



Kiltarlity News

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Glebe Farm houses may get go-ahead soon

The long delayed Glebe Farm development is likely to go ahead but in altered form. Kiltarlity Community Council members have agreed that they will not raise a specific objection to the development.

At the February meeting of the Community Council, John Macintyre and Frank Martin of Lifestyle Properties explained that the original permission granted in 2007 had been for 15 units in total: 2 affordable houses, 12 detached houses and 1 bungalow. However, a new application was to be for 24 units in total including 12 affordable or low cost houses. The first 6 affordable houses will be for Albyn Housing, the second 6 will be offered first on the open market, but if not sold will also be taken by Albyn.

The developers explained that the layout, footprint and finish of the houses was to be substantially the same as in the original permission. The remaining units would be linked "semis" rather than detached houses but they would all be finished to a high standard with slate roofs, wet dash finish and wood chip boilers. The first houses to be built would be the 6 affordable houses for Albyn followed by the 6 open market houses. The intention is to build no more than 15 units before 2011.

Community Council members agreed that they did not wish to raise a specific objection to the development, but, as with previous applications, wished to receive assurance that any permission would be in accordance with the provisions of the current Local Plan.

In addition, the Community Council asked that, if permission were to be



*Village
view to
change
again?*

given for the Glebe development, two specific conditions should be laid down. These are that the development includes adequate provision to ensure that all surface water is fully drained to prevent any flooding of the Village Hall car park, and that the developer should be asked to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the recreational open space.

It is understood that the archaeological investigation within the development site will be completed along with the development and a report then published.

As reported in our last issue, Kiltarlity Community Council has already agreed to the building of 14 houses at the Balgate Sawmill site. If both developments are completed by 2011 the number of houses in the village, including the Albyn Housing development, will have increased beyond the 10 year maximum recommended by the Local Plan.

Since the Plan was first published in 2002 the Community Council has consistently fought for the 25% housing increase guideline to be followed unless there were exceptional circumstances, but a number of factors have

made this difficult. The Community Council, having helped to bring the Albyn affordable housing development to Allarburn could not reasonably oppose its expansion to the present total of 18 houses. The Balgate development was successfully opposed but this was overturned by Public Inquiry and a compromise then agreed with the developers. The Glebe development was already approved some time ago and the Community Council accepted that, despite the increase in household numbers, the present proposals were an improvement on the original application.

There seems little doubt, however, that if the Community Council had not been applying a brake on developments, the original massive proposed expansion in the village would by now be well on its way to completion.

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Cycle path network to include Kiltarlity

At their February meeting Kiltarlity Community Council members heard Councillor Hamish Wood and Mr Neil MacRae of Highland Council outline the findings of a survey, conducted for Highland Council by consultants Halcrow, into the feasibility of and options for a cycle route from Inverness to Beauly.

Following discussion, members expressed support for the development of the cycle route and, in particular, supported the proposal that the route should follow communities through Inchmore and Kirkhill to Beauly. It was agreed that the priority for development should be the Clachnaharry Bridge and the stretch of road running along the shore to Bunchrew. This should be followed by appropriate action at the Lovat Bridge.

But it is intended that Kiltarlity should be linked to the projected cycle route and at the April meeting of the Community Council, representatives of Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust were able to report that they are to apply by June to the Climate Challenge Fund to enable the creation of a safe cycle route from Lovat Bridge to the Cabrigh road junction with A862. Cyclists could then use the Cabrigh road between Brochies Corner and

Moniack to link with the existing cycle path from Moniack to Inchmore.

The Community Council have agreed to investigate a safe cycle route from Kiltarlity Village to Brochies Corner (A862 junction) and possible sources of funding for this: this would complete Kiltarlity's link to the Inverness to Beauly route.

It was agreed that Kiltarlity Community Council would write to the Trust expressing support for their project and also assist with the distribution of questionnaires to support the claim for reduction in carbon emissions which will result. If the bid is successful, the Lovat Bridge route could be completed by summer of 2010.

The second part of the Trust's application is for an engineering study of the problematic 3 kilometre section from Clachnaharry to Bunchrew.

Young Kiltarlity guitarists earn commendations



Eleven-year-old Rory Gallacher (left) and Scott Lamont (10) both received commendations for their performances in the classical guitar solo beginners competition which attracted 15 entrants. Both boys are from Kiltarlity and attend weekly guitar lessons run by Highland Council's Traditional Music Classes at Charleston Academy.

New notice board

At the March meeting of Kiltarlity Community Council it was agreed to fund a notice board at the entrance to the Village Store and Post Office for the use of the public.

Kiltarlity Community Council

Norman Grant, Chairman
(741532)

Hector Douglas, Secretary
(741881)

Dorothy Ward, Treasurer
(741253)

Karen Ferguson (831251)

Floris Greenlaw (741342)

Lesley MacColl (741430)

Ronald MacLean (741323)

Hamish MacLennan (741312)

Eunice Ramsden (741447)

Jan van 't Zand (741711)

Community Council meetings are completely open to the public who, with the Chairman's agreement, can contribute to the discussion, though not vote.

The Council has the right to discuss extremely confidential issues and take decisions in private session but the need for this almost never arises.

Community Council members will welcome approaches for advice or assistance from any local resident whether on an individual or community basis. For example, the Community Council may be able to provide some finance for local projects either from its annual grant of around £750 or by applying for additional funds to Highland Council or other funding bodies. Individual members may be able to help with matters such as official letters, forms and documents, or put people in touch with an appropriate source of assistance. Any personal approach to a Council member will be treated with total confidentiality and will only be discussed in Council meetings with the clear agreement of the person who has made contact.

Community Council Website:
www.kiltarlity.info

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River Glass Fishing

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Adult Price per day £20 in July, £30 in August, £40 in September/October. Half price for Strathglass residents.



What is happening to our Honey bees?

Are bees important to us?



Kiltarlity beekeeper John Cartilidge, current Scottish Beekeepers' North Scotland representative writes about the current bee crisis

As there has been increased media coverage about the plight of honey bees I have been asked to do this article to try and shed some light on what is actually happening to our local honey bees.

Let me try to put everything in context. Our association with honey bees goes back a long, long way. Did you know that the remains of pots of honey were found in the Egyptian Pharaohs' Tombs? Even then they recognised the value of bees, their honey, wax for candles and other products.

So, what's the situation now in 2009? World honey crops have been seriously affected due to climate change - wet summers producing poor crops = less nectar and pollen = less honey.

English (commercial) honey was expected to run out by the end of 2008. Local honey from "Hobby Beekeepers" has been seriously affected in the North of Scotland with a loss of bee colonies from 25% to a devastating 70% loss by beekeepers in Sutherland, all of course resulting in less local honey. When you consider the high value local people place on local honey (local honey containing local pollen is said to be beneficial to those poor people who suffer from hay fever) this is of some concern.

Add to this that millions upon millions of bees have been wiped out by a little bug called the Varroa Mite and also by viruses and pesticides, and I think you will see we do indeed have a problem

And it's not just about honey but perhaps something even more important - ***pollination!***

So what's wrong?

The Varroa Mite, came to the south of England in approximately 1995 arriving probably on the backs of imported bees. This tiny mite, which can only just be seen by the naked eye, lives between the scales on the underside of the bee and sucks its life juices until the poor bee becomes so debilitated it falls prey to any virus that happens to be around and dies.

Pesticides - some farmers in this and

other countries are spraying their crops with pesticides that are known to kill bees!

And there are other very serious pests causing devastation to honey bees in other countries - how will we keep them from coming here?

Add to this G.M. crops - G.M. pollen - G.M. contaminated honey? You will see from this there are, and will be in the future, many challenges for honey bees to face.

What are we doing about it?

All beekeepers have a responsibility to keep themselves up to date on the latest proven satisfactory way to control the Varroa Mite (we are as yet unable to eradicate it completely) and other bee diseases. We need Government funded research into Varroa and other bee diseases. Currently, Spain gets ten times more funding and Italy six times more funding than the UK! But I assure you we keep banging on the Government's door as hard and as often as we can.

What do we stand to lose?

Bees are some of the most fascinating insects on the planet, the 8,000 to 10,000 bees that over-winter swell to 50,000 to 60,000 bees in summer - in one hive!

But, it's not just about honey; bees collect tree resins and gum to make "Bee Glue" known as ***propolis*** which is the most wonderful of nature's known natural ***antibacterial - antiviral - anti-fungal*** products. Bees use it to stick the hive components together and to protect their environment. Beekeepers scrape it off the frames, roll it into a ball and chew it to get rid of a sore throat! It is collected commercially and sold in health food shops. It is recorded that Florence Nightingale used it in the Crimean War for its healing properties and currently a major airline is looking into whether or not it could be used as a "Mist Spray" in airline cabins.

We are rediscovering the use of honey in medicine. All honey has antiseptic properties, but there is one very special honey, ***Manuka***, from New Zealand. It has very strong antiseptic qualities and is currently used by the NHS in sterile dressings.

What else can we learn and use from honey bees?

The pollination function carried out

by bees is currently estimated to be worth £620 million to this country alone. It has been said that of every three spoons of food we eat, two are produced because of bee pollination! This is why it's not just about honey, important as it is, but about our future food supply!

What have honey bees been doing?

Having gathered all their stores to feed them through the winter, they huddle together in a ball called the winter cluster. This cluster of bees, as I have said, will be somewhere between 8,000 to 10,000 strong depending on how strong the colony was in the summer. They vibrate their wings and bodies to create heat. The warm bees in the centre move to the outside and those on the outside move into the middle to get warm, and so it goes on throughout the winter to keep each other warm. All the bees in the hive at this time are female: sorry, guys, we were chucked out at the end of the summer. The bees will remain like this throughout the winter flying on the occasional warm day to do what a bee has to do! Well they do like to have a nice clean home/hive.

Quick tip!

A bee will only sting you in defence because then it dies. The sting has a barb which sticks into your flesh and which the bee cannot safely pull out. Instead, as the bee pulls and tries to get away it pulls out part of its abdomen along with the poison sac, which is why it dies.

Do not get hold of the sting with your finger and thumb as you will squeeze more poison out of the sac into you. ***Always scrape it off***, using your finger.



Hope this has given you a buzz!

Want to know how a hive works? What do summer bees do? What to plant in the garden to provide nectar and pollen for honey bees? Want some recipes for cooking baking with honey?

Answers to these and more in future issues of ***Kiltarlity News***.

New open spaces options considered

Kiltarlity Community Council have told Highland Council that public open space in new housing developments should be maintained either by a planning agreement being drawn up which would ensure a contribution from the developer, or maintenance by a factoring company. Community Council members unanimously rejected a third possibility, that maintenance requirements should be included in householders' title deeds.

The Community Council had been asked to respond to a Highland Council consultation on amenity and recreational open spaces within new residential developments. The consultation ended on 29th March and the views of communities will be taken into account in a policy document to be brought for approval to the Planning, Environment and Development Committee in May. The terms of the document, when finalised, will be a key consideration in the determination of planning applications, pending approval of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan.

If a planning agreement, also known as a Section 75 agreement, is drawn up, a developer is required to contribute to the management and maintenance of open space by a private firm and residents will know that the space will be maintained to an enforceable minimum standard. However, there are weaknesses in the arrangement which may lead eventually to a reduction in proper maintenance.

The second option would require a factor to be appointed by the developer, in agreement with the Council. A sum would be paid to the factor for the maintenance of the open space, and maintenance should be undertaken to a specification agreed between the Council and the factor. Through time, however, the factor may have to obtain payments from householders, and difficulties could then cause maintenance standards to deteriorate.

If the third option is adopted by Highland Council, the title deeds of each dwelling would place a requirement on the residents to form a residents' association or management company to maintain the jointly owned open space(s). This is a common method, brought to the notice of homeowners when they buy

their property and similar to the method operated by housing associations, and would give Highland Council control over standards at no cost to the council. However, the residents' association would have to collect payments from householders and the method could cause friction between residents of a development and other members of the community as to use of the open spaces.

Road signs review sought

Kiltarlity Community Council has agreed to raise concerns about local road signs with Highland Council. A paper prepared by Community Council member Ronald MacLean draws attention to problems with some signs and the need to discuss these with Community Councils and other local representative, and also the need for consultation on proposals for new signs.

Up to now it has not been policy for Council officials to consult the local community on signs unless specific complaints are brought to their attention. However, it is now adopted Highland Council policy that all new signs erected will carry both Gaelic and current versions of place names.

One problem explained in the Community Council paper is the exclusive use of 'Kiltarlity' to refer to the village of Allarburn, which has led to fears that the name 'Kiltarlity', as traditionally applied to the whole former parish, will be lost. Although the village entrance signs are now 'Kiltarlity Village' to help distinguish village from wider district (now clearly defined by the official Community Council area bound-

ary), a number of signs within the area still confusingly point to 'Kiltarlity' rather than 'Allarburn' or 'Kiltarlity Village'. The paper suggests that direction signs to the village should also say 'Kiltarlity Village' and that signs saying 'Kiltarlity' could be positioned on the roads leading into the Kiltarlity district, for example at the A862/A833 junction (Brochies Corner), the Black Bridge and on the A833 between Culnakirk and Redburn.

Another feature drawn attention to is the limited information provided at the entrance to side roads. For example, Clunevackie is the only place referred to on the sign at the Bruiach junction, there being no mention of Bruiach, Femnock or Boblainy. Similarly, travellers on the Drumnadrochit road are given the impression that Foxhole is the only Kiltarlity settlement on the east side of the road. While the single house at Clunevackie has a sign, the well populated communities of Camaultmuir and Lonvichkime are kept secret from occasional visitors and parcels/shopping deliverymen.

Despite stories of emergency services being unable to find rural addresses, only two Kiltarlity communities, Ardendrain and Hughton, are provided with signs to indicate that the driver has arrived near an address he has been given. Road-end numbers are of limited use if they do not indicate the community name. The paper suggests that there should be a sign at the entrance to all the small communities which make up Kiltarlity.

While the Community Council accept that there may be a danger of overloading some signs, especially if Gaelic versions are added, multiple name signs are common enough, and it is felt that, above all, Highland Council should be prepared to discuss the situation with local people and make improvements. Local opinions may be divided on the desirability of Gaelic versions being added on new signs, but the Community Council agrees that it would be unreasonable if Highland Council were prepared to erect bi-lingual signs but unwilling to ensure existing signs are accurate and comprehensive.



Lovat Cup 2009

by
John MacRitchie

After an absence of 12 months one of shinty's oldest and fiercest rivalries resumed when Lovat and Beaulie met on January 2nd at Braeview Park in the 2009 Lovat Cup which was being televised by the BBC for the first time. A large crowd of approximately 1000 gathered for the traditional New Year game which was first played in 1904. According to press reports Lovat were slight favourites since we were the holders and only needed to draw the match, and we had played in the Premier League the previous season. However Beaulie had other thoughts and were confident that with home advantage they could wrest the cup from Lovat.

After the sub zero temperatures over the festive period the park was bone hard, which made playing shinty difficult as underfoot conditions were tricky and the bounce of the ball erratic. After the match was started by referee Ron Kennedy from Newtonmore, Beaulie settled into the game and seemed to adapt to the conditions more quickly. For the first 20 minutes they pressed forward putting the Lovat goal under pressure and winning a succession of corners. The Lovat defence was dealing well with the pressure with Daniel Grieve and Lorne MacKay outstanding and Stuart MacDonald easily



Braeview Park car parking not quite able to cope on Lovat Cup day

dealing with any shots on target. However in the thirtieth minute when the Lovat goalkeeper delayed a clearance Sean Stewart benefited, slotting the ball home. The Beaulie support went wild, but their joy was short lived as Ryan Ferguson's speculative cross took a wicked bounce which deceived the Beaulie goalkeeper and ended up in the back of the net.

Lovat were now settling into the game and enjoying more possession and, while their large support were still celebrating the first goal, the ball broke to Jimmy MacKenzie about 20 yards out from the Beaulie goal and he rifled the ball into the net on the stroke of half time.

The second half was an even affair with both goalkeepers making good

saves. However, as the half wore on Lovat looked more and more in control, playing the better shinty. Beaulie were now getting frustrated, seeing their chances slipping away. Their frustration boiled over when one of the Beaulie players took a wild swing at Martin Bell, who was now commanding the mid field, and at the end of the melee Martin was very unlucky to get booked and the Beaulie player very lucky to be still on the park.

In the final 15 minutes Lovat closed the game out, ensuring the Cup remained in Kiltarlity for another year. Lovat Captain, Lorne MacKay, was presented with the Cup by Kim Fraser, representing the Lovat family, and the after match celebrations could now begin!



Congratulations to recently married Iain and June Fraser, who have a home at 2 Knockchoille, Kineraras. Iain having popped the question over a meal at the Cranoch Restaurant in Fort William., the couple decided to bring their 19 year courtship to a conclusion at Gretna Green. Iain is the son of the late Dr and Mrs Duncan Fraser who spent their retirement at Kinerras.

New Archaeology group launched

Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH), hopes to provide learning opportunities and activities to encourage people in the Highlands to learn more about their local heritage and is inviting local residents to help develop project plans. Three open meetings, in Dingwall, Inverness, and Tain have now been held and about 100 people have either attended or have asked to be kept informed.

ARCH aims to respond to a growing interest in our archaeological heritage, and to give local communities the chance to experience and develop a range of heritage related skills.

At the meetings, ideas for eight related programmes were introduced; and a considerable amount of comment and feedback has been received, as well as suggestions for new projects,

and ARCH now has a list of well over 30 possible projects! ARCH will avoid duplication and competition and is already collaborating with other groups in planning and funding activities.

Though Heritage Lottery Fund grants have been reduced from £7m to £1m, an application has been submitted for six of the eight projects: *Community Timelines*, *Pathways into the Past*, *Display the Past*, *Delve into the Past*, *Living in the Past*, and *Heritage along the Kyle Line* with a separate application for *Remembering the Past*, to focus in the first instance on the Black Isle.

If you are interested, you can contact ARCH by e-mail: ARCHhighland@googlemail.com or phone Susan Kruse on 01997 421171.

(See also our separate story on Kiltarlity Community Council's Boblainy Forest Project)

Kiltarlity Hall Association

*Veronica Tervet
Chairman*

Following another busy year we find ourselves now organising another session. The past year has been both profitable and enjoyable. The Hall Association members really work together very well. A big thank you to everybody who contributed in any way at all.

The hall is being used very regularly now from the usual weekly clubs to our own monthly whist drives, birthday parties and individuals who use it for private parties and sport.

We have two large projects to be carried out in the 2009-10 year. This is painting the hall both inside and out at a total cost of over £3,000. In April the last Saturday of the month the 25th we had the monthly Whist Drive.

For all your book keeping, payroll, VAT, accountancy and taxation requirements contact your local accountant Louise Monaghan AFA ATT at **MOATS** Incorporated Financial Accountants & Tax Advisors 9 Croft Road, Kiltarlity 01463 741608 louise@moats.co.uk

100 Club renewals are due; new members welcome - contact Carol Grant on 741388 or Sheila Moir on 741 618

May sees THE WEATHERMAN : an interactive music concert for all children age 6 - 11 years and their families developed by GIANT productions. The Weatherman concert uses live musicians, dance and video to explore a wide range of musical genres and exotic instruments. Look out for posters nearer the time for details. The Annual Gala will be held on the 23rd of May and the Hall Association will have the usual home baking stall and contributions will be welcome from all.

In June we will be holding a special evening with Isabel (Isie MacLean) Campbell giving us a talk on her growing up at Boblainy, crofting life then, and the chores, including butter making, she had to do. She will be giving us a demonstration on butter and oat-cake making. Sampling will follow.

This is an open evening to all. Tomnacross school pupils will see and meet her during the day. This is on the 10th of June at 7.30 p.m. in the hall - look out for the posters nearer the time.

During July and August we will be holding the Children's Activities week, so once again look out for the posters nearer the time. In previous years these had to be cancelled due to poor attendance. Hopefully this year will be different.

August sees us at the Tartan Heart Festival - look out for our usual stance, and come for a cream tea and cake. We raise a substantial amount each year, and our thanks to Joe Gibbs for us being there. We will ask for baking donations nearer the time.

Other events towards the end of the year will be finalised nearer the time.

One of the last events of the year will be a Quiz Night run by Melonie Savage - Lowden and her daughter Amelia. Though poorly attended in the past they were really enjoyed. This year all the clubs and organisations using the hall will be invited - so thinking caps on!

I would like to thank everybody for their continued support.

*Club enquiries, if not otherwise indicated:
741 447*

Kiltarlity W.R.I

*Catherine MacRitchie
Secretary*

At our January meeting we had a talk from Neil Ross of the Kintail Mountain Rescue Team with his dog Baulal. He showed off his equipment, and made us realise how they can put their own lives in danger saving others.

The February meeting was addressed by Dougie from Highland Lilliums with lots of shrubs. At the end of his talk members were able to buy some of these.

March was our Whist Drive in aid of B. S.C.U. Raigmore Hospital It was well attended and the sum of £195 was raised.

Kiltarlity Beavers

At present we have a small happy group of Beavers in our colony, and we enjoy lots of activities at our meetings.

Beavers are the youngest section of the Scout Movement for boys and girls aged 6 to 8 years. We play games, do lots of crafts, explore science and nature, try our hands at making food, prepare presents for our friends and family, enjoy puzzles and quizzes and much more. All this for just £2 per week!

This month we celebrated two national saints, with Welsh and Irish days, and also made presents for Mum and had an Easter themed evening. We are looking forward to better weather when we hope to get out and about round the village.

We meet on Mondays in the village hall at 6 pm for an hour and welcome new members. If you would like to join Beavers, please give us a ring.: **Sheila Moir on 741618, or Moira Macrae on 741229.**



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Model Flying Club

The Highland Model Flying Club has had another successful indoor season flying alternately in the Kiltarlity and Farr Halls. Attendance averages around 10 members ranging in age from 9 to 80 plus, flying model helicopters and fixed wing. We welcome anyone who would like to come along and fly or just watch (Sundays 2 o'clock to 5). Hopefully now the winter is behind us we will get some fine weather to fly outdoors; we have the use of the Farr sports field but we are looking for a field in this area. All our models are electric so noise is not a problem. If any one has, or knows, of a large field with no obstructions please contact Ben Braithwaite on 741417

Ready Steady Go Club

Ready Steady Go has now been running in Kiltarlity Hall for 12 years. The following clubs are on at the moment: **Nursery - P1:** Thursday 3.00 - 4.00; **P 2 - 4 :** Thursday 4.00 - 5.00; **P 5 - 7:** Thursday 5.00 - 6.00.

All classes have been full this term but there is a waiting list. After the Summer Holidays it is hoped to start a new Nursery class so that no one has to wait.

Debbie Macleod thanks all who have supported her over the years.

Boblainy Forest

Increased use of Boblainy Forest and an archaeological survey are being discussed by the Forestry Commission with Kiltarlity Community Council and Aird and Loch Ness Councillor Margaret Davidson.

It is hoped to run a local archaeology course, featuring indoor research techniques, followed by fieldwork sessions, to identify and record archaeological sites in Boblainy Forest, culminating in a local exhibition interpreting and celebrating the archaeological heritage uncovered.

Improved public access to the forest from Culburnie and Ardendrain, could include car parking a short distance into the forest, possible access also from the Clunevackie road, notice boards and waymarked paths.

Community Council and Forestry Commission representatives are to visit the forest this month to consider the practical implications of some of the ideas suggested. Following the forest visit, a pub-

lic meeting and, or, exhibition, could be held in summer to inform and involve the local community including school children, and as work progressed leaflets produced.

The Forestry Commission are continuing felling with some thinning being brought forward. A new bridge should link tracks from Culburnie and Ardendrain by 2010, which will enable all timber to be extracted via the A833.

The Commission are keen to preserve and promote wildlife habitats and biodiversity within Boblainy Forest - though this and greater public access will need to be compatible.

Professional archaeological advice is being obtained by the Community Council and the process of applying for funding has been started. Anybody interested in becoming involved in the archaeological side of the project can obtain more information at 01463 741323.

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New Local Development Plan to cover all of Highland

A new Highland Wide Local Development Plan will look at the big planning and development issues facing Highland over the next 20 years. As a first step Highland Council have published a Development Plan Scheme which outlines the work of the Planning and Development Service over the next year to ensure the Highlands "become one of Europe's leading regions", to "create sustainable communities with more balanced population growth and economic development across the Highlands" and "build a fairer and healthier Highlands".

As the name suggests, the new plan will cover the whole of the Highland area (except the Cairngorms National Park). It will give broad, long term guidance on where and what development should and should not take places, and identifies how local issues (such as the need for affordable housing) can be tackled. Over 20 major issues facing Highland have been identified.

During Spring 2009 the Council wants to find out what people think of the process for involving the public in future planning. A feedback form on the Development Plan Scheme is available in the back of the Scheme and online.

Between August and September 2009 a Main Issues Report will look in depth at the big issues facing Highland over the next 20 years. A public consultation will follow and details of different ways for getting involved publicised through local press and on the Highland Council website (www.highland.gov.uk).

In November 2009 the Proposed Plan will be published and people will be able to voice views and ideas, and see how the planners have taken the comments and views on the main issues report into account.

In 2010 an examination of the plan will be followed by further public consultation to establish what changes may need to be made at this stage.

Throughout the process all documents will be on the Council website, in libraries, council offices and service points, and in leisure centres. The Council will also invite the public to discuss views and ideas and will send out newsletters.

The full version of the Development Plan Scheme 2009, and also a summary, is on the Highland Council website at www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans (click [Development Plan Scheme](#) on right).

Anyone with questions or queries about the plan process, or who would like a paper copy of the Development Plan Scheme 2009, should contact the Council at: (E-mail) devplans@highland.gov.uk; (Phone) 01463 702261, or by writing to Post Development Plan Scheme, Freepost SCO5568, Inverness IV3 5BR.

St Mary's R C Church, Eskadale

Eskadale Church refurbishment is still in progress. A Palm Sunday service was held on Sunday, 5th April, with a service also on 10th May.

Kiltarlity Free Church

Alterations and improvements to the Free Church building and surrounds continue. Minister Andrew Matthews has had to return to his home in USA. Church activities include a Sunday School and Bible Class as well as a morning service every Sunday at 11.00 am. Visitors are welcomed. For more information please ring James Fraser, Session Clerk, at 741729.

Kiltarlity Church of Scotland

Locum Minister Rev. Willis Jones has concluded six years with Crown Church, Inverness. While the Vacancy Committee continues its work, Willis and Pat will continue to live in the Manse at Kirkhill and will be available on a regular basis for any service they might render for Kiltarlity and Kirkhill.

Kirkhill and Kiltarlity 'Celestial Choir' repeated their Christmas success with an equally fine Easter performance.

Summer Holiday Club Through the generosity of Anne Gloag, there is to be a Summer Holiday Club at Beaufort Castle from 10 -14 of August 2009. Mrs Gloag had mentioned the lack of a summer activity for children and when approached was delighted to offer the castle as a site for the Churches' Summer Holiday Club for the children of Kirkhill and Kiltarlity. Anyone prepared to help with the programme, transportation, finance, publicity, and food should contact Willis.

Kiltarlity Church Morning Worship: 12 noon Sundays. Communion: First Sunday of March and October with a Preparatory Service on the preceding Thursday evening at 7.30 pm.

Church contacts Locum Minister: Rev. Willis Jones (Tel. 01463 831662). Interim Moderator: Rev. Reg Campbell B. D., B.Sc., (Tel. 01463 772242, email: campbell578@btinternet.com). Session Clerk: Mrs Marie Harvey (Tel. 01463 741328). Website: www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk . Newsletter "The Parishioner": contact: Mrs Rosemary Mortimer, 7 Priory Place, Beaully (Tel. 01463 782648).

Family provide new services at reunited Shop and Post Office



*The old and new, and a sign
for the times*

The Waddington family moved to Kiltarlity in 1998 to take over the Post Office and the Post Office shop on the retreat of Mrs June Cameron. Mr and Mrs Waddington were taking time out from their ministry in the Salvation Army.

In 2001 they decided to go back to their ministry in the Salvation Army and offered to hand over the running of the business to son Kevin and his wife Ali. Kevin says, "We jumped at the chance. I was between jobs looking for something more permanent and with Jack 6 months old it was great to be working from home and spending time with the family at the same time."

Kevin was born in Grimsby, but due to his parents working with the Salvation Army the family moved around every two to three years and it was not until they reached Inverness in 1995 that Kevin, having met and married local girl Ali, decided it was time to settle down in one location. Ali has been nursing since leaving school and is now a Staff Nurse in Raigmore Hospital, juggling her work both with family and helping out with shop and Post Office.

After almost a hundred years, the Post Office and Allarburn Village Shop are once again on the same site. A reprieve from closure for the foreseeable future helped Kevin and Ali decide that this

was the time to put expansion plans into action, and acquire the Allarburn Shop and Bar premises, again up for sale. After a hectic 12 months, the new look Post Office and Village Shop opened its doors last September and, offering a much wider range of services, has been busy ever since.

The Post Office and Village Store is now able to offer customers Euros on demand, a wider range of groceries including fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy produce and a range of bakery products freshly baked on the premises. A priority has been to support the spirit that Kevin and Ali believe is very evident in the community, so they decided to open a coffee shop, allowing customers to share a chat in the warmth, over a cup of coffee and a bit of cake, instead of having to stand outside in the cold, as they did at the old premises. Another innovation is longer opening hours.

"Since moving here in January 2001, we, along with our two children, Jack (7) and two year old Dan, have felt very much part of the community," says Kevin. The Waddingtons are ever grateful for the support received thus far, and are proud to serve the community of Kiltarlity, and look forward to expanding their services on offer still further.

The Village Store

01463 741284

Opening Hours

Mon - Fri 7.30 am - 8 pm
Sat 7.30 am - 3 pm
Sun 8.30 am-12.30 pm

Coffee Shop

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri 10.30 am - 8 pm
Sat 10.30 am - 3 pm

POST OFFICE

Opening Hours

Mon - Fri 9 am - 5.30 pm
Sat 9 am - 12.30 pm

**Post Office counter closed for
Lunch
(12 pm -1 pm)
Sunday CLOSED**

**Kiltarlity Post Office, Kiltarlity,
Beaully IV4 7HG
Tel: 01463 741284**

Power line update

The huge Inquiry Report on the proposed Beaully Denny Power Line now awaits the decision of Scottish Government Ministers, due later this year. Local group Pylon Pressure, who represented Kiltarlity, Kilmorack and Beaully Community Councils and local residents in the Aird area, have backed the Scotland Before Pylons Briefing Note, which highlights information which has become available since the year long Inquiry ended in December 2008.

SBP question the need for a Beaully Denny overhead line since most wind farms have been south of the Highlands, and the line is not likely to be used by offshore turbine sites. There is also a speedier and cheaper alternative in upgrading the East Coast line – and the sub sea links now being proposed could be extended to link the North West coast to the South.

Pylon Pressure and SBP say the cost of the Beaully Denny overhead line should be reassessed. For example, none of the huge unavoidable cost of transmitting the power on from Denny to its market in England has entered calculations.

New health studies show a clear correlation between high voltage overhead lines like Beaully Denny and Alzheimer's disease. The Scottish Government have called for further information, but the UK trails European countries with precautionary measures.

If Scottish Energy Minister Jim Mather still opts for the Beaully Denny route, SBP and Pylon Pressure say Scotland should follow the example of European countries and lay sensitive sections, or all, of the line, underground. **Pylon Pressure have campaigned consistently for the proposed**

line to be locally undergrounded from Balblair Sub-station to a point well beyond any populated part of Kiltarlity.

The feasibility of undergrounding has been proved and undergrounding seen as an attractive option in Europe. Since the cost of transmission line upgrades is shared between all 28 million customers in the UK, the underground sections proposed could be expected to add just £1 per annum to the average household electricity bill.

Pylon Pressure says we should not accept giant pylons intended only to carry other people's power supply and is calling on members of the public to make clear their opposition. Illustrated post-cards are available at Kiltarlity Village Store and Post Office or at the Brockies Lodge Hotel. These can be sent to Jim Mather, the Minister who will take the final decision, and to the eight local MSPs. For latest information see:

WWW.PYLONPRESSURE.COM

Advertising in the KILTARLITY NEWS

If you are interested in advertising in the Kiltarlity News, we can offer space in the Service Directory where we will print a maximum of 30 words for a cost per issue of £5.

We can also offer display/box advertisements which would have up to 150 words and would be approximately either 5 column centimetres (5 cm X 5 cm approx) or 10 column centimetres (ie twice as high or twice as broad, though not both). Cost per issue for a 5 cm box is £15 and for a 10 cm box £25.

Other sizes and designs can be arranged.

For the next issue please send your requirements and text by 31 July 2009 to:

rdmaclean5@berisay.co.uk

or post to

R D MacLean, 'Berisay', Culburnie, Kiltarlity IV4 7JJ (01463 741323).

Do you remember Jessie McPhee ?

Jessie McPhee was born at Belladrum Lodge on 26th February, 1918. She had two half brothers who emigrated to Canada in 1911.

A family research group has been contacted by the daughter of one of these brothers who would love to find out about her Auntie Jessie, who may have married a Canadian Forester in Kiltarlity in the 1940s.

Jessie would probably have attended Tomnacross School. Does anyone have a school photo from the 1920s which might include her?

Any help would be much appreciated by Shona Selkirk 13, Culburnie.

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(back of Young Street Tesco)

Obituaries *Inevitably, since our last issue there have been several deaths in or connected with Kiltarlity and not all of these may be remembered here. We will be happy to print all obituaries submitted to us.*

Mary Kennedy

20 October 1911 –
16 December 2008



Mary Ann MacDonald Fraser was born at Wester Fanellan to William and Mary Fraser. She had three brothers, Bobby, Peter and Jimmy and a younger sister, Chrissie. The family were always known locally as “The Plumbs”, apparently because Mary’s father, William, always had a plumb line in his pocket to make sure that any wall or fence was properly built.

Mary attended Culburnie School where Headmaster Mr Roderick MacRae, a native of Wester Ross, included Gaelic in the curriculum, though her progress was hindered by the fact that her Gaelic speaking parents found it useful to be able to discuss things in a language their children did not understand, and in any case were not convinced that Mr MacRae’s Gaelic was quite the same language as their own.

Mary took a full part in helping her parents on the croft, especially after the death of her father in 1930. She became expert at making butter and cheese and handling horses at harvest and threshing. Butter making sometimes delayed the sisters getting away to the weekend dance, but the hard work of crofting had its compensations after harvesting, when all the neighbours helped each other and finished with a dance in the Macdonalds’ (the “Bucks”) barn at Culburnie.

When she left school Mary worked in a variety of the local ‘big houses’ such as Beaufort Castle, Eskadale House, Eilean Aigas and Comar House. She also worked at Invermoriston and briefly, even further afield, in England. For a period in the 1940s she worked in the main

Kiltarlity Post Office in Allarburn.

Mary had a particular talent for baking, sewing and knitting and, keen to improve her skills, attended evening classes in Abriachan School. She was asked, when in her eighties, to pass on her knitting skills to the young girls at Tomnacross School and was very willing to do so.

In July 1950 Mary married Robert Kennedy and from then on lived at Ivybank, Camaultmuir. Mary was widowed on Bob’s death in November 1975.

After her marriage, as well as supporting husband Bob in his bus, garage and taxi business, she used her many domestic skills to run bed and breakfast in the summer months. Many visitors to the North of Scotland enjoyed her generous hospitality and several have remained firm friends. But, though settled at Ivybank, Mary visited Wester Fanellan once a week, taking the opportunity of his absence at the Tuesday sales, to do the cleaning and tidying for her bachelor brother Bobby.

Mary was brought up in the United Free Church, and as a girl walked to church regularly with all her friends from the Culburnie and Fanellan area, a walk of several miles, the church being what is now the private house ‘Drummuir’ above the old Post Office. She attended classes run by Rev Mr MacDonald in the Manse (now also a private house – Broomhill) and always insisted on keeping Sunday as a special, work free day. After the union of the two churches, Mary was a faithful member of the Church of Scotland and took an intelligent interest in all church affairs.

At the time of her death at the age of 97 Mary was the oldest surviving native of Kiltarlity and had a fund of stories of past times in the district. She liked nothing better than for people to call at Ivybank, and to pass on some of her immense fund of local knowledge. At her funeral service in Tomnacross Church a very large number of friends, relations and local people gathered to say goodbye to one of Kiltarlity’s grand old ladies.

Mary leaves younger brother Jimmy and his family in England, her late sister Chrissie’s family in Yorkshire, her niece Helen and husband Neil at 3

3 Fanellan and Helen’s brother William, Waddie and Lillian at Kirkhill, their son Gary and his family who were Mary’s close neighbours at Camaultmuir, and Gregor, who is still in the old home at Wester Fanellan.

Rev Robert Gilmour, M.A., B.D., Hon. C.F. 17 July 1915 – 21 February 2009



Robin Gilmour was born in Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, on 17th July, 1915, and spent the first nine years of his life at Sandbank, Argyll, the home of his father who was a plumber to trade. After the First World War, work was scarce, and in 1924 the family moved to Australia where tradesmen were sought after.

Robin went to primary school in the Bexley area of Sydney for three years and then for three years to Sydney High (acquiring a lifelong interest in cricket) before he returned to Scotland to stay with his mother’s uncle, Lachlan MacBean (a Kiltarlity man, born in 1853 at Teanacoil) in Kirkcaldy.

Robin was Dux and sports captain at Kirkcaldy High School and would play rugby for the school on Saturday morning and for Howe of Fife in the afternoon. When in Australia he had played junior level cricket for the same club, St. Johns, where the famous Don Bradman was also a member (and watched him play). At Edinburgh University he was cricket captain and awarded a Triple ‘Blue’.

At university also he was awarded one of the most coveted Cowan House Scholarships which enabled him to study at Montpellier University in France. He took his bike with him and cycled throughout France, just managing to get back to Britain before war was declared in 1939.

Robin Gilmour was now studying for the Ministry at Edinburgh. In 1942 he married Grace Munro from Tongue, also a student of Edinburgh University. War was still raging when he graduated, and he volunteered as an army chaplain. After training and a quiet beginning with coastal defences, he was on his way to North Africa and the 6th Gordon Highlanders. January, 1944, found his battalion in Italy at Anzio suffering heavy casualties. As they made their way through Italy in the wake of the retreating Germans they made some grim discoveries such as the 320 bodies of women and children massacred by the Nazis in caves outside Rome.

After being demobbed, Robin was inducted at Logierait in Perthshire. But then came Korea, which resulted in him deciding to return to the army and a posting to Germany in 1952 with the Sea-forths. In 1954 he went to Suez and then Aden and in 1956 Gibraltar, where he was also Church of Scotland minister. In 1957 he was posted to Catterick in Yorkshire - driving there through Spain and France to show the family all the sights. Three years later he went to Libya with the Royal Scots at Benghazi and then Tripoli where he greatly enjoyed the Roman ruins. When he left in spring 1963 he drove through Italy retracing his war-time steps through Monte Casino, Rome and Florence and into Austria where he had been demobbed.

By the time he finally retired from the army, after a spell as Senior Chaplain Lowland, his military career had spanned service with eight different regiments.

Robin Gilmour came to Kiltarlity in June 1966 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Rev Donald J MacDougall. Robin developed a deep attachment to Kiltarlity and in particular admired the way the people of the different local churches, Church of Scotland, Free Church and Roman Catholic, were prepared to support each other. In an interview printed in the Kiltarlity News in 2000, he recorded how he found a strong community spirit shared by the people of all faiths. But, speaking well after his retirement, he noted a decline in faith and church attendance generally.

Robin Gilmour spent a large part of his retirement in Kiltarlity, at 16 Culburnie (now 'The Byre' music studio), having been left the house and croft a few years before. But in 2000, advancing years persuaded Grace and himself they should move north to Watten in Caithness to be nearer to daughter, Flora Mairi, her husband David Gunn and grand-daughter

Lindsay. Sadly, Grace died in February 2001 but Robin was able to stay on in their house in Watten until very recently, driving daily to his daughter Flora's home nearby where he spent the day walking the dogs and taking an interest in the highland ponies and the country life around. He was able to drive up until his 93rd birthday. For the last four months of his life he was cared for in Pentland View home near Scrabster and although outings with his family had to be in a wheelchair his mind and memory were as good as they had ever been.

Robin died on 21 February 2009 and was laid to rest with his wife Grace in her home village of Tongue. They are survived by daughters Flora and her husband and daughter, in Caithness, and Catriona (Pippi), who now lives near Moffat in Dumfriesshire.

William Foster Wood

William Wood, known as Bill, was born in the small village of Breich west of Edinburgh. He grew up in the countryside with older brother Jackie (now deceased) and younger brother Fraser. On leaving school Bill first began an apprenticeship as a cobbler but soon the call of trains and railways beckoned.

Bill joined the Railway as a porter at Breich Station in November 1946 at the age of 15. This began a long and very successful career including youngest station master in Britain at Strathcarron in 1954. Bill continued to step up the management ladder with numerous moves around the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife and Aberdeen areas with wife and growing children in tow. His last position as Area Manager, Highland Rail, was one of his most successful and enjoyable, though challenging, posts.

On retiring Bill and wife Jenny continued their interest in travel, both by plane and, of course, trains. This included a world tour and numerous extended holidays in Australia.

Bill also enjoyed landscaping his large garden and was a keen member of Beauuly Bowling Club. He was a regular and active member of Tomnacross Church and became well known

among local children as Santa Claus at Christmas parties.

Bill died on 13 November, 2008, and is sadly missed by his wife Jenny, son Robert and daughter Ann. Precious memories.

Thomas H MacKinnon

11 May 1945 –
28 November 2008



Tommy MacKinnon was born in Glasgow but came to Kiltarlity with his brother Archie in 1952 to live with Bella MacDonald at Ardendrain. Tommy attended Tomnacross Primary department before going on to Inverness High School.

When he left school Tommy first worked in the agriculture section of Fraser and MacColl, Eastgate, Inverness and trained as a fitter, working then with Weir's and Pump Maintenance. For several years he worked in Glasgow, on petrol pump maintenance and also with the parks department on lawnmowers and similar machinery, and spent a spell overseas on oil rigs.

After his return to Inverness Tommy lived at Culloden and up to his retirement worked with Highland Council.

Having been born in Maryhill, Tommy was a lifelong Partick Thistle supporter. However, he had been infected by the shinty virus in Kiltarlity and both played for and was a lifelong supporter of Lovat and, when working in Glasgow, an enthusiastic player for Glasgow Inverness-shire.

Tommy's premature and unexpected death was a great shock to his many friends who will retain fond memories of Tommy's sense of humour and refusal to take himself or others too seriously. He is survived by his brother Archie and sister-in-law Rena, his niece Mairi and nephew Murdo.

Alan John MacKenzie

Alan MacKenzie who sadly died in the Isle of Man last June, at the age of 51, was the son of Donnie and Careen MacKenzie (nee Tulloch). Careen lived at Glaihbha with her parents Duncan and Bessie Tulloch and sisters, Shona and Ann, until her marriage to Donnie in 1956.

After their marriage the family lived at 1 Balgate Drive, and Alan and his brother, Kim, attended Tomnacross School until 1965, when the family moved to the Isle of Man, where Donnie took up a new job with the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Alan attended school in Ramsey and was a prominent swimmer in his younger days, competing in the North of England and in Scotland. He trained as a roofer and tiler in the building industry, taking after his great-grandfather, Thomas Tulloch, who had moved to Glaihbha in 1915, (Prior to that he and his brother, had been responsible for many of the buildings in Drumnadrochit and Lewiston.)

Careen and Donnie decided, after over 40 years in the Isle of Man, to return to their home country, settling with sister, Shona, in Lewiston. Sadly, they had barely settled in when Alan became very ill and they returned to the Isle of Man to nurse him in his valiant fight against cancer, a fight which he lost on 14th June, 2008.

He is sorely missed by all his family and friends.

Doris Purcell

15 February 1940 -
8 November 2008

Though Doris Purcell was born in St Leonard's Street, Edinburgh, she spent much of her adult life here in the north of Scotland countryside.

Having trained as a florist she worked part-time in Beaulieu, living at Bellevue, Gilchrist, where husband, Mike, from Lhanbryde, worked for Lord Burton. Then for five years the family lived at Rose Cottage, Beaufort when Mike was a gamekeeper on the Lovat Estate, before moving to Eilean Aigas where Doris filled the role of an extremely capable cook housekeeper, catering successfully for large Eilean Aigas, and Cruives fish-

ing lodge, house parties. When Eilean Aigas was sold in 2003 the couple moved back to Gilchrist to live in the old farmhouse.

In the eighties, Doris was diagnosed with breast cancer, and had successfully fought it. She became a founder member of the Highland Breast Care Association, fund raising and providing advice for other women. Sadly, when the cancer returned Doris eventually lost her long battle against it.

She is survived by husband Mike, her son and two daughters and by her grandchildren.

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Kids of Kolkata Dochas Trust

Pamela Lemon writes of her and husband Allan's work with the street children of Kolkata, India

The Trust was set up last year although the work we have been involved with in Kolkata started in 2005. We became so involved and to love the people and children on the Kolkata streets that we made this a long term commitment.

The Trust is Christian based but helps children no matter what the background – children are children. In the past four years we have managed to support many small projects which have made a big difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest children. Many of them are orphaned and have no other family, live on the streets, survive through a life of petty crime, and are very badly abused and damaged.

So far we have managed to: help a little boy who was profoundly deaf – he now has digital hearing aids and is doing very well at school although still living on the streets with his family; fund a praise band for a boys' orphanage where they love music but only had one badly damaged guitar between them; fund nurse training for one young girl from a tribal background; support a project for girls who lived on the streets but now are part of a new home where they are looked after and educated; paid the rent for a year for a widow with three young children – if this money had not been forthcoming this family would have had to live on the streets – rent for one year cost £100; support children in Future Hope School in Kolkata; support various projects within the red light areas of Kolkata – in one area there are as many as 9000 prostitutes some of whom go back for five generations – small projects are beginning to emerge which enable these ladies to use their skills as seamstresses and learn to make beautiful quilts and bags which they can then sell and enable them to start living a life away from prostitution – these projects also give medical care for them and their children, many of whom have HIV Aids.

The list goes on and on and God willing we will continue for as long as we possibly can helping in whichever way we can. We leave for Kolkata again in early October and we are doing all we can to raise funds for yet more projects we are aware of which desperately need our help.

One such project is at Howrah station – a railways station which used by about 3 million people every single day. It is a dirty filthy place where boys, aged from five to sixteen, and who either have no family or have been thrown out by their family, seem to end up. Many of these boys are addicted to solvent abuse which is readily available, have a terrible existence and are very badly abused in all sorts of ways.

A new project has just been established by a Canadian couple who have managed to get funding for a house away from the station and plan to free the boys from their addiction and terrible lives. But to do this they need help in all sorts of ways. This is a great opportunity for Kids of Kolkata Dochas Trust to become involved and help in whichever way we can to get these boys the childhood they deserve. In all my visits to Kolkata this is the worst and most needy group of children I have yet seen.

Allan and I feel it is our mission to raise awareness of the plight of all these poor children and we know we cannot help them all but even if a few are helped then this in itself is success.

If you would like to know more about the work that we are involved in please don't hesitate to give us a call on 01463 741410. Many thanks.

Visit the Falls of Culnaskiach

The Culnaskiach Falls in the depths of Boblainy Forest are well worth a visit. Over 100 feet high and surrounded by high cliffs the falls are, surprisingly, not shown on the local 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map.

You are invited by Kiltarlity Community Council to join an experienced walk leader from the Inverness Ramblers on walks to the Falls on the evening of Monday 25th May or Tuesday

2nd June. The circular route is nearly five miles in length, and a shorter there-and-back route is around four miles. It is best to wear boots though not absolutely essential. If you would like to go on the walk to the falls, meet at the Kiltarlity Hall car park at 7 pm on one of these two dates, preferably with your own transport to Ardendrain where the walk will commence.

For more details phone 741342 or see posters at the Post Office and elsewhere nearer the time. Although the Community Council is insured for outings of this kind, it is always the responsibility of participants to be mindful of their personal safety.



The forgotten Falls of Kilmorack



The picture is of the Kilmorack Falls, probably the Lower Fall. Both were impressive and attracted weekend and holidaying sightseers. Both are now under the Kilmorack dam and reservoir and older residents will remember how they were both obliterated in the name of progress, without much, if any, opposition on scenic or environmental grounds. One cannot imagine that happening today!

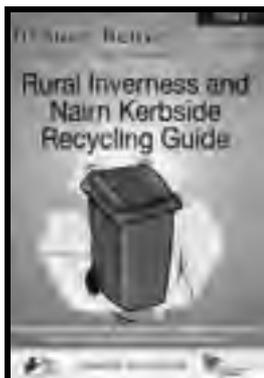
Kiltarlity News

We are keen to have material for the next issue of the *Kiltarlity News* and will print as many local news items, club, school news, sports obituaries, letters, articles etc, as possible. Please send material by **31 July 2009**. We may, but cannot guarantee to print later contributions. Material may be sent to R. MacLean, 'Berisay', Culburnie, (741323), e-mailed to rdmaclean5@berisay.co.uk, or given to any Community Council member.

The Kiltarlity and Kirkhill 'Celestial Choir'



(L - R) Heather Brockie, Wilma Williamson, Lynne Fraser, Debbie Ross, Avril Marr, Margaret West, Ethna Ferguson, Ian Fraser, Ian Morrison, Willis Jones, George Fraser, Mary Robb (choir director), Maureen Matheson, Shona MacDonald, Margo MacLennan, Jacqui Wilton (Guest organist was Richard Cunningham.) *(See Church reports on Page 8)*



Use your blue bin, but remember: it doesn't like bottles !

Kiltarlity Community Gala

This year's Gala takes place on the 23rd May, from 2.00-5.00 pm. There is a fantastic range of activities and stalls as always. There will be a competition this year to find budding artists from groups of all ages; the theme is 'Living in the Countryside.' Get those paints and easels out and you may see your artwork displayed in the Village Hall. Check out the poster at the Post Office for details.

This year's demonstrations will feature Chainsaw Sculpture by Ian Chalmers who will also be bringing along items for sale. The local Beaully Fire Service will carry out a road traffic collision extrication challenge, so between the two there will be plenty of sawing taking place!

Remember to drop into the canteen for some tea and scrumptious home baking courtesy of Kiltarlity WRI or, if you prefer, there will be the burger stall run by the Nursery (don't worry, the little 'uns won't be doing any cooking). The Toddler Group will be providing popcorn and if you've still not had your fill, pop along to the Cake & Candy stall and take home some delicious treats.

Perhaps you should take up the Bucking Bronco challenge before you indulge in the cakes! See how long you can hold on – if you dare! There are going to be some great inflatables too – try the Moon Walk Castle, it looks like fun.

Who will take up the Sumo Challenge this year? There will now be three age categories so the younger children can wrestle too. Willing volunteers required, the winners will be presented with the annual quaichs – spectators can look forward to a hilarious spectacle!

You will be entertained by piping and Highland dancing, you can brighten up your garden with plants from K2000, or try your luck with the 'Lucky Programme, tombola or bottle stall. There will be crafts and games and many other activities and stalls. So come along, help raise funds for your local community groups and enjoy a fun filled day out with all the family!



*It's
Sumo
time
again!*



Use Dial A Bus



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☺☺ All minor roads within this area are included.

☺☺ Extensions may be made to Beaully and Drumnadrochit and to A82 below Blackfold.

What is a dial-a-bus?

This is a substitute for a bus service where a conventional bus would not be practical. It operates on demand within a defined area and time period and does not follow a fixed route or timetable.

Who can use it?

It is available to all members of the public for any journey within the defined area and times. Most dial-a-buses will be wheelchair accessible.

How do I book it?

Phone the operator before 6 pm on the day before travel. (Later bookings may be possible.) You state when you want to travel, where you are going to and from, and give a contact phone number if possible.

Will the bus come exactly when I want it?

You will be given a booking as close to your requested time as possible.

However, you may be offered a time up to 30 minutes earlier or later. If a later time would not be acceptable and might mean missing an appointment, you may be asked to accept a time up to 45 minutes earlier. If an earlier time would not be acceptable you may be offered a time up to 45 minutes later.

Once your booking has been agreed, the bus should arrive no more than 5 minutes before or 10 minutes after the booked time.

Can I use it to connect with regular bus services?

Yes. Within the available times you can book it to drop you at any bus stop in its area or pick you up from a stop.

What is the fare?

The fare is similar to an ordinary bus fare. Free concessionary travel is available to Highland residents who are holders of the Scottish Entitlement Card.

Will it pick me up from my house?

Yes, but it will not normally travel on private roads, unless required for mobility impairments. Use of private roads is at the discretion of the operator.

Do I have to book it from my house?

No. You can travel from whatever point you choose in the defined area, as long as it is on a public road and it is safe for the bus to stop.

What if I decide to change my plans?

Please phone the operator as soon as possible if you want to cancel a booking. If you want to change a booking after the deadline, this will be accommodated where possible but cannot be guaranteed.

Does the dial-a-bus need a minimum number of passengers?

No. It will turn out for one passenger. However, booking times will be arranged to allow several passengers to travel together where appropriate.

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PICK UP OBJECTION POSTCARDS AT KILTARLITY POST OFFICE AND BROCKIES LODGE HOTEL

Balblair expansion again refused

The most recent application to extend Balblair Sub-station by a further 3.4 hectares to bring in wind farm power from the Western Isles was rejected on 15th April as being premature to the outcome of the Beauly/Denny inquiry and unacceptable on the grounds of removing a large section of ground required to visually screen the previously proposed 400kV upgraded substation works.

The latest application had reinforced local residents' fears that the first application was one of many and that the long term aims of SSE were to upgrade and install new lines into the substation to satisfy the increased power requirements needed to justify the 400kV line to Denny, and thus convert the whole of the existing quarry to a mega substation, totally out of character with the local environment while bringing no benefits to the surrounding communities.

It is believed that the SSE will appeal against Highland Council's decision to

National Planning Framework

Have you heard of the National Planning Framework? No? Well you're not alone, and, fortunately, our MSPs are insisting there must be more public consultation in future on this Scotland-wide document which came into being with the 2006 Planning Act. The National Planning Framework (NPF) "will guide Scotland's development to 2030, setting out strategic spatial development priorities to support the Scottish Government's central purpose of sustainable economic growth" reads part of the *Introduction*.

The above priorities include twelve National Developments in different parts of the country: such as the Commonwealth Games Facilities, the new Forth Road Bridge, an International Container Terminal at Rosyth, and the one of real concern to us, Electricity Grid Reinforcements, i.e. new and upgraded high voltage power lines.

Kiltarlity Community Council was one of only two community councils in the country formally expressing views to the Scottish Parliament earlier this year on the final draft of the NPF. The Community Council has two main concerns.

The National Development titled Electricity Grid Reinforcements confirms Balblair Sub-station as the hub of future new and upgraded power lines. Yet the NPF "makes no assumptions about the need for transmission or transmission routes between Beauly and Denny. The decision on that matter will be made by Scottish Ministers in the light of the public inquiry." However, in reality, the other power line proposals don't make sense without the Beauly to Denny power line: they are just the missing part of the transmission jigsaw. In short, when the Scottish Government approve the NPF, and this approval is imminent, they are virtually approving Beauly to Denny by default.

The other major concern to Kiltarlity Community Council is the resource implications of the A96 corridor between Inverness and Nairn being regarded as "the main focus of growth in the Inner Moray Firth". This is not a designated National Development but takes on board Highland Council's *A96 Corridor Development Framework* comprising proposals designed to accommodate an additional 30,000 people in the area over 35 years.

Kiltarlity Community Council representatives pointed out that it seems illogical to be encouraging ever greater centralisation in the immediate Inverness area. The development of the Beauly - Muir of Ord area as a counterweight to Inverness expansion is threatened by the A96 emphasis. While places like Kiltarlity in the Inverness 'hinterland' may share in Inverness growth when it comes to housebuilding and immigration they tend to be stripped of services and are in real danger of becoming little more than rural dormitories. More generally, concern about the problems of the West Coast, East Sutherland and Caithness, and of Inverness centre itself, already struggling to compete with the new out of town retail parks, seems to have been forgotten in the enthusiasm for a Tornagrain new town.

The most serious problem with the very existence of the National Planning Framework is that it takes away the basic rights of every community in Scotland to question the need for any major proposal in their area which is designated as a National Development. Hidden away in an annex to the final draft of the Framework is the statement: "Designation in the NPF is the mechanism for establishing the need for these National Developments. Any subsequent examination of the detailed planning implications, whether by a session of a public inquiry or a hearing, will therefore be concerned with matters such as siting, design and the mitigation of environmental impacts, not the principle of the development".

So much for local democracy, especially if local consultation at the early stages of NPF preparation remains negligible. Far more involvement of local communities at the early stages of NPF preparation remains essential if this system is to be at all fair to local communities.

refuse this latest application.

Kilmorack Community Council, supported by neighbouring Kiltarlity and Beauly Community Councils, have consistently opposed proposals for the expansion of Balblair. The Community Council, who believe that the use of SF6 insulated switch gear would re-

duce the substation's footprint, are also discussing with Highland Council planners, landowners Lovat Estates and the quarry operators to try to get agreement that any expansion should be moved further back into the quarry with a view to taking this option to the Scottish Parliament for consideration.

Festivals celebrate first Highland emigrants

The annual 5-day Hector Festival (August 12th-16th, 2009) in Pictou, Nova Scotia, commemorates the landing of the Ship Hector in 1773. The Hector carried the first wave of Highland settlers, including many from the then forfeited Lovat and Cromarty Estates, to the Pictou area on the mainland of Nova Scotia.

The Festival features a re-enactment of the historic landing at Pictou with costumed settlers rowing to shore. Genealogy information is provided for those researching their family history and Pictou County origins.

New Scotland Days (September 11-13th, 2009) also celebrate the Ship *Hector* and its voyage to Pictou in 1773.

Although the *Hector* sailed for Canada from Loch Broom it also carried emigrants from Kiltarlity and the Aird area. After the Lovat Estate had been taken over by the Government in reprisal for



A replica of the "Hector" now sits at the Hector Heritage Quay in Pictou.

Clan Fraser's part in the Forty-five, a succession of bad harvests had persuaded some tenants that things would be better overseas, although this was some time before the Clearances which, in fact, were hardly resorted to at all by the Lovat landlords.

A digital photographic exhibition highlighting the links between Canada

and Scotland, entitled "This is Who We Are", is travelling Scotland during "Homecoming 2009". It features images of Pictou, and Pictou life and, at least in part, can also be accessed on the internet.

First Responder Scheme " Helping our communities to help themselves"

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What to do next

If you have some free time and want to participate in providing a valuable service to your community or assist in establishing a Community First Responder Scheme please contact:

www.scottishambulance.com

Eventful year so far for Tomnacross

by

Parent Council Chairman, Mark Goodwill

Tomnacross has had a rollercoaster start to 2009! With the burst pipe and consequential flooding over Hogmanay the lower half of the school was badly disrupted. However, with a lot of hard work from all the staff and the Council the disruption was kept to a minimum. The school, with its almost completed new hall and refurbished classrooms is now looking better than ever!

After only two terms, acting head teacher Mr Gerry McKenna resigned in order to be with his wife working in the USA. The Parent Council and PTA send them both our very best wishes. We also welcome our new acting head teacher, Mr Alan Danson from North Kessock Primary. The process of finding a permanent head will also be ongoing over the summer term.

The Parent Council has now started to see how we can help the staff in three areas identified as being priorities: a) reading, b) special needs and c) numeracy. We hope to be able to make a tangible difference over the coming weeks.

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is always working hard to raise more money for the benefit of our children. In order to be sustainable we do need more help, please, as a few well known people are putting in a Herculean effort. Fundraising ideas are also always welcome.

The PTA / Parent Council meetings are open to all parents and we would actively encourage more to attend! There is currently a core group of parents regularly attending and as a result we are able to represent all classes from Nursery right through to Primary Seven.

The meetings tend to be run as one and we try and meet roughly twice per term.

But who was S Fraser?



Left: the Crown team a few years later. Above: the face of the medal. S Fraser's name is inscribed on the back.

The medal commemorates an important event in Inverness sporting history - the very first Association Football Cup Final in the town, between Crown and Nairn County. It was awarded to Crown player S Fraser, who was probably from Kiltarlity, for taking part in the 1885-86 Inverness Charity Cup Final on 20th February, 1886. S Fraser's medal has been passed down in the family of Shona Selkirk (Inch), 13 Culburnie, but who he was has been forgotten. He is one of the players in this slightly later Crown team photograph. Crown was one of the early Inverness teams which came together to form Inverness Thistle. They won the final easily when Nairn disputed a decision and refused to participate further.

Charleston News

Charleston shinty team against Lochaber High in the final of the Wade Cup at Balgate, Kiltarlity on April 29th, included Kiltarlity's Greg Matheson, Tom Collings, Michael MacKenzie and Christopher MacCallum. Lochaber players are attached to Fort William, Kilmallie, Lochaber Camanachd and Glengarry while Charleston call on players who play for Beauy, Lovat, Strathglass and Inverness to make this school fixture almost a district representative game. Despite the Lovat backbone, however, Charleston went down 3 -1 to Lochaber on this occasion.

The Charleston Senior football team (including Martin and Craig Mainland and Neal Hemingway of Kiltarlity) have won the Highland School League and are also North of Scotland Cup finalists.

Ellie Watts of Kiltarlity, a member of the Charleston Eco-School group, was one of 150 pupils from S3 who recently spent a day at the Ironworks finding out how to run sustainable travel projects at our schools. They took part in workshops and a street audit - looking at the cyclists' and pedestrians' points of view.

Rosalind Campbell was one of several Charleston pupils performing well at the Inverness music festival. She entered both the Duet - secondary section, to gain an excellent merit 3rd place, and also was part of the joint staff/pupil senior choir which got an 'outstanding' grade and came 2nd.

Tomnacross First Shinty triumph

Victorious Tomnacross team
Back row : Mark Kelly, Ross Watson, Lee Dunbar, Jamie Buchan. **Front row:** George Williamson, John Williamson (Capt.), Scott MacKenzie, Stuart Lamont



Tomnacross Primary, having won the qualifying tournament at the Craigmonie Centre, Drumnadrochit on Saturday 4th March, represented the Aird District at the National First Shinty Competition, for players in Primary 5 and under, at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Saturday 21st March.

The results of five league games were: Ballachulish 0 - Tomnacross 3; South End, Skye 0 - Tomnacross 3; Milngavie & Bearsden 0 - Lovat 1; Strathpeffer 0 - Lovat 0; Lochgilphead 0 - Lovat 4.

With 4 wins and a draw Tomnacross came out top of their league and went on to play Newtonmore, the runners up from the other league, in the semi finals. This was the team that had defeated them in last year's final at Perth. They beat Newtonmore 3-1 to meet North End, Skye in the final.

The final was just something else.

Tomnacross scored first and went on to make it 2-0. North End scored twice to equalise and then scored again, but Tomnacross were left to play catch-up. Tomnacross scored again to level the score just before the full time whistle. Extra time was called, 3 minutes each way with the golden goal coming into play. The Tomnacross team were delighted when Mark Kelly scored in the first period of extra time thus winning Tomnacross the competition.

In the tournament Tomnacross scored a total of 18 goals with goalkeeper Lee Dunbar letting in only four goals throughout the tournament.

John Williamson (Captain) was presented with the Trophy by Mr. Duncan Cameron, President of the Camanachd Association, who told the spectators that it was worth travelling up from Glasgow to watch what was one of the most entertaining finals he had ever watched and that with such a demonstration of talent on show the future of Shinty was in good hands.



Kiltarlity's very own award-winning Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival has announced Editors and Ocean Colour Scene as its headliners for the two day event that takes place on 7th and 8th August. This is to be the Editors' only festival appearance in Scotland this year; Ocean Colour Scene have been adopted by many Scots as one of their favourite Brit-Pop bands.

Back for its sixth consecutive year, Tartan Heart will also feature **The Saw Doctors** and **Shed Seven**, both making their first appearances at Belladrum, and the latter making Belladrum their only UK

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festival appearance of the summer.

British Sea Power return to the stage, as does folk singer-fiddler **Seth Lakeman** and the **Alabama 3**. Glasgow's **Sons & Daughters** will also be there after having to pull out of last year's event at the eleventh hour.

Glen Tilbrook makes his first visit with **The Fluffers** who headline the Grassroots Stage, while the **Peatbog Faeries**, **Lau** and **Treacherous Orchestra** are leading Celtic musicians. World dance purveyors **Transglobal Underground** will hot things up on the main stage, teenage sensation **Tommy Reilly** follows up on his recent hugely successful debut tour and winning of Orange Unsigned, whilst gypsy punk specialists **De Votchka** are over from the US for a one-off Scottish festival appearance.

Glasgow indie artists, **The Phantom Band** will be there and also on the bill are Levellers' favourites **3 Daft Monkeys** together with festival veterans **Edward II** plus **The Wallbirds**, one of the real highlights of last years festival, **Kid Carpet**, **Sam Isaac**, **The Lost Brothers** and reformed local heroes **Scouty & The Skyhooks**.

"We're very excited to have long-standing favourites north of the border," says festival co-promoter Joe Gibbs. "And those with long memories will remember Editors playing a storming set mid-afternoon on the Hothouse Stage in 2005 when things were just beginning for them."

Belladrum 2009 takes place on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th August and this year the festival is supported by Homecoming Scotland 2009. Marie Christie, Homecoming Scotland Project Director says, "Belladrum is one of Scotland's leading family-friendly festivals."

Adult weekend tickets are £80 and adult Saturday tickets will cost £50. Both include parking and camping. As in previous years, tickets for children 12 and under are free.

Tickets are available from The Ironworks (www.ironworksvue.com), The Booth (www.thebooth.co.uk), Ticketmaster (www.ticketmaster.co.uk), Ticketline (www.ticketline.co.uk), Tickets Scotland (www.tickets-scotland.com) and Skiddle (www.skiddle.com). Tickets are also available from TicketScotland in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Ripping in Edinburgh, One-Up in Aberdeen, Mania, Hootenanny's and Eden Court in Inverness; and Below The Waterfall in Dingwall.

Midnight Christening on Christmas Eve



The Sheriffs children, Owen, Lucy and Zoé

Kiltarlity Church of Scotland's Christmas Eve Service was a little unusual in also being a Service of Baptism. The Sheriffs family, who had, travelled from France, attended the midnight service and the Sheriffs children, Owen Scott, Lucy Naomi and Zoé Eilidh were baptised by Rev Willis Jones.

Colin, born in Inverness, and Annabelle Sheriffs, moved to France in 2000 where they now live in the small village of St Laurent du Bois, 50 km south of the French wine growing capital, Bordeaux. Having been married in France, following French traditions, they preferred having their children christened in Colin's homeland and decided to combine this event with a Christmas holiday with Colin's brother Robbie and wife Jean at Brockies, Kiltarlity.

Colin and Annabelle felt the importance of christening their children in Scotland, having a strong belief that such an important event will enhance their Scottish roots. They would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made the midnight service and christening such a memorable and enriching experience.

Colin is Export Manager of a French wine company.

Our flying visitors

by
Malcolm Harvey



For many of us the first avian signs of spring are the arrival of Swallows or the sound of the first Cuckoo although they are by no means the first birds to arrive.

The Song Thrush or Mavis is a resident bird throughout most of the British Isles but those in the Highlands are summer visitors with very few present during the winter. There is not a lot of information as to where our Highland birds spend the winter although it is known through ringing that some travel to Ireland. To me, hearing the first song thrush, usually on a sunny day at the end of February or more usually, in early March, is an indication that spring is not too far away.

When I first came to live in Kiltarlity almost 40 years ago, the first swallow, usually a male, would be normally seen around our croft during the last days of April but nowadays one can expect to see them two or three weeks earlier.

Swallows are outwardly monogamous and often the same pair will return to the last year's breeding site and remain paired for life. However, swallows do have a fairly short life span, facing many hazards on migration. Frequently one or other of a pair do not survive from one season to another, forcing the surviving bird to find another mate. Studies have shown that males are more faithful to the breeding site than females and divorces do occur.

Last year's young arrive later to breed in the general area in which they had fledged previously. Our swallows are the longest distance migrants, flying by day (unlike most small migrants) and feeding as they travel to spend the winter in South Africa.

Most of our summer visitors, such as House Martins, arrive during the second half of April into May, and some like the Cuckoo occur in ever dwindling numbers. Last year was the first year in which I did not hear a cuckoo in the vicinity of our croft. In the past, the call of cuckoos was a characteristic sound in the Highland glens in May but last year whilst carrying out survey work in Glen Affric and Strathglass I was surprised by how few I came across compared with similar surveys I carried out in these areas in the 1970's and 80's. Young cuckoos have to find their way to their winter quarters in Africa by instinct because the adults have already left by the time the young have fledged.

The Swift is one of the later summer visitors, arriving in the first half of May and also one of the first to depart in early August. The sight and sound of swifts screaming over rooftops and around large buildings is very much a symbol of summer in Scotland. Like cuckoos, swifts have declined in throughout Britain and this is reflected locally. In the past I recall good numbers of these birds breeding under the eaves of Tomnacross School and the Free Church whereas now there are very few, if any, at these sites.

Swifts winter in sub-Saharan Africa and are the most aerial of all birds, feeding, roosting, mating and collecting nesting material all on the wing.

There are, of course, many other species of summer visitors to the Highlands but by far the most abundant is the Willow Warbler, a tiny four and a quarter inches, greenish, olive brown bird with pale yellowish underparts. The willow warbler arrives from mid April onwards from its winter quarters in Ghana and elsewhere along the Guinea Coast of Africa. There cannot be any birchwood or bushy area in the Highlands from which its pleasing cascading song is not to be heard.

By the end of June most of our summer visitors have stopped singing and are busy rearing young. During August many are starting their long journeys to warmer climates for the winter. The countryside no longer resounds with bird song and calls of young birds and by September, when we see flocks of swallows gathering on telephone wires prior to departing to Africa, we know that autumn will soon be upon us.

Some important local issues

by

Councillor Margaret Davidson

On a fine spring day I should be out in the Nursery or walking the hills, But I wanted to take the time to flag up several of the important issues that Kiltarlity will be involved with over this next few months.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN This is the new policy document being drawn up by the Planning services and will serve the Highland for the next 5 to 10 years. It is vital that we get this right. However I know myself that it is very hard to sometimes understand the full impact of some policy statements until they impact on the ground or you personally. I know your community council will take a strong interest, but if

others can, all the better. That will be out for consultation before the summer.

LOCAL PLAN Late this year or in 2010 there will be a review of the local plan. I know that met with a rough ride last time in the village and surrounding area. So again, keep up with your community council later this year to see what is being proposed.

HOUSING The saw-mill site and two others in the village have planning consent. Cairn housing association will be building a number of low cost houses on the saw mill site. Remember we could be looking at Shared ownership houses (LIFT) or low cost subsidised plots for local people.

I believe it might be useful to discuss a housing needs survey with Cairn so that we get a clear understanding of local need. If you have a housing need and wish to talk about it, get in touch.

LEADER and other funding. Over the next two years there is a good amount of funding available to help bring forward local projects. Dust off your ideas. I know one group are looking at an improved play area? Are there others? Get in touch with me, my colleagues or the Community Council and let's get it moving!

Finally I hope you are using the **Dial a Bus Service** operated by Bill Ross over the Aird. We must use it and extend the service.

Have a good growing season and let's hope for a real summer.

Margaret Davidson Highland Councillor, Aird and Loch Ness: Abriachan Nurseries, Kilianan, Loch Ness Side, Inverness IV3 8LA 01463 861424; mobile 07818015689

margaret.davidson@highland.gov.uk

Iain Goodwill Trust

by
Mark Goodwill

Iain's Trust was established to prevent an accident, similar to the one which killed our 17 month old son Iain in October 2007, claiming another young life. Initially, we are both pressurizing car manufacturers to modify car design and raising awareness among other parents of the potential for driveway accidents.

In conjunction with the *Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)* we now have an on-line survey almost ready to go live. This will hopefully provide us with some statistics confirming that "near miss" accidents are unfortunately as common as we now know.

We have also started working with the charity *Child Accident Prevention Trust*

(CAPT) who have produced some excellent flyers and have a wide, but targeted, distribution around the UK. We aim to produce our own "Safety Around Cars" flyer with CAPT and have these distributed to a targeted UK readership, for example hospitals, doctors' surgeries, nurseries, primary schools and other health workers.

We would struggle to achieve all this without the tremendous support we are continually receiving from the Community, friends, family and now total strangers keen to help. The fantastic band *Torridon* performed a superb ceilidh on the 28th February in the Village Hall, ably supported by two excellent groups and Craig MacRitchie on the pipes. This was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all raising almost £650 – magnificent! A huge thank you to all the performers, Linda and Graham Bell for or-

ganizing and, of course, everybody who supported us.

Still on a musical theme, *Highland Chamber Orchestra* are kindly performing two children orientated family concerts in Iain's memory. They will be performing, among other things, Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf – a wonderful story and a super introduction to the instruments of the orchestra. Please come and join us on Saturday 23rd May at 7.30 pm, Fortrose Academy or Sunday 24th May at 3pm, Craigmonie Centre, Drumnadrochit.

Once again, we would like to thank everybody for your tremendous support over the last 18 months and for all the generous donations.

Mark Goodwill (Telephone 741854)

Lovat down - but far from out

Lovat seniors entered the new season back in North Division 1 but have not allowed that to discourage them despite a disappointing start to the season against Beaully. When it looked as if things were going to end in stalemate, Beaully were awarded a controversial penalty which they duly converted to make the score of that game Beaully 1, Lovat 0.

Lovat next travelled to Caol to meet Kilmallie, most people's favourites to lift this year's title. A long, wind assisted, drive deceived Stuart MacDonald within the first five minutes but only spurred Lovat on and within the first ten minutes Martin Bell had scored twice to put Lovat 2-1 up. A further clever goal by Raymond Rennie was followed by Martin Bell completing his hat trick on the stroke of half time. Though Kilmallie scored again in the first minute of the second half Lovat went on to dominate the second half and Raymond Rennie completed the scoring in the 85th minute to make the final score Kilmallie 2, Lovat 5.

For the third League fixture Lovat were half way to Skye only to be told the game was rained off and Skye must travel to Balgate, where the encounter ended Lovat 1, Skye 1. Evenly matched teams squandered good chances. Greg Matheson gave Lovat the lead, but deep into injury time, when Lovat thought the game won, Skye scored to grab a share of the points.

The most recent League game, with Inverness, produced a rather disappointing 0 – 0 draw to leave Lovat at fourth position in the table.

In a quite astonishing MacTavish Cup game at Balgate Lovat edged Strathglass out in a 15 goal thriller. Strathglass opened the scoring, but within half an hour Lovat were 5-1 up through goals from Martin Bell (2), Greg Matheson (2) and Raymond Rennie. Strathglass then hit a purple patch with 3 goals in the last 5 minutes of the first half making the half time score 5-4. The second half started with goals from Martin Bell and Raymond Rennie but Strathglass came back with two goals of their own. Greg Matheson then completed his hat trick and, just as everybody thought that that was it, Strathglass came back with a late goal. But Lovat held on for a home game with Beaully, which they won 3 – 2 to make them the only Division One team to win through to the semi-final - against Kingussie.

In the Camanachd Cup, Strathglass were once more sent home to think again but after the lower score of Lovat 2, Strathglass 1. The next round featured an incredible tussle with Glenorchy at Balgate. Lovat, without regulars Daniel Grieve, Fraser Gallacher, and Martin Bell dominated play, proving the quality of the players drafted in, but still found themselves two down at half-time and three down shortly after

the re-start. What should have resulted in total discouragement, in fact resulted in Lovat equalising by full time and winning the game 4 – 3 in extra time, and the reward of a quarter-final tie against Kingussie at the Dell.

Lovat Juniors have had one of the best starts to their season for many a year beginning with an excellent 2-1 home win over Glengarry, scorers Owen Ferguson and James MacPer-son. This was followed by a 1-0 defeat at Balgate by Glenurquhart, but by the following Saturday they had recovered spectacularly with an 8-0 home win against Caberfeidh, scorers were Jamie Matheson (3), Steven Cameron (2), Martin Anderson (2) and Craig Mainland. The team then travelled to Skye and for the first time in many years left with both points after a 5-3 victory. Scorers were Jimmy MacKenzie (2), Steven Cameron (2) and Jamie Matheson. Lovat Juniors continued with a fine 5-2 win at home, over Newtonmore, followed by an equally satisfactory 4 – 1 win at home over Kingussie. Though two recent away defeats, to Newtonmore (2 – 0) and Kilmallie (2 – 0) have seen Lovat slip to third position in the table, everything is still to play for.

The team travelled back to Portree for their first Sutherland tie, again recording a win - Skye 3, Lovat 4, and have defeated Bute 3-1 at Balgate in the following game.