

Spring 2026 Issue 38 £1

# The Wee Vine

news & resources for the community of Kippen



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[theweevine.org](http://theweevine.org)





# The Wee Vine

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We also reserve the right to edit or refuse insertion of any article submitted.

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## Welcome to issue 38 of The Wee Vine

How things have changed over the last few months! We hope everyone is coping with the changing world.

This issue highlights a variety of topics within our village.

Risk and Resilience and Household Emergency Checklist features on pages 26/29.

The special Feature covers the Community Council and Community Fundraising Tool on pages 3/7

Various clubs info on pages 8/9, Village Hall update on pages 18/19 and Heritage news on pages 29/21

The first of our Certificates of appreciation to our supporters is on page 23 and Sustainability Kippen on page 25. Primary School on pages 14/17 and Cancer Appeal 2026 on page 13.

Our next issue is scheduled for the second half of July and contributions will be needed by 30th June.

Your feedback about the Wee Vine is important to us so please get in touch with your comments/ ideas for this year.

Email to [enquiries@theweevine.org](mailto:enquiries@theweevine.org) or text/Whatsapp to 07736 362011. If you wish to donate go to <https://theweevine.org/donations/> If you would like your photograph featured on the front cover, send to [enquiries@theweevine.org](mailto:enquiries@theweevine.org) (minimum size 1 MB). This should feature a seasonal picture at time of printing.

Cover photography Denis Bradley

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## Community Council Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Kippen Community Council will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May in Kippen Reading Rooms. This will be followed by a General Meeting at 7.30pm. All welcome to attend.

## New Members of Kippen Community Council

The minimum number of members of KCC is 7 and the maximum is 9. Membership currently stands at 8 so there is currently room for an additional member. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining KCC.

## Current Community Council Membership and Meeting Schedule

The current membership of the community council is as follows:

Barbara Ross (Chair)

Scott Crawford (Vice Chair)

Christine Stewart (Secretary)

Robert Clubb (Treasurer)

Ann Milligan (Planning)

Jackie Graham (Public transport liaison)

Neil Beaton

Pippa McLean

Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms (except for January, July and August).

The meeting schedule for 2026 is as follows:

January 2026 No meeting	Wednesday February 11 <sup>th</sup> 2026	Wednesday March 11 <sup>th</sup> 2026	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 AGM 7pm General meeting 7.30pm	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	July 2026 No meeting	August 2026 No meeting
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2026	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2026	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2026	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2026

## Ongoing Local Bus Problems

Kippen Community Council continues to receive concerns from residents and parents about the reliability and safety of school transport services operated by McGill's Midland Bluebird.

While delays and late running have been an ongoing issue, more serious incidents have heightened concern locally. These include a recent case where a school bus had to be stopped by police after part of its bodywork became detached during a journey. This follows earlier incidents in December 2025, including a fire on the X10 service carrying pupils from Balfroun High School, and a breakdown of a school coach where pupils reported what they believed to be a wheel coming loose.

Understandably, these events have caused significant anxiety among families who rely on these services every day. Regular reports of unreliability on both the X10 and dedicated school services have added to frustration within the community. In addition, there are concerns about the impact that late and cancelled buses will have on pupils' education.

KCC has raised these concerns with the relevant authorities and is seeking urgent assurances that services will be made safe, reliable and fit for purpose. Given the importance of these routes for our rural area, we will continue to press for meaningful improvements.

### New Pilot Bus Project

Stirling council began two new pilot bus services on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. The aim of the new in-house services is to improve connections between rural communities in the western part of the council area. They will build on the current C60 pilot (that runs between Callander and Killin) and will operate on the following routes:



C61: Callander - Thornhill - Port of Menteith - Aberfoyle (with bookable/on demand journeys between Aberfoyle and Kinlochard).

C62: Croftamie – Drymen – Balfroun Station – Balfroun – Fintry – Kippen.

Both services will use all recognised bus stops along these routes and will link to existing public transport provision following feedback from recent public consultations in this area. Later journeys have been added to help accommodate young people attending after-school clubs and other activities. The new services will replace existing demand responsive transport (DRT) services between these communities. Pending the success of the pilot, the new service will ultimately replace the current DRT service.

Passengers on both services can pay using debit or credit cards (not Amex). All National Entitlement Cards (NEC) will be accepted. Drivers will be unable to accept cash for fares. The new services will be funded via existing budget allocations for DRT provision.

More information on the new services, including timetables, can be found by visiting: [www.stirling.gov.uk/connectingcommunities](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/connectingcommunities).

KCC provided feedback on timetable issues and possible problems with the location of the bus stop on Castlehill Loan.

### Problems with Water Quality and supply

KCC has contacted Scottish Water about issues with poor water quality in the Kippen area. Tests have confirmed that the water is technically safe for consumption, however, it's





appearance, taste and smell can on occasions be unacceptable and has caused both discomfort and frustration among residents. This also undermines public confidence and has resulted in some residents having to carry out additional treatment such as filtering and resorting to using bottled water. KCC has asked Scottish Water to identify and address the cause of the discoloration and odour, improve treatment/filtration processes to ensure better water clarity and taste and to communicate clearly with our community to clarify the steps that are being taken to improve water quality.

Scottish Water has responded to our concerns by asking residents to arrange for samples to be collected for testing. As the problem appears to be seasonal, we would suggest that when problems arise, residents contact Scottish Water directly to request that their water is tested. Scottish Water say that this would involve face-to-face appointments and someone to be home. Appointments take place between Monday and Friday from 9am to 2pm. It may be advisable to collect a sample in a clean, uncontaminated container and store in the refrigerator.

It has also been noted that tankers carrying water to Kippen have been relatively common during the summer months but were also observed over a period of a few weeks this winter. In addition to raising concerns about the security of water supply in some areas of Kippen, this creates issues with increased heavy tankers on the local roads and within the village itself. KCC will also be contacting Scottish Water about this issue.

To report a water quality issue to Scottish Water, residents can use the 24/7 freephone helpline on 0800 0778 778 or submit details to the online "Report a Problem" portal. Issues such as discoloration, unusual taste or smell, or low pressure can also be raised via Scottish Water's social media channels.

Before reporting, it is helpful to check the "Latest in Your Area" map for any known local works or incidents. When making a report, you should provide the location (postcode or nearby landmark), a description of the problem, and whether neighbouring properties are affected.

In some cases, discoloured or cloudy water may be caused by air bubbles following recent work; running the cold kitchen tap for a short period may resolve this.

### Dog Fouling in the Village

There have been an increasing number of complaints and concerns about dog fouling within the village and surrounding area. This has included dog fouling in people's gardens and bags of dog faeces being left lying around or hanging from trees, hedges and fences. This is unacceptable on both hygiene and aesthetic grounds and dog owners are asked to take responsibility for their pets by ensuring that dog poo is safely disposed of.

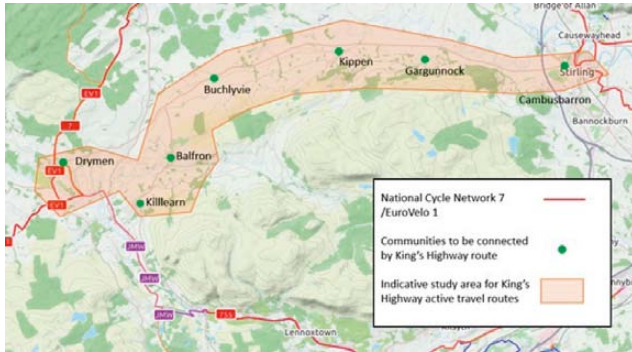
Kippen Community Council has contacted Stirling Council to see if the number of bins for disposing of dog faeces can be increased. However, it should be noted that there are restrictions on places that such bins can be located linked to land ownership and accessibility by council vehicles.



### King's Highway Consultation

Stirling Council has undertaken an early-stage Options Assessment for the King's Highway Active Travel Project as part of its Sustainable Mobility Strategy, aiming to create a safer, more accessible and low-carbon transport system. The project focuses on improving

connections along the A811 corridor between Gargunnoch, Kippen, Buchlyvie, Balfron and Drymen, where there is currently no continuous safe route for walking, wheeling or cycling.



Building on over fifteen years of community interest and input and supported by funding from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (2025–26), the study will identify practical, affordable improvements to existing routes and explore options for a future National Cycle Network route (NCN 755). It will assess where current infrastructure works well,

where people feel unsafe, and where targeted interventions could make meaningful improvements.

Stirling Council has sought local knowledge through drop-ins, online consultation and an online survey which were all completed by the end of March. The aim was to help shape realistic and deliverable options. Additional route ideas submitted by community groups and residents have been recorded and will be considered as part of the assessment. The drop-in in Kippen Village Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> March was quite well attended despite having taken place during the afternoon, with members of the local community voicing their ideas and concerns about suggested routes.

Common concerns for cyclists in the area include fast traffic, narrow verges, unsafe conditions for families, difficult junctions and a lack of off-road alternatives. Addressing these issues could support safer journeys, better connections between communities, improved health and wellbeing, increased tourism and reduced reliance on private cars.

This stage of work included route audits, engagement, demand analysis and high-level cost estimates; however, no funding has yet been secured for later design or construction phases. Feedback gathered through surveys and drop-in events will inform a shortlist of potential improvements, outline route options and a summary of community priorities, guiding the next steps in the project.

### Zebra Crossing in Kippen

Despite Kippen not meeting the criteria for a zebra crossing, Stirling Council has decided that Kippen should have at least one zebra crossing as part of Safer Routes to Schools project. This has thus been added to Stirling Council's Programme for Delivery during the next financial year (2026/27). Full consultation will need to be carried out with Kippen Community Council and with residents who may be affected by the installation of a zebra crossing. The entire process is predicted to take 9-10 months to complete.

### Reporting a Pothole

Members of the public can report potholes. Once reported, councils are legally obligated to investigate and repair within a reasonable time. Specific criteria (usually depth and width) define when a pothole is dangerous and requires action.



Potholes can be reported by searching “Stirling Council report a pothole” or following the link below.

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/roads-transport-and-parking/roads-and-pavements/report-a-pothole>

If the pothole is on a trunk road or motorway then it should be reported to Traffic Scotland.

### Contacting Kippen Community Council

If you wish to contact KCC about any issue, please either come along to a meeting or email your concern to [kippencommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kippencommunitycouncil@gmail.com). KCC does not meet in January, July and August but our email account will be monitored although not on a daily basis.

We welcome any questions, comments and suggestions from residents and it's easy to get in touch.

You can read about what we do and pick up the latest news on our website at <https://kippencc.org.uk>

You can contact us via the website at <https://kippencc.org.uk/contact-us>

You can email us at [kippencommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kippencommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

You can subscribe to our weekly news digest – just head over to the website at <https://kippencc.org.uk> and fill in the Signup form on the right-hand side.

### Community Fundraising Tool

The requirement for matched funding can be a significant challenge to community clubs/groups. A combination of awareness and understanding presents a hurdle to financial support beyond the Kippen Community Trust (KCT). However the internet provides a number of useful tools to help navigate this network of opportunities, but the most efficient and effective sites inevitably incur a cost. The KCT have agreed to fund membership to such a resource for a trial period to determine local demand.

Community access to this arrangement should lead to an improved success rate for capital, avoiding wasted time researching and completing applications to misplaced providers; unsuccessful submissions can quickly erode enthusiasm.

The tool will be administered by a panel member for those meeting acceptance criteria aligned with KCF applications. The search process will require a basic data set of information from the applicant; the more concise the better the results. A representative must attend the search and offer additional information that may enhance and refine results.

The data form can be requested, completed and returned to [francescarlaw@gmail.com](mailto:francescarlaw@gmail.com). Frances will then arrange a suitable time to complete the search with your project representative.

Good luck with your projects...

*Mike Bastock*

## Kippen Tennis Club

A View from the Umpire's Chair

March 2026

Spring in its usual unpredictable style is upon us once more, so time, once again, to dust off the green flash and dig out the whites.... or blues.... or blacks..... or whatever colour you fancy!

The 1<sup>st</sup> of April brings a new membership year for the club and the 2026/27 season has kicked off with two big upgrades; new court lighting and resurfacing.

After a successful grant application from Business Energy Scotland and raising more than £1700 at the Kippen Quizzing Cup last November the club are installing energy-efficient LED court lighting to replace the aging (and expensive to run!) sodium fittings. Those of you from the old guard I'm sure will miss raking around in your tennis bag to find a token for the meter, or to have the lights shut off after your hour when you are on set point. The LED lighting will be much cheaper to run and so will be provided on a donation basis.



The court surface has extended beyond its intended lifespan so the decision was made to go for the full resurfacing, which should give us a perfect playing surface for many years to come. This is the biggest expense for a tennis club and so the club are delighted and grateful to have been awarded £3500 from the Kippen Community Trust towards this.

Both the lighting upgrade and resurfacing should (weather permitting) be completed by the time you read this.

Details for the popular summer coaching block are available on the website Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April/Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April start of summer block. Finish Friday 19<sup>th</sup>/Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Dates for the calendar:**

26<sup>th</sup> April - Open Day

May TBD - Social tennis afternoons and evenings

August TBD - Summer Camp

23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Club Championships

Join our new WhatsApp Community for the latest announcements or to find a local hitting partner.

Full details of coaching and membership are on the website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/KippenTennisClub>

## Kippen Bowling Club

We are looking forward to the formal opening of the 2026 season which will take place on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April.

At our recent AGM Geoff Turner and Sandra Hillhouse were elected as President and Vice President respectively and our good wishes are extended to them for successful terms of office.

Maintenance and tidying up work is well underway on the green, the surrounds and in the clubhouse prior to the commencement of play and here's hoping for a good summer of weather.

As always, we are keen to attract new members of all ages. No playing experience is necessary as tuition and relevant advice is always available. Please get in touch if you are interested. Even if you wish only to come down to give it a try you will be made very welcome. Bowls can readily be made available.

*John F. Anderson Landline: 01786 870001 Mobile: 07905096170*



## Kippen Golfing Society

At this time of year, we are busy setting up for the new season with the prospect of great weather and peerless golf lying ahead. Surely this year! Having completed his term of office, Rory Duff has given way to Simon Littlejohn who has been elected as President of the Society and will oversee club business for the next 3 years. There will be several events to keep on top of in 2026 including four Society outings and 2 singles competitions. Plans are well ahead to visit the Open qualifying course, Glasgow Gailes in May and other venues lie ahead later in the summer.

The season in 2025 was a great success with outings to Old Ranfurly, Cardross and Falkirk Carmuir as well as the annual pairs competition at Balfron. The major trophies were won by Peter Baker, Ross MacNish, Colin Dick, Tim Brown and Alistair Donaldson. Alistair also won the Railton Scott Memorial Shield for the best outing score and can be seen below, receiving his trophy from Rory Duff.

Looking ahead, The Kippen Golfing Society has a significant birthday coming up in 2027 as it will be 50 years since an outing was arranged for Kippen enthusiasts to celebrate the Silver Jubilee. Although the Society was formally established the following year in 1978, we are keen to celebrate the anniversary and are gathering ideas.

We are particularly encouraged to have attracted 10 new members this Spring, suggesting that in this area at least, golf is as popular as ever. We can take more members and anyone who is interested should get in touch with me. Players need not worry about their game not being up to standard as all levels are welcome!

*Robert Lindsay, Secretary Tel: 07788656310*

## Kippen Community Trust Funding

The Community Trust Board met on Tuesday 10th February, they accepted two of the three January applications and passed them to the Panel for review and scoring.

A meeting of the Community Trust Funding Panel was held at the Kippen Reading Rooms, Tuesday 24th February.

Project mentors provided updates to their on-going schemes, current live projects include, but not limited to:

- Kippen & Gargunock Cricket Club – Repairs and equipment service.
- Kippen Heritage Group - Keir Hill Dig 2025
- Kippen Community Council - Flower tubs
- Kippen Horticultural Society - Storage Shed
- Kippen Tennis Club - Court Repairs
- Kippen Sports Development Ltd - Playing Field Improvement
- Kippen Woodland Group - Bench/barriers

New applications assessed were:

- Kippen Heritage - Keir Hill Dig 2026, pending
- Kippen Street Fayre - gazebo, awarded

The closing dates for applications are:

- 31 January
- 31 May
- 30 September

Further information and forms are at <https://kippencc.org.uk/kippen-communitytrust/>

We were delighted to welcome two new members to the team, Charis Bell and Ann Bradwell, the panel are looking forward to their valuable support and contributions. The date of the next panel meeting is anticipated to be 23 June 2026.

*Mike Bastock* [bastockmike@gmail.com](mailto:bastockmike@gmail.com)

## Kippen Women's Institute

Alec Malcolm was the speaker at the March meeting, when he told the company about his time as a volunteer with CHAS, and the work undertaken in the Children's Hospices. £160 was raised to help this invaluable service thanks to a raffle and donations. Mrs Margery Stirling won the Birthday Quaich with her floral buttonhole in the evening's competition.

The topic at April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was a talk about herbal medicine, with a competition for the best natural remedy.

Annual reports and a Beetle Drive will be the final meeting of the session on Wednesday 20th May, when ideas for the new syllabus will be very welcome.

All meetings start at 7.30pm in the Reading Room on Main Street and visitors are most welcome with entry, including tea, costing £3.00.

*Fiona Clark* 01786 870371



## Kippen and Norrieston Guild

### “Let Us Build a House” - “Living Stones”

The Guild does not meet during the summer months.

However, a Central Guilds Together Meeting will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Pitlochry. A bus will probably be picking up members in Stirling.

The Guild Annual Gathering will take place in Perth North Church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

*God of Creation, you gifted us the Earth with*

*all its beauty. We delight in the morning sunrise and the glorious sunsets, the scenery and nature around us. We thank you for clean air, fresh water, food and shelter, that you have provided in your love and mercy for us. Forgive us when we take Earth's resources for granted and are wasteful and destructive. Help us to treat the Earth with respect and not destroy it through our thoughtlessness and greed. We pray for those who are suffering the effects of climate change, floods, storms and heatwaves. Help us to respect the rights of all species and peoples. Amen*

Further information is available from Joanna M. McPhail - [joanna.mcphail@btinternet.com](mailto:joanna.mcphail@btinternet.com) or 01786 870681

## Reading Room

In addition to the normal activities in the Reading Room, three noteworthy events have taken place since the turn of the year. First, in February, the initial film night – under the banner of Reading Room Reels – took place with the showing of two short extracts featuring the late Stanley Baxter followed by Local Hero. A second film night in early March saw the screening of The Sting with Robert Redford and Paul Newman. While it may well have taken place before publication of the Wee Vine, in early April the French Connection starring Gene Hackman will be shown. Everyone is welcome and the entry fee is £5 per person.

Secondly, after some 25 years as Chairman of the Reading Room Committee, Jeremy Gayward stood down in mid-January becoming a “non-executive” member of the Committee. A considerable number of people connected with the Reading Room were present during the evening to thank him for his enormous contribution to all aspects of the Reading Room.

Thirdly, the postponed Jumble Sale took place in mid-February and the contributions provided by the community were truly exceptional. As a result, it has been agreed

with the Village Hall Committee that the autumn jumble sale will be held in the hall on 7<sup>th</sup> November. The extra space should ensure that all items for sale will be displayed far better while providing considerably more room for people to move about. It is hoped that tea and coffee will also be available. The normal leaflet will be distributed some 10 days before the sale with details of when the hall will be open for delivery of items.

The Reading Room Committee much appreciates the opportunity of being able to collaborate with the Hall Committee on what should be a considerable enhancement.

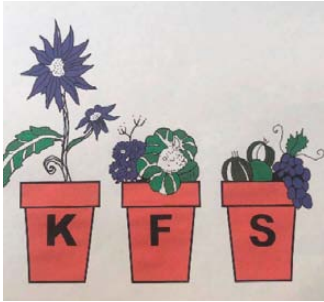
Following last year's event on Street Fayre Day, a second Vintage Village sale will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> June when a range of interesting, collectible items will be available. Further information will be provided in early June.

Finally, the Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May in the Reading Room. This meeting is open to all members of the community.

The Committee very much appreciates the support and encouragement it receives. If you wish to raise any issues, please contact any member of the Committee or come to the AGM.

## Grow, Sew, Craft and Show

Once again, the Kippen Flower Show will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Hall.



Get ready to sow, grow and show flowers, vegetables and plants!

It's fun

It's inclusive

It's good for the body and mind

**Remember - it's not just a Flower Show!**

There is a variety of sections you can enter – baking, crafts, photography and children's!

Whether you are green fingered or all fingers and thumbs give it a go! It's amazing how good it feels to grow, bake and make.

Schedules will be available at McNicoll's in the next few weeks.



The year has got off to a productive start in Burnside Wood. The main focus of our recent work mornings has been maintaining trees that were planted near the pond over 20 years ago. Tree guards that were restricting growth have been removed and stakes secured as required. We have also been pulling up Golden Hop which has become widespread in the area near the Old Coup; not only

does it hinder the growth of native species, but the hop fruits can be harmful to dogs if ingested.



Thanks go to Weir Forestry for installing a bespoke bench at the fen viewpoint and to the Kippen Community Fund for awarding us a grant to fund the work. A large Sycamore seed tree was felled on 2 March 2026 to enable native trees to thrive and the wood was used the following day to make a rustic, unique bench. We are planning to treat the bench (and the other sycamore bench next to the pond) later in the year once the wood has dried out.



Funding from the Kippen Community Fund also enabled two log barriers to be put in place on the entrance to the new path off the Gun Club road late January to prevent vehicles from damaging the path.

Woodland work mornings generally take place on the first Sunday of the month with a start time of 10.30, with all equipment provided. Please get in touch via [kippenwoodlandgroup@gmail.com](mailto:kippenwoodlandgroup@gmail.com) if you would like find out more.

*Paula Watson, Secretary*



## KIPPEN LOCAL COMMITTEE CANCER APPEAL 2026

In memory of Dr. Railton Scott

What a wonderful sum was raised at this year's Appeal for Cancer Research. The total grossed income from the event was £6,427. Yet again the village of Kippen has been shown to be a caring, generous community ready to support such good causes. This result would not be achieved without the hard work of the small committee and a band of 30 collectors who brave the winter weather to deliver the Appeal letter and return to sell raffle tickets. The sale of raffle tickets raised £3,229 this year. We are extremely grateful for all that they do.



The Whist evening was, as always, a jolly event with new players coming along and some pupils from Kippen Primary P6. We are keen to encourage the young players as they are the future of this event. After only three sessions of learning to play whist, they are able to cope with the 20 games that are played on the night. The Lord Provost of Stirling, Councillor Rosemary Fraser, kindly came to support the event and helped with the drawing of the raffle. Her personal assistant who had never played Whist before won first prize for the men!

A number of the collectors are not now able to help, so we are looking for some new faces to volunteer. Each collector is allocated a small area of the village to deliver the Appeal letter and return some days later to sell raffle tickets. The Appeal letter is delivered at the beginning of January and the collection completed before the Whist evening which is always the first Friday in February. The more collectors we have, the smaller the area they are asked to cover. If anyone is able to donate a little time for this, please contact Naomi on 07811 812241 or Kirsty on 07565142191. We'd love to have you along.

*Naomi*

## Primary 1/2: Adventures in Transport and Journeys



Primary 1/2 have had a very busy and exciting term exploring our interdisciplinary topic of Transport and Journeys. Through a wide range of play-based and active learning experiences, the children have been developing their understanding of how we travel and how transport has changed over time.

At the start of the term, learners investigated different types of transport by land, air, and sea. They enjoyed sorting vehicles, discussing their features, and thinking about how they move. This led into learning about power sources, where the children explored how vehicles can be powered by people, fuel, electricity, animals, or even the wind. They were fascinated to compare transport from the past with modern vehicles and used their imagination to design the “transport of the future.”

## Adventures in P2/3: From Scotland to the Skies

As we head into spring, our P2/3 class has enjoyed a term filled with learning, creativity, and fun! We began the year exploring Scotland—diving into our history, culture, and language. Our P3 learners truly shone as soloists, performing beautiful renditions of traditional Scots poems, while P2 came together for a spirited group recital of *Fireworks off the Castle* by Matthew Fitt. It was wonderful to see everyone perform with such confidence and enthusiasm.

We also read about journeys to school for children around the world through our class text, *Adventures to School: Real-Life Journeys of Students from Around the World* by Miranda Paul. This sparked lots of great discussion as we compared their journeys to our own. Literacy has been woven throughout the topic, with children creating imaginative writing inspired by the story *If I Built a Car* by Chris Van Dusen, sharing creative ideas and adding labels and descriptions to their designs.

As part of our STEM learning, the class also investigated how different materials and surfaces affect movement. Using ramps and a range of toy vehicles, pupils tested how cars travelled on materials such as carpet, wood, fabric, and outdoor ground surfaces. They observed which surfaces helped vehicles move faster or slower and discussed why this might happen.

We are very much looking forward to our upcoming visit to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow, where pupils will see real examples of transport from the past and present and deepen their understanding through an interactive workshop. It has been a fantastic term full of curiosity, creativity, and teamwork!



Recently, our focus has shifted to transport and travel, sparking plenty of curiosity and hands-on learning. In our STEM sessions, learners have been investigating how cars move on different surfaces. By experimenting with ramps, textures, and wheels, they discovered



how friction and momentum affect movement. The classroom buzzed with excitement as groups predicted, tested, and discussed their findings like mini-scientists!

We have also been soaring through the history of flight, specifically studying Amelia Earhart, the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic. The children applied their literacy skills to research her achievements and used their findings to create and present detailed information reports.

It has been a term defined by discovery and teamwork. As spring approaches, we look forward to even more exciting adventures and the chance to explore new topics together!

### Capital Adventures: P3/4 Explore Edinburgh

In Primary 3/4 this term, our learning has been centered on the historic and vibrant city of Edinburgh. We began our journey by stepping back in time to explore the history of Edinburgh Castle. The children were fascinated to discover that this iconic landmark has served many purposes over the centuries—from a royal fortress and palace to a military garrison and even a prison!



Beyond the castle walls, the children took the lead in their own learning by conducting independent research into other famous landmarks across the capital. From the Scott Monument to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the class gathered impressive facts to create detailed fact files. It was a joy to watch them present their findings to their peers; the level of confidence and the public speaking skills on display were truly wonderful.

Our exploration also took a modern turn as we looked at the city's infrastructure, specifically the Edinburgh Trams. This provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to sharpen their literacy skills, resulting in some excellent and informative reports on the history and development of the tram network.

To round off our capital context, we celebrated the life of the famous Edinburgh-born inventor, Alexander Graham Bell. After learning about his ground-breaking invention of the telephone, the classroom turned into a mini-laboratory. The children had a brilliant time constructing their own string phones and testing them out to see how sound vibrations travel. It's been a busy, high-energy term, and the children should be very proud of the curiosity and dedication they have shown toward their "Capital" project!

## Primary 4/5: The Viking Invasion!

This term, Primary 4/5 has been voyaging back in time to explore the Vikings and their lasting impact on the wider world. We began by establishing a clear historical context, building a timeline using CE and BCE to see how the Viking age compares to other periods, such as the Romans and the Victorians. This helped the children understand exactly where our Norse neighbors fit into the tapestry of history.



From there, we delved into the realities of Viking life. We explored the structure of traditional longhouses and how they supported large family groups. Of course, no Viking study would be complete without looking at their mastery of the seas! We discovered how the design of the iconic longboats allowed the Vikings to trade, travel, and invade across Britain. A particular highlight was our linguistic exploration; the children had a wonderful time discovering the meanings behind Viking names—such as *Bjorn* meaning “bear”—and even had a go at

creating their own fearsome-sounding Viking titles.

To celebrate our hard work, we applied our literacy and drama skills to write and perform a full school assembly. This was a true cross-curricular triumph: the children wrote the script, used their ICT skills to design a supporting PowerPoint presentation, and even used their technology and engineering skills to construct a replica longboat.

It has been a joy to see the class apply all the skills they have developed over the year to craft such an engaging and professional learning experience for the rest of the school and the wider community. Skål!

## P5/6: Engineering the Future



Term 3 has seen P5/6 transform into a hub of innovation, filled with experimentation and engineering adventures. Our young engineers have been busy designing, making, and testing solutions to meet complex engineering briefs. By following the Engineering Design Process, the class learned that the first draft is just the beginning; they worked hard to test and improve their ideas through multiple iterations. From constructing sturdy emergency vehicles to designing disaster-proof houses, our learners explored how engineering can provide vital help in real-life global situations.

Our focus on sustainability took centre stage as we experimented with renewable energy. The classroom was a hive of activity as students created their own wind turbines, using voltage meters to measure the effectiveness of their designs. This was a fantastic



way to see physics in action, as they altered blade shapes and angles to find the most efficient way to capture the wind's power.

We were also incredibly fortunate to explore Dyson technology firsthand using a Dyson Engineering Box. This provided a rare, "under-the-hood" look at world-class design. The children had the opportunity to dismantle and reassemble Dyson vacuum attachments, discovering how air technology and clever modifications are used to create high-efficiency machines.

To round off our high-tech term, we have been diving into the world of computing science using BBC Micro-bits. By applying various coding techniques, the children have been bringing hardware to life—creating everything from custom digital images and music to interactive games and scrolling messages. It has been a term defined by "trial and error," resilience, and a great deal of ingenuity!

### Primary 7: River Deep, Mountain High!

This term, Primary 7 has been diving deep into the world of rivers—exploring how they function, how they evolve over time, and what we can do to protect them. Their learning was brought to life through a hands-on workshop led by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Rangers, Jo and Adam, as well as an insightful class talk by Freshwater Biologist, Nic Bisset.



In the classroom, the children worked in cooperative learning groups with Mrs. Selmes to create physical models showing the key features of a river. Once water was added to the systems, the room was full of keen observations! All our learners demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills and impressive teamwork. As part of a 'water cycle in a bag' activity, the class explored evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection. This was a brilliant way for them to see how solar energy drives the water cycle and provided a great opportunity to gather meaningful data.

In addition to their hard work in class, an excellent team with a wealth of knowledge represented us at this year's Rotary Club Quiz at Stirling High School. They made Kippen Primary School proud, answering confidently and showing fantastic sportsmanship. Primary

7 continues to impress us all with their kindness to younger learners, their diligence, and their amazing ability to tackle P.E. in any weather!



## YOUR VILLAGE HALL

### £200,000 – Target smashed!

Fantastic news for Kippen — the Village Hall refurbishment project has reached and surpassed its £200,000 target, and the building works are now complete.

Since our last update, the upper landing, stage, staircases and foyer have all been renewed with smart, non-slip, easy-clean surfaces thanks to a £9,442 grant from the Community Led Local Development Fund for Rural Forth Valley and Lomond (CLLD).



We've also added 120 brand new ergonomic banqueting chairs, funded through our own fundraising. With sturdy steel frames and double cushions, they're designed to keep everyone comfortable at meetings, shows and events.



Outside, the rear yard has been resurfaced and will soon house the new community shed. Huge thanks go to McLaughlin & Harvey Construction Ltd., who generously carried out the shed base and yard works as a community project — saving the Hall thousands of pounds.



Inside, softer 'fairy' lighting and a new ground floor double fire door have been installed with a £2,209 grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via Stirling Council.

More improvements are on the way too — we've secured £5,000 from The Garfield Weston Foundation to begin upgrading the Hall sound system with new microphones and speakers.



Our grateful thanks to all our funders and partners!

The Hall is already buzzing again — Cub Scouts have returned, we've hosted



parties, meetings and community events, and Active Stirling has been running Multi Sports sessions. Pickleball Club has added a daytime session, and we are planning a Table Tennis Club. We've also just held our first indoor 'car-boot-style' sale to raise funds for more equipment. If it's a success, there will be more! Visit our Facebook page for What's on every week and our website for our annual calendar and news. [www.kippenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.kippenvillagehall.co.uk)

Future plans are in hand to run a Kippen Village Produce and Craft Market. If you are a local craftsperson, or grow vegetables, make cheese, or keep bees or hens, why not find out how you can take part in Market Day at your Village Hall? Stalls are available to book now! We have reserved Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> for our pilot market, if we get enough interest. Our Ukrainian friends are running refreshments all day, and it will be a fun community event with something for everyone. Free for public entry on the door... For more information or to book your stand, email [francescarlaw@gmail.com](mailto:francescarlaw@gmail.com) or call the mobile number below.

Our AGM is at 7pm on April 21st in the Hall — everyone is welcome. If you'd like to help shape the future of this fantastic community space, why not join the committee? We have the day-to-day works covered now, and the main building work is

all completed, so we just need some more volunteers to help at events and work remotely on several new developments. For more information contact Frances on 07711031567.

### Exciting Announcement: New Caretaker Joins Kippen Village Hall Team

#### Welcoming Sara Prince to Our Community Hub

The Kippen Village Hall is thrilled to unveil its newest team member, Sara Prince, who has taken up the role of caretaker! Sara brings with her a wealth of practical know-how and a broad administrative skillset, promising to make a positive impact on our community gathering space.

Sara's diverse experience is sure to prove invaluable in keeping the Hall running smoothly. From daily maintenance and security checks to handling alarms and mandatory testing, Sara will ensure everything is in tip-top condition for all our visitors and hirers. She'll also be your go-to person for those trickier event set-ups, always ready to lend a helping hand.

As the first point of contact for anyone hiring the Hall, Sara will be on hand to address any concerns and make sure your experience is seamless. Whether it's changing a light bulb or tackling unexpected floods, no task is too big or too small for Sara, who is now an essential member of our Hall team.

We encourage everyone to welcome Sara, whether you're popping into the Hall or bumping into her in the village. Her dedication and friendly manner are sure to be felt throughout Kippen, bringing a fresh energy and renewed commitment to our community hub.

For further information or to say hello to Sara, please visit the Kippen Village Hall or contact us directly. Her post is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and Stirling Council's No One Left Behind programme.

# Kippen Heritage

Kippen Heritage is a Kippen based registered charity and we are looking for recruits, and that might be you. When we receive enquiries from Canada, New Zealand, or from Australia, Kippen is touched by its diaspora and their descendants. Kippen Heritage gives the World access to family histories, to the living archive of Kippen and to the history of our place over the centuries. Kippen Heritage arranges talks and the opportunity to learn, for example about Rob Roy (October 2025), about Stirling Fire Brigade (November 2025), about Old Leckie - where the best eggs come from - (January 2026), about Scottish Silver (February 2026), or about the Royal Company of Archers (March 2026). Our talks resume in the Autumn.

Kippen Heritage has ensured the preservation of the Old Kirk bell tower at the Cross with funding from Kippen Community Trust and local contributions, and has enabled the archaeology at Station Brae where neolithic people, Picts, Romans and early Christianity once gathered where you do, next to the bus stop at the Cross. If you would like to be part of that community of effort and discovery please consider joining us. We can be contacted by email [kippenheritage@gmail.com](mailto:kippenheritage@gmail.com), or search for "Kippen Heritage" on Facebook, or by a phone call to Ian Donald (07710230401, or 01786 870123). Please find out more, without commitment.

Your next opportunity to join us is at the Keir Hill dig, in Jeremy and Janet Gaywood's garden at Cuthbertson Cottage, just off Station Brae, on Saturday 16th May from 1.00 to 3.00 pm. Dr Murray Cook who has led the investigation of this site over the past five years will be on hand to explain what lies beneath the surface of this historic site. Outdoor footwear is advised. Families with children are welcome.

Kippen Heritage talks will resume in the Autumn. If you have a suggestion for a suitable topic then please let us know. We have topics planned but would like your suggestions. Meantime, please note our first talk in the Autumn will be *Tracing Scottish Ancestry* on 9th September in the Reading Rooms.

Finally, a word of thanks to all our supporters, individuals and corporate, without whom we could not do a fraction of what we do. Please note our website is currently being rebuilt.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT KEIR HILL OF DASHER, KIPPEN

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

This year will be Kippen Heritage's 6<sup>th</sup> archaeological dig at Keir Hill. Last year uncovered Neolithic tools and the remains of a structure of some sort and this year's aim is to uncover more. If you are interested in the ancient history of Kippen, or simply don't mind getting your hands and knees dirty, please come along. No previous experience is necessary; you will be shown the ropes by archaeologist Murray Cook.



Or simply come along and see the dig at first hand.

OPEN AFTERNOON

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1.00 - 3.00pm

To join the dig please contact [irene.chapman@mac.com](mailto:irene.chapman@mac.com)

## Fore Road Schools

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Fore Road was the home of two schools.



One of these was what is currently the Village Hall, as can be seen by "The Schoolhouse" in the lane adjacent to the hall. When "Castlehill School" was enlarged in 1897, staff and pupils migrated there and, after some legal niceties had been undergone, the hall became the property of the parish, and has so remained.

The other was Oxhill school, as seen in the accompanying photo, some way up the road, and on the other side. It is believed that this was used by families belonging to the Free Church.

*Stuart Thomson*

## Minister's Musings

What's your favourite? I know many people have favourite colours or flowers or places to visit. We have favourite foods and even people. We all have likes and dislikes, preferences throughout life. Learning and figuring out what we like and dislike and what might be our favourite along the way takes experience and time.



I've been asked over the years what's my favourite season (I can't decide), favourite colour (green), favourite animal (frog), flower (daisy), type of music, book, TV show, movie, etc. I know what I like and sometimes that I have favourites, but also that sometimes I spread my interests and love more broadly than just my favourites. And even though I have been asked by my children who is my favourite, there are certain aspects where a favourite doesn't exist, each is unique, precious, and beautiful.

I've returned to ministering in the area covering four unique church buildings and in four communities. While I live in one place, each of the places and gatherings of people are unique even though they are only a few miles from each other. Each community has its characters and traditions, and beautiful things to celebrate. Together the villages of the Carse of Stirling make this place a special part of the world to me. I love where I grew up in South Dakota and each place I have lived, yet I love being in this part of Stirlingshire.

In the early church letters were written about how sometimes people fought with each other who was better or more important, and how we need to remember how we are all part of the 'body of Christ,' each having a place in the bigger picture of sharing God's love in the world. God's love doesn't favourite the bigger towns, churches or the smaller places. Each is precious and has a purpose.

While we humans have favourites, which is okay, we are reminded that in God's ways and kingdom there is space for all who seek to follow Jesus's way. God's love is for the whole world. We may not all believe the same, yet I believe love is greater than all our division and favouritism.

As you consider your preferences and likes, I pray you remember a love that sees your unique presence as a gift and hope you strive to make a beautiful impact in the community we share.

God bless, Ellen

*Rev. Ellen Larson Davidson, Minister*

Cross made by Children's Church at Kippen Kirk for Easter worship services.

## Christmas Dinner

A ceilidh is planned for Saturday 23rd May as our main fundraiser for the year. The David Oswald Ceilidh Band will provide the music and call each of the dances. The venue is Kippen Village Hall- doors open 7.30pm. Dancing starts at 8pm. Licensed bar available, raffle at half time. This will be a fun night, no need to bring a partner, all welcome. Tickets £15 tel. 01786 870385 or from committee members Jordan Buchanan, Louise Oswald, Dawn Warttig, Allan Hunter, Laurence Hepburn and Tracy Hepburn.

Anyone wishing to be added to the list for an invitation to the 2026 dinner on Monday 7th December may email Jordan at: [Jordanbuchanan05@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Jordanbuchanan05@hotmail.co.uk)

*Tracy Hepburn*



## Wee Vine Certificate of Appreciation

The Wee Vine is currently in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of publication, and we would like to show our appreciation for the financial support provided by businesses (and personal donors) in the community over that period.

Accordingly, we have created a number of “certificates of appreciation” which will be presented to our supporters over the remaining three editions this year. The first group has been presented, and the recipients are shown here. Two further groups, covering all other supporters, will appear in issues 39 and 40.

*Stuart Thomson*



**Across**

- 1 Book military backup (7)
- 5 Get flak for destroying fine rug (7)
- 10 Accomplished seaman visits Lorraine on vacation (4)
- 11 Doctor in Scottish town is model musician (10)
- 12 Slight chance of contestant changing sides first (6)
- 13 Postpone apt idea, making a case for aquatic movement (4,4)
- 14 Mad men somehow get into my head (9)
- 16 Guard second company (5)
- 17 Order returned to city wood (5)
- 19 Soldiers hit back at courageous type (9)
- 23 Drunk followed character beyond question (8)
- 24 Forgive the French aristocrat (3,3)
- 26 Two men briefly take on unknown male dominated structure (10)
- 27 Staff make a chocolate éclair for starters (4)

- 28 Services a variety of eastern tastes (3,4)
- 29 Joins maybe 19-1 (7)

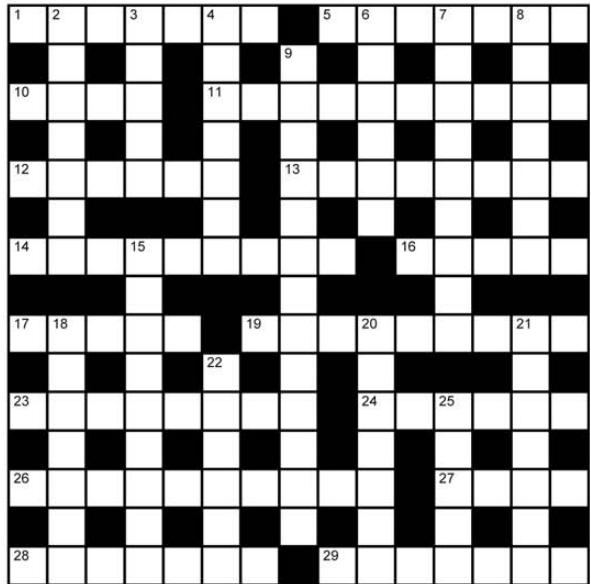
**Down**

- 2 Stop monster from down under collecting degree (7)
- 3 Lament side after early lead comes to sticky end (5)
- 4 Old soldier eats initially in ramshackle pub (7)
- 6 Happy about being at university club (6)

- 7 Mad final act consumes American fundamentalist (9)

- 8 Remains in posh lodge? Quite the opposite (7)
- 9 Soldiers might chip at pin (7,6)
- 15 Old soldiers dismantle armaments (3,2,4)
- 18 Soldiers proposed to take in gear (7)
- 20 I see a fox running at Holly (5-2)
- 21 Squadron leader maybe runs under wing (7)
- 22 Horrified at Turkish soldier on street (6)

- 25 Afraid I'm interrupting short course (5)



## Introducing Sustainability Kippen

Sustainability Kippen (SK) is a new group in the village, set up to give people a friendly place to come together and take practical steps that help our community and the environment. We want to support each other to look after nature, reduce our impact on the planet, and strengthen the connections that make village life resilient and welcoming.

Our first public appearance was at the Street Fayre in summer 2024, followed by a wellattended launch event in October, where around 80 folks came along to share ideas and enthusiasm. This gave us confidence there was interest and support in the village and the group was formerly incorporated at the end of 2024.

### What we've been up to

Since then, we have held a number of events including:

- A wildlifefriendly gardening event
- MakeDoandMend sessions
- Stall at the Street Fayre
- Two Home Energy Scotland information sessions
- Two Climate Fresk workshops, helping people understand the science behind climate change

We've also worked closely with the Community Council on the Local Place Plan, sharing insights from our own community consultation. The message was clear: sustainability matters to the people of Kippen. We're keen to work with other organisations in the village to see how we can support each other.

Outside the village we have been working with other organisations, including Forth Environment Link, who gave us a grant to get started, On the Verge who have been advising on wild flower planting, and our local climate action network, SWSCAN, which is helping link us together with groups in other villages, all grouped together across the Balfron High catchment. We've also merged with **Kippen Ways**, who have been consulting on plans for a cycle path between Gargunnock and Kippen.

### What's Next

We are working on our next event, focusing on Sustainable Gardening, planned at the Village Hall for 24<sup>th</sup> May, so save the date! We are also developing ideas for a repair café and tool library for the village, and would love to hear your views.

If you would like to get more involved, supporting the team or keeping up to date with events, you can email us on [sustainabilitykippen@gmail.com](mailto:sustainabilitykippen@gmail.com) and/or follow our Facebook page Sustainability Kippen.

Thanks to everyone in the village who have supported this so far.

*Susan Gardner, Chair*



## Stirling Council announces pilot of two new rural bus services

Stirling Council is launching a two-year pilot of two new bus services to improve connections between rural communities in the western part of the council area.

The new in-house services will be called the C61 and the C62 and will start operating on Monday 30 March.

They will build on the current C60 pilot (that runs between Callander and Killin) and will operate on the following routes:

C61: Callander - Thornhill - Port of Menteith - Aberfoyle (with bookable/on demand journeys between Aberfoyle and Kinlochard).

C62: Croftamie - Drymen - Balfron Station - Balfron - Fintry - Kippen.

Both services will use all recognised bus stops along these routes and will link to existing public transport provision following feedback from recent public consultations in this area.

Later journeys have been added to help accommodate young people attending after-school clubs and other activities.

The new services will replace existing demand responsive transport (DRT) services between these communities. Pending the success of the pilot, the new service will ultimately replace the current DRT service.

Passengers on both services can pay using debit or credit cards (not Amex). All National Entitlement Cards (NEC) will be accepted. Drivers will be unable to accept cash for fares.

The new services will be funded via existing budget allocations for DRT provision.

Convener of Stirling Council's Environment, Transport and Net Zero Committee, Cllr Alasdair Tollemache said: "The introduction of these new in-house bus services from Monday 30 March will be a major boost for our rural communities in this beautiful part of Stirlingshire, greatly enhancing connectivity.

"They will give residents more reliable, sustainable and cost-effective ways to access essential services, including work, healthcare, schools and nurseries, as well as delivering wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

"We have engaged with local communities as we have developed the pilot so that the new services work for as many people as possible. Flexibility has been built in by combining scheduled services with demand-responsive options, and we have also maximised the links with the wider public transport network.

"During the two-year pilot we will monitor the C61 and the C62 services and continue our dialogue with our communities, as we have done for the C60 service. This will allow us to discuss whether any improvements are required to better meet the needs of local people and how to maximise other opportunities presented by the new services."

Fintry Community Council has worked closely with Stirling Council and other partners to support the development of the service and welcomes this important milestone.

Michele Bennett, Chair of Fintry Community Council, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for our village and something the community has wanted for many years.

"Having a regular bus service will make a real difference to people's lives — particularly for those who don't drive, our young people, and older residents. It will give people more independence and help keep our rural community connected."

"The whole community is very excited about the new service. We will continue to work with Stirling Council and partners to explore opportunities to extend the service in the future, including the possibility of weekend routes."

Sharon Telfer from Strathard Development Trust said: "The new bus service running

between Callander and Kinlochard will be a huge boost for residents of Strathard, opening up opportunities for people to meet friends and socialise.

“With a timetable that works alongside after-school activities, it will allow our young people to take part, knowing they can get home safely on the bus.”

For more information on the new C61 and C62 services, including timetables, and how to use the DRT system, visit: [www.stirling.gov.uk/connectingcommunities](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/connectingcommunities)

## Bus Update

It's great to have some good news to report for a change. Stirling Councillors rejected an option to axe the X10 Sunday Service in this year's budget. Huge thank you to everyone who filled in the Survey to oppose this cut. They listened! and we keep what is a great service especially for those without transport who were previously unable to travel over the weekend.

Lack of public transport for Fintry and Drymen residents was highlighted in a previous consultation. This has led to the council running a 2-year pilot in house bus service, the C62, starting on the 30th March. It will go from Croftamie, Drymen, Balfron Station, Balfron, Fintry, Kippen and back with 4 services leaving Kippen and 6 leaving Croftamie. This is a great initiative and we congratulate the council for taking this step that said...it's not without issues, even at this stage.

Fintry residents are disappointed at the lack of connection to the X10 in Kippen. They will need to travel to Balfron to connect to the X10A and go via Aberfoyle to Stirling. To put this in context Kippen - Stirling is 25 mins whereas Balfron via Aberfoyle is 1hr 20mins. This will not make it easy for those trying to attend appointments.... why it was set up like this is a mystery. However, the council have stressed this is a pilot and they will welcome feedback, suggestions or questions residents may have in order to make this service a success. We hope

everyone will use this opportunity to raise concerns such as the above with them so that the route and timings work for as many people as possible. This can be done via the feedback form on the council website or by emailing [tcc@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:tcc@stirling.gov.uk) or raising it with your community council.

Drymen also have concerns re some of their timings and while they have good connections going to Glasgow, Stirling is another long journey on the X10A. Current users of the existing DRT who play indoor bowls in Fintry during winter state the timings also won't work for them.

We have also queried the positioning of the bus stop at the doctors' surgery in Castlehill Loan with the route continuing up Oakwood onto Fintry. Castlehill Loan is a heavily congested and difficult road to get round at the best of times with parked cars, delivery vans etc without a bus in the mix. This has been raised with both the council and Kippen CC.

Poor maintenance continues to be an issue on the X10 and BHS school buses with parents concerned re the overall safety of school transport. Pupils are repeatedly arriving late for registration due to delays and breakdowns.

On the 16th March Midland Bluebird were given a "severe" warning by the deputy traffic commissioner for unacceptable "tip off" messages sent to drivers in Stirling by management in an attempt to dodge DVSA safety checks. This hearing was 5 months after they were given a final warning by the Traffic Commissioner himself for poor punctuality and maintenance failures. At the recent hearing, Mr Young, cited a "positive" passenger report revealing good punctuality and customer satisfaction. This infuriated bus users across the whole of Stirling and Clackmannan. It has since transpired this report pertained to services in Falkirk and Lanarkshire and had nothing to do with bus services across Stirling. Why this report was included in this hearing remains a mystery.

*Val Brand*



## Risk and Resilience

### Government Announcement

Last July, the British Government announced, through Google, that the eighty years of peace which Britain has experienced since 1945 were over, and that the Government was now preparing for war.

They were clear that this did not require assistance from the civilian population, but that the population at large was expected to fend for itself for a period of at least seventy-two hours from the beginning of a conflict. Risk and Resilience would help in these matters.

This meant that power and water supplies could not be guaranteed by the government, for that period.

Relatively few people seem to have seen this notice, and HMG has not amplified it in any way.

To my knowledge, no one involved in Risk and Resilience was ever informed by the Government of these issues.

### General Notes

These notes are therefore intended to update all residents in the village as to where we all stand, as the world political scene dissolves into worrying chaos.

Risk and Resilience does not try to speculate on future events, but to ensure, where possible, that all residents have provided for themselves as fully as possible in their home.

Adequate provision starts with stocks of food and water and protection from nuclear radiation. You should invest in stocks of tinned food of your choice.

Your own preferences will determine whether you concentrate on meat or fish stocks. Remember that you should plan for the possibility of losing power to your refrigerator and deep freeze.

Some Notes

Obviously, commodities such as flour and pasta will be required. It will be worth increasing stocks of your normal cooking materials.

### Longer Crisis

Whilst HMG mention seventy-two hours, it seems much more likely that one should provide for two week's supply of goods, purchased in a condition which does not require refrigeration.

Water should be kept in large plastic bottles, primarily for drinking purposes.

### Supporting Each Other

A crisis of supply, as is likely to result from a military crisis such as we are now witnessing in the Middle East will bring about the certainty that residents in our village do what they have always done in times of trouble – come together, help each other and provide everyone with as much comfort as possible.

In Kippen, we start with that essential friendship and expect it to grow stronger if conditions should worsen. That is one of the blessings of the village – already made evident from the Covid pandemic.

Risk and Resilience will begin to rebuild its team in such times.

Keep reading this magazine as we go!

*Jeremy Gaywood, Coordinator*





# Household Emergency Preparedness Checklist

This checklist is based on the Scottish Government's Ready Scotland guidance. It helps households prepare for emergencies such as severe weather, power loss, flooding, or major incidents. Keep a printed copy in your home and review it regularly.

## 1. Household Emergency Plan

- Identify a safe room or area in your home for sheltering.
- Agree on a meeting place in advance (inside or outside your home).
- List important contact numbers: 999 (emergency), 101 (non-emergency), NHS24 (111), utility providers, council helplines.
- Ensure everyone knows how to turn off mains utilities (water, gas, electricity).
- Keep a printed copy of your plan and ensure all family members know where it is.

## 2. Emergency Kit Contents

- Torch (battery-operated or wind-up) and spare batteries.
- Radio (battery-operated or wind-up).
- Mobile phone charger or power bank.
- Essential medication and first aid supplies.
- Toiletries and hygiene items.
- At least 3 days' supply of bottled water and non-perishable food, a preferably longer supply, if possible.
- Copies of key documents (insurance, ID, birth certificates).
- Blankets, warm clothing, spare keys, and glasses/contact lenses.
- Pet food and baby supplies (if needed).
- In winter: shovel, ice scraper, warm boots, and gloves.

## 3. Stay Informed

- Sign up for official alerts and weather warnings for your area.
- Monitor reliable news sources such as BBC Radio Scotland and ReadyScotland.gov.uk.
- Be aware of local hazards (flood zones, coastal risks, industrial sites).

## 4. Home and Community Resilience

- Plan support for vulnerable family members or neighbours (elderly, disabled).
- Discuss your plan with neighbours or local community resilience groups.
- Prepare to manage without utilities for several days (heat, cooking, lighting).
- 5. In an Emergency (What To Do)
- If told to shelter: Go indoors, close windows and doors, and turn off ventilation if advised.
- Stay indoors until officials say it's safe to leave.
- Use your radio or mobile phone for updates – do not rely solely on social media.
- If you must evacuate: take your emergency kit, follow official routes, lock your home, and switch off utilities if safe.

## Review and Update

Review this checklist every 6–12 months or after any major household change. Replace expired items in your emergency kit and keep the plan current. More information on the Ready Scotland website (<http://ready.campaign.gov.scot>)

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14	C	O	M		15	M	A	N	D	E	R			16	S	C	R	E	W	
				E					R					A						
17	E	18	B	O	N	Y			19	B	A	T	20	T	A	L	I	21	O	N
		R			A			22	A		T		A						F	
23	A	I	R	T	I	G	H	T			24	L	E	25	T	O	F	F		
		G		A		H	A		L					I						
26	P	A	T	R	I	A	R	C	H	Y				27	M	A	C	E		
		D		M		S		K		H										
28	T	E	A	S	E	T	S			29	S	O	L	D	E	R	S			

**Across:** 1 Reserve, 5 Gunfire, 10 Able, 11 Trombonist, 12 Prayer, 13 Neap tide, 14 Commander, 16 Screw, 17 Ebony, 19 Battalion, 23 Airtight, 24 Let off, 26 Patriarchy, 27 Mace, 28 Tea sets, 29 Solders.

**Down:** 2 Embargo, 3 Elegy, 4 Veteran, 6 Upbeat, 7 Fanatical, 8 Residue, 9 Counter attack, 15 Men at arms, 18 Brigade, 20 Tally-ho, 21 Officer, 22 Aghast, 25 Timid.

# The Wee Vine Supporters

As we progress through our tenth year, grateful thanks to our supporters, without whom there would be no Wee Vine. They offer support in a variety of ways. All essential.

**Firstly, our financial supporters.** Printing and other costs are totally met through the support of a number of local organisations. These have all been affected to a greater or lesser extent by the extended financial problems, but continue to provide support, which is greatly appreciated. We gratefully acknowledge a new addition – Huntington Home Improvements. Currently, these are (in alphabetical order):

Arnprior Swimming Pool (870481)  
 Blue Juice Media (01786 870148)  
 Cameron Skinner, Skinner of Kippen (870203)  
 Central Auto Repairs (Glengyle) (870254)  
 David Kirkwood, Fishmonger  
 Huntington Home Improvements (07375 204615)  
 John Coubrough & Son, Joiners & Funeral Directors (870737)  
 McNicolls Country Store (870237)  
 Sheree Hairdressing Salon (07706 612660)  
 Stephen Paul Associates (870906)  
 The Cross Keys (870293)  
 The Inn at Kippen (870500)  
 The Woodhouse (870156)

For those not familiar with the name “Nadara” this is now the parent company of the community facility known as “The Windfarm,” to whom our grateful thanks are due for the significant support provided.

Each of our financial supporters is entitled to use the magazine to publicise forthcoming events, or significant awards obtained. Anyone who would like to offer support in this way, can do so by contacting us at [enquiries@theweevine.org](mailto:enquiries@theweevine.org).

Secondly, many thanks to those who have supported this issue by contributing articles. The Wee Vine is for Kippen, about Kippen and by Kippen. We would like to know about events as they happen, and also those which are planned. Also, organisations, clubs and their programmes and activities. Plus, comments, queries, photos, and anything else that takes your fancy.

“Letters to the editor” on paper or electronically are welcome from all.

And finally, those who support by offering help in many ways, such as the delivery of the magazine round the village.

*Stuart Thomson*

# McNicoll's Country Store

Licensed Grocer - Open 7 days

- Large Freezer Section
- 5 Metre Dairy Cabinet
- Newsagent
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- Fresh Bakery Rolls Daily
- National Lottery Outlet
- Post Office Services
- Payments can be made by credit/debit cards
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WINNER

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- Loaves
- Scones
- Pastries
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