



ISSUE 27

WINTER 2013

£1





## A New Staff Reporter



Hello to the young people of Killearn! My name is Oxana and I am in second year at Balfron. I am going to be doing a short piece for each issue of the *Courier* and am hoping to represent some views from our perspective. It might be on something covered in the issue, something topical from the news, or an issue that local young people feel strongly about.

I know when I see the *Courier* come through the door that there will not be much in it for me (other than checking all the pictures for someone I know!). So if you want our voice to be heard, please let me know what you'd like to see. Jokes? A quiz? Something else?

Please get in touch with your ideas and suggestions. I can be contacted at [oxana@kfc.co.uk](mailto:oxana@kfc.co.uk).

Thank you!

Cover picture by JW: Rose Hips in a Killearn Garden.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome your letters and emails. Please include your full address (not necessarily for publication). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Dear Sir

I noted your 'starter for ten' in the 'How Well Do You Know Your Village?' quiz in Issue 26 asked readers to identify the meaning of the name Killearn. The answer, 'the church of the west point', is, in fact, incorrect.

Killearn, from the Gaelic *Cill Earnain*, means Ernan's Church – the Ernan in question being St Ernan, a relative and follower of St Columba. See Scottish Parliament placenames, page 71: <http://tinyurl.com/ngsecsb>.

The spelling *Cill Earnain* also appears on the Gaelic language map of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/q77tb5f>

Whilst on this subject, the wooden signs placed by the roads which enter Killearn show a curious word: Kill-ear-rhin. As any P1 pupil of the Sgoil Ghaidlig Ghlaschu will tell you, there is no letter 'K' in the Gaelic alphabet.

Aside from appearing in no official documents, 'church of the west point' would, if it were correct, be one of only a handful of place names in Scotland which contained the Gaelic root *Cill* without the name of an individual associated with the church itself – usually a saint.

*Yours faithfully, R. Knight.*



Dear Sir

*Sad tale of disappearing walking stick*

Whilst enjoying a very pleasant walk on Saturday, 5 October, my friend and I stopped to admire the view. As I was not using it at that moment, I hung my walking stick on the gate at the end of Ibert Road and the start of the pipeline walk. We continued for a while until I realised I was minus my stick. We retraced our steps to the exact spot, but unfortunately someone had already removed it.

My 30-year-old (plus!) walking stick is made of knotted wood with an antler handle. It was a 40th birthday present and has travelled extensively with me and my walking companions over the years.

So, as you will understand, it has a certain sentimental value. If you found it, please contact me, Stephen Holden, on telephone number 01360 550764.

*Yours sincerely, Stephen Holden.*

## Thank you!

Our readers may believe that the *Courier* group, fearing neither wind nor rain nor dark of night, set out three times a year to make sure every home in the parish has the newest edition pushed through their letter box or flop onto their door mat. But, no! Well, yes, actually we do, but we also rely on the kindness of other spirited individuals to accomplish our appointed rounds.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we pay heart-felt tribute to everyone who has been kind enough to help with our deliveries every year:

Heather Banks, Donald Beaton, Carol Cumming, Jim Fallas, Jane Hunter, Hugh McArthur, Denese McLean, Leonora Murray, Molly Parsons, Kay Pollock, Sheila Robbie, Maureen Royston, Lesley Scott, Isobel Shaw, Kathleen Wright, Jacky Young.

You know who you are, of course, and now lots of other people know, too. *Merry Christmas!*

## Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 15 March 2014.

**Advertisements and artwork** should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 31 January 2014. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

**Contributions and letters** to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 31 January 2014. Send them to:

**36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or email to: [courier@kfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kfc.co.uk)**

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# Editorial

Welcome to our Winter/Christmas issue. As you sit in your nice, comfy armchair with a mug of tea or coffee and a chocy biccyy nearby, sheltered from the rain beating against the windows, reading the latest issue of your *Courier*, do you ever wonder how it got to you? Well, since 2005, the same people have been delivering to every household in the Parish, in all weathers. These volunteers, along with members of our Group, set off three times a year, pounding pavements, climbing stairs, navigating round unhappy dogs, negotiating farm tracks, getting smacked in the face with overhanging branches to get the *Courier* to your door. Inside this issue, we've listed the names of volunteers, past and present. A big 'thank you' goes to them all.

Thanks also go to our advertisers who have, yet again, supported us throughout the year. Without them, we would not be able to produce the *Courier*. We should recognise this by supporting them.

We are also taking the opportunity to thank Dougie Bell for his sterling service and contributions to the *Courier*. Dougie is stepping back due to pressures of real-world work, but we hope to see him again some time in the future. The good news is that Scott Macintosh, our printer, is joining us from the Spring edition. We were also contacted a wee while ago by a teacher at Balforn High School telling us that she had some pupils who were interested in becoming involved in the *Courier*. We now have five *Courier* Cubs 'on our books', and we are excited about including their different perspectives and interests.

One of our CCs, Oxana, has gotten off to a flying start with an item on page 2. Hopefully, our association with our cub reporters will lead to more involvement with the young people in the village.

Enjoy this issue. It's a (Christmas) cracker.

From everyone at the *Courier* have a very merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous 2014.



*Ian*  
Ian Dickie, Editor



- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 18 Nov    | <i>Strathendrick Rotary Club</i> meeting. Black Bull Hotel, 6.30 for 7pm, thereafter every Monday except bank holidays and the fifth Monday of a five Monday month. Contact Steve Holden (550764).   |
| 19 Nov    | <i>Guild</i> meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Anne Gloag Foundation.  |
| 21 Nov    | <i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed from 12.30pm for staff training.  |
| 22 Nov    | <i>Killearn PTA Christmas Shopping Night</i> . Village Hall, 7.30pm.<br>Mince pies and mulled wine.  |
| 23 Nov    | <i>Guild Sale of Work</i> . Kirk Hall, 10.30am – 12.30pm.  |
| 28 Nov    | <i>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</i> .<br>Illustrated talk by David Harvie on 'The Black Arts behind Turkey Red Dyeing'.<br>Winnock Hotel, 2pm. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a> .               |
| 28–30 Nov | <i>FADs 'Aladdin'</i> . Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs. – Sat., 7.30pm and matinee Sat. 2pm.<br>Tickets and information from Killearn Pharmacy or Liz Brown (860078).   |
| 1 Dec     | <i>Killearn Kirk Holy Communion</i> , 10.30am and 18.30pm.   |
| 5 Dec     | <i>Guild Christmas Evening</i> . Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.  |
| 5–7 Dec   | <i>FADs 'Aladdin'</i> . Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs. – Sat., 7.30pm and matinee Sat. 2pm.<br>Tickets and information from Killearn Pharmacy or Liz Brown (860078).   |
| 6 Dec     | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Singing in the Rain</i> .<br>Balforn Campus, 7.30pm. <a href="http://www.film-society.org">www.film-society.org</a> .   |
| 12 Dec    | <i>Christmas Tree Festival</i> , 2pm to 4pm.   |
| 13 Dec    | <i>Christmas Tree Festival</i> , 10am to 12.30pm.  |
| 13 Dec    | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Christmas concert. Killearn Kirk, 7.30pm.<br>Tickets at door or from choir members.<br>Contact Colin Cameron at <a href="mailto:media@strathendricksingers.org.uk">media@strathendricksingers.org.uk</a> .                |
| 14 Dec    | <i>Killearn Country Market Christmas Cracker</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 3pm.<br>Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).<br><i>Strathendrick Singers</i> will be singing Christmas carols. |
| 14 Dec    | <i>Christmas Tree Festival</i> , 12 noon to 5pm.   |
| 15 Dec    | <i>Killearn Kirk Nativity service</i> , 10.30am.   |
| 15 Dec    | <i>Christmas Tree Festival</i> , 11.30am to 4.30pm.  |
| 22 Dec    | <i>Killearn Kirk Favourite carols service</i> , 10.30am.   |
| 24 Dec    | <i>Killearn Kirk Watch Night service</i> , 11pm – informal carol singing.<br>Service starts 11.30pm.   |
| 25 Dec    | <i>Killearn Kirk Family Christmas Day service</i> , 10.00am.   |
| 25/26 Dec | <i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed. Online prescription ordering service available throughout holidays at <a href="http://www.killearnhealthcentre.com">www.killearnhealthcentre.com</a> .   |
| 1/2 Jan   | <i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed.  |
| 7 Jan     | <i>Monday Music</i> Spring term starts. Kirk Hall. Contact Clare Cushing (550166).   |
| 14 Jan    | <i>Guild</i> meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Rev. Lee Messeder. Also Bring and Buy.  |
| 23 Jan    | <i>Guild</i> joint meeting with <i>Thursday Club</i> . Kirk Hall, 2 – 4pm.<br>An afternoon with John and Peter.  |
| 1 Feb     | <i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm.<br>Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).   |
| 4 Feb     | <i>Guild</i> meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Union 3 plus 1 – musical evening.   |
| 7 Feb     | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Life of Pi</i> .<br>Balforn Campus, 7.30pm. <a href="http://www.film-society.org">www.film-society.org</a> .  |
| 15 Feb    | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Musical coffee morning. Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am – 12 noon.<br>Contact Colin Cameron, <a href="mailto:media@strathendricksingers.org.uk">media@strathendricksingers.org.uk</a> .  |
| 18 Feb    | <i>Guild</i> meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. David Livingston Legacy – Elspeth Murdoch.  |
| 1 Mar     | <i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm.<br>Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).   |
| 4 Mar     | <i>Guild</i> meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Project – Out of Africa into Malta.   |
| 7 Mar     | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Amour</i> .<br>Balforn Campus, 7.30pm. <a href="http://www.film-society.org">www.film-society.org</a> .   |
| 14 Mar    | <i>Killearn Golden Years' Club</i> Annual Dinner, 7.00 for 7.30pm.   |

*If you have any dates for the Spring 2014 issue of the Diary (mid March until the end of August), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), [heather.mcarthur@virgin.net](mailto:heather.mcarthur@virgin.net)*



# Killearn Man Graduates as Royal Air Force Officer



Graeme Royston (27) from Killearn graduated as a Flying Officer from Initial Officer Training Course (IOTC) 32 at the Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit at Royal Air Force College Cranwell, near Sleaford in Lincolnshire.

Graeme joined 75 other cadets, including representatives from the Algerian, Indonesian, Ghana and Sudan Air Forces, the Bahrain Defence Force and the Royal Air Force of Oman, on parade in front of Air Vice Marshal Mata bin Ali Al-Obaidani, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman who was the Reviewing Officer on the day. Following a fly past by a Tornado GR4 aircraft from 31 Squadron, RAF Marham, the Air Vice Marshal was then invited to inspect the Officer Cadets on parade outside the historic College Hall.

Graeme, whose parents Howard and Maureen live at Killearn, attended Balforn High School before graduating from Heriot Watt University with a BSc in Applied Marine Biology. Now that he has commissioned as an RAF officer he will soon begin his professional training with the RAF Regiment at RAF Honington. On graduating he said, 'Initial Officer Training is extremely tough, but it's been a very rewarding experience'.

# BHS Head Prefects 2013

Once again Killearn Primary School has produced a string of very successful students. This year's Head Prefect team of four contains, from left to right: Jonathan Eckersley, Alasdair Hyland, Erin Hamilton and Alice Copland. Erin, Head Girl, and Alice, Depute Head Girl, are both former pupils of Killearn Primary.

'It was an unexpected honour to be selected for the position of Head Girl at Balforn High School. Myself along with the other Head Prefects, are looking forward to working as a team and hope to put into practice some of the great ideas we have. After returning



from a team-building residential with the Head Prefects and 12 new House Captains, I am confident we are going to have a fantastic year and hope to do the school proud,' said Erin Hamilton.

Alice Copland stated, 'I was delighted when I was selected to be Depute Head Girl. I feel myself, Erin, Alasdair and Jonathan have a great motivation and work ethic which will help us to achieve our common goals of improving Balforn High School and making it the best it can be. As the year goes on, I am sure this motivation will continue and we will carry on developing the school for the pupils that we represent.'

Along with Erin and Alice, House Captains this year include Jill Barrett, Rachel Maitland, Nicole Harley and Fraser Boland. It just shows that Killearn Primary School certainly knows how to create confident individuals who are becoming perfect role models and great leaders.

*Heather Banks*

## Riddle – Sherrard



Pamela Riddell, daughter of Bill and Linda, Main Street, Killearn, and Paul Sherrard of Ballyclare, Northern Ireland, were married at Dalhousie Castle, Edinburgh, on 25 May 2013.

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# Aladdin



Preparing for their roles in "Aladdin" are Killlearn's Lucy (Aladdin), Sophie (Princess Pekinesia), Kirsty and Megan and Fintry's Shannon and Lizzie (chorus).

By the time the *Courier* hits the streets, members of FADS will be well into their rehearsals for our Christmas Pantomime.

This year's production is 'Aladdin' by Alan McHugh. This is a brilliant up-to-date Scottish script by one of the country's best writers of pantomime. The last time FADS did 'Aladdin' was 24 years ago in 1989.

In this show, all the favourite characters appear, driven by two sets of Glesga narrators who, at times, are part of the action and keep trying to steal the show.

Widow Twanky is closing down her failing laundry and opening a Chinese takeaway. She is helped by her sons, Aladdin and Wishee Washee. A poverty-stricken Emperor and his Empress attend the opening and declare that anyone who can save the country from bankruptcy will marry their daughter, Pekinesia. Wicked Abanazer tricks Aladdin to accompany him to India to find a magic lamp.

A Camel and a Genie are also in the plot. Double dealing, double cross, magic and mayhem ensue – even a magic carpet ride. Hopefully, all will lead to a happy ending.

Come along and see for yourselves another FAB FADS pantomime.

Who are the stars of the show? Just wait and see!

*H. Watson*

Forth Environment Link, a Stirling-based environmental charity, is pleased to announce the launch of the first block of free workshops from the Forth Valley Orchard Training Programme for 2013/2014.

To see the full programme go to <http://tinyurl.com/lcc8w78> or email [amparo@forthenvironmentlink.org](mailto:amparo@forthenvironmentlink.org) or phone 01786 449215.

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WEDNESDAY – Balfron (am), Killlearn (pm)



# A Christmas Ornament

This is a quick and simple decoration, and it's great for repurposing beads from old necklaces. This example was made with 12 beads, but the design and scale of your creation is only bounded by your imagination (and the length of your wire!). Florist's wire can be purchased already cut to length, and comes in different diameters.

## Supplies for a basic ornament:

30cm length of green florist's wire (long pipe cleaners for little children)

6 large beads. Different shapes give exciting results.

6 small beads

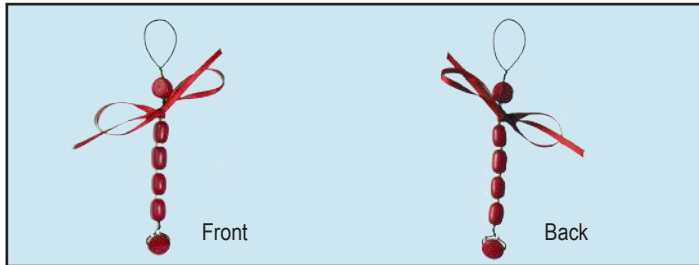
30cm length of thin ribbon ('hanging ribbon' from the inside of dresses or shirts is perfect)

## Construction:

The length and diameter of your wire will determine how many beads you'll be able to incorporate, and of what size, so the instructions here are very general. Check that your beads do slide down the wire or pipe cleaner!

Remember that you'll need to incorporate two wire loops, one at the top and one at the bottom.

The ornament is built from the bottom to the top.



1. Sort your beads, making sure to leave one large bead in reserve.
2. Bend your wire so it looks like the letter 'J'.
3. Over the hook of the 'J', slide a small bead, a large bead and another small bead, leaving about an inch of wire.
4. Take the wire up and finger twist it around the longer length of the wire twice to form the bottom of the ornament.
5. Once the end is secure, slide a large bead down the remaining wire. Try if possible to have the bead cover the sharp end of the wire (it looks better and doesn't catch fingers or material that way).
6. Once your first big bead is on, followed it by a small bead, and continue this way until you have used all the beads. This will use up about half the wire.
7. Slide your reserve bead onto the wire, but leave space between it and the other beads.
8. Bend the top end of the wire down across the back of the reserve bead, and make two small twists above the top small bead which you already threaded onto the wire.
9. Secure the reserve bead in place by twisting the wire above it several times, using your fingers to open a loop at the top for hanging.
10. Tie your ribbon around the twisted wire beneath the very top bead to hide the wire's sharp end.
11. Admire your handiwork! Make lots and give them to your teachers!



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# Conversation, Village Style

When people say that the art of conversation is dead, they should try walking through Killearn on a sunny autumn afternoon. It was on just such a day recently, as I powered through the village in an attempt to give my cardio-vascular system a bit of a workout, that I met a succession of people, all happy to converse.

First of all there was a fleeting chat with Stephanie, who was rushing home from work to cook the tea for visitors. Then in the pharmacy I heard about Myra's daughter's wedding, which sounded like a lovely event. Moving swiftly past the gift shops, I rounded the corner opposite the bank, and found myself being waved at from a car. Naturally, I waved back, as one does, even when one is not absolutely certain who is behind the wheel. However, this time I recognised Heather and returned her wave before realising that her husband Jim was walking three yards behind me and was almost certainly the intended recipient of the salutation. Or it could even have been both of us. Two waves in one. I'm all for a bit of economy.

As I carried on down the hill, Cathy drew up and wound down her window, asking if I had any idea where she might have left her music folder. The mystery was solved half an hour later, but the discussion took several minutes in the sunshine. We were joined by Sheila and Norman, and a four-way conversation ensued till Cathy had to drive off again. The three of us then progressed on to a discussion of the science of life drawing, and what a wonderful season it had been for green beans.

Carrying on into Spar, I heard from Helen and Margaret about the glories of an all-day visit to Braemar and the wonders of public transport. Then Oliver behind the counter entered into a discussion about whether or not the government should implement a tax on poly bags – a good idea all round, we both agreed. My final conversation, on the way home, was with Anne, who had just come back from a holiday in Ireland, which was lovely to hear about. We also included in our chat the problem of the wheelie bins and recycling boxes, and whether or not the Council workers were intent on strike action.

All this happened on one sunny afternoon and, of course, you can't always guarantee to meet quite so many people. Two days later the only person I met on my jaunt was Bill, who called across the road to tell me that he had had a win on the lottery. (£2.50! Just enough to pay for the papers he had gone into Spar for in the first place.) There is also the consideration that folk don't tend to linger if it's tipping down rain. But the will to converse is definitely alive and well. Wait till the next fall of snow if you want to see proper village communication in action, as we all stomp about in wellies trying to identify each other through the winter padding. Could that be at Christmas time? Who knows. At least we know we'll still be chatting all the way into the New Year.

*Joyce Begg*



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# 1972 Land Rover Series III

The Land Rover first appeared at the Amsterdam Show in 1948. It was designed by Maurice Wilks, Chief Designer at Rover (his brother, Spencer Wilks, was Managing Director). Just after the war Rover had to supplement their limited range of cars with a vehicle which would appeal to export markets for much needed revenue. As export was being encouraged by the government this enabled Rover to secure additional



raw materials which were in very short supply. Maurice Wilks owned a Willys Jeep which he used on his farm in Anglesey for uses including the towing of his boat trailer. He was so impressed with the versatility of this vehicle that he started to look at the possibility of producing his own version. It took him a year to produce a prototype which had four-wheel drive, a ladder box frame chassis and aluminium body panels (as the government were severely restricting supplies of steel). The original prototype had three abreast seating with a steering wheel in the centre but this was abandoned on production models. Initial versions were all finished in various shades of light green as Rover had obtained surplus supplies of paint which was originally used for painting cockpits of aircraft during the war. The Land Rover was initially envisaged as an agricultural vehicle so was fitted with a power take off which farmers could use to drive a variety of implements. However the Land Rover was adapted for many other uses, including military and exploration. The original was powered by a four-cylinder 1600cc petrol engine producing about 52 bhp, but more powerful versions did eventually follow with the option of diesel power. Long wheelbase versions followed allowing different types of bodywork to be offered such as station wagons, pickups and special bodywork for different applications. The Series II appeared in 1958 and the Series III in 1971 of which this is an example.

This K-registered model was built on 17 February 1972 as an early Series III Land Rover 88-inch wheelbase petrol station wagon coloured 'golden yellow'. It was dispatched from the factory to the General Post Office on 15 March, and first registered on 13 June 1972. After 25 years of hard graft the vehicle was in pretty poor condition. The new owner fully rebuilt the vehicle onto a new galvanised chassis, painting it in a traditional bronze green with an ex-MOD police canvas tilt replacing the station wagon top. This was then exhibited on the Series III Owners Club Stand at the 1998 Billing Show to celebrate Land Rover's golden jubilee. A Fairey overdrive unit was fitted at the show so the car now has four gear levers and three gearboxes! The vehicle continued to be used as a daily commuter before being laid up for some time.

The current owner, a member of the Strathendrick Classic and Sports Car Club acquired this Land Rover in 2010. After a full service and some TLC it then went back into regular use until an MOT failure brought things to a halt and prompted some immediate action. A new electric cooling fan, fuel

tank, inertia reel seat belts, new canvas tilt, parabolic springs and dampers were fitted. The cylinder head was overhauled, unleaded valve seats inserted and a new steering box fitted. The Land Rover has appeared in many of the Club and Scottish Land Rover Owners Club outings, but the owner states that there are always items requiring attention, so it remains as work in progress.

Land Rover has come a long way in the last 65 years

with the millionth Land Rover being built in 1976 and the current Defender still selling strongly. In 1970, Land Rover created a new market sector with the Range Rover with the highly successful Rover Buick Light Alloy V8 engine (this was first used in the Rover P5B Saloon in 1967). The class-leading Range Rover is now in its fourth incarnation and incorporates the highest levels of luxury and technology. Other models introduced included the Discovery (1989), Freelander (1997), Range Rover Sport (2005) and Evoque (2011). All have very advanced designs moving towards integral monocoque lightweight aluminium construction with hybrids in the pipeline. Land Rover is now part of JLR (Jaguar Land Rover) now operated by Tata Motors of India part of the Tata Group, which owns Tetley Tea amongst many other interests.

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# Who Needs Friends Like These?



Convener of the W. Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice, Rina Cranstoun (left), and Guest Speaker, Isobel Rutter.

*Hospice is not a place; it is a philosophy of care that values each individual and helps them put life into their days rather than days on to their lives.*

These words, taken from its website, sum up exactly what Strathcarron Hospice stands for and seeks to provide to patients across the whole NHS Forth Valley area and to parts of NHS Lanarkshire as well. It is a service that embraces the families of patients, too, both before the death of their loved one and afterwards, through bereavement counselling, as I know from personal experience.

All this service is offered free, but, of course, it's not really – it costs £65,000 a week, and Strathcarron has to raise £3.5 million every year just to keep going. It relies heavily on an army of volunteers, nine hospice shops and ten groups of Friends.

The West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice are based in Balfroun and Killearn, have been operating since 2000, and have in that time raised over £100,000. We usually have three events a year, one of which, our pre-Christmas Autumn Fayre in the McLintock Hall, Balfroun (which I hope you visited this year!) is now a regular local fixture. So also were the Tea and Crafts tents at Callander Highland Games until this year when, sadly, the Games could not be held. Our Spring activity, however, has varied over the years, ranging from a Valentine's Day Ball to a Race Night to several Fashion

Shows and, most recently, to a Ladies Dinner in Drymen. There have been three of these dinners so far and there will certainly be another next year – by popular demand! Those who attended this year had a great time, enjoying the Winnock's delicious cuisine, the saucy jokes of guest speaker, Isobel Rutter, and the professional auctioneering skills of Raymond Kennedy. They also raised the amazing sum of £5,077! You may have seen us also manning a stall at other events, most recently

the Balfroun Bash. As Tesco says, every little helps – and it's fun, too.

What more can we do? Well, that partly depends on you, the local community, especially if you've had direct experience of Strathcarron care yourself. Have you got that brilliant idea we need to know or time to offer, even just a few hours, or special skills such as face-painting? Do you know people who might be able to buy/sell tickets or donate to stalls? If so, please do contact our Convener, Rina Cranstoun (440697). We'd all love to hear from you.

And meantime watch out for details of our next dinner. When they appear, ladies, put the date in your diaries!

KJVT





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# Great Tapestry of Scotland on the Move

The exhibition of the 159 completed panels which comprise the Great Tapestry of Scotland opened to the public on 3 September and ran for three weeks in the foyer of the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood in Edinburgh. In all, 30,000 people saw the embroidery. It's not clear who was more surprised at the queues which snaked from the front doors down to the Canongate the security people or the press! The stitchers were never in doubt, of course. Mercifully, this year Scotland had a summer worthy of the name, and no one got too wet too often. Equally interesting were the folk themselves, resolved to patiently wait sometimes for as long as an hour as the queue stuttered forward. Not all who came were women, or embroiderers, or even 'of a certain age': interest in the panels depicting Scotland's history both at home and abroad built all manner of cultural bridges. The exhibition was, without doubt, a resounding triumph.

Of the many questions asked of the stitchers who helped to invigilate the exhibition, two were upper-most: *where is it going next?* and *where will its permanent home be?* In September, neither of these questions could be definitively answered, but 40 of the panels were shipped down to have their English debut at the Cheltenham Festivals in October to be displayed as backdrop to a discussion with Alistair Moffat, Alexander McCall Smith and James Naughtie about the making of the Great Tapestry.



Luckily for us, the whole set, which has been likened to a giant jigsaw puzzle, went on show at Cockenzie House and Gardens on 19 October, and is scheduled to remain there until 8 Dec 2013. For more information, including opening times, see <http://tinyurl.com/l3b6mar>. Rumour has it the tea room is rather nice...

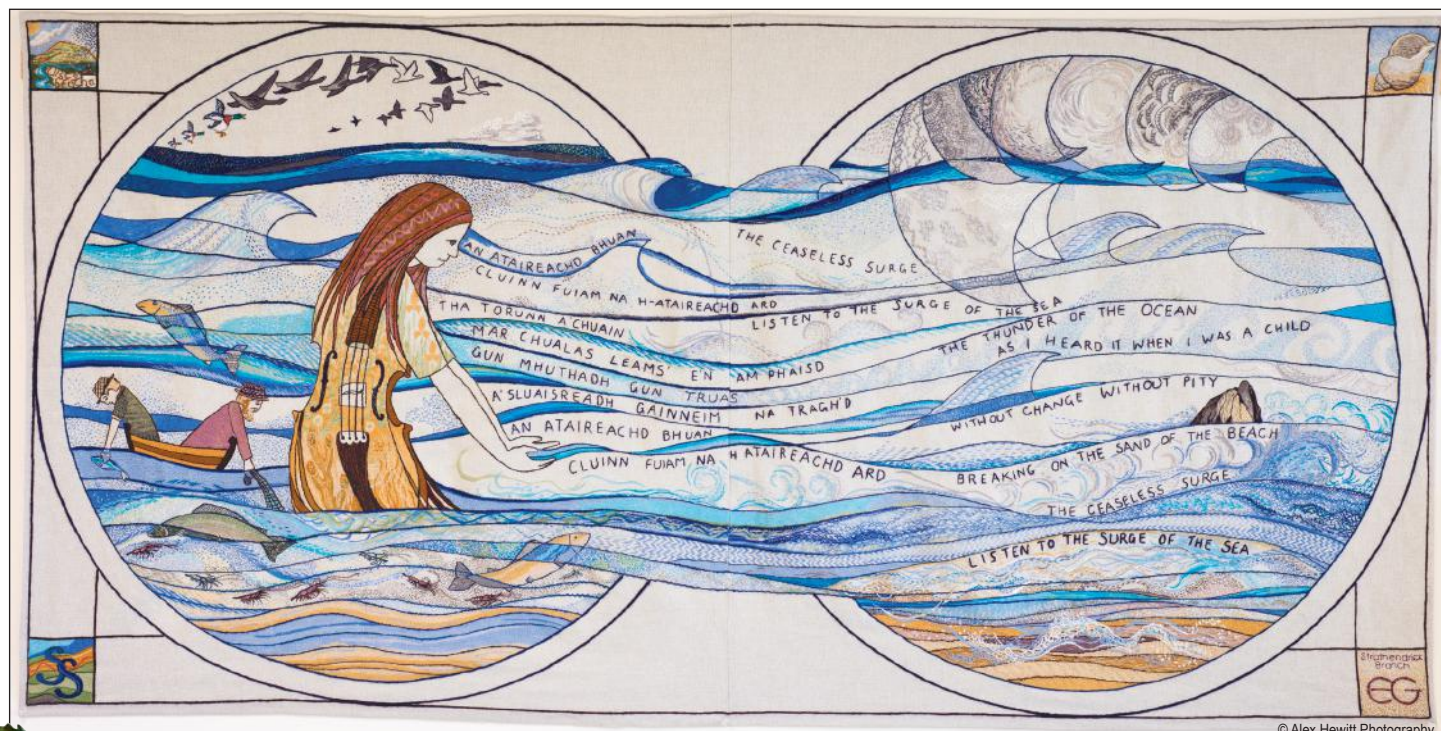
There are plans to tour the Tapestry around the country, and even bring it over to the West, but the organisers have yet to finalise venues. Apparently there is much dotting of Is and crossing of Ts still to be done.

Details of touring, and also of the books about the tapestry, can be found at [www.scotlandstapestry.com](http://www.scotlandstapestry.com).

Two panels illustrated here in their final stretched and blocked glory were done by local embroiderers. The Campsie Stitchers' panel illustrated 'James Watt and the Steam Engine'. The double panel, 'An Ataireachd Ard', was stitched by the Strathendrick Stitchers, all of whom are also members of the Embroiderer's Guild Strathendrick Branch.

The photograph of the double panel<sup>©</sup> is by kind permission of Alex Hewitt Photography. Photographs of all the completed panels can be found on his website [www.alexhewitt.co.uk](http://www.alexhewitt.co.uk). Click on the *Galleries* tab and then the *Great Tapestry of Scotland* tab.

The photograph of the James Watt panel in Edinburgh was taken by Heather Wright. NB





## Killearn Malawi Group Ladies Wine Tasting Evening

The Black Bull Hotel, Killearn, was the venue for an extremely enjoyable and successful fundraising event on Friday, 6 September. Five wines were sampled along with a variety of tasty tapas dishes to compliment each wine.

As well as sampling the wines, ladies had the opportunity to purchase from the various stalls which included Phoenix greetings cards, jewellery, handbags, scarves by Lesley Svensson, Flyingbird Designs, and mugs, tea-towels and various gifts from Louise at the Unique Company.

Following lots of chat and hilarity, we rounded the evening off with our raffle. Thanks to everyone for coming along and to those who generously donated either raffle prizes or money.

We are delighted to have raised over £500 which will go towards much needed funding at a village clinic in Malawi.

A special thank you to Kerry and her staff at the Black Bull for hosting this event.



## Second Killearn Trust

The trustees of the Trust have decided to make a change in the legal format of the Trust and are in the process of applying for conversion to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

This is a new legal form which has been created specifically for Scottish charities. It gives the advantages of incorporation – limited liability for trustees, protection under the deposit guarantee scheme, enabling one or two of the trustees to act as representatives of the Trust – but without the necessity of operating under the Companies House regime as well as that of OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator).

The trust law under which the Trust presently operates was set up nearly 100 years ago for personal trusts and has never been ideal for charities.

The constitution of the Trust will also be revised into a modern form which will clearly comply with the requirements of the new Charities Act. It is also intended to officially use the name The Killearn Trust in future.

This change of legal format will not affect the operations of the Trust.



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# Colourful Killearn

Didn't the tubs look good this summer? OK, so the nasturtiums were a little exuberant in places and the begonias didn't quite manage to repeat last year's splendour, but overall the effect was, um... colourful! Fading now of course, as we head into autumn, and soon to be cleared and replaced with 'Tete-a-tete' daffodil bulbs with their latent promise of spring. Winter just flies by when you are planning two seasons ahead.

With the architectural gem that is the new Village Hall complete, the sorry state of the adjacent Paul Memorial bed was sadly revealed. Hoisting our collective trouser and donning Kevlar gloves, we attacked the massively overgrown tangle of bramble, thorn and wasps nest in what

we hope will be the first stage of restoration. With growth back under control for the winter season, we have time to consult with interested parties and plan the next step.

Now that the nights are fair drawing in, it will soon be time for us Colourful Killearn volunteers to perform our last good deed of the year. We will, as usual, be putting up the village Christmas tree outside the Kirk. Come along – lend a hand, or merely moral support. Make it a party!

Saturday, 7 December at 10.00am. *See you there!*

*Mike Gray (550962)*



Giving us just a few hours help a year would allow us to keep our tubs and beds around the village looking great. Contact *Iain Bowie (550349)* to volunteer, or email [johnibowie@btinternet.com](mailto:johnibowie@btinternet.com). **Become a TUBBIE now!**

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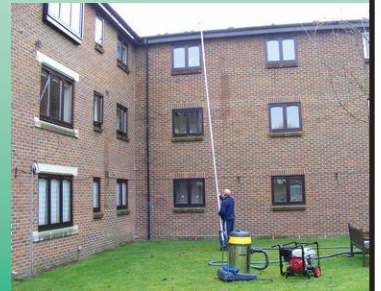
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When it comes to gutter maintenance, for many people it is a case of out of sight, out of mind, but ignoring a problem can result in hefty repair bills later on. It is recommended by the Building Research Establishment that gutters are inspected/cleared at least once a year. Ignoring a problem will only result in it getting worse (it won't repair itself!) and possibly causing serious damage to the property. Trapped water in a gutter gets blown by the wind onto fascia boards creating a continuous wet/dry cycle. This can cause wood rot and/or peeling paint, ultimately requiring complete replacement of the whole system if left unchecked.

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# Retiral of Dr Stephen Elms

Dr Stephen Elms retired from Killearn Health Centre at the end of September, having been in practise as a partner for 34 years.

Steve graduated from Glasgow University in 1975 and worked in hospital medicine for some years before joining Gareth Davies and Hector Campbell as a partner in Killearn Health Centre in July 1979. Steve's first few years as a Killearn GP were based in the Balfroun Road in the building which is now the vet's surgery before the 'new' Health Centre opened in 1981.

Working in the Health Centre meant that Steve had to live nearby, so he and his wife, Liz, moved out from the West End to the country and set up home in Balfroun where they have lived since and where they have brought up their three children, Lisa, Ruaridh and Alice.

Through the years, Steve has seen many changes in general practice. There's no doubt that general practice has become busier and busier in recent years, however, the earlier years involved a lot more out-of-hours and weekend work which



was very tiring not only for the doctors, but their spouses, too!

Throughout his time as a GP, Steve has earned a great deal of respect from patients and fellow professionals alike. Many will remember Steve not only as an excellent and well-informed clinician, but as a thoughtful, patient, caring and kind person.

These attributes have served him well to support the training of younger doctors in Killearn and helped him work with colleagues across Forth Valley as an appraiser, helping to develop their practise.

Steve has always enjoyed being active and his retirement will give him some more time for many hobbies including skiing, fishing

and squash. It will also allow Steve and Liz the opportunity to enjoy their four grandchildren and relax in and work on their home in France.

Although we will all very much miss having Steve around, the Health Centre team and our patients wish him a long, happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement.

---

## Killearn Health Centre News

### Staff Changes

We announce that Dr Stephen Elms retired from both the Health Centre and General Practice on 30 September 2013. We all thank Dr Elms for his service and dedication to the surgery over the years, and wish him a long and very happy retirement.

Dr Anna Pickering has rejoined us for her final 12 months of training. She will be with us until August 2014.

Dr Greg Cunningham has joined us for his first six months of GP training. He will be with us until February 2014, then back with us in August 2015.

### Changes to Vaccination Programme

There are changes planned to the standard vaccination programme this year. They key changes are as follows:-

#### *Extension to the flu vaccination programme*

This year almost all children aged 2 and 3 years old will be eligible to receive a new painless form of the vaccine given by nasal spray rather than injection. However, some children who have an underlying medical condition, such as severe asthma, may be offered the traditional injectable form. Children born between 2 September 2009 and 1 September 2011 will be eligible for the vaccination.

The routine flu vaccination programme continues for those aged 65 or over or those with a medical condition which put them at risk (eg heart and respiratory conditions, diabetes, stroke) and those patients who care for others.

### *Shingles (Herpes Zoster) Vaccination*

As part of a wider roll out all patients aged 70 or 79 on 1st September 2013 will be offered a vaccination against shingles. Patients born between 2 September 1942 and 1 September 1943 or between 2 September 1933 and 1 September 1934 will be eligible this year.

### Christmas Holidays

Please note we will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday 25–26 December 2013 and Wednesday and Thursday 1–2 January 2014.

Prescriptions can be ordered 24/7 at:

[www.killearnhealthcentre.com](http://www.killearnhealthcentre.com)

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

Stirling Council is required to carry out a review of its Polling Districts and Polling Places. Electors within the Stirling Constituency (Stirling Council area) are invited to make representation in relation to the boundaries of polling districts, the location and suitability of polling places and polling stations within them.

Maps and information on polling district/polling places in all seven Wards within the Stirling Constituency are available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/qjgmon2> as is the online survey.

Representations in connection with the review should be submitted no later than **Friday, 29 November 2013**.





# physiofast

Physiotherapy & Sports Injuries Clinic  
Lumsdaine Halls, Killearn

Lumsdaine Halls Therapy Rooms (off the Pharmacy) are offering new physiotherapy services which will be of interest to the community. Physiofast is run by local physiotherapists, Anne Barraclough and Judith Forshaw who have worked extensively within the NHS, private sector and sport. Physiofast brings a wide range of experience and skills offering treatment for musculoskeletal problems as well as highly sought after specialist women's health treatments.

Judith has a particular interest in spinal conditions, recovery from orthopaedic surgery and sports injuries. She is an APPI trained Pilates instructor and often uses Pilates in her rehabilitation programmes. Judith is a member of the Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists.

Anne is widely recognised as having a holistic approach to patient care. Her main areas of interests are post surgical recovery, orthopaedics, oncology and women's health. Anne is a member of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in women's health.

Anne or Judith would be happy to discuss treatment options further and can be contact directly to make appointments on the numbers listed in the advert.

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# Car Park Etiquette

It's a relief to have all the building and refurbishment completed at last around the north end of the village. Now that the Village Hall is open and the new Kirk car park has been upgraded, villagers are reminded that common sense in their use is in order. Car parking in Killearn is not as straightforward as it might appear!

The public car parking areas are across from the Co-op on Main Street and in front of the Health Centre on Balfon Road, although villagers can be forgiven for thinking that the Balfon Road parking is solely for use of patients going to the surgery for an appointment – the doctors' is reserved.

The Kirk, Village Hall, Headrigg Square and Lumsdaine Hall car parks are private facilities, in the same way that the parking behind the Spar and Co-op is for the shop customers and families living in the flats above.

The Village Hall car parking is for users of the Hall and for patrons of Whitleys' in the Village. Sue Beck, the Property Convener for Killearn Kirk, has also said that the new Kirk car park will be of great benefit to users of the Village Hall when not in use by church and church hall users. Guests at wedding receptions have cause to thank the good offices of the Kirk in this regard.

The Kirk would also like to take this opportunity to remind villagers that some care must be exercised when using their car parking facilities:

- No heavy goods vehicles, except emergency vehicles, are allowed on the new car park.
- Church and church hall users must have unimpeded access to the church areas of car park at all times.

No one needs to be reminded that marked disabled spaces are meant only to be used for disabled drivers, do they?

## Dumgoyne Post Office

Readers will be aware that the Post Office at Dumgoyne has been closed for some time due to Jay retiring.

The *Courier* understands that there are well advanced plans to locate the Post Office and Sorting Office to Oakwood.



### CHRISTMAS POST 2013

The Killearn Guides and Boys Brigade will again take up the challenge of operating a Christmas Post within the Village speed boundaries.

Last year you donated just over £860 to send to Children's Hospice Association Scotland. Please help us to send another donation this Christmas by supporting the Christmas Post.

The Collecting boxes and Donation boxes will go out on Monday, 2 December at the Killearn Pharmacy and Killearn Butchers. Collections will be made daily. Deliveries will be made during the week commencing 9 and 16 December. There will also be a box sited in the Church on Sunday mornings.

For information phone: Sue Beck - 550485 or 1stkillearnguides@gmail.com

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# Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Show

The Society held their 147th Annual Show in the Church Hall and the newly refurbished Village Hall on Saturday, 31 August.

The Killearn Primary pupils' paintings had been displayed in the Village Hall on Friday afternoon. The set-up time on Friday night saw a trickle of exhibitors, mostly from outwith Killearn Parish, bringing their exhibits into the halls.

With the doors open at 7.30am on a dry Saturday morning, the early birds began to arrive with their exhibits, but by 8.45am the Convenor's cry was, 'Where are you Killearn?'

Fear not! New and familiar faces appeared bearing a multitude of exhibits and soon the committee were searching for more table space for all your hard work. With entries up in some sections, especially baking and vegetable and fruit, but unfortunately down in others, the total number of exhibits in the Show still totalled over 900: a credit to everyone involved.

Pot Plant judge Walter Robertson from Stirling was able to exhibit amazing blooms in the Chrysanth classes, where he won the best exhibit in the Cut Flower section then going on to receive the Quinloch Decanter for best exhibit in horticulture.



A magnificent exhibition of dahlias shown by both Killearn growers and those from the surrounding area saw exhibitor William MacFarlane win the Tom Robbie Trophy for most points in these classes.

In a large Vegetable and Fruit section, the 'Basket of Plenty' class saw a large entry including one from Killearn Primary class 6/5.

The class for the most amusing misshapen vegetable had several entries, including a rather oddly shaped tomato from Balfon children's nursery polytunnel.

Returning after a 'year off', Balfon exhibitor Bill Stewart showed in several classes including for '3 onions – dressed', which won him best Vegetable and Fruit exhibit.

The best exhibit in a smaller Floral Art section this year went to Killearn resident Fiona DeLarrinaga with her lovely arrangement entitled 'Garden Party'.

In the Pot Plant section a multi-stem begonia won best



exhibit for Show Convenor Grant Farquharson, while Drew Watson from Kirkintilloch showed a fine example of a fuchsia to win best exhibit in those classes.

There were a fantastic number of entries in the Preserves section – 17 jars for the judge to taste in the raspberry jam class alone – and the Preserves Clock for best exhibit as well as the McFarlane's voucher for most points went to Gladys Farquharson.

Winning the Cuthbert Salver for most points in the Baking section, which had a display of over 130 entries, was Jane McLaren, with local girl Eva Mailer winning the McIntosh Cup for the most points in the youth classes.

In the Craft section, the Millennium Quaich for most points went to Heather Wright with Show Secretary Glenda Asquith taking the prize for best exhibit.

Some brilliant photos from both Dai Davies and Alistair Ritchie meant that they shared the prize for most points in the Photographic section with Dai taking the prize for best exhibit.

There was a varied entry of painting styles in the Art classes where local girl Emma Farrell, won the best exhibit.

To everyone who attended the Show, I hope you all enjoyed your afternoon. To the exhibitors – thank you for your lovely exhibits enjoyed by all. For those of you who did not exhibit – remember it is more than just a 'Flower Show'.

For a more comprehensive results list and further pictures of the day log in at: [www.killearn.org.uk/kchs](http://www.killearn.org.uk/kchs).

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# Killearn Village Hall News

The past year has been one of constant development, running at speeds ranging from slow through steady-but-faster and culminating in a mad rush over the final four weeks or so during which the site was handed over from the contractor and the opening was celebrated. One of the key moments was when the big blue container at last disappeared and the contents remaining from the old Hall were decanted into the new.

The Killearn Village Hall Operating Committee (KVHOC) does not own the Hall – that is Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC). KVHOC did not build the Hall – that was the Village Hall Development Group. KVHOC is a working group of KCFC, although we usually refer to ourselves as a committee, and its remit is to operate the Hall under a set of rules set by KCFC.

During the year, the committee started off with a membership of five, being previous members of the old Hall's management committee. By a process of co-option and two resignations, it now stands as a committee of eight. Recently, KCFC has agreed to an increase in numbers to a maximum of a Chair and ten. I congratulate everyone who has served on the committee on all the efforts they have made to ensure the build, opening and on-going operation has been the success it has been so far. It is not perfect yet, but we are getting there.

The new Hall opened with a wonderfully successful Open Day on July 20. The co-ordinator of the event was Karen Lindsay and she, her sub-committee, all members of KVHOC and all those involved worked exceedingly hard to make it that success. Unfortunately, Karen resigned from KVHOC shortly thereafter because of additional salaried work.

The feedback was extremely positive and the local population appears delighted with the new facility. A month after opening, the coffee shop – Whitleys' in the Village – opened for business and has so far been busy, creating a buzz within the new building which is particularly welcome during the periods when the Hall would otherwise be empty.

Hall bookings are very healthy, with 12 weddings already scheduled for the next year. In addition, the majority of previous users have returned and several new groups have become regular hirers.

## Usage

The Hall is generally well used in the evenings – during the week, there are groups in every evening, and weekends frequently have weddings, parties or other activities. We

have even turned down requests from potential regular hirers because the peak times are already used and, unfortunately, some requests for the main hall cannot be diverted to another room because the demand is for the wooden floor.

The quiet periods are weekdays, during the day. Indeed, other than the Monday Club and an hour badminton on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the Hall is not much used in the daytime. This is generally consistent with how the Hall was used before the renovation. However, it is felt that the Club Room is under-utilised at present and, even when

the Youth Group starts up, there will be space for more users.

Building on the experience since opening, we are now able to make better estimates of the initial income. We now know which of the previous regular customers are currently not returning to use the Hall – the Freemasons have remained in Balforn, Scouts found alternative

accommodation which suited their requirements better, and Jumping Beans (Stirling Council) no longer runs a Killearn class. However, we have hopes of 'Mothers and Toddlers' returning at some stage.

We have several new regular user groups, namely Zumba, two Yoga classes and a keep-fit class.

Whitleys' in the Village, several anniversary dinners and a potential ten pop-up restaurants should ensure an income which KVHOC receive because of the commercial kitchen. We have allowed also for six weddings, and this will be exceeded.

It is hoped that, even in this first year the operating cost will be at a break-even situation.

*David Rodger*



## Situations Vacant

### *Do you know about buildings?*

The base of the Village Hall is now 187 years old and KCFC has decided to initiate a Fabric Committee to ensure that ongoing maintenance of the Hall estate is carried out consistent with best practice.

KCFC is seeking professionals with relevant experience to serve on a volunteer committee. Interested persons should contact:

David Rodger ([d.rodger@btinternet.com](mailto:d.rodger@btinternet.com)) or  
Brian Simmers ([brian@simmers.org.uk](mailto:brian@simmers.org.uk))



# Scottish Water Asks For Help

Scottish Water has launched their largest ever awareness campaign to highlight the costly impact of what we put down our sinks and toilet. A national television campaign has been launched which aims to reduce sewer blockages in Stirling by promoting how to dispose of fats and bathroom waste.

Nationally, Scottish Water spends £7 million a year clearing around 45,000 blockages from the sewer network, and 80% of these are caused by household waste that should go in the bin.

Chris Wallace, Director of Communications at Scottish Water, says, 'Sewer blockages have a major cost and labour impact on our business. Around 80 per cent of sewer chokes are avoidable as they are caused by items such as wipes, nappies, sanitary items and foreign objects such as cotton buds. Fats, oils and grease also contribute in a large way towards these blockages.

The famous London 'fatberg' – reportedly 15 tonnes of fat, food waste, wet wipes and other even less savoury items – quietly accumulated beneath the streets of Kingston. Flow through the pipe was restricted by 95%, threatening to erupt through the manholes into the streets and homes of this leafy London district. Dealing with it and the repairs to 55 metres of large sewage pipes meant accompanying road closures and traffic diversions. Despite being discovered in August, the fatberg won't be completely unblocked until January! No wonder Thames Water requested an 8% increase to customer bills.

A dedicated website has been created at [www.scottishwater.co.uk/cycle](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/cycle) where you can get more information on waste disposal. You can even make an online pledge that you'll follow the advice in order to protect the environment and reduce the risk of sewer flooding.

The message is simple: if it can't be recycled, bag it and bin it. Fats, oils and grease should be

left to cool in a suitable container (like an empty milk carton – tetra pack cartons are especially robust). If you can recycle it, even better. The birds would certainly appreciate high energy food, like suet balls mixed with seeds to augment their usual fare this winter, and you can find recipes for these on the internet.

Reducing blockages would not only protect customers from extremely unpleasant internal flooding or environmental pollution that can result from a choked sewer – it would also help keep charges down, and frees up funds for investment.



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various products from family farm in Greece



It's a real cracker this year. The Christmas market is bigger and better w  
miss it. Watch the change of date – 14 December – so it will be all the

Alongside many of our wonderful regular stalls you'll find fabulous ex  
quality crafts. Illustrated here are some of the delights that await you.  
special gifts and treats for friends and loved ones, everything you could

**Killearn Village Hall on the 14 Dece**

Strathendrick Singers will be flying in to provide some festive en  
*KCM Stallholders Christmas Raffle* with the chance to win fabulous h  
from the raffle will be donated to a local children's charity.

Killearn Tennis Club will be serving their delectable home

The KCM team thank all their fabulous stallholders, custom  
agreed to distribute festive flyers around the village a



**Don't be a scrooge... Killearn Country Marke**



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range of gift boxes





# COUNTRY MARKET



**Jenn West Glass**  
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**Hels Bakehouse**  
selection of freshly baked pastries, loaves & granola



**Tiny Tots Togs**  
beautifully handmade children's clothes

with a great range of stalls and longer opening hours to ensure you don't miss out on more festive and as always a great place to meet and chat.

There is also a great range of stalls especially for Christmas, from wonderful locally-produced food to gifts. So if you are looking for inspiration for scrumptious festive dinners or gifts that you possibly need will magically appear for your perusal. *Where?* The market is open on **Friday 15th November between 10.00am and 3.00pm!**

For entertainment and stallholders have organised their own fundraising stalls. The stalls are packed with a selection of stallholders' products. All proceeds go to the charity.

There will be homemade cakes, coffee, tea and soft drinks with a festive feel.

There will be raffles and special little helpers (aka Killearn Scouts) who have been asked to help and sell raffle tickets for the special Christmas market.

So there is a warm festive welcome waiting for you!



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**Scotia Spice**  
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**Lomond Fishmonger**  
fresh & smoked fish, shellfish, pates, Stornoway black pudding



# Courier Interview: Simon Whitley

Simon Whitley kindly took a minute away from his hectic schedule to talk about his new establishment in Killearn Village Hall – *Whitleys' in the Village*. Simon has accomplished a great deal in his career, including being asked to run the Scottish restaurant at the prestigious Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia, USA this year after running the champion's cocktail party for several years. So I guess Whitleys' is a pretty high-class establishment, and only a short walk up the road.

**Now you've been here for three months, how difficult did you find getting everything started up?**

It wasn't too bad actually to start up. The interesting thing was one or two bits of equipment went missing, large ones, which got lost. We had moved in ten days before we opened, and the hardest thing was that it's not a straightforward layout where the kitchen is right next door to the coffee shop. The logistics of the building makes it challenging, but we have refined that a little bit now and it is a lot better. So, I think as with any opening, you just have to get in there and work it out, refine it as you go.

**Has it been as you had imagined it would be?**

I didn't have any preconception of what it was going to be, because I think if you set the benchmark too high, and if it doesn't happen, you get deflated. But I think the village has welcomed us, and we've had some good consistent business. It's been great.

**What made you choose the name *Whitleys' in the Village*?**

With the experience that I have, the name Whitley seems to be quite well recognised for good quality food and quality hospitality. So, we use the name. But we didn't just want it to be Whitleys' Coffee Shop because we also want to break into the weddings market, the event catering and the pop-up restaurants, which are pretty popular. We wanted to position ourselves so that we could move into different areas and not just be known for the coffee shop.

**You mentioned there about the experience you have, can you tell me a bit more about that?**

Well, at the age of ten I wasn't good enough to play football for Liverpool, so I decided to be a chef. I went through school knowing what I was going to do, and then I went off to London at 18 to work at the Dorchester and the Savoy. I worked in Europe for four years, visiting Switzerland, Germany and Italy, and then came back to the UK. I got my first Head Chef's job at the age of 29, which was quite young, in a new property called Home House in London, which was a place where all the stars went. I then came to Scotland ten years ago to work at Cameron House. I've worked at the Old Course since, and I was at the Hilton for over a year at Glasgow.



**What was it about the Village Hall that made you and your wife want to establish your business here?**

It's a great location with a stunning view. Location, location, location, that's what they say. But I think that it's the building as well, the refurbishment has brought the building into great shape. We felt there was an opportunity in the village to do something during the day. There wasn't – no disrespect to the places about – a great deal to do during the day in the village. We felt if we offered the right thing we would hopefully get the right following. Touch wood, so far it's been good.

**What else are you trying to bring to the community?**

The coffee shop is obviously the first part; we wanted to grow the business. After that come pop-up restaurants and weddings. So I think those, along with good quality, fresh food, prepared freshly each day. Keeping it exciting, interesting, following the seasons because from here you can see them. Just to provide a place where people can come and chat and just chill out with the great environment.

**So what inspired you to move away from your previous job and start up on your own?**

Tough times in the hospitality world – the same as everywhere, the recession has changed it. The last two jobs have been more about restructuring and looking at cost savings, and in the business world it is important to make sure everyone understands that. But there's a certain standard that you want to operate to. I just got a little bit fed up that everywhere I went they wanted me to sack people, basically. I wanted to try and do something different that was away from that. Create something special.

**Do you feel then that you have a nice, steady group of workers, and that you all get on?**

Yeah, when we put our bid in for the licence, we were aware that we were in the Village Hall and this is built for the community, although we are a commercial business. So we paid a bit more wages so we could recruit from within the village as much as possible or from surrounding areas. We wanted to make sure we were a part of the community. We trained people, we didn't just bring them in. We trained them all on teas, because we have a lot of speciality teas from Sri Lanka, we trained them on the coffees and we did the basic food training, which is important. We wanted to do it properly. I'm good at building teams. Everywhere I've gone to, I've built a team, front and back of house, helping people to progress. That's what we want to do here as well. We have good people: some we've known for a while, some are going into their first job, some are mothers going back to work. So it's been an interesting few months.

*Continued on next page*

### **Is it important to you that they create a friendly environment for the customers?**

Yes, it is. The coffee shop is about chat, it's about talking to the customers, getting to know them, what they like. The thing we like is it's quite a relaxed atmosphere. When we do the pop ups, we want to create something slightly different and we want to theme each area that we do, so that the atmosphere is right.

### **How has the feedback been so far?**

Positive, we've had some good feedback. It's learning; every day is a learning day. The food has been well received so far. We're just about to go into our Autumn/Winter menu (from October). We have had one or two hiccups, we know that. We're still continuing with training – it is important to invest in your staff. We have made a good start; the challenge now is keeping that consistency there. Which we will.

### **Are you enjoying it?**

Yeah, I am enjoying it, it is completely different for me. Although I have been in the hospitality trade for the last probably ten years, I've managed teams of anything from 30 up to 250 or 300 people. It was going back to the floor, to get into a kitchen and enjoy cooking again. Now I'm starting to get to that position where I can manage the business as well. I am really enjoying it.

### **Can you explain a little more about pop ups and what they are going to be like?**

With the pop-up restaurants we will go into the main hall here and we will have a theme for a Saturday night and then the Sunday lunch. The first one is for St. Andrew's Day

(30 November), so we will have a Scottish theme, and we will create food to go with the theme. We will do this first one, and then ask people for feedback and put the template together, so you can come into the coffee shop, have a drink, go into the hall and have your meal from the choice on the menu, choose some nice wines, then have your coffee either in the hall or back through in the coffee shop. We plan to do ten over next year.

### **What would be your favourite meal to serve at a dinner party and who would you like to be your guests?**

I love the Asian influence – I like the cleanness of Asian food. So a nice tuna and avocado wrap, with a soy honey sauce would be a good start, quite light, maybe with some pickled beansprouts. I like fish, but you can't always get it right. I don't know what would be my favourite main course. Dessert would definitely be cheese. As for my guests, I would like Kenny Dalglish, Kevin Keegan and maybe Brendan Rodgers. Also Matt Damon. That would be a good group of people. Andrew Fairlie could cook the meal.

### **Anything else you would like to mention?**

I would just like to thank the people of the village for their support. All the support has been great. Thank you.

There we have it, an insight into the new local business which, by the sounds of it, has started off with a bang. For all you who haven't yet had the opportunity to drop in for a coffee and cake or a bite of lunch, the opening times are 10am until 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday (last orders 4.45). I would like to thank Simon for taking the time to talk to the *Courier*, and wish him every success.

*Heather Banks*



## **Twice-Baked Goat Cheese Soufflé, with Beetroot, Pine nut, Spinach & Basil Salad**



I have used this recipe as it shows some flair. The soufflés can be made the day before and salad prepared in advance – in fact, you could freeze the soufflés after their first baking for up to three months or keep them in a cold fridge for a couple of days. Finish them with their second baking right before you intend to serve them. They make a wonderful starter on Christmas Day. If you like blue cheese, change the goat's cheese for Lanarkshire Blue. *Serves 4.*

### **Ingredients:**

- 40g butter, plus 10g, melted, for ramekin
- 40g plain flour, sieved, plus 10g for dusting ramekin
- small clove of garlic, minced
- 1 pinch nutmeg
- 225g goat's cheese
- 2 egg whites
- 2 egg yolks
- 200ml milk
- 50g grated parmesan
- 100ml sour cream
- 1 pinch salt
- 2 cooked beetroot – wash, dry, roast in oven wrapped in tin foil
- 5g pine nuts – toasted, last minute
- 1/8pkt fresh basil
- 5ml rapeseed oil

### **Method**

1. Prepare 4 medium-sized ramekins (5cm diameter) by brushing with the melted butter and dusting with flour.
2. Warm the milk with the garlic and nutmeg.
3. Make a roux with the butter and flour and bind with the milk.
4. Blend in the cheese.
5. Remove from the heat and blend in the 2 egg yolks and season to taste.
6. Whisk the 2 egg whites with a pinch of salt to help stiffen.
7. Slowly fold in the egg whites to the cheesy mass.
8. Fill into prepared ramekins. Place them in a water-filled baking sheet half way up the side of the ramekins.
9. Bake first in a hot oven at 180 °C (adjust for fan oven) for 50 minutes.
10. Remove from the moulds and place in individual serving shells. Pour sour cream around and grated Parmesan on top of the soufflés.
11. Place the soufflés back in a hot oven at 180 °C (adjust for fan oven) for 10–12 minutes.
12. Serve immediately with a beetroot, basil and pine nut salad, dressed with Scottish rapeseed oil.

*Our Christmas recipe comes from the kitchen of Simon Whitley, who has taken over the coffee shop and catering in Killearn Village Hall and is interviewed here.*



# Police Report

A number of years ago, it was generally the case that housebreakings and thefts in west Stirlingshire increased with the onset of autumn and winter. Darkness falling early and poor weather tended to provide good cover for a would-be thief looking for an easy target. In the past five years, however, things have been pretty quiet with relatively few housebreakings reported.



David at a Community Council Meeting

This year, particularly September and October has seen a return to old habits with a number of properties being targeted for theft. As I write during mid October, the main targets of housebreakers are residential properties. Strathblane, Mugdock and Killearn have been targeted. What is apparent from investigating these crimes is that there are potentially a number of different groups of criminals targeting these villages.

During September and October two expensive Audi motor cars were stolen from driveways of homes in Killearn and Strathblane. In order to steal cars these days it is necessary to get hold of a key. The car thieves on these occasions have broken into houses to acquire the car keys and steal the cars. These thefts have occurred at night.

Other thieves are targeting jewellery, televisions and computers when they break into houses. These thefts have been occurring both overnight and during the day, and thefts of this nature have occurred in Mugdock, Strathblane, Killearn and Gartness.

The purpose of this message is not to alarm anyone. These thefts are not occurring every day. The cars mentioned above were stolen over the period of a month, whereas during September and October there have been about a further ten

housebreakings in west Stirlingshire. There are simple ways to make it as difficult as possible for thieves to take advantage of a situation. Never leave any car keys in sight within your home at any time of day, and when you go to bed at night make sure your keys are well out of the reach of criminals. When the mornings turn cold in the next month or so, NEVER leave the car engine turning over on the driveway. You're not insured if

your car is stolen in these circumstances.

Take appropriate measures to protect your home. Keep jewellery out of sight and hidden where a thief would not expect to find it. Lock doors when you are out and keep keys within your home hidden from view.

Most importantly keep an eye out on your neighbour's home. If you see anything that makes you unhappy or suspicious call the police by dialing 999. If it turns out to be a false alarm that's fine, no-one will be inconvenienced.

As a result of vigilant neighbours and investigative work both the stolen Audis have been found and returned them to their owners. A number of people have also been arrested and charged for six housebreakings in Strathblane, Killearn and Gartness, and stolen property has been recovered. That said, there is still work to do and any assistance the public can give us would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, be reassured. The Balfron Police Office is staffed 24/7, and our officers are patrolling and always nearby. But remember that prevention is always better than cure. I would encourage you take all reasonable steps to protect your property and prevent yourself from becoming a victim of crime.

David McNally,  
Community Police Officer



## All Killearn Archive News

Since the last *Courier* article, the Group has lost its inspirational leader, Helen Loudon, and has taken some time to get back to its projects. Peter Smith is Acting Chairman at present.

The Archive Group display cabinets, which were paid for by funds from The Millennium Committee, are now in situ in the refurbished Village Hall. The cabinets contain various items from our archives and from research carried out by Robert Hunter on the War Memorial.

We also have two cabinets in the storeroom of the Hall which we will be able to use for storage of documents and artefacts. We are working on making these documents available for visitors to the Hall to look at on the in-house computers.



Stone retaining wall built to control the direction of the burn

### Place of Killearn

Murray Cook carried out a further a further dig 10–11 May. This took place in Killearn Glen rather than on the site of the original house.

Further excavation was carried out at the wall dividing the field from the Glen. It is now believed that there was a building – probably a tea house – at the entrance to the Glen as evidence

has been found of roofing slates and plastered walls.

We also investigated the canalised banks of the burn and unearthed a covered-over culvert from the field to the burn. We now think there may have been an ornamental pond in the semi-circle formed by the lime trees in the field.

If you have any matters you wish to raise on the Archive projects or useful information, please contact:

Peter and Gill Smith (550726).

## Bright New Start at Killearn Primary

Yeah, I know what you're thinking, woo-hoo, my kids are back at school! But have you seen the change at Killearn Primary School? It's bringing smiles to the children's faces with the new uniform colours of royal blue and yellow! There are even new blue and yellow seats in the lunch hall! It took a while for the pupil council to plan but the results are worth it.

Don't you think the colours are so bright!

*Katie Henderson,  
Anya Penderis,  
Ben Gibson  
and Peter McColgan*



William Drummond, Kerr Moncrieff, Ryan Hamilton  
Nicki McGuigan-Smith, Naomi Stewart, Isabelle Collie, Katie Russell

### Make a film about your project. . .

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# Whitleys'

cafe weddings  
pop-up events  
restaurant catering

Killearn Village Hall

Balfron Road

Killearn G63 9NL

t. 01360 316067

e. [yum@whitleys.co.uk](mailto:yum@whitleys.co.uk)

At Whitleys', we think we've created the perfect coffee shop at our home in Killearn Village Hall, where you're guaranteed a warm welcome, and great cooking.

We also love to make special occasions even more so by offering a range of catering services for weddings, events and functions taking place in the Village Hall and beyond!

Why not pop in to see our new place, or call us on **01360 316067** to book a table? We look forward to meeting you soon.

Simon & Sarah  
x

[www.whitleys.co.uk](http://www.whitleys.co.uk)



Simon and Sarah wish everyone the compliments of the season and thank you for your support over the last few months.



# ...and it's 'Goodbye' from Killearn Community Council – until the new one...

Community Councils in the Stirling Council Area were disbanded on 24 October after a four-year term of office. Following a short period of limbo a newly elected council will be announced in November. So, on behalf of the 'old' KCC who bid farewell and, particularly from those who will not be returning, it is time to take stock, reflect a little on the past few years and to dare to look into the future for the village.



Nigel Kelly, David Scott, Heather Wright, Margaret Harrison, Janet Duncan, Eilidh Robertson, Ellie Cairns, Peter Wilks, Brenda Pell, Margery Burdon

Looking back over the past years of KCC there have been changes in the way the council works both internally and with Stirling Council. A greater definition of roles has evolved with a number of members taking on 'areas of interest', so that they can follow up matters raised and report back. This has greatly helped to share the work amongst the team and lightens the load for the office bearers. It also enables more topics to be covered and, where possible, brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Communication is key to the work of KCC and in this, I think we have had some success. The KCC website, created and managed by Peter Wilks, has developed hugely and it is now used by the public to much greater effect. It is the quickest way of picking up local and Stirling Council information and includes links to other village organisations. This is backed up by hard copies on the village notice board and notices in the local press. For any who would say, 'Oh, I didn't know about that.' I would respond, 'The information is out there, if you just seek it!' Attendance at our meetings has built up, with large numbers turning up to meetings where subjects of special interest – sometimes controversial – are on the agenda. We are grateful to all who support our meetings.

Our relationship with Stirling Council has developed most positively. Some time ago this could be a bit 'them and us' – a rather loggerheaded stand-off mentality between 'us', the small outlying rural community, and 'them' our governing authority twenty miles away. How different things are today – and how much email has helped. Now enquiries and observations can be made to an officer we often address by first name and within a short time a response comes through. We may not always get the answer we were hoping for, but at least we get to understand the situation and the limitations of what may be done. More often, though, I like to think that something does get done and that we have built up friendly links with Stirling Council officers. This has also been reinforced by having guest speakers at our meetings when a face-to-face presentation and questions and answers lead to a much greater understanding all round.

Contributing hugely to this has been Rural Villages Development Officer Pam Campbell who, until recently, regularly attended our meetings and who would gather up all our diverse queries and complaints and send back, very

speedily, an answer to all our 'issues'. Changes and cutbacks in Stirling Council have ended this close involvement, but our elected councillors have developed their role in providing a meaningful liaison between communities and Stirling Council.

This has probably been helped by the electoral changes which have

provided the Strathendrick ward with three members, who attend our meetings on a rota basis. There is no question of party politics in Community Council matters, and all our elected members have been staunchly supportive of Killearn's expressed views on our community issues, taking our concerns to higher levels and doggedly pushing for action on our behalf. They have been remarkably effective in feeding back progress to KCC. KCC has been greatly supported and strengthened by the work of these people and also by Helen Geddes, support officer for Community Councils, who is always ready with advice when consulted.

My thanks to the members of KCC over the past ten years of my time as Chair have been more fully expressed elsewhere. Suffice it to say that the smooth running of KCC and any successes we may have achieved have been due to the efforts of the team members for whose support and encouragement I have been profoundly grateful.

Looking to the future, I offer some predictions of the issues that will face a new KCC:

- ✂ The Stirling Council Local Plan – a matter of considerable concern for many residents for whom there may be battles ahead! If it comes about as in the proposals, Killearn must expect changes as well as growth.
- ✂ Parking is becoming pressurised and, at times, a source of irritation. This is likely to increase unless we all become wonderfully eco minded and walk or cycle to our destinations in the village.
- ✂ Roads, pavements and verges are a perennial source of concern; more effective maintenance and care in driving on our winding and narrow roads are both needed.
- ✂ Public transport offers scope for improved services.
- ✂ Our village heritage, both built and natural, so much appreciated by the community, is worthy of conserving. Efforts are needed to ensure this is so.

At present the Community Renewal and Empowerment Act is on its way through parliament. KCC has been involved in a response to the draft bill. When enacted, this legislation will give greater powers to communities. Community Councils are the bodies most likely to take a lead in any action. If challenges occur – be they threats or opportunities – inertia must not rule! Your interest, energy and a little of your time can help to empower your community.

BP

## New Bridge Competition for Killearn

Killearn Bridge Club is holding a new Pairs competition in Killearn Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to try their luck whether they are a social bridge player or a member of a bridge club.

It will be held on Friday, 6 December from 7.15pm to about 10.30pm. There will be a charge of £3.00 to cover the cost of the hall and some small cash prizes.

Wine and soft drinks will be available for a small donation.

Games will be played in a duplicate format with all players playing the same hands and moving tables to play against different pairs. Why not come along and see if you can win?

Contact Roger Sparkes (440448) or Ian Pascoe (0141 9561485) or email [ipascoe10@gmail.com](mailto:ipascoe10@gmail.com).



## Christmas Tree Festival

The Guild is holding a Christmas Tree Festival in Killearn Kirk from 12 to 15 December.

The Kirk will be open on Thursday from 2pm to 4pm, Friday from 10am to 12.30pm, Saturday from 12 noon to 5pm and Sunday from 11.30am to 4.30pm. The trees can also be viewed during the Strathendrick Choir concert on Friday. It will also present a seasonal backdrop to the Nativity on Sunday.



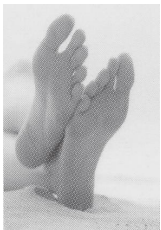
It is hoped to make this a whole village experience. The Guild has invited local schools, shops, businesses, clubs and societies to decorate a Christmas tree to reflect their organisation. This gives the decorators opportunity to tell the rest of the community about their activities and achievements. At various times there will be musical items and refreshments available.

Come along, bring family and friends, and enjoy some pre-Christmas sparkle.

If you haven't been invited to take part and want to add a bauble, contact Jenny on 550269. *All welcome.*

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# One Student's Experience in the World of Work

Determination (n): a purposeful movement towards some objective or end.

I think that it's safe to say that in today's economic climate this is arguably one of the most important qualities for school leavers and students to possess. Qualifications are no longer enough; among other attributes, experience gained and a strong desire to succeed are factors which will set you apart. My time as a finance and business law student at Strathclyde University really stressed the importance of this to me.

The first summer, I attended insight days and searched for internships and any experience I could get. After sending out hundreds of letters and applications to all sorts of financial institutions, I finally succeeded in getting a place with the Royal Bank of Scotland, only to be told at the last minute that they were no longer able to take me on due to their enforced cut backs. Following yet more letters looking for any office experience, I obtained a few weeks of work for the University Admissions Office.

This year, with a little more experience under my belt, I started looking for a summer placement early. One summer internship, offered by Allianz Insurance, caught my eye. This not only seemed to offer me experience in an industry with which I was not familiar, but would even pay me! They also seemed interested in building me as a person to establish not only if I would be right for them in the future, but if they were right for me.

I duly filled in my online application and was delighted when I had made it to the next stage – the online tests. It wasn't with a great deal of confidence that I approached these timed mathematical, English and psychometric tests, but to my surprise I passed. Next to come was the telephone interview. I decided to research the company further in preparation. Although this seemed a good idea at the time, finding out that the Allianz SE Group is in fact the 28th largest company in the world and the largest property and casualty insurer did not help my nerves. Regardless, I passed the telephone interview and was invited to attend the final stage of the process – the assessment centre. The thought of this truthfully made me feel ill. This was scheduled for the following week and, to my horror, was located in Horsley, just outside London. It took all my determination to get in the car and set off.

The assessment day consisted of everything I feared – an hour long face-to-face interview, a mingling lunch followed by a case study



All of the summer interns at Horsley Management Centre



The Glasgow Office at the Summer Party at Loch Lomond

which I was then to present and be questioned on. The pressure wasn't helped when I found out that there was only one internship available in Scotland. Despite all this I genuinely had a fantastic day. Although daunting, the whole process was strangely exhilarating with the case study being my favourite part! I set off for home knowing that even if I was not successful it had been a great experience. I couldn't believe it when a few hours later I got the phone call to say that I had got the placement.

The placement was everything I thought it would be and more. Not only did I learn about and experience the industry, I also was able to meet and spend time with a variety of different brokers. I attended a corporate event, the summer party, as well as numerous days in Horsley with the other interns. I received individual tasks to complete and more responsibility than I anticipated. The help and encouragement I received through my nine weeks in Glasgow with the Commercial Underwriting team was outstanding. All of this has provided me with great experience, and for the first time I truly know what I want to do and am more determined than ever to achieve it.

*Corrinne McNeillis*



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# Youth Sports Achievements

In the Killearn community there are many achievements to be proud of. However, many are often not aware of these outstanding accomplishments from the youth in the village. This is why we are going to keep you up to date. If you have a story to share, or know of anyone who does, please do get in contact and let us share your success.

## Rowing



Rachael Scott (17), pictured above, earned her first Scottish cap as cox for the Scottish Junior four at the home international regatta between Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales in Nottingham in July. Rachael is captain of rowing at Kelvinside Academy and regularly competes for her school as well as the Glasgow schools team.



Robyn Whyte and Heather Mackenzie

Robyn Whyte, a former pupil from Killearn, is a keen rower. She has had a lot of success. Along with another Balfron High pupil, Heather Mackenzie, Robyn competed in the

Inverness Sprints, where they achieved first place in the woman's J15 double novice 500m race. Robyn has been rowing for around a year with the Loch Lomond Rowing Club where she trains four times a week. Robyn and her partner Heather also came third in the Scottish Championships last April in the Scottish Schools Category. They hope to win this title next year, so are putting in as much effort over winter to achieve this, along with the title of 'Best J15 Doubles in Scotland'. Robyn says, 'I enjoy it as I love sports so much, and I get so much from it. I also love being part of team, but also having the option of being able to Single Scull. I love being able to compete as well, as it makes all the hard work, training and hours we put in worthwhile.'

## Golf



John Paterson is a junior golfer who has been playing the national game since he was five. He is the current Juvenile Champion for the New Club in St. Andrews, which is where he plays most of his golf and where he has been a member for four years. In July he won the Seve Ballesteros trophy at Ladybank. John also represented Fife in the Fife Junior team against a team selected from the USA and Canada. He was in the winning team. The top eight scratch golfers in Fife qualify for the Fife Boys' Match play competition. John got to the final, where he was beaten by a Scottish internationalist aged 17. He also competed in the Scottish Under-14 Championships organised by the Scottish Golf Union. He finished in a tied 13th place, but was the tied 3rd Scot, missing the top place by just one stroke. Over the winter he will be involved in the Scottish Golf Union's development programme, where he will need to work extra hard – next year he will be moving up to a more demanding under-16 category.

## Dancing



Heather Banks along with Jill Barrett, competed in the M.A.D Street Dance Championships in Ravensraig last year. Their street dance group was made up of 14 from the Dance Republic dance school, with girls from both Milngavie and Lenzie classes. Their group achieved fifth place in the competition, which was a great success considering it was their first competition. They also have recently found out that they qualified for the world championships which are being held in America. Unfortunately their group won't be going to compete in these championships, but it was still a huge accomplishment.

## Outdoor pursuits



Gordon Stewart in Canada

The UK army cadets selected 12 cadets to attend the Canada exchange leadership and challenge course in the Rocky Mountains this summer. Following a rigorous national selection process, Gordon Stewart (17) was chosen to attend the 6-week course. He was trained and challenged in week-long sessions in glacier and alpine trekking, white water kayaking, wilderness first aid, mountain biking, rock climbing and horseback riding (and how to deal with bears). Gordon is in the Combined Cadet Force at Kelvinside Academy.

*Continued on next page*



Continued from previous page

## Judo



Emma winning gold at the mini mons

This year has seen sporting success for 10-year-old Emma Wilkes. When not part of the Killearn Primary School Lacrosse team, she is competing in national judo competitions. Emma won Gold for her age and weight in the Highland Open and the Scottish Mini Mons. She also won Silver at the Bupa Open Championship in Motherwell, and September saw her represent her club at the British Championships in Kidderminster. Emma started judo when she was seven and now trains at the Allander in Milngavie and with the pro judo squad at Bellahouston.

## Lacrosse



The Killearn Primary School Pop Lacrosse Team, came first in the Scottish Championships and got to travel down to London to compete in the UK National Pop Lacrosse Championships. The team consisted of James Girvan (Team Captain), Matthew Anderson, Jenna Clark, Hannah Gibson, Emma Wilkes, Katie Burr and Sandy Carey. The championships were held at the University of Hertfordshire, and they found themselves in the toughest group. However, they came fourth and advanced on to the Plate event. In the quarter-final they won 7-4 against Bollin. Then in their semi-final against St Johns from Wales, they won 8-3. They lost in the final against Coulsdon, 8-5. But this was a huge victory for the team, coming second in the Plate event and 10th place out of the overall 20 teams competing. This is the highest a Scottish team has ranked in 20 years.

## Scottish Islands Peaks Race



This is an endurance team race combining running and sailing off the scenic west coast. Ben Cartwright (16), pictured above, competed for the Lomond School team this year and won the youth category. The team comprised four runners and two sailors and took place over three days with challenging arduous runs in Oban, Ben More on Mull, the Paps of Jura, and Goat Fell on Arran. They sailed through the night, and runners had to contend with rough seas and limited sleep. Ben aims to be part of the team next year.

## Sailing



The Volvo Gill British Optimist Open Championship was held at Largs in late July/early August. This annual national event brings together future Olympian sailing champions from all over the world. Ben Ainslie and Luke Patience began in an Optimist – the biggest sailing class in the world. Three Killearn boys competed in strong winds and torrential rain at times, which sent some of the foreign sailors back to shore. A total of 11 races over 5 days were sailed. Rory Harper (12) was 4th and Harris Cartwright (12)

was 23rd out of a total of 117 sailors in the main fleet. Scott Forbes (10) sailed well in the junior fleet, coming 17th out of 42.

Since the summer, Rory has been selected for the GBR top squad and is ranked 9 in the UK, and Harris has been selected for the GBR Intermediate squad and is ranked 45. Both boys will be dedicating even more time to their sport and will be training mainly in England.

## Cycling



Lewis Stewart (14) has been actively competing in cycle races for three years in both Scottish road races as well as further afield in the north-west youth tour in England and International Errigal youth tour in Ireland. He is a member of Glasgow Riderz and has had great success, being third overall in the Alpine Bikes series, third in the West of Scotland Cycling Association (WoSCA) series and second in the Scottish Road Championships. Not to mention this year's amazing achievements: Scottish track champion, Scottish scratch champion and Braveheart Cycling Fund series champion and winner (all Youth B category). However Lewis isn't the only competitive cyclist in the family. His sister, Abby, has taken part in the same races in the Youth C girls and achieved second place in the WoSCA series, was Braveheart Cycling Fund series champion and winner and Scottish track champion. For an insight into taking part in a tour competition, read Lewis's blog on being part of the WoSCA squad at the Errigal International youth tour at [www.braveheartfund.co.uk](http://www.braveheartfund.co.uk).

## Conclusion

These teams and individuals deserve a massive 'well done'. We hope these young people have inspired you with their achievements and success

*Heather Banks and Gwen Stewart*



# Am-Am Golf Tournament

The 18th annual Am-Am Golf tournament, organised by Strathendrick Rotary Club, has once again raised thousands of pounds for charity, much of which will be distributed amongst various local charities.

David Frod, President of the Rotary Club of Strathendrick, said, 'We are absolutely delighted with the support for what has become one of the most enjoyable days in the golfing calendar in the Strathendrick area, hosted on the beautiful Shian course at Balfron. Our main sponsor, Brewin Dolphin, continued to give their support, while other new sponsors joined the event. We are most grateful for all their contributions – as well as those of the competitors – in making this year's event such a successful fundraiser.'

The winner of the 2013 Am-Am tournament was a team



Club President David Frod presenting the winning prize to Gavin Bruce

from the Balfron Golf Society, with Captain Gavin Bruce and teammates Peter Seymour and Colin McCreath blazing a trail through the fairways and the greens to take first prize of £100.

Over £8,500 has been raised for charity through this year's event, and national organisations benefitting from this will be Meningitis Research Foundation and the Preshal Trust, while Rotarian worldwide charitable activities and a number of local charity and youth projects in the Strathendrick area will also receive donations.

David Frod thanked the many friends of Rotarians who helped organise the tournament, and made the whole day enjoyable for all.

For further information about Rotary, please contact:

Moyra Pepper (07875 296410).

## Rugby Round-Up Winter 2013



Like many smaller clubs, Strathendrick Rugby Club tends to go in cycles of success according to player resources. After enjoying lofty positions in the leagues of late, this season is proving much more difficult. As older players move on, it takes time to bring on younger talent, and so Strathendrick is uncharacteristically propping up RBS Regional League West 2 despite the best endeavours of Club Skipper, Killearn-man Ritchie Bruce.

But outside the senior teams, Strathendrick is thriving. Laura Bruce is breathing new life and new ideas into the social side of the Club, and the junior sections are doing well. Strathendrick Minis have got great numbers both as players and coaches – a number of whom hail from Killearn. And the Club is collaborating closely with Balfron High School in running successful teams at S1/2 and U16 level.

The seniors just need to hang on until the promising young talent grows up! For more information on the club:

[www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc/](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc/)

## Killearn Tennis Club News

The Tennis Club has been as active as ever throughout 2013. The Wednesday social sessions have been well attended, there have been three very successful special events, the Club championship has proved extremely popular and three teams have represented the Club in the Tennis Central Leagues. Club members continue to provide tea, coffee and cakes at the monthly Killearn Country Market.

The Tennis Club caters for all age groups, including around 90 junior members. During the summer holiday, two coaching camps were organised for 4 to 16 year-olds. Since school restarted, early evening coaching has been provided for the same age group, initially on Wednesdays and Fridays, and now just on Fridays. There is also a 'tots class' on Wednesday afternoons for very young children. Coaching with the youngest groups focuses on basic skills; with older children the emphasis is on consistency, movement and body position.

This year, Hannah Pickford has worked as coach, and the Club is enormously grateful to Hannah for all her hard work. Hannah reports that there are currently over 30 children enrolled in the coaching programme, and that during the winter she will link with Active Stirling at Balfron School (Thursday, 5–6pm) for some indoor coaching with the primary age group. Some of our junior members played team tennis this year, and Hannah wants to extend this next year. Her plan is to get teams in as many age groups as she can possibly manage, both boys and girls.

So, even though the nights are drawing in, tennis continues – and it's not just with juniors. The Tennis Club has all-weather courts and floodlights, so play is possible, day and night, throughout the year. Barring ice and snow, the social sessions continue and new members are welcome at any time. The website ([www.killearntennisclub.org.uk](http://www.killearntennisclub.org.uk)) has details about how to make contact.

## Killearn Football Club News

The team improved performances in the second half of the season to finish in sixth place in the Leslie League on 29 points, one place better than season 2012. Of the 20 league games played, 8 were won, 5 drawn and 7 were defeats, scoring 49 goals and conceding 36. The only cup-tie played during the season resulted in a 3–1 defeat in Round 1 of the Cameron Cup to eventual winners Balfron Rovers. Despite being involved in some rather frustrating matches, where games should have been won, the players maintained their good discipline on the field to finish runners-up in the Garvie Trophy for the most disciplined club of the season.

At the end of the season, the Club held its annual golf outing at Balfron where 21 members competed for the Colin Murray Trophy. After a keenly contested 18 holes, all returned to the Old Mill Inn for a meal and presentation of prizes. The Cup was won by big-hitting David McGuffie, one shot ahead of runners-up James Beaton and Greig Denton.

The Club would like to thank all who gave support to the team during the season, and to the many sponsors of the Hoolie Runners, where a total of £1,400 was raised towards the Pavilion Fund.

A presentation night for the club trophies will be held in mid-November, too late for the details to appear in this edition. They will be in the next one.



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# Curling – First Stones

The new curling season for Strathendrick Curling Club got underway in September for both the main club and the Ladies Section.

The main club started their season with the traditional President v Vice President bonspiel (except that in the absence of a VP the Past President provided the opposition). This year there was a win for our Past President George Harris over our President Sheila Sturrock, by 13 ends to 11. The bonspiel was followed by a buffet at the Glass's house.

We have managed to get more players to commit to playing in a team this season, so we have two seven-team leagues on Tuesdays, one before and one after Christmas. We have been joined this season by Douglas Carruth from Blanefield, who has already taken part in the Texas Scramble.

The Ladies Section held a practice session before the season started for everyone to get used to being on the ice again. For the first hour, we had a trained coach to give us advice, or confuse us even more! We then played a short game for the second hour. This was much appreciated by those who were able to attend.

The Ladies Section played their Opening Bonspiel at The Peak with just four teams due to holidays and bridge tournaments. The winners were Fiona Glass's team of Fiona Glass, Lorna Craigie, Elspeth Murdoch and Gail Pain who won 6 ends. The photograph shows them receiving their prizes. The runners-up were Jean Anderson's team of Jean Anderson, Rita Harris, Pat Montgomery and Marion Richardson who won 5 ends. The Ladies are playing a five-team double round robin on Thursday mornings up to the end of January, and a five-team single league in February and March. We have three new members this year: Roz Gibson and Maureen Royston from Killearn and Luisella Mosley from Buchanan Castle Estate. We look forward to making them welcome.



Gail Pain, Lorna Craigie, Fiona Glass, and Elspeth Murdoch

The Club will be involved in the usual Province games against other local clubs, but there are no special events this year.

Anne and John O'Neill hosted a barbecue at their house in July. It was also the day of the Village Hall opening, which everyone will remember as a lovely day. The locality meant there was no party walking to the barbecue this year, and those of us involved in the Hall opening were just grateful for the chance to sit down!

At the end of August, we had our annual Texas Scramble

and general knowledge quiz at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The weather was mixed and we managed five teams of four for the golf. The winners were Ronnie Myles, Jim Meikle, Barbara Boyter and Di Jackson (repeating her 2012 victory). We had a few extra people for the supper and quiz in which Norman Robertson, Gail Pain, George Harris, Bob Glass and Anne O'Neill were triumphant.

Some of our Ladies Section were guests at the West Stirlingshire Ladies Curling Club outing at Ross Priory. The weather was fine and the morning was enjoyed, even by those who only tried the putting.

As always, we are hopeful that the winter will bring us some outdoor curling and John 'The Pond' Phillips will soon be getting together a work party to cut down the reeds at Drumore Pond.

We really would like to recruit some new members to the club to keep the competitions competitive. The club is very friendly and sociable and please do not be put off by the expert play that you see in the Olympics – we can rarely produce shots like that! It's also much better exercise than you expect and certainly makes sure the winter passes quickly.

If you would like to have a go at curling, contact Fiona Glass (550646) or Gill Smith (550726), or look at our website at [www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk).



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# Curling – Our National Sport

In 2013, the Scottish Ladies team won Gold in the World Championships and the Men's team won the Bronze. In the World Junior Championships, the Men's team also won Gold and the Ladies, Silver.

Locally, there are excellent ice rinks at Stirling and Braehead both of which can offer coaching. Most of the West Stirlingshire Clubs play regularly at Stirling. Forth & Endrick Province, which is the local area organisation, can identify for you which rink each Club uses and which evenings they play. Some Clubs also play daytime games.

It is a great sport for all ages and abilities, and is surprisingly good exercise. Skill increases with experience and training. Teams gel playing together and curlers help each other to improve. Most clubs also have non-curling social events. The photograph shows one of our local teams, Balfroun, playing at The Peak.



Warm clothing and trainers with non-slippery soles are all the equipment required to start. Sliding soles can be provided for the foot which slides out during stone delivery. Stones weigh 20 kilos, but are slid along the ice, not lifted. Stones and brushes are supplied at the rinks.

We would like to increase the number of members in clubs. These can be either newcomers to the sport or 'returners' coming back in to the game. We welcome all.

The season runs from September to March but there is sometimes ice available during the summer.

If you are interested, contact the local club (*see article on opposite page*). They will be able to give you details and will support you if you decide to go for a 'come and try' curling day. A qualified coach will then take over. If you then feel you would like to continue, there are further beginners' sessions at which the coaches deliver fun, sociable and enjoyable sessions. If you feel keen to continue, you can join a 'virtual club' along with other beginners. These clubs give training on team play, scoring, tactics, rules and etiquette. You may also join a club of your choice to play alongside more experienced players.

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## Hazel Veitch 1941 – 2013

Hazel Veitch was a lady of great gentleness and sweetness of character who will be missed by many and remembered with much affection.

Hazel was born in Dumbarton to Peter and Jessie Macfarlane, the elder daughter in a family of three. She was educated at Jamestown School and the Vale of Leven Academy. Her parents had established a market garden and nursery, and her mother opened a florist's shop and then a tea room, the Red Fox, in Balloch and later, a grocer's shop in Haldane. The florist shop served a wide area, providing flowers for weddings and funerals, and often delivering to Killearn Hospital. Hazel worked for many years in the family business which really formed a 'garden centre' before such enterprises had been invented. Her great love of flowers led her to a formal training in floristry, and later she worked in Duncan's in Milngavie and Petals in Glasgow.

Following the early death of her mother, she became the mother figure and role model to her much younger sister and brother.

She married Robin in 1972 and they enjoyed 36 years of devotion to each other. She was a great hostess and a fine cook, and they led a busy social life and travelled the world



together, both in connection with Robin's work and in retirement. Coming to Killearn towards the end of Robin's working life, both quickly settled into the life of the village. Hazel gave readily of her talents to enrich the lives of organisations and individuals. She was active in the Kirk, leading the flower rota, and in the Guild of which she was treasurer; she was a past president of the Inner Wheel, an active member of Lenzie Flower Club, regularly arranged flowers for Strathcarron Hospice and was one of the Friends of Abbeyfield, helping with the organisation of social activities for the residents.

Always modest and self-effacing about her own talents and activities, Hazel was genuinely interested in other people. She was a good listener, attentive and compassionate; she remembered so many details about other people's lives and was generous in the many kindnesses that she bestowed upon her friends and family. She was a much loved sister, aunt and honorary aunt and godmother to a great circle of people upon whose lives she quietly bestowed her affectionate influence.

*JP/BP*

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## Agnes Mitchell Davidson 1918 – 2013

Agnes Davidson was born at Carston Farm, Killearn, on 15 May 1918, the younger child of Robert and Jeannie Bell. Tragically she lost her mother when she was two years old. Subsequently, she and her brother, George, were brought up at Deanston Farm, near Doune by her grandparents, Robert and Nancy Holmes.

She attended the local primary school and McLaren High School in Callander, and then returned home to work at Deanston farm. Times were very hard then, but she was forever grateful to her grandparents for finding the pennies to send her to piano lessons. Her piano playing remained a source of enjoyment throughout her life.

Agnes met Alex Davidson of Meikle Drumquharn Farm. He had taken over Dalnair Farm in 1939 and they were married in 1942. Together they worked hard to build up a successful dairy herd. The family grew to six girls and it was an extremely busy time for all. Dalnair will always be remembered as a house filled with music and laughter.

Sadly Alex died in 1978, but Agnes stayed in the farm until 1989 when she moved to Greenways in Station Road. She made many dear friends in the village. It was a combination of her gentle nature and her keen interest in people



that endeared her to so many. Both Alex and Agnes had a very strong faith, Alex being an elder of Killearn Kirk for 25 years. She attended both Dumgoyne Rural and the Church Guild. She enjoyed the Thursday Club, particularly her scrabble, and looked forward to Hugh McArthur's Old Folks outings and parties.

Her family was the most important facet of her life, and during her later years she took every opportunity to visit them at home and abroad. She was so proud of every one of her six daughters and their husbands, her eight grandchildren and her nine great grandchildren.

Agnes had bilateral knee replacement surgery in the late 1980s, and as these new joints wore out, she became less mobile. She bore this with great fortitude and was forever grateful for the care given by the ILS Carers and Crossroads before finally having to enter Annfield House in January of this year. She passed away peacefully on 11 August. She leaves a rich legacy of memories following a long and busy life, a fruitful life which brought great joy to so many people as was evident by the large attendance at her service of Thanksgiving in Killearn Kirk.

*IS*

## Rena Ann Smith 1943 – 2013



Rena Smith was a lady whose small stature hid a large heart with enormous enthusiasm for everyone and everything that was dear to her.

Born in the Partick area of Glasgow, she and her younger brother, Roy, lost their father at an early age, leaving their mother to raise two children on her own.

She was educated at Dowanhill Primary and Hyndland Secondary

before being employed as a secretary for the then Southern Electricity Board where she was well regarded.

She met her future husband, Jim, through a mutual friend, and they married in Partick Parish Church in 1968, setting up home in a flat in Hyndland, before moving to Kirkintilloch and latterly to New Endrick Road in Killlearn. Both Rena and Jim became very much involved in village life, forging lasting friendships along the way. In 1974, they were blessed with the arrival of their son, Stuart. Rena enjoyed having her family around her as well as her many friends. The family became complete when Stuart married Claire and they went on to have her two adored grandchildren, Ruairidh and Freya, who meant the world to her as she did to them.

In the early '90s, Rena was diagnosed as having chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) which led to her becoming a very regular attender at the Beatson where, over the years, she became very well known by the staff and doctors who marvelled at her fortitude. Indeed, she was known to counsel patients who had just been diagnosed with CLL, which helped them immensely to deal with their situation.

Despite her illness, which she fought for over 20 years, Rena set up a charity group with some of her friends to raise funds for the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre which is based at the Beatson. They hosted lunches, organised candlelit suppers and held a Michael Bubl  tribute night. Over the years, the group raised thousands of pounds for the Research Centre. In fact, they raised so much that they reached the Gold level on the giving scale, earning Rena and her group the well-deserved accolade of 'The Golden Girls'.

Rena's popularity was evidenced by the presence of so many people at a celebration of her life at Dalnottar Crematorium, Clydebank. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

The family wish to thank all those who gave to the collection for Rena's favourite charity, which resulted in the sum of £1,300 being donated to the Paul O'Gorman Research Centre.

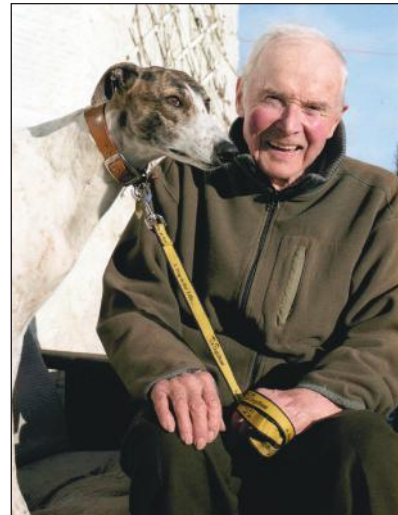
TID

## Margaret McArthur

It was with sorrow that we learned of the sudden death of Margaret, mother of Neil McArthur, who was staying with Neil and Heather prior to becoming resident in Killlearn. She was much loved and will be greatly missed by her family.

## William McDade 1927 – 2013

William, or Bill, McDade was known by his many clients and friends as the singing chimney sweep. He was born in Scotstoun, the fourth of five children, in a period when the Depression was making times hard for many families. On leaving school he joined two of his brothers in founding a chimney



sweeping business. He had had ambitions to become a ballet dancer, but such notions did not go down well with his brothers who informed him the only dancing he might do would be on a rooftop! In fact, his natural agility and sense of balance was indeed a great asset in his job, and with his strength and long hair he earned the nickname 'Tarzan'. After a while he branched out on his own, taking an immense pride in his work and building a reputation as providing a clean and reliable service, now operating in a top hat and red cravat and singing from rooftop and chimney pot.

In the early Sixties he met and married Barbara Black and together they enjoyed over 50 years of very happy marriage, raising four children. His family was of supreme importance to Bill and he was a devoted father to his two sons and two daughters, involving himself with them, enjoying swimming and relishing family holidays in a caravan. In later years, his great love of his family extended to the next generation and his seven grandchildren, by whom he was adored. He and Barbara lived for nearly 30 years ago in Drumore Cottage, Gartness Road, and then more recently in Buchanan Road.

Bill was a man of many skills, well read and knowledgeable on a wide range of matters, a great lover of nature, particularly of animals and birds, and no mean hand in the domestic arts. He was a great collector of other people's discarded unconsidered trifles until other family members decreed a clean out. He had a life-long interest in people, and his own wit and warm personality attracted others to him. A kind man, generous with his time and his compassion, Bill enriched the lives of all who came into contact with him and will be greatly missed.

BP

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**ACROSS**

1. Monetary truck appears monthly in Village Hall. (7,6)
8. Stick at nothing in the road. (4)
9. New mournful cry sounds before 1 – a disease. (9)
10. Calm about advertising song. (8)
11. One of two starts to succeed. (4)
13. Person starts to get angry at Blackbeard. (6)
14. Painter is a twister. (6)
16. Helper laid egg inside. (4)
17. Documentary film has son in novel dance. (8)
20. Dish is mixed past eight. (9)
21. Record wood for burning. (3)
22. Horseman who goes after church tower. (13)

**DOWN**

1. Christmas greetings from rascals right inside. (5)
2. Student guarded nature. (13)
3. Superior grannies have decorations on head. (9)
4. Yes, lid gives way. (6)
5. Farm yard hosts soldiers. (4)
6. Good monarch breaks wineglass neck. (4,9)
7. HS2 on royal coach. (7)
12. Weapons sound untrue, but he makes them (8)
13. Acclaims when first person advances. (7)
15. Destructive insect the French use with mortar. (6)
18. Large beer. (5)
19. Silicon fragment. (4)

**Solution to the last crossword** Across: 5 pseudonym; 8 fall; 19 unafraid; 10 Indian; 11 summer; 13 winter; 15 season; 16 agitator; 18 lake; 19 insomniac. Down: 1 psalmist; 2 autumn; 3 totals; 4 dyer; 6 paintings; 7 fireworks; 12 meatloaf; 14 ration; 15 spring; 17 tuna.

Name ..... Phone .....

Address .....

**Congratulations to the winner of our last crossword: Rosemary Blackmore**

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Address ..... Phone No. ....

**Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Ryan Hamilton age 9, Killearn**  
**Closing Date for both competitions – 4 January 2014. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.**

# Medium Rare Duck

A scarce duck put in a brief appearance just west of Killearn on the Blane Water in late August. The bird was a female Scaup, a sea duck related to the more familiar Tufted Duck. Whilst we often encounter Tufted Ducks in freshwater habitat, it is unusual to find a Scaup away from the sea. But very occasionally they do appear inland on lochs and rivers, mainly in the late summer while on passage from the Arctic to Western Europe. This bird hung around for just a day or two, loosely associating with the resident Mallards from which it stood out by its practice of diving underwater for food. (Mallards only dabble at the surface or up-end.)



skulking behaviour in an attempt to source food. This includes on and around the garden bird table since a busy feeding area can pull in all sorts of less common species looking for extra rations to help them survive the cold. As such, many rare birds have been found just by people looking out of their kitchen windows and noticing something that looks a bit different amongst

the usual ensemble.

I am happy to help identify anything unusual that turns up in the Killearn area from your descriptions or photographs. Who knows? You may discover something much rarer than a Scaup!

*Martin Culshaw*

The drake Scaup is most easily separated from the Tufted Duck by its pale grey back ('Tufties' have an all black back). But this bird was a female, browner and less ostentatious. It was best identified by its rounder head shape and large white facial patch at the base of the bill.

Although this was not the rarest occurrence, it was another reminder that just about anything can turn up anywhere – including Killearn! During the winter, it's always worthwhile keeping your eyes peeled for birds and other creatures that have been displaced by harsher weather or forced into less

*(As you can see, Martin, our popular nature writer, has volunteered to help our readers in identifying anything unusual that might turn up. If you spot something, send us a description – and a photograph if possible – along with place, time, date and so forth as well as your contact details. We'll forward to Martin and he'll take it from there. You can send it to 36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or email it to [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk). Thanks! Ed.)*

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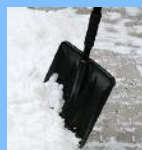
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