

Kyleakin Local History Society



Website: www.kyleakinlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

Email: kyleakinlocalhistorysociety@gmail.com

October 2012

Issue 6

Diary Date

The winter talks will start on Wednesday 14th November 2012 – see back page for further 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
Margaret Macrae
Roddy Morrison
Anna Belle Robertson
John Robertson
Karren Smith
Mike Taylor

Welcome to the autumn/winter 2012 newsletter, what a summer we have had! We hope that you managed to take advantage of the long hot summer, and that you are now ready to sort out your photographs and newspaper cuttings of local events for us over the coming months.

Although we have mentioned this before, don't forget, you can email us at the above address, if you haven't received anything recently from us, please check your "spam box".

Also, keep an eye on the website, information has now been included for nearly all the photographs in the gallery, you can read the description if you move your cursor to "hover" over the image, or if you click on the image, the description is at the bottom of the page. We will try and add more photographs over the coming months. But in the meantime, if you spot any errors, please let us know.

The AGM took place on Monday 24th September and was well attended. The minutes of the first AGM were approved as were the accounts. It was a short meeting this year and a new committee was elected. Unsurprisingly, there was no change to the previous committee, except that John Robertson has taken over from Sue Lyons as Vice Chair of the committee.

Once again, we have had a permanent display in the Bright Water Centre and thanks go to the volunteers who worked in the Centre over the season. If you would like to volunteer your services for next year (April to October) please contact Caroline.

Help is still required to transcribe some of the talks i.e. type up the talks which have been recorded on a Dictaphone. If you think you can help and have hours of spare time, please contact a member of the committee

It would be interesting to have a collection of local wedding photographs over the years, especially to see how fashions have changed. If you have any wedding pictures where the bride or bridegroom (or both) lived in the village that you would be willing to share, let us know. Photos will be scanned and returned as quickly as possible and it would be helpful if you could name the people on any of the pictures.

We are still looking for a room/building to rent so that we can house our collection of pictures, artefacts and other memorabilia and somewhere to operate from.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact 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 2012?

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 who the wee lads and lasses were, the year the picture was taken and where.

1973ish Kyleakin Old School

Back row, left to right:

Michael Taylor, Jonathan Macrae, Donnie Ross, Hamish Graham, James Urquhart, Neil Robertson

Third row, left to right:

Fiona MacKay, Helen Graham, Elspeth Campbell, Fiona MacDiarmid, Morag MacLeod, Christine Morrison, Margaret Robertson, Ellen Robertson and Janette Ross

Second row, left to right:

Ann Ross, Michelle Branson, Mairi MacAskill, Christine Reid, Heather Campbell, Helen MacIntosh, Mandy Branson, Catriona MacAskill, Maureen Robertson and Margaret Taylor

Front row, sitting left to right:

Angus MacLennan, Donald MacLennan, Norman Ross, Andrew Webley, Ronald Reid, Cameron Reid, Angus Macrae, Evander Macrae and Roderick 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 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 from in Camerons old shop/Post Office, or from AnnaBelle or Sue.

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.



We received this picture recently from Will MacLean; do you know who is in the picture also when and why they were gathered on the Corran?

Local Bard

During the latter decades of the twentieth century Kyleakin enjoyed the services of its own local Bard.

Known to most people as Nellie (a family pet name which she did not like) she lived at Moyle Cottage and specialised in penning pertinent words for milestone events in the life of Strath & Sleat Parish of the Church of Scotland of which the Kyleakin church is one of the four cornerstones (along with Broadford, Elgol and Kilmore).

Another of her regular appearances was at the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner hosted by the SWRI. We have reproduced on the next page her composition from exactly thirty years ago which lists, in her own special way, some of her contemporaries probably present at the oration. Sadly, only Ena survives.

Please let us know if you find this enjoyable – if so we will fish out some more for future Newsletters.

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Prepared for Senior Citizens' Dinner
18th December 1982 at Crofter's Kitchen

1. We don't feel very different although we're sixty plus
It's the younger generations who feel apart from us
But we've seen plenty action - we've been through two world wars
With Kaiser Bill then Hitler though we hide the mental scars.
2. There's Molly and there's Dolly - two fine flappers in their time
There's Lena and wee Mena - they were on the Siegfried line
There's Flora from Dunringell and my word she's not slow
For she was at the 'Forty-Five and Prince Charlie was her beau.
3. There's Tana's wide bandana and the stalwart sisters Leitch
And Ina's new replacement joint just makes her deaf aid screech
Keep fit Nellie from Moyle Cottage - they just shouldn't let her out
For she tried the horizontal bars and now she's got the gout.
4. Busy Bella up at Sighthill thought she got the mixture right
She had rows and rows of bottles but the corks popped out all night
And Jeannie with the light brown hair her bed would not neglect
But with a name like Downie just what else would you expect.
5. My friend Ena makes good doughnuts but she forgets the hole
So purely as an afterthought she pokes them with a Pole
Our Dorothy's artistic and so she often shakes
Some Johnston's baby powder when she decorates her cakes.
6. There's Dolla looking handsome no old age will him deter
He danced with Mrs Branson and he won the Croix de Guerre
And little Captain Soper he has served his time at sea
They say he has fish fingers but they feel alright to me.
7. That's all that I have time for - I could go on and on
And tell of Hector Lamont and Maggie Paterson
But it's obvious to widows here that we outlive our men
So just choose a younger partner if you get the chance again.

To Ena with love from Nellie - Xmas '82 -
composed on 8th December my 67th birthday - Helen MacRae

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Dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 14th November 2012 - **Folklore on the Islands** - Speaker - Cailean MacLean

Wednesday 12th December 2012 - **Clan Donald 'Museum of the Isles'** - Speaker - Maggie MacDonald

Wednesday 16th January 2013 - **History of the Kyle Line** - Speaker - Pat Myhill

Wednesday 13th February 2013 - **Vikings on Skye** - Speaker - Gordon MacIntyre

Wednesday 13th March 2013 – Speaker - Callum Og MacRae (to be confirmed)

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.

I'm presently engaged in writing a book concerning The Turntable Ferries of Scotland and have seen some fine images on your website. Overall, images of the Kyle - Kyleakin vessels are not difficult to come by and so my enquiry is aimed at the less known Dornie ferry.

If you have any interesting information or images which you might consider making available for publication then I'd be delighted to hear from you or perhaps you have a member who is particularly knowledgeable concerning the local turntable ferries?

I do hope that you can help.

With my grateful thanks and best wishes.

John Hendy

johnhendy479@btinternet.com

Barbara and Kevin are brother and sister and are looking for information regarding their mother and (grandparents) - Christina Sophia (born on 13th February 1935) and her younger sister Avril who lived in the area with their parents "Jack" John Henry Lacey and Jessie Lacey. "Jack" John Henry Lacey was in the navy and stationed at Kyle of Lochalsh, from the late 1930's onwards, and any information to help them find out more about their families time in the area would be appreciated.

Thank you

beresfordbarbara@gmail.com and
kevindoe191@btinternet.com



We know who these people are and when they were married. Do you have any pictures you can loan us to scan for a future exhibition?

If you attended a wedding in the area and have pictures of friends and family, you think may be of interest; or do you know of any local traditions regarding weddings, or newspaper cuttings, if so get in touch with any member of the committee.