

Kyleakin Local History Society



Website: www.kyleakinlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

Email: kyleakinlocalhistorysociety@gmail.com

September 2011 Issue 4

Diary Dates

Wednesday 28th
September 2011 - 1st
Birthday Party & AGM

The winter talks will start
on Wednesday 9th
November with talks also
planned for:

14th December
11th January
8th February
14th March

See back page for
additional information

If any of you have any
suggestions for talks,
please contact any of the
committee members.

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
Hector Grant
Sue Lyons
Ruth Macdougall
Margaret Macrae
Roddy Morrison
Anna Belle Robertson
John Robertson
Mike Taylor

Welcome to the September 2011 newsletter, you will see that the layout of the newsletter has changed slightly, this is to try and make it visually similar to the website and create an instantly recognisable identity.

Although we will carry on with the quarterly newsletter, it is envisaged that rather than continue to increase the number of pages, now we have a website, some of the information will be available via the website. For those people who do not have access to the internet, we will still deliver paper copies of the newsletter and we will try and include as much information as possible.

Talking of which you will see that during the summer we have been busy working away on the website – www.kyleakinlocalhistorysociety.co.uk – check it out and let us have your comments. We would like to thank Andy Law (Skye Images) for his help and patience in setting up the site and training Sue Lyons so that she can try and keep the site up to date.

We also have our own email address – kyleakinlocalhistorysociety@gmail.com, again, please use it to send us any comments. If you haven't received anything recently from us, please check your "spam box".

Have you noticed our new logo? This was chosen from a short list of 7 images, we hope you like it.

Can you believe it that the society has been running for just over 12 months now. So with this in mind, both members and non-members are invited to the **Society's 1st Birthday Party and AGM** at the Village Hall at 8pm on Wednesday 28th September. As with all birthday parties there will be cakes and tea/coffee to help celebrate the event. We will also have a selection of pictures on display and any details you may have relating to the pictures by way of names and dates will help us accurately record the information.

On sale at the birthday party will be 2012 calendars which show images of the village from the early 1900's to the start of the 21st century. All proceeds from the calendars, which cost £7.50, or for those of you who want calendars sending by post the cost is £8.50, will help to raise funds for future events.

Please contact a member of the committee for further information on how to buy one (or more) of these calendars.

We are also holding another Burns Night Supper in the Village Hall which will be held on Friday 27th January 2012.

Information on all these events and more will be in the future newsletters and on the website.

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

- ❖ Churches
- ❖ Hotels
- ❖ Fishing
- ❖ Schools
- ❖ Shops and 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 2011?

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?



In the last newsletter we asked if you knew when this picture was taken and who the young ladies were!

The picture was taken in 1963

Back – left to right

Iris Denoon, Chrissie Morrison, Mary MacKenzie (Reid), Mary Robertson, Anna Belle Robertson, Dinah Graham & Nancy Chiffers

Front- left to right

Cathie Morrison (Grant), Ann Robertson, Margaret MacKinnon & Janette MacPherson

Thanks to everyone who helped provide this information.

This time, it is the turn of one of the men's football teams: As before, who are they and what year was this picture taken and where?



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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 are looking to collect enough photographs so that we can organise a "now and then" display.

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 in the Bright Water Centre or from Sue and 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.

What else has the society being doing over the summer:

Margaret Macrae is working with Anna Belle Robertson to draw up a business plan. We have a big shopping list of things we would like to buy to help the society record and preserve the history of the village for future generations. This means looking at alternative sources of funding. If you can help with this in any way, please get in touch with Margaret or Anna Belle.

The Society has also been in touch with the Royal Humane Society to try and obtain details of the award to the Birnie sisters, the lighthouse keeper's daughters who went to the assistance of a vessel in distress in the early 1900's. We will let you know the outcome of these investigations in due course.

The Archive Centre in Portree currently holds approximately 400 photographs taken in the village in the 1960's and 1970's by Miss Willcock. Caroline Clouston has looked at approximately half of the collection and the society has purchased 42 copies for our own archives.

The exhibition in the former Cameron's shop which coincided with the Gala in August got off to a slow start, but picked up towards the weekend. We had 137 visitors and received £65 in donations.

The display in the Bright Water Centre seems to be working well. There is a rota of a number of members who have volunteered to staff the Centre on a Wednesday. If you haven't been along, please go before the end of September when the Centre closes for the winter. Thanks must be expressed to the Eilean Bán Trust for allowing us to have the use of a small area for our permanent display.

As June 2012 is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Society is considering holding a "Royal" exhibition. Do you have any photographs or memorabilia relating to past and present members of the Royal family which we could borrow? Do you know of any celebrations that have taken place in the village over the years to mark specific royal occasions – if so let us know and we will see if we can include any information about it?

We have been advised that the picture of the Port Napier in our collection is not the one that sank during World War II. As far as we are aware, the Port Napier in the picture we have is the "third" Port Napier. Do you know of any pictures taken in the village during the period that the mine layers were stationed at Kyle?

Unfortunately Caroline is unable to attend the Birthday Party and AGM, but her report will be given by Sue. We do hope that as many of you as possible can attend, if only to try some of the cakes being provided by members of the committee.

The Committee would like to thank you for your support over the last 12 months and your continuing support in the future.

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Diary Dates:

Wednesday 9th November 2011

Memories of Kyleakin

Speakers: Cathie Reid and Morag Macrae

Wednesday 14th December 2011

Ring Net Fishing

Speaker: Professor Will MacLean

Wednesday 11th January 2012

Highland Villages

Speaker: John MacLeod

Friday 27th January 2012

Burns Supper

Wednesday 8th February 2012

50 Years as a Vet on Skye

Speaker: Donald John MacLennan

Wednesday 14th March 2012

West Coast Transport

Speaker: Donald John MacLeod (Glenelg)

All events will take place in Kyleakin Village Hall and further information will be available nearer the date of each event.

Although we aim to hold these events on the dates listed, it may be necessary, due to circumstances beyond our control to change the dates and details; however, we will keep you informed of any potential changes.