

Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 4

SPRING – MARCH 2006

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Killearn Courier is published by



**Killearn Community
Futures Company.**

Anyone wishing to contribute to the next edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 19th August, 2006.

Advertisements and Artwork.

All adverts should be in the hands of our Advertising Executives by **Friday, 7th July**. Gwen Stewart can be contacted on 01360 550865 and Sara Hudson on 01360 550806

Contributions

All contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by **Friday, 7th July**. Send them to:

20 Station Road Killearn G63 9NU

or email to courier@kcfc.co.uk.

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Our Very Own Centenarian

Many people in Killearn will be astonished to learn that the slender and elegant figure in the smart cap that they regularly see walking along the road towards the coffee shop, celebrates her hundredth birthday on February 26th. Gwladys Lind is a one-woman advertisement for healthy living and a positive attitude to life.

Mrs. Lind was born Gwladys Maud Hyslop in Glasgow in 1906, and has witnessed events that the rest of us think of as history. She was a child in the First World War, was around during the General Strike – in which she briefly drove a tram – and was active in the W.R.V.S in the Second World War. Against a background of such huge events, she lived a modest life with her parents and her sister Myra. After a delicate childhood, she attended Hillhead School, and later graduated from the School of Art. She then married and had two sons, William and David.

In 1959 Gwladys moved to Killearn, and became a well known participant in village life. Professionally, she established an enviable reputation as an artist, and mounted successful exhibitions of her paintings. She joined the Monday Club, where she was recognised as a fairly

fiendish bridge player. She played tennis, and has always been keen on exercise. She was also clued up on the virtues of vegetables and fruit, especially her beloved bananas, before the rest of the world became quite so aware of them.

But what many people think of when they think of Gwladys is her love of cars. She drove a series of beige Minis before moving on to the sporty models for

which she became renowned, including a canary yellow Lancia. Latterly she drove a series of Fiesta XR2 cars, and was still tooting happily around well into her nineties.

There are two things about Gwladys that everyone notices. The

first is her smile – always friendly and genuinely happy. The second is her sense of colour – not surprising in an artist, of course, but Gwladys always wears stylish clothes in colours which particularly suit her. You will see her in natural creams and fawns and golds. In fact, gold really is her colour. And as she reaches her centenary, she is still the golden girl she always was.

Happy Birthday, Gwladys. Congratulations, and love from everybody.

Joyce Begg



HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY TO THE
KILLEARN COURIER



KILLEARN PTA'S SUCCESSFUL YEAR



The PTA got off to a flying start this year – we gained several new members full of ideas and enthusiasm. As usual the year's events kicked off with a Halloween disco with kids, parents and teachers all dressed to scare! The night was a *howling* success and made over £650 for school funds.

The next venture for the PTA was a cookbook. *Cooking for Killearn Kids* compiled from recipes from the children, their families and local 'celebrities' including Reverend Malloch and Donald Duncan, the butcher. The cookbook was launched with an entertaining afternoon at the Village Hall with local celebrity chef, Simon Whitley (Executive Chef, Cameron House) teaching teachers and pupils how to cook. To date this venture has raised over £750 for school funds. Copies of the cookbook costs £3 and can be ordered from Fiona (550667).

The start of December saw our annual Christmas Fayre with fun and games for the kids as well as lots of wonderful

festive stalls. The day was a great success raising around £800 for school funds.

Our most recent event was the annual Burns Coffee Morning where the children showed us how incredibly talented they are with songs and verse from the Bard and other Scots poets. Further entertainment came from Ian Sinclair and Fergus Evans on the pipes. Nearly £400 raised on the day helped us move closer to our target of £5,000.

Events still to come this year include the Family Music Night, the Duck Race and the end of year BBQ – see diary section for dates.

This year the school are planning to use the money raised by the PTA to continue to support school outings, develop technology resources and expand resources for their Personal & Social Development and Health curricula. The PTA would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children, parents and local people for their continued support of all our events. *Fiona Dowell*



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BOUNCING TO SUCCESS... AGAIN



Amy MacGregor has once again enjoyed success trampolining at a national level.

Last year we reported Amy's triumph in bringing home the Scottish Schools Gold medal (under 9 years, level 5) to Killearn Primary School. This was topped back in November by becoming the Scottish National Champion in the Level 5, under 11 years class – a major achievement when you are only 9!

Amy had to qualify at a grading competition before being eligible to compete in the Scottish National Championships in Perth.

Competing at this level requires a lot of practice and dedication. Amy trains twice a week with the Bishopbriggs Trampoline Club. *Gwen Stewart*



Editorial

Welcome to this, our first edition of 2006. The frenzy of Christmas and New Year seems well past and, in spite of the snow storms raging elsewhere in the country, we seem to be rushing headlong into Spring in our own secluded, sunny part of Scotland. Long may our good weather continue.

This edition also marks our first birthday given that it was at this time last year when we first produced the *Courier* and launched it onto the unsuspecting residents within the Parish of Killearn. Like our birthday girl, *Gwladys Lind*, we are still going strong and will continue to do so for some time yet! This year is also the birthday of Killearn's most famous son, George Buchanan, (see article on page 17). It's the 500th anniversary of his birth and a lot of festivities are being planned for you to enjoy.

Writing of birthdays, is there anyone out there who wants to tell us of a previous birthday they had which was memorable, funny, offbeat or just plain miserable – something like we did in the last edition with tales of Christmas Past? Come on, give it a whirl. If your editorial team can do it, so can you!

Since our last edition, we have recruited another member to our team, Dougie Bell and a warm welcome is extended to him. Dougie will join the members of the Group responsible for the layout and has already proved his worth in this edition. He's also written an article (page 10)! I should add that you don't have to write an article to become a member of the team so ???

Enjoy the *Courier*.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor

Footpaths

Killearn Community Futures Company has set up a group to look at footpaths throughout the parish of Killearn, and to produce a booklet with information about all the most useful paths. Group members will be walking the paths over the next few months and contacting landowners to get permission to include them in the booklet. If you have a favourite path, or would like a new or linking route developed, please get in touch with the group secretary, Ian Pascoe (550022).

Ian Pascoe



| | |
|----------|---|
| 24 March | <i>Killearn PTA</i> , Family Music Night. Village Hall, 7–10 pm. |
| 25 March | <i>Killearn Football Club</i> , Race Night. Village Hall, |
| 26 March | <i>Get Reel</i> , Concert. Village Hall, |
| 29 March | <i>Rotary</i> , Charity Bridge Drive. Village Hall, 7.30 pm. |
| 7 April | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> , "Whale Rider". Balforn Campus, 7.30 pm. |
| 9 April | <i>Strathendrick Cycling Club</i> , Run from Garelochhead, 11 am. For information phone Morag Jervis (660437). |
| 22 April | <i>Mothers and Toddlers</i> , Car Boot sale. Village Hall. |
| 23 April | <i>Tennis Club</i> , Open Day and 'Play Tennis' scheme. Junior session, 10am – 12pm, followed by an American Tournament for senior members. All welcome for 'play tennis'. Contact Anne Delargy (550253). |
| 27 April | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> , Illustrated talk by Bob Will: "Recent Excavations at Loch Lomond" preceded by wine & cheese and followed by a short AGM. Drymen Village Hall, 7.15 pm |
| 30 April | <i>Scribbler's Stroll</i> . Walk between Stirling Rugby Club (Bridgehaugh) and Mc Q's (Bannockburn) in aid of 5 cancer charities, book in 12.30pm. Contact Maureen (01786 478213) or www.scribblerspicnic.com |
| 5 May | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> , "The Maggie". Balforn Campus, 7.30 pm. |
| 9 May | TAGS, <i>Soweto Gospel Choir</i> , Glasgow Concert Hall, 7.30. Ticket and transport £25. Book at Balforn Library (440407) Contact Joan (440095, evenings). |
| 9 May | TAGS. <i>IKEA trip</i> . £7.50. Contact Joan (440095, evenings). |
| 20 May | <i>Killearn Horticultural Society</i> and <i>Colourful Killearn</i> , Gardeners' Market and Coffee Morning. Village Hall, 10am – 12pm. Entrance: £2. |
| 20 May | <i>Killearn PTA</i> , School Fete. Primary School grounds, 11 am – 1 pm. |
| 17 June | <i>Killearn PTA</i> , Duck Race. Endrick Water, 11 am. |
| 17 June | <i>Killearn PTA</i> , BBQ. Primary school grounds, 5–8 pm. |
| 18 June | <i>Scribbler's Picnic</i> . Stirling County Rugby Club (Bridgehaugh), Noon until late. Music, refreshments, charity stalls. |

If you have any dates for the August 2006 issue (mid August to mid November) of the Diary, please contact Pat Ryall (550713) by June 30th 2006.

LETTERS

We welcome letters from readers. Please include a full name and address (not necessarily for publication). Contact addresses on the front page.

Dear Editor

I have been disappointed at the response to the crossword and wordsearch competitions in the *Courier*. Both prizes are worth having, yet the number of entries in the box in Spar are rather sparse. Where are the solvers of the *wee stinker* in the *Herald*? And surely £10 to spend in Spar is enough temptation for any under-12. So come on puzzlers – get those entries in and make it a real competition.

Peewit

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There have been guest speakers from Stirling Council at two meetings in recent months. In November, Kevin Roberts, Roads Improvement Manager and Brian Robertson, Traffic Management Team Leader led a review of road safety in the village. This followed the fatal accident at the exit from Branziert Road a few weeks earlier. The good-sized audience was given the opportunity of expressing their views on road safety and traffic management in Killearn and the officers from Stirling Council took heed of the concerns expressed and promised that road safety improvements in Killearn would be made a priority. As a result of these decisions new road markings and signage were installed in the approach to Branziert Road.

The Community Council promised to include road safety as a regular item on the agenda of their meetings so that the situation may be monitored constantly.

In January, Mick Stewart, Head of Planning, gave an outline of the planning process and answered questions from the audience. He was able to give details of several recent local decisions, some of which have been contentious. He stated that the Tennis Courts would be identified as a Rural Activity Site on which planning permission for development would not be given and that if permission were to be granted for the building of houses on the Killearn Hospital Site this would not set a precedent for further development on the village boundaries.

Brenda Pell

Area Community Planning Meeting

The first meeting of the Area Community Planning (Cluster 5) took place in Balfron High School on 1 February. There was a large attendance from all the communities in the rural area west of Stirling. The subject of roads and road safety was addressed by Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads and Transport, Stirling Council, and by Sgt. Jim Allan, Collision Prevention Unit, Central Scotland Police. Following an opportunity for questions the meeting was asked to decide on key aims and objectives to be taken forward by a Roads Working Group to create an Action Plan.

Notice was given of an allocation to the cluster of funding to the value of £29,800. This may be used in the Cluster to fund a project or projects that will benefit the Cluster or it may be divided between every Community Council. Discussion regarding this should be made within Community Councils, after which a representative will report back to the next Area Planning meeting, and a Steering Group will be set up to implement the decision.

Brenda Pell

Drymen & District Local History Society

Recent local books not to be missed!

Buchanan Castle: the military years, 1939-1948, by Clair Calder was published in December 2005 by Drymen & District Local History Society. Price £4.00. Clair has lived in Buchanan Castle Estate for many years and this book has grown out of his interest in the castle and its wartime role.

John Mitchell has completed his trilogy of papers on local transportation, the latest being *From East Lomondside to the Clyde: a short history of local travel and transportation by water*. This, with the previous papers, *The rise and decline of the railway in Drymen and district* and *Drymen and district by road* was published by Drymen & District Local History Society. Price £2.00 each. John is a founder member of the History Society, and his research in recent years has contributed a great deal to our record of the past in this area.

All of these publications are being sold for the Society by Drymen Library.

Alison Brown

Playpark Update

The Playpark Group, working under the auspices of KCFC, has had some success in their attempts to attract funding and now stand at around 50% of what is needed. Working in partnership with Stirling Council and with valued support from Pam Campbell, the Group has produced its own business plan, and is using this as the core of its appeal to trusts and funds. A mailing of nearly 50 packs has recently been sent to a variety

of funds as well as appeals to various local organisations. Many hurdles have been overcome, but our efforts must be redoubled if we are to see the project started in the autumn.

If any reader knows of any possible sources of funding, please contact the Playpark Group (chairman Brenda Pell) with details.

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News From Killearn Primary School

Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair in the autumn raised a fabulous £3,300. That's a lot of books! Well done, everyone, and happy reading.

Prize Winners

Congratulations to Primary 5 who were winners in a recent literacy competition. They met the Children's Laureate Jacqueline Wilson on January 30th at Stirling University. A very special outing!

Outdoor Playground

An area of our playground has been identified as an ideal site for an outdoor classroom. P5 are going to be Project Managing this task and ask if anyone in the community would be willing to assist them in this exciting project. They are looking for people who might have connections in the building industry or design (architects/landscaping), health and safety or just able to assist with general labouring!

Please contact the school if you think you could help our young entrepreneurs out!

ECO Schools

Our school has achieved **Silver** award for ECO Schools. This award recognises our achievement towards a sustainable lifestyle, and we are very proud to have been awarded it.

We will now be planning how best to achieve our **Green Flag**.

Balfron High School Rugby

Congratulations to Balfron High School under-15 rugby team. The boys won through to the semi-final of the Bowl of the Bell Lawrie Scottish Schools national competition before losing narrowly, 15-7, to Madras College. Just one step from a final at Murrayfield! Well done to all the players and coaches involved. *NH*

KPS Burns Winners

P1

Poetry - *Callum Anderson*
Pussie at the fireside

P2

Poetry - *Kirstie Maitland*
The Crocodile

P3

Poetry - *James Roxby and Breagh Hannan*
The sair finger

P4

Song - *Shona Michie*
My Heart's in the Highlands
Poetry - *Morven Paterson*
The Heron

P5

Song - *Christina Bell and Amy MacGregor*
Scot's wha hae
Poetry - *Rachel Maitland and Olivia Heron*
Where is the Glasgow?

P6

Song - *David Leonard*
The work o' the weavers
Poetry - *Christie Macleod, Kirstie Buchanan and Hannah McLaren*
To a Louse
Song - *Robert Cowden*
Ay waukin o'

P7

Song - *Euan Michie*
A Man's a Man
Poetry - *Stella Boland*
Tam O'Shanter
Song - *Kirsten White*
A Man's a Man



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Road Safety



As reflected in the Community Council meetings, road safety and traffic management are continuing matters of concern. The speed of traffic passing through the village, the lack of any pedestrian crossing and the problems caused by inappropriate parking are chief amongst complaints. New signs and road markings are an initial response to what have been long-term hazards, but the need to educate drivers to restrict their speeds within the village is crucial. The Community Council has asked for the introduction of a one-way system around the circle of Graham Road and for the re-marking of yellow lines to restrict parking. The School Board has carried out a survey of how children currently get to Killearn School, as part of Stirling Council's 'Safe Routes to School' initiative. This aims to identify, and detail any required upgrading of, those routes that allow children to walk or cycle to school safely. It is hoped that the combined efforts of the Community Council and the School Board may carry some weight in persuading Stirling Council to implement the measures needed to ensure safety on our village roads.

Parking on the Main Street is a matter of some debate. When vehicles are parked on both sides of the street the resultant narrowing can act as an effective chicane, forcing vehicles into a one-way passage for a short period; but anyone who has seen heavy goods vehicles bearing down the Main Street, swinging out to pass cars parked outside the pharmacy, swinging back to the left-hand carriageway then out again across the centre of the road as they pass the Spar parking bay with no perceptible reduction in speed, can only wonder how long it will be before a vehicle loses control.

Again, a legal and appropriate speed and style of driving are important elements in maintaining safety on the roads in our village.

Brenda Pell

Have you got an interesting tale to tell? Are you part of a sports club that you'd like to tell Killearn Courier readers about? Please contact Nick Hawkins on 01360 550576 with leads on sporting achievements, youth and leisure activities. We publish three editions: late summer, pre-Christmas and pre-Easter.



From Anne McGuire

The issue of road safety is always on our mind, not least in the village. Although it was almost 30 years since the last major accident in Killearn when a pedestrian injury occurred, the recent fatal accident at the junction of Main Street and Branziert Road has caused great distress and concern. Both Sylvia Jackson and I are very much aware of the community's worries over vehicles travelling at speeds through the village. We highlighted these concerns to Stirling Council at the end of last year. We need to ensure that both the Council and the police redouble their efforts to ensure that drivers of all vehicles respect the rights of those who live in our rural communities. As a result of our work and other community representation on this issue, Stirling Council has promised to include Killearn in a programme of road safety measures covering several villages and to maintain a dialogue with the community regarding the introduction of new measures.

If you have any views on this and any other matter, then please do not hesitate to contact me at the Parliamentary Advice Office, 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling FK8 1UA, telephone 01786 446515. You can also contact Sylvia Jackson MSP at this same address.

You can also visit my website at www.annemcguiremp.org.uk or email me at mcguirea@parliament.uk

Anne McGuire

Mobile Library Timetable

The Mobile Library comes to the village on a Thursday and stops in four places.

The mobile library is to be found on

Branziert Road North

between 3.40 and 4.20

and Graham Road

between 5.30 and 6.50

on the following dates:

March 2, 16, 30

April 13, 27

May 11, 25

June 8, 22

July 6, 20

August 3, 17, 31

September 14, 28

October 12, 26

November 9, 23

December 7, 21

New Endrick Road

between 3.45 and 4.10

and Allan Road

between 4.15 and 4.35

on the following dates:

March 9, 23

April 6, 20

May 4, 18

June 1, 15, 29

July 13, 27

August 10, 24

September 7, 21

October 5, 19

November 2, 16, 30

December 14, 28



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Summer Ice

Summer Ice is a traditional game played on a long, narrow table, with a marked target at each end. There is a wooden channel, the 'ditch', all round the table to catch any wayward stones. The table is highly polished, as are the bases of the metal stones. Shaped like a small curling stone, these are about 3 inches in diameter and one inch deep. The rules of the game are very similar to those of curling.

The game of Summer Ice has been played in up to 14 villages in the area since 1907. Today, only four villages – Aberfoyle, Buchlyvie, Gartmore and Kippen – are left playing Summer Ice.

As well as playing games in the Recreation Club at Killearn, teams were entered in the two area-wide competitions, the Sir Steven Bilsland League and the Lady Cayzer Cup. Summer Ice was played in Killearn until the Recreation Club closed in about 1961.

Hugh McArthur

The Lady Cayzer Cup

Round 1: Stronachlachar v. Killearn

Early in the evening a group of four men are waiting at Well Green for the arrival of the Austin 16 taxi from Donald Johnson's Kirkhouse Garage. The team to represent Killearn Recreation Club is:

Skip: Archie Gilfillan, chauffeur. A more genial man you could not meet.

Third: Tom Paul, company secretary. He brought a bit of decorum to any gathering

Second: Roy Bryden, cattle-float driver. He knew and had visited very many farms throughout Scotland.

Lead: Hugh McArthur, farm worker. He is employed at Laih Parks Farm.

The taxi arrives and we set off for the Trossachs. We travel along the Aberfoyle road, past Ballat and the Ward Toll. Bypassing Gartmore, we continue on through Aberfoyle. Along the Main Street, the shops are closed. A number of people are making their way out for the evening, whist-driving or whatever.

Arriving at the hotel at Altskeith, we make what is known today as a 'comfort stop'. The kilted landlord is in jovial spirits and soon some of us seem to be trying to copy his mood via his bottled spirits. A timely 'toot' from the taxi reminds us that we have a bit more to travel before we reach Stronachlachar.

On our arrival, we are met by a group of men and women and we are ushered into the big house. If these good folk did not invent the phrase 'Ceud Mile Failte', they certainly knew what it meant. In a big room, in the big house, and on a big table is a spread enough to make a young farm worker's heart – and stomach – jump with delight.

In the words of Robert Burns, 'the nicht drave on wi' sangs and clatter', when Sandy, a shepherd, an employee of Glasgow Corporation Water Board, as were several of the folk, suggested that we should play some summer ice.

And so we played. Fifteen ends. We drew, we guarded, we went in-off, we went 'through the hoose', each side trying to get the 'shot'. The skips raise their pointers triumphantly or threateningly, depending on how the players follow their instructions. Soon it is all over. Fifteen ends. Who won? Who cares! After another visit to the big table, we take our leave of our friendly, generous hosts at Stronachlachar.

Passing Altskeith all is in darkness. No comfort stop possible now. At Aberfoyle, in the moonlight, Baillie Nicol Jarvie's poker casts a shadow on the ground. The taxi stops at the Blane Smithy to let me off. Here, too, all is in darkness. Jeannie and Margaret sound asleep in bed. Along past Killearn Hospital. Here and there, lights gleam in the darkness. There are always lights

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on in Wards 14 and 14A, the brain wards. No Ward 13 here.

The farm road-end, up over the railway bridge and into the bothy. My three colleagues are dead to the world. Sheila, the collie, and her son, Bonzo, give a welcoming wag of their tails and go back to sleep, to dream of chasing cows or chewing bones.

In what seems no time at all, the door opens and Dan, the farmer, gives his usual morning salutation: 'Right, boys, it's time to milk the kye.' The clatter of the milking units being assembled, and another shout from Dan, force my feet to find the floor. O, dear! I'm tired! But it was good to be at Stronie last night.

Hugh McArthur

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Killearn Health Centre

Public Holidays and Training Days

Training Days: Centre closed from 12.30 pm on 22 March, 27 April, 6 June, 21 September, 24 October, 23 November.

Public Holidays: 14, 17 April; 1, 29 May; 7 August; 11 September; 25, 26 December.
1, 2 January 2007.

Marta Emmerson-Gray
Practice Manager

Colourful Killearn

Colourful Killearn is hoping the begonias planned for all the village tubs this summer will give a glorious show. Anyone in the least bit interested in horticultural pursuits is more than welcome to come along to our well-advertised Work Parties to find out what we're about perhaps even give us a hand to tidy up existing beds. The annual Coffee Morning and Gardener's Market, with Killearn Horticultural Society, will be on 20th May this year in the village hall – plants, stalls and garden bric-a-brac outside, and coffee, tea and edibles inside.

Colourful Killearn is grateful for the continued financial support and encouragement from Green Force, a Stirling Council initiative. Green Force, as the name implies, gives grants to community projects which support ecological initiatives: in order to comply and get funding, Colourful Killearn must use peat-free compost and all the plants are to be composted at the end of the season. They also champion the use of natural materials, and any plastic used, must be from recycled sources. Our latest project is for a large planter outside the Spar and we won a grant of £430 towards this.

Pricilla Douglas

Killearn Bridge Club



The Club meets every Tuesday evening in the Strathblane Country House Hotel. New Members welcome.

Contact Ian Pascoe (550022) or Roger Sparkes (440700).

Dog Fouling

Complaints have been received about an increased incidence of dog fouling, particularly in residential streets. Dog owners are asked to clean up after their pets and to make use of the 'dog litter bins' provided. These red bins should be used only for dog excrement and not for general litter.

BP

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Windfall

A one-off grant of £1,000 has been given by Stirling Council to every Community Council. The purpose of this is to spend the money on some local project or improvement that will benefit the community. Plans for the use of this grant must be lodged with Stirling Council by August, and the money must be spent by March 2007.

Residents are asked to submit to the Community Council their suggestions for using this grant. *This is a rare opportunity.* Do let the KCC know your ideas. BP



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Profile: PC Fiona Park

Fiona Park has recently been appointed Community Police officer for Killearn and Fintry. She is also the Liaison Officer for the care premises of Ballikinrain and Care Vision.

Born in Glasgow, she was brought up in Cumbernauld and always wanted to join the police force. On leaving school she completed an apprenticeship in electronics and electrical engineering, but 14 years ago entered the police force where she now sees a growing equality in the balance between the sexes. She was originally stationed in Dunblane and was a member of Incident Team 4 at the time of the tragedy in the primary school.

She has been stationed at Balfron for 11 years and rates highly the attractive rural surroundings, the low crime rate and villages that are community oriented and supportive to the police. When asked for any negative aspects of her work she admitted that, although residents here are



supportive, they are also reluctant to contact the police, not wanting to bother them. As she has stated publicly that she would like residents to contact her whenever they have any concerns or when they notice something unusual as such observations can often lead to the detection of a crime.


The chief function of her job is to prevent crime and to make all efforts to detect crime; as a Community Officer her task is to form a close relationship with the communities she serves. She

emphasises the value of listening to people, of being visible and of instilling a feeling of trust between her and the community. It is, she says, impossible to measure the results of these factors, but there is no doubt that these qualities result in good practice that pays dividends in the future. As a part of her job, she has some input into the schools in the area and also talks to youth organisations.

When off duty Fiona enjoys walking her dog and running, and has competed in a number of 10k events, raising money for Strathcarron Hospice and the Chest, Heart, Stroke Scotland. She has been married for a year and, since her husband is also a shift worker, finds that domestic life can combine well with the demands of her police career.

Eminently approachable, Fiona will be only too pleased if you introduce yourself to her as she carries out her role as Community Police Officer. BP

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Photo : Jan E Margetts

Sail – Now On!

One of Britain's most popular participatory sports is sailing. Situated so close to a range of beautiful Lochs and Glens, Killlearn is lucky to have several sailing clubs within reasonable driving distance. As an outline guide to this hobby, five of the most accessible and popular local sailing clubs are introduced below (there are several more on the Forth and Clyde estuaries).

Loch Lomond Sailing Club (www.lochlomondsc.org) is the principal sailing club on Loch Lomond and enjoys a beautiful location on the eastern shore, north of Balmaha. A friendly, family-based club, it boasts superb scenery and a relaxing atmosphere. The main thrust of the Club is to provide competitive racing as well as sail and powerboat training, all combined with the provision of on-shore amenities to ensure an attractive family atmosphere.

There is club racing every Saturday and Sunday from April to October – and a Frostbite Series (brrrr!) carrying on through November and December for the keen members. The strong racing background is reflected in the RYA Volvo Champion club status with several open events hosted throughout the year. Vessels racing at the club range from Toppers for younger children through blistering Catamarans & Skiffs to more leisurely Keelboats, but make no mistake – all crews are out to win. Most of the racing takes place over the extensive stretch of water at the southern part of the Loch.

Loch Venachar Sailing Club (www.loch-venachar-sc.org.uk) is situated at the heart of the Trossachs on the south shore of Loch Venachar.

Loch Ard Sailing Club (www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/sailing/lasc) is located to the West of Aberfoyle, nestling in the heart of the Trossachs. The source of the River Forth, Loch Ard is 4 kms long by 2 km wide, and provides excellent sailing in sheltered water.

Clyde Cruising Club – Dinghy Section (www.clyde.org) is based at Bardowie Loch near Milngavie, and provides idyllic surroundings in which people of all ages and abilities can learn to sail. Bardowie provides members with RYA training in all aspects of dinghy sailing, both racing and cruising.

Loch Earn Sailing Club (www.lochearnsc.com) is situated on the north side of Loch Earn near the St Fillans end and is one of the most picturesque lochs in Scotland.

Dougie Bell

Shark Swim

In the last issue of the *Killlearn Courier*, there was an announcement of the birth of Rebecca Louise Rennie. Rebecca Louise surprised Mum Alison (née Bogie) and Dad Iain by arriving 14 weeks early.

She has been doing remarkably well, and to help her Mum and Dad say thank you to the Queen Mothers Hospital, Special Baby Care Unit, Heather Farren (née Robbie) went to Deep Sea World at North Queensferry on 22 October 2005, and swam with the sharks.

Heather would like to thank everyone who sponsored her. She raised £200, which has been given to Alison to add to donations she had already received for the Queen Mum's.

Heather would also like to let Rebecca Louise know that she really enjoyed her swim, but might have chickened out if it had not been for her. So thank you, Rebecca Louise.

Sheila Robbie



“The Ski’s the Limit”

To climb to the heights of being the third best slalom skier in your age group in Britain takes remarkable talent, commitment and hard work (as well as generous support from family and friends), but that is what Killearn’s Lynsey Hall has achieved.

Lynsey, now 16, first skied on the dry slope at Tillicoultry at the age of 8. Her first visit to the Alpine slopes was to La Plagne after which, showing promise, she started race training at Bearsden Ski Club. The West of Scotland has many great features, but plentiful snowfall is not one of them, so from the age of 11, Lynsey progressed to Aberdeen Ski Club, visiting Glenshee or joining other Club activities every weekend throughout the season.

Displaying determination and a precocious talent, Lynsey began to climb the ranks in Scottish competitive skiing, winning the John Clark Race at Glenshee and the Scottish Dry Slope Championships. Entry to the British Championships at Lenk followed together with more regular trips to the Alpine slopes including the family’s favourite resort, Alpbach in Austria.

Progress to national ranks in any sport is not simply a matter of ability or luck – regular training, huge commitment and resources are all essential. Lynsey would do a fitness session every day (plyometrics, cycling, running or weights)



and travel through to Edinburgh every weekend for specialist coaching. Her parents, Keith and Ellen, were, of course, taxi drivers, supporters and sponsors – funding travel, accommodation and equipment costs. Even at national level, sports funding of individuals in Britain is very modest. By contrast, in Austria or France specialist schools combine a curriculum of academic work in the mornings and afternoon training on the slopes throughout the ski season.

Lynsey repaid the confidence shown in her by winning through to the British Children’s Championships in Meribel in 2004 where she was third fastest in the Slalom. Our photograph shows Lynsey in action on the spectacular slopes of the

French Alps. As part of the Scottish Junior Ski Team, Lynsey enjoyed a six-week training camp at Mount Buller near Melbourne, Australia, in 2004 and three weeks in Oppdal, Norway, last year, further improving her strength and technique. Her endeavour resulted in the Killearn youngster earning fourth place in the British Junior Championships last year. Also in 2005, she was selected for Scottish Schools Team for the World Schools’ Championships in

Sweden – and she was our country’s top performer.

What lies ahead? Despite a cabinet full of medals, cups, plaques and trophies, exams loom. Lynsey’s education has to take precedence, but she is now also training to be a ski instructor: her longer-term ambition. In years to come, if you choose to take ski classes or show promise at racing, you might just benefit from the expertise of Killearn’s own Scottish Champion.

Killearn Tennis Club



Despite the uncertainty over the lease of the grounds members of Killearn Tennis Club remain confident of the club’s future and are looking forward to the new season.

Open Day – Sunday, 23 April

Sunday, 23 April sees the Tennis Club’s Open Day. A session for juniors will be held from 12.00 noon until 2.00pm and will be followed by an American Tournament for senior members. For those not familiar with this event it allows members of all standards to play together in a friendly doubles format. It’s a great way for any new or prospective members to introduce themselves to the club set up so please come along and join in.

Play Tennis Campaign – Sunday, 23 April

The LTA’s ‘Play Tennis’ promotional day will coincide with the Open Day activities. The ‘Play Tennis’ scheme allows anybody to play tennis for free for the day at participating clubs and the club has again volunteered to be part of this event. The campaign, backed by Tim Henman, is the LTA’s grass roots promotion to encourage people of all ages, background and ethnic origin to play the game and join local clubs and programmes. It has been running for seven years and provided more than **400,000** people throughout the UK, with the opportunity to ‘Play Tennis’ for free. It is hoped that this may lead to increased club numbers – however, that’s secondary to

just coming along and having some fun. Let’s hope for some good weather.

Anybody interested in joining the ‘Play Tennis’ day should feel welcome to come along. Further details can be obtained by contacting the club secretary, Anne Delargy (550253) or look out for the signs posted at the club house.

Team tennis

For the more competitive players out there, the start of the league season isn’t too far away, with the first games scheduled for April. The Club enters senior and junior teams in the local Central and District League and have fared very well in recent years. Those involved find it enormously enjoyable and there is a good social side to the team games as well. An increased pool of players would be welcome, particularly amongst the men who have struggled for a second team in recent years. Anyone who is interested in getting involved please contact Anne Delargy or any club committee member who will put you in contact with the relevant team captain.

Don’t be put off by reports on the disputes over the lease of the grounds. The Club is confident tennis will continue in Killearn for many years to come. Membership forms and details of coaching can be provided by Jackie Hawkins (550576).

New members very welcome.

John Forshaw

Good Foundations for Killearn Property



What is it that makes for an active and robust property market? Of course, a stable economy, low inflation and keen interest

rates are the obvious economic drivers, but without demand they count for little. It is with little surprise, therefore, that Killearn has benefited and enjoyed such a healthy property market and will continue to do so, given the desire to live here both from those outwith the area and from those current residents trading up or down the property ladder.

There is no mystery as to why this should be – a pretty village of approximately 2,000 population in such a delightful situation: at the foothills of the Campsie's, on the fringe of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and yet within 20 miles of Glasgow city centre. Drawn by an active community,

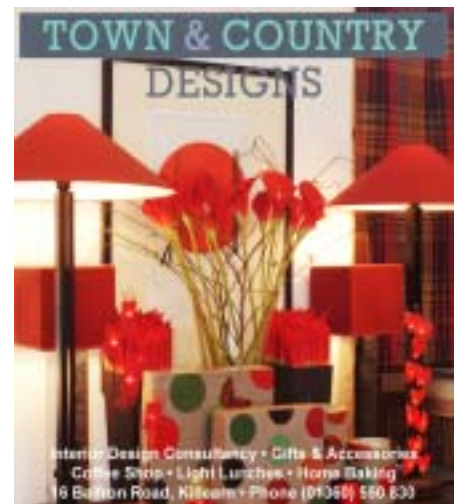
the village 'ticks all the boxes' with some of the best primary and secondary schooling in Scotland, an excellent health centre, shops to cater for most day-to-day needs, clubs, societies, good road infrastructure, a bus service and, importantly, an eclectic mix of quality homes.

Killearn can provide a home either for the first time buyer or the millionaire, and it is little wonder, therefore, that it provides steady and, at times, significant year-on-year capital growth for its owners. Last year saw house values consolidate over some of the more noticeable gains in previous years with rises in the order of 7.5% to 10.5% with homes typically achieving between 15% and 20% over the advertised figure. Of course there will always be exceptions to the rule and those properties which enjoy a particularly good view or plot and certainly those of a more traditional nature do frequently out perform. The forecast for 2006 is good and already the early sales and enquiries for the village have been very positive for so early in the year. Our best estimate is that there

could be a 9% to 13% price rise ahead for 2006.

One thing is certain: with all that Killearn has to offer in setting, quality of housing stock, schooling, amenities and its strong sense of community, it will continue to deliver increases in property values, be a place where people would wish to move to, and be not only one of Stirlingshire's but one of Scotland's nicest places to live.

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Big Changes at Little Carbeth

If you walk down Drumtlan Road you will notice something has been going on in the field to your left. There is a spanking new barn in the field by the drive and around the house scaffolding partially masks the walls, now stripped of their whitewashed facing.

Agnes and Ian Bowie have moved here to realise a dream. The traditionally-styled house, built in 1977, has been stripped back to its barest skeleton and is being totally refurbished with stone being brought into its construction. Along the south wall a glassed cloistered walkway has been built and at the back a new large drawing room and master bedroom, above, with a balcony, are being added.

Whilst the house is presently very much the domain of the builders, it is outside that the results of some major changes can be seen. Just beyond the margin of the formal garden a field runs down to a new wildlife pond. Backed by the conifers of the Witches' Glen a large elliptical-shaped pool has been filled from the water of the Witches' Burn. A tumble of large rounded stones marks the point at which a little waterfall will create movement in the water. A moss-covered rocky island has been sited in the water to offer a haven for ducks, safe from predatory foxes. Tree planting is in progress extending from the glen around the margin of the water and birds are already nesting in the area.

When the building work on the house is finished, the surrounding garden will be returned to a spread of lawns. In the surrounding fields and in a beech copse, highland cattle and sheep are grazing. The views of the hills are unparalleled in all directions and the design of house and garden is planned to take maximum advantage of sunrise and sunset. The wildlife pond will provide a resource for ornithologists and school parties will be welcomed. 'Traditional' and 'timeless' are the watchwords of Agnes Bowie's vision for her house and land. When the alterations are completed, Little Carbeth will nestle harmoniously into its landscape. BP

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Killlearn Hospital Site: Update

Two meetings, both open to the public, took place in 2005 in the Village Hall. A feasibility study was also conducted and the outcome of that study was available at the second meeting.

The former hospital site is classed as a contaminated site (because of asbestos) and thus it has to be rendered safe to the satisfaction of the *Health and Safety Executive* and the *Scottish Environmental Protection Agency*. To clear the site to

comply with statutory requirements, will cost around £4 million. Obviously, there would need to be a return on that sort of spend.

It has been suggested that the building of some 20 'executive' houses, all in large parcels of land and costing c. £1 million, the creation of workplace units and a Care/Retirement Development might well provide enough profit to allow the site to be cleared and supply enough

capital to have the necessary service amenities installed or upgraded.

It is understood that Stirling Council are willing to assist in the development of the site. However, current Planning Controls regarding such areas as this site would need to be satisfied.

Currently, *GAIA, Architectural Consultants*, are in discussion with *Stirling Council* over the production of a development plan for the site.

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Stirling Council Notices

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This is the local council staff lottery for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling local authorities. Details of local community groups and charities who have been successful in obtaining equipment are listed, as well as information and application forms for groups seeking financial help. Check it out on www.cfsla.org.uk.

Electoral Registration

The current Register of electors was published on 1 December 2005. Anyone who is not registered cannot vote in elections and may have credit reference difficulties as all major credit reference companies use the register to verify residence.

Anyone who changes name or address, or needs to now register should obtain a registration form from the local library. Alternatively, download a form at www.saa.gov.uk/central (contact ERO).

The electoral register for the local area is available to view in all local libraries.

Local area statistics are available on request and staff can visit community groups to discuss electoral matters by arrangement.

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Knights in Shining Armour

When asked to prepare this report I thought it would be a good idea to let people know what the Round Table is.

Round Tables are an off shoot of the Rotary organisation for the younger men, and I use this word advisedly, residing in an area to gather on a regular basis to follow, to an extent the good work done by Rotary. There is no formal connection in Killearn between the two organisations, although I can assure you we are on speaking terms!

Round Table meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, normally over a pint and a burger at the Old Mill, and over the last few years have generally run three annual events.

The first event of the year is by far the biggest and best known – Fireworks night. Not only are we able to raise enough money each year to give, I am sure you will agree, what is a good

firework display for a village our size, we are also able to make a contribution to charity. This event takes quite a lot of organisation and hard work on the day. The donations alone do not even pay for the fireworks! The activities which surround the firework display such as the promotional leaflet, selling of light sticks and burgers make up for the loss and allow us to make a donation to charity.

The second event, which has just passed, was our Annual Burns Supper, held on the last Saturday of January in the Black Bull. The general consensus was that this year's event was the best ever, with a record attendance of 71. Memorable speeches were given by Gordon Sim (Address to the Haggis), Kevin Boland (The Selkirk Grace), and Neil McArthur (A Tribute to Burns). A hilarious 'Toast to the Lassies' was given by Des Hudson, followed by an equally hilarious riposte by Juliet Skelly. Des Burt gave us his view

on *Tam O'Shanter* and the evening was rounded off by the Vote of Thanks from Chris Bell. Chris, Sara Bell and David Pettigrew provided the music for the evening with Duncan Biggart piping. Again this is a charity event.

Our final event for the year is hoped to be a repeat of last year's highly successful "Battle of the Bands" probably to be held in May. Last year this was a great evening, and I hope everyone is once again looking forward this year to donning their wigs, costumes and picking up their air guitars to be a pop star for the night.

The serious side of all this is that the Round Table do not only ensure that the Fireworks continue in the village, but also raise significant amounts of money for charity. So far this year over £3,000 has been raised, and we hope to make this at least £4,000. We normally like to donate to local charities and our chosen charity this year is Crossroads, a locally-based charity which provides care for carers.

If you are male, younger than 45 and at a loose end on a Thursday night, and wish to make a contribution to the events – to say nothing of having good fun – please do not hesitate to join. I am, for my sins, Chairman this year. Please feel free to contact me on 550099 if you wish to join.

Robert Skelly

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Monday Club Anniversary

Should you happen to see a number of brainy and/or athletic ladies making for Killearn Village Hall on a Monday afternoon, you will realise that a meeting of the Monday Club is in session. And this year, this friendly and sociable outfit celebrate their 50th birthday.

The club actually started in 1955, when the regular badminton club became so busy that games were sometimes limited to seven minutes. So, some of the ladies decided to start a badminton and social club of their own. The instigator was a Miss McCredie, and the idea was to have

three Mondays of badminton, and on the fourth Monday to join together with non-playing members to listen to a speaker. The first AGM was held in March 1956, and in 1959, the bridge section was added. The pattern set at the very beginning still holds good today, with three Mondays of play, and then what became known as the Social Monday. On those occasions, the club has enjoyed a wonderful selection of speakers, from 'How to Make your own Hat' and 'Flower Arranging' in the early days, to the work of the Lifeboats and the new Loch Lomond Park in more recent years.

Right from the start there was an annual lunch, starting in the Black Bull. The charge was 8/-, so it was obviously a classy event. The club also patronised the Queens Hotel in Helensburgh for several years, where the ladies would have felt very underdressed without the hat and gloves. Spring outings also became part of the club's activities, with visits to places like Pitlochry Theatre, Scone Palace, Culzean Castle, and the village of Culross. Then there were the autumn visits to one of the Glasgow theatres, and

the summer activities, like archery in Mrs. Bruce's garden – a lovely idea in principle, but one that didn't last long. Perhaps lack of skill had something to do with it! Now the ladies have an annual summer golf tournament, which engenders a lot of fun.

Along with the social aspects of the club, there was early on a feeling of wishing to share with others, which resulted in regular donations to various charities. In 1961, the club raised £1.17/- from the sale of cake and candy, and added another fiver to make a donation of £6.17/- in total to the Spastics. Big money in those days, and the club's contributions have gone up exponentially since then.

Apart from the physical exercise of the badminton and the mental exercise of the bridge, the main ethos of the Monday Club has always been friendship. If there was a motto for the club, it might well be 'People Need People'. There is every reason to hope that future members will find the same support and companionship that they always have in Killearn's own Monday Club.

Joyce Begg

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Nature Notes – Black Birds

They say that in the dark, all cats are grey, but are all 'blackbirds' black? Yes and no – female blackbirds are brown, and jackdaws have a grey nape, and blackbirds are thrushes, and jackdaws are crows, and starlings aren't really black... See what I mean? Our commonest black birds are rooks – not crows, as many people believe.

Let's start again. Rooks, crows, jackdaws, ravens, choughs and jays are all in the family Corvidae. So they *are*, indeed, all crows – or corbies or craws, if you prefer.

In Killearn village the commonest crow is the jackdaw, often to be seen swirling around the tall trees or sitting by chimneys 'smoke bathing' to get rid of parasites. They are the smallest of the black birds and have blue eyes and grey feathers on the back of the head. But in the rural areas, rooks dominate. Walking down Drumtian Road, you cannot miss their harsh cries as they wheel in the wind – nor their calling cards on the tarmac. Just past Carbeth Lodge is a large



rookery, where by now untidy stick nests have been built and may well contain eggs. Many of the nests are in conifers, the traditional elm tree nesting sites having all but disappeared as a result of the fungal disease of a few years ago.

Young rooks are black all over and – I confess it – difficult to tell from crows, though their 'trousers' are more ragged, and, in flight, their tails have a squarer appearance. But there is no problem with the adults: after their first summer, feathers from the base of the bill are moulted so that it has a bald grey base

and looks huge and vicious. The simplest way to be sure which is which, is that if you see a lot of crows together, they are rooks; if you just see one or two rooks, they are crows.

So, that's alright then.

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Unexpected Colours

Once the general brightness of the Festive Season is past, and winter trundles on apace, there does seem to be a kind of 'beigeness' about the place. There might well be a blue sky, but one can't be forever looking upwards. Before the flowers really get under way, there is not much terrestrial colour around. But there is some. One just has to look for it.

Black and white may not actually constitute colour, but the houses in the square never look dull, and while the old church is indeed grey, there are touches of lime and yellow in the lichens on the wall that surrounds it. Even the functional grit bins are yellow, and not nearly so acid as they might be.

Moving right along, there is a restfulness in the ecclesiastical blue of the church doors and the notice board, and there is cheerfulness in the teapot and the pretty bottles in the chemist's window, especially if the sun bounces off them. Getting ever brighter, the blues and yellows of the multicourt almost require to be viewed through dark glasses. And then there're the pillar

boxes. Isn't it interesting how a dot of red can brighten a whole stretch, like the one just past the bend in Station Road? And isn't it great that they've painted the telephone box outside Spar red again after years of progressive pinkness? It now stands proud beside the pillar box, just as they were in that great photo Fraser took of them in the snow, the one that won prizes in the Flower Show.

While on the subject of pillar boxes, whose bright idea was it to paint the dog waste receptacles the same colour? Is the world not sufficiently full of danger without making it easy to post stuff into the wrong container? The ones at the Health Centre car park are positively hazardous. Did anyone consult Henry or Robert before they put those boxes within a few feet of each other? These guys should be getting danger money. Would it not be a good idea to change the dog boxes to a toxic orange, or an even more appropriate hounds-tooth check? Anything but red.

Of course, people's clothes are brighter now than they used to be, which makes a difference to a late winter walk through the village. Little kids run around in luminescent pinks and greens, and even big kids of the adult variety wear reds and blues where they once wore brown and grey. And on a warm enough day, you might well see the green uniforms of the ladies from the nursery, pushing little kids in triplet prams all the way down Main Street. Oh yes, there's plenty of colour around.

At the time of writing, the tubs are quiescent, awaiting the spring. But the snowdrops are out, and the daffodils won't be long. We won't have to depend any longer on that gorgeous garage door at the top of Drumbeg Loan for our fix of golden yellow. And if the daffodils are there, the tulips won't be far behind, and the whole glorious cycle of colour will begin again.

Joyce Begg

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Childhood Days at Stockiemuir

To childhood days my memory strays
Long summers warm and fair
The rippling burn
The baited worm
The heather perfumed air.

Bog myrtle scents the summer eve
Hear how the curlews cry
The shadows lengthen in the glen
Another day goes by.

But come the morn with the lark
The fresh dew greets the sun
Excitements there for you to find
A new day has begun.

There's trees to climb, nests to be
found
The burn beside the fanks
With stealth and cunning you lie down
And guddle 'neath its banks.

The midday sun beats down on you
The rowan tree brings shade
The hum of bees, the piece and cheese
The cup of lemonade.

The fishing craze has left you now
It's on to pastures new
To climb the highest hill around
And savour its fine view.

Ben Ledi in the north stands grand
Ben Lomond in the west
The vale of Blane below Dumgoyne
But the stockie still looks best.

Cradled in the Caldons lap
The Dault burn starts to wend
The Devil's Pulpit in the bowels
Of Finnich's shady glen.

Like a finger pointing to the sky
It towers above Killearn
The George Buchanan Monument
Salutes that man of learning.

Then further round there lies Balfron
A place of many charms
It gazes down on Endrick Strath
The cottages and farms.

Between the hills lies Drymen toon
Oft have I gone there roaming
It's known to all both near and far
as the gateway to Loch Lomond.

So as you cast your eyes around
What beauty's there to see
It means a lot to be a Scot
Whose heritage is free.

Alex Ferrier

George Buchanan



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This year is the 500th anniversary of the birth of George Buchanan. The obelisk which dominates the skyline in our village was erected in 1788 by public subscription. Contributions came from all over the world to help fund its construction.

George Buchanan (1506–82) is one of the intellectual giants of European and Scottish history. He was born at The Moss, just outside of Killearn. A Gaelic speaker, he became a great linguist and teacher, particularly skilled in the main European language of his day, Latin, in which he wrote his major works. He was educated at St Andrews and the Sorbonne, and had a significant influence on early French drama.

Buchanan was accused of heresy in 1538 and had to flee from the Catholic court of James V in Scotland. Buchanan narrowly escaped the fate of other early reformers: several were burned at the stake in Edinburgh. Later, he also was a very strong supporter of John Knox and Presbyterian style of worship.

Buchanan returned to Scotland in 1561, and eventually became tutor to the young Protestant King James VI, then living primarily in Stirling Castle. Greatly opposed to the Divine Right of Kings, his teaching seem to have had the opposite effect on his pupil. Buchanan was also an historian, poet and playwright, and his political thought influenced the political theory of the American Republicans in the 18th century.

The Buchanan Society are at present planning to have the monument by the Black Bull Hotel refurbished during the summer so that it will be in a very presentable state for the Commemorative Service to be held on 17 September. That service will be the culmination of an entire weekend of festivities being planned by the Buchanan 500 committee. It is also hoped that other activities will take place throughout the year to mark the birthday of this Son of Killearn.

Jim Fallas

Buchanan 500

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Set by PeeWit

WIN A FAMILY OUTING

Solve the cryptic crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar.

The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a **Family Ticket to The Kings Theatre or Theatre Royal, Glasgow**, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

Closing date – 30th April 2006

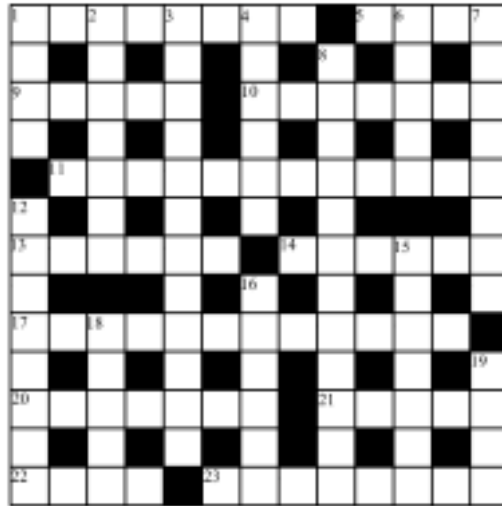
DRYMEN POTTERY

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CLEANER LUNGS
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WE'RE GETTING HEALTHIER !!

THE POTTERY PUB



ACROSS

- Party blessings on the track (3-5)
- Time to enquire for a job (5)
- Sign of exhaustion left in the works (5)
- Morse contained mixed hat at negative pole (7)
- Runner in 1 at home should be this (5-7)
- A song on the road is essential to breathe (6)
- Idly sketch when flying bomb has bug removed (6)
- Sounds as if present hip hop is being done up (12)
- One of three allowed on journey (7)
- Girl (French) goes north (7)
- Rail when rodent goes around north (4)
- Tess has more trouble in this county (8)

DOWN

- Do peas contain drug (4)
- Heartless girl, French love leads to attractiveness (7)
- Scotsman, healthy tears around in front of water supply (8,4)
- Unknown view we hear can rouse passion (6)
- Embellish love with a change of direction at the end (5)
- Retain want inside but not too far (4-4)
- Mixed-up start leads to two rounds high in the sky (12)
- A red thug about to get her (8)
- 500 obtuse objects, one hangs (7)
- Edinburgh skin show (6)
- Pretend to wiggle finger endlessly (5)
- Sounds as if you could make a jumper for one! (4)

Name

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of our Christmas Crossword Competition:

Mrs Joanna Donaldson.

Solution to the Christmas Crossword Across 1 catatonic; 8 usage; 9 postwar; 10 exorcist; 11 jess; 13 system; 14 sacrum; 16 pint; 17 removals; 19 element; 20 Lucca; 21 husbanded Down 1 clenched; 2 typist; 3 task; 4 New Year dance; 5 Christmas Day; 6 Queen's speech; 7 carol singers 12 carolled; 15 nested; 18 Zeta.

PRIZE CHILDREN'S WORD SEARCH (12 and under only) sponsored by



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

Read the article on page 17 about a famous man who was born near Killearn and has an anniversary this year. Then solve the clues to the 12 questions and circle your answers in the wordsearch grid. Enter your name and address, and place your completed word grid in the box in Spar for a chance to win the £10 prize.

- What was Buchanan's first name? _____
- How many years since he was born? FIVE _____
- How old was he when he died? _____ SIX
- Which King of Scotland did he teach? _____ VI
- BISKOLE - unjumble the letters for his monument shape _____
- Which hotel is it next to? BLACK _____
- Where was Buchanan born? THE _____
- Which dead language did he write in? _____
- What was he accused of in 1538? _____
- What *Right* were kings believed to have? _____
- Where in France was he educated? _____
- In which month will the commemorative service be held? _____

The first correct entry pulled out of the box after the closing date of 30th April 2006 will win a £10 Spar voucher.

Name Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last Wordsearch - Ryan Harley, Killearn P7

A Great Musical Evening



Those who managed to get to the organ and trumpet recital in Killearn Kirk on 24 February were treated to a display of virtuosity that would stay in the memory for some time to come. The occasion was a concert given by local girl, Nicola Harrington on organ, and Jonathan Thomson on trumpet, in aid of The Old School. Jonathan stood in at the very last minute, and such was the professionalism of the two players that no one would have known they hadn't been rehearsing together for months! Both soloists are to be congratulated on their performances, particularly Nicola, in that she coped valiantly with an intransigent instrument.

The music covered a wide spectrum, from the sixteenth century to the present day, and included the well-loved sounds of Stanley and of Bach, and the splendid organ blast of Messiaen. The brilliance of the trumpet and the versatility of the organ were complemented by a display of art images on the Church's screen, providing a whole extra dimension to the experience. Among others, we had Van Eyck's portrait of the Arnolfini, paintings by Botticelli, Gainsborough and Turner, while the dramatic offerings of Kandinsky and Matisse highlighted the sound of the twentieth-century composers. The details of the baroque architecture and medieval stained glass added a depth and richness that was touching in its effect.

The evening ended with wine and nibbles, so that both musically and socially the event was a great success. Not only that, but the The Old School fund stands to gain substantially from the generosity of all involved. *Joyce Begg*

Your Local Cricket Club Needs You!



If you are interested in playing or watching cricket and you thought that the nearest club to Killearn was Stirling County, or that you have to be National League standard to take part, think again! *Gargunnoch Village Cricket Club* plays in beautiful surroundings at Meiklewood in the Carse below Gargunnoch village itself. The season begins in April, and the Club would welcome any new players, regardless of age or ability, who are interested in playing real village cricket. Matches are played every Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening throughout the summer at such attractive venues as Comrie, Falkland and Cairndow, as well as on our own lovely Meiklewood ground. Members are drawn from a wide area, including Killearn. If you would be interested in playing competitive but friendly cricket in magnificent rural surroundings, please contact Martin Parry for Sundays (01786 860685) or Steve Dolman for Wednesdays (01236 874702).

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Fish and Chips - a Great British Tradition "The Nations Favourite"

Black Bull Hotel's Fish and Chip Night
Tuesday 5.00pm - 9.30pm £7.95 per person

There's nothing more British than fish and chips. Eaten with salt and vinegar, fish and chips is one of our Great British institutions.

Humble Beginnings

Where did this famous culinary delight originate? The simple answer is that no-one really knows. We do know that fish and chips developed separately - the French invented chips or 'chip au pommes de terre a la mode' (from the humble potato commonly believed to have been brought to Europe by Sir Walter Raleigh in the 17th Century) and in 1839 Charles Dickens referred to a 'fried fish warehouse' in Oliver Twist.

Deep Fried Fillet of Haddock

in a home made batter served with Garden Peas and Sauce Tartare with a twist of lemon. Slice of Bread and Butter and a Cup of Tea.

Side Orders

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Curry Sauce | £0.95 |
| Side Salad | £1.95 |
| Roll & Butter | £0.95 |
| Coffee | £2.10 |



...Happiness is chip shaped



A Taste of India...

Black Bull Hotel's Curry Night Thursday 5pm - 9.30pm £6.95 per person

8 great curries to
choose from, with
yellow basmati rice
& poppadums



Chicken Korma

A traditional, mild and sweet curry, made with chicken breast and cooked with yoghurt, coconut, cream and fresh coriander.

Lamb Dhansak

Tender pieces of lamb with lentils, onions and cumin, cooked in a rich, medium spiced tomato and yoghurt sauce.

Chicken Tikka Masala

Tender pieces of chicken breast, marinated in Tandoori spices and cooked in a delicate masala sauce.

Vegetable Tikka Masala

Stir-fried vegetables, seasoned in Tandoori spices, mixed with a creamy onion, tomato and fenugreek sauce, giving a slightly smokey taste.

Lamb Rogan Josh

Tenderly cooked off-the-bone lamb with onions, tomatoes and pimentos, in a rich, medium sauce.

Goan Prawn

A sweet and sour, medium-spiced prawn curry, with flavours of fenugreek, cumin and garlic, plus a unique tang, from the use of malt vinegar.

Beef Madras

Beef, cooked in an onion, mustard and curry-leaf-tempered sauce, with a unique flavour of coconut, combined with cumin, coriander and fenugreek.

Chicken Vindaloo

A very spicy and tangy dish of marinated chicken, cooked in an onion and tomato sauce, with cloves, cinnamon, vinegar and diced potato.

Side Orders

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Bombay Potatoes | £1.75 |
| Onion Bhajis | £1.75 |
| Chips | £1.75 |
| Naan Bread | £1.25 |
| Mango Chutney | £0.95 |
| Spiced Onions | £1.75 |

Mild
 Extremely Hot
 Suitable for Vegetarians



THE
BLACK BULL
HOTEL

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