

# Kyleakin Local History Society



Website: [www.kyleakinlocalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.kyleakinlocalhistorysociety.co.uk)

Email: [kyleakinlocalhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:kyleakinlocalhistorysociety@gmail.com)

## Spring/Summer 2016 Issue 13

### Diary Dates:

9th September – Nicky Bird  
and the Atlas Arts Team  
Travelling Archive project

Keep checking the website  
for up to date information.

Dates of other events taking  
place in the village can also  
be included in this section –  
please send the details to  
Sue.

### Committee:

Caroline Clouston  
Hugh Davies  
Hector Grant  
Calum Macaskill  
Angus MacLennan  
Margaret Macrae  
Roddy Morrison  
Anna Belle Robertson  
John Robertson  
Stuart Taylor

### Non-Committee

#### Member – Newsletter

Sue Lyons

**Membership  
application forms are  
available at the Bright  
Water Centre, where a  
selection of our  
archives is on display.**

## Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2016 newsletter

### THE JOAN WILCOCK PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION TRAVELLING THE ARCHIVE | UNCOVERING MEMORIES



Image: Joan Wilcock Collection courtesy of the Highland Council Archive Centre  
Funded by: Creative Scotland & The Heritage Lottery fund

An outdoor exhibition, programme of walks, talks & gatherings focused on the collection, was held in held in various locations in Kyleakin in March. On behalf of the committee of Kyleakin Local History Society, we would like to thank all members and friends who managed to attend the 'Travelling the Archive' launch in Kyleakin Connections and also the talk by Ian McCrorie earlier in the day in the community hall. We hope that you enjoyed the occasion. The day proved to be a big success and the committee was delighted to see such good turnouts at both venues. We are very grateful for all the support and input received from our members in the build up to and following the event.

For those members who were unable to attend the Travelling the Archive launch, please know that we will have copies of the project booklet available for you once more are delivered in the near future.

In a correction to Newsletter No. 12, we put that the Church of Scotland Missionary Dugald Munro lived in the house called "Clarion" which the Church of Scotland rented for Missionaries before building the Mission House behind the church in the early 1960s. Anna Belle checked with Dougie and he confirmed that the Munro's lived in Sunnyside – apologies for the mistake.

The Bright Water Centre is now open until October, please visit this year's display – we are sure that you will find it interesting.

Kyleakin SWRI will be celebrating its 90th anniversary in September, if you have any photographs, documents or memories to share, let us know.

Caroline

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We are still trying to identify how the village developed in relation to:

- ❖ Churches
- ❖ Hotels
- ❖ Fishing
- ❖ Schools
- ❖ Shops & Cafes
- ❖ Tourism
- ❖ Organisations i.e. SWRI
- ❖ Kyleakin Highland Games
- ❖ Gala Days
- ❖ Sport
- ❖ Military
- ❖ Families
- ❖ Ferries

If you have a particular interest in any of these sections, or you think that there is something missing, please get in touch.

## Now and Then:

Do you have old pictures of your house and do you know roughly when they were taken? Can you take a picture of your house now – i.e. in 2015/2016?

If so, can you let us have copies so that we can form a display of what the village used to be like and what it is like now?

The majority of the houses in the village have undergone some form of extensions/ alterations, have you found anything unexpected that you think would be of interest to the Society?

## History of Houses in Kyleakin



No new information has been received about the house currently known as Edradour since the last newsletter, if anyone has any more information send it to Sue.

Here are two more photographs to test your memory!

What year was the shop built?

Who owned it?

Do you remember eating there?

If so, let us know.



*Greetings from Skye*

CASTLE MOIL RESTAURANT  
KYLEAKIN ISLE OF SKYE



Who painted the mural and do you know when it was painted over?

Did you work there?

Have you got any pictures of the inside of this building?

Please send any information to Sue to include in the next newsletter

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Given that the bottle banks in Kyleakin were recently moved from the car park to behind the Electricity Sub-Station, Margaret thought that this poetic trilogy from her mother's collection was apt, as it marks 40 years of bottle banks in the area!

*To the Managing Director The Nestle Co Ltd St Georges Cross Croydon Surrey 11.06.1976 - on hearing of the bottle banks recently established in the vicinity I thought I would recycle this old poem.*

- 1      Dear Mr Nestle - E acute  
        I write to tell you what's afoot  
        For well I mind the very day  
        I started drinking Nescafe.
- 2      'Twas way back far in forty one  
        When tea was rationed - I began  
        Then as my waist and family grew  
        They started drinking instant too.
- 3      When fate decided to chastise us  
        Nescafe got us o'er the crisis  
        But all these years your drink indulging  
        Has left my empties cupboard bulging.
- 4      Home made marmalade - home made jam  
        And cereals in them I cram  
        Every nick-nack - but alas  
        I still have hoards of wasted glass.
- 5      In this village with one store  
        The price of coffee I deplore  
        One twenty six an eight ounce jar  
        And in this house that won't go far.
- 6      Now at this point I think I'll mention  
        that I am on the old age pension  
        So could you not please stop this racket  
        And put your coffee in a packet.

*PS So when they come to close my lashes I've kept a nice jar for my ashes*



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*Their reply 15.06.1976 from Allan Allbeury Public Relations Executive - Dear Mrs MacRae Thank you for your recent letter*

Though coffee beans may come in sacks  
We can't put Nescafe in refill packs  
You might lose the smell and flavour  
And it wouldn't be a money saver  
A pack to match our quality  
Is dearer than a jar you see  
Even if a cheap pack could be made  
There's still the question of our balance of trade  
We must import our paper and foil  
And plastic bags are made from oil  
While jars of course are made from sand  
Which is abundant in our island  
So I hope you won't think it's a racket  
That we don't put Nescafe in a packet.

*And mine to them 16.06.1976*

Thank you for your prompt reply  
To me here on the Isle of Skye  
I must accept your explanation  
Of why you can't beat bean inflation  
Of course it's been an awful shock  
As I built my house on a rock  
Yet you have made a fortune grand  
By housing beans in shifting sand  
I'm glad to see it's not a rumour  
We British have a sense of humour  
And so I raise my coffee cup  
And just continue to drink up  
Your signature is not too clear  
More like two coils of wire I fear  
So now adieu and thanks for writing  
Your coffee still remains inviting  
What did she get for this advert?  
Not e'en a bean she did assert  
Nor did she rise to instant fame  
But went on drinking just the same.

*Helen MacRae*

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## Can you help

We have a large number of old photographs of various views in the village; do you have the time to take photographs of the same views now?

We would also like photographs of the harbour, fisheries pier and the boats. Whilst not considered historical now, in years to come, your grandchildren may be asking what it was like when Kyleakin had a working harbour!

**Membership application forms are available at Camerons old shop/Post Office, or from Anna Belle.**

**If you have any photos and documents of interest to the Society, they can be scanned and returned quickly.**

**Please send ideas for items/articles in the newsletter to any of the committee members.**

## Down Memory Lane.....

Just so that you know that KLHS is not just interested in the older members of the community, how many of these people are still living in Kyleakin and what are they doing now?





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## Diary Dates:

Friday 9th September 2016 in Kyleakin Community Hall – KLHS will welcome back artist Nicky Bird and the Atlas Arts team to celebrate the end of the Travelling Archive project.

Do you know which the oldest house in the village is? At least one house was built in 1891 (according to the deeds) – but was your house built earlier than this? Despite the possibility of numerous renovations, you may be living in what was the first house built in Kyleakin – or do you have any old maps - if so get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

## KLHS Website

You can print off your own copy of "**Memories of Kyleakin**" by Mary Macpherson by clicking the image and depending on the settings on your computer; the booklet will automatically open or will be in your download box.

You can also read a copy of "**Travelling the Archive**" by Nicky Bird by clicking the image and depending on the settings on your computer; the booklet will automatically open.

The "Gallery" has changed – there are now three sections: People, Sports and Other Photos.

The website also provides information on the society's current programme of talks and activities as well as other events in the district.

If you have any updates for the website, please send them to Hugh Davies.

## Next Newsletter



Who, when, where, occasion?