shanter in the Craignish Village hall. The cast of 100 children from across Mid Argyll joined forces in hearty chorus and entertained family and friends with passion and conviction. Many families stayed on to celebrate in style at a Burns themed ceilidh. The haggis was ably piped in by Thom Catterwell a pupil in Lochgilphead High and addressed with great panache by Joshua Mitchell. Following a hearty supper of haggis pies and shortbread we danced the night away and were well entertained by a variety of children and adults who had prepared poem and songs.

Dates for your diary

Friday 31st March - school closes for Easter holiday

Monday 17th April - school reopens

Monday 1st May - School closed

Thursday 4th May - School building will be used as a polling station. The children will be transported to another location for outdoor education.

Friday 30th June - School closes for summer holiday

Wednesday 16th August - School reopens for pupils

Berni McMillan

Mothers and Toddlers playgroup: Wednesdays 1.30 – 3 pm at Kilmelford Village Hall

We've been having a good time at playgroup recently and have welcomed quite a few new mums, dads and little ones, it's great to see everybody coming along and having fun. It's a really informal group and we love to have new folk and visitors coming along for a cuppa, chat and a play for the wee ones. We are on every Wednesday from 1:30 in the village hall.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Ann (Luke & Ben's mum)



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Local Open Gardens

Barochreal Garden, Kilniver

Beginning of **May till end of September** by appointment

A young garden evolving since 2006. After much fencing, stone clearing and rewalling, digging and ditching, each year another area has been completed to provide a bank of rhododendrons and azaleas, a rose garden, water feature with rockery, a pond with island, raised vegetable beds and a wild garden with beehives, waterfalls and burns. Maintained walking tracks in the fields and to viewpoints.

We are open from the **beginning of May until the end of September** but **by appointment** only.

£3 (children under 16 free): proceeds going to Argyll Animal Aid + Scotland's Garden Beneficiaries

Contact Toni & Nigel Mitchell: 01852 316151

Kames Bay Garden, Kilmelford

Open Garden : Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th **May** 1.30 pm – 5 pm

Over the past 35 years, Kames Bay garden has evolved from two acres of scrub and bracken on a lochside hill into a natural, almost wild, garden spread over thirteen acres, blending into the contours of the coastal landscape. A garden where visitors can wander at peace on woodland and hillside walks, discovering hidden benches to enjoy the magnificent views over Loch Melfort, and the Isles of Shuna, Luing and Scarba. A garden full of vibrant colours all year, with more than 100 varieties of azaleas & rhododendrons, wild primroses & violets in the spring, with hydrangeas, fuchsia, roses and agapanthus in the summer, and with acer, prunus and sorbus in the autumn. A garden which offers the best of both worlds – the beauty of cultivation softening the wild edges of the natural landscape.

We're opening the garden for Scotland's Garden Scheme on **Saturday 6th May and Sunday 7th May from 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm**. Ticket price for adults is £4.00, and children under 16 (accompanied by an adult) are free, with all proceeds going to Scotland's Garden Scheme charities and to St Columba's Church, Poltalloch.

We would be delighted if you would like to come and explore the garden on 6th and 7th May. There are three main walks. The pond walk is the easiest, surrounded by rhododendrons and azaleas. The hill walk goes through a hazel tree path, lined with primroses and violets, then up the hill behind the house, ending up at the cream Jubilee bench, which has a fantastic view down Loch Melfort. The woodland walk is quite steep, but is worth the climb when you reach the top and see the stunning views across to Luing and Lunga (weather permitting). You will also have a good view of the alpacas in the fields in front of Kames Farm.

We will be serving old-fashioned teas in the Conservatory, and there will be a plant stall in the Barn. We would recommend sturdy walking shoes (with wellingtons for the more adventurous walks) as access is up a steep drive. We look forward very much to welcoming you to Kames Bay Garden, and let's hope we have a warm, sunny, Spring Argyll weekend.



Kames Bay Garden Hill



Kames Bay Garden Pond



Kames Bay Garden Seat Pond Edge



Kames Bay Garden

Stuart Cannon

Maolachy Garden, Lochavich

Open Garden: Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th May 1 pm – 6 pm

February's cold dry spell was an ideal time to tackle a bit of felling, clearing logs & shredding cut branches to allow more light onto some of the top banks of the wild garden. This task was needed to be done before the daffodils appeared. The snowdrops have looked at their best with welcome bright white heads bobbing about in a stiff easterly wind. Some mornings they needed the gentle warmth of the rising sun to revive their stems after being bowed down by an overnight frost.

Clearing the upper banks has created spaces for planting out more spring bulbs, *Erythronium pagoda*, *ornithogalum*, Pheasant eye and *Leucojum* which I hope will bring new interest and colours.

The shrubbery area has had a 'make-over' with re-planting and some new introductions including a bag of mixed narcissus that sat on its own in Cakebreads and tempted me to give myself a treat for several days of hard work.

£4 (children under 16 free): proceeds going to Hope Kitchen Oban + Scotland's Garden Scheme Charities

Contact: Georgina Dalton, 01866 844212

A full list of Open Gardens + extra info about each Open Garden can be found on www.scotlandsgardens.org and in the "Scotland's Gardens Guide 2017"



List of Open Gardens in Argyll 2017:

Crarae Garden, Inveraray Contact: The National Trust for Scotland, 01546 886614
Open Garden: Wed. 19 April and Sun. 23 April 10:00am - 5:00pm

Benmore Botanic Garden, Dunoon Contact: Benmore Botanic Garden, 01369 706261
Open Garden: Sunday 23 April 10:00am - 6:00pm

Arduaine Garden, Arduaine Contact: The National Trust for Scotland, 01852 200366
Open Garden: Sunday 30 April 9:30am - 4:30pm

Kames Bay, Kilmelford Contact: Stuart Cannon, 01852 200205
Open Garden: Sat. 6 May and Sun. 7 May 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Dalnashean, Port Appin Contact: Kathleen Ferguson
Open Garden: Sat. 13 May and Sun. 14 May 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Knock Cottage, Lochgair Contact: Mr and Mrs Hew Service, 01546 886628
Open Garden: Sat 13 May, Sun 14 May, Sat 3 June and Sun 4 June 1:30pm - 5:00pm: 15 April - 15 June

Strachur House Flower & Woodland Gardens, Strachur Contact: Sir Charles and Lady Maclean
Open Garden: Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May, 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Braevallich Farm, by Dalmally Contact: Mr Philip Bowden-Smith, 01866 844246
Open Garden: Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May 1:00pm - 5:30pm

Maolachy Garden, Lochavich, by Taynuilt Contact: Georgina Dalton, 01866 844212
Open Garden: Saturday 27 May and Sunday 28 May 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Fasnacloich, Appin Contact: Mr David Stewart
Open Garden: Sunday 4 June 11:00am - 5:00pm

Dal an Eas, Kilmore Contact: Mary Lindsay, 01631 770246
Open Garden: Sat. 24 June and Sun. 25 June 1:00pm - 6:00pm: 15 April - 10 September by appointment

Caol Ruadh, Colintraive Contact: Mr and Mrs C Scotland
Open Garden: Saturday 15 July and Sunday 16 July 2:00pm - 5:00pm

2 Broadcroft Lane, Rothesay, Isle of Bute Contact: Mrs Marlene Hill
Open Garden: Saturday 29 July and Sunday 30 July 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Barguilean's "Angus Garden", Taynuilt Contact: The Josephine Marshall Trust, 01866 822333
Open Garden: 1 January - 31 December 9:00am

Achnacloich, Connel Contact: Mr T E Nelson, 01631 710796
Open Garden: 1 January - 31 December 10:00am - 4:00pm (Saturdays only)

Ardmaddy Castle, by Oban Contact: Mr and Mrs Charles Struthers, 01852 300353
Open Garden: 1 January - 31 December 9:00am

Ardkinglas Woodland Garden, Cairndow Contact: Ardkinglas Estate, 01499 600261
Open Garden: 1 January - 31 December

Kinlochlaich Gardens, Appin Contact: Miss F M M Hutchison, 07881 525754
Open Garden: 3 March - 15 October 10:00am - 4:00pm: 16 October - 2 March by appointment

Ardchattan Priory, North Connel Contact: Mrs Sarah Troughton, 01796 481355
Open Garden: 1 April - 31 October 9:30am - 5:30pm

Ascog Hall, Ascog, Isle of Bute Contact: Karin Burke, 01700 503461
Open Garden: 1 April - 30 September 10:00am - 5:00pm

Druimneil House, Port Appin Contact: Mrs J Glaisher (Gardener, Mr Andrew Ritchie),
01631 730228 Open Garden: 1 April - 31 October

Inveraray Castle Gardens Contact: The Duke and Duchess of Argyll, 01499 302203
Open Garden: 1 April - 31 October 10:00am - 5:45pm

Oakbank, Ardrishaig Contact: Helga Macfarlane, 01546 603405
Open Garden: 1 May - 31 August 10:30am - 6:00pm

Crinan Hotel Garden, Crinan Contact: Mr and Mrs N Ryan, 01546 830261
Open Garden: 1 May - 31 August

Barochreal, Kilninver Contact: Nigel and Antoinette Mitchell, 01852 316151
Open Garden: 1 May - 30 September by appointment

Eas Mhor, Cnoc-a-Challtuinn, Clachan Seil, Oban Contact: Mrs Kimbra Lesley Barrett, 01852 300 469
Open Garden: 1 May - 30 September by appointment

Seafield, 173 Marine Parade, Hunter's Quay, Dunoon Contact: Scoular Anderson, 01369 703107
Open Garden: 1 June - 31 August by appointment



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Kilmar Tin Museum

We will reopen on the 1st March for our 2017 season

Guided Walks

Easter Sunday – 16th April: Guided Walk of Kilmar Tin Glen

Meet at the museum at 1.30pm

This will be our first guided walk of the season and followed by a walk each Wednesday from 19th April until the end of September. Meet at the Museum reception before 1.30pm – no need to prebook, though places are limited. The walk lasts approximately two and a half hours and is free (donations welcome). Sorry no dogs.

Events

Saturday 18th March 2017 – Introduction to Spinning

09.00 – 4.30pm with Bridie Pursy

An introduction to equipment & processes involved in spinning wool & other natural fibre.

Sunday 19th March 2017 – Introduction to Felting

09.00 – 4.30pm with Liz Gaffney-Whaite

An introduction to felting native wool fleece and looking at practical uses for small scale felting projects.

Saturday 17th June 2017 – Permaculture Design

09.00 – 5.30pm with Ed Tyler

Learn how to creatively (re)design your croft/site/garden using permaculture principles, with the result that you will get more diverse yields.

Sunday 18th June 2017 – Animal Husbandry

09.00 – 5.30pm with Claire Shorthose (BVMS MRCVS)

By the end of this day you will be able to correctly & safely catch, restrain & perform a health check on sheep, pigs, goats & poultry as well as gaining 'hands on' experience for routine healthcare procedures.

Saturday 1st July 2017 – Horticulture

09.00 – 5.30pm with Patsy Dyer

Topics will include: how to recognise common crop pest & diseases & deal with them in an environmental and sustainable way. Also, understanding crop rotation and producing crops under cover.

The above courses are being run in conjunction with the Scottish Crofting Federation and are open to all, each day costs £40. For further information or to book contact: Donna on training@crofting.org or 01343 209384.

Kilmar Tin Museum Café and Shop

Our café is open with a delicious menu and a mouth-watering range of home baked cakes. Whilst our shop is stocked with a great selection of books and a wide selection of gift ideas, the perfect place to find something special.

Email: admin@kilmar-tin.org Telephone: 01546 510278

Website: www.kilmar-tin.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

The Shower of Herring



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Melfort Village, PA34 4XD, TEL: 01852200345: Email: showerofherring@gmail.com

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Web: www.melfortvillage.co.uk/eating-out/the-shower-of-herring/

Opening Hours

Saturday 3.00pm – Midnight* Sunday 12.30pm – 11.00pm*

Monday 4.00pm – Midnight* Tuesday – Closed* Wednesday 4.00pm – 11.00pm*

Thursday 4.00pm – 11.00pm* Friday 4.00pm – Midnight*

Last food orders during evening service 10.30pm

Booking Advisable – Telephone Reception or 01852 200345

alternatively email: showerofherring@gmail.com

FREE ENTRY: Monday Music Night

Starts approximately 8.45pm until late

Local performers, relaxed atmosphere and open for others to participate

Private function: No matter what your budget, we can cater to your exact requirements with buffet starting at £5.95* and three course set meals starting from just £14.95 per person. *Min 20 covers

WE ARE DOG FRIENDLY

Youth Services Update

How to Get Involved in Your Community

If you're passionate about improving your local community there are lots of ways you can get involved.

Why should I volunteer?

There are loads of reasons to volunteer. Not only will it make you feel really good about yourself for helping other people it can also help you:

- Learn new skills
- Make new friends
- Have fun
- Gain experience
- Enhance your CV or job applications

How can I get started?

Check out lots of different opportunities on Volunteer Scotland and Project Scotland's websites. Or maybe you are interested in something more particular...

Politics

If politics takes your fancy you can start off with your school council, local youth forum or the Scottish Youth Parliament or European Youth Parliament. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these. Or why not check out what your local Community Council is getting up to?

Environment

You can make an impact on the environment with small steps, such as helping to clean up your area, reusing and recycling, getting involved in environmental and conservation projects, or buying fair-trade products.

You can also find a whole bunch of opportunities to get involved in helping the environment from the National Trust for Scotland, The Conservation Volunteers in Scotland and the Forum for Environmental Volunteering Activity.

Getting involved with Argyll and Bute Youth Services and Young Scot

Ok, ok, I may be a little biased, but I think Argyll and Bute Youth Services is a great first stop to get started in helping out your community. We're always on the lookout for passionate, opinionated young people who are keen to make a difference.

To find out how to get involved with Youth Services, have a look on the Argyll section of the Young Scot Website or our Facebook page, or for national projects call the free Young Scot InfoLine on 0808 801 0338(Mon to Fri, 10am-6pm).

You can also get your hands on cool stuff by taking part in positive activities with Young Scot Rewards.

Roanna Clark

Argyll and Bute Youth Participation Officer

Argyll and Bute Council

Phone: 01546 60 4752

Mobile:07786855733

www.youngscot.org/argyllandbute

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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and otherwise by arrangement,
please phone.**



“Pebble Beach Studio”

A new charitable venture will open in Kilmelford from the 2nd of April 2017. Pebble Beach Studio in Degnish Road will be open on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 2pm – 4pm, selling second-hand books and local art, with all profits going to the local MS Therapy Centre in Lochgilphead.

Multiple sclerosis, often abbreviated to MS, is a neurological condition that affects the nerves in the brain and spinal cord (the central nervous system).

MS is a lifelong condition. It is rarely fatal, however most people with MS live on average about 10 years less than other people. It is not infectious or contagious so it can't be passed on to other people.

MS is the most common condition of the central nervous system affecting young adults. Over 100,000 people in the UK have MS which is about one in every 600, with over 11,000 of those being in Scotland. This makes MS more common in Scotland than most other countries in the world. It is nearly three times more common in women than in men. Most people are diagnosed in their 20s and 30s but it can also be diagnosed in younger and older people.

There is no cure for MS, however appropriate therapies and support can be a significant help to people with MS. These are not available through the NHS or other government support agencies, but are provided by local charity groups, in the form of MS Therapy Centres. These Centres provide vital services to help people live with this debilitating condition: however they often struggle to collect sufficient funds to provide services and stay open.

Each Centre is an independent charity, providing a range of therapies including oxygen treatment, physiotherapy, massage, and tailored exercise classes such as yoga and pilates, and a variety of support such as general drop-in chats to counselling to dietary advice. Each MS therapy centre relies on dedicated volunteers and donors who give freely of their time and money to help people with MS.

Pebble Beach Studio will provide support to the MS Therapy Centre in Lochgilphead, and is being run by Hafrun, who was first diagnosed with MS 28 years ago and is now, like so many other MSers, a full-time wheelchair user. It is Hafrun's hope that, by opening Pebble Beach Studio selling donated second-hand books and local art, she will be able to contribute to the provision of these essential services.

As mentioned above, Pebble Beach Studio will open on the 2nd of April, and will be open on **Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 2pm – 4pm** until the 1st of November. I look forward to seeing many people showing their support.

Hafrun & Alex

Loch Melfort Hotel

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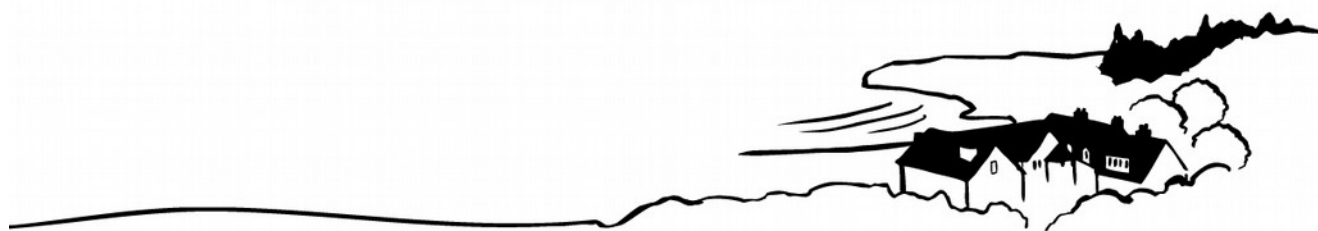
DINNER 6pm - 9pm

ALL DAY MENU 10am - 10pm

OUR FAMOUS MUSIC NIGHTS

take place as usual every 1st and 3rd

Friday of the month from 9:30pm





Rural Watch Scotland

Police Scotland are delighted to announce the launch of a Rural Watch Scotland in your area covering Kilmore, Kilninver, Kilmelford, Seil, Easdale, Luing and Colonsay Argyll including the adjoining areas.

Rural Watch Scotland encompasses farms, rural businesses, domestic dwellings and holiday properties within the stated areas.

All parties that agree to join up will benefit from:

- Regular contact with officers designated to the area from each partner service.
- An introductory leaflet explaining the scheme.
- An incident record booklet.
- www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk

As part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland group your insurance company may provide a 10% discount on your premiums.

Quality weatherproof signage can be provided to deter thieves and advertise that you and your neighbours are part of a recognised group that cares for and manages the area.

Support and information to help reduce crime within the community. Joining up can be quick and easy, and its FREE click onto this website www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk

Press the green 'JOIN' and follow the simple steps. You will be given the option to join a named existing scheme (already set up) or set up a new scheme (which is just registering you as a member).

The Oban South and the Isles Policing Team is based at Oban.

The team are here to support the communities we represent and aim to be visible at all opportunities. Officers can be contacted through the Rural Watch scheme, or by emailing directly. ObanSouthTheIslesCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Article received from **Jeremy Moore, PC L342, Oban community police**

Recipe: Bobotie

Originating in Holland and adopted by the Cape Malay Community, Bobotie is a well-known South African dish consisting of spiced minced meat baked with an egg-based topping.

Having recently returned from a wonderful holiday in South Africa where we ate Bobotie on a few occasions, I was inspired to cook this simple dish back home. Of course eating it at the kitchen table while the rain lashes at the window and the wind howls down the chimney is very different to sitting under the shade of the Acacia trees surrounded by all the evocative sounds and smells of Africa while monkeys leap in the canopy overhead. Regardless though of where you eat it, it is still a very tasty economic dish for all the family and a very forgiving recipe if you want to add, take away or substitute any ingredients. A great winter warmer for our cold, wet climate!

Ingredients

2 slices of white bread / 25g butter / 2 onions / 2 cloves of garlic, crushed / 1Kg lean minced beef / 2 tablesp Madras curry paste / 3 cloves / 5 allspice berries, crushed / 2 tablesp Mrs Balls peach chutney (available from Tesco) or mango chutney / 3 tablesp sultanas / 4 bay leaf

For the topping

300ml full fat milk / 2 large eggs

Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4

Pour milk or water over the bread and leave to soak. Fry the onions in butter for 10 minutes until soft and starting to colour, add the garlic and beef, breaking up the beef until it changes colour. Stir in the curry paste, herbs, spices, chutney, sultanas and 2 bay leaves, season with salt and plenty of ground pepper.

Cover and simmer for 10 minutes and then remove from the heat. Remove bay leaves and cloves, *optional*. Squeeze the liquid from the bread and beat it into the meat mixture until well blended.

Tip into an ovenproof dish, press down well and smooth the top. (At this point you can chill and keep for later or the next day.)

For the topping, beat the milk and eggs with seasoning and pour over meat.

Top with remaining bay leaves and bake for 35-40 mins until the topping is set and starting to turn golden.

Serve with Yellow Rice

350g basmati rice / 50g butter / 1 heaped tablesp caster sugar / 1 teasp ground cinnamon or ½ cinnamon stick / 6 cardamom pod, shelled and seeds crushed / 1 small teasp turmeric / 5 tablesp raisins

Put all ingredients in a large pan with 1 teasp salt and 500ml water, bring up to boil and boil until butter has melted. Stir, cover and leave to simmer for 6 mins. Take off the heat and leave, still covered, for 5 mins. Fluff up the rice and tip into a warm bowl to serve.

Better still, jump on a plane to South Africa and eat sitting under the Acacia trees!

Jennie Campbell-Gibson



Recipe: Individual Hot Cross Bun and Butter Pudding

Ingredients: (serves 4)

1 x pack of 4 hot cross buns / 2 eggs / 100g sugar /
150ml cream / 200ml milk / Vanilla extract /
100g butter / Large Chocolate buttons

Method:

In a bowl or large jug mix together the eggs, sugar, cream, milk and vanilla. Do this with a whisk and beat well. Slice the buns lengthways ideally into three or four sections.

In a small bowl melt the butter (gently in the microwave) do not allow to colour. Take four large ramekins and with a pastry brush paint the inside of the ramekins with the butter, then paint the slices of bun thoroughly. Soak the slices of buns in the custard and then layer buttered side down in the ramekins taking the time to put one large chocolate button between each layer. When the ramekins are full allow them to rest for a while. This will mean that the custard will soak into the bread. Finally top up the ramekins with the remaining custard.

Pre heat the oven to 180'C

Place the ramekins in a deep baking tray and fill with warm water to half way up the ramekins. Bake in the oven for 35 mins until the puddings are well risen and the custard set. Take them out of the oven and set aside for a couple of minutes. Run a knife around the ramekins and turn out onto the serving plate. Serve with cream.

Matthew Anderson

Local B&Bs and Self Catering Accommodation

Garbhein: B&B in Kilmelford. 2 Double bedrooms, each with en-suite shower room and television. Lindsay & Susan Johnston 01852 200526 or 07747023038

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Diane Scaife 01852 200208

West Barravullin: Self catering B&B. Double bed and double Sofa bed, kitchen/ sitting room.
01852 500602 or 07923389265 email: joannegladstone@gmail.com

The Glebe: 3 bedroomed holiday let in Kilmelford. email: honeytummy@hotmail.co.uk

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