



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 44

SUMMER 2019

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Noticeboard

19 Aug	Just do Pilates Village Hall, 9.30am–10.30am, thereafter every Monday. Also Wednesdays, 7.30pm–8.30pm and Thursdays 11am–12noon. All levels welcome. Contact Willie McIntosh (williemac.justdopilates@gmail.com ; 07733 406464).	2 Sept	Stillness Moves – Meditation and Mindful Movement starts. Village Hall, 6.45pm–8pm. Best for those with some meditation and yoga experience. Contact Adele (07809 469572; ashallhope@stillnessmoves.com).
20 Aug	Yoga class Village Hall, 10.30am, thereafter every Tuesday. Also Thursdays, 7pm. Contact Craig Buchanan (craig@insideyoga.net). Town Break Friendship Group meeting. Village Hall Garden Room, 1.30pm–3.30pm, thereafter first Tuesday of each month. www.townbreakstirling.org DIY circuits Village Hall, 6.30pm–7.30pm, thereafter every Tuesday. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com) or Nick (07860 700928).	3 Sept	Strathendrick Singers rehearsals resume. Balfroon Church, 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact Colin Cameron (440622) or Judith Neil (550832). www.strathendricksingers.org.uk Buchanan Castle Bridge Club starts. Village Hall Garden Room, 2pm–5pm. Contact Lesley Nicholl (07720 978998; lesleynic7@icloud.com).
21 Aug	Yoga class Village Hall, 9.30am–10.30am, thereafter every Wednesday. Suitable for all. Contact Sarah Fleming (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com). Monaghan Tae Kwon Do children's classes. Village Hall, 6pm–9pm, thereafter every Wednesday. Contact David Monaghan (monaghantaekwondo@outlook.com ; 07472 210735).	6 Sept	Killearn Bridge Club starts. Village Hall, 7pm–10.30pm. Contact Arthur Whittaker (07748 636312) www.bridgewebs.com/killearn Dancercise fitness class starts. Village Hall, 10am–11am. Low impact dance-based exercise and routines for over 50s.
22 Aug	Lynda Turner School of Dancing registration session for classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390, geolyn2000@hotmail.com).	12 Sept	Killearn Kirk messy play. Kirk Halls, 9.30am–11.15am for ages 0–5 years. Thereafter the second and fourth Thursday of the month.
23 Aug	Taiji and Qigong starts. Village Hall Garden Room, 10.30am–11.45am. Contact Susanne Lin Jesem (07979 860754; Susanne@dragonspringtaiji.co.uk). One Act Immersive play by Peter Arnott, <i>The Inquisitor</i> . Village Hall, 7pm. With Bruce Biddulph. Tickets £7.50 available at the door.	16 Sept	Killearn Badminton Club starts. Village Hall, 8pm–10pm. Contact Andrew Donaldson (andrew@mahame.net).
28 Aug	Killearn Guides registration 7pm–8.30pm. Kirk Hall. Brownies (aged 7–10) and Guides (aged 10–14). If your daughter is new to Guiding, please also register at www.girlguiding.org.uk .	17 Sept	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch enrolment and workshop. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. Elisabeth Viguié Culshaw leads a workshop 'Eco print your Scottish Leaves' at 1.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome.
31 Aug	Killearn Horticultural Society Annual Show Village Hall and Kirk Hall, 2pm–4.30pm. Teas from 2.45pm. Entries can be staged Friday, 7.30pm–9pm or Saturday, 7.30am–10am. For schedule and enquiries email kchs@killearn.org.uk .	18 Sept	Colourful Killearn Autumn meeting and AGM Village Hall Committee Room, 8pm.
1 Sept	Baby/Child First Aid Training Village Hall and Garden Room, 10am–12 noon. £25 per person. Booking essential via stirling@daisifirstaid.com or 07966 190724. Ladies Afternoon Tea Fundraiser for Child.org Village Hall, 1pm–3.30pm. Bubbly, mocktails, spectacular afternoon tea, henna artist, stalls and raffle. Tickets: £9, available from ti.to/child-org/calm-before-the-storm-ladies-lunch or Facebook page: Calm Before the Storm Ladies Lunch. Contact jordangardner73@yahoo.co.uk . Youth Club starts. Village Hall 3pm–4pm. One hour of activities for children aged 7–9 years. Contact Archie Wilson (07786 913573; archie@treesurgery.com).	21 Sept	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Andrew Prince, 'From Downton to Gatsby, Jewellery and Fashion 1890–1929'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Killearn Malawi Group Annual Gathering Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Stall selling Malawian and African produce, speakers, reports on the work of the group, refreshments.
		26 Sept	Strathendrick Singers and Balfroon High School Come and Sing Day Balfroon High School, 9.45am–5pm. Rehearsal of great choral favourites followed by a public concert at 5pm. No charge to participate and no previous singing experience necessary. All welcome. Book a place now at hello@strathendricksingers.org.uk .
		26-28 Sept	Drymen & District Local History Society Illustrated talk by Paul Bishop, 'Tobacco Lord John Glassford and the poor coal-getters from Drymen'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. £2 admission for a single meeting; annual subscription £6. www.drymen-history.org.uk FADs three one-act comedies: <i>The Biscuit</i> , by Donald McLeary, <i>Housebound</i> by Simon Mawdsley and <i>The Worst Day of My Life</i> by Alan Richardson. Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). Tickets from Killearn Pharmacy, Balfroon Library, Fintry Sports Club or online at tickets@fintrydrama.org.uk .
		30 Sept	Monday Club starts. Village Hall Garden Room, 1.30pm.

Noticeboard continued

1 Oct	Killearn Kirk Guild Musical Evening with Rev. Stuart Sharpe, Kirk Hall, 7.30pm
5 Oct	Killearn Kirk Guild Harvest Coffee Morning Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon.
6 Oct	Killearn Kirk Harvest Thanksgiving service, 10.30am.
15 Oct	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch workshop day and AGM. Informal talks from members on 'Being a Stitcher and/or a Textile Worker'. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome. Killearn Kirk Guild National Youth Forum with Bethany Pringle. Bring and Buy table. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
16 Oct	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
17 Oct	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Barry Venning, 'A Child of 6 Could Do It! Cartoonists' Views of Modern Art'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.
24 Oct	KCFC AGM. Village Hall, 7.30pm. Drymen & District Local History Society Illustrated talk by Richard Oram, 'From Golden Age to Little Ice Age: Climate change, crop failures and disease in medieval Scotland'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. £2 admission for a single meeting; annual subscription £6.
25 Oct	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>The Madness of King George</i> . Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £5 entry; £20 for all nine films.
2 Nov	KCFC bonfire and fireworks display The Glebe, 7.15pm.
5 Nov	Killearn Kirk Guild talk by Ian Dickie, 'Memories of a Policeman'. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
9 Nov	Killearn Kirk Jumble Sale Kirk Halls, 10am–12 noon. Donations can be delivered to the hall on Friday from 6.30pm–8.30pm. Look out for posters nearer the time.
10 Nov	Killearn Kirk Remembrance Service War Memorial, 10.45am followed by a service in the church.
14 Nov	Golden Years' Club Bingo evening. Kirk Hall, 7pm–9.30pm. All welcome.
15 Nov	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Cabaret</i> . Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £5 entry.
19 Nov	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch workshop and Christmas Sales Table. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome. Killearn Kirk Guild Project – Sailors' Society. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
20 Nov	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
21 Nov	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Pat Clark, 'People, Places and Piazzas: The Life and Art of Charles H. Mackie'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.

If you have dates of events for the winter issue of the Noticeboard (mid November to mid March), please contact Heather McArthur (07985 082678; heather.mcarthur@virgin.net).

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our summer 2019 issue of your *Killearn Courier*, brought to you once again by a hard-working bunch of volunteers who gave up their time in a sweltering heatwave to produce your favourite magazine. The editor, although not actually at home, also did his bit, albeit not nearly as much as the rest of the team. Indeed, as I write this, I am in deepest Cornwall with two grandchildren. Any further south and I'd fall off!

Inside, lots of interesting and informative articles and contributions about matters affecting our village. Speaking of contributions, our thanks go to our advertisers who have been with us since we started. Without their support, we would not be able to produce the *Courier*. We also would like to see more contributions to our competitions (crossword and children's puzzle), both of which carry a prize for the winner.

I hope you like our front cover – a very clever bit of photography, I think. It provides the perfect lead-in to our centre pages devoted to the Heritage Trail project. This is something which will bring to life many aspects of 'old' Killearn and will create a trail through the village's history. It is very much a 'live' trail as evidenced by a proposed 'dig' starting on 26 August in the Glen, so why not get involved?

We've also picked up on an article which featured some time ago in a Sunday national, identifying Killearn as a 'great place to live'. You can read the outcome of our further research on page 22. I think the underlying message is that it's the residents who make Killearn a great place to live. Keep up the good work and get involved where you can.

We heard of a bestselling author living in our midst and chased up the story. Read all about Gill Sims and her quirky, funny books on page 10.

Finally, the *Courier* joins many others in sending their congratulations to Michael and Brenda Pell, who is one of our founder members, on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Enjoy this issue and the rest of the summer.

Ian

Cover Image

The cover photo was taken by Kay Roxby and remains her copyright. It features the Old Kirkyard and the Buchanan monument, both of which will form part of the Killearn Heritage Trail. Find out how you can get involved in this exciting new project in our centre pages.

Brown – Beck



Michael Beck and Dannelly Brown were married on 19 April 2019 in Killearn Village Hall, where family and friends from the United States, Singapore and the UK enjoyed a sunny day and a great ceilidh in the halls. The couple have made their home in Philadelphia, where they are both working.

Kelly – Hudson



William Hudson and Louise Kelly were married on 4 June 2019 at the Church of Santa Maria a Gradillo in Ravello, Italy. Family and friends joined them for two days of celebrations on the beautiful Amalfi coast. William grew up in Killearn and works for an estate agency in Glasgow. Louise, who was raised in Portadown, Northern Ireland, is a physiotherapist at the Victoria Hospital. They are making their home in the west end of Glasgow.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

May I take the opportunity through your pages to thank the wonderful lady who found my car keys in the Playpark, rescued them and put a notice up on the Killearn for All Facebook page? And also a big thanks to Tina at the Co-op who put 2+2 together, and realised they were the ones I was searching for – I don't have a Facebook account, so might never have known they were safe without her quick thinking. This is what living in a village is all about.

Yours sincerely

Peter J. Bailey
20 Station Road

A Plea from the Editor

Our primary aim is to continue to produce your *Courier* as a high-quality, informative magazine. So, once again, may I kindly ask all our contributors to make every effort to submit articles and photographs by the copy deadline, or let us know it's in the pipeline and when we can expect it? We provide the relevant date on the inside back cover of each issue.

Missing the deadline may mean we might not be able to include your submission, as we may have already filled our page quota. As you will appreciate, receiving articles after the copy deadline puts extra pressure on our volunteers, who devote a lot of time to producing each edition and need to meet the print deadline in order for us to get delivery by our distribution date.

Of course, there are occasions when 'news' just happens – events are no respecters of deadlines. In these cases, contact the *Courier* (courier@kfc.co.uk) as soon as possible and we'll do our best to fit in your article.

ED

News in brief

A strawberry tea, held in celebration of the Queen's official birthday, took place in the Kirk Halls on Saturday, 8 June. It was a great success, and many enjoyed the ambience, as well as the delicious sandwiches, sausage rolls, home baking and strawberries galore.

The Parish of Killearn (3rd Edition) – the Killearn Trust has been requested to publish a correction to the list of contributors on page 10 of the book. It should read: 'Dr Michael Ridd, Geology; Michael Pell, Abbeyfield'

Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Show

The summer is upon us and thoughts turn to the Show on 31 August. It is always a great event in the village with exhibits catering for all interests. The schedule sellers may have already been at your door, but if not, contact our secretary (550142) or chairperson (550980) for your copy.

The price of £3 entitles you to put as many entries in the Show as you like, and the schedule itself acts as the entry ticket for your whole household on the day – a real bargain.

It's a riot of colour with our pot plants, cut flowers, floral art and vegetables. The baking, preserves and wine will make your mouth water, and the art, photos and crafts will impress and inspire. We are always particularly pleased with our children's entries, and we are delighted that the local schools and nurseries swell the numbers in these categories.

Remember the Show is open to all, so friends and relatives outwith the village are very welcome to exhibit.

This year we are introducing a Mobility (Quiet) Hour. From 1pm–2pm the hall will be open for visitors with restricted mobility to access the displays in a less crowded environment, with the hall opening to the rest of the public, as usual, at 2pm.

We hope you will find exhibits to enter and look forward to seeing you all on the day.

HEATHER WRIGHT, CHAIR





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Killlearn Primary School's Kitchen Garden Project

Primary 7's Rota Peeps have been working super hard to make a kitchen garden and kitchen for the school. We have made four raised beds, and each class has half of a raised bed. Also, we have made troughs for growing potatoes. We made the raised beds by building a frame, turning up the ground and then putting soil on top. Then we laid the teram around the beds and put gravel on top by hand.

We have taught all of the classes to plant vegetables including salad leaves, pea shoots, carrots, spring onions and beetroot. All of the classes have helped us by laying soil and gravel around the beds. Lots of people have contributed things to help us with our kitchen garden along the way. Many thanks to Root One who helped us order and deliver the sleepers, screws, soil and gravel. Another thanks to Peter Wilks who provided us with wheelbarrows and spades. Yet again another thanks to Mike who gave us lots of seeds, flowers, his skills in gardening and a timetable for planting. Thanks to Mr Dickie who provided us with beautiful sweet pea flowers.

You have all helped us to make a kitchen garden for our school. We wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

In addition to the kitchen garden, we have also organised a kitchen to cook the plants we grow and make delicious food. We applied for a grant and received it (this is how we paid for our kitchen garden as well). We used the grant to buy a big cooking trolley set of three parts. It came with drawers, bowls and a plug point. We have



already made the most delicious oatcakes, and P1 have made yummy gingerbread men with the help of some P7s. P7 loved the pea shoots we added to our packed lunches. We are finding it very handy having a kitchen to use whenever we would like. We're excited to be using the kitchen again soon and the kitchen garden is growing lots of lovely vegetables we'll be able to cook in the kitchen.

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30 Years Dispensing



While other shops and facilities have disappeared from our main streets, it's good to see our pharmacy remain.

There have been changes over the 30 years since the pharmacy first opened its doors in July 1989. The location for one thing: from premises in Main Street which are now TrilogY hairdressers to Lumsdaine Hall (the former Church Hall).

Ownership of the pharmacy has changed three times. Russell Kirk opened the chemist shop with Kenny More as the onsite pharmacist. Kenny later took it over and moved up to Balfour Road, convenient for the Health Centre. Now it's part of the Corry's Chemist group with Gillian Russell at the helm.

One constant factor is the people behind the counter: Kenny and Marie Patten have been there since day one, with Kenny staying on as relief pharmacist, a role reversal with Gillian.

Killearn pharmacy with its larger premises sells gifts, a useful addition to the village following the closure a few years ago of the Old Mill gift shop.

The therapy rooms within the pharmacy continue to be well used, with services including physiotherapy, foot health, therapeutic massage and counselling.

The function of pharmacies generally has expanded over the 30 years, with confidential consultation and dispensing for a wider range of ailments now being undertaken by pharmacists to free up GP time.

Long may Killearn pharmacy continue to be an essential part of the community.

GS

Diamond Celebration



Michael and Brenda Pell recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding. Here they are sharing their letter from HM the Queen, watched by Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, Alan Simpson.

The couple met at London University and were married in West Wickham, Kent. Michael's work on the building of Hunterston power station first brought them to Scotland, where they have lived for most of their 60 years of marriage; other projects followed and Michael then worked for John Brown Engineering in Clydebank. Brenda became a primary teacher and worked locally, latterly as headteacher of Killearn Primary School.

Both have enjoyed being greatly involved in village life, especially during their retirement.



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The Weather Channel

After a relatively mild autumn, our winter months saw record high temperatures, with the thermometer reaching 15.8°C in February. That month saw records throughout the UK: Wales reaching 20.6°C, England 20.1°C, and Scotland (Aboyne) 18.3°C.

The mean temperature for Killearn in February 2018 was 2.7°C. This year, it was a remarkable 6.2°C.

It has also been a very dry year so far. By late May, Loch Lomond was very low and the River Endrick likewise. Cumulative rainfall in our district from January to April was 290mm compared to 346mm in the previous year.

The warmer spring temperatures no doubt stimulated trees and shrubs into early growth, and blossom has been a feature, but May has been rather cool and a setback for our gardens.

June, however, saw the jet stream misbehaving, and this allowed a series of depressions to hit the UK. Scotland had some rain, but the southeast of

Half-Yearly Summary for Killearn (2019)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Highest Temp	11.5	15.8	11.3	19.9	25.8	27.3
Lowest Temp	-7.8	-7.4	-5.3	-1.9	0.2	4.8
Mean Temp	3.4	6.2	3.1	7.5	9.8	13
Days Below Freezing	16	11	13	3	0	0
Highest Wind Gust	30	28	28	23	33	29
Monthly Rain	46	65	90.8	88.2	51.8	24
Most Rain in 24 hrs	6.2	21.4	13.4	19	13	7
Days without Rain	19	18	10	11	13	11
Cumulative Rainfall	46	111	201.8	290	341.8	365.8

Temperature in °C, rainfall in mm, and wind speed in miles per hour

England had extreme rainfall amounts, yellow weather warnings and towns cut off. Homes were flooded in East Anglia, normally the driest region of the UK.

In this part of the world, we expect unpredictable weather conditions, but extremes (and new records) seem to be occurring more frequently.

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Citizen Science

- ° Residents of Killearn who have watched *Spring Watch* will have listened to the presenters asking viewers to complete an online questionnaire recording observations of insects and bees in their gardens; no doubt this was stimulated by a report that the Earth's total insect population could be wiped out in the next 100 years.
- ° The RSPB has an annual weekend when members of the public take a census of garden birds.
- ° Weather forecasters make extensive use of data provided by the public.
- ° In a survey stretching over a 2km stretch of Scotland's coast, observers were able to identify and detect bottle-nosed dolphins at a rate that was useful in monitoring human disturbances.
- ° Members of the public took part in four separate animal surveys to monitor the health of the bat population.

Participants gathering information in this way are taking part in a growing phenomenon called 'citizen science'. This has been defined as 'the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.

So how does citizen science work? Sightings are carefully observed and noted by the citizen scientist, who connects with experts in the field who then can confirm the observations. This creates useful data which scientists and resource managers process and use in their own research and publications.

Readers of the *Courier* can act as citizen scientists by finding an ongoing project and contributing to it, or by initiating their own project. The article 'Do something great' (www.bbc.co.uk/citizenscience) is worth a look.

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Once upon a time... the story of Killearn's bestseller



It might be thought a rather intimidating task for an amateur hack from your community magazine to interview a bestselling writer: especially one whose books have featured in *The Sunday Times* bestsellers' list. Even more so when the writer concerned is renowned for her caustic wit, droll comments and humorous observations on life. But no – fortunately, the writer in question is the lovely Gill Sims – Killearn's own friendly, modest bestseller!

Gill's meteoric rise from wry 'over-sharer' on Facebook and sharp-penned blogger to the creator of a series of phenomenally successful books is quite a story.

Many *Courier* readers will know Gill from her presence at the school gates, on the PTA, as part of the Killearn Hoolie, or as a valued customer at the Old Mill. But to start at the beginning...

Gill was brought up in Kenya and Tanzania, where her dad was a pilot, before her parents moved to Glasgow. She went to Laurel Bank School where she excelled at maths and sciences rather than creative writing. Was she the class clown? No, she was one of the girls sitting at the back – taking the mick! She went on to study mechanical engineering at Edinburgh University 'because there were more boys on that course'.

Fast-forward 20 years or so. Gill, now living in Killearn, proud mother of two children and devoted parent of a mischievous terrier, Buddy, was fairly prolific on social media, keeping her many Facebook friends abreast of goings-on in 'the shire' and of the amusing mundanities of family life.

In February 2016, Gill started a blog featuring the 'fictional' family of 'Peter and Jane' as an amusement for a friend. The tales of domestic bliss were hilarious, and the accompanying illustrations were brilliant (in fact they still are: the peterandjaneblog is still online) and then... they went viral! This is where Gill's story is very much one of the modern age.

Talent spotters in the creative industries closely monitor trends on social media and so as 'Peter and Jane' grew in popularity, a talent agent approached Gill with a view to representing her, followed shortly by leading publisher HarperCollins. Within months – and with no particular ambition to become a professional writer – Gill had leapt from being a successful amateur blogger to having a book commissioned by a top publisher.

By New Year 2017, Gill's first draft of *Why Mummy Drinks* was delivered to HarperCollins, signed off in April, and launched in October, just in time for the Christmas market. It took off, appealing particularly to the young mum market, with its hilarious mix of zany but reassuringly familiar tales of family idiosyncrasies and middle-class social goings-on.

It stayed for an astonishing 33 weeks in *The Sunday Times* bestsellers' list: the bestselling debut hardback book of 2017.

To date *Why Mummy Drinks* has sold over 250,000 copies and has been published in more than 12 countries, winning Gill a Nielsen silver bestseller award

into the bargain.

But it didn't stop there. *Why Mummy Swears* was commissioned, written and published in July 2018. It reached Number 1 in *The Sunday Times* Top 10, staying there for seven weeks, and remaining in the Top 10 for almost six months.

Her third book, *Why Mummy Doesn't Give A *****, was published at the end of June, and *Why Mummy Drinks* has been adapted for the Radio 4 *Women's Hour* drama slot.

Of course, Gill's circle of close friends supported her all the way, while keeping her thoroughly grounded by taking the **** (perhaps providing material for future tomes?).

Gill's observational and writing talent, combined with clever marketing and expert timing, had now created a brilliant brand. As I met Gill, she was about to set off on a 30-date tour of 'An Evening with Gill Sims'. Not bad for a mum from Killearn with a wicked sense of humour!

As her beloved Buddy nestles on her lap and her new puppy, Billy, gnaws my fingers, I enquire what she plans to do 'when she grows up?' 'Get more dogs,' she replies.



So if you want to hear the story of how Gill nearly didn't make that first meeting with HarperCollins because Buddy ran away, or if you want to know whether her books are based on her own family life, she might let you in on her secrets over a glass of prosecco in the Old Mill sometime.

NH

Our Little Outdoor Classroom

The old SPAR shop is a familiar landmark for all residents in Killearn and many will remember back to when it was Murray's store and newsagent. C.J. Laing continues to own the ground floor, but this is now leased to Our Little Outdoor Classroom, which opened its doors on 10 June.

The childcare facility is the brainchild of Susie Henderson, who was brought up in Killearn and lives in the village with her family. Susie was a geography teacher at Shawlands and the High School of Glasgow and is a great proponent of children learning and playing outdoors.

The out-of-school childcare part of the business caters for children from 3 to 12 years of age with a small number of places for the pre-schoolers who attend Killearn nursery. Children can arrive from 7.30am for breakfast, and they can be accompanied to school or nursery. They can then return to the facility after school or nursery for snacks, to do homework, to play or simply to chill out until it's time to go home.

Inside, the space is open plan with areas laid out for different age groups, although some of the older kids can still be seen having a go with the irresistible wooden train set. Outside, what was formerly the car park is now an enclosed area not only with the expected outdoor play equipment, but also with guinea pigs, pet rabbit, hens,

greenhouse and weather equipment (that's the geography teacher in Susie!).

Staff include some former teachers, so homework shouldn't be a problem. There is daily baking and bread-making, and a relaxed atmosphere for children to unwind from their structured day at school.

A summer camp provides parents with an opportunity for childcare throughout the summer holidays and there is a programme of activities which takes advantage not only of the Outdoor Classroom's facilities, but also of the countryside around the village, whatever the weather.

But why is it called a classroom? This has been Susie's passionate ambition: to create a space for running workshops and providing a base for schools, organisations and social work partners to access the countryside for learning. This would see the classroom being used during the day in term-time when the regular users are away in school. This part of Susie's business is a charitable community interest company (CIC) and is something which she is interested in seeing develop further.

Susie says it's taken time to get the Outdoor Classroom up and running due to the legalities of the building's change of use. She invites anyone interested in seeing the transformation to pop in for a look around during the day when the children aren't there.

GS



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Bridge by Zorro

In a previous issue, we saw how an end-play could enable declarer to make their contract. This time we'll see how another technique, a loser-on-loser play, can come to declarer's aid. Can you spot it with this hand that proved to be difficult during the 1972 Waddington Cup for Life Masters pairs?

After a pass by East, South opened 1♠ and the outcome of the hand depended largely on the action taken by West. At tables where West passed, North forced with three hearts. South eventually became declarer in 6♠. On a club lead, East ruffed to defeat the slam. Sometimes you don't even get a chance as declarer!

At one table, East doubled 6♠ to suggest a heart lead and this turned out well when declarer finessed ♥Q on the first round, allowing West to ruff the return and losing 800 in all. But doubling the slam did not always turn out so well. For example, when Alan Monckton of Staffordshire and Gordon Broad of Leicestershire were North-South, East doubled the final contract of 6♠ after West had made a pre-emptive overcall of 4♣ over 1♠.

Dealer: East North/South Vulnerable

		♠ 5 4	
		♥ A Q 6 5 2	
		♦ A K 7 6 2	
		♣ A	
		North	
♠ 6 3			♠ 10 9 7 2
♥ 7			♥ K J 10 9 8
♦ 10 5	West		♦ J 9 8 4
♣ K J 9 8 5 4 3 2			♣ —
		South	
		♠ A K Q J 8	
		♥ 4 3	
		♦ Q 3	
		♣ Q 10 7 6	

The solution is on page 42.

Killarn Fireworks Display

The preparations for the annual fireworks display, set for Saturday, 2 November, are well under way. Despite concerns raised about antisocial behaviour, we are confident that the event will proceed as usual again this year.

The display has drawn big crowds in recent years. At the request of the Police, we will be scaling back our promotional activity this year to try to attract largely local spectators.

Traffic management remains a matter under review, but we believe that this can be handled by increasing signage to suitable parking areas and increasing parking restrictions on the main roads.

We were pleased to be able again to support the local organisations which help us with brochure distribution by contributing to their funds. Our surplus was smaller this year which has had the knock-on effect of reducing the range of charities we were able to support.



This was not in the least surprising considering the deluge which descended just at the time of the display. Our volunteer collectors were returning with bank notes floating in buckets full of water. Each note had to then be individually dried, as did the coinage, of course. Not an experience we are keen to repeat!

Thank you to everyone who braved the elements, and fingers crossed for better conditions this year.

GRAEME FRASER
KCFC FIREWORKS CONVENOR

Fibre Broadband Update

A full-fibre connection enabling very fast speeds is now available to premises with postcodes G63 9LT, 9PD, 9PF, 9QS and 9QT. But you pay a price for this premium service.

There is no information at the time of writing as to why the fifth fibre cabinet, in Drumbeg Loan, is still not live. Such a delay, and lack of public information is a frequent criticism of the concluding Step Change programme.

The new R100 programme is expected to complete by 2021 and fill in connections to premises at a distance from the exchange. It is widely hoped that there will be much more public information about this new programme.

The BT Openreach WhereAndWhen website has been revised and now seems to be focused on providing the status of a connection for a single location. It also seems more geared to the upcoming R100 contract and providing basic information about available options as the programme progresses.

Several residents outside the village are now using the improved mobile 4G signal very satisfactorily. If you have reception, bearing in mind that an outside aerial will improve a poor signal, then this worth consideration. The Better Broadband Subsidy scheme continues for individual premises where this, or a satellite option, may be more appropriate.

A report on the progress of Broadband improvement round the area is provided to KCC at their meetings and then is available from the KBG area of the KCC website (killlearncc.org.uk).

DOUG ASHWORTH
CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP

Killearn Health Centre Update

Staff News

Dr Aodhan Glynn leaves us to progress his GP career in August 2019. We wish Dr Glynn all the best for a long and successful career. In August 2019, Dr Shin Gooi returns for her final year of training. At the same time, Dr Frank Mayaya joins us at the start of his GP training. We welcome them both to our team.

Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioner

We now have an Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioner consulting at the surgery. If you have any problems with aches, sprains or general joint problems, please book an appointment with Jenn. You do not need to see a GP first.

Mental Health Nurse

We also have a Mental Health Nurse consulting. Jane will see you directly for any issues around anxiety, stress, low mood and issues with emotions. Again, no need to see a GP first. Please ask for an appointment with Jane.

Killearn Brownies and Guides are holding an evening for all.

Come and help the girls learn how to knit or crochet poppies.

We would like to create a montage to be used in November. We will supply the yarn, but please bring knitting needles or crochet hooks.


We would love to have your support, even if you can't knit or crochet.

Come and enjoy an evening learning and encouraging the youth of Killearn in this art.

Tea, coffee, juice and home baking will be available for all.

Donations will go to the Earl Haig Fund Scotland.

This will take place on:

 **Wednesday, 25 September**
between 6pm and 9pm in
the Kirk Halls.

Please let us know if you can help teach the girls some of these skills.

If you cannot make the evening but would like to donate some knitted or crochet poppies, please let us know.

Contact Sue at 1stkilllearnguides@gmail.com



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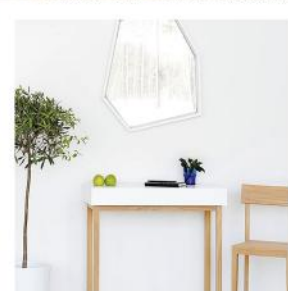
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Sound out for Music at Balforn

It is no secret that concerts at Balforn High School are highlights of the school and community calendar. We appreciate the large audiences who help us celebrate the wide range of musical talents of our young people.

Perhaps less well-known is the work done behind the scenes by pupils and staff to plan, rehearse and deliver these performances. Work begins in June for the following academic year, choosing the music to be performed, considering pieces which will not only be enjoyable, but also challenging and motivating. The music team (three classroom teachers and nine visiting tutors) use every available lunchtime in the week to rehearse with pupils in the continually expanding range of groups, as well as holding two after-school rehearsals. The operation involves over 150 young people taking part in the extracurricular life of the department each week.

For the last three years we have also hosted the local heats of the Rotary Young Musician competition. The winner in each category (vocal and instrumental) is not only promoted to the next stage of the competition, but also awarded the chance to perform as a soloist at the Christmas concert. This has become a much sought-after prize and the number of pupils competing for this continues to rise each year.

In the Spring Concert we work closely with local primary schools as part of the P7 transition. Young



musicians who will be moving into S1 are invited to join in with our orchestra rehearsals each week and to perform in some of the musical items at the concert. This is a great opportunity for the future S1 pupils to meet other members of the high school community before they move up in the autumn.

On the day of the concert, we have the full day for a final rehearsal with each group. Pupils are talked through the seating and 'choreography' required to move 150 young people around at the front of the theatre, as well as working with the technical team at the back of the theatre who control microphone levels and the stage lighting. We are very grateful to our colleagues across the school for their patience on concert days as it allows us to ensure that performances run efficiently and professionally.

Our art and design staff also work behind the scenes with pupils to create our posters and programmes. In addition, they create wonderful arrangements of pupil artwork, which are displayed as the audience gathers. Thanks must also go to members of the local community who help fund the programmes, banners and display posters, all of which helps to bring in our sell-out audiences twice a year.

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A Wonderful Workout for Mind, Body and Soul

I had never even tried yoga until I was well into my 50s, travelling in India – and oh how I wish we had been introduced before! When we returned from India, I looked around for classes and there were only one or two in the area. Now I am delighted to report there are well over a dozen yoga and Pilates classes every week in Killearn, plus related disciplines, accommodating a huge range of abilities, needs and preferences.

With ancient Hindu origins, yoga is, in essence, a sequence of coordinated stretches, bends, twists, moves and postures which, over time and with practice, increase strength and flexibility, irrespective of the student's starting point. As proficiency increases, the moves are done in sync with breathing: some people progress to conscious breath control, mindfulness and meditation. Pilates is a dynamic, synchronised series of related moves and positions that likewise aid flexibility, fitness, toning and conditioning.

These disciplines are not only an excellent physical workout that can be practised at any level from the complete beginner (not terribly fit or flexible) to the elite athlete or expert practitioner, but they are remarkably relaxing at the same time, providing mental relief from the stresses of daily life. With benefits for health and well-being, as well as fitness, they are increasingly used by professional sportsmen and women, as well as a popular leisure activity for a huge cross-section of people.

In Killearn we are lucky enough to have on offer a wide variety of yoga and Pilates classes, as well as Dancercise.

Sarah Fleming (top right) runs classes in Killearn Village Hall using a mixture of both slower and more dynamic paced yoga in each session, with different options to suit all levels. (She further trained in yoga for stress and anxiety and is available to teach privately.) Sarah loves yoga as it keeps her calm: 'Life can sometimes feel slightly overwhelming!'

Helen McGougan teaches a family-friendly class, a postnatal yoga class and a gentle body clock flow class in Studio 63 at Killearn Mill. She, too, found yoga really helpful when she was struggling to juggle full-time work with the pressures of family life.

Elaine Grantham (left) runs an Ashtanga-style class (flowing postures, moving with the breath) in Killearn Kirk Hall and enjoys the stretching, strengthening and conditioning aspects of the exercise.

Shona and Carol, regular group members comment, 'It's amazing having these classes on our doorstep – I really enjoy going along for the friendliness and health benefits' and 'I love yoga as it is the perfect combination of keeping fit and relaxation'.

Diana Treffy's class, also in the Kirk Hall, has been going for more than 10 years and

provides a modified version of Scaravelli yoga. Diana says 'yoga helps keep my body flexible as I age and helps me centre and focus.'

Michelle Eddlestone delivers 'Fierce Grace', a user-friendly but challenging general level class, and Bikram Hot Yoga (in a heated room) also at Studio 63.

Two more 'mindful' forms of yoga class take place at Killearn Village Hall – both are interesting and enjoyable. Craig Buchanan teaches a slow and mindful type of yoga that releases tight muscles and calms the mind. This is particularly good for injuries and tight bodies; it suits all ages and body shapes. Craig used it to help him recover from a serious accident. Adelaide Shalhope leads an intermediate meditation/restorative/yin/therapeutic movement practice that helps connect body, mind and spirit in a stimulating but relaxing manner.

Susan Yuill went to an ashram (yoga school) in Portugal to celebrate a big birthday. 'I wanted to do something



Photos from top: Sarah Fleming, Strathblane Yoga Club, Strathblane Yoga Club in Killearn



different, for me. Being good for the body and mind it was a fantastic experience: I should've done it years ago!

Willie McIntosh delivers Pilates classes for beginners at Killearn Village Hall. Willie used Pilates to help get over a series of recurring injuries: he found it worked and was accessible. Willie says Pilates is effective and enjoyable, regardless of age, gender or fitness. Amanda Reid runs classes at Studio 63 and is an advocate because it focuses on core strength, posture and flexibility. Health benefits include: improving posture and muscle tone, flexibility and balance, reducing stress and giving a general sense of well-being. Well, that's not bad is it?

Delivering many similar benefits is Dancercise: a 'fun workout for the mind, body and soul' developed by Yasmin Marley and run on Friday mornings in Killearn Village Hall. This class for active seniors (pictured right) combines dance moves, steps and stretches into a social and enjoyable physical workout improving balance, coordination and strength. Yasmin was a dancer and teacher, and enthusiastically promotes people keeping fit as we get older.

Why not try yoga, Pilates or Dancercise? Whatever your level of fitness, there's a class for you. Too busy? Leading a stressful existence? You probably need it most of all!

Contact details are provided below. Namaste.



Please note: many of the teachers who have contributed to this article also run classes in other villages in the area and/or deliver specialist sessions for specific purposes such as a rehabilitation, pre-natal exercise, mobility issues, etc.

In the next edition of the *Courier* we plan to feature local gyms and fitness classes. Where and how do you keep fit? Are you a member of a class or a gym? Please email information to Nick Hawkins (nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com).

YOGA, PILATES AND DANCERCISE CLASSES IN KILLEARN

Location	Class	Day/Time	Group	Teacher	Contact
Killearn Kirk Hall	Yoga: Ashtanga	Fri am	Strathblane Yoga Group	Elaine Grantham	elainelovesyoga@live.com 07432650396 and Facebook
	Yoga: Scaravelli	Mon pm		Diane Treffy	diana_treffy@yahoo.co.uk 01360 660645
Killearn Village Hall	Pilates	Mon & Thur am	Just Do Pilates	Willie McIntosh	williemac.justdopilates@gmail.com 07733 406464
	Yoga: hatha/vinyasa flow	Tue eve Wed am	Endrick Yoga	Sarah Fleming	sarahfleming99@yahoo.com 07732 891653
	Yoga: mindful type	Tue am Thur eve	Inside Yoga	Craig Buchanan	craig@insideyoga.net 07502 354125
	Yoga: meditation and mindful movement	Mon eve	Stillness Moves	Adelaide Shalhope	ashalhope@hotmail.com 07809 469572
	Dancercise: dance fitness	Fri am	Dancercise with Yasmin	Yasmin Marley	yasmin@throthegrapevine.co.uk 07979 856837
Studio 63	Yoga: family-friendly, post-natal, body clock	Tue am Wed pm	MLH Yoga	Helen McGougan	helenlovesyoga@live.com 07766 562811
	Hot Yoga	Tue & Thur eve Sun am		Michelle Eddleston	communityfitnessdrymen@outlook.com 07961722757
	Pilates	Sat am		Amanda Reid	amandareid@mac.com 07811 633968

Sustainable Killearn Fayres Well

We'd like to thank everyone who came along to the family-friendly, Sustainable Killearn Fayre on 27 April. The rain held off, and we had a great turnout with visitors from far and wide keen to find out all about sustainable living.

The event was run by Sustainable Killearn (part of KCFC), in partnership with Killearn Primary School, The Hub G63 and Home Energy Scotland; local businesses and ventures were encouraged to come along and showcase their green credentials.

What Is Sustainable Living?

Children and teachers from Killearn Primary School proudly showed off their eco projects and gathered views on the event and what sustainable living means to people. Their research showed that sustainable living can mean a variety of things, from reducing carbon emissions through home and transport efficiency to recycling and reusing, and local sourcing. What was clear, though, was that everyone really enjoyed the event and found it fun and informative.

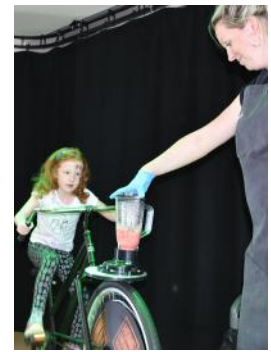
Visitors had the chance to test drive the latest high-tech electric cars courtesy of Tesla, to meet and chat to electric car owners in the village about their experiences, and to discuss and feed back on the locations of the electric charging points that are being proposed by Stirling Council in the car park of Killearn Health Centre.

The Hub G63, a local sustainable community initiative, held an upcycling workshop turning old t-shirts into cloth bags. They also explained Neighbourhood Food, a new platform to support local producers and cut down on food miles. Local producers sign up, customers place an order and then collect their shop from a weekly distribution point at Balfroun High School.

Home Energy Scotland provided visitors with energy-saving advice, from practical tips on how to keep warm at home for less, to information about funding available for new boilers, insulation and heating systems. All the latest information on advances in technology and the support available helped people thinking of switching to renewables see it as a viable option. Give-aways such as low-flow shower heads and tap flow reducers were well received, as was the smoothie-making bike – kids young and old had a go at finding out how much of their own energy was required to power a blender.

You might have spotted some of the electric bikes whizzing around the village as people tried them out. We had some great feedback about these, and as a result Sustainable Killearn is now looking into the feasibility of having an electric bike station and community bikes in Killearn. We think this would work well with the proposed all-users path between Killearn and Balfroun that the KCFC Paths Group are working on, particularly if there is a second station located in Balfroun.

The diverse range of stalls included Barry Moore and his bees, Chirp from Balfroun with their bird-themed gifts



and Colourful Killearn, who were selling wild-flower bombs, all of whom were encouraging pollination. The team from the Balfroun 10k also came along to talk about their endeavours to be the most environmentally friendly 10k around.

Local business Ability Energy, suppliers and installers of renewable products, brought an air source heat pump to show to visitors. They are now kindly investigating the supply and installation of an electric car charging point in the Village Hall car park.

Thanks again to everyone else who made this event possible, including the Co-op, Glengoyne Distillery, Sirin's Fair Trade Toys, Hilltops Hen Hotel, Killearn Paths Group, Killearn Heritage Trail and Killearn Tennis Club, who provided the refreshments.

Killearn already has some of the best recycling rates in Stirlingshire. We are keen to keep up the good work, and look at how we can develop our sustainable credentials even further.

At the event, we asked if you would like Killearn to become a Fair Trade Village and the feedback was a resounding 'yes', so we'll be progressing this avenue in due course. We aim to provide an update on planned objectives and future activities in the next edition of the *Courier*, so watch this space.

In the meantime, if you have any ideas or feedback, would like to find out more about the activities mentioned, or would like to help with Sustainable Killearn, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Adam Hollis (adamjhollis@gmail.com; 07421 763150).

CAROLINE CARRICK

Bananas and Weeds

There are a few things in life that I don't enjoy as much as I'd like to, one of which is bananas. My first banana, after years of rationing, was a crushing disappointment, especially as it had been hyped up something chronic. 'Wait till the bananas come back,' we were told, and we believed the tales of a luscious foreign delicacy, food fit for the gods. I will not list the deficiencies I found in my first banana, not wanting to put anyone off what is a perfectly nutritious fruit, but I couldn't like it. I wish I could.

They are obviously very good for you, full of the right ingredients, pre-packed and sterile, with not a trace of plastic. They are also easy to carry around or put in a lunch box. I really wish I liked the taste. But I don't.

Another thing I'm not that enthusiastic about is gardening, and again I wish I liked it. Gardening is obviously good for you, a healthful exercise with the by-product of a something smart to look at while you sit in your lounge. But I find it tedious and back-breaking. My other half doesn't much like gardening either, but he does try to keep things from devolving into a wilderness.

My own answer to the problem is shrubs, the kind of plant that takes over the ground and removes the need to weed. I am also very tolerant to moss. Naturally, I prefer a perfect lawn, but I am not prepared to put in the work to maintain one, and after all, moss is green.

As for flower beds and the work they engender, the answer is tubs. All you have to do to get a fine display is go to Oakwood, buy some bags of compost and trays of assorted bedding plants, fill the tubs and pots you have collected over the decades, and await the results. The whole thing will take you an afternoon. After that, you just have to pick out the odd weed and make sure everything stays damp, which has seldom been a problem in the west of Scotland.

Having said that, I have often seen people watering the tubs that adorn our village pavements. Tidying and deadheading are also exercises that take place on a regular basis. These tubs are an inspiration to us all, from keen gardener to idle dilettante like myself. They are a joy to behold, right through the seasons, and the team that looks after them are to be congratulated and thanked. They make such a contribution to Killearn's reputation as a pretty village.

While our own garden is never going to win the Flower Show prize for Best Garden Viewed from the Road, or indeed from anywhere else, there are lots of gardens in the village that do qualify. Like the tubs, they make a walk round the neighbourhood a delight. And perhaps behind the houses there are also gardens full of produce that will swell the exhibits at the Flower Show at the end of August.

As usual, the great imponderable with gardening is the weather. At the time of writing, the weather has only got moderately warm, but we are promised much hotter summers in the future, are we not. Perhaps the upside of global warming might be the kind of conditions in Killearn that will allow for the propagation of bananas. If that happens, I'll give them another go.

JOYCE BEGG

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ONE-ACT PLAY EVENINGS

Thursday, 26–Saturday, 28 September

Menzies Hall, Fintry

7.30pm (doors open 7pm)



Three one-act comedies:

***The Biscuit* by Donald McLeary**

Pompous, intellectual Prime Minister Ellis Gregory and his wife, Sam, find themselves trapped in a safe room in Westminster during a security alert, along with the cleaner, Colin. Things come to a head when a biscuit – the only source of food – becomes a focal point in a battle to gain the upper hand.

***Housebound* by Simon Mawdsley**

An agoraphobic housewife is taken hostage by a reluctant villain. As the desperate moments tick by, an uneasy rapport develops between the unlikely companions, which is tense, touching and very funny.

***The Worst Day of My Life* by Alan Richardson**

Charlie Brown is readying himself for afternoon visiting time at the hospital. But why is he concerned about which dressing gown he is wearing? And why is he replacing his ‘get well’ card with a substitute? As the play progresses, Charlie’s visitors appear: plain and practical Joanne, expensively over-dressed Evelyn, and sexy Melissa – all of whom claim to be ‘Mrs Charlie Brown’. Charlie’s day is about to go dramatically downhill...

Tickets will be on sale later in the summer via the website and Killearn Pharmacy, Balforn Library and Fintry Sports Club.

How the time seems to fly by – winter, which was kind to us this year, has come and gone to be replaced so far with a rather disappointing summer. However the residents of Abbeyfield continue to enjoy many activities organised by The Friends of Abbeyfield.

In January, The Friends of Abbeyfield held a retirement lunch at Ross Priory to thank Michael Pell for his immense contribution to the Abbeyfield over the last 22 years. Members of the committee and Michael’s wife, Brenda, attended. Phillip thanked Michael for his years of service and presented him with a book token.

In March, some of the residents attended the Balforn High School Spring Concert – a most enjoyable evening.

In May, the residents were invited to see the daffodils at Moss Cottage and to enjoy a lovely afternoon tea. This visit is always greatly appreciated.

May was a busy month. Not only were the residents joined by some of the Friends for high tea, but four of the residents enjoyed an afternoon cruise on Loch Katrine, including lunch at the café. Sadly the weather wasn’t as kind to us as last year, but the outing was enjoyed by all.

Barbara, the Abbeyfield housekeeper, helped by Angie, organised the annual Strawberry Tea in June, and the Friends of Abbeyfield assisted with home baking.

The most recent outing arranged for the residents was a trip to The Lodge at Aberfoyle for lunch and to view the osprey chicks.

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Enrolment for Killearn classes:

Thursday, 22nd August, 3 – 5pm, Killearn Village Hall

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* SCHOOL OF DANCE *

Embroiderer's Guild News

Strathendrick Branch has completed another successful year, with our last hurrah of 2019 on 22 June, when we participated in a National Day of Stitch at Strathblane Library. Members either joined our Fabric Fun group for young textile fanatics, led by Heather Wright, in making bunting or answered questions about stitching our own pieces of work.

Our new session starts on Tuesday, 17 September at 10.30am – 3.30pm in the Kirk Hall. We are always delighted to welcome new members and visitors. Throughout the session we will have different speakers – from eco-printing from Scottish leaves to a talk about lacemaking.

October sees our Workshop Day, with project corners, our AGM and informal talks from members about their experiences of 'being a stitcher'. In November we will have our annual Christmas Sales Table, which gives the opportunity to see each other's work and indulge in some retail therapy. You can't start Christmas shopping too early, after all.

Our Christmas lunch is always gorgeous, and the highlight will be the entertainment provided by the Strathendrick Singers, who never fail to set alight our Christmas spirit and enthusiasm.



Never think you aren't 'good enough with a needle' to join the Embroiderers' Guild. We all started our stitching adventures as beginners, so if you're interested in embroidery and related needle and textile arts, you would be made most welcome. We will be 'on show' at the Horti on 31 August, and hope to see you there.

SUSAN GRAY

NEW RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO COME AND TRY UNIQUE ASSISTED LIVING IN KILLEARN



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Website: www.abbeyfield-scotland.com

Abbeyfield Scotland is a "not-for-profit" organisation, a registered social landlord and a Scottish Charity. We welcome enquiries about accommodation and employment from all sections of the community. Scottish Charity No: SC012549.



If you are over 55 and want to remain independent, but can no longer stay at home, come and see what Abbeyfield House in Killearn has to offer.

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People living in Abbeyfield tell us:

'I was reluctant to leave my own home at first and I certainly didn't want to go into an "Old People's Home" – Abbeyfield is nothing like that, you have your own space. We all enjoy coffee, activities and home-cooked meals together.'

'Abbeyfield is a really special place and it has been the perfect move for me. Loneliness is such a debilitating thing, but Abbeyfield offers a warm, friendly and secure environment that gives me peace of mind. I'm sure there must be others out there thinking about a move and looking for a bit of help. I'd urge them to find out more about what Abbeyfield has to offer.'

If you want to find out more about life at Abbeyfield, please contact the Area Supervisor on 0300 303 3195.

Killearn – A Great Place to Live

On 14 April 2019, *The Sunday Times* published a feature reporting its assessment of the best places to live in the UK. The UK winner was Salisbury – despite novichok – and when the regions were considered separately, the overall winner for Scotland was Dundee. However, nine other places in Scotland were also mentioned, highly commended in effect, and one of these was Killearn!

The Sunday Times described Killearn as a ‘hilly honeypot’, spotlighting the nearby lochs, mountains and ‘sparkling rivers’. A scramble up the Whangie was recommended.

Admiration was expressed for ‘the pretty cottages that tumble down from the church’, and the shops, eating-places, schools and Village Hall were similarly praised. Balfour High School’s A-rating was mentioned. Indeed,

the only drawbacks as far as

The Sunday Times was concerned were patchy broadband and ‘parking chaos’ near Finnich Glen.

So how does this rosy picture square with our own views? A good point to start is the Resident Survey that Killearn Community Futures Company issued to all village households during October 2014. A total of 430 completed surveys were returned, with most age groups from ‘Under 12’ to ‘Over 85’ adequately represented. The only exception was the 18–30 age group, whose low numbers were thought possibly to reflect village demographics. While the survey was conducted nearly five years ago, a small sample contacted for this article (and quoted below) suggests it is by no means out-dated.

When asked to nominate their three favourite things about Killearn, nearly 60 per cent of Resident Survey respondents mentioned the environment. However, unlike *The Sunday Times*, it wasn’t merely the rural beauty that was praised. It was the combination of stunning countryside and the cultural and employment opportunities of a large city that were valued. Moreover, the environment was only second in terms of frequency of mention. Top of the list was the people: over 75 per cent of respondents spotlighted our warm, friendly and caring attitude, and the energy and commitment we devote to community events. Echoing this, the more recent, small sample applauds how incomers are made to ‘feel very much a part of Killearn’ and how ‘people in the street say hello rather than avoiding eye contact and walking past.’

As with *The Sunday Times*, village amenities were praised in the Resident Survey, yet the praise cannot be regarded as unqualified. For instance, roughly the same number nominated ‘shops’ among the things they would



like to change as those who included ‘shops’ among their favourite things. With the closures of the bank, the butcher, the post office, and the SPAR since the survey was conducted (not to mention our only hotel), it seems likely that, should an equivalent exercise be carried out in 2019, the percentage indicating dissatisfaction would have increased. Certainly, it was a recurring concern among the more recent sample, with one respondent also regretting the ‘decline in organisations such as Boys’ Brigade, Scouts, Girl Guides, Rotary, Round Table, etc., as well as village groups such as the Golden Years, Monday Club, the Guild, Inner Wheel’. At the same time, the pharmacy and the Co-op were highly valued.

Similarly, around 25 per cent of respondents to the Resident Survey praised social amenities, and with the Village Hall now in full swing, the current picture is probably even better, but lack of activities for youth was a recognised problem. Underlining this, one member of the recent sample wrote that ‘Killearn is pretty much a desert when it comes to things to do for early teens. The S1–S4 crowd really get short shrift, and almost all activities for them are outside the village. Even then, if they aren’t involved in a sport, the pickings are even thinner.’ Another made similar comments about young adults. If (as suggested above) the numbers of this age group living in Killearn are relatively low, which is chicken and which is egg? Is it relatively few young people in the first place or relatively few activities for that age group?

Anticipating *The Sunday Times*, broadband and parking issues emerged as concerns in the Resident Survey. Indeed, broadband and mobile quality was identified as the single most significant challenge to making Killearn a good place to work. However, within the more general list of things respondents would like to change, broadband and parking issues were dwarfed by concerns about roads, pavements, traffic and public transport.

Have matters now improved? The incomprehensible approach in Drumbeg Loan – resurfacing the top third while potholes deepen in the remaining two-thirds – warrants scepticism about roads. The Paths Group works hard to maintain existing footpaths, but the number of paths has scarcely changed. Buses seem to be as infrequent as ever, generally incompatible with rail links and very expensive. Poor public transport undoubtedly exacerbates the difficulties that young people face – little to do in the village, but disincentives to travel elsewhere.

So Killearn is not without its challenges. Nevertheless, the Resident Survey stimulated substantially more positive comments when asked about ‘favourite things’ than negative comments when highlighting things that need to be changed. This is despite requesting three instances of each.

All in all then, the inclusion of Killearn in *The Sunday Times*’ feature seems entirely warranted. The feature may not have fully recognised what makes for a successful community and used this as an assessment criterion, but it was definitely correct to spotlight Killearn as a great place to live.



UNCOVERING KILLEARN'S PAST AND PRESENT



“If you go down to the woods today, you’re in for a big surprise.” Well, maybe not today, but very shortly. Read on to find out how you can be part of a unique village venture...

During the week of 26 August an archaeological excavation of a long-lost building will be taking place in Killearn Glen. This week-long community dig – led and supervised by professional archaeologists – will try to discover how old this structure is (it could well be mediaeval), its use, purpose and construction. And who knows what else we might find?

Killearn Glen is a jewel in our midst: its boundaries are largely unchanged for at least the past 250 years: Roy’s map of the 1750s shows an area of woodland pretty much the same shape in the same place as the Glen today. Not only that, but importantly, although it has been used as managed woodland, it has never been built on or ploughed to any extent, so it’s unspoiled and relatively undisturbed.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the trees were cropped for commercial and domestic purposes: wood was used for fuel; timber for building, fencing, furniture making, tools and utensils. Drainage was managed to supply water to Killearn Mill, and the area near the



Ladies Linn was part of a designed landscape – the extensive back garden of The Place, a manor house on Crow Hill (aka the Cow Field).

Three years ago a previous community project surveyed the archaeology and dendrochronology (trees) of the Glen and discovered the foundations of a building that most likely pre-dates The Place (1688).

It was unknown even to people who are very familiar with Killearn Glen because it lies off the regular paths and is hidden in the undergrowth.

Approximately 10 metres by 3 metres, what might it have been? Who might have lived there? Why was it situated next to a steep gully in the middle of the woods? These are some of the questions we plan to explore.



LAIRD’S HOUSE EXCAVATION KILLEARN GLEN

Monday, 26 August – Sunday, 1 September
10am – 5pm (possibly evening sessions also)

The dig will be staffed by community volunteers: training and tools will be provided. No previous experience is necessary.

The team will consist of about 10 volunteers each day, plus the professional archaeologists so places are limited.

Would you like to be involved? Could you commit at least two full days (and preferably more) to this exciting project?

If so, please email heritage@kcfc.co.uk for full details.



KILLEARN THEN AND NOW

Not only are we fortunate that Killearn Glen is unspoiled, but many of the village's old buildings still exist – albeit with changed use. Apart from two large houses (The Place and Killearn House) and two pubs (the Wheatsheaf and the White Horse), relatively few structures have actually been demolished – most have been adapted and refurbished, to enjoy a new lease of life while preserving Killearn's character.

The Village Hall was once a Kirk; the Pharmacy was once the Free Kirk; the Old School, the Toll House, shops in Main Street, the Post Office in Balfron Road and the garage on The Square have all now been converted into residential properties. (And The Killearn Hotel and the bank may soon follow suit.)

New building – whether inter-war around Graham Road, in the 1960s and '70s around the Branziert, Beech Drive and Lampson, or the most recent development of Buchanan View – has all been on greenfield sites.

On page 23 we have shown some intriguing perspectives of features in our beautiful village. Do you recognise what and where these are? Can you identify where these shots were taken from? Why not take your own and enter our photo competition (details right).



LEARN TO BUILD A WEBSITE

Once the excavation of the Laird's House is complete, it will form part of the Killearn Heritage Trail, leading people through the village and bringing its history to life. Interpretation boards and a beautifully designed website will provide guidance and information, show maps and footpaths, display pictures of Killearn past and present and be a source of reference.

Would you like to help build this website? Whether you know little of IT but would like to find out more, or whether you are already into coding and use Wordpress, there is a learning opportunity for you to contribute and gain experience under the guidance of our professional web designer.

Also if you would like to help prepare information on village history that will appear on the website, there is plenty to be done and this will not require any technical website knowledge.

Please contact heritage@kfc.co.uk for details of how to get involved.



PHOTO COMPETITION

Have you taken any great pictures of our village? Whether of a building, a view, an event or everyday life in Killearn, we would love to see them. Please send your best six photos to courier@kfc.co.uk.

The best images will be featured in a future edition of the *Courier*, on the Killearn Heritage Trail website and in a Killearn Heritage Trail exhibition.

The Killearn Heritage Trail project is supported by the



National Lottery Heritage Fund and the *Killearn Courier* (KCFC Ltd.).

Robin Hood of Buchlyvie

In the 1960s, shopping in Killearn was very difficult. This was mainly because there were no shops. There was no butcher, no baker, (no candlestick-maker), no chemist and no greengrocer. However, we did have a number of vans which stopped weekly at various useful points in the village. There was a butcher – John Brown of Buchlyvie – a greengrocer from Balfron and a Co-op van bearing the inscription ‘Co-op Fleshing’. An English friend of mine told me once that she usually bought her meat from ‘that nice Mr. Fleshing in the green van’.

We also had occasional visits from door-to-door salesmen with suitcases. I was a bit of a pushover in this respect and often bought things I didn’t need. The Betterware man was a regular visitor and my cupboards were full of unused scrubbing brushes and tins of shoe polish, sharing the space with my growing Tupperware collection.

However, one day there came a visit from a stranger whose sales technique I had never before encountered. When I opened the inner door, I found that a large suitcase occupied most of the space in the outer porch. The salesman stepped forward and grabbed my hand. He held it in an iron grip, my palm extended and then proceeded to scrutinise the hand, tutting and shaking his head as he did so.

‘You have recently suffered a bereavement.’ he announced. ‘You have lost a dearly loved member of your family and naturally you are still feeling shocked and sad.’

The truth was, we had and I was. I had no idea how he could have known this. However, when he then offered to tell my fortune, I refused. At this point he turned his attention to the open suitcase. ‘Usually,’ he pronounced

bitterly, ‘people are only too happy to pay a great deal of money to consult me on such matters.’ Sensing, correctly, that I was unwilling to consult him on any matter whatsoever, he said, ‘I think that the least you can do is to buy something from my suitcase.’

I realised that it was going to be impossible to close the door on him. Somehow, he had managed to push the suitcase further into the porch, jamming the inside door open. He selected from the case a plastic bag which appeared to contain a reasonably inoffensive navy blue jumper.

I was desperate to get rid of him and his suitcase. ‘How much is it?’ I asked. He named a price which was several pounds more than my weekly housekeeping allowance. He thrust the plastic bag into my hands, thrust my money into his pocket and departed at high speed towards Branziert Road North.

Desperate to console myself with my new purchase, I pulled the jumper out of the bag and held it up. To my horror I discovered that, whilst the front looked fairly normal, the back of the sweater was a mass of holes and loops of unknitted wool. I began to weep hot tears of shame at my stupidity.

It was at this moment that the butcher from the ‘John Brown of Buchlyvie’ van arrived. When he saw my tear-stained face and, more importantly, my jumper, he grabbed the offending purchase and rushed to his van. The vehicle set off at high speed up the road. He was back in no time without the jumper, but with my money! ‘He won’t call again,’ said the noble van driver. And he never did!

Feared by the bad, loved by the good! Robin Hood,
Robin Hood, Robin Hood... CHRISTINE BOWIE

Come & Sing Day

STRATHENDRICK
Singers



On Saturday, 21 September, Balfron High School Choir and the Strathendrick Singers are hosting a free ‘Come & Sing’ Day in the High School. This will include rehearsals and workshops, followed by a public concert at 5pm. Registration will be at 9.45am. There will be no charge to participate.

Everyone from every age and ability range is welcome; no previous singing experience is necessary.

For those who have not experienced a ‘Come and Sing’ event before, the idea is to rehearse

a much-loved repertoire from scratch to a standard ready for public performance at the end of the day.

The main purpose is to enjoy the experience of singing with others, learn more about singing and discover new music!

The impact of singing on our health and well-being is well-recognised. It improves confidence, resilience, self-esteem and much more.

Come and experience a fun and stress-free day singing some of our greatest choral favourites in the company of both choirs.

Book a place now at hello@strathendricksingers.org.uk.

FADS Panto Audition 28 August

Planning is underway for this year’s Christmas panto, which will be *Mother Goose* by Gavin Paterson, directed by David Smith. Auditions will take place on Wednesday, 28 August, at 7.30pm in the Menzies Hall, Fintry.

More information will be available shortly. Meanwhile, if you would like to take part in any capacity – on or off stage – please visit www.fintrydrama.org.uk for more information on how to apply.

PCs Steven Graham and Gary Martin are the ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area, which incorporates Killearn and surrounding neighbourhoods. Based at Balfroon Police Office, they can be contacted at the office, by phoning 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. The local Twitter feed can be found [@StirlingPol](#), and the local Facebook page is 'Forth Valley Police Division'.

Antisocial Behaviour

There have been reports of youths causing annoyance within the grounds of Killearn Primary School and the surrounding areas, and also of youths on the roof of The Killearn Hotel. Police attended and both situations will be monitored.

Theft

At the time of writing, there has been an increase in housebreakings in Killearn and nearby villages. Please remember to follow basic home security rules and help to make it harder for the thieves. You can contact us if you need advice in this regard. We have received reports of suspicious persons/vehicles around the village. Such calls are always taken seriously, so if you see anything of this nature, call us. Static road checks have been carried out in the village in an attempt to deter travelling criminals, and also to deal with any road traffic offences.

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Road Safety

Static speed checks have been carried out by local officers and enforcement action has been taken where applicable. Complaints have been received about vehicles parked on double yellow lines on Main Street, generally outside the Co-op. When we spoke to the drivers concerned, we found that they were invariably local residents. Problems in relation to the parking issues at Finnoch Toll area are continuing, but although diminishing somewhat, a long-term solution is still required.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

As well as regular high visibility patrols and road checks in the area, PCs Graham and Martin attend local events (such as the Killearn 10k) and, along with our colleagues regularly carry out routine patrols in the area.

Campaigns

The following two major campaigns have been raising awareness of crimes which unfortunately are prominent in all communities:

Phishing

The aim of this campaign is to inform the public about phishing attacks. Criminals and organised crime groups launch phishing attacks by targeting personal or business accounts either by email, social media or text. They encourage users to click on malicious links or attachments which compromise their email or social media accounts, or they ask users to divulge banking information or access sensitive information. For more information on how to stay safe and secure online, visit the following websites:
www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/keep-secure-online
www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions
www.cpni.gov.uk/dont-take-bait
<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk>

Shut Out Scammers

Doorstep crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms, including online and telephone scams, exploitation by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be real tradespeople.

If you would like to receive any advice and guidance on this, you can visit your local police station, call 101 or visit the Police Scotland website at scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/Shut-Out-Scammers.





STRATHENDRICK CLASSIC CAR CLUB



In a long-forgotten tradition, Chairman Laurence Grainger had taken it upon himself to organise the club's main summer trip this year, and in December last year (!), we were invited to apply for accommodation at the lovely Muckrach Country House Hotel near Granttown-on-Spey, in the heart of whisky country. This being a top-quality establishment, there was some anxiety as to whether the careful and prudent members of the club would sign up for the trip, but we need not have worried and the event was fully booked within a week!

Just over five months later, we had 11 cars present at the start and the chairman and secretary offered us a choice of the 'Gentleman's Route' or the 'Explorer's Route' for the morning, with a rendezvous planned for lunch at the House of Bruar. Roofs were lowered in appreciation of the delightful weather, and forth we all sallied.

The younger brigade set off with much revving of engines and clouds of blue-tinged smoke towards the Explorer's Route. This entailed a pleasant run to Callander, along the A84 past Loch Lubnaig to Lochearnhead, and on through Glen Ogle towards Killin, involving a right turn on to the A827, as your writer discovered half a mile further on. Morning coffee was taken by all in Killin under a glorious sunny sky, and we set off along the side of Loch Tay for what we had been advised was an 'interesting' run over to Glen Lyon. Interesting it most certainly was,



with first and second gear in frequent use, and an acute awareness of the lack of anti-lock brakes on older cars when rounding blind bends on the single track road! The subsequent stretch through Glen Lyon to Fortingall was more relaxing, allowing a brief glimpse of the oldest yew tree in the world on the way.

We all arrived in one piece at Bruar to find our 'Gentleman's Route' friends already enjoying their lunch and looking a tad less stressed than the Explorer team. We then continued together, arriving at our hotel to enjoy drinks on the lawn, followed by a delightful dinner.

Wednesday continued bright and sunny, and we set off to the new Macallan Distillery at Craigellachie, where a fascinating time was spent being shown round this architectural masterpiece in the heart of Speyside. An excellent lunch followed in The Station Hotel in Rothes, after which several of us visited Ballindalloch Castle Gardens, a stunning estate with lovely walks in the beautifully manicured grounds.

After a second well-lubricated dinner at the hotel, we departed in leisurely fashion on Thursday morning to wend our way home. It had been a brilliantly conceived trip, not over-organised, with splendid accommodation and challenging driving routes. A big thank you to the organisers for the inevitable preparation work involved to ensure its success. A hard act to follow next year!

RJH

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All Killearn Archive Update

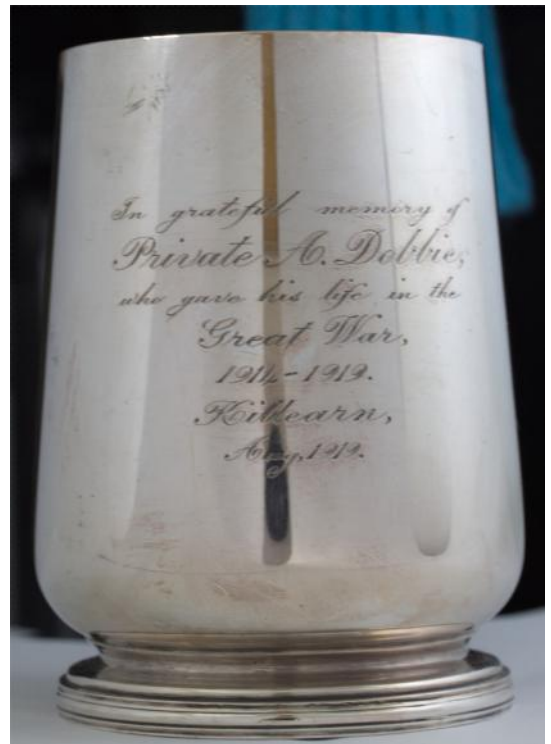
Those of you who have looked at the left-hand archive cabinet on the way into the Village Hall, will have noticed our new acquisition.

A few months ago, we were contacted by Ian Wright of Blanefield, who was clearing out his house prior to moving. He wanted to know if All Killearn Archive group would like a silver-plated tankard presented in 1919 in memory of Private A. Dobbie, which he had acquired when clearing his aunt's house some years ago.

This is one of the inscribed tankards presented by the village in August 1919 to the next of kin of the fallen from the parish as well as to surviving Killearn servicemen.

Alexander Dobbie was born in 1886 to David and Janet Dobbie. They lived on the Stockiemuir Road, where David was employed maintaining the roads. Alexander went on to become a gardener, and at the time of his enlistment, he was employed at Pollok House. He served first with the Cameron Highlanders and then with the Gordon Highlanders. He was wounded, but returned to service. He then died in an accident on 13 October 1918. He is buried in France, and is named on both the Killearn memorial and one in Pollok Park.

The Dobbie family passed the tankard to Mr Wright's uncle by marriage, Thomas Miller, who was a neighbour on Stockiemuir and had boarded with the family for periods. AKA



Village Hall Update



Following large-scale paint work, there's a new brightness and a whiteness to the walls of the main hall and the tower.

After months in the planning and weeks in the doing, we'd like to thank local tradesmen Merc Scaffolding, John Currie (pointing) and Jack Brand (preparation and painting) for juggling their time during somewhat testing weather patterns.

We'd also like to thank most sincerely the following

trusts for their generous support, without which we would not have been able to afford to carry out the work: Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust, the Endrick Trust, the Stafford Trust and Stirling Council's Community Pride Fund.

If you venture into the hall, keep an eye out for our (your) new chairs. It was time for the old brown plastic chairs to say goodbye and head off to the Drymen Show – and be replaced by 160 new chairs. Come in and try them out!

And that just leaves me time and space to say thanks again to the Killearn Village Hall Committee. Your continued support is much much appreciated.

FIONA RENNIE, CONVENOR
KILLEARN VILLAGE HALL

What a handy place!

Did you know that Stirling has a local office in Buchanan Street, Balfroun, to give residents easy access Council services? Why trudge into the Stirling bus station to register for your bus pass (National Entitlement Card) or to apply for or collect a Blue Badge? You can do it in Balfroun!

You can collect food waste bags there, too – and they can even help record when refuse bin collections have been missed.

Births and deaths can be registered, and marriages in Killearn and Balfroun parishes must to be registered there

The office is open 9am–1pm and 2pm–5pm, Monday to Friday. The phone number is 01360 440315.

Please do use our handy local office. NH

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From the Archive – Suffragettes in Strathendrick (or not?)

Last year saw the centenary of the 1918 Franchise Act, which gave votes to all men over 21 and to women over the age of 30 with certain property qualifications. Prior to World War I, the suffragettes, who formed the radical branch of the ‘Votes for women campaign’ movement, committed many acts of violence and public disorder in pursuit of their aims. In 1913/14, their campaign appears to have reached Strathendrick on two occasions.

Ballikinrain Castle



In the early hours of Monday, 30 June 1913, a great fire engulfed Ballikinrain Castle. It was destroyed, apart from the walls, although the kitchen and stables were saved. The alarm was raised by a woman, and the Balfon villagers rushed to the building to find that the hosepipes had been cut and a dining room window was open. The Glasgow Fire Brigade also arrived, but could do nothing to save the building.

The fire brigade found a parcel of soap wrapped up in a newspaper on the sill of the ground-floor room in which they reckoned the fire had started. The parcel may have been used to smash the glass quietly. There were also

footprints at the house and on the floor beside the library.

It is believed that the fire was started by incendiaries, particularly as the fire-extinguishing apparatus had also been destroyed. Although no suffragist literature was found in the grounds, the suffragettes are known to have set fire to empty properties.

There was also the suspicious sighting on the Sunday evening of two heavily veiled, athletic-looking ladies with bicycles, who appeared to be strangers. They were seen near the eastern entrance to the policies at about 9.30pm, but there were no further sightings.

Loch Katrine Pipeline

At 7am on Saturday, 23 May 1914, the watchman making his patrol along the pipeline near Ballat, noted two mounds of earth on the four-foot pipe where the metal was exposed. The watchman and the works inspector removed the earth to find two bombs attached to an 80-foot fuse, which was half burned away. Nearby were found two hand trowels, a lady’s handbag, a copy of the previous Friday’s issue of the journal of the Women’s Social and Political Union, and a label bearing the words ‘A protest against the Magistrate’s decision not to inquire into the arrest of Mrs Pankhurst’.

The site was on the bridge over the Forth and Clyde railway line and about 40 yards from the bridge over the Aberfoyle to Glasgow road. Although the water can be turned off at various points, an explosion would have caused serious flooding in the vicinity.

The police had no idea as to the identity of the perpetrators, and there were no reports of suspicious activities. It is suspected that a motor car was used in the action to enable a speedy arrival and departure.

This article was compiled from reports in the *Stirling Journal and Advertiser* available at Stirling Council Archives.

AKA

Wall boxes

Colourful Killearn’s work is funded entirely by donations from villagers and local organisations. Consequently, we try to create the biggest impact we can when spending your money. With our latest project at the top of the village, we hope to bring a wash of colour to Balfon Road.

We are trying out a couple of flower boxes on the boundary wall of the Village Hall with the aim of adding more next year if they are successful, and prove vandal- and accident-resistant.

Credit goes to Ros Gibson for the suggestion and the enthusiasm to put it into practice, for persuading Peter

Hartigan of Striking Iron at Westerton Workshops (metalgatesglasgow.com) to make up some wall-friendly brackets, and for adding the troughs and planting up to match the schemes we have in other containers around the village.

We’ve learned a couple of lessons already about stability and robustness, so hopefully the boxes will endure and soon be extended to complement the looks of the newly-painted hall.

Take a look and see what you think! Contact Mike Gray (mike@kcfco.uk; 550962).



Community Sports Pavilion Open Day

On a lovely day on Saturday, 22 June 2019, Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) and Killearn Football Club (KFC) held an open day in the park.

The delay in officially opening the pavilion was due to Stirling Council's failure to issue a completion certificate. When we applied for this, they said they did not realise the project had started despite the fact that a Notification of Start Form had been submitted which would have allowed them to check progress during construction. As a result we had to re-apply retrospectively for a second building warrant, the cost of which Councillor Graham Lambie managed to have refunded to us.

With that finally sorted out, invitations were sent out to all funders and others who had given their services free of charge, several of whom came along.

It was a great day with the unveiling of a plaque by Donald Beaton's grandchildren in the presence of his two sons, James and Ross. The plaque was in memory of Donald who died in 2017 after giving 55 years' service to the football club as player-manager and chairman.

Donald and his football committee had been trying for many years to build a pavilion, but bringing the project under the wing of KCFC with its charitable status made fundraising easier. The football club had saved £15,000 for the project over years of fundraising.

A six-a-side street football competition followed, with teams consisting of all ages including several promising youngsters, who could well be part of KFC in the future.

The pavilion is a community facility and KFC, who have priority, will manage the day-to-day running. It is available for hire by the community on a minimum half-day period (£25). Please contact James Beaton (07733 405386). All income from hiring will go towards the upkeep of the building.



The Pavilion is a Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) project. Both KCFC and Killearn Football Club are most grateful for the following grants and donations, and to everyone who helped with the project.

Arnold Clark Organisation	£15,000
Caram Trust	£4,000
Clacks & Stirling Environment Trust	£6,000
Endrick Trust	£3,000
Killearn Football Club	£15,000
Killearn Trust	£8,000
KCFC Hoolie	£1,000
Paul Trust	£15,000
Rotary Club of Strathendrick	£250
Stirling Council	£3,350
Tube Developments Ltd	£2,000
Individual Contributions	£8,000

We also received the following services in kind:

- McCull Landscaping & Design/KCFC Paths Group – re-alignment of the path
- KCFC Colourful Killearn Group – wildflower beds
- Gavin Bruce – planning and building warrant throughout the project
- Jim Ptolomey – drainage

BOB BALLANTYNE

Killlearn Football Club

Killlearn FC have had a mixed season so far. Strengthened by the addition of five younger players and the continued commitment of our more experienced players, we have a strong pool of players and have only lost two league games from the dozen played so far.

Unfortunately, we have drawn too many games and a serious challenge for the league title is now beyond us. However, we delivered some great performances during May and June, with an impressive 6–1 win away at Aberfoyle and a strong showing at local rivals Balfron, where we came away winners with a 2–0 scoreline.

The morale is still high and we still have plenty to play for between the Cups still up for grabs. There will be a determined effort to finish as high up the league table as possible.

Killlearn FC also ran a very successful ‘Fun 5s’ football event at the recent official opening of the Sports Pavilion, with over 50 players of all ages taking part. Thanks to all who turned up to support the opening and take part in what was an entertaining day. These events show that both our football club and our community spirit remain vibrant in Killlearn.

Next up is our football club golf day, but more about that in the next edition of the *Courier*.

COLIN BANKS

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Killearn 10k Race Review

The Killearn 10k tends to leave runners with a particular kind of smile at the finish: slightly pained, tinged with relief, but warm and broad all the same.

Lots of those smiles were on show in the park on 1 June as the serious athletes, weekend joggers, trying-to-get-fitters and newbies all won their own personal victories in this year's race.

It was a sell-out for the seventh year in a row, with 230 runners lining up at the War Memorial for the 11am start. It's a testament to the beauty and character of both the village and the course that so many want to come back and run again.

It's also great to welcome first-timers. They arrive a little nervous and not quite knowing what to expect, but they leave – we hope – with one of those smiles, already looking forward to returning.

For most who enter, it's not about the prizes, although those are always keenly fought over by some very impressive runners.

First across the line this year was serial men's race winner Garry Mathew in 36:01, followed by Marc Bromwich (37:40) and Victor McGregor (38:51) – see photo, far right.

Ellie Homewood led the way in the women's race in a time of 43:36. Second was Arlene Lewis (44:46) and Kirsteen Haughan took third in 45 minutes flat – see photo, right.

The G63 prizes for locals went to Ross Nichol (40:16) and Alicia Murray (46:47), and Matthew Anderson won the hotly-contested battle for Killearn Football Club bragging rights.

Well done to all the winners and to everyone who ran. Against all odds, we even got half-decent weather.

Before the 10k, a packed field of 150 adults and kids lined up in the park for the Killearn Mile. Seeing so many families running together (with some parents pushing strollers round the full course!) and youngsters running with such happy abandon was a joy. (Photos opposite)

Just as in the main race, there were lots of lovely smiles at the finish. And like the main race, it sold out quickly, so please be sure to register early next year to avoid disappointment.



There's a basic simplicity about a running event: you start, you run, you finish. But it's deceptive – a bewildering array of jobs need to be done, throughout the year and on the day, to make the Killearn 10k 'run' at the level of organisation it achieves.

It's impossible to praise our marshals enough. Without them, there would be no race. They give up their time, enduring pouring rain, burning sun and the very occasional impolite motorist, and we get so many emails from runners after the race thanking them for their hard work and all the encouragement they give. We had a musical department this year, with young Evander Sinclair piping on the Pipe Track to help keep the runners going. Kudos to you all. See you next year, we hope.

As our main sponsor for 2019, The Old Mill Killearn provided invaluable support – and solace to many after the race! They deserve particular thanks. We especially love the fact that Alice takes the time to run the race on what is rather a busy day for her and her team.

Grateful thanks also to Three Sisters Bake, who graciously hosted the volunteers' thank you event on the Sunday, and heartfelt appreciation to Art4You, Glengoyne Distillery, Burnbrae Pub & Grill, Killearn Pharmacy, Hewitt & Aker, Oakwood Garden Centre, the Killearn Trust, the Co-operative Killearn, Run4It, Active Stirling, Barr's and Tunnock's for all their support.

Our sponsors and volunteers did much to make the 2019 event another success, but this is a bittersweet year for the committee and all associated with the race. We are losing the absolute mainstay and driving force of the Killearn 10k.

Lorna Sinclair has been race director every year since 2012, and has transformed a local run into a trail race with a national reputation. No one has done more or worked harder to make the 10k what it is today, and no one is more deserving of a step back and a good rest. It's impossible to quantify how much she will be missed, but we hope to see her on the starting line, in her running shoes, next year.

Registration opens on 5 December. See you all in 2020. NH



Mermaid on Horseback

Balfroon High School pupil Katie Henderson (15) was selected to represent Great Britain in both Junior Individual and (with her partner, Kerri Brylka) Junior Pas de Deux at the World Equestrian Vaulting Championships for Juniors held in Ermelo, in the Netherlands, in late July. For both competitions she vaulted on Captain Jack lunged by Joanne Eccles, former world champion in equestrian vaulting. The Pas de Deux was performed to 'Lost Generation', and Katie's individual freestyle had a mermaid theme.

Katie was selected last year for the Pas de Deux category at the European championships, and is delighted to have been selected for two categories this year. Katie and her partner, Kerri, started the competition season in style winning the Pas de Deux in Saumur, France, at Easter. Since then they have been competing across Scotland and England, and impressing the judges with their 'Lost Generation' pairs routine, which they will have to perform twice at the World



Championships. They will face stiff competition, with the reigning European champions from Germany also competing, as well as other vaulters from across the globe.

The individual competition is made up of two rounds with only the top 15 entrants getting through to the second round.

Katie first started vaulting at the age of six after seeing a display at the Drymen show. She trains at Wee County Vaulters and the Scottish Equestrian Vaulting Team near Tillicoultry.

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Tennis Club News

Hard as it has sometimes been to believe as the rain hammers against our windows, plenty of play has been possible at Killearn Tennis Club this summer and good work was done on and off the court.

Not least by our ladies' team, who were on course, at time of writing, for a mid table finish in Dunlop Ladies' Division 3. The squad played seven matches over spring and summer, and plenty of fun was had.

Future stars of the team will be found (we hope) at this year's autumn coaching sessions for children, which run for seven weeks on Fridays from August 30 to October 11. Times for different age groups are: Primaries 1, 2 and 3: 4pm–5pm, Primaries 4, 5 and 6: 5pm–6pm, and Primary 7 and above: 6pm–7pm.

The youngsters will enjoy playing on courts which are looking particularly lovely, thanks largely to the sterling efforts of a clean-up crew of members and volunteers early in the season. Thanks to all who scrubbed, swept, wiped and weeded, and especially to Gill Johnstone



for coming up with the idea and organisation. The turnout was excellent and the work, coming on top of the resurfacing of the courts and the purchase of new nets, has really given the old place a new lease of life

Away from the courts, tireless fundraising has continued to support the club and tennis in the village. Thank you to all those who provided homebaking and helped with serving teas provided by the club at the Sustainable Killearn event, the Horticultural Society plant sale and Tennis Club open days over two weekends. In all, a profit of £412 was made.

The Ladies team is pictured above l-r: Veronica Reilly, Jan Biggart, Pamela Maxwell, Natalie Kemsley, Tricia Scott, Patsy Hutchison, Elspeth Fulton, Karen Crocket, Shirley Bell.

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Curling Sweep Up

The 2018/19 season ended with the AGM and prize-giving at the Kirkhouse Inn, Strathblane. Walter Macgowan took over the presidency for the second time, on the retirement of Sandy Park.

The second part of the season featured a large gap in games at the end of February, due to the World Wheelchair Curling Competition being held at The Peak. The Scotland team won the Silver Medal, to the delight of many of the club members who know the players.

In the mixed club matches, the result of the Spring League came down to the final round of matches with Diana Jackson needing a win to be certain of keeping her husband, Mike, in second place. Di's winning team was Fiona Glass, Stan Moore and Paul Mosley.

The Pairs bonspiel was closely contested, with five pairs tied on four ends each. Fiona Glass and Isabel Robertson were declared the winners by virtue of being more shots up.

A few members played in the Beattie Points competition at The Peak. As the leading Strathendrick player, Mike Jackson, was awarded the Points Trophy.

The Closing Bonspiel for the Harris Falconer Trophy was won by Bob Glass's team of Archie Banks and Gillian Kingslake.

In the Ladies Section, the Rowan Salver Spring League was won by the undefeated team of Anne Lang, Gail Pain/reserves and Penny Evans,



Paul and Luisella Mosley sweeping Kim McLaren's stone in the Forth Valley Area Bonspiel. Fiona Glass in the head. Photoby Joe Kincaid of Forth Valley Area.

skipped by Gill Smith.

Sadly, the Ladies Closing Bonspiel was called off with less than a day's notice, as the ice, which was being re-laid after the World Championship, was not in a good enough condition. However, the AGM, prize-giving and lunch at the Gargunnoch Inn went ahead. Fiona Glass was the Main Club Curler of the Year, while Heather Burns took the honours for Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The club's performance in outside competitions was mixed in the second part of the season. Highlights included winning the Low Road competition in the Jim Carswell Cup knockout (a first for the club), placing fourth in the Robert Paterson Shield league, and helping Forth & Endrick Province to second place in the Forth Valley Area Bonspiel with a good win against Kilsyth Ladies.

Congratulations are due to Fiona Glass, Jane McLaren, Kirsty Pender and Elspeth Johnston from Stirling for winning the Stirling Ladies Open.

We are now looking forward to a summer barbecue and possibly bowling and golf competitions.

We are a very friendly club and enjoy a variety of social events. Our curling standards cater for all ranges of abilities, so if you are interested and want some exercise in a friendly atmosphere, contact Di Jackson (550314) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit our website (www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk).

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Rugby Round-Up

Strathendrick Rugby Club enjoyed a great season at all levels in 2018–19 season, and are now looking forward to the new season. The 1st XV ended mid-table in the highly competitive Tennent's West Regional Division 1 – a creditable result. The 2nd XV attracted older, younger and less experienced players.

The Midi teams not only performed well in the Schools' Barbarian League with Balforn High School, but enjoyed brilliant tours to various parts of the globe.

The S1s went to Dublin and played against Balbriggan (Leinster champions) and Ratoath (Leinster runners-up) coming away with a narrow loss to one and a win over the other.

The S2s travelled to England to play in a brilliant 7s tournament – and had a lot of fun along the way. The S3/4/5s went to Poland in the latest of their fantastic international



tours. The Minis continued to field teams at every age group and ran another hugely successful Charity Festival.

The year culminated in the first ever Club Day at Fintry on 11 May with Tartan Touch, Juniors' Awards, the President's Game and a Beer/Music Festival. Ten weeks of Tartan Touch – a family-friendly version of the game including all the family – at Balforn Campus brought the season to a close.

So, to next season. The World Cup in Japan looms. How will Scotland fare this time around? Locally, Grant Sweenie has returned as coach for the Strathendrick senior sides and a full programme of sporting activity is planned at all levels.

The Minis Open Day will be at Fintry on Sunday, 26 August – everyone is welcome. The Midis will again be competing in the Barbarian Conference, and the seniors will field two sides on a regular basis. An ambition this year is to establish a more regular girls' rugby team in collaboration with Balforn High School.

For more information, visit www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc.

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Flora Macdonald Taylor 1924 – 2019

Flora was born on 20 September 1924 in Drymen, the only daughter of four children to John and Catherine Goodwin (née Macfarlane). Flora had a happy childhood, helping her mother with the necessary chores and routines of maintaining the house. She reminisced about her brothers' antics and her mother baking – which seemed to coincide with the minister visiting, which amused Flora. Flora attended church regularly and supported the work of the church.

Flora greatly enjoyed her service in the Land Army and would later tell of her pride in achieving her driving license by driving the Land Army vehicles for the necessary time. Flora reminded us of the war effort when she said not to grudge the price of Brussels sprouts, as she recalled the harsh conditions freezing her fingers when picking them for the war effort.

Flora married Jimmy (James) on 22 March 1950 and they moved to Killearn. They lived in a house built by her father, and this was their family home for the next 40 years. Flora and Jimmy had two children, Keith (1952) and John (1956). Flora devoted her life to her husband and her children.

Flora attended Killearn Kirk and was heavily involved in the Women's Guild and WRI. She took pride in their work and her contributions. She was regarded as an accomplished knitter and

dressmaker. Flora was always on the go and she had a need to be busy. When her boys were old enough, she took various part-time jobs: nursing auxiliary, seamstress and shop assistant.

Flora enjoyed playing Scrabble with Jimmy of an evening and the dictionary was often required as referee! Flora was a keen baker; her jams and homebaking were well known, with her rock buns and pancakes being family favourites.

Flora and Jimmy became grandparents to Tracey (1981) and Graham (1983). Flora relished her role as a grandmother. She extended her seamstress skills to dolls' clothes. Throughout Tracey and Graham's childhoods, Flora was a strong advocate for their education and keeping active. Playpark trips, and days out to Loch Lomond and Ross Priory were regular features of their time with their grandparents, as were healthy picnic baskets.

Flora and Jimmy moved to Balfroon in the late 1980s when Jimmy retired. They both shared a happy retirement.

Flora assumed a traditional role as a wife, mother and grandmother, and in doing so recognised the contributions and sacrifices of women – always keen to share with her granddaughter about the Suffragette movement and never wasting her vote. Flora was a principled woman, with firm opinions and approaches as to how



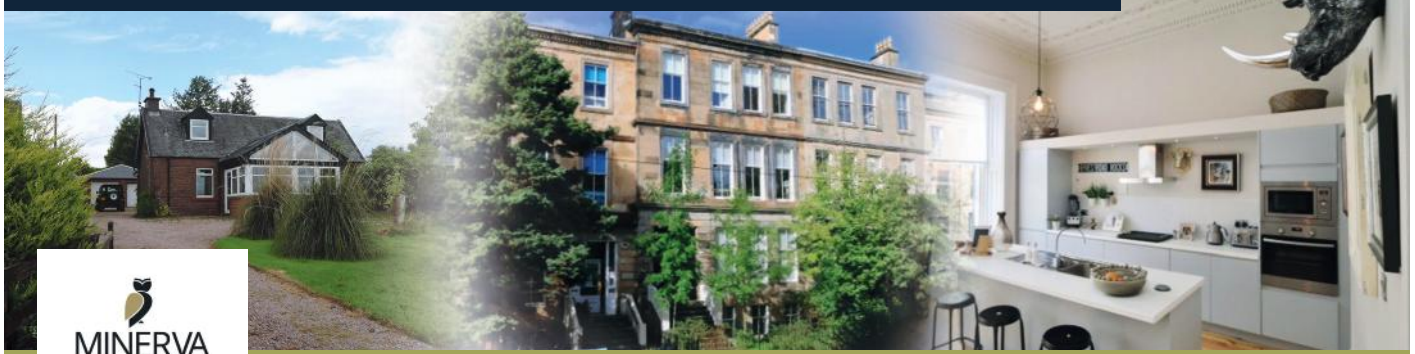
life should be lived. This was never forced on others, just subtly encouraged.

Flora's husband passed away in November 2008. Despite being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease shortly after Jimmy's death, Flora continued to live independently, and during that time spent many a happy hour working in her garden. She moved to Randolph Hill Nursing Home in 2011 where she participated in and thoroughly enjoyed all the residents' activities. Flora spent 7½ years there. During this time, Flora became a great-grandmother to Lachlan (2012) and Struan (2014). Flora appeared settled in Randolph Hill, but during her time there her dementia progressed. Family continued to visit her throughout her stay.

Flora died on 25 February 2019, but her life and love continues to be treasured in our memories.

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Sheina R. F. Hardie 1925 – 2019



Sheina was born in Glasgow, the youngest of four daughters of Kenneth and Helen Stevenson. The family home was in the West End, where Sheina attended Laurel Bank School. At the outbreak of war the school was evacuated to Perthshire; Sheina thrived on this experience.

On leaving school she joined the WRNS and was posted first to Naval HQ in Glasgow and then to Ceylon. From there she revelled in the adventure of a train journey through India, savouring the sounds, sights and smells, as she moved to her next posting in Bombay (Mumbai).

When the war was over, she returned home and worked for John Smith Booksellers, a job that fitted well with her great love of books and reading.

One day, when sailing with a friend off Gourock, the two young women were spotted struggling to control their boat in a fresh wind. Help arrived in the form of a handsome young rescuer in the Yacht Club launch; Bonar Hardie guided them back to the club moorings. A romance developed and, in 1951, the couple were married.

Three children were born to complete the family and Sheina provided an idyllic childhood for them with

weekends reminiscent of *Swallows and Amazons* on the Loch Lomond island of Inchlonaig, where they stayed in a picturesque but primitive cottage with no running water.

Long summer holidays were spent on Arisaig or Eigg, where the children ran free. Devoted to her family, Sheina was, nevertheless, described by them as a ‘bracing’ mother, who encouraged robustness in the face of adversity!

In 1966, the family moved to the Clock House on Loch Lomondside and here Sheina and Bonar undertook a great renovation project and the creation of a magnificent garden. Here also, Sheina, a renowned cook, hosted many a wonderful party.

Her love of cooking found an outlet when, with a friend, she started the tearoom at Ardencaple Garden Centre and later branched out into a catering business: ‘Book and Cook – you book it and we cook it’.

Nothing fazed her, and she provided delicious food for many events and in great quantities. As her own family grew up, she did much voluntary work for the NSPCC and Meals on Wheels.

In 1993 she and Bonar moved to spend their retirement years in Killearn. Here they created an attractive home and another beautiful garden. Sheina’s knowledge of plants was encyclopaedic and she was still active in her garden until close to the end of her life.

Her legendary hospitality, too, was maintained, as she continued to give lunch parties into her nineties and always greeted her visitors with a smile of pure delight.

All her life, she enjoyed outdoor sports and, if not participating herself, she accompanied her husband and encouraged her children to do so. Fishing was a great pleasure, and it was her choice of celebration for her 90th birthday to have her whole family with her spending a weekend fishing on the Spey.

Sheina was an unusual and memorable lady. Tall, slim, with her own style of understated elegance – and often with a companion dog – she attracted admiration by her natural charm, her wit and her gentle humour. Her vitality, her profound interest in people and the environment, and her love of life remained essentially a part of her, even when physically she grew frail.

She will be remembered in a host of happy recollections by her children, Graeme, Anne and Cathy, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and by her wider family and many friends.

BP

Alan Stuart Douglas 1944 – 2019

Alan Douglas was born in Glasgow, the youngest of three sons of Alec and Kitty Douglas. He was educated at Hillhead High School, where he was an able pupil, both academically and at sport, being a reliable member of the 1st XV, where his even temper was valued as well as his skills as a prop forward. He played for the Hillhead Club for many years and, to keep fit out of season, he took up climbing, spending weekends travelling throughout Scotland with his brother, Ian, plus a tent, to master the higher mountain peaks.

On leaving school, Alan joined the Clydesdale Bank, but his ambition was to become a pilot in the RAF. When he was rejected in the final selection, he made banking his career. He met Priscilla when they worked in the computer department, and they married in 1974, making their home together in Bishopbriggs. They moved to Branziert Road in 1987. His employment was terminated in 1993 in a stringent sweep of redundancies and when it proved difficult to find an alternative post, Alan reassessed his life, his aims and interests.

He had a great love of and care for the environment. He was a keen observer of birds, actively supported the RSBP and the National Trust for Scotland, and on his mountain walks would pick up the litter left by others. His favourite mountain was Ben Lomond, conveniently situated for what was to become his target to climb it on every date in the year – not necessarily the same year.

His interest in numbers and his meticulous record keeping revealed an extraordinary pattern of achievement. At one point his 1,400th ascent was broken down into 700 ascents of both main paths – the tourist and the Ptarmigan – and the 700s subdivided into 100 on every day of the week. It was some ambition and some achievement!

Through his frequent ascents, Alan met the NTS Ranger for Ben Lomond and became part of a group of volunteers. They called themselves the Friends of Ben Lomond, and worked to repair and maintain the paths. The family plans to scatter Alan's ashes on Ben Lomond as close to his September birthday as the weather will permit.

With more time available to him, he was able to indulge in his love of model-making, and had a huge collection of Airfix models – mainly aircraft – as he pursued his original interest in planes. He had inherited his father's stamp collection, and maintained and continued this family tradition. He also explored his own family tree, researching the genealogy and recording his findings meticulously, sharing his discoveries with his elder brother, Colin, whom, because of the age difference and geographical distance between them, he only came to know well in adult life, through emails and phoning.

Alan was a very fit and active man for much of his life, with an enquiring mind and a keen brain. Sadly, during his last years, various illnesses robbed him of the pleasures of the activities he had enjoyed so much. Despite increasing



ill health, he remained stoical and pragmatic, ever concerned about protecting those closest to him. He was an amiable character who related easily to others, cared for the environment and those around him, and of whom people spoke with great appreciation. BP



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John Mitchell 1934 – 2019

The obituaries published in the Killearn *Courier* are usually celebrations of the life of one of our residents. John Mitchell lived in Drymen for over 50 years, so he was a near neighbour and will have been known to a number of Killearn folk. We thought his life's work as a naturalist, caring for the wildlife of the local area, and as a historian would be of interest to our readers. In publishing the following article we are indebted to the author, John Cameron, who worked with John Mitchell in Scottish Natural Heritage.

The title page of John's 2001 book, *Loch Lomondside*, states, 'The aim of this series is to interest the general reader in the wildlife of Britain by recapturing the enquiring spirit of the old naturalists.' John fitted perfectly into that role – although he feigned offence when teased about the 'old' part.

Born in East Anglia in 1934, he joined the Army Signals Band at 16 playing trombone and learned to play the double bass as a second instrument. Leaving the Army in the mid 1950s, he played bass with many big bands throughout Britain, before settling in Glasgow – regularly playing the opening and closing music for *The Adventures of Francie and Josie*, live on BBC radio. He met his future wife, Sandra, around this time and they were to be together for almost 60 years. In 1965, he became Reserve Warden on Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve, a post he occupied for 27 years before retiring from Scottish Natural Heritage in 1994.

Natural history was never just a job to John – it was his life, and he became a well-respected lecturer and writer on a wide range of topics related to wildlife and the local history of the Loch Lomond area. From the '60s until a few years ago, he worked tirelessly monitoring, recording and protecting peregrine falcons in the Loch Lomond area and took great pride in seeing their numbers increase from near extinction to a healthy population. For 50 years John produced a seemingly endless stream of articles for the journals of Forth Valley Historian & Naturalist, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Ornithologists Club, Glasgow Natural History Society and many others – articles which were informative and entertaining and always meticulously researched – an editor's dream. The range of topics he wrote about was astonishing, ranging from 'High altitude moles in Scotland' to 'In search of the Buchanan fern' and many, many more. For several years he compiled the annual Loch Lomond Bird Report which always included a short article of ornithology-related history, and contributed to ornithological and botanical recording schemes.

In 1988 the Institute of Biology awarded him a Chartership for personal contributions to the biological sciences and, in 1993, he was made an Honorary Master of Arts by Stirling University for his contribution to the study of Scottish wildlife in education and practical nature conservation.



A founder member and first Chairman of Drymen and District Local History Society, John produced publications such as *The Fourth Statistical Account of Drymen* and *Drymen and district's postal service: the first hundred years*, and delivered many talks on topics as diverse as church and work tokens and local milestones.

John died earlier this year and is survived by his wife, Sandra, sons Andrew and Cameron, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John wrote and talked about the history you weren't taught in school: the history of the people, their lives and the world around them. He inspired many people to see history in a different light and gave them 'the spirit of enquiry' – a rare gift indeed.

Bridge by Zorro

Solution to the problem on page 12

West led ♥7 taken with the Ace. Placing West with an 8-card club suit and East with the missing hearts, Broad drew trumps in four rounds, cashed ♦Q and led ♦3 to the King. On ♦A he threw ♥4. Then, on ♦6 he discarded ♣6, East winning with the Jack. This loser-on-loser play left East on lead with only hearts and in a hopeless position. He led ♥K which declarer ruffed and then entered dummy with ♣A to discard the remaining clubs on ♥Q and ♦7.

If you enjoy these articles and would like to play some competitive bridge and enjoy more hands, Killearn Bridge Club meets on Tuesday evenings, restarting at the beginning of September. If you would like to join us, please contact Roger Sparkes (440448), Doug Ashworth (550074) or Eileen Lindsay (770686) or use the contact link on our website (www.bridgewebs.com/killearn).

With acknowledgement to *The Daily Telegraph* and G.C.H. Fox for his choice of hand and notes. z

Catherine Gilfillan 1937 – 2019

Catherine Gilfillan, or Cathy, as she was known to most, was the firstborn of the family of John and Grace Farrow, and was soon joined by twin sisters, Moira and Isabel, and, much later, by her brother, John. The family lived first in Springburn and then in Bishopbriggs, but they had strong connections to Balfron where many other relatives lived, and Cathy and her siblings often spent weekends in Balfron with her Aunt Mary.

She left school at the age of 15, and in 1952 started work as a draughtsman's tracer, first for NB Locomotive and then for British Rail. This was highly detailed work, requiring much skill and concentration, abilities that Cathy also showed in her talent for knitting and crochet.

It was in Balfron in her teens that she met Willie Gilfillan, renewing an already existing link with family friends, and romance blossomed between the pair as they frequented the café in Balfron and went to local dances. Here also she met Rena, and a close friendship began between them which lasted the rest of her life.

Cathy and Willie married in 1960. Their first home was a small house in Main Street that came with Willie's job with Simpson's the joiners. Their first son, Gordon, was born in 1961 and was followed in 1963 by their daughter, Anne, and in 1968 by a second son, James. It was a happy family in which Cathy was a devoted wife and mother, her main interest and concern being for the well-being of her family.

In the late 1960s, they moved to Graham Road where again, Cathy was happy among good neighbours and many friends. As her family grew up, Cathy worked part-time as a home help and also in the cocktail bar of the Black Bull, where she enjoyed working with the other staff and chatting to the customers.

In time, a daughter-in-law, Susan, and a son-in-law, Jerry, were welcomed into the family. Granddaughters Eilidh, Kirsty and Samantha added to Cathy's joy; she had a very close relationship with



them all. More recently the arrival of two great-granddaughters just increased her happiness.

Sadly, her husband, Willie, developed dementia. Cathy cared for him with love and devotion until he passed away in 2010.

Friends, too, played an important part in her life. Rena was her great companion and support in times of need, and the pair met up for coffee almost daily.

Holidays were also important. When her family was young, it was to Millport or St. Andrews that they went. Later it was holidays abroad and cruises with Willie and friends and, more recently, with her sisters. Trips were numerous and enjoyed to the full.

Cathy was always a friendly and sociable person. She was well known in the village, being a member of the Guild and the Thursday Club, and enjoying whist drives, bingo and walking dogs twice daily, when she would chat to all she met on the way.

She will be remembered for her caring nature, her open-hearted friendliness and her enjoyment of life. She will be greatly missed in the village by her many friends and most of all by her family, who will be lost without her.

AG/BP

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John Cameron Gordon 1936 – 2019

Cameron was born in Inverness to Henrietta and Charles Gordon, the elder of two children. He had a younger sister, Carol, to whom he was very close. Cameron was educated at Gordonstoun School, where he made many friends and where he became interested in the outdoors and developed an enthusiasm for sailing.

He left school, aged 16 and, for his National Service, entered the Royal Navy. This gave him the opportunity to travel widely, which he greatly enjoyed. His sociable personality combined with his leadership qualities ensured he moved quickly up the ladder of promotion from the lower decks to the bridge. When his National Service was over, he continued to serve in the RNVR. At aged 21, he met Anne Ross, who became his wife. It was a loving marriage which produced three children – Joanna, Jock and Calum – and lasted until Anne's death in 2005.

Back in civilian life, he joined Collins, the publishers, and installed their first computer system. It was the dawn of the computer age, and Cameron was quick to grasp



the opportunity to learn on the job and soon became a prominent figure in the pioneering days of IT in Scotland. He then founded his own computer consultancy business which developed the first computer-simulated textile weaving system with the Scottish College of Textiles in Galashiels. It sold worldwide. Cameron was enthusiastic about his business, and as his family grew up he would use his experience to mentor his children as they, in adulthood, set up their own creative businesses.

He had a love of music and sang with the Strathendrick Singers. He was greatly interested in history, was well-read, and well-informed on current affairs, having an enquiring mind.

In fact, Cameron was enthusiastic about many things in life which fed his zest for living. He and Anne loved to travel, particularly to islands – from the Hebrides to the Caribbean – and whilst Anne would paint the different land and seascapes, Cameron would engage with the locals, encouraging them to join in games on the beach and share a dram.

He loved Scotland and considered himself a true Highlander. He loved his home and, especially, his garden, which was a source of great pleasure and pride. He loved his dogs, who were his faithful companions, most especially after the loss of Anne. He had a talent for friendship and on his life's journey he gathered a host of valued friends with whom he maintained contact until the end of his life. His love for and his pride in his family is marked by the inspiration he leaves his children and grandchildren of his sheer zest for living. BP



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Spot the Difference

These exquisite creatures, ladybirds of course, were all found in our garden between May and June this year. The tiny yellow and black one, which looks like it has a smiling face on its back, is a 14-spot Ladybird, a grassland specialist. While relatively scarce in Scotland, it does turn up in gardens at times, with a few records from our neck of the woods. Despite its 'smile', it wasn't too happy exploring my finger, uncasing its wings before long to fly off.

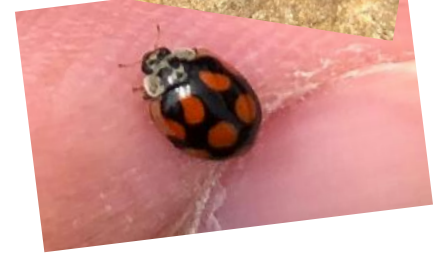
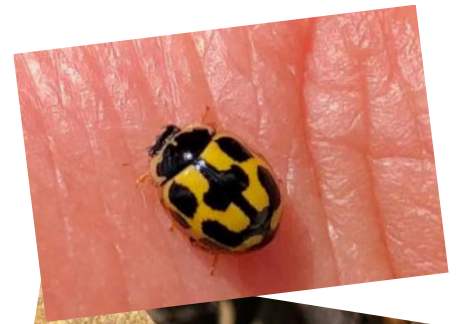
The more familiar (and larger) 7-spot Ladybird is also pictured, while the third species (on my thumb this time) is another stunner: a 10-spot Ladybird of the subspecies *decempustulata*. All three chomp voraciously on aphids, so are a welcome sight in gardens.

There are in fact 47 resident species of ladybird in the UK, although in Scotland we probably have only 25-30, with about half of these again being very rare or local. That said, checking the distribution maps, I

reckon we should have a good 15 species in and around Killearn due to the diversity of habitat.

Species such as the 7-spot and 2-spot (the latter sometimes black with 4 red spots, just to confuse you) are common and widespread, occurring in a variety of habitats including gardens. However some of the others, while still reasonably plentiful, are much more specialised and require more targeted searching. For example, Larch Ladybird is, unsurprisingly, found exclusively on larch and other conifers.

It is helpful to submit your sightings so that we can map out more accurately the range of each species in Central Scotland. Moreover looking for ladybirds is a lot of fun and they are instantly rewarding for young children developing an interest in nature. Now that there is an excellent new identification guide to British ladybirds (the ultimate 'Ladybird Book', you could say), complementing various useful websites, the would-be ladybird-spotter (or is it 'ladybirder'?) has



all the information needed to track them down and tick them off one by one.

So what are you waiting for? Enjoy seeing spots in front of your eyes... MARTIN CULSHAW

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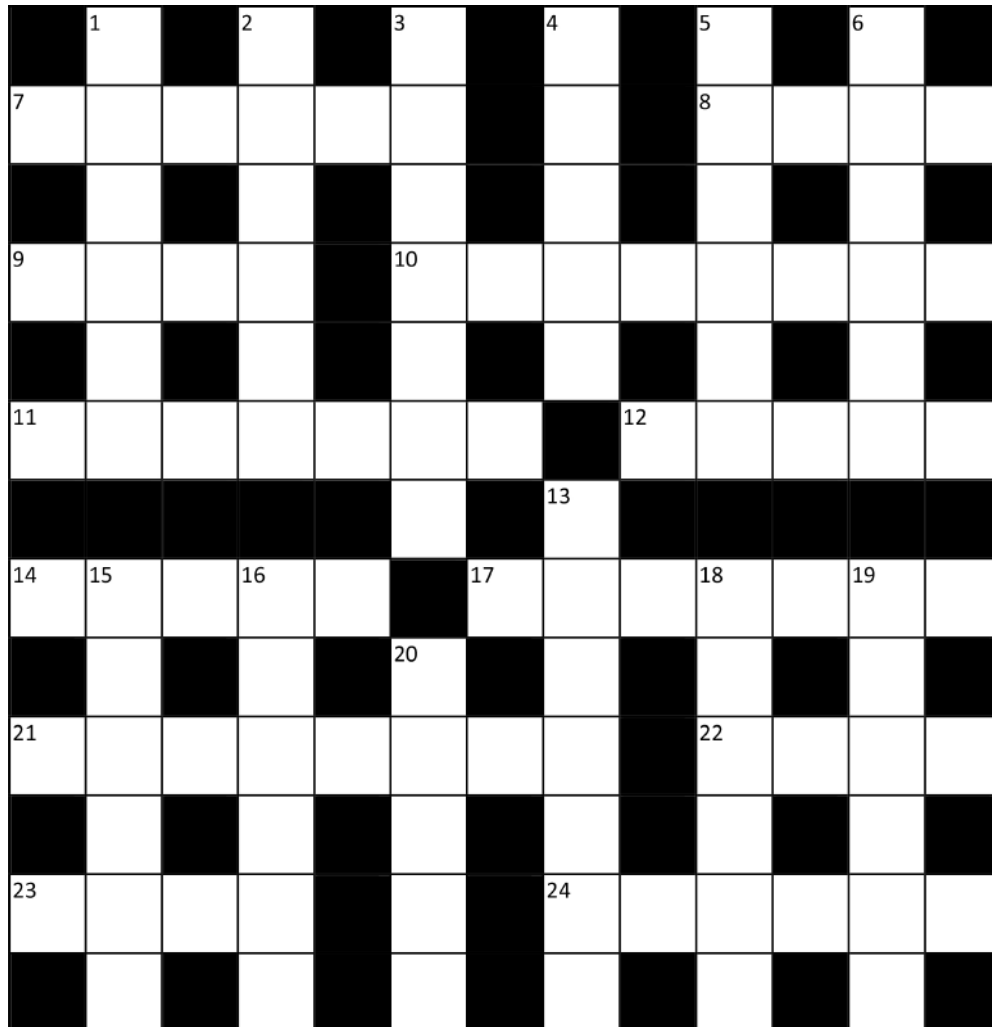
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PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD set by Peewit

Our prize for the Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. Our prize for the Children's Codeword is a £10 voucher from the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. The *Courier* would like to thank both the Ambassador Theatre Group and Co-operative Food for generously providing the prizes for our competitions.



ACROSS

- 7 Silent film comedian joins church to take a position (6)
- 8 Back 'sow organic inside' to increase (4)
- 9 Two loves in public relations – not good! (4)
- 10 Bundles of nerves from half a Mario Lanza song title (8)
- 11 Shows several around (7)
- 12 Reject an incentive to action with no beginning (5)
- 14 Ex chemical company no good for cake decoration (5)
- 17 Blacklist former England and Yorkshire cricketer (7)
- 21 Language spoken in 1984 for lowdown at the top (8)
- 22 Women's group about a secret listening device (4)
- 23 Artist begins yelling in Indian holiday resort (4)
- 24 Student loses start to someone who makes money (6)

DOWN

- 1 Good man's dress is flashy (6)
- 2 False, could be said to be out of alignment (6)
- 3 Monk confused with elf half of humanity (7)
- 4 Inside the woman named it desert food (5)
- 5 For example, a large bra gives support at breakfast (6)
- 6 It flattens a bap before the queen (6)
- 13 View twice for a quick inspection (4-3)
- 15 A cow and hen gave the farmer something to think about (4,2)
- 16 Where to find saunas in the Bahamas (6)
- 18 Fearful playwright and singer (6)
- 19 Prison warder loses new bird (6)
- 20 Office worker has time to seduce (5)

Three words appear on three sides of the grid which indicate when we publish. What is the word along the top of the grid? This word is the solution; email it or write the answer on a piece of paper and send to the *Courier* (see right).

Solution to the last crossword: ACROSS: 1 hello 4 bears up 8 ravioli 9 Iraqi 10 tall 11 egomania 13 nail 14 bred 16 trolling 17 chic 20 aroma 22 by Zorro 22 license 23 royal DOWN: 1 Heritage Trail 2 level 3 oboe 4 bridge 5 Aviemore 6 spanned 7 primary school 12 Killearn 13 neozoic 15 unable 18 Hardy 19 Czar

Winner of our last crossword: K. Lindsay, Killearn

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORD SEARCH

S B K I R K W A L L F
 Q T E E D N U D G P A
 S Q I J O Q Y G L O L
 N S S R E S L N S D K
 E O E Z L A R E I F I
 E B L N S I I U H T R
 D K W G R R N W H T K
 R N O H F E P G U T Z
 E W U M U J V A J Z D
 B Z U Y B U U N P I O
 A D H G R U B N I D E

How to enter

You should find the names of 10 names of places in Scotland in the word search grid. They can be forward or backwards – across, up or diagonal.

Five of the places are: **Aberdeen, Falkirk, Inverness, Kirkwall, Stirling**. See if you can find these and also find the other five.

When you have discovered the missing five, write them down and post or email your answer to the *Courier* (see below) for a chance to win a £10 voucher which you can spend at the Co-op.

Entrants must be 12 or under, so please include your age.

The last winner of the £10 voucher: **Evan Lindsay, Killearn.**

Once again we had very few entries so if you do the puzzle, please send in your answer. We encourage everyone who tries our competitions to send an entry. Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has an equal chance. Email or write the answer on a piece of paper with

your name, address and a contact phone number. You can place your solution(s) in the postbox outside the Village Hall, in the box in the Co-op or email to competition@kcfc.co.uk. Children may also place their entry in the box in the school. Entries must be received by **22 September**.



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Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* winter edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 16 November 2019.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 27 September. Contact:
Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 27 September. Please send them to:

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