

Killearn-Courier

ISSUE 31

SPRING 2015

£1



Killearn Courier celebrates 10 years serving the community

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Our Very Own Centenarian

William Galloway

Patricia Galloway

Happy First Birthday to the Killearn Courier



ISSUE 1 SPRING - MARCH 2005

Welcome to the first edition of the new-look Killearn Courier. It will be published three times a year, in spring, summer and autumn. It's a community newspaper. In other words, it's your newspaper so what it will become depends a lot on you.

This edition contains articles from people living in the village and surrounding parish, adverts from local businesses and trades people as well as stories from various community organisations. It was put together and produced by a group of local people who have formed themselves into the Killearn Courier editorial board. In case you think it's the same 'old' faces who are always involved in everything in the community, it's not! The board has volunteers from 16 to 60+ so we really can reflect the community across all age groups. It's not just a lot of old fuddy-duddies imposing their ideas on you. In fact, you can join the team if you want, just let us know.

There will be other regular features in each edition. For example, there will be a *Letters to the Editor* section, a puzzle page with a prize crossword and a competition for children. There will be a section written by and reflecting the views of local teenagers.

The team, pictured on page 2, is bursting with ideas. We want people to tell us about good eating-places – not the local ones, but the places you have visited that are within reasonable travelling distance from Killearn. We want to hear from local organisations – what they do, how to join or help out, local concerns and issues – indeed, anything which is part of community life.

Do you have a story to tell or a business to advertise? Do you have an issue dear to you that affects the community? Do you have anything you want to say? If so, tell us. Contact addresses can be found on page 15.

Tell us what you think of this edition, what you would like to see in it or how you think it could be improved.

Remember – it's your newspaper. What it is and becomes will depend on you. Let's hear it from you.

Enjoy your first edition.

Ian Dickie

FUTURE OF BUCHANAN MONUMENT



The Buchanan Society has approached Historic Scotland for a grant to repair the Buchanan Monument and adjoining area.

A surveyor from Historic Scotland has already visited the site and an advisory report currently being prepared will establish the condition of both the monument and its surrounding wall and recommend repairs. Iona Hordern, a director of the Buchanan Society, explained that, following an application for grant assistance, Historic Scotland had identified *A need for assistance from public funds*.

Although the Killearn monument is legally in its care, the Society is a charitable foundation set up to support those in financial difficulty and to provide education grants. As Iona Hordern puts it: *"Our role is looking after frail and elderly Buchanans, not frail and elderly walls and that's what little income the society has been marked for the care of people and not monuments."*

The Society hopes that a grant from Historic Scotland will allow this iconic structure and its immediate surroundings to be refurbished and that a transcription of the dedication be mounted on a plaque at the front where interested parties can easily read it.

Coincidentally, 2006 is the 500th anniversary of George Buchanan's birth. Born at The Moss in February 1506, Buchanan was a leading light of the Scottish Reformation and famous throughout Europe as a scholar, educator and poet. The monument was raised in his memory during the 18th century and underscores his association with the village.

Developments at Killearn Hospital Site

Mr. Graeme Sword owner of the Killearn Hospital Site is to host a meeting on 8 March at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. when he will present proposals to develop the site of the old Killearn Hospital. This is an open meeting for all to attend. The village will be interested to learn of what is proposed.

Station Road Bridge

The bridge at the foot of Station Road, formerly under the ownership of British Rail, was judged to be weak some months ago. It is for this reason that access has been restricted and bus routes diverted. In addition, and for this reason, this section of Station Road has lost its priority status for winter treatment. Work to restore the bridge to full European standards was planned to start in February.



Provost's Awards 2006

The Provost of Stirling Castle, Sir John Gifford, presented the Provost's Awards for 2006 to a group of 12 young people who had shown exceptional achievement in their studies, sports, music, art, and other areas. The awards were presented at a ceremony at Stirling Castle on 15th November 2006.

Winners:

- 1st Prize: [Name]
- 2nd Prize: [Name]
- 3rd Prize: [Name]
- 4th Prize: [Name]
- 5th Prize: [Name]
- 6th Prize: [Name]
- 7th Prize: [Name]
- 8th Prize: [Name]
- 9th Prize: [Name]
- 10th Prize: [Name]
- 11th Prize: [Name]
- 12th Prize: [Name]



Killearn Are Kings!

The Killearn Football Club has won the 2006 Scottish Cup. The club defeated the opposition in a thrilling final at Hampden Park, Glasgow. The victory was a historic moment for the club and the village.

Winners:

- 1st Prize: [Name]
- 2nd Prize: [Name]
- 3rd Prize: [Name]
- 4th Prize: [Name]
- 5th Prize: [Name]
- 6th Prize: [Name]
- 7th Prize: [Name]
- 8th Prize: [Name]
- 9th Prize: [Name]
- 10th Prize: [Name]
- 11th Prize: [Name]
- 12th Prize: [Name]

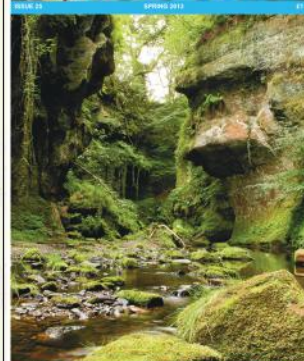


Patricia Hits Downtown Killearn!

Patricia Galloway, a local artist, has recently completed a series of paintings depicting the streets of downtown Killearn. The paintings are now on display at the local gallery.

Local Club Latest

The Killearn Football Club has announced its fixtures for the upcoming season. The club is looking forward to a successful season and hopes to win the Scottish Cup.



SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

WISH YOU HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Settled at Long Last!



Our readers will recall that we have been searching for someone to replace Sara Hudson in her advertising role for the *Courier*. This was never going to be an easy task! Well, good fortune has smiled upon us, because Gillian Sims, who has lived in the village for some 14 years and who was been involved in the PTA for some time, joined our merry band at the start of the year. She has already been hard at work, along with Gwen Stewart, looking after our advertisers.

Says Gillian, 'The regular *Courier* advertisers I've met so far are lovely people, and it is only right that we support them as they support us. I'm looking forward to getting to know them all.'

Welcome, Gill!

Ed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Editor

Many people have noted with pleasure the trimming back of trees and bushes at the top end of Endrick Road (*pictured below*). The unchecked growth had greatly reduced the vehicular carriage and the footpath into the park. This road is privately owned, but it is a public right of way, and it's used by dog walkers, and by children and parents as a safe route to and from the school. It is good to see the restoration of the broader access both for cars and pedestrians.

I'd like to thank generous benefactors who have enabled this improvement to be made.

Delighted of Killearn



Dear Editor

I read the article in *The Milngavie and Bearsden Herald* (15/01/15) regarding concern over hall charges at Killearn Village Hall. I agree that having to use the in-house caterers (Three Sisters Bake) for major functions may mean that the village hall is no longer an affordable alternative to restaurant/hotel weddings.

I recently enquired about holding a catered event in the hall, only to find out that I could not use caterers of my choice. If I wished to self cater then I would not have full use of the kitchen (what that means was not made clear).

It appears that the TSB have been given a business monopoly regards catering in the village hall. I believe this is in response to previous hall users leaving the place dirty and not vacating the hall promptly. The cleaning issue could have been solved by using contracted cleaners, and surely a Hall Supervisor could be made responsible for closing up the hall following events.

Personally, I feel that the needs of an individual business have been given priority over hall users choice regards catering. The hall appears to have become a business premises for the sole use of one business. Perhaps it will soon be renamed The Three Sisters Bake Hall! I can only hope they are paying an appropriate commercial rent – this is not publicly declared.

I see the car park is now being used as a long-term parking area for a commercial truck. Is it now an official truck stop and can locals park their boats/caravans/motor homes??

In summary: in allowing TSB a monopoly to run their business, local residents may be unable to use their village hall. Surely the grant funding was to develop the hall for community use, not to install a single commercial enterprise. Indeed, the Village Hall Committee on its website states the hall will 'fulfill the community's requirements for many years to come.'

Regards

Isabella Conway

KVHOC replies on page 4 – Ed

Many thanks to all who responded to the recent opinion survey. Your views have been much appreciated and a report on the survey results has been produced. This should be delivered to you around the same time as you receive this issue of the *Killearn Courier*. This report gives a breakdown of the opinions expressed and will be a valuable pointer to those of us engaged in constructing the new **Killearn Community Action Plan** and also to local organisations and businesses who might want to make use of the information.. Do read it and do let us know your comments by following the advice on the final page of the report.

Community Action Plan Group of KCFC

Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 15 August 2015.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 3 July 2015. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Gillian Sims on 07540 686758.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 3 July 2015. Send them to:

36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or email to: courier@kefc.co.uk

Please support our advertisers who make the *Courier* possible.

The Courier is not responsible for the content of advertisements.

Editorial

Hello and welcome to spring issue of the *Courier* which sees us embarking on our tenth anniversary of production! Who would have believed that we'd still be going after ten years? Well, we're still here and you can read a wee bit of our history on page 8.

Many members of the original group are still with us, many of the people who help us deliver are still with us, some of our first advertisers are still with us and some of our original contributors are still with us but, most importantly, you, our readers, are still with us, so a huge thank you to everyone for supporting your *Killearn Courier*.

I have said many times in previous issues that Killearn is a good place to live. We are blessed with facilities and services that many surrounding villages do not have, some of which are topics of envious conversations by those residents living outwith Killearn. For example, we have the most spectacular Village Hall in the surrounding area – and we own it! As everyone should know by now, anyone resident in the Parish of Killearn, owns a wee bit of the Hall. This, however, means we're responsible for it, and the Hall Committee are doing a sterling job in that regard on our behalf.

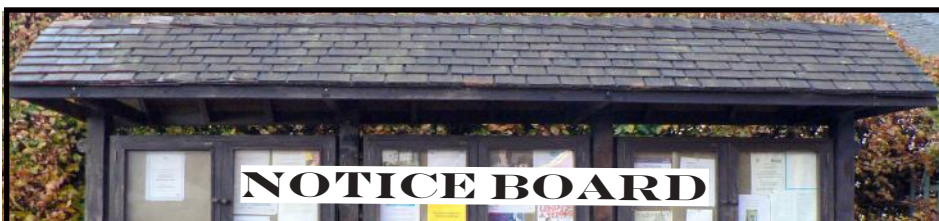
We are a small community and what that community depends on is its people. We don't always get it right; for example, do you know of any of our organisations that have a waiting list of people wanting to volunteer? No, neither do I. As we know, they are all struggling and some are seriously concerned about their future survival. To sort this out, all it takes is for us to trot along and offer our service; that's all.

Similarly, if we have an issue which we perceive affects the community, be it parking of vehicles, use of the Hall or whatever, why don't we talk to the people concerned and get answers straight from the horse's mouth? We are after all, a small community and as such, don't need to hide behind a pen, we can sort things out amongst ourselves, that's what being part of a community entails.

Enjoy this issue and the rest of our tenth year!

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor



- | | |
|---------|---|
| 17 Mar | <i>Killearn Kirk Guild</i> AGM and lunch. |
| 18 Mar | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. |
| 19 Mar | <i>Strathendrick Rotary Club</i> meeting. Killearn Hotel, 6.30 for 7pm, thereafter every Monday except bank holidays and the fifth Monday of a five Monday month. Contact David Rodger (550521). |
| 19 Mar | <i>Thursday Club</i> meets in the Kirk Hall, 2pm – 4pm and thereafter every Thursday. For all pensioners over 60. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558). |
| 20 Mar | <i>Killearn Golden Years' Club</i> annual dinner. Killearn Kirk Hall, 6.30 for 7pm. <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>The Untouchables</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. £4 entrance for non-members. |
| 22 Mar | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Spring Concert: Dvorak <i>Te Deum</i> , Handel's coronation anthems, including <i>Zadok the Priest</i> . Killearn Kirk, 7pm. Tickets from choir members or contact Ken Allen (550415). www.strathendricksingers.org.uk . |
| 26 Mar | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> talk by Olive Geddes, 'The Hammermen of Perth and the Records of Trades Incorporations in the National Library of Scotland'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome. www.drymen-history.org.uk . |
| 29 Mar | Illustrated Talk. <i>Hebrides – Islands on the Edge</i> . Details on page 23. |
| 1 Apr | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> preparing for Easter. 7.30pm. |
| 2 Apr | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> Communion Service. 7.30pm. |
| 3 Apr | <i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed. If you require assistance, call 111. Online prescription ordering service available at www.killearnhealthcentre.com . <i>Strathblane Kirk</i> Good Friday Service. 7.30pm. <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>The Great Dictator</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. £4 entrance for non-members. |
| 5 Apr | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> Easter Sunday Service. 10.30am. <i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 1pm – 4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk). |
| 6 Apr | <i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed. If you require assistance, call 111. Online prescription ordering service available at www.killearnhealthcentre.com . |
| 15 Apr | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. |
| 20 Apr | <i>Monday Music</i> summer term starts. Kirk Hall. Kodaly based classes for children 0–5 years old. Contact Clare Cushing (07726 941407). |
| 20 Apr | Start of <i>Cancer Research</i> House-to-House Collection week. Details on page 18. |
| 23 Apr | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> members' night and AGM, preceded by cheese and wine. Drymen Village Hall, from 7.15 pm. www.drymen-history.org.uk . |
| 3 May | <i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 1pm – 4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk). |
| 4 May | <i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed. If you require assistance, call 111. Online prescription ordering service available at www.killearnhealthcentre.com . |
| 16 May | <i>Killearn Horticultural Society</i> plant sale and coffee morning in association with <i>Friends of Guiding</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 12 noon. |
| 20 May | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. |
| 23 May | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> hosting the well-known KVU Choir from Yorkshire. <i>Killearn Kirk</i> , 7.30pm. www.strathendricksingers.org.uk . <i>Killearn Golden Years' Club</i> , annual outing to Pitlochry. Leave Well Green 10am. |
| 28 May | <i>Thursday Club</i> last meeting, Kirk Hall, 2pm – 4pm. |
| 6 June | <i>Killearn 10K Race</i> . Details on page 19. |
| 7 June | <i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 1pm – 4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk). |
| 17 June | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. |
| 5 July | <i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 1pm – 4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk). |

If you have any dates for the summer issue of the Noticeboard (end of August until mid November), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), heather.mcarthur@virgin.net

Killearn Village Hall Operating Committee Reply

We have been made aware of concerns raised regarding the hiring policy of the village hall and are grateful to the Editor for the opportunity to respond in this issue of the *Courier*.

The first concern seems to be the granting of catering exclusivity to Three Sisters Bake (TSB). Anyone with an understanding of the catering industry will appreciate that running a coffee shop seven days a week is not the road to unimaginable wealth! The departure of Whitleys' in the Village after one year of operation, the closure of the Old Mill and the regular turnover of the Black Bull/Killearn Hotel tenancy should send a very clear local message.

TSB has invested £25,000 in the coffee shop. Their licence fee, representing around 20 per cent of the village hall's annual turnover, was independently assessed as a realistic figure and will increase at approximately 4 per cent annually. Making a coffee shop work is hard graft, and it is TSB's excellent reputation in the business that has made such a dramatic improvement to the throughput of customers in their Killearn operation. This quality reputation also attracts a strong wedding market which is an essential part of their business plan and ours, and to suggest that we should allow outside commercial caterers to use our village hall facilities for free in order to cherry pick the more profitable wedding market is, quite simply, grossly unfair and unrealistic.

In our first year we also learned hard lessons from experience with outside caterers, through a range of operational problems – problems with supervision, event organisation, extra major cleaning by our outside cleaning team, damage from spillage, control of bar operation, running over time, volunteer calls out, etc. – all of which created considerable work for our hard-working bookings and user management volunteers and additional irrecoverable costs. These things, combined with Simon Whitley's strong recommendation when he left, settled our decision on the exclusivity catering policy.

The other area of concern seems to be our approach to self-catering users of the village hall. This is surprising, as we have not changed the original policy brought forward from the old village hall. This policy allows hirers to use the main

hall, bring their own food and drink, and use the kitchen for coffees, teas and heating up of food. Because of the new development and major investment in the coffee shop, a self-catering hire excludes that particular area. It also does not allow the sale of alcohol. The charge to the self-catering hall user is based on the number of sessions required for use of the main hall, and committee room if required. There is no charge for the limited use of the kitchen. There is also a cleaning charge to recover our costs. We believe this was, and still is, a fair approach.

We are constantly reviewing our charges. For our second year we substantially increased the wedding charge by 50 per cent, while remaining competitive in the wedding market. This has helped to subsidise our charging rates for other users. Nearly all previous users of the old village hall have returned. We discuss our charging rates with each user and, depending on numbers in classes, etc., endeavour to arrive at an acceptable cost to the hirer.

In our opinion these policies should not make the village hall unaffordable to the community. They have been agreed with KCFC, who were satisfied with KVHOC's approach and the reasons for it. At the KCFC AGM in October these aspects of the Licence Agreement were explained to the meeting. These points were made again in the Winter 2014 edition of the *Courier*. We believe that we have carried out a responsible approach in ensuring full explanation and acceptance of our current agreement with TSB with the relevant parties and residents of Killearn.

It should be emphasised that the success of the Licensees of the coffee shop is linked to a strong weddings/events market, and the success of the village hall is equally strongly linked to the success of the Licensees and a strong wedding market.

As we have said before, we are very aware of our responsibility to the community for running the village hall as a community asset, but equally aware of the need to manage the hall in a financially effective way which, with ownership, requires us to cover operational costs and depreciation running at around £55,000 a year.

We hope this has answered the concerns raised. We will always be pleased to respond to any issues on any aspects of the hall's operations which are taken up directly with either KVHOC or KCFC.

BS

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Congratulations



A creative cottage industry based in Killearn, The Woolly Cushion Company, stood out from the crowd at the Country Living Show at the SECC in November, competing with over 320 exhibitors to win Most Festive Stand Award.

In February 2012, a local business called Needleworx (www.needleworx4u.co.uk) was set up by Gwenda Watt offering logo embroidery and curtain/cushion making service.

Gwenda started helping out at Killearn Country Market in April 2012 and regularly took a stall to sell some handmade cushions. She refined the cushion style and designs, and created a definitive range based on customer feedback and sales.

Encouraged by success of her cushion range, Gwenda established the separate trading name of The Woolly Cushion Company around August 2013 (www.thewoollycushioncompany.com), and started booking much bigger events such as Royal Highland Show and Country Living, and selling to trade customers. Since then The Woolly Cushion Company/Needleworx has flourished. Gwenda has plans to launch some new cushions designs this year, seek out new trade customers and promote her logo embroidery service for schools, clubs and businesses.

Gwenda is still very much involved in running Killearn Country Market, which provides the opportunity for local businesses to network, promote their products and services and encourages new upcoming talent to have a go... just as she has!

Contact Gwenda Watt on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thewoollycushionco

Village Hall News

Three Sisters Bake have settled in well and, judging by the numbers using their coffee shop, are much appreciated in the village.

Mention of the words 'ground source heat pump' keep the members of the Operations Committee awake at night as our problems with the hall heating system continue. We sincerely apologise to all customers of the coffee shop and users of the Club Room, which are the areas most affected, and, of course, to Three Sisters Bake. They and you have been remarkably patient and, amazingly, customers keep coming for coffee, albeit they have been keeping their coats on! Michael Pell has seemingly taken up permanent residence in the hall to try and deal with this problem and, finally, there is light – or heat – at the end of the tunnel. We are very hopeful that by the time this edition of the *Courier* is produced in mid March that we will have a heating system which is working – preferably all of the time!

The producers of the BBC series *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge*, Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery, have returned to live in Killearn, and on Sunday, 29 March at 7.30pm they will provide an amazing insight into the making of the series, with film excerpts and a range of fascinating stories.

Three Sisters Bake are offering a pre-film meal and full details of the evening are on page 23.

Please support Nigel and Jackie and bring along your friends.

BS



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Get a 'Spring' in Your Step



Active Stirling offer many opportunities for people to get out and enjoy the fresh air in their local communities. The Stirling Walking Network has over 24 led walks each week catering for all levels of fitness. There are currently four walks that are particularly relevant to those living in and around Killearn:

Killearn and Blanehead Health Walk

These are short walks lasting no more than 45 minutes, suitable for those who are looking for a social, gentle walk. They take place on Thursdays at 2:00pm, and routes vary each week.

Rural Community Walk

These walks last up to an hour and are at a gentle to moderate pace. They take place on Thursdays at 11.00am, and routes vary each week around the Western Villages. Each walk costs £1.25.

'Walk Forward' Community Walk

These walks are tailored for fitter walkers who can walk for about two hours at a good pace and can tolerate rougher ground with inclines.

The walking routes vary each week throughout all Stirling communities. Each walk costs £2.25.

Rural Nordic Walking

Nordic Walking uses specially designed poles to enhance your natural walking experience. Walks are every Wednesday at 1.30–3.00pm around the Western Villages. You will be given training on technique before coming along to the walks. Each walk costs £3.

The Otago strength and balance class in Killearn is now very popular with more and more people realising the benefit of taking part in a weekly class that focuses on strengthening 'key' leg muscles and on improving balance.

Otago is a gentle, fun, easy to follow class, designed specifically for older adults so as to prevent falls in later life. We get great feedback on the positive differences it makes to participants in their day-to-day lives. Classes are on a Tuesday morning at 10–10.30am in Killearn Church Hall – please note there is no class on the last Tuesday of every month.

For more information about all these walks and all walks offered throughout Stirling, please see our walking brochure:

at www.activestirling.org.uk/Walk-About-Stirling/

For information on walks and the Otago course, contact:

Tricia Cumming (07557 439111); email cummingp@activestirling.org.uk.

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The Flower Show

August seems a long way away, but now is the time to start thinking about what you want to enter in the Show this year.

Now is the time to make sure that you have the seeds for growing the best onion, the biggest marrow or the winning marigold. Now is the time to start knitting the scarf, making the cushion or painting the picture. Now is also the time to sort through your photos and start practicing your scones. Save the date **29 August 2015** in your diary, so that you can come along with all the family and enjoy this village event. Remember – buying a schedule for £2 gives entry to the entire family, including second cousins visiting from Australia.

Do you have any ideas as to what we should include in the Show? Do you have a particular interest that could be represented? We would be very interested to hear from you.

Please call 01360 550142 or contact us through our web page at www.killearn.org.uk/kchs

Christmas at Abbeyfield



The residents of Abbeyfield Killearn celebrated in style with a superb Christmas lunch at the house provided by Three Sisters Bake. Linsey and Nichola, two of the Three Sisters, provided canapés and a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The Ladies of The Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn provided the mouth-watering puddings and the whole day was a great curtain raiser to Christmas.

The Friends arrange many activities for the residents including outings, film shows, Burns lunch with entertainment, discussion groups, lunches, afternoon teas and Christmas shopping. This would not be possible without the wonderful financial support that we receive from local organisations. These donations each year are really appreciated and allow us to continue to provide the little extras which enhance the life of the residents at Abbeyfield Killearn.

Mike Menzies

Killearn Health Centre News

Staff Changes

Dr Rachel Affleck left us to start her maternity leave in February. We wish Dr Affleck the very best of luck.

Dr Katy Woods joined us in February as trainee. She will be with us for the next six months. We extend a warm welcome to Dr Woods.

Travel Vaccinations

We offer a full Travel Vaccination service at the surgery. Please contact Christine Montgomery, our Practice Nurse, with any questions you may have regarding travel.

Out-of-Hours Access

If you require access to medical services when we are closed, the NHS 24 contact number has changed to 111. Prescriptions can be ordered 24/7 at

www.killearnhealthcentre.com.

Easter Holidays

Please note we will be closed on Friday, 3 April and Monday, 6 April 2015. Please make sure you order prescriptions to cover this period. If you require assistance during this time, please call 111.

Power Failure or Phone Faults

If either of these occur, we will switch on an emergency mobile phone number 07745 307292. Please note this number will only be switched on in the event of a power failure or phone fault. We ask that this number is only used in urgent or emergency situations. We also ask that calls are kept short due to the fact this will be our only incoming line and it is a mobile which we will be unable to recharge!

Keep a note of the number: 07745 307292.

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Colourful Killearn – The Village Christmas Tree



Saturday, 6 December – it was *wet*! But we'd paid for the village Christmas tree and had Edenmill deliver it to the Kirk, so we just *had* to go ahead and put it up. Many years of practice meant the tree was upright in short order, but festooning it with lights in the damp took a wee bit longer than normal.

How many Colourful Killearn volunteers does it take to decorate a Christmas tree? Well, one up the ladder and a ground crew of seven offering advice and helpful comments throughout. With the rain hammering down, fingers freezing and the mud creeping relentlessly up trouser legs, we were done in a trice. OK – three hours, actually. But the hot coffee and mince pies in the sanctuary of the Kirk helped provide inspiration and fortitude. Done, finally!

The only thing to disturb our sleep thereafter was the constant battering from high winds and storms all through the festivities (hence the somewhat blurred photo), but fortunately the tree endured and stood proud to the last. Colourful Killearn would like to thank

- ✘ the Hoolie for fully funding the fantastic new lights
- ✘ the Kirk for the site and electricity
- ✘ Jim and his chainsaw
- ✘ the admiring public

As you gaze in awe at the tree next year, remember it is entirely paid for by donations from within the village and is put up by CK volunteers come flood, storm, snow or pestilence. You, too, could be a part of that...

Contact Mike Gray: 550962; branzieroad@gmail.com



Our Tenth Anniversary

Our cover celebrates that ten years ago a new publication was started in Killearn, the *Killearn Courier*; the first edition being distributed in March 2005.



Killearn Community Council already published a four-page newsletter, called the *Killearn Community Courier*, which came out three times a year. It was designed as a means by which the Community Council could circulate what the Council was doing and bring important issues to the fore. The first edition, published in February 1996, was an appeal to reject the proposed development of 36 houses on

the field behind Abbeyfield. The newsletter was supported by funds from the Community Council and distributed free to every house in the village.

The *Killearn Courier* was the brainchild of our first and current editor, Ian Dickie. In 2004 he approached the Community Council and proposed that the *Killearn Community Courier* be replaced by a more ambitious magazine, to be paid for by advertising. By this time, Killearn Community Futures was becoming established and was able to access grants to get the project started, so it was decided that KCFC should become the publisher.

The first edition (*pictured on the cover*) was only 16 pages, the cover pages being the only four pages in colour. In that first edition, some regular features were started that have continued with every edition: an article by Joyce Begg, the prize crossword by Peewit, a children's competition, news from the Classic Car Club, Killearn Community Council, the local schools, sports clubs and societies, as well as

obituaries and weddings. We have always managed to attract enough advertisers to pay for the printing, some of whom have continued to advertise with us in every edition. Our masthead was designed by a graphics designer from the village, Alison Rennie.

The editorial and production team are all volunteers, and half of that original team are still producing the *Courier*. The original group contained one young member and we continue to incorporate youth members as an important part of our group – our Cubs. The other important members are our distributors, who cheerfully push the *Courier* through every letterbox in the area come rain, wind or snow.

We were obviously ambitious. Issue 2 increased to 20 pages and Issue 3, the first Christmas edition, to 24 pages. It became obvious that some advertisers needed colour, so from Issue 2, the magazine was a mixture of colour and black and white. Issue 12 was a watershed, as we replaced the articles on the front page with a full page picture of a local scene – which appeared to be popular. Another change came with Issue 14: digital printing cut the cost to print the *Courier* in colour, so we became the full-colour magazine you see today. We also tailored the size of each issue to the number of articles and advertising that came into us.

Each edition has managed to cover its costs with income from advertising. This is becoming increasingly difficult as advertisers succumb to the current economic climate, and competition for advertising becomes fiercer. This is why we ask you to support our advertisers and mention the *Courier* whenever you use one.

We are always looking for volunteers with an interest in publishing or magazine production to join us, particularly anyone with skills in desktop publishing. We use InDesign, and are willing to give lessons to someone with basic computer skills.

Peewit

A Match Made in Heaven...

... Well, Spain actually.

Often an interest in wine can be thoroughly dampened by the sheer weight of tradition and perception of snobbery surrounding the subject, and nowhere is this more true than when it comes to the rules often cited in matching food and wine. While there are few rules that really matter, as Easter approaches, there is one that simply cannot and should not be ignored.

Quite simply, lamb really should go with red wine.

Why? All that lovely scrumptious slow-cooked fat. It needs the richness and tannins in a good red, and desperately wants to avoid anything white, pink or fizzy.

Now, this may be up for a bit of hearty debate, but the best reds in the world for that beautiful slow-cooked roasted leg of lamb you are already planning for your Easter feast is without a doubt Rioja. And in the village right now there are a lot of lovely examples to choose from, whatever your budget.

In the Co-op

Campo Viejo Rioja Tempranillo £5.99. The youngest wine on offer, and the fruitiest example of the Rioja style.

Marques de Valido Rioja Reserva, £8.99. A very well priced example of the older richer Rioja Reserva, and a relative bargain at this price!

Muriel Rioja Reserva, £9.99. This beautiful wine works well not only with your roast lamb, but with chocolate desserts too...

Corte Mayor Rioja Crianza, £9.99. A younger wine from a really classic producer, a more affordable way to introduce yourself to the quality of the region.

Baron de Ley Rioja Reserva, £10.99. Complex, rich and elegant. This wine is a very safe choice for spending a little more

Muga Rioja Reserva, £14.99. If you can, then you should. Muga is a premium producer and this is a good price for an outstanding wine.

In Spar

Ursa Maior Rioja Reserva, £8.75. The standout comment about this Rioja? The price. I would expect to pay over £10 for this wine, so the Spar are offering a little bit of a bargain here if your budget can stretch to it.



Elaine Taylor

Planning to use Google Chrome on a new Windows PC?

Take care!

If you've just bought a new Windows 8 computer, and intend to use Google Chrome, take care how you install it. Out of the box, Windows uses Bing as its search engine and Internet Explorer as its web browser. So if you simply start Internet Explorer and type in Chrome, it will search for matches using Bing. In common with many browsers, the first few results – or in the case of Bing quite a few results – are actually paid-for adverts, and in this case the top results are NOT the real Google download site. They take you to sites that will also download unwanted advertising robots.

The solution is to type in the full web address – www.google.co.uk – which will take you directly to the genuine Google site from which you can download Chrome without any unintended extras!

Personally, I use Google in preference to other search providers as the vast majority of people use Google now, in contrast with, for example, Yahoo, Ask or Bing, so the results returned from a search reflect what that majority search for and the sites they choose to pursue. I would also set www.google.co.uk as the normal search engine in preference to www.google.com as the former will slant results towards UK, rather than US, websites.

If you have been caught out by this issue, and not made many other changes, my preference would be to restore back to the factory image if possible, and come forward again because it can be hard to find all the pieces that have been unintentionally installed. By going back to the factory set up, you can be sure of what is installed.

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Christmas Post

This year saw the 2014 Christmas Post operating much as it has done for the previous two decades. With the Boys' Brigade no longer operating in the village, the Scouts and Cubs gave a hand with the delivery of the approximately 3,000 cards you placed in the boxes at the pharmacy, butcher's and the Kirk.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send just over £790 to CHAS, specifically for Robin House. Over the last 16 years we have raised £11,258.93 for Robin House through the Christmas Post. A huge thank you for your support.

The Christmas Post started in 1993 when the Guide Unit was very healthy and they were keen to do something in the community. In those days the post was delivered on the Sundays at the end of each of the two weeks it was run. We had fun on Friday evenings sorting all the cards using the old halls.

The Guides had decided they wished the donations to be sent to a children's charity. The donations in the early years 1993–96 were given to Save the Children. In 1997, I led a Girlguiding group from the UK to Chile and we spent a day helping in an orphanage for girls who could not be looked after at home for various reasons. The girls agreed to support them, which we did for a couple of years. In 1999 it was decided to support CHAS with the Christmas Post donations, and we have done so ever since.

Latterly, the sorting has been done at home, where a good time was still had by all, sometimes falling over each other and occasionally knocking the piles of cards over and – importantly – having the sweetie break once all the

cards had been stamped and sorted into their roads. This year the sorting for the first week was as normal as we only had 500 cards. This also made the delivery quick and easy for the girls and boys who did the 'Trees', and Lampson and Endrick areas. The other areas were done by two or three volunteers. The process was repeated during the second week, except that the cards were stamped and sorted as the post was collected from the boxes Monday to Thursday – we were dealing with five times the number of cards! On the last Friday, the girls had the pleasure of doing the stamping and sorting of that day's box collection. The delivery proved a tall order, though, and some of the areas the youngsters were doing had to be curtailed due to the sheer volume of cards and time available to do deliveries.

The Boys' Brigade played a big part in sharing the load with the Guides during the ten years or so that they were involved. Thank you for your help.

Sadly after 22 years operating the Christmas Post in Killearn, I feel that I must relinquish the helm mainly due to the time involved at one of the busiest times in the year, as well as other commitments.

If anyone would like to take it on board, please do contact me.

Telephone: 550485

Email: sbeck89@aol.com

Hopefully, we will see an ad for the Christmas Post in the run-up to the holidays in 2015.

Again, thank you for your continued support over the past 22 years.

Sue Beck

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Lancia Stratos

My love affair with all things mechanical started at the age of ten when I was given a green plastic model of a Morris Minor. In order to improve the steering mechanism I quickly took the car apart. My father instructed me to reassemble the car to its original specification. I even managed to rig up



a string attachment to the steering allowing me to control the direction of the car when in motion. My father's initial irritation turned to pleasure and we both enjoyed playing with our modified new toy. The die was now cast! In my adolescence a motley collection of cars followed which were all renovated and this was followed by my foray into kit cars, the first of which was a Marlin.

In 1986 my eyes lighted on a car which I would have loved to own, but which I could never afford. The Marlin and the Westfield, which I had previously built, were always going to be second best to a Lancia Stratos. Profit from the sale of the Westfield finally made the Stratos a possibility. I started looking out for Lancia Betas (as a donor vehicle) but noticed hardly any at all – even Lancia dealers are as rare as hens' teeth in Scotland. However, I finally received word of a Lancia Beta which was located in a Clydebank breaker's yard. A typically cold and wet day saw me visit the yard in question. The boys who operate these places are quite decent sorts and I am always struck by the friendliness of the Scottish 'Scrappy'. A knowing finger pointed firstly to a row of cars and then upwards to a car on the third level. Donning my climber's hat I scaled each car before meeting the rusty maroon Beta. Nothing special until I raised the bonnet to discover an alloy block stamped with 'VOLUMEX'. This car was one of a very limited number imported with a supercharged engine. Without looking much further I checked the clock – 54,000 miles – and descended quickly to make the chap an offer. £50 clinched the deal which included transport back home. Jerry Hawkrige MD of Transformer Cars and a couple of Stratos Owners Club Members were quite taken aback when I revealed details of my bargain purchase. My fate was sealed. A Stratos it had to be!

A very kind neighbour, Archie, volunteered to travel with me all the way down to East Sussex. We hired a large trailer and spent a night under canvas before beginning to search for Transformer Cars. The Owners Club had warned me not to be disappointed when I saw the premises, but it didn't help. In contrast to Westfield's superlative premises, we arrived at a large private house with by a series of rambling garages, but not a car in sight! However we quickly discovered that this was a veritable Aladdin's Cave! After negotiation we struck a deal with Jerry, and Archie and I busied ourselves strapping the car to the trailer. We finished with a brief tour of the outbuildings, which housed all manner of exotic cars, and were eventually on our way.

previous cars I have renovated. Acquiring important parts was not as easy as visiting the local Ford dealer. There was much more scope for individuality and invention. Enterprise and patience were already beginning to reveal their importance – skills which I know to be the most critical, and

which already had served a long apprenticeship.

This account of the Stratos was written over 20 years ago, and the Stratos is now long gone, replaced by a Caterham, and then a Dax Cobra and now a Porsche Boxster. However the Stratos was the best of the lot, and it took me around five years to complete, initially in Stradale form and then later Group 4 with a V6 Alpha engine. Of all the cars I have built, the Stratos was the most authentic. The only changes to the Stratos were the replacement of the steel panels with GRP and the installation of a Ferrari Dino engine. The Stratos was, in fact, basically a kit car assembled from parts from various manufacturers – Lancia, Fiat, Ferrari, Lamborghini and so on.

I have heard that my car, which was taken to Holland by its owner, is now back in Scotland and possibly for sale. I wonder if I should make enquiries to bring it back home?

Bob Sharp



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Strathendrick Classic Car Club

As I write, looking out the window at the first real snow of the year and leaden skies about to bring more, it is hard to think of hood down motoring. The temperature is enough to put off all but the most enthusiastic (i.e., nuts) from working on their beloved classic cars. The better outlook is that our indoor winter programme is progressing with excellent attendances.

Laurence Grainger opened the season with a fascinating account of his preparation and participation in the 1990 Pirelli Classic Marathon Rally. The rally was recognised as one of the world's most challenging. The talk was supported by an excellent film of the event.

Ladies Night before Christmas had everyone thinking hard for our annual quiz night. This year's host was Bob Gillespie, ably assisted by his wife, Norma.

Our most recent meeting was presented by Roger Martin and his son, Peter. They discussed the amazing complexities involved in rebuilding Aston Martins and in particular their engines. The talk was supported by the presence of an engine and a slide presentation.

The first driving event of the year will be the Rotary Charity run on April 26. The charities to be supported this year are Variety, The Children's Charity and End Polio Now. The day is also designated Drive It Day, and owners are encouraged to take their classic cars out on the road throughout the UK.

The Club's Two-Day Event this year is to Pitlochry on 24 and 25 May. Our intrepid 'Routemaster' (Mike Gastall) has already prepared the tour plan, and 13 cars are registered.

We all look forward to sunshine, blue skies, no wind and cheaper petrol!

Douglas Arthur



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Spring Song with the



There are exciting things afoot in 2015 for the Strathendrick Singers. Not only are we rehearsing for our Spring Concert, on 22 March in Killearn Kirk, but we are also preparing to welcome a visiting choir from Yorkshire in May, the KVV Singers.

We had a busy time at Christmas, entertaining the bustling Christmas Market crowds with a selection of carols, and with a concert at Gartmore Village Hall, as well as the traditional festive concert in Killearn Kirk. Our programme of carols old and new was very well received, and was enhanced by the playing of the Korda Quartet, and the singing of Marcus Walker and Alice Yeoman, young singers of incredible maturity. There was further exquisite playing by Alice on flute, and Claire Cushing from the Singers, on oboe. We were fortunate to have a first performance of a very beautiful setting of *Silent Night*, arranged for Marcus and Alice by Frikki Walker, who was present (and who just happens to be Marcus's father!). Further excitement was added by the joyous percussion played by our soloists, and accompanist, Geoffrey Tanti, in a piece by Bob Chilcott. The highlight, as ever, was Joyce Begg's 'Christmas Email'. Geoffrey Tanti played with great aplomb throughout, and we were coaxed and encouraged by our indefatigable Music Director, Mark Evans.

We had our annual Coffee Morning on 21 February in Killearn Kirk Hall and, of course, members of the Singers entertained all of you who were there – the Back Row Basses are becoming a regular feature with our topical offerings.

For our Spring Concert, we are busy rehearsing the series of Handel's coronation anthems, including the well-known *Zadok the Priest*, still sung at coronations. They are wonderful examples of his energy and melodic invention, and often use the dance rhythms of his time! The main work of the evening will be Dvorak's glorious *Te Deum*, a joyous work that brings out the popular composer's vigour and beauty, with delightful sections for solo voices. This will be accompanied by a full orchestra, which will raise the roof of the Kirk. Tickets (£10) for the concert on Sunday, 22 March at 7pm in Killearn Kirk are available from members of the Singers.

We are very excited by the visit of the KVV Singers, who are based in Keighley and Skipton in Yorkshire. They are a well-established choir with a history going back over a century, and they regularly tour within the UK and abroad, including Amsterdam and Budapest. They are a similar size of choir to the Strathendrick Singers, and they also travel with their own supporters. Not only will the KVV Singers entertain us with their programme, but we will also join forces, and about 100 singers will fill the Kirk with our voices! The concert will be on Saturday, 23 May in Killearn Kirk at 7.30pm. It is an event not to be missed.

We are always delighted to welcome new members who have a passion for singing classical music.

If you would like to support us, do become a Friend of Strathendrick Singers. You will receive invitations to special events which we have, for example, the social gathering following the AGM with entertainments.

Tickets and information from:

secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk

Follow us on:

www.strathendricksingers.org.uk and on Facebook.

Speed the Plough

The Fordson tractor, pulling a two-furrow plough, comes slowly down Laigh Parks farm road, over the railway bridge and, at the bottom of the road, goes straight across the main road and into the field which is next to the two end wards of Killearn Hospital. Along the side of each ward is a verandah. Several patients are in their beds there, open air treatment being part of their cure. One afternoon, I visited two ladies who were on the ladies' verandah. One lady, from Balfron, remarked that it was fine to see the animals in the fields near the Moss Road and across the River Blane. The other lady, from Glasgow, bemoaned that there was nothing to see but 'coos an' sheep'!

They would both see more for the next few days when the field near them was ploughed, cultivated and then sown with Timothy hay seed. The hay was to feed the cattle at the farm for several years ahead.

When this field was finished, it was time to move along the road towards the Blane Smithy. At the entrance to the field (now Oakwood entrance), across the railway, the field facing was ploughed and sown with oats.

At the Blane Smithy and then up Station Road, past the Nissen hut where the Military Police were stationed. On the left, the 'petrol dump' of drums of fuel for aeroplanes. Over the bridge at Killearn Station where the 10.20am train was just leaving for Dumgoyne, Blanefield, Strathblane and then to Lenzie where you changed for Glasgow. Past the quarry on the right where the Home Guard practised using bullets and hand grenades. The next field for ploughing was the largest cultivated at Laigh Parks – the 'Forty Acre'.

Some years, the Forty Acre grew only one crop, while at other times there could be two or three different crops in the field. The crops at Laigh Parks were grass, silage, hay, turnips, kale, potatoes and mashlum (a mixture of oats and beans).

The oats were cut by a binder pulled by a David Brown tractor. The sheaves were put into stooks, with either four or six sheaves in a stook. The stooks of six sheaves looked like little tents. All faced north and south for maximum exposure for drying.

The next to be ploughed was a small field on the left hand side of Station Road where the first two houses now stand. There was now a change of tractor and plough: a Ferguson with a two-furrow plough on the hydraulic lift arms. In Endrick Road, a small field on the left and a larger one on the right were ploughed. Part of Allan Road is now where once



Hugh on his Wee Grey Fergie in 1945

the plough moved. The third field on Endrick Road was a longer, narrow field, lying between the football field and Endrick Road.

On the right, near the top of Station Road, is the Glebe. I never ploughed in the Glebe, but I knew a man who had – Hugh Allan. If he had been in a ploughing match, then he would surely have featured in at least three different sections: Best feerin (start); Straightest ploughing; Best hintin (finish).

At the top of Station Road, a turn to the left and the area which is now the Health Centre car park. This was ploughed with the Wee Grey Fergie.

Along the road, past the church and the Black Bull, and down Crosshead Road, and then down to the Glen past the ruined Crosshead House. Two small areas with no trees were ploughed for two seasons. There were eight fields of varying sizes between the football field and Kirkhouse Road, Main Street and the Glen. They were namely: the Graveyard Field, Crosshead, Well Green, Grocer's, Sewage, Double Brae; Maggie Harper's and Gray's Brae. All were ploughed and grew various crops over a number of years.

Reversing along from Kirkhouse Road along the Main Street to Ibert Road and up towards the farm. The field on the right behind Machar House and bounded on two sides by the road to Auchenibert was ploughed with a Fordson tractor.

After leaving Laigh Parks, I was employed at the Ibert farm for a short time. One memory of that time was that British Summer Time wasn't implemented by the farmer. The reason given for this was that it would interrupt the routine of the milking cows. For a few months, you were out of step with the rest of the village!

Retracing our steps along Main Street and turning down Drumbeig Loan, the field behind the prisoner of war camp and behind the houses on the left, down to the fence at Byways, was ploughed with the Ferguson tractor. Later, a football pitch was made here and, on one occasion, a team from the village played a game against the Italian soldiers from the camp.

On the right going down Drumbeig Loan, two fields stretched from the fences of the houses on Main Street down to the road which led to the Mill House at the bottom of the steep brae.

One other plough was used occasionally, depending on the field and the crop to be planted. This was a single-furrow sub-soiler plough on the David Brown tractor.

Hugh McArthur

Nursery Personality of 2014 Award

Over the last 12 years, *Nursery Management Today* have celebrated the most important part of the child care sector – its wonderful staff, upon whom so many depend. Each year they have recognised and rewarded some of the fantastic enthusiasm, skill and dedication on display at an awards gala night in London.

We are thrilled and delighted that our very own Jane Richardson won the coveted national ‘Nursery Personality of the Year Award 2014’.

Jane was in London on 29 November 2014 for the glittering award ceremony hosted by Keith Duffy. Applicants had been whittled down to five finalists, all of whom attended interviews in October. All were invited to the Gala night with no indication as to who the winners would be.

Jane joined Mulberry Bush Montessori in January 1994 and is completely indispensable to its service and reputation. She is more than an employee or a work colleague – she is someone who is greatly valued, both as part of the management and staff team. She is described as a ‘constant in a sea of early years change’.

Jane qualified as an NNEB with experience in Denmark early in her career. Her practice has gone from strength to strength since qualifying in 2001 with a Montessori Diploma. She is a wonderful role model and is utterly dedicated to her work, the children, the parents and the Mulberry Bush. She is constant in her disposition, and the mutual love between Jane and the children and parents is magical.

Jane lives locally with her partner and two boys.

We are exceptionally proud of Jane and her achievement. The children have celebrated with Jane and the staff team by throwing a surprise party at snack time, and we hope you will join with us in offering your congratulations to our award winning staff member.

Mairi Maciver Clark, MD, Mulberry Bush Montessori



Jane Richardson with the award

New Killearn Country Market Day

The Killearn Country Market is announcing its move from a Saturday to the first Sunday of every month, from 1pm – 4pm, and hopes to welcome everyone, including young families, to enjoy the wonderful local produce and crafts on offer at the Village Hall.

The change of day was decided after an extensive period of consultation with the community, traders, the Kirk and other local groups, to ensure that the established Country Market was accessible to all.

Gwenda Watt of Killearn Country Market explained, ‘For a while now people with families have been saying to us that they wish they could come along to the market, but have been unable to visit because of other commitments on a Saturday. We decided to carry out some research with the rest of the community and it became apparent that Sunday was a very favourable day for all.’

‘With the increase in weddings on a Saturday morning at the Village Hall, moving to the first Sunday of the month seemed like the perfect way to be able to continue with a regular market and even to enhance the market’s offer. We hope now we are able to open it up to more of the community, especially families. Traders also told us that Sunday would work well for them, having a busy Saturday schedule themselves.’

‘The Kirk kindly gave their blessing to the day change, and it was decided jointly that a time of 1pm-4pm would be most appropriate.’

‘Killearn Tennis Club will not be continuing with their teas,

coffees and cakes due to other family commitments, and we would like to thank them so much for their wonderful baking and all their hard work to date.’

‘There will however be a great variety of locally produced food and drink available from our stall holders, and a new pop-up take-away coffee, tea and snacks area will be available from the Three Sisters Bake, in addition to the existing cafe.’

Other exciting developments include a hook up with the Killearn Primary Fundraising Committee to create a new crafting space for kids in the Club Room downstairs allowing parents more time to browse the stalls.

An innovative new venture has also been established with Balfron High School this year, and the Market looks forward to welcoming some young students over the coming months to showcase and develop their own product ideas.

The Killearn Country Market is a wonderful monthly community event run by volunteers. We invite all to come along, meet your friends, purchase local produce and help support local creativity and entrepreneurial talent.

The Market is constantly on the lookout for new stallholders to create interest and variety. In particular this year, we are looking for more local food producers and anyone with musical talent.

If you are interested in booking a stall or helping out at the market, please contact:

gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk or call on 07876 028764.

<http://tinyurl.com/KillearnCM>.

Need to Know?

What is the most efficient way to convey information in Killearn?

Roadside notices possibly:
or alternatively, stand somewhere near the Co-op and tell just one person?



Both methods are effective as we all know, but they also have their drawbacks. In the first case the amount of information is strictly limited and in the second, the grapevine is prone to 'Chinese Whispers'. Unfortunately, neither is really appropriate for Killearn Community Council.

KCC is receiving an ever increasing amount of information from a wide variety of sources, and Stirling Council and the Scottish Government's emphasis on community empowerment and consultation is adding to the pile. We try to sort our burgeoning in tray into three categories: non-relevant, of interest primarily to community councillors and of general interest. This short article focuses primarily on the third category, aims to highlight areas which are probably of interest to everyone in the village, and then goes on look at ways of communicating the information.

So, firstly, what topics are of interest to all of us?

- ◆ The bins (always a matter for spirited debate at our meetings)
- ◆ Police matters
- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Roads and pavements
- ◆ Miscellaneous, encompassing a wide variety of topics (more of this later)

Secondly what are the communication routes that we can use?

- ◆ An agenda and minutes are the traditional method for organisations like ours. We have to produce these for Stirling Council, but we also recognise that they can be a very useful means to let people know what the current issues in Killearn are and how we are dealing with them. Over the last year or so we have tried to make these as readable and as concise as possible. We make every effort to limit the minutes to four pages and to maximise the white space by the use of bullet points, etc. They are posted on the noticeboard at Spar as soon as they are ready. We don't have CCTV evidence, but we have observed people reading them while waiting for a bus.
- ◆ Possibly our major communication route is now our website, which has been redeveloped over the last 18 months and is frequently updated. The following outlines its scope:
 - It provides basic information about KCC: who we are; what we do; how we do it, and also a schedule of our meetings.
 - Agendas and minutes go on at the same time as they reach the noticeboard and you can also search the archives.
 - In addition, we aim to have everything there that we think you might want to know about.
 - The Latest News page highlights current issues, indicates information that we have received and also

provides links to other organisations and relevant publications. If we receive news such as road closures or bin uplift alterations we will put it on this page.

- There is a link to the monthly Planning Schedule for Killearn which we prepare prior to each meeting. This is extracted from Stirling Council's weekly planning schedule available on their website (not the easiest one to navigate). So, if you have an interest in a particular planning application you can check to see if it will be discussed at our next meeting.
- Policing in Killearn has changed since Police Scotland was established last year. We no longer have a single community policeman, but a team of five who carry out community policing but also act as response officers. Prior to each meeting we receive a report of all that has gone on over the previous month. There is a space for feedback, and if any comments or queries arise at the meeting, we email this back to our community sergeant. We then put the complete report on the website, so you can always check what has been going on.
- Not all the information that we have fits into one of the above neat categories and to cope with this miscellany we have created a Questions and Answer page. Most of the items appear first on the Latest News page and are then transferred to Q and A when they are no longer breaking news. Here you will find answers to questions such as 'Why is our broadband rubbish?'; 'How do I report a pothole to Stirling Council?'; 'Why is there no water in the cemetery?'

Of course we know that the majority of people do not regularly consult a website just to find out if there is any new information, and, to give us a way of highlighting any new items of interest, we have created a simple one-page news-sheet, *Update*, which is placed on all the noticeboards we can find in the village. This contains the main items from the police report, information about road closures and other important developments. The aim is to give the key facts and to link to more detailed information on the website.

Not everyone looks at the noticeboards, and we have recently set up a mailing list which we use to send *Update* directly. We know that most people do not want to be inundated with frequent, lengthy emails and so we see this as a route mainly for *Update* and will use it sparingly for other communications. To date we have not had to use it to convey emergency information; we will do so if the circumstances demand it. The police know that we have this facility and may use it if the situation justifies it. If you would like to be put on the mailing list, go to our website and click on Contact – you will find full details there. You can unsubscribe at any time by the same route.

We have progressed, but we know that much remains to be done to ensure that everyone in Killearn has access to the information which is relevant to them, so, what are the next steps in improving communication between KCC and local residents?

- ◆ We intend to evaluate what we have done to date and to act on any comments or suggestions that we receive (please contact us if you have anything to say in the light of this article). *(continued on next page)*

Need to Know?

(continued from previous page)

- ◆ We will evaluate other communication tools such as Facebook and Twitter.
- ◆ We need to consider the KCC website in the context of the other village websites (e.g., KCFC, the Kirk, Killearn.org.uk, the Village Hall, Killearn on the Web, the Health Centre and a number of others). Perhaps there is a case for an over arching site which relates to all aspects of Killearn life, including our local organisations and businesses? We have most of the elements of a comprehensive local information source, but we lack cohesion. Perhaps this is something we could aspire to under the new Community Action Plan? If you want to see what can be achieved in this respect, have a look at Dunblane's site.

Last, and certainly not least, communication can only be really effective if it is a two-way process.

Email us at:

ContactUs@KillearnCC.org.uk
(or any of our members)

We would love to hear from you.

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Margery Burdon, Secretary KCC

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Royal Voluntary Service is active in Stirling Council area. We are an age-positive charity, and we give practical support and help to older people based on what they choose or request.

We can offer support to older people in a variety of ways. Volunteers provide transport to medical and social appointments, offer a visiting/good neighbours service, and can help with shopping trips and bringing in shopping. We also have a Home from Hospital service, which supports older people for six weeks following a hospital stay, helping them to regain independence and quality of life. We are also keen to recruit volunteers who can take service users out on foot/wheelchair/public transport, or spend time with them in their home.

We urgently need more voluntary drivers. Due to very recent changes in eligibility for patient transport, many people who previously used it to get to hospital now find that they do not fit the criteria. The impact of this has been that older people are now requesting transport. To make sure that access to healthcare is available to all over the age of 60, regardless of circumstances; could you provide a journey for an older person now and again?

Our volunteers report that they gain experience, confidence and a great deal of satisfaction from carrying out tasks for people, and in particular that they are happy with our working arrangements, where volunteers are under no obligation to perform set tasks or hours and can choose whether or not to accept each task.

If you know someone who could benefit from the Royal Voluntary Service's activities, or would like some help yourself, **please contact our Stirling office on 01786 450718**. If you are calling on behalf of someone else, please be sure to let them know first that you are referring them to us. The time you choose to donate is entirely flexible and you will be fully supported throughout your time with Royal Voluntary Service.



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Killearn Primary Fundraising Group

The group, formerly known as Killearn PTA, is under the leadership of new Chair Noreen Devine and Vice-Chair Louise Newman.

Our fundraising began with the Scholastic Book Fair in October which provided the school with over £800.00 in new books.

Next came a spooktacular Halloween party in Killearn Primary School. All of the pupils (and teachers) got into the spirit in fancy dress and had a go at various craft activities and games including 'Bat the Rat' and 'no hands' doughnut munching.

In November we held our Killie Doo Family Ceilidh, where one of our very talented parents Mick MacNeil, a musician, composer and producer, provided the music from reels to waltzes, and caller Jim Collins kept everyone in step. We were very lucky to have Abbie MacNeil, 2014 World Junior Highland Dancing Champion, perform a mesmerising display accompanied by Donald Morrison on pipes. It was a wonderful evening for families to enjoy, and we hope to bring more events like this in the near future.

As Christmas approached it was time for the annual Christmas Fair. This year it was bigger than ever, with over 20 stalls selling a range of bespoke gifts, including jewellery, beauty products, clothing and crafts. Santa dropped by to meet the children and, thanks to generous gift donations from parents, we had 14 stunning hampers to raffle. Home-made mulled



The P1s reciting a Scots poem at the Burns Coffee Morning

wine and mince pies made a very festive event.

Our most recent fundraiser was the Burns Coffee Morning in January. Parents channelled their 'Great British Bake-off' skills and we received a fabulous selection of cakes and bakes. Local piper Ian Sinclair opened the event in style with some traditional piping tunes followed by Scottish fiddler

Jennifer McLean and the talented Mick MacNeil playing accordion throughout. This gave the children a chance to show off the Highland dancing skills that they have been learning at school. The actor John Murtagh gave a wonderful rendition of Burns' poems that brought the verse alive. But the stars of the show were the pupils of Killearn Primary School, who ascended the stage to recite a range of traditional Scots poetry. The confidence and eloquence shown by these young orators engaged the whole audience and there were many very proud parents in the Hall.

To date we have raised over £4,000 towards school funds and we are working on several exciting events, soon to be announced! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families, local people and businesses who have supported us so far. All monies raised go to Killearn Primary School. You can follow us on Facebook – Killearn Primary Fundraising Group – and if anyone wishes to join or help at future events, please feel free to get in touch via Facebook or the school.

Killearn Primary School News

Killearn 2000 (pictured right)

Killearn Primary School, helped by David Smith and Jackie Smith put on a show to remember! Primary 5, 6 and 7 created the show – Killearn 2000. It was all about Killearn's history from the Stone Ages to the village we have today. Everyone involved had a speaking part. There were so many different characters such as King Edward VII, Napier, a very grumpy priest, some lovely dancers and, of course, George Buchanan. We invited in our families and people from the local community and everyone was very impressed to learn about our amazing history. We then opened our classrooms to visitors, to show them what we had been finding out about Killearn over the years.

Killearn Christmas Fair

At the start of December, Killearn Primary Christmas Fair was a great success. All the classes made up hampers for raffle prizes, which were amazing. There were Chocolate Hampers, a Friday-Night-In Hamper and many more. Local businesses contributed vouchers and other prizes, too. Lots of things were bought from the Killearn Primary stall. Each class had made something to sell – from reindeer food, to cookies for Santa and Christmas wishes. There was also a tasty crepe stall, a mirror stall, a candle and tea cup stall, and even Santa paid a visit.

Everyone loved the fair and it really put everyone into the festive spirit! Thank you to the Killearn Primary Fundraising



Group for superb organisation and for raising a fabulous sum of money for the school.

Christmas Concert

Killearn Primary School's Christmas Concert took the audience 'Out of This World' and into outer space! With the help of our alien friends, mechanics and robots, the children shared the Christmas story. There was beautiful singing from all of the school and nursery classes, with Primary 1s and 2s acting out the Nativity.

By Rosie, Emma, Sarah and Molly

Golden Ticket for Annabel

Whoever said 'where there's muck, there's brass' probably hadn't heard of Golden Tickets.

Of course, most schools have a number of bins available for the 'litterarti', but the recent Golden Ticket Competition organised by Stirling Council's Land Services 'nominated' one particular bin around each of Stirling's six high schools to keep an eye on. When six pupils from each school were observed using that bin, they were rewarded with a £5 lunch voucher to spend in local premises.

They each also received a Golden Ticket, which was then entered into a special prize draw.



As well as rewarding individual effort, Land Services also carried out surveys of the amount of general street litter around each school at the start and end of the competition, and Balforn High School showed the greatest improvement overall, winning the Cleanest High School Award title.

Councillor Danny Gibson, Environment Committee Convenor, visited the school to present the trophy to third-year pupil Annabel, who was also the winner of the Golden Ticket draw at Balforn High, a £50 music voucher.

Councillor Gibson said, 'As a Council we are committed to sustainability and enhancing our local environment. Something as basic as people disposing of litter properly can make a huge difference to how communities look and feel... I hope that the positive impact this has had on Balforn and all the other high schools that took part will continue and I would like to congratulate all the winners for the positive example they have set.'

Well done, Balforn High School and Annabel.

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The Weather Channel

At the end of the year, weather reporters usually summarise data for that year and comment on irregularities. I have kept to that tradition, but have also used the opportunity to compare data over a longer period from 2004, when I set up the weather station, to the present.

The data from 2004 to 2013 is from Drymen and for 2014 from Killearn. I think that the two villages, only six miles apart, will have recorded similar patterns of weather over the past 11 years.

Observations from Figure 1, the year in Killearn, show that

1. September was a very dry month with only 8.4mm (0.3in) of rain.
2. The average monthly rainfall was 91.6mm (3.6in).
3. Annual rainfall was 1,098.7mm (43in), which is below the yearly average.
4. It was a very mild year, with only three days in March and eight days in December when the temperature fell below 0°C.
5. June, July and August recorded temperatures well above average for this district.
6. Overall, 2014 was a warmer and drier year (during the summer months) and that has been reflected in residents' gardens, farming production and, no doubt, appreciated by the tourist trade.

Figure 1 Yearly Summary for Killearn (2014)

Killearn 2014	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Highest Temp	9.6	10.3	13.9	20.7	22.1	30.9	30.8	26.4	25.6	20.4	14.1	10.8
Lowest Temp	0.1	0.4	-2.7	0.1	4.3	7.6	9.6	5.7	4.9	2.9	1.4	-3.2
Mean Temp	4.7	5.0	6.7	9.7	11.9	15.7	17.9	16.8	14.4	10.5	7.9	4.3
Days Below Freezing	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Highest Wind Gust	33.7	98.2	26.6	22.8	15.9	13.6	16.8	19.0	21.3	5.8	26.6	27.3
Monthly Rain	136	153	112	69	76	55.5	77	89	8.4	135.9	97.5	89.4
Most Rain in 24 hrs	12.6	16.9	16.5	13.5	12.3	11.1	13.8	39.9	2.4	18.6	26.7	16.5
Days Without Rain	1	0	8	9	11	17	16	10	20	4	5	5
Cumulative Rainfall	136	289	401	470	546	601.5	678.5	767.5	775.9	911.8	1009.3	1098.7

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

Looking at the summary shown in Figure 2 data from 2004 to 2014:

1. The mean temperature rose each year from 2004 to 2009 then slipped in 2010, a colder than average year, and has fluctuated since.
2. The mean temperature rise from 8.9°C in 2004 to 10.1°C in 2014, if continued, would be very worrying for readers who take an interest in global warming predictions.
3. The warmest months of the year are, unsurprisingly, July and August, and the coldest are December and January.
4. The wettest months are usually December and January, and the driest are almost impossible to predict, but less rain falls from May to August.

Figure 2 Summary of Weather Data (2004–2013 from Drymen, 2014 from Killearn)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mean Temp	8.9	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	7.9	9.5	9.2	9.1	10.1
Warmest Month	Aug	Jul	Jul	Aug	Aug	Aug	Jun	Jul	Aug	Jul	Jul
Coldest Month	Dec	Feb	Jan	Jan	Dec	Dec	Dec	Jan	Dec	Jan	Dec
Total Rain	1191	1038	1129	1446	984	1037	947	1154	1297	1038	1098.7
Wettest Month	Feb	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Jan	Sep	Dec	Dec	Jan	Mar
Driest Month	Nov	Jul	Jul	Aug	May	Feb	May	Apr	Feb	Jun	Sep

Temperature recorded in °C and rainfall recorded in millimetres.

I am often asked how much rain we can expect in West Central Scotland. The average yearly rainfall over the past 11 years has been 1,125mm (44in).

Over the past 11 years this has ranged from 984mm (38in) to 1,446 mm (57in). The monthly average is 94mm (3.7in).

The national news has indicated that 2014 was a year of records, both high and low. In the next edition of The Weather Channel, I will pursue this topic.

Tom Renfrew



Dumgoyne Soap would like to thank everyone for their support during last year.



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The annual Cancer Research UK House-to-House Collection will take place from:

20–26 April 2015.

Volunteers, working in conjunction with CRUK Strathendrick Local Committee, will be in your area distributing and then collecting donation envelopes during the week.

This collection represents the committee's major fundraising effort for the year and it's hoped that residents will give as generously as they have done in the past. The collection in 2014 raised around £9,800.



On your marks for 2015

At 11am on Saturday 6 June 2015 the streets of Killearn will once again come to a standstill as 400 feet — well, 200 people — expectantly tread the tarmac outside the bank. Yes, it's starters orders for the third Killearn 10k. Set to sell out again, the race is a popular fixture in Scotland's running calendar. Registration is now open and the 10k committee would like to encourage local residents to take their place on the start line.

The 2015 Killearn 10k will follow the same picturesque route as previous years. After final registration in the Killearn Hotel, entrants will be piped to the start line at the war memorial. The route follows Main Street through the village to join the historic pipe track. Skirting the foothills of Dumgoyne the route passes behind Glengoyne Distillery to the well marked turning point. The return journey off of the pipe track benefits from the downhill of Ibert Road from where it's a short distance to the finish line in the park.

Alana Kelly travelled all the way from Aberdeenshire to take part in the 2014 10k, and she plans to return in 2015. Alana said one of her lasting memories of the event was 'seeing the best view of the hills and valley when you turn to head back towards the finish line.'

But the 2014 race had more to offer than just beautiful scenery. Runners got to enjoy the sounds of our pipers along the route and were offered an impromptu cool down courtesy of Bob Ballantyne's makeshift sprinkler system! The Scouts covered their own miles handing out water

and clearing up the dispensed-with bottles. The marshals were there to keep everyone on track with a welcome smile and shouts of much needed encouragement.

The race finishers were greeted in the park by the Brownies and Cubs who presented each with a bespoke 10k medal and souvenir water bottle. A new course record was set by Garry Mathew, whose powerful, confident strides carried him home in 36.56min. Hot on Garry's heels was Killearn's very own Peter Harper, who came a comfortable second (37.42min). Peter beat his 2013 third place, meaning he retains the coveted fastest G63 local male runner title.





Only a couple of minutes later, and in an incredible sixth place overall, Stephanie Hannigan came through as first woman home in 41.17min. She smashed her course personal best and the female course record by almost 2 minutes. The first local G63 female runner was Sarah Bridge, who recorded an impressive 48.01min, and the U20 winners were Euan Woodley (45.01min) and Sarah McArthur (54.28min). The Killearn Football Club 10k trophy was awarded to Richard Burt (57.58min). Once again, and following the standard set in 2013, the first 50 runners recorded sub-50 minute finishing times, which is remarkable given the tough terrain and demonstrates the calibre of entrants attracted to this event.

Alana Kelly from Aberdeenshire said, 'I was looking to complete a few 10k races throughout 2014. I saw Buchlyvie, Balfron and Killearn were all near each other so I signed up for all three. Killearn was my first light trail run and the beer festival afterwards sounded like a perfect way to mix with fellow runners. I'm coming back in 2015 because the views, people and the food

the hotel put on afterwards were awesome!'

As in previous years, the 2014 race was ge Mulberry Bush Montessori, Glengoyne Di Co-operative, Lumsdaine Halls, Endrick F of Allan Run4it. But none of this would be tremendous support of our local community. Th event, organised by a committee of volunteers support from local residents offering their time t smoothly and safely. Carol Crawford and Rona D many supporters and both are hoping to marshal th 'it's great to be part of it. It's the little things you do up the Ibert, it's just a nice community feel.'

The 10k is a Scottish Athletics Affiliat facilitated by members of jogscotland Killearn an For more information see www.killearn10k.com.

A mile of fun

Killearn is now the proud host of not one, but two running events. While the 'trail run' status of the 10k means entry is limited to those 16 years and older, The Mile is open to all. In 2014 The Mile marked the opening of the Hoolie Week. With over 100 participants, it began with a rousing warm-up session



in the park which was led by Active Stirling's Alison Grey. In 2015 The Mile participants will follow the same route, which begins with a lap of the football pitch before heading out onto Birch Road. The – yes, you guessed it – mile-long route then continues onto Beech Drive, through The Kingdom to Lampson, up New Endrick to the finish under the Killearn 10k race gantry in the park.

In 2014 The Mile was a popular event amongst locals of all ages and abilities. The great thing about it was the option to 'choose your method of competing', and this included running, walking, dancing, sprinting (the odd carrying), fancy dress and anything in between!

Some of the 10k runners even took the

opportunity to use Th up. On finishing the 20 Murray's only compla realise you were allow round?!

The Mile is organis 10k committee in ass Stirling's Alison Grey a of the Active Schools p available on the day, will be allocated their and receive their meda and fruit on crossing th

The popularity of The it will return on 6 Jun what your age or abi beautiful paths of Kille

Where there's a path there's a way

The pavements and paths in and around Killearn are well used by local and visiting walkers. The short distance to both the West Highland Way and the John Muir Way opens up miles of walking through beautiful scenery. However, the paths don't just provide a stomping ground for walkers, there are a whole range of possibilities for runners. Indeed, local residents will be well used to passing runners at all times of the day in the village and on the paths that surround it. It seems that Killearn is becoming a village of runners!

The centre of the village itself is a good training ground for new runners. Recently converted runner, Fiona Smith, suggests that you 'pick a flat street with lampposts — Beech Drive is a good option

— and build up your stamina by alternating running and walking.' The lampposts are a useful marker, allowing you to 'run one, walk one', 'run two, walk one', building it up by reducing the number of walking intervals until you can run the length of Beech Drive.

The next step is a loop of the village. Choose your starting point; the Buchanan Monument is a good place, and head for the top of Station Road. Then down Station Road and into Napier to join Lampson Road, through The Kingdom, up Beech Drive and back to Main Street and back to your starting point. An easy 3k! Many people never stray from the village pavements when running, but they build longer routes and more challenging ones by using the hillier roads like Station Road and Branziert.

However, as your confidence and stamina grow, why not get further out into the countryside on the various paths? A starting point might be building Ibert Road (exiting out at the top of Branziert) into a loop of the village. Alternatively, use the Paths Group's *Paths around Killearn* publication to really test the trails.

Many of the runners in the village use parts or all of Path 5: Gartness. Local runner Jenny Malyon thinks a good 5k route is to start at the Buchanan Monument and, taking care on the poor pavement, head down Station Road to meet the West Highland Way, following it all the way to the Wishing Well. This part of the West Highland Way has a good path and it is wide enough to run around the walkers. On reaching the gate at the Wishing Well, turn right and head back to the village up Gartness Road. It is inevitable that you will meet a car on Gartness Road at some point. Most of the time this isn't a problem, with drivers on the look out for walkers and oncoming vehicles, but you should remain vigilant. This route also crosses the A81 twice, but the visibility is good. When reaching the top of Gartness Road, the last stretch up Station Road to the heart of the village offers a great excuse for a cool down walk!

Mud, puddle holes and rough ground are inevitable, but the Killearn Paths Group work to carry out minor repairs, clear trailing brambles and remove discarded litter. The group are always looking for

more volunteers to help (contact Mike on 550962 or Norman on 550441). The 10k makes an annual donation to support the Paths Group and, in future, the 10k committee and Paths Group plan to work together to further promote appropriate access, with a focus on linking existing paths, and the maintenance of routes.

With a good pair of running shoes, the paths of Killearn offer endless possibilities for everyone.



generously supported by stillery, art4you, the Property, and Bridge possible without the the 10k is a truly local who receive no end of to ensure the event runs Donaldson are among the the event in 2015 because n't expect, like a shower

ted event which is and the local community.

the Mile as their warm 14 Mile, local boy Cal int was that he 'didn't ed to stop on the way

sed by the Killearn ociation with Active and will feature as part programme. With entry in the park, everyone proper race numbers, al and post-Mile water e finish line.

e Mile in 2014 means e 2015. So, no matter ility, get out onto the earn and get training!



Stunning, Serious and Everyone In-between

Perhaps because of the development of a local 10k, or maybe in spite of it, Killearn has found itself host to three running groups (well three we know about, or at least three with names). All of the groups meet on a Tuesday evening, none of them admit to being competitive, but each has a preferred route.

Meeting outside Abbeyfield at 7pm, the Seven O'clock Stunners are a self-confessed 'jog and talk' group. The group includes people with a range of running experience and abilities. Some set out to run the 5k round the village route nonstop and others prefer a run-walk-run-walk approach. Fiona Smith, who has recently converted from a 20-a-day smoker to a runner, says 'I'll know I'm a runner when I can master the whole of Allan Road without needing a resuscitator at the top!'

Many of the Seven O'clock Stunners participate in the Killearn 10k acting as marshals and helping out in other ways. In 2014 Carol Crawford and Rona Donaldson ran the 10k as back sweepers. Rona said 'we wouldn't have done the 10k if we hadn't been sweeping because we just wouldn't have had confidence that we would have finished it in a reasonable time. As sweeper the pressure's off.' But the sweeper role is an important one and Carol and Rona's efforts were very much appreciated by fellow runner Alana Kelly 'although I was the last one to cross the line the sweepers were incredibly kind and didn't once rush me on. They even tried not to show their backs, which had "Sweeper" on them, to me. I'm a back of the pack runner and that was very much appreciated.'

The Inbetweeners meet around 6.30pm at the Buchanan Monument. The group are all graduates of the Stunners who had an urge, albeit a strange one, to try out a 10k. In fact, last year runners from the Inbetweeners took part in the Buchlyvie, Balfron and the Killearn 10k. For the majority these were the first 10k races they had ever done so the finish times of around 60 minutes were fantastic. Rona Donaldson described the difference between the Stunners and the Inbetweeners as 'Competition. The Inbetweeners are more competitive than the Stunners' but Inbetweenier Kirstine Simpson vehemently denies this competitive streak!



The youngest member, Inbetweenier Anna Watson, will be taking part in the Killearn 10k for the first time this year. Anna says 'I ran my first 10k last year in Balfron. Now that I'm old enough to enter, I'm excited to be running in my local race. Hopefully the practise I've had from Balfron and the Great Scottish Run in Glasgow will help me to beat my mum and the other Inbetweeners!'

The third group are the serious group! They are informally referred to by the other groups as the Harriers. The group meets at 8pm in the Killearn Hotel car park, the group don high visibility tops and head torches in the winter, before embarking on their route of anything between 10k and 10 miles. The Stunners and Inbetweeners both agree that while they run to live, the Harriers live to run.

Jogscotland leader Lorna Sinclair says that the aim of this group is 'to sustain a good base level through the winter months and for everyone to work together in order to meet individual goals throughout the rest of the year.' This might involve hill reps, trail or tempo runs but the group are flexible and motivated to support each others' aspirations. Lorna proudly reports that 'over the past year, incredible personal bests have been achieved for 10k and half marathons, with members gaining the confidence to complete full marathons both on and off road.'

Carol Crawford, who has been in the Stunners group since it started two and a half years ago, says that 'the groups are a great chance to keep in touch with people who you might not see week to week in the village.' In fact all three groups talk about the importance of the social side of running and have been spotted having the odd glass of fizz in the pub under the guise of planning a run.

For the third year in a row, the Stunners, Inbetweeners and the Harriers met at 11am on Boxing Day for the annual Turkey Trot. Based on Path 5 in Paths around Killearn, the route started in the Killearn Hotel car park, down Main Street and Drumbeg to meet the West Highland Way. Along past Oakwood they headed for Station Road where the hardest decision of the day arose; back up Station Road or head for Gartness. Some chose to brave the poor pavement of Station Road and others continued on climbing back up Gartness Road into the village. Don't be fooled though, this wasn't a virtuous event, oh no, the run was simply an excuse to get back to the car park and toast the efforts with some warm, homemade mulled wine!

All the groups are open and would love to hear from people who want to join in. If you're new to running or want to stick with the well lit roads of the village the Stunners would be great company. If you want to try a variety of the routes in and around the village then maybe you are an Inbetweenier. Serious runners who are looking for company and challenge would certainly find the Harriers the group for them. There's no formal joining process, no pressure to turn up every week and no need to finish any of the routes.

If you want to go for a run with any of the groups you will find out more on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/JogscotlandKillearn>

**The Making of *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge* – an evening behind the scenes with wildlife filmmakers.
Sunday, 29 March at 7.30pm, Killearn Village Hall**



Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery, producers of the award-winning BBC Scotland series *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge*, will provide an amazing insight into the making of the series with film excerpts and a range of fascinating stories.

From Mull to St Kilda, the team have been filming the best of Scottish wildlife for more than four years, and masterminding everything from Killearn. During this entertaining evening, they will reveal the stories behind filming seals, eagles, puffins and basking sharks, as well as spectacles like the Corryvreckan whirlpool and the West Coast's underwater world.

There will also be the chance to see some sneak previews of their new forthcoming series *Highlands – Scotland's Wild Heart* (which may even feature a few shots of Killearn!).

**Tickets priced at £5 (includes a cup of coffee/tea or glass of wine at the interval)
are available from Three Sisters Bake or on the night.**

Three Sisters Bake will also be open for early evening meals, pre film. Call to book a table on 01360 550116.

Any profit from the evening will go to UNICEF, the United Nation's children's charity.



The Killearn Hoolie

www.killearnhoolie.com

Positions Vacant

The Killearn Hoolie was initiated to bring more community activity to the village – bringing a sense of togetherness and tapping into the huge potential of ideas, energy and enterprise in the local population. The next Hoolie is due to take place in June 2016, but to enable this wonderful village event to happen, the committee of volunteers need a new Chairperson and Treasurer. The format is established, and people now know what the Killearn Hoolie is all about, so much of the hard work has already been done. It would be a shame for such a popular and fun event to come to a halt.

If you think you would like to get involved and help steer the Killearn Hoolie towards 2016, then please do not hesitate, get in touch! Planning for this event normally begins in the September, so it would be great to have someone in place for both positions by August 2015.

If you are interested or have any questions,
please contact Jennifer Brown
jnfr.brown@btinternet.com
as soon as possible.

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Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society News



The cast of *The Path of True Love*

Following our outstanding success in 2014 with our British Championship winning play, *Victor's Dung*, we are currently rehearsing our competition entry for 2015. This is a *commedia dell'arte* ('theatre of the professional or actor') production of *The Path of True Love*. This highly stylised form of theatre evolved in Venice in the 17th century, and it underpins much of modern comedy. The hugely successful *One Man Two Guvnors* starring James Corden is a reworking of an original *commedia dell'arte* play.

Our production had its first public airing at the Stirling District Round of the SCDA One Act Play Festival which was, conveniently for us, held in the Menzies Hall in Fintry in early March.

FADS is also rehearsing a further one act play *Ladybirds* by Tony Layton. It's about a village drama group that has lost all their men. The future looks bleak until a bright young director, Francesca Delmarco, agrees to help them out with a somewhat controversial play she has written herself. When the word gets out, the local vicar's wife attempts to ban the production, but the manipulative ladies have their own way of dealing with this.

Ladybirds will appear in Fintry along with *The Path of True Love* at the Menzies Hall in late March on dates yet to be agreed.

In late September and early October, we have plans to stage the full-length play *The Winslow Boy* by Terence Rattigan. This was based on a true story and made into a film in 1950 directed by David Mamet and re-released under Sony Classics in 1999.

Terence Rattigan is currently undergoing a bit of a revival for his centenary in 2011, after rather falling into a self-created downgrading. He is now regarded as one of Britain's two or three greatest 20th-century playwrights, revered for his moving studies of unfulfilled characters. His first play was greeted with great acclaim. 'It's a masterpiece of understatement,' Winston Churchill told the *Flare Path* cast after one performance, 'but we're rather good at that, aren't we?'

See our website for details of all our upcoming productions at:

www.fintrydrama.org.uk
or visit our Facebook page:
<http://preview.tinyurl.com/fintryface>



Heron House Early Years wishes a warm and friendly, Happy New Year to all.

Welcome to our new families, we are privileged to look after your children. In December our amazing children, OSC, Nursery and Babies, performed their Christmas show "Ralph the Reindeer" on stage in Killearn village hall. An audience of Parents, Families and Friends, thoroughly enjoyed the singing and dancing and refreshments too. Well done to them all. What a successful way to round off the year. Two words.....SHINING STARS!!

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone for

their kind contributions, purchasing raffle tickets for our Christmas hamper, making donations and helping out in other ways. It was such an enjoyable event with us all being together and having Aileen Saunders, our music specialist from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and CHIME, to co-ordinate the show was wonderful.

All of this enabled us to raise funds for The Beatson Cancer Charity. Funds which can contribute towards improving the paediatric waiting area and providing complementary therapy such as massage and reflexology.

This will really help patients, young and older to manage the side effects of their treatment. WELL DONE FAMILIES!!

At Heron House Early Years within our nurturing and Learning Environment, some of what we do is to encourage openness to new thinking, have respect for others, work in partnerships and effectively contribute. Please feel you can come, look around, meet our team and learn more.....

Thank you again, we look forward to welcoming you. Gabi and Fiona (01360 550162)



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Art and Music and Stuff

Now that spring is at last on the horizon, it is tempting to look forward to summer rather than dwell on how little we've achieved since we made all these New Year Resolutions. On the other hand, we've maybe done quite a lot. The great thing about the long dark months is that you can get stuck into your favourite pastimes, secure in the knowledge that you can't do anything in the garden while it's frozen rigid. Some of these hobbies will be outdoors, of course, and there's nothing like a bit of sport to blow away the cobwebs. But things like needlework or painting or making music or just catching up with your boxed sets are a great way of passing the dark winter leisure hours. And the thing about living somewhere like Killearn is that there seem to be lots of people who are artistic or musical or talented in some other direction, that you can join up with. The other thing to remember is that it needn't stop just because it's spring.

The summer Flower Show is a great space for people to show off their artistic skills. Some of the embroidery and needlework on show there is exquisite. The paintings are possibly a bit more mixed, but since the idea is for people to enter for fun, it hardly matters if they're not all National Gallery material. And the winners often are! Which begs the question, whatever happened to Killearn Art Club? In past years, the club included many very fine artists, who held regular exhibitions in the old Church Hall. When we moved into a house with lots of blank walls, Killearn Art Club was a wonderful source of lovely originals, at very modest prices. The paintings are still there, and they are unique and much

loved. Several of the artists went on to greater things, but surely there were others who liked meeting up and painting together. What happened? Are they still there and I just haven't noticed?

Apart from exhibitions, the Art Club assisted in other enterprises, like painting the scenery for the Strathendrick Singers productions of *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Gondoliers* on the back wall of the Village Hall stage. The last of these murals was there for decades, right up until the recent refurbishments. The club was also involved in Ken Barrett's village production of *Noye's Fludde* in 1983, designing the ark and creating animal masks for each of the 88 children in the cast. I bet lots of those children still have their masks. Flamingos, lions, badgers – they were all there, and they were wonderful.

As for musical talent in the village, among the several bands and groups, there is also the aforementioned Strathendrick Singers, based in Killearn, but including singers from all the villages. They put on an annual Christmas Concert in December, and also another concert in the spring. The choir has been in existence since 1977, but there are still people in Killearn who haven't heard of them. The standard of the music is high, but very accessible. Why not come along and listen to your own local singers? Their spring concert is on Sunday, 22 March, at 7pm in Killearn Kirk. You can get tickets from any choir member, or you can get in at the door. As a certain advertisement on American television used to say, 'Try it. You'll like it.'

Joyce Begg

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Charity Christmas Concert a Success

Inside Killearn Kirk at 6.00pm on Saturday, 20 December not a whisper could be heard. Then out of the darkness came the captivating sound of a boy's voice singing the opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. The Christmas concert was underway.

A large turnout of over 170 supported this event, and our charity partner for the evening, Maggie's Centre, Glasgow fielded a contingent of supporters, bucket shakers and helpers suitably logoed up in Maggie's T-shirts. We raised a total of over £1,200 for Maggie's and £600 for the Kirk.

The programme was popular in content and was particularly aimed at young families with free admission for under 16s. There were some lively pieces, striking solos and a degree of audience participation and fun. The concert lasted for a brisk 60 minutes followed by a drinks and mince pie reception in the adjoining halls.

Top performers included Robin Versteeg, formerly organist and choir master here in Killearn (see www.vocali3e for recent reviews),



Stuart Danskin, Cancer Support Specialist at Maggie's Glasgow receives Killearn Kirk's cheque from Richard Drew

the soprano Emma Versteeg, our Church member Dr Paul Boutcher of Robin House on trumpet, the award-winning actress Joanna Tope, well known to audiences at the Royal Lyceum, Citizens and Oran Mor, together with two young talented stars from Balfron High – Freddie Morley, solo singer and Eva Mailer, reading. The evening got Christmas off to a good start involving the whole community in this happy musical celebration.

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New Look for Hall



The Village Hall seems to have a fresh look about it these days, and the more observant amongst us will have spotted the reason: the old crumbling wall has been rebuilt.

Stoneworks Solutions was commissioned by KCFC to do the job, and many of us will have seen them working on it in all weathers while listening to music. They did a grand job with minimum disruption to passers-by and finished a wall that is much safer and also sets off the Hall. *TID*

New in Drymen

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Poet's Corner

We listened to reader feedback when it was mooted that a regular weather feature would not go amiss, and now we have The Weather Channel report in every issue. A poetry feature has been simmering on the back burner for a long time, and lately readers have raised the idea again.

We hope the Poet's Corner will also become a regular feature, but that will depend entirely on your contributions.

We are starting off with a study of silence 'Tell me the Ocean is Blue' by Ellie Cairns. Ellie was born in Killearn. She is passionate about writing, and fascinated by the power of words and thinks that their scope is demonstrated perfectly in poetry. She has already had a poem published. She is currently working locally before going off to Glasgow University to study English Literature.

Tell Me the Ocean is Blue

Do not tell me that silence is golden, said the ocean.
Do not tell me that every silence stands side by side,
matching bobble hats in the winter, red t-shirts in summer,
silent festivals are held every year in the park.

Quiet bouncy castles and hushed candy floss,
'Silence Association' car stickers for whispered cars
and sponsored runs for silences hard of hearing.
Do not tell me that you have forgotten baby's first pause.

'I'm fine. I'm fine. I just really like the quiet.'
Silence is a mirror.
It mimics you tirelessly. It is not the excited child in front.
It is the elderly man sat at the back: a people watcher.

'Welcome to Stillness... your silence is what you make it!'
Tell me again that silence is golden.
You are not afraid of the dark. You are terrified of the unknown.
The furry underside of a leaf feels like rabbit ears
and you love it when someone remembers how you like your tea
and every silence is different.

I know you know the ones I mean.
Silences like well-meaning fathers.

Silences like macaroni cheese in front of the TV.
Like grey breezeblock and spilled water and
finally getting home and your ears are still ringing
and everything is so contained and so tangible and you are so
real.

So, please, tell me how golden it is.
Stare at me for days and tell me I'm blue.
Cracks are distorting but now you have nine new opportunities
and they are each as broken and empty and full
as the next.

Ellie Cairns



Ellie Cairns

And a second poem sent in by one of our readers:

The Woodpecker

I hear the knocking – gently
But not demanding entry,
Instead searching eagerly in the nooks and crevices
high – high in the old beech trees.

I hear the knocking gently
It is the woodpecker intently
seeking the food it knows to be there
high – high in the old beech trees.

Celia Livingston



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Social What?

A recent report carried out in the UK and Italy found that using social media improves the mental and physical health of older adults, as well as improving their cognitive capacity and sense of achievement. It's not all Z list celebrities and attention seekers describing what they had for lunch! Here's a teenager's take on everything you wanted to know about social media, but were afraid to ask – as well some stuff that you might not know that you wanted to know.

Facebook

What? The granddaddy of social media, a networking site so popular that it has become a verb, and starred in its own film (*The Social Network*). Available on laptops and desktop computers at www.facebook.com, as well as being one of the most popular apps for smartphones (lost already? check out the glossary at the bottom). Users can pretty much do what they want: send messages, update their friends and family on what they are up to, share photos, videos and interests.

Who? Although the network started as a way of keeping college students connected, you will probably find that the younger members of your family turn their nose up at Facebook these days, as being old fashioned and over complicated. But with over 1.3 billion people logging in every month, there will almost certainly be someone you know on there.

Why? If you want to keep up with a far-flung group of friends, family and former colleagues without actually ever having to see them again in person, then this is the network for you. And if your children or grandchildren absentmindedly accept your friend request, you can cyberstalk them to your heart's content.

Instagram

What? Photograph sharing via a downloadable app for smartphones. Also accessible on laptops at www.instagram.com, but much more geared towards taking a photo on your phone, and then sharing it immediately. The spiritual home of the selfie.

Who? For those photography enthusiasts who keep the moment alive in the shot, or even those cheeky users who want to share cringeworthy family moments to the embarrassment of the affected party. An array of filters means that you can turn even the dullest of snaps into a glossy photo shoot.

Why? To post snapshots of your day for your family and friends or for the whole world to be inspired by. Also used to connect to other's photo albums, whether they are just down the street or half way across the earth – all at the tap of a finger. Great for birthdays and holidays to capture the fun. In 2014, the most Instagrammed locations were Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, but there are also plenty of celebrity accounts, with the likes of Ed Sheeran, Beyoncé and Ant and Dec all regularly posting on the platform.

Twitter

What? Say what's on your mind in 140 characters or less, with the option to share photographs and short videos. Available on a website at www.twitter.com, as well as an app for smartphones. There isn't an event worth mentioning that Twitter doesn't record: if it's not on Twitter, then it didn't happen.

Who? Plenty of opinionated celebrities ranting in the latest Twitter feud, but also loads of really useful accounts, including lots of news and weather users, who often break stories before you see them anywhere else. Even the technologically challenged can take part, with a step-by-step guide for newbie sign up.

Why? You can choose to be a consumer of Tweets, rather than a broadcaster, and keep up to date with anything you are interested in. Not sure if the snow has caused traffic problems or school closures? There will be Twitter accounts updating you every step of the way. Or you can write and share about anything from your current cinema favourite to Kate Middleton's fashion choices via your opinion on national and international news.

Tumblr

What? Blogging website and app currently featuring over 220 million blogs for newcomers to explore or add to with their own personal twist.

Who? Although the typical user might be a teenage girl obsessed with One Direction and tie-dye, Tumblr is expanding to include interests of all kinds from whole pages dedicated to TV shows such as *Broadchurch*, *Downton Abbey* and *Doctor Who*, as well as celebrity fan accounts for the super fans to indulge in.

Why? A versatile platform for a quick way of uploading anything from photos to quotes to short stories to poems. It is basically the creative outlet of the internet. With the trending bar at the top of the homepage, users can see what is happening and when, making it the perfect media for those wanting to discover what is currently popular.

Pinterest

What? Online and app platform that is a digital version of the traditional corkboard where you keep clippings and swatches and pictures to act as an inspirational muse for when you want to get arty.

Who? Definitely one for the arts and crafters, as well as DIY enthusiasts – Pinterest will give you access to thousands of digital corkboards to help you find inspiration.

Why? Design any aspect of your life, with fun and quirky 'pins' for anything from room decorations, to baking, to fitness and cooking. Really good for holiday items, like DIY Easter crayons or woodland Christmas wreaths. Puts an end to the times where you've seen something beautiful or useful that you have wanted to recreate, but have forgotten how. Your 'pins' are ready to use any moment you want to get arty.

What Does That Mean?

Puzzled by the terminology used about social media? This glossary will help straighten some things out.

APP: downloadable programme for smartphones and tablets, that can range from anything from games like Candy Crush to Facebook to anagram solvers.

@: the @ sign in front of something indicates the name of an account or user on Instagram or Twitter, like @ *Realsirtomjones*. Local accounts on Twitter include @ *balfronhgh* (Balfron High School), @ *stirlingcouncil* and @ *3sistersbake*.

Continued on next page:

Killearn Beer Festival

Now in its fourth year
3–10pm on 6 June 2015

This year's festival will focus again on providing a wide range of quality beers from both local and far-flung suppliers, reflecting Scotland's growing interest and expertise in brewing craft ales. Past favourites have included Odyssey and 1703 from Fallen Brewing, and Bonnie'N'Blond and West Highland Way from Loch Lomond Brewery, along with internationally acclaimed ales from Orkney, Cairngorm, and Fyne Ales as well as fantastic fruit ciders from Thistly Cross. This time, along with ales from excellent new local breweries such as Jaw Brew and Drygate, we will feature selections from the cluster of award-winning breweries located around the Moray Firth and Black Isle.

This is very much a community event for all the family, so we will also be providing a wide range of non-alcoholic drinks, while food will be available all day.

Looking forward to seeing you.



Social What?

Continued from previous page

Download: transfer something that is out there on the internet onto your own device, like a smartphone or a laptop.

Hashtag: a word or a phrase after the # symbol (written without any spaces or punctuation) used to start a trend. Twitter is the home of the hashtag, but its use has spread to Instagram and Facebook. During the Commonwealth Games, searching for the hashtag #glasgow2014 would lead you to everyone who was posting about the Games. If you search for #killearn, you'll find some picturesque snaps of the village and mentions of the Killearn Hoolie.

Selfie: a picture of yourself that you upload to social media, taken at what you hope is the most flattering possible angle, usually with what has come to be known as the 'selfie pout'.

Smartphone: an iPhone or Android phone that has an operating system that allows it work almost like a minicomputer, connecting to the internet and allowing multimedia use.

Trends/Trending: something which is popular on social media at any particular time, whether nationally or internationally, usually promoted by the use of hashtags.

Rosalie Williamson

The Killearn Hoolie

www.killearnhoolie.com

Killearn helps the Hoolie help Killearn

There have been three Killearn Hoolies – our biennial festival of community events – in 2010, 2012 and 2014. Each one has been highly successful in their own way, and each has culminated in the Gala Day and Final Fling community dance on the Glebe. The Hoolie has helped spawn other village activities – including the Wee Hoolie, the annual 10k and Killearn Beer Festival – which was always part of the ambition.

The success of the Hoolie has relied hugely on the support of the local community and the generosity of sponsors as well as a phenomenal amount of hard work by the organisers and volunteers. But as a result, each event to date has made a healthy financial surplus. The policy was always to use these resources to assist local community activity (after having created a reserve to underwrite future Hoolies). The criteria for giving support have always been that the activities are i) local to the village, ii) not-for-profit, iii) group activities.

From the three Hoolies to date a total of almost £7,000 has been passed on to local good causes – mostly in modest sums of £100–£200. Some groups have asked for help with transport costs, or a special project or event, others for help with equipment or materials.

Beneficiaries have varied across the full range of age groups but include the following:

- ✓ Killearn Toddlers, Killearn Parent and Toddler Group, Killearn Primary School,
- ✓ Killearn Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Forth Valley Scouts,
- ✓ Killearn 10k, Killearn FC, Get Reel, Trossachs Search and Rescue,
- ✓ Killearn Bridge Club, All Killearn Archive, Killearn Community Council, Colourful Killearn,
- ✓ The Monday Club, The Thursday Club, Killearn Old Folks, Killearn Golden Years and Abbeyfield.

Thank you Killearn for making all this possible!

Curling – Second Stones

The first half of the 2014/15 season for Strathendrick Curling Club is now as complete as it is going to be. In early October, we were shocked to find that the five-year-old ice rink at The Peak had been closed because of structural problems. However, after five weeks and some remedial work to the 'shoogly wall', the rink did re-open. In the meantime, both the main club and the Ladies Section had scratch games at Braehead, who kindly accommodated us at reduced rates.

The main club Autumn League (reduced to a 5 game round robin) was won by Fiona Glass's team of Archie Banks, Rita Harris and John O'Neill by virtue of winning 11 ends more than the second team of Norman Robertson, Maurice Rennie, Sandy Park and Keith Hyam after both finished on 8 points.

The Annual Ladies v Gents competition was won by the Gents for the first time in four years. The result was very decisive, with the Gents winning by 24 ends to 8. The bonspiel was followed by a supper at the Glass's house where we were joined by partners and members of the club who had not played earlier.

The Ladies Section was lucky with the fixture problems as they were able to reduce the proposed double round robin Peat Trophy to a single round robin. The winners, who won all four games, were Rita Barth's team of Anne Lang, Luisella Mosley and Angela Higginson. The other four teams were all on 2 points before the final session when Muriel Holroyd's team of Rita Harris, Gail Pain and Roz Gibson squeezed into second place.

The Christmas Bonspiel was won by Rita Barth's team of Elspeth Murdoch, Gail Pain and Barbara Boyter. This was followed by an excellent lunch at the Riverside in Stirling, where we were joined by some non-playing members.

The Ladies Section managed to play their Pairs Competition despite the overnight snow. The winners were Rita Barth



Ronnie Myles and Fiona Glass at the Ladies v Gents.
The penguin was not a member of either team!

Photo by Moyra Peffer

and Isabel Robertson, with Pat Rodger and Luisella Mosley in second place.

In the Forth and Endrick Province leagues, Strathendrick have had some disappointing results and are lying well down the table in the Robert Paterson Shield. However, in the Forest Hills League, we are tied for first place with Balfron and Buccaneers, but are top on shots up.

In the Jim Carswell knockout competition, we lost in the semi-final to Drymen.

The Province Medal Bonspiel saw competition by all 12 Province clubs for the first time in recent years. Strathendrick won with 12 ends from Drymen with 11 ends.

The away day at Kinross saw Strathendrick provide two teams to compensate for a last minute call-off. Strathendrick 1 easily took the honours with 13 ends, while Strathendrick 2, with 9 ends, came in second place, despite not actually winning any of their 4 end games.

Forth & Endrick Province, including a Strathendrick team, had a first victory for 17 years in the Area 6 Bonspiel against the other three Stirling-based Provinces.

We played the Balyarrow Trophy at Greenacres against the other 1846 founded clubs, but have still not managed to win it. However, a second trip to Greenacres was more successful as we won a District Medal match against Millport.

On the social front, we had our usual successful meander just after New Year. The rain kept off for the walking sections and we only had to retreat into a house at one of the daytime venues.

We are always looking for new members, so if you are wanting an activity to keep you busy during the winter months and have always fancied curling, please contact Donnie MacDonald (01389 860442) or Gill Smith (550726) or look at our website at www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

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Wheelchair Curling Success on the Ice

I first heard mention of Wheelchair Curling back in 1999. I could not imagine how this would work! However, things moved on apace, and in 2005 the World Wheelchair Curling Championships were held at Braehead ice rink, Glasgow, and I volunteered to help. This was the start of my involvement.

When I saw Stirling Wheelchair Club members on the new ice rink at The Peak in 2010, I volunteered to help, on a very casual basis, and within a short space of time I became Secretary of the club. 'Try Curling' sessions were organised, which attracted more players, and the club was soon flourishing. I am now President of the club, and enjoy the Wednesday sessions on the ice, when you see such enjoyment for people less fortunate than ourselves, and what they can achieve, despite disability.

Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club started in 2010. Logan Gray, Ice Development Officer, Judy Mackenzie, Head Coach, and Neil Hogg, a wheelchair player were founder members. Gradually over the years the numbers have risen, and on average we have 15 wheelchair members. There are a handful of dedicated volunteer members who

help coach on a weekly basis and generally facilitate play. Apart from club members, local day centres are invited to join in on a monthly basis. The club tries to accommodate and encourage all levels of ability, from 'short' curling and 'very short' curling, and the more usual full length curling. Three members have represented GB (Scotland) Curling at international level, including going to the 2014 Paralympics in Sochi.

The club also hosted an International Wheelchair Invitation event last October, attracting teams from Finland, Norway, Switzerland, the United States and Russia. Despite the event having to relocate to Braehead Ice Rink, Glasgow, from Stirling at very short notice, the event was very successful. It is planned to stage the event again this year at The Peak, Stirling.

Fiona Glass



Stirling Provost Awards Honours Local Curler

Every year, Stirling Council hosts the Stirling Provost Awards, which recognises talented individuals living and working in the Stirling area who have made significant contributions to local communities or who have achieved national recognition over the previous 24 months. At the Award Ceremony held in the Great Hall at Stirling Castle last November, local resident Fiona Glass received the Provost's Award in the voluntary section in recognition of her involvement in Wheelchair Curling.

Fiona, no mean curler herself, first became involved when she volunteered to help out at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships held at Braehead in 2005 and later on, the Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club, where she took on the role of secretary within a short space of time, and of which she is now president.

The name Wheelchair Curling accurately describes the sport, and the Stirling Club has seen its numbers rise since it started in 2010.

Congratulations, Fiona!



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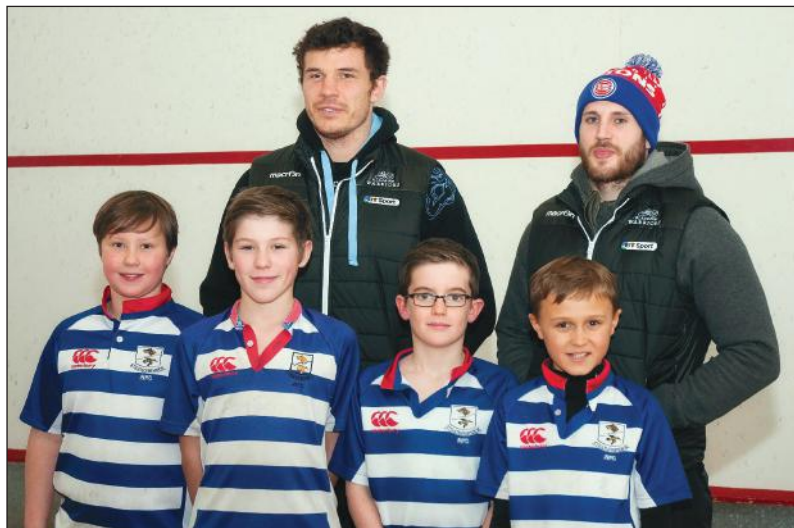
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Rugby Round-Up

As this edition of the *Courier* hits the streets, the 2015 Six Nations Championship will be reaching its climax; but as we go to press it is still just an enticing prospect... Will Scotland perform to its potential? Will the Glasgow Warriors' success translate to the international stage? Will Vern Cotton bring out the best in his limited pool of players? This season, even more than most, it is vital that the Scotland squad delivers as there is, of course, a World Cup on almost home soil later in the year. South Africa, Samoa, the United States and Japan await in Pool B in September and October.

On the local scene, the Strathendrick 1st XV (after a poor season in 13/14) has performed really well, with a raft of promising new players recruited and/or coming through the ranks. At one stage promotion looked to be a possibility – but realistically, a top four finish in BT West Division 2 would be creditable. As we go to press, all the Club's games in January have fallen foul of the winter weather so the season will now extend well into April.

The SRFC Juniors have again been enjoying a great season. The Minis go from strength to strength both in terms of player and coaching numbers, and skills development. Building on the huge success of last year's venture, the squad are very much looking forward to their end-of-season tour to Caerphilly and Abergavenny from 1–4 May.



Glasgow Warriors and Scotland stars Tim Swinson and Tommy Seymour meet Strathendrick Minis at a visit to Fintry in December

The Club has – for the first time in several years – fielded an Under 16 team in the Regional leagues. Although the level of competition has been really tough – it is an important step in re-establishing rugby at all age grades throughout the Club. The S1/2s have enjoyed rip-roaring success, sweeping most before them with their squad of highly talented and committed players. They are all very much looking forward to their imminent 2015 tour to Belfast from 19–22 March.

Dates for the diary: highlights for the next few weeks at Fintry include the Presidents XV v 1st XV on Saturday, 25 April, followed by the Annual Strathendrick Mini Rugby Charity Festival on Sunday, 26 April.

For further information go to:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrffc/.



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Killearn Football Club News

After a fairly successful season on the field as far as results went, the Club staged two further events before Season 2014 ended.

First, in mid October, members took part in the annual golf outing to Westerwood Hotel Golf Club in Cumbernauld. Twenty-six players competed accompanied by Jazzy B who, due to injury, became Course Director and Drinks Organiser for the day. A lot of good scores were recorded, but a few (Fraz and Decko) showed their talents were on the football pitch and not the golf course. After an enjoyable meal in the hotel, prizes were awarded. S. Crombie was winner on the day; N. Smith, Runner Up, with H. Russell, longest drive; D. Beaton, nearest the pin (the first prize won in 29 golf outings!); S. Norval, winner of the Booby Prize.

To complete the season, in November a Player's Night was held in the Killearn Hotel, where players, committee and honorary office bearers gathered. After a first-class meal from the hotel, Club Chairman D. Beaton outlined the season past and thanked the players and committee for all their efforts, both on and off the park.

Honorary President Hugh McArthur then presented the Club trophies:

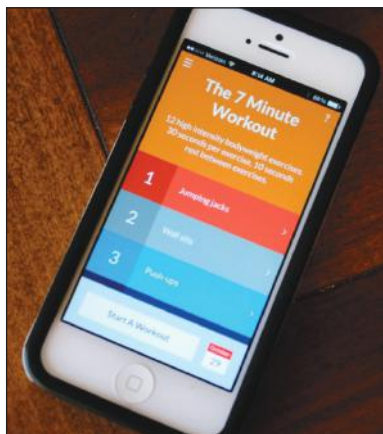
- ◆ James McColl: Club Player of the Year
- ◆ Fraser Cameron: Player's Player
- ◆ Alan Moore: Top Goal Scorer
- ◆ Stuart Macdonald: Young Player of the Season

A new trophy, presented by the Killearn Hoolie 10k Committee, was won by Richard Burt (*pictured right*) for showing the best improved run time from the previous year's Hoolie 10k.



The Club would like to thank all who have contributed towards the Pavilion Fund in the past season either by donations, sponsoring the Hoolie runners or participating in the '49 Club'. Your support is greatly appreciated.

App of the Issue: The 7-minute workout



It's nearly that time of the year again, folks. Time to whip out the shorts and the swimming gear for the holiday season. I know it's sometimes hard enough getting out the door when it's still dark in the morning – but summer is just around the corner, and there is so much to

look forward to. It is, however, the time when you begin to think about fitness.

The 7-Minute Workout is an app that I recently downloaded to my phone in order to clear my conscience after the indulgent winter festivities – sometimes a wee bit of motivation is all you need to get started. This app is a quick and easy way to improve your all-round health by giving you pre-prepared, high-intensity exercises in succession for seven minutes. Although it may be difficult to tackle at first, this easy routine is a wonderful addition to your existing regime. (You do *have* a regime, don't you?) It's an app that works wonders, especially considering it only takes up seven minutes of your time. *Morven Paterson*

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The Tennis Club Welcomes New Members

As spring has now arrived, it is time for tennis players who have been in winter hibernation to swing into action. For those who have always fancied playing tennis, the Open Day on Saturday, 25 April 2015 is an ideal time to venture onto the courts and have a game.

Killlearn Tennis Club caters for all abilities. For beginners and players who are keen to improve their skills, coaching is

available from Head Tennis Coach Hannah Pickford and her two assistants, Tricia and Louise. With the first successful tennis camp of the year for kids having happened during the February holiday, Hannah is gearing up for the next camp during the Easter holiday. The next coaching block will begin after the Easter break and weekly coaching will take place on the following days:

Wednesday nights

Under 10s: 4–5pm

Team Training: 5–6pm

Thursday nights

Girls' Tennis: 3.30–4.30pm

Friday nights

P1–P2: 4–5pm

P3–P4: 5–6pm

P5–P7: 6–7pm

Seniors: 7–8pm

More competitive members have the opportunity to join teams which are entered into the Central District leagues. The Gents' team is re-establishing itself this year, and it is hoped that a good pool of men will be willing to play matches on a Thursday night. In addition to this, there will be a Ladies' team which will play matches on Tuesday nights, and for Juniors there will be Under 12s and Under 14s teams. Incidentally, the Under 12s team is a mixed team, so we are now able



Tennis club coaches: Tricia, Hannah and Louise

to accommodate girls in this age group.

Ladies' and Gents' social tennis nights will be starting soon on Wednesday nights. We plan to organise taster nights for perspective new members on Wednesday nights, as this is a good time to come along and meet members and have a few light hearted games. Open Days and family tournaments with barbeques will also be run throughout the season. Watch out for

posters informing of club activities around the village and on our website.

Dates for your diary:

The AGM: Saturday, 14 March 2015, at 11.30am in the Clubhouse. All senior members are most welcome.

Open Day: Saturday, 25 April 2015.

Easter Camp: 13–17 April 2015 (Monday–Friday).

If you would like to join the Tennis Club, please contact:

Anne (550253) or Elaine (551120)

or visit our website www.killlearntennisclub.co.uk.

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Ken Kendall – Man of Many Lives

Ken Kendall, whose birth name was Kazimir Jan Kubicki and whose obituary was published in the November 2014 *Courier*, led a life of extraordinary and often harrowing adventure and somehow survived into his 90s. His son, John, in his eulogy at his father's funeral service said, 'He had a life and he lived it to the full, but if a cat has nine lives, how many does a Kaz have?'

His first brush with death was at the age of nine, when he fell into a frozen river while skating and became trapped under the ice. Fortunately his brother ran for help, and Kaz was brought out of the river, close to death. More near death experiences came his way during World War II.

In 1939, he was at summer camp with his Scout troop near the Ukrainian border. With the outbreak of war and thinking of Kaz's safety, the Scoutmaster sent him to stay with an uncle, a local police chief, who lived in the area. But the uncle's position in the community put them at risk of the invading Russians and the pair made their escape towards Romania. All too soon their luck ran out and they were arrested by a member of the Ukrainian police and deported to the Soviet Union and out to Siberia. His uncle did not survive the journey and Kaz, at the age of 17, was interred in a gulag near Novosibirsk and, as forced labour, was put to work on the construction of a railway. He survived the harsh conditions, but only just. In 1941, at the outbreak of the German-Soviet war, the prisoners were released, but left with virtually nothing. As the youngest of the survivors of the camp he was despatched to beg for food from nearby farms. Poorly clad and almost starving, he was treated kindly by one farmer's wife who gave him eggs and some home-produced vodka to warm him. On his return journey to the camp, thanks to the glow of the vodka, he was overtaken by a desire to sleep and lay down in temperatures of -40°C. When, after several hours he had not returned to camp, his fellow inmates set out to search for him and found him, curled up in the snow, literally frozen stiff in that position. They carried him back to the camp, fearing he was dead. They put him on top of a stove where gradually he thawed out. Shortly after this, with little food and inadequate clothing he marched, along with many thousands of displaced Poles, to volunteer for the Polish army. The journey took him through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan – a journey of over 3,000 miles by foot, sled, cart, railway cattle wagons and truck – to Persia (now Iran). Here, in 1942, he joined up.

After training, Kaz saw service in Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Sicily and Italy at Monte Cassino with the Carpathian Brigade. In the field of battle, a German stick grenade bounced off his helmet

and exploded; although injured, he walked away. On another occasion, he was hit by friendly fire, but sustained only leg wounds. He was sent to the UK for further training and joined the Independent Polish Parachute Brigade, training at Inverlochy Castle with the Special Operations Executive. He was one of the 'Cichochiminy' – 'the dark silent ones' – intended to go behind German lines into Poland. This mission was aborted, but the group was used in Operation Market Garden (Arnhem). While training Free French paratroopers, using a converted bomber, he was the last to leave the plane, but hit his head on the bomb bay door. His parachute opened, but caught on the plane's rear landing wheels. Thinking fast, he cut the cords and deployed the emergency chute. Kaz landed unharmed.



When the war ended, Kaz settled in Scotland and lived a happy family life, becoming a successful business man, using his engineering skills and his capacity for hard work where nothing was too difficult for him. Later in life, a heavy lorry, attempting a misjudged overtaking manoeuvre, drove head-on into his car. The damage was considerable and Kaz needed to be cut out of his car, but suffered comparatively minor injuries and lived another two decades.

Towards the end of his life Kaz's son was driving his father to Kirriemuir and as they came to the town centre. Kaz reminisced that one of his tanks had once failed to negotiate a corner and had demolished the baker's shop when leaving the square. They laughed over this but, considering his father's failing memory, John quietly wondered about the truth of the tale. A week later, John was back in Kirriemuir and, chatting to a local man, learned there had been a number of Poles in the area during the war. The local man pointed across the square and said, 'That used to be a baker's shop until the Poles demolished it with a tank!' So Kaz's story was true!

He died last autumn in his ninety-second year, having lived what can truthfully be called an eventful life.

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Moira Beaty 1922 – 2015



The death of Moira Beaty, mother of Ann Beaty, early in January, in Balfour, marked the end of a long and remarkable life of a most gifted lady.

Born in Prestwick and brought up in Shawlands after the death of her father when she was only four, Moira showed artistic talent at an early age. She was an academically able student, but went counter to the school's vision of a university education by determinedly pursuing her ambition to study art. She won a scholarship to Glasgow School of Art where she found her niche amongst fellow students Margot Sandeman, Joan Eardley and Cordelia Oliver.

War soon interrupted her studies and when, for a time, it seemed as if the GSA would close, Moira volunteered for war work. After an interview with the Foreign Office, she was invited to take up a clerical post at a secret destination in southern England. She was instructed to take a train to Bletchley Park late one evening and on arrival to telephone a number and await further instructions. She was collected by a young woman in a car who welcomed her to the 'mad house'.

Her initial task was to type up coded transcripts of enemy transmissions. Messages that defied transcription and might have been 'junk' were collected in a basket on the typist's desk,

labelled DUD. One day, quite early in her post, she took out some of the dud messages to have a second attempt and noticed patterns in two messages and took these to the cryptographers, asking if this might be a code within a code. This indeed turned out to be so, and Moira received a message of appreciation from the Admiralty. From then on she was employed on code-breaking the daily in-coming German messages, working in company with gifted mathematicians, linguists, musicians and other artists. The work continued round the clock in three shifts, with the code-breakers poring over sheets of squared paper and referring to texts, cribs, rods and charts to work out the coded messages. The ability to spot patterns in the layers of letters and numbers explains why visual artists were often skilled in this work.

Despite demanding conditions, the comradeship of the team working for a single goal – the winning of the war – united them all. Moira described the work as being exhausting and exhilarating at the same time. There were some opportunities for recreation: an Art Club was set up by the art students and professional artists and Moira

was able to continue painting and to work in clay, dug from local pits (though this sometimes exploded in the kiln). Theatrically experienced people put on plays and concerts and Moira would paint the sets for these. On rare days off, visits were made to London to hear Myra Hess in lunch-time concerts in the National Gallery, or to Cambridge, where Moira remembered an idyllic picnic on the river with Handel's *Water Music* playing on a wind-up gramophone. Such times she recalled as 'island gems imprinted on the memory'. There were opportunities for good friendships to be made, some of which lasted a lifetime.

The teams at Bletchley Park knew from their work how the war was progressing and learned of the end of the war in Europe the day before it was publicly announced. With this their work at Bletchley Park was ended. Moira recalls a strangely empty feeling, devoid of any joy or exultation, and surmised that everyone was too tired to contemplate a new beginning.

She transferred to the film unit of the Ministry of Information for a year or so, then spent sometime in hospital before she returned to Scotland and ultimately to her studies at the GSA. There she met her husband, Stuart, a sculptor, and after graduating they settled in Hawick, where Moira worked as a part-time teacher and painted whenever she could, and here their daughter was born and grew up. Moira developed a successful career, sending her work to the Royal Scottish Academy, the Society of Women Artists and the Royal Glasgow Institute. Her folio included portraits, often of children, landscapes and still life. When Stuart retired, they moved to near Kippford, where the scenery gave added inspiration to their art. On the death of Stuart, Moira moved to Balfour where she settled well and made many friends. She continued observing and painting until the end of her life. Her work reflects the environment in which she lived and the events of the times she lived through. She and Ann enjoyed a close mother and daughter relationship and were the best of friends. Moira remained energetic, bright eyed and lively of intellect until the end of her life. Her memory will live on in her art.

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Elma Young 1931 – 2015

It is with regret that the *Courier* learned of the death, in Edinburgh, of Elma Young.

Elma and her late husband, Bill, lived with their family, Iain, Jill and Anne in Allan Road. Elma was a teacher in Killearn Primary School for a number of years, and will be remembered fondly by former pupils and by her many friends in the village.

Alexander ‘Sweetie’ Buchanan



Last year, certain Killearn Welfare Trust members were inspecting our building at The Square and on looking into the old graveyard, we noted that Alexander Buchanan’s gravestone had suffered damage.

The stone stands out, being a replica of the George Buchanan Monument, and is located in the southwest corner of the cemetery, conspicuous by its clean appearance. After enquiries and discussion, the Trust decided to restore it to its former glory.

Alexander Buchanan was a true village benefactor: he brought clean water to Killearn.

In the mid 1800s, a cholera epidemic raged in the village due to bad water. Buchanan did a test on all the local springs to the east of the village to check for purity, and finally found that a source above Lettre Farm was perfect. At his own expense he had this water piped into the village as far as Greenend, and connected it to 14 taps (or wells) within the village. Some of these are still visible, although many are now filled in. The original tank used in 1840 has been expanded and is used today to accommodate our present water supply.

Buchanan also lived at Achadhu House (25 Main Street), and is responsible for building the stable block and modernising the house itself in the late nineteenth century. He was ‘a gentleman and a scholar’, who did Killearn a great service; a philanthropist who put some of his personal wealth made in the family’s confectionery business to excellent use. Long may we remember him.

Jim Fallas

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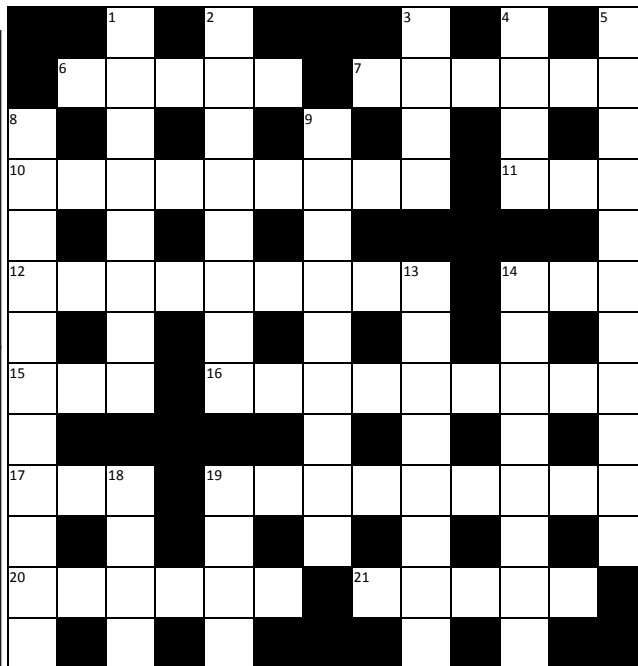
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ACROSS

- 6,8. This instant, even Henry can celebrate with the Courier. (5,11)
- 7. The Spanish, not odd, number (6)
- 10. These drugs are a racist con! (9)
- 11. Eggs in a line by the sound of it. (3)
- 12. Occurrences in the bus in stance six. (9)
- 14. Covering is dull without end. (3)
- 15. Fish found in an angler's creel. (3)
- 16. Right for example in stationary position of importance. (9)
- 17. In season with this type of salt. (3)
- 19. End before prepared for papering is too big. (9)
- 20. User of the Courier could be dearer. (6)
- 21. A dunce cut is hooked. (5)

DOWN

- 1. Rip with laser will cause an act of retaliation. (8)
- 2. Upholstered seats from Turkish Empires. (8)
- 3. Charity – warnings without right. (4)
- 4. Finished, secret unbounded. (4)
- 5. Nice tick dies without kick start with this. (11)
- 8. See 6 across.
- 9. Thrown away – hell combed out. (9)
- 13. Retained, assigned to a team. (3,5)
- 14. Courier armament store. (8)
- 18. Oh dear, a girl is not finished. (4)
- 19. Golf championship accessible to all (4).

Solution to the last crossword
 Across: 5 salesroom; 8 Ness; 9 Findhorn; 10 Garten; 11 Lomond; 13,16 Lake of Menteith; 15 squint; 18 nose; 19 Ardinning. Down: 1 cassette; 2 deafen; 3 urinal; 4 loch; 6 separated; 7 frankness; 12 mourning; 14 frigid; 15 sphinx; 17 tarn.

Name

Address

..... Phone

Congratulations to the winner of our last crossword: Sue Beck, Killearn

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Name Age

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Alastair Gingles aged 4. Closing Date for both competitions – 28 March 2015. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

Two Times Tree

We've had some special visitors to the garden this winter. Two Tree Sparrows, seemingly addicted to the niger seed in our feeders, have been on show almost constantly every day. They've turned up here once or twice before, but only fleetingly. Now though, they feel like permanent residents.



As the photograph shows, at first glance a Tree Sparrow could be mistaken for just another 'speug'. But have a closer look. First, male and female look alike. House Sparrows instead show sexual dimorphism – the male with the familiar head pattern of grey crown and black eye mask and bib; the female lacking this and generally drabber. In contrast, both male and female Tree Sparrow sport a

So what's so special about Tree Sparrows? Well, first, they're not House Sparrows. Sight of this latter species, despite suffering a significant decline in numbers over the last few decades, rarely causes a double take and is as familiar a garden bird as one can imagine. Tree Sparrows are scarcer and more local in Scotland and are not really 'garden birds' at all. They are much more associated with arable land and, like many farmland birds, have been declining in numbers and distribution as a result of changes in farming practice. In winter they tend to associate with similar seed-eating birds including their House Sparrow cousins, Yellowhammers, Reed Buntings and various finches to feed in cereal stubble fields. As such, a trend towards autumn sown crops may be one reason for declining numbers.

smart chestnut crown with a distinct black patch on a paler cheek and a narrow white neck-collar. Altogether they are much neater birds.

If this starts you scrutinising sparrows, you will find that it is the black cheek patch in particular that catches the eye, providing the initial clue that you are watching something a bit different.

So keep a look out for these birds at all times of the year, both in the garden and when out for walks in the countryside. They are another reminder of just how lucky we are to have such diversity of wildlife in and around Killearn.

Martin Culshaw

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