

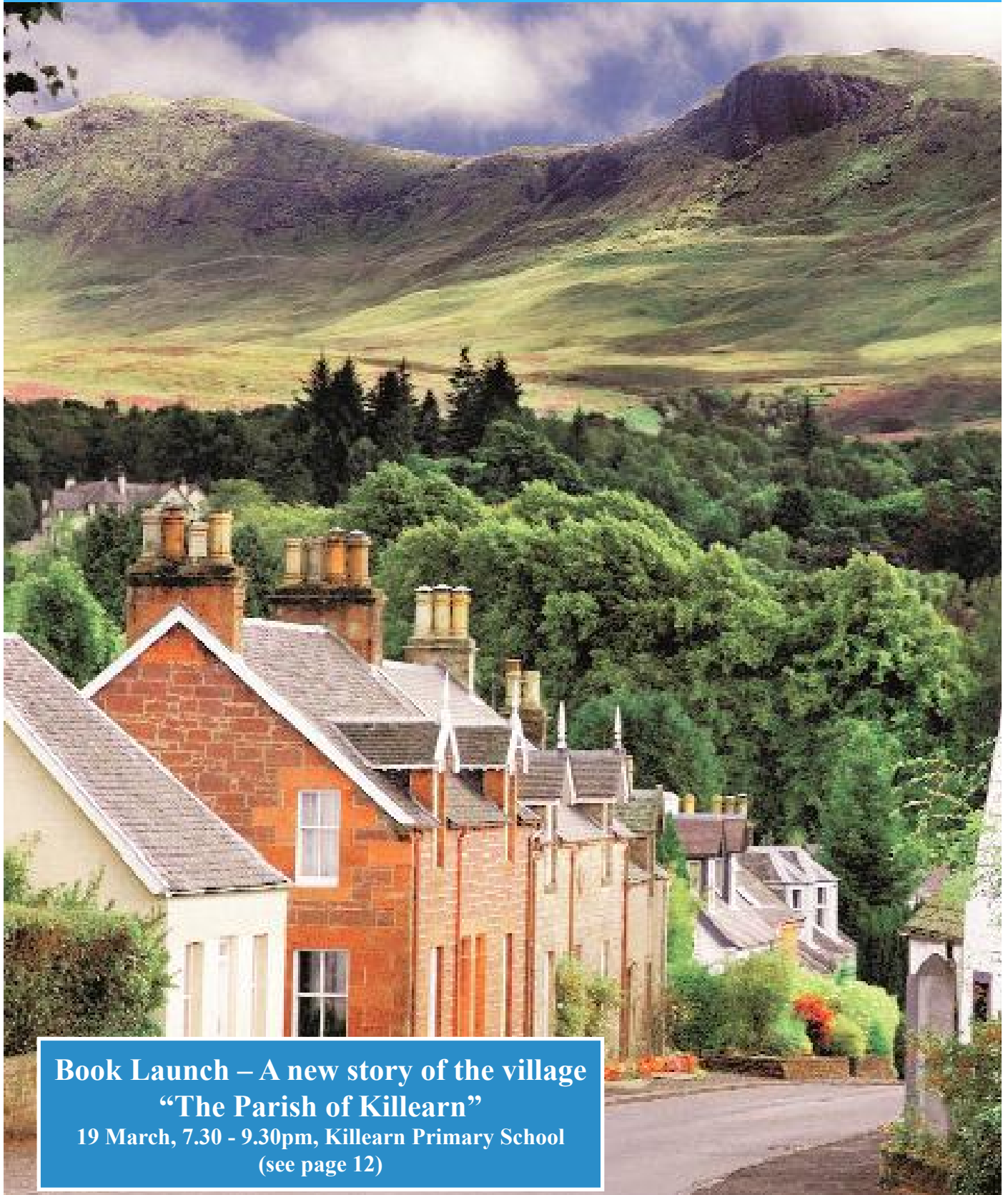


Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 13

SPRING 2009

£1



**Book Launch – A new story of the village
“The Parish of Killearn”**
19 March, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Killearn Primary School
(see page 12)



Jessie MacAdam

The residents and volunteers of Abbeyfield Killearn were thrilled to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs Jessie MacAdam on Friday 31 October 2008. Mrs MacAdam has been with us for six years and is still one of our liveliest residents who loves participating in all the social events which take place. We were privileged to receive a visit from the Provost of Stirling who brought a bouquet with the best wishes of the Council and, at the other end of the scale, the entire Primary 1 class from the Killearn Primary who had prepared a special card for Jessie and wanted to sing "Happy Birthday" to her on the day itself. We also welcomed Michael White, Chairman of Abbeyfield Scotland, who joined the residents, Jessie's immediate family, staff and volunteers for a magnificent luncheon in the House, which had been planned and prepared by the Housekeeper using all his skills as a professional chef. A wonderful day enjoyed by all.

*Michael Pell, Chairman
Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn*

Killearn Courier
published by:



KILLEARN
COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 15 August 2009.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 30 June. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 and Sara Hudson on 550806.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 30 June. Send them to: 2 Elder Road, Killearn or email to courier@kcfc.co.uk.

Please support our advertisers who make the Courier possible.

The Courier is not responsible for the content of advertisements.

ORGAN RECITAL

Simon Graham, the assistant organist, will give a recital in Dunblane Cathedral on Saturday 18 April at 7.30pm, in aid of the Child In Need Institute (CINI), Kolkata, India. Tickets, costing £10, are available from Madge Kennedy, Blacklaw, Drumbeg Loan, Killearn (550474). Following the recital a light supper will be available for £5, payable on the night.



Killearn gets Personal

According to a recent survey by an insurance company, Fintry, Killearn and Strathblane are at the top of the table when it comes to personalised number plates. A whopping 14.02% of residents in these villages have personalised plates. Other Scottish districts with a high percentage of drivers with personalised plates include Dundee and Moffat. *DB*

Editorial

Welcome to this issue of the *Courier* which heralds the start of another year... and what a start!

Due to the number of contributions and adverts we've received, we've had to increase the number of pages from our usual 24 to 28! So, many thanks to all who sent us articles. Remember, your Community newspaper gives you the opportunity to have your say; all you have to do is send us your letter or article. A special thank you must go to our advertisers whose continued and increased support allows us to produce the *Courier* and provide a free copy to each household within the Parish. So please continue to support our advertisers.

While we are on the subject of 'thank you's',

I would like to record my personal thanks to members of the *Courier* Group. They spend a lot of time and effort putting each issue together and maintaining the high standard that seems to be enjoyed and appreciated by our readers. Not only that, they also post copies through your letter box, ably assisted by our local delivery team! When you consider that all this is done voluntarily, then they really do deserve a big pat on the back!

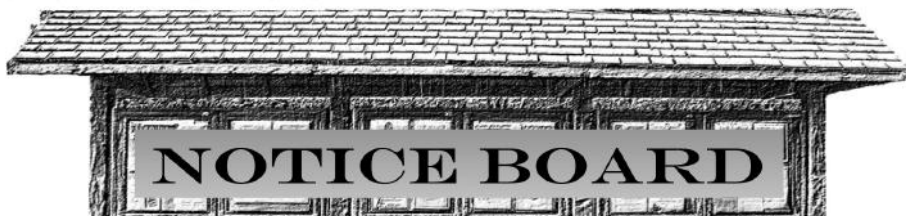
Since the last issue, we have welcomed a new member, Heather McArthur, to the *Courier* Group. Heather is a resident of Killearn and is already involved in various aspects of the community. This makes the Group pretty healthy as regards numbers but we are still keen to recruit young people so, if any local young people want to become involved, please contact any member of the Group.

The other exciting 'start' to the year is the launch of the new "Parish of Killearn" book which you can read about on page 12.

We hope you enjoy our first issue of 2009.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor



- 18, 19, 21 March** FADS: "The Full Monty", Fintry Village Hall, 7.30pm.
Tickets £8.50, concessions £6 – contact Liz Brown (860078)
- 20 March** PTA: Family Music Night, Village Hall 7 - 10pm; Strathendrick Film Society: "Two Days in Paris", Balfron Campus, 7.30pm
- 25 - 28 March** FADS: "The Full Monty" see above
- 26 March** Drymen History Society: The Scottish Diaspora, talk by Hugh G.Allison, Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm
- 28 March** KCFC: AKA Archives Open Day, Village Hall , 11am - 4pm
- 29 March** Strathendrick Singers: Spring Concert, Killearn Kirk, 7pm
- 1 April** Strathendrick Rotary: Charity Bridge, Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm
- 3 April** Strathendrick Film Soc. "The Band's Visit", Balfron Campus, 7.30pm
- 4 April** Wee Green Market: Village Hall
- 17 - 19 April** Film Society: weekend of Mystery Films, McLintock Hall, Balfron (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)
- 18 April** Inner Wheel: Charity Flower Arranging Coffee Morning, Village Hall, 10am - 2pm
- 23 April** Drymen History Society: The Cutty Sark, talk by John Jervis, Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm
- 24 April** Strathendrick Film Society: "Hot Fuzz", Balfron Campus, 7.30pm
- 25 April** Strathendrick Singers Sing with the Choir, Killearn Kirk, 2pm
- 2 May** Wee Green Market: Village Hall
- 23 May** Horticultural Society & Friends of Guiding: Gardeners Market & Coffee Morning, Village Hall, 10am - 12 noon
- 6 June** Wee Green Market: Village Hall
- 13 June** PTA: Duck Race, River Endrick, 11am and BBQ Killearn Primary School, 5 - 8pm
- 8 August** Rotary: Am-Am Golf, Balfron Golf Club. Entries to John Anderson (550888)
- 27 August** Horticultural Society: Annual Show, Village Hall 2pm. Entries can be staged on Friday evening, 7 - 9pm or Saturday Morning 7.30 - 10am. Schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142)

If you have any dates for the August 2009 issue of the Diary (mid August 2009 to mid November 2010) , please contact Pat Ryall (550713).

LETTER 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.

Traffic Chaos

Dear Editor

I would like to make a plea to the Mums and Dads who deliver their children to Killearn Primary School each morning, I have petitioned for years to have Graham Road, Buchanan Road and Crosshead Road made one way north ie, entry from Main Street by Graham Road. If parents and residents would adopt a voluntary code to use this route it would be of benefit to all road users.

Jim Fallas

The Sewing Room



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Call Elsie on
01360 550816 or
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Who is affected by the credit crunch?

In a sense, all of us.

Some Killearn villagers have been gazing out on 'For Sale' boards in front of their homes for many months. I know several people wanting to move within the village, and out of it. But there is little sign of interest.

Many people in Killearn, including the retired, rely on investments. Share values have plummeted, interest rates are down. With depleted income, they have less to spend. But it doesn't persuade anyone to borrow, because nobody wants to be caught when the rates go back up. No one with spare cash is tempted to put any of it into savings at such low interest rates. Without it, how can the banks resume lending? Many have been used to buying on credit. The credit has dried up. So until they reduce their debt and save up, they have stopped buying – big items like cars and furniture, smaller ones like clothes and curios. Companies with something to sell are in trouble. If employees lose their jobs, they become less able to buy than ever. I (who am no economist) get the feeling, until someone steps in with fresh money, nothing can move. And I mean, cash to spend, not credit. Take mortgages. If lenders won't lend, it needs one person not relying on a loan to buy the first house; suddenly that seller can buy from a second, who in turn buys from a third, or a builder. The housing market needs people with access to funds, to prime the pump.

I remember a time of serious inflation last century(!), when the Church of Scotland changed its advice on Fabric Funds. Previously, they had recommended that congregations should always have reserves for major repairs to their buildings; suddenly, those funds were losing value just by sitting in the bank. So they said: "A sound building is better than money in the bank; keep your building in tip-top condition by spending what you can on it."

After a long wait, my wife and I have been privileged this month to sell a flat and buy a house. The news came one afternoon, just in time for the monthly Session meeting that evening. It felt like a miracle. Wherever the credit crunch affects you, may God also work miracles for you. Or through you.

Reverend Philip Malloch

Philip has asked Presbytery for leave to retire at the end of June.

CATHERINE ORGAN 1929 - 2008

Catherine Organ died in December and with her passing ended a life of passionate commitment to causes she felt important to promote in the interests of the local area.

She stood for Local Council election in 1971 and served, with an increasing majority, as Conservative Councillor for this ward for 32 years. Her interest in local affairs never waned and her energy in pursuing the issues she championed was unflagging. She must often have been a thorn in the side of the establishment of whatever political group was in power. At Community Council meetings she would regularly bring matters to the attention of members and would later follow her interventions with a string of phone calls urging support and action. Terrier-like, she was loath to let a matter go until it had been satisfactorily resolved and she had an ability to look ahead and to see the coming implications to our community of every new move made by the Council.

She was made a Justice of the Peace in 1980, taking her duties very seriously, and was awarded the MBE in recognition her services to the community



When she retired from public life in 2003 Catherine turned immediately to a new project which was to write a book on life of George Buchanan, 'The Forgotten Scot', which was published in time for the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Buchanan's birth. It is fitting that the unveiling of the plaques at the foot of the refurbished Buchanan Monument marked what was possibly her last public function in the village.

A woman of many talents, she was an accomplished pianist and music teacher, a keen bridge player and an enthusiastic gardener. She was highly competitive throughout her life, always conscientious; the possessor of enormous physical and mental energy and a dogged determination, Catherine will be remembered in Killearn with affection.

BP



Woodland Burial
...an environmentally sensitive alternative

The new woodland cemetery in Killearn has been created to meet a growing demand for natural burial. For information or a brochure on how to plan a woodland burial and for all types of funeral arrangements, please contact me...

Jamie Pearson
Funeral Director DipFD MBIFD

Fintry Manse · Kippen Road · Fintry · G63 0YQ
jamespearson@btinternet.com

01360 860 345

BUNTY DREW 1923 - 2009



Bunty Drew, who died on 25 January 2009, was born and brought up in Glasgow. She was educated at Eastbank Academy and on leaving school worked for Stenhouse, insurance brokers. Within a short time World War II began and Bunty was called up and served in the ops rooms of Air Defence. After the war she met and married Eric and lived the early years of married life in Balloch. With Eric she travelled a good deal – to China, the Middle East and America – and moved with their family of two sons and a daughter first to Yorkshire, then to South Wales before returning to settle in Killearn in 1979.

Bunty was a devoted wife and mother and a consummate homemaker. Skilled with her hands she was a superbly creative needlewoman and cook. She had only to look at a garment to be able to create a pattern for it and to produce it to the standards of a couture house. Her knowledge of fabrics was encyclopaedic. She made her own clothes and wore them with panache and elegance. She loved card games and played with enthusiasm.

Possessed of a wonderful sense of humour, her presence would brighten any gathering and her wit as a conversationalist and raconteur would inevitably raise laughter.

She will be sadly missed by her many friends in Killearn and around. The Courier offers sympathy to Eric, Allan, Ian and Linda and their families. *BP*

JOAN SHAND REMEMBERED



Kirsty Smith, MBE unveiled a plaque in the forecourt of Abbeyfield to commemorate the generous bequest of £2000 from the late Joan Shand, a long-time Killearn resident, to be spent on trees to enhance the village.

MICHAEL HARLEY 1958 - 2009



It was with great sadness that the village learned of Michael Harley's sudden and premature death on 21 January 2009. Michael was aged only 50, a fit and energetic man which added to the shock and tragedy of his passing.

Michael was born in Glasgow on 6 February 1958 to Josephine and William Harley and brother of Josephine, John and Gerald. The family moved to the Killearn area in 1983, residing initially in Oakhurst, Dumgoyne, a home built by Michael's late father.

Michael subsequently moved into Killearn village and established his own successful roofing company, Slate Recoveries. Michael's commitment to his trade allied to great skill and attention to detail led to his reputation for high quality.

Michael was trusted, respected and highly regarded by his colleagues and customers alike. Day or night, Michael would respond to the immediate needs of his customers and resolved their problems with great care and sensitivity.

Michael married Jacqueline in 1993 and produced two much loved children, Ryan and Nicole. Michael was a devoted and loving husband and father, who relished the many happy times spent together with his family at home and many weekends at their beloved family retreat in Rothesay. Michael also enjoyed catching up with his friends in the evening over a quiet beer, discussing the news of the day.

The huge congregation that gathered for Michael's funeral in Killearn Kirk was fitting testimony to a man who was highly respected and warmly regarded. Michael's family and friends can now take comfort in the lasting memory of his great sense of humour and the laughter he brought to their lives. He will be sorely missed.

To Jacqueline, Ryan, Nicole and to his mother, sister and brothers, the Courier extends sincere sympathy.

A Cairns

Community Police Officer — DAVID McNALLY

In November last year PC David McNally was appointed Community Police Officer for Killearn. David has been in the police force for 19 years and knows the area well, having been based at the Balfour Police Office for the past seven years. His appointment has been welcomed and already he has been much in evidence in the village, walking around, getting to know residents.

He enjoys meeting people and his aim is to police our village with the consent

of the community. Questioned about some of the challenges of his job, he talks about the seasonal aspects of crime such as break-ins during the winter months and the problems associated with an influx of people in the area in the summer, road traffic accidents and disorder incidents that can arise from groups of young men from the urban areas camping informally on farm land.

Outgoing, open and direct, David has already impressed by the clarity and fullness of his reports at Community Council meetings. He likes meeting and talking with people and finds satisfaction in his job when he can resolve problems that may have been on-going for some time. He aims to engage

with adults and young people in the community who can help him to identify any problems. A new initiative – PACT – Policing and Community Together – is designed to encourage a team approach to local concerns. David seems to be just the right personality to deliver this, identifying the priorities as disorder in certain parts on Friday nights, speeding through the village and parking in the streets close to the school. These policing priorities will be publicised, so look out for notices on the website and the notice board. So look out for David, our friendly ‘bobby on the beat’. You’ll see him walking around the village. Meet him, greet him and enjoy a chat – let him know if there are problems – and get to know our Community Police Officer.

Brenda Pell



Probus Club of Strathendrick

The local Probus club was formed in 1985 when a number of retired and semi-retired local men got together to form the club. The name Probus is a contraction of ‘professional’ and ‘business’ which is the target group for the organisation. Historically, we are an offshoot of Rotary and like to consider ourselves as the grown up, or, at least, mature rest-home for many members of that organisation. Membership, however, is not restricted to ex-Rotarians and all retired and semi-retired business and professional men in the area are eligible to be invited to join.

Probus is neither a charity nor a fund-raising organisation but exists, as its constitution states “to provide a regular meeting point for those who would appreciate and value in their retirement social contact and the opportunity for meeting others in similar circumstances.” A measure of the success of the formula is that we have a maximum of 90 members, aged from 60 to 90 years of age, and have at present an almost full membership and on occasion have a waiting list

We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month from September to May and the subjects of our talks range from Scottish Engineering through Astronomy and Opera to the Killearn Archives and the History of the Kibble Palace. After each meeting there is the opportunity to join other members for lunch at a local hotel.

We have an active golf section playing local competitions and also with other local Probus clubs. A number of social outings are organised over the year including an annual dinner and many members regularly attend these events.

In essence, Probus is a regular lighthearted meeting point for a chat, coffee and exercise for the little grey cells, with the option to take part in a number of other activities.

Russell Kirk

pilates

- Aberfoyle Memorial Hall
Monday Pilates 7pm
Monday Step n Tone 8.15pm
- Drymen Village Hall
Tuesday Pilates 10am
- Kippen Village Hall
Tuesday Pilates 1pm
- Aberfoyle Memorial Hall
Thursday Step n Tone 10am
- Gartmore House
Thursday Pilates 6.30pm
and 7.45pm

Register of Exercise Professionals

For more information
amandapilates.co.uk
01360 661403

Homecoming Scotland



Killlearn's Thomas Andrews and Kim Collins from Stafford were married on 7 February 2009 in the Black Bull Hotel.

The couple are now living in Stafford.

Across Scotland, local organisations and families celebrated the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth in January. The work of Robert Burns has carried Scots to an audience beyond our shores. His poems are published in more than 24 languages and Burns suppers are held annually around the globe from Ayrshire to Argentina.

Scotland's favourite son forms a substantial part of the articulation of Scottish identity and the 250th anniversary of the birth of Burns has heralded an opportunity to celebrate Scotland's contribution to the world. A spectacular calendar of events will mark the first ever 'Homecoming' year, many of which will appeal to locals and visitors alike. Over 200 events are taking place throughout the year which will heighten the awareness of locals and visitors, to both our rich heritage and vibrant contemporary culture.

- The Barclays Scottish Open will ensure that the eyes of the golfing world are focused on the Loch Lomond course and the Open championship also takes place at Turnberry in July.
- July sees the launch of the University of Strathclyde's International Genealogy Festival
- During August and September an exhibition takes place in Glasgow entitled This is Who We Are which will show the strong influence of Scots abroad when they travelled and named 1,000 Canadian towns after their homeland.
- In November an event of international significance will be staged in the shape of an Intercontinental Rally Challenge which will provide three days of top class motor sport on Forestry Commission roads in the scenic surroundings of Stirling and Perth.

The celebrations close in November around St Andrew's day when a sensational finale to the year will include a feast of Scottish music from the traditional to contemporary Scottish bands. A full list is available at: www.homecomingscotland2009.com

DP

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Rover 14hp Tickford Drophead Coupé 1939

Reg No PPD 480

This is the only 1940 14hp model in the Rover Sports Register (RSR) club that is currently on the road. For the uninitiated, 14 relates to the RAC horsepower rating which is based on engine capacity and was the method of evaluating the annual road tax rate, which in the 1930s was 15 shillings per horsepower. (The 14hp Rover produces about 56 bhp!) The model was one of Rover's range of three Drophead Coupé bodies based on their six-cylinder sports saloon chassis. Coachwork was by Salmons & Sons of Newport Pagnell (which later became the Aston Martin/Lagonda factory) and the fully-lined hood is their patented 'Tickford' design which allows the forward part to be rolled back into the 'coupé-de-ville' position or if preferred fully folded down, with the breaking of the joint in the 'pram irons'.

The car was first registered in April 1940 and between then and 1980 had four owners. The current owner, Bill McCreath of Buchlyvie, had dreamt of eventually owning a Rover Tickford Drophead Coupé since first spotting one in Newbury in 1969 – a dream which was finally realised in 1980. A two-year restoration followed and the Drophead has taken part in many rallies throughout Scotland and England since 1982. It has even been known on the office commuter trails and supermarket trips! Since purchase it has covered around 33,000 miles and always fires up instantly on the button. In 2008, along with several other period cars from Scotland, the Rover took part in a Vintage car rally in southern Holland.

BMcC



Rotary News

Strathendrick Rotary President, John Anderson recently gave a talk to pupils at Balforn High School. He gave a brief outline of Rotary International and the working of the Rotary Foundation and described the opportunities for young people through the Youth Programmes.

The NFU Strathendrick Rotary Classic Car Tour takes place on Sunday 26 April 2009. The Tour starts from Culcreuch Castle in Fintry and takes in approximately 100 miles of beautiful scenery. Entry forms are available on our website at: www.strathendrickrotary.org.uk

Rotary Club Burns Supper

The Rotary Club of Strathendrick Burns Supper took place at the Black Bull Hotel on Monday 26 January, when over 50 Rotarians and their guests enjoyed traditional fare. The evening was admirably chaired by Rotary President John Anderson. Songs were sung, poems recited, toasts made and replied to, with the music being supplied by the pipes of Robert Cranstoun. Jean Anderson, wife of the President, addressed him with one of Burns' most famous ballads, 'John Anderson my Jo, John' which was very well received by the company. The raffle raised around £200 which will be donated to a Rotary Charity.

STOP PRESS By the time this edition of the Courier is published, it is hoped that free compost, made from the contents of the brown bins, will be available from the Balforn Refuse Skips during their usual opening hours.
See: www.killlearncc.org/notice.html for details.

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New Lanark World Heritage Site & Garden Centre

Sunday 24th May Coach and Entry - £18

Alton Towers

Wednesday 15th April / Sunday 19th July / Tuesday 11th August

Coach and Entry - Adult £45 Child (4 - 11yrs) £40

Spend an enjoyable day out with family or friends and let us take you on a trip to some of Scotland's interesting venues. We are happy to organise special trips or just transport for groups from 16 to 250 passengers. All trips are subject to minimum numbers, Under sixteen's must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Local pick up points will normally be Callander Aberfoyle, Balfron and Killearn.

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVES

The third Open day will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 28 March 2009 from 11am to 4pm.

The emphasis this year will be on the uniformed youth organisations within the village. We hope that they will be able to give us a history of their own group with both photographs and memories. If anyone who has been a member or involved with any of the groups, please contact the following:

Boys' Brigade	Jim Fallas/Alistair Smith 550935
Brownies/Guides	Sue Beck 550485
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Jan Biggart 550107
Girls' Brigade or Guildery	Jay Houghton 550223

The 1906 photograph *Tea at The Moss* has been enlarged and framed and is now hanging alongside the more recent *Tea at The Moss 2006* in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.

We look forward to seeing you all again on Saturday 28 March when you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and browse over our memorabilia.

Helen Loudon



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COME AWAY IN AND SIT YERSEL DOON THE KETTLES SINGIN' IT'S TIME FUR A BLETHER.

VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Although a considerable amount of activity has been and is taking place behind the scenes, there is, unfortunately, not a lot to report!

The Business Plan (a substantial folder!) has been prepared and, with the help of representatives from Stirling Council, is being fine-tuned for eventual presentation to Stirling Council's Corporate Asset Management Department for their consideration. This, as mentioned in the previous report, will also include the future lease structure for the Village Hall.

At the same time our architect is discussing the draft plans with the Planning Department to ensure we are on an acceptable track.

We had hoped to present the proposed plans to the Killearn Community in early 2009 but it now looks more like a Spring presentation.

Please bear with us!

Brian Simmers

HANDY ANDY

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Examples of jobs done

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- Decorating
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- Kitchen fitting
- Basic Plumbing & Electrics
- Bathroom Suites

Exterior

- Gutter cleaning & repair
- Garden tidying
- Painting
- Fencing
- Sheds
- Decking
- Pressure washing

(This list is not exhaustive, if you do not see your job listed just phone.)

**Call 01360 551100
or 07748754583**

Killearn Primary School

It is hard to believe that we are now halfway through the school year. During the first two terms our children have been involved in many varied learning experiences.

Harvest Celebrations

Our youngest pupils took a very 'hands-on' approach to learning about Autumn. Primary 1 and 2 got right into the spirit of the season by making and enjoying some delicious Autumn vegetable soup. They followed this up with a 'Hibernation Day', snuggling up in their classroom with pillows and blankets.

Our Primary 1 class did their own harvesting, gathering brambles from the Kingdom to make their very own 'Scrummy Yummy Apple and Bramble Jelly'. Comments from their families about their jelly such as: "Jelly was beautiful, especially on my toast" and "First class jelly!" proved it was well named!

All Primary 1 pupils also paid their annual Harvest visit to Abbeyfield. As always the staff and residents made them very welcome and all enjoyed the children's enthusiastic singing and their lovely hand-made cards and gifts.

Primary 1 and their teachers were delighted to make a return visit to Abbeyfield on 31 October to share in the celebration of Mrs Jessie McAdam's 100th birthday.

On 3 October the whole school joined in our School Harvest Assembly. Thanks to the generosity of the children and their families there was an impressive display of gifts in the hall. Killearn Kirk distributed these to the elderly residents of Killearn and Glasgow City Mission.

Theatre Visit

In October the Hopscotch Theatre Company put on a performance of 'Loyal Wallace – Royal Bruce' in our school hall. The children (and staff!) thoroughly enjoyed the event which brought the history of this time to life in an entertaining and informative way.

Class Outings

Our children have also been out and about on visits to support their topic work. Examples of this are on the opposite page.

Primary 3 used the local area during their Woodlands topic. Guided by the Countryside Ranger they were encouraged to use their senses to learn about the creatures and plants that live in a woodland environment. Their findings were then recorded in booklets to display in their classroom.

Primary 5 visited the Glasgow Science Centre as part of their Space topic. The highlight of the trip was learning more about the planets and constellations under the twinkling stars of the Planetarium. This experience, combined with the enthusiasm of the presenters, gave them a real appreciation and respect for the wonders of our galaxy.

Primary 6 had first-hand experience of Victorian life on their visit to Scotland Street School. Dressed in period costume they spent the morning taking part in a re-enactment of a Victorian classroom complete with 'scary' teacher. An exciting and instructive activity that made them very glad they were returning to their own classroom and teacher!

A Classroom Museum

Primary 2 and 3 took on the role of researchers to find out what life was like for their parents and grandparents when they were children. They reported and recorded their findings in class and brought in photographs, clothes, records and other memorabilia from the 1950s and 1970s. These were labelled and put on display as the classroom was transformed into 'A Museum of Childhood'. Parents and Grandparents were then invited to visit and enjoyed the chance to share and enjoy childhood memories.

Enterprise in Action

Our enterprising Primary 5 and 6 class set up their own hand-made Christmas Card Company. Guided by Mrs MacLeod the children took on the responsibility of designing and making a selection of Christmas cards to sell at the PTA Christmas Fayre. They proved to be great sales people, managing to make a profit of over £100. After much

discussion in class the children decided to put the money raised towards buying seven goats for villages in Kenya, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe knowing that this would be of long-term benefit to the recipients.

Cross Country

Sixteen pupils from Primary 6 and 7 joined Killearn Primary School's Cross-Country Club set up by Mr MacDonald. Following five sessions at school all the children involved participated in the Stirling Cross-Country Championships, along with pupils from schools all across Stirling. Mr MacDonald and Mr Kohli, who accompanied the children, were very impressed by their stamina and effort at their first cross-country event. Every child completed the course and was awarded a certificate.

School Values

In October Primary 7 were given a leading role in coming up with a fifth School Value to add to the existing ones of Honesty, Responsibility, Fairness and Respect. After a lot of discussion in class they decided on a short list of possibilities: Manners, Kindness, Friendship, Ability to take a joke, Consideration, Gratitude and Determination. Pupils, parents, staff and other interested parties were then invited to choose their favourite two, giving reasons for their choices. The result was kept a closely guarded secret until it was revealed to an invited audience at the Strictly School Values Evening organised and presented by Primary 7. And the winner was ... Determination, a value certainly demonstrated by Primary 7 and their teacher Mrs Hornbuckle in their quest to find our Fifth School Value!



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KILLEARN PHARMACY

Our Victorian Topic

Our topic last term was the Victorians. Our teacher, Miss Salgo, showed us pictures on the interactive Whiteboard of various Victorian houses and people. We didn't know anything about the houses or who these people were, so we tried to guess what she was talking about, and of course the answer was the Victorians.

After a few weeks of learning about Victorian times, we worked at turning our classroom into a Victorian upper-class house. Each group of three or four was given a room to work on.

First, we made a plan of each room, then printed wallpaper in the style of William Morris, a famous Victorian designer. We all designed our own wallpaper with flowery designs. It worked a treat! Although we were surprised when we found the wallpaper was one of the hardest things to do!

After all the wallpaper was finished, we started making furniture. Each room had at least one three-dimensional item, such as beds, desks and armchairs. Each room was in a different part of the classroom, so we had fun deciding where each piece of furniture would go. In the scullery we

had a hanging pulley and in the kitchen an Aga.

Once the classroom was all done we invited our parents in to have a tour of our Victorian house and also to watch our class production of Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol which we had been working very hard on. The night was a magnificent success.

Unfortunately our topic had to come to an end and we had to strip the wallpaper and get rid of the furniture. We really enjoyed working in our Victorian house. I wish we could do it all the time!

*Robyn White and Lauren Donaldson
(Primary 6)*

Burns Coffee Morning



Killearn Primary School PTA held a very successful Burns coffee morning. Parents and other members of the community were treated to a repertoire of Scottish songs and poems by the children whilst enjoying tea or coffee and home baking.

Synagogue Visit

On Wednesday 19 November 2008, Primary 4 went on a visit to a synagogue in Glasgow. A lady called Eleanor gave us a tour. The synagogue we went to was an Orthodox synagogue which means they are very strict. First we sat in the men's seats which are low down and the women's seats are supposed to be higher up.

Eleanor showed us the Torah Scrolls which had lots of silver on them to show how Jewish they are. She showed us the inside of a Torah Scroll but because she wasn't a Rabbi or an important person in a synagogue she had to use a plastic one. All Torah Scrolls are hand-written because of this the person who reads, has to read it uses a yad. The yad we saw has a fist and then one finger sticking out. You use a yad to go along the lines and not use your oily fingers.

We saw the Eternal Light (a light that stays on all the time). It was a very bright light and looked very Royal. Eleanor had laid out a little table Kippahs, a yad and a prayer shawl. Kippahs are what boys wear on their head to show they are religious.

Fiona Millar (Primary 4)

*Telephone for an appointment
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A new story of the village

***The Parish of Killearn* book launch: 19 March, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Killearn Primary School**

Twenty-one years ago the second edition of *The Parish of Killearn* was published and it seemed high time that this record of the village was updated and overhauled. With the help of lots of enthusiasts in the village, this work has now been done, and on 19 March the Killearn Trust will be launching a brand new third edition of *The Parish of Killearn*. The book tells the story of the village as it developed from a small isolated settlement to a commuting village for Glasgow.



Photo courtesy of Bishop Loudon

and this new edition retains that family interest and involvement in the life of Killearn.

The book is 176 pages long in hardback, with over 150 illustrations. Many old photographs and postcards are reproduced to give a feeling of the period.

Cost is £20. However if you come along to the official launch in Killearn Primary School on 19 March between 7.30 and 9.30pm, your discounted purchase price will be £18. Enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles while you are there.



LIMEFREE COTTAGE AND GEORGE BUCHANAN MONUMENT, KILLEARN

Fiona Glass, the Editor of this new edition, has brought together many contributors who have provided material in their own areas of expertise to make this book a fascinating study of the village for all who live

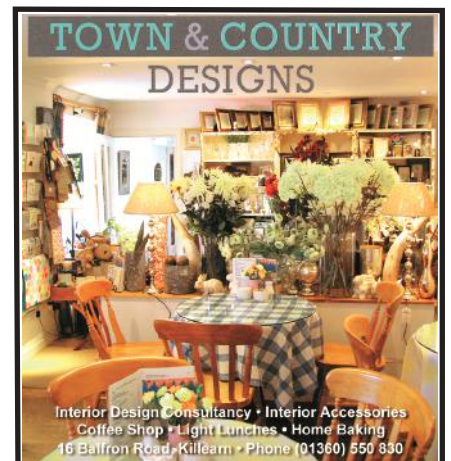
here. Fiona's mother, Betty Garland, was one of the guiding lights behind the first edition of *The Parish of Killearn*, published in 1972



Kil 19

Main Road, Killearn

Photo courtesy of Hugh McArthur



Colourful Killearn

The year 2008 was an interesting one for Colourful Killearn – not only did the village receive a Certificate of Merit from Keep Scotland Beautiful but the Co-op agreed to sponsor the three tubs outside their store. The recognition of the work that villagers do to try to brighten up the village is welcome and the generosity of the Co-op is heartening, especially in the current economic climate. The Christmas tree, once again donated by Eden Christmas Trees, was erected in December by a small band of supporters, fortified on a cold but beautifully clear morning by warm mince pies and hot coffee. This year we will be organising a spring clean up of the beds opposite the Co-op, in preparation for spreading bark to keep down the weeds and help feed the soil. If anyone would like to help the group please contact Robin on 550372 or Priscilla on 550898.

Killearn Community Council Focus on Youth

The focus was on youth at KCC's February meeting. All youngsters from P7 upwards were invited to come and participate in a discussion on issues concerning them.

Gary Worrall, senior practitioner Youth Services, Stirling Council, introduced the meeting which began with a 'getting to know you' activity. Then, sitting, first in small groups and then in a big circle, questions such as 'What needs to change for young people in Killearn? How will we know when things have changed? What are the issues?' were posed and discussed.

In the big group Tim Burnham, youth worker attached to the church, Donnie Beaton of Killearn Football Club, Brian Simmers, currently heading the Village Hall Development Group together with a number of KCC members and members of the audience contributed to the discussion.

Most importantly the meeting heard from the young people present who spoke eloquently about problems of lack of resources and meeting places, costs of transport and the wish that some of the problems experienced a few years ago are not repeated.

The problems understood, the meeting showed there is a will to address these issues.

KCC, with the youth of our village involved, proposes to keep working to meet the needs of our young people.

Brenda Pell



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The mystery of snow

The Eskimos have many names for it, we have one: snow. And by the way, it is never too cold to snow.

The first week of February has just passed in one of the coldest winters for many years leaving a bit of lying snow here in Killearn. Why haven't we had more, we wonder, as we envy (or not) those in Southern Britain who received an absolute pasting in the first 10 days of February? However, our recent weather has given significant snowfalls over the mountains, which is great news for the skiing fraternity. Long may it continue!

For us to get snow in this part of Scotland, the best scenario is for a weather system (low pressure) to encroach from the west and introduce its moisture into a cold northerly or easterly air mass, without making enough progress west or north to introduce its milder Atlantic air. Indeed these are the exact conditions that caused the snow events further south. Wind direction is important, but the key factors are the source of the wind and the temperature of the existing

air mass it is trying to displace. So what other ingredients do we need for snow – DUST!



Photo by Lesley Svensson

Normally we need the upper air (about a mile up) to be at -5°C or below. It all starts with a microscopic ice crystal forming round a mote of dust. It continues to grow until it is heavy enough to escape the cloud and begin its perilous journey to earth. To make it to the surface intact, it must travel through air that is close to freezing. If its journey is through dry air, it can withstand slightly higher temperatures. However if the air is moist,

that will increase the thawing effect on the poor snowflake. This explains why it sometimes snows at $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$ but can be raining when it is just above freezing. I am sure you will have noticed being surrounded by magnificent vistas the effect altitude has on increasing the chance of snow. It is not just the lower temperature, at height, but the fact the air is drier and the snowflake has less distance to travel.

Another dynamic is the microclimate, in other words the terrain around you. Sometimes it can be snowing in Strathblane, but be rain or sleet here in Killearn. Why is this? One reason is that cold air sinks and, despite no real difference in altitude, Strathblane is in a valley so it has nowhere to go. The intensity of the precipitation is also a reason. Often a shower can start off as light rain, turning to sleet then heavy snow and then back to rain as the shower dies down. This is because when the snow starts falling heavily, it absorbs the moisture from the air making the air drier and thus the snow level drops. As the shower becomes less intense, less moisture is absorbed and the snow level rises. In this scenario, we often get graupel (yet another name for snow!) which resembles tiny lightweight hailstones. Types of snowflake vary according to the temperature, from thin hexagonal plates, to needles, to prismatic columns. Generally speaking, the larger the snowflake, the less cold it is.

It is these features that make forecasting rain or snow very marginal for the experts and keep the children anxiously waiting with their sleds! RD

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Ski-scotland

The wintry weather may be bad news for some outdoor sports but it's great news for skiers. The Scottish ski resorts are enjoying their second successive excellent season, helping the centres stay viable and providing pleasure for thousands of thrill seekers.

For up to date information on all five Scottish ski resorts including directions, piste maps, weather reports and snow conditions go to the website: <http://ski.visitscotland.com>

Scottish Ski Areas – as described by the Scottish Ski Club

Cairngorm Mountain

The spectacular panoramic views from the terrace of the Ptarmigan Restaurant, nestled just under the summit of Cairn Gorm, together with the mountain exhibition and shop, offer an excellent all weather experience that is both memorable and unique.

Glencoe Ski Centre

The Glencoe ski area is in the midst of some of Scotland's most spectacular scenery. Nearby, the rocky peak of Buchaille Etive Mor thrusts high above the entrances to Glen Etive and Glen Coe.

Glenshee Ski Centre

3,504 ft of mountain adventure that beckons to skiers and snowboarders alike. From invitingly easy to the surprisingly steep, Glenshee offers the most extensive skiing and snowboarding in Scotland.

Nevis Range

One of the premier tourist attractions in the Scottish Highlands, no visit is complete without a trip on Britain's only mountain gondola system. The journey allows breathtaking views of the Great Glen, Ben Nevis and surrounding areas.

Lecht Ski Centre

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Background photo:

Lynsey Hall

British Children's Championships – Meribel – 4 April 2004



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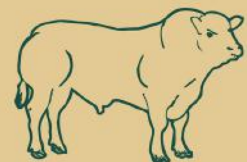
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Beavers attract

Premier League Talent

Celtic defender Glenn Loovens made a guest appearance at Killearn's Beaver Troop in February (pictured below).

Glenn, who lives in Killearn, spent an hour helping the boys develop their football skills and kindly donated two signed footballs as prizes. These were fiercely contested in a penalty shootout with victory going to Jack & Neil.

DB

Killearn Tennis Club Open Day

Saturday 25 April

To mark the start of the season the tennis club is holding its Open Day on Saturday 25 April. A junior session will be held between 2.00 and 3.00pm with seniors between 3.00 and 5.00pm. Everyone is welcome – members, guests and non-members alike and this a great opportunity for anyone thinking about joining/rejoining the club to come along.

Perfect weather has been arranged in advance!

As in previous years, the club hopes to offer a junior coaching programme. Details are currently being finalised and will be advertised in due course.

For details of any of the tennis club activities please contact John Forshaw, Club President (550185).



Photo : Angus Cartwright

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AROUND THE GOLF CLUBS

Within a few miles of Killearn we can enjoy some superb courses offering 108 different holes of testing golf, with the added bonus of stunning views. All courses allow visitors at certain times and most clubs offer a variety of membership tariffs.

Read on and enjoy an armchair visit to our local clubs...

Golf has been played at **Aberfoyle Golf Club**, pictured below, since 1890 and the course was extended to 18 holes in the 1980s. At 5,158 yards, it is not straightforward and will appeal to low and high handicappers. It is a friendly, welcoming club with catering and changing facilities in the clubhouse. Juniors Clubgolf is played here.

Contact: secretary@aberfoylegolfclub.co.uk



Buchanan Castle Golf Club in Drymen is a James Braid designed course dating back to 1936, lying on the plain of the River Endrick it is the only flat course featured here. The 18-hole parkland Dukes Course is 6,131 yards and was laid out on the former equestrian racetrack and gallops of the ancestral home of the Duke of Montrose. The eighth hole is a picturesque par 3 with a short drive over the lily pond on to the green – potential for a hole-in-one here. The proximity of the 12th hole to the clubhouse makes this a convenient point to walk in, if a full round is too much.

Major changes at Buchanan include drainage works and the refurbishment of the clubhouse this April. The recent provision of a Par 3 course complements the driving range and short game practice facilities, making it ideal for the Club's Golf Academy. The Club helped 150 youngsters develop their game last year. Clubgolf, Scotland's national junior golf programme, is big at Buchanan and the on-site professional coaching staff also run YMG (Young Masters Golf) and LMG classes for juniors and ladies. There is a well-stocked proshop which can offer a full custom club fit service as well as hiring clubs, trolleys and buggies.

Contact: info@buchanancastlegolfclub.co.uk

Continued over...



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AROUND THE GOLF CLUBS *(continued)*

Killlearn's closest club is **Balfron Golf Society's** Shian course. The course, pictured right, dates back to 1905 but closed after both World Wars, reopening as a nine-hole course and being extended to 18 holes, 5,903 yards in 2001. The 11th/12th holes have panoramic views and the picturesque 14th is exactly what a par 3 should be – all carry, a wall, a field and a narrow target. The equally attractive 15th with a meandering burn conjures up the image of a moth to a flame! Clubhouse facilities are limited to shoe changing and an honesty box for drinks and snacks. Clubgolf for juniors is played here. Balfron offers

good value for money which may account for the waiting list of over 100, which is very rare nowadays.
Contact:

brian.davidson23@btinternet.com



Buchanan Castle's professional staff. Visitors are very welcome.

Contact: *ianpbaine@hotmail.com*

Hilton Park is the largest of our local clubs, dating back to 1928 and is the only one in the area to provide two 18-hole courses – the Allander and the Hilton. In a hilly moorland setting, these James Braid parkland courses are a good length, Hilton is 6,089 yards with the 17th hole, 'Muckle Drap' its signature hole; an aptly named daunting shot from an elevated tee to a well-bunkered green. The Allander course is 5,487 yards with

a memorable but formidable par 4 fifth with the Allander burn on three sides which is out of bounds. The extensive clubhouse boasts three lounges with bars and full changing facilities. Juniors have their own dedicated room with TV and table tennis – excellent for the long summer holidays. Practice areas include a driving range, short game area, nets and two 18-hole putting greens. Well-stocked pro shop. PGA professionals run coaching and personalised tuition for all ages and stages throughout the year. There is plenty of opportunity for competitive play and the two courses ensure that non-competitors can always tee-off.

Contact: *office@hiltonpark.co.uk*

Strathendrick Golf and Tennis Club

is a more undulating course on the banks of the River Endrick, despite its proximity to Buchanan Castle. It is a 2,491 yard nine-hole course designed by Willie Fernie of Troon in 1901. There are some daunting par 3s and a signature sixth hole called Castle View which, for a long time, held the record for the longest hole in Stirlingshire at 535 yards; the best advice for this hole is "keep to the fairway!" The clubhouse is a listed building and although facilities are limited to changing rooms and an honesty box for snacks, the charm of the timber-lined walls are a reminder of the traditional golf clubhouse. Juniors receive coaching through

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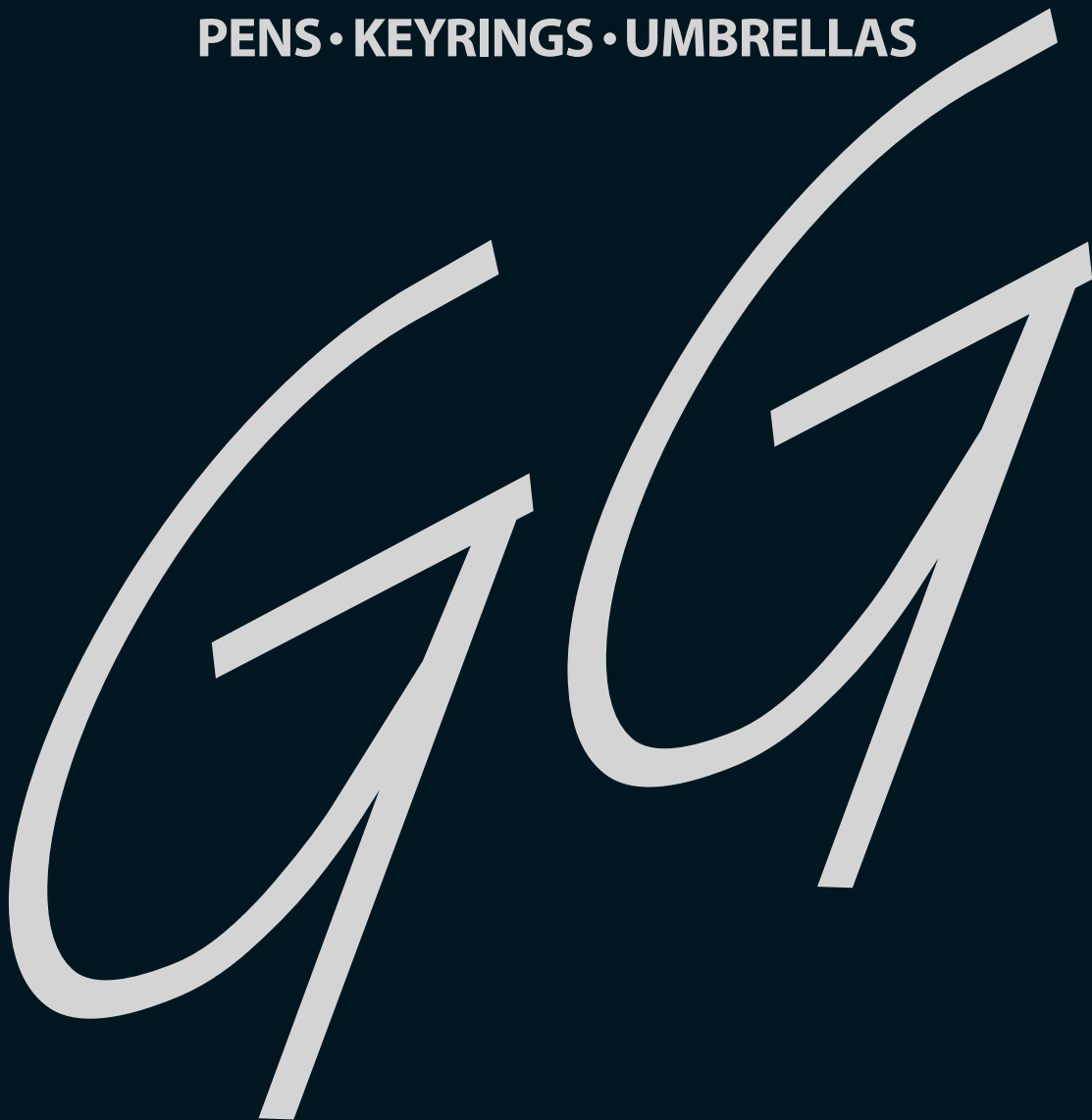
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“Spring’s sprung. The grass is ris. I wonder where them NETTLES is ...”

Such early days and suddenly they’re everywhere. The nettle (lamiaceae) family is huge and varied in its medicinal uses. Woundwort, Gipsywort, Dead Nettle, the Horehounds – all herbs I use for very different conditions. Their leaves are almost the same as the Stinging Nettle – only the different flowers really tell you which is which. Until flowering time, the only clear identification of a stinging nettle is to get stung! Young Spring stinging nettles, however, have a very special use of their own. *Urtica dioica* is one of the most important potent native plant medicines we have. A detoxifying anti-inflammatory, I

Early Spring Nettle Soup – Hayfever Help

(Recipe adapted from Marie Alexandre Markevitch’s The Epicure in Imperial Russia by Pamela Michael in Edible Wild Plants & Herbs)

- 1 rounded colander of young nettle tops
(wearing rubber gloves recommended – very young and tender and therefore very stinging)
- 1 medium onion
- 15g butter
- 3/4litre light stock
- Salt & pepper
- 2-3 tablespoons cream

Pick off any coarse stalks and wash the nettles, still in rubber gloves! Tip into a large saucepan containing a small amount of boiling salted water. Cook for 10 minutes. After this the nettles will no longer sting. Drain.

Meanwhile, finely slice the onion, melt the butter in a saucepan and sauté the onion until softened. Add the stock and nettles, and simmer gently together for 10 minutes. Liquidise. Carefully re-heat the soup, seasoning with salt & pepper. Stir in the cream just as serving.

I have more ‘robust’ soup recipes for the older nettle tops!

use it as an anti-arthritis, for skin conditions, as a nutritive blood tonic and blood-sugar balancer, and an effective anti-allergenic.

My tip here is for you to use it daily – as a simple infusion or as a delicious soup.

By starting early, you will lessen Allergic Rhinitis or Hayfever suffered in later Spring and Summer. (When the elderflowers are out, you can add them to your ‘tea’ to infuse as well, for an even more delicious remedy and effective relief).

You can pick stinging nettles for food from now until late May.

Virginia Irvine-Fortescue, MNIMH,
The Medical Herbalist, The Old Surgery, Buchlyvie.
For advice and appointments: 01360 771412 / 07801 296 781

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A KILLEARN GALA?

The last time our village had a large community celebration was summer 2003. A group are currently exploring the feasibility of organising a Killearn Gala Day in the summer of 2010.

If you have views or would like to be involved please contact Jennifer Brown on 01360 550681

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Rugby Roundup



Details of all the Club's' activities can be found on their website:
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There is a spring in the step at Strathendrick – after their dismal start to the League this season the 1st XV have enjoyed a fine run of success (indeed, at the time of going to press, they have not lost a League game since October) and have now climbed to third place in Regional West Division 1. It may be too late to overhaul GHK and Clydebank and win the league this year but with a few additions and a little luck ‘Endrick could be serious contenders next season.

Just before Christmas the Fintry team lost in the Cup to National League 2 team Glasgow Accies and then in January lost a close-fought battle with Clydebank to exit the Bowl competition for this season.

The 2nd XV have had mixed fortunes – winning some games and losing others so a few more points are required to secure their place in 2nd XV League V West. However, in common with the Club's junior teams fixtures have been hugely disrupted by recent weather conditions.

The Minis have only been able to train and play on all-weather pitches since mid-Autumn; and the Midis and U17 Strathcambus games have all been affected by the heavy rain, snow and frost and then the Six Nations internationals!

But the Club is now looking forward to the climax of its season:

Saturday 18 April
Annual Sevens Tournament
A feast of exhibition rugby

Saturday 25 April
1st XV play the President's Invitation side
spectators and supporters are welcome to both these matches

Saturday 25 April
Annual Dinner
evening entertainment with guest speakers Bruce Fummey and Alison Walker

Sunday 26 April
3rd Strathendrick Mini Rugby Charity Tournament
Hundreds of youngsters descend on Fintry to enjoy a fantastic competition and raise thousands of pounds for local hospices.

WHAT PRICE NOSTALGIA *by Joyce Begg*

Have you noticed how jigsaw puzzles seem to go in and out of fashion? There was a time when you could go into the jigsaw shop in the St. Enoch centre and be spoiled for choice. Everything – from five thousand piece seascapes to small wooden squares depicting Noddy and Big Ears – was available to the discerning purchaser. Then they seemed to fall from grace. The shop had to close, and jigsaws seemed relegated to the back of the wardrobe. Now, there are a few brave manufacturers, prepared to take a risk with the traditional landscape or a basket of kittens. There are also several pictures that our nostalgia gene responds to. Scenes from the forties and fifties are particular favourites. Steam trains, tractors, village shops selling packets of Rinso and broken biscuits, or teashops with waitresses in black dresses, white aprons and caps. We like to dwell on the past, and the older we get, the more we do it.

Perhaps that's one reason why books of old photographs of towns and villages go down so well. The splendid calendar of Killearn past and present that was produced to mark the millennium still hangs on our wall, where it becomes relevant again every five or six years. We don't keep it there for the date, of course. We keep it there because we like the pictures. We are relative newcomers to the village – thirty-five years is the merest blink of an eye compared with the record of some residents – and some of the photographs are beyond the memory of even the oldest inhabitant. But they seem to evoke a sunnier, kindlier time. It's quite imaginary, of course. There was just as much rain and just as many difficult people then as there are now, but the feeling persists.



View to the school before the Beech Drive estate was built

Even inside those thirty-five years, there have been significant changes in the village. The hairdresser's shop in Main Street was a hairdresser's before. It was also a fish and game shop, and of course Kenny was the chemist there for many years. But how many of us remember it as the post office, long before Murray's shop was built, far less transformed into Spar? The Co-op too was once much smaller, contained in the bit that's now the store room. It's not so long either since Harper's Road was a field with sheep and a stream running through it. And of course the doctor's surgery was where the current vet's practice is, across the road from the handsome clinic that serves us now. The list goes on. And that's only thirty-five years.

My children have memories of attending the BB's in the old church hall, playing football for the Cubs, and walking to and from school across the turnip field, exchanging greetings with the donkey en route. Building dens in the Glen and sledging down Gartness Road also constitute happy blasts of nostalgia for them. They recall collecting lemonade

bottles from the building site that was Lampson Road, and trading them for cash at Murray's store, who were happy to take the money back again in exchange for the contents of the penny tray.

It will be interesting to see what treasured memories of Killearn the current generation of children will take with them through life. And who knows - perhaps some enterprising manufacturer of jigsaw puzzles will one day recreate the kind of pictures we can all relate to, and keep alive our memories of village life.

<p>WOOD BUSINESS Archie Wilson Tree Surgeons</p>  <p>We are based in Scotland and specialize in tree surgery with the aim of utilizing all the timber and not treating it as a waste product. We believe in sustainable management of our woodland.</p> <p>TREE SURGERY BY QUALIFIED OPERATORS. RECOVERED TIMBER FOR WOOD TURNERS, FURNITURE MAKERS, AND CRAFTSMEN. LOGS AND WOODCHIP FOR SALE</p> <p>Herons Court, Killearn, Glasgow, G63 9PZ Phone: 01360 551565 Mobile: 07786 913 573 archie@wood-business.co.uk www.wood-business.co.uk</p>	<p><i>ARE YOU TEARING YOUR HAIR OUT AT THE THOUGHT OF:</i></p> <p>PLANNING A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY PARTY? ARRANGING A CORPORATE EVENT? ORGANISING A WEDDING? A PRIVATE PARTY? A LARGE BUFFET? AN ANNIVERSARY? A CELEBRATION?</p>   <p><i>Then come to the specialists in catering for large functions:</i></p> <p>COUNTRY KITCHEN Cordon Bleu Frozen Food & Kitchen Shop Mrs J Wilson, Herons Court, Killearn G63 9PZ - Telephone 01360 550122</p> <p>jane@countrykitchenscotland.co.uk www.countrykitchenscotland.co.uk</p>
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SPADEWORK

Contact:
0141 946 3237
07855 311512

The eye-catching floral logo of Spadework has become familiar, not only at the nursery beside Duntreath but also in the west end of Glasgow. The Courier found out more about this local business.

Municipal councils use hanging baskets and container planting in city areas. Spadework have expanded this urban planting into pubs, shops and restaurants in the west end, bringing a continental feel to many cobbled back lanes and ensuring that neglected, dried up and skimpy hanging baskets are a thing of the past. It was this sad sight that prompted, Alan Hinshelwood, the man behind Spadework, to start up the business that provides and maintains hanging baskets in summer and winter, to the extent that he makes on average 300 baskets per year using around 15,000 plants.

Alan was a keen allotment gardener for many years before going on to use his degree in Hotel and Restaurant management running The Two Fat



Ladies restaurant. But following redundancy from his subsequent job in the newspaper industry, he had the enviable choice of falling back on earning a living cooking or gardening.

The Spadework name was appropriate to the general gardening work that Alan started doing but four years on he has more use of scissors than a spade. Spadework has mastered the art of the hanging basket – high plastic linings to make watering more effective, quality compost mix, three types of feed and quality plants which ensure survival throughout the season.

At the nursery on the road to Blanefield you can have a tailor-made basket, planted up with your favourite plants and your choice of colours – starting in April.

Alan's Tip: watering is key to the health of hanging baskets – adding a drop of washing up liquid to your watering can increases the viscosity and helps keep away aphids.

The Old Mill Gift & Accessory Shop

4b Balfron Road, Killearn Tel 550666



We would like to express our thanks to everyone in the village for the great support that is shown to the shop. We are now entering our fourth year of running the business and as ever, will be working hard to bring you interesting and innovative gifts and cards for all occasions. New stock of jewellery, bags, photo frames, baby presents, children's toys, body products and many more gift lines are coming in daily, so please pop in soon to see the new selection for yourself. We are open 7 days and parking is available at the door.

Easter Brownie Cups



- 125 ml (half a cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 4 tbsps (60 g) unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 125 ml (half a cup) plain flour
- 125 ml (half a cup) golden granulated sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1 large egg
- 24 mini Easter eggs

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
 Line a muffin tin with 8 paper cases.
 Melt chocolate chips and butter.
 Stir in vanilla extract and set aside.
 Mix flour, sugar and salt. Stir in chocolate mixture.
 Add egg and mix well.
 Fill each hole in muffin tin until about two-thirds full and
 bake for 15 minutes.
 Place 3 mini eggs on top of each brownie cup when they
 are still quite warm. Allow to cool before eating.

Killearn Guild

Our open evening was very well attended with members from our sister Guilds in Kessington and Balfron as our guests for a talk by Anne Stewart, who, until recently, was Head Teacher of Raploch Primary School. Her talk was of interest to both the parents and grandparents in our audience as today's grandparents make up such a large part of childcare in our society. They all found her talk most interesting,

We would like to encourage young mums to come along to our meetings and hopefully enjoy what we have to offer from our varied syllabus. For our Guild to survive through the current climate we need *you*, our Killearn residents, both MEN and women to come along and join us.

Our syllabus this year concludes with the AGM on 17 March at the Black Bull Hotel. Here's to the next time.

Moyra Bogie

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Grand Fashion Show in aid of Strathcarron Hospice

Organised by West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice

Fashions by M& Co and also featuring Peaches Bridal Wear

Atrium: Peaches Lingerie, True Colours by Shirley Thornley (Colour & Style Consultant)

Venue: Balfroun High School Atrium & Theatre

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2009

Tickets: £10 (includes glass of wine and nibbles on arrival)

Prize Draw: Raffle tickets for sale on the night

M& Co will give 10% discount on purchases at the Milngavie shop from 19 March for a limited period on production of a fashion show ticket.

Tickets available from Balfroun Library, or telephone:

Rina Cranstoun (01360 440697)

Celia Hamilton (01306 550092)

Old Mill Gift Shop (01360 220666)

West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice

West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron is one of four such groups in our area. We organise and run various events throughout the year to contribute to the annual running costs for the Hospice. Strathcarron Hospice is committed to providing specialist palliative care to patients with active progressive illnesses and to the support of their families. This care is provided free of charge by Strathcarron.

Community Care

A team of specialist nurses work closely with family doctors providing help and advice to over 200 patients and

families in their own home. There is also a day hospice which also provides therapeutic support tailored to patients' individual needs. Over 100 patients benefit from this service, with transport provided by volunteers.

Strathcarron also provides a comprehensive programme of education, training and support for those who care for people with life-threatening illnesses. These are just a few of the services provided by the hospice. It costs approximately £3.5 million annually to run Strathcarron and in addition to the generous support from the local NHS boards a further £1.8 million has to be raised by charitable fundraising and donated sources, in total this means that over £365 has to be raised from all sources each hour of every day. In this our 25th anniversary year we need the help and support of people like yourselves to ensure Strathcarron Hospice will still be providing this valuable and essential service for the next 25 years and beyond.

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Solve the crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar. The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a Family Ticket to Theatre Royal or The King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

Closing Date: 12 April 2009

SHOWS MARCH TO SEPTEMBER:

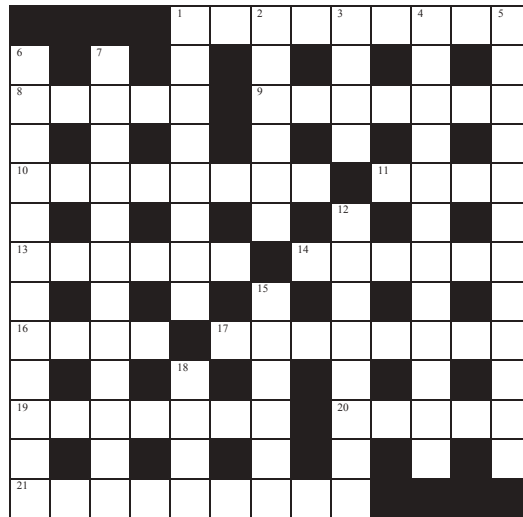
THEATRE ROYAL

- Boeing-Boeing
- Cabaret
- Carmen
- Cosi Fan Tutti
- Manon
- Cinderella on Ice
- Peer Gynt
- Lazy Town
- Tweenies Live

KINGS THEATRE

- Chess
- Little Shop of Horrors
- Hot Flush
- Horrible Histories
- Witches of Eastwick
- Jolson
- Grand Cirque Fantazie
- Shaolin Warriors
- Turandot
- Aida
- Scoobie-DooFor

information: <http://www.theambassadors.com>



Solution to the last Crossword: Across - 8, 3d one o'clock; 9 Christmas; 10 igloo; 11 caldera; 12 stocking; 14 card; 15 iron; 16 outspoke; 20 present; 21 oaths; 23 greetings; 24 eye. Down - 1 robins; 2 bell; 4 art consultant; 5 psalm; 6 amperage; 7 island 13 odometer; 15 impugn; 17 spouse; 18 kisses; 19 jetty; 22 tree.

ACROSS

1. Win every trick - a big hit (5,4)
8. Artist bet on mad dog (5)
9. Wise king alone at start of day (7)
10. Do what you like with unpaid worker (4,4)
11. Untidy eating place for soldiers (4)
13. Bird let around gossip (6)
14. Stop month without end in the Gambia (6)
16. I run in collapsed building (4)
17. Large snake played with a dice for ancient queen (8)
19. Did lute player object to progress (7)
20. Perfect student attached to belief (5)
21. Put aside jumbled sacred kit (9)

DOWN

1. Christened baby is a young Zeus (8)
2. Sailor posted away (6)
3. Doctor of letters up first in boring state (4)
4. Coat buckle around ramjet (12)
5. Small baloney, the first word but not the second (12)
6. Yield, then hesitate before many Spanish shouts for pastries (12)
7. Missing newspaper man without brain is forgetful (6-6)
12. Choose individually a non-power tool (4-4)
15. Chap sounds keen on a Spanish bar (6)
18. Learner in set of parts worn by Scotsman (4)

Name Phone No.

Address

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword : Priscilla Douglas, Killearn

CHILDREN'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE sponsored by



The first correct entry pulled out of the box will win a £10 voucher which may be spent on anything in your local SPAR.

Find ten differences in the picture on the right and ring them. Write your name, address and age below, cut out the pictures and place in the box in Spar to win a £10 voucher. To enter the competition you must be 12 years or under.



Name Age.

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition:

Sarah, Kirsty, Gregor and James McArthur aged 10,9,7 and 5.

Closing Date for both competitions – 12 April 2009.

Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

Nature Notes

With luck, you are now looking out on a glorious spring day, but as I write this, I see a white landscape and reflect that this winter has given us a good opportunity to become nature detectives. There's a wealth of information if you are observant after it snows. If you can beat the postie, dog walkers and sledgers, you can see which creatures have been about since the snowfall – the neighbour's cat in delicate single file, the hoof prints of a roe deer, distinctive arrows and tail marks of a pheasant, small prints of mice from under bushes... and always plenty of rabbit tracks.



© Lyn and Ray Cooper

It's been a hard winter for birds and hopefully many people have been putting out food for them. The once plentiful holly and cotoneaster berries are now stripped and it is a lean time. The RSPB reckons that gardens and householders have become the main source of sustenance for a whole range of birds. If you have a bird table or feeding station, it's interesting to see the pecking order; it really is a case of big is better in our garden. Sparrows, chaffinches and resident robin come in quickly, only to be ousted almost immediately by a flock of starlings, jostling like a football crowd. The odd blackbird gets a look in, but all too soon jackdaws and rooks appear from nowhere, swoop down and take over. This is when the wooden spoon gets brandished against the window! They take off and the little ones pop out again. Meanwhile, on the nut feeder, the sparrows have mastered the art of hanging on and have largely claimed it from the tits.

Now it's spring and nature's cycle is beginning again. The survivors of the winter have returned to their breeding grounds leaving the resident jackdaws to return to their nest in the roof. The other birds will start new families in the trees, the ivy and, with luck, our nest boxes, and it remains to be seen if the rooks will rebuild their nests which were blown down in the autumn gales.

JW

Far Hills

Above Killearn looking southeast we have a range of hills which form a façade resembling a sleeping man, known locally as 'The Dead Man'; the hill in rotation, Bellcraig his head, Garloch his torso, Calibae and Wee Lettre his knees and Dumgoyne his feet.

From the top of the Bellcraig looking north and west one can see a magnificent panoramic view of the Argyll and Trossachs hills. When on top of Dumgoyne you can see Tinto Hill and Lowthers Tops in South Lanarkshire also taking in the town of Wishaw, Motherwell, East Kilbride, Glasgow, Paisley and Gleniffer Braes at Barrhead, the Plann Hill in Ayrshire also shows up on the skyline.

The result, how fortunate we are to live in an area of Scotland with access to such beautiful scenery and have the opportunity with a little effort to view a panoramic view second to none in our country.

Photo - Susan Thomson

Jim Fallas

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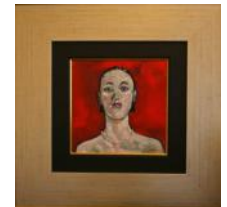
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